



Alleluia!

The King is born!

Northside Baptist Church presented a live nativity scene for the community. See more of Mitch Traphagen's photos of this event on page 5.



Santa made a special appearance in South County this week. It won't be long now!! See more on page 14.

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THE OBSERVER NEWS

Merry Christmas

December 19, 2013

www.ObserverNews.net

Volume 57 • Number 48

Brenda Knowles, editor/publisher, forged the good path

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

On September 11, 2001, publisher and editor Brenda Knowles called in a "stop the presses." *The Observer News*, already on the way to print, would be changed at the last minute to reflect the breaking news of a national tragedy. The next day, the newspapers landed on driveways across South Hillsborough County, and were among very few weekly papers to provide up-to-date coverage of the terrorist attacks. *The Observer News* would go on to win a national award for that coverage.

Millions of lives changed that day. Brenda Knowles' life was certainly among them. One daughter lived in Washington, DC, her son was in the U.S. Navy, and she had every reason to be worried about both her nation and her family. But on that day, despite her own concerns, she changed the course of a community newspaper, she began a process that helped communities heal and prosper through her relentless focus on sharing good news — and she built a business that has, even to this day, only increased in success, even while other newspapers have struggled and faltered.

Through her commitment to the communities she served, she helped to showcase and accentuate the positives of the communities, while helping businesses reach a growing number of residents and visitors. The success of the newspapers has been a direct reflection of the attitude and outlook of the person who was in charge.

Brenda Knowles, the longtime publisher and editor of the *Observer News Publications*, has announced plans to retire. The mark she has left, however, is indelible and her vision for the future remains on course.

Her imagination is boundless and she has used that unparalleled quality to serve both read-

▶ Continued on page 20



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Observer News publisher and editor Brenda Knowles out in the community she has long served. Pictured above, she greets Linda Halperin of the Pelican Players during a recent reception in Sun City Center.

Apollo Beach to host largest fireworks show in Florida this New Year's Eve

By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

South County residents won't have to travel to see the biggest fireworks show in Florida this New Year's Eve.

It didn't start out to be the biggest, or the best. Vic Granowicz just wanted to do something special to usher in the new year.

Then sponsors heard about his plan and started signing on and that put it over the top.

Now Granowicz is expecting to host the largest show in the state, according to Pyrotechnico fireworks company, which also hosts the fireworks for events held by the Yankees, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and many other significant happenings on a national scale.

Fort Myers will be having a \$25,000 show. But thanks to South County sponsors, the Apollo Beach



MITCH TRAPHAGEN FILE PHOTO

show has accumulated \$27,500 worth of fireworks and promises to be the biggest show in the state. And they will host a celebratory party, to boot.

Granowicz didn't start out to run shows or book entertainment.

He moved to the area from Iowa in 1988 and attended the University of Florida and later became certified as an architect.

"My first [building] project was Lands End Marina," he said, sitting behind his desk in the main office there Dec. 12. After that, he designed Circles restaurant next door. Granowicz co-owns the marina with his sister Christie, but ever since she stopped working to have a baby, he runs pretty much everything. He is also in partnership at Circles, where his partners are executive chef Chris Bodensky and general manager Michael Takacs.

Every New Year's Eve, Granowicz holds something special for his guests at the waterfront restaurant. But this year's event took on a life of its own.

He decided to put \$5,000 into a fireworks display, but he had no idea what that would buy. So he

▶ Continued on page 9

VFW provides immediate help for children in crisis

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

The Ruskin VFW Post 6287 donated 50 plush monkeys to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office last week. The soft, huggable toys will be used by deputies to provide comfort to children in crisis situations.

"When a child is involved in a traumatic incident such as domestic violence, an auto accident or a medical disaster, Sheriff's Office personnel keep these in their vehicles ready to give to a child to help combat fear and to provide comfort during a stressful time," said Ron Smith of the Ruskin VFW.

"Particularly with domestic violence, a lot of times it is a young child's first encounter with law enforcement and we don't want to leave them with that kind of memory of the uniform," said HCSO Corporal Jason Roberts. "When we can take this, a stuffed monkey, and sit down and have a moment with the child one-on-one, I think it makes a big difference and we are very appreciative of you stepping out to help us out with that."

And the donation by the veterans made an immediate impact.

"We are going to get these into the patrol cars tonight," Roberts said.

For information about the VFW, visit www.vfwpost6287.com.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Corporal Roberts and Deputy Hess pack away some of the 50 stuffed monkeys donated by the VFW.



Ron Smith of the Ruskin VFW shakes hands with HCSO Deputy Don Hess and Corporal Jason Roberts during the donation of toys used to comfort children in crisis situations.

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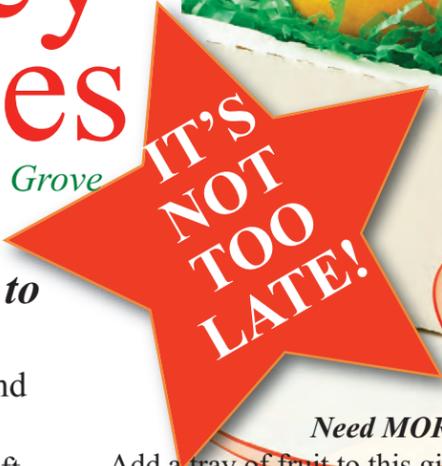
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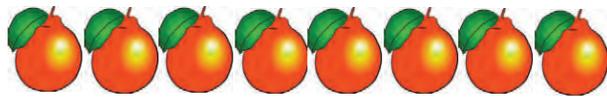
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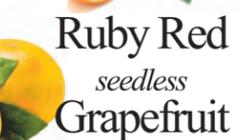


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Hundreds turn out to give pets a home for holidays

■ By **KEVIN BRADY**
kevin@riverviewcurrent.com

Filling the parking lot an hour before the doors opened, pet lovers from all over the Bay area

flocked to Hillsborough County Animal Services in Brandon on Dec. 14, all hoping to give a home to abandoned cats and dogs.

Marge Werth drove from Tampa

for "Be the Way Home Before the Holidays" to pick up a kitten for her granddaughter.

"Adopting at Animal Services means you are saving the life of

an animal that might otherwise be euthanized," said Werth, who has two rescue dogs of her own.

Sean Bostic was one of those who turned out early hoping to adopt a dog.

"A lot of these dogs were neglected or just abandoned, and I think this is the best way not only to give a gift but to give the gift of a home to a dog," Bostic said.

Animal Services takes in more than 20,000 dogs and cats each

year. The primary goal for the shelter is to reunite lost pets with their families and find homes for the remaining animals with new families or other rescue groups.

A \$20 adoption fee and advertising help draw pet lovers to the event, said Jackie Osborne, president of Friends of Hillsborough County Animal Services.

"I think with all the controversy

► Continued on page 4

Christmas Celebrations

South Shore Catholic Churches

Our Lady of Guadalupe 16650 U.S. 301 S. Wimauma (813) 633-2384	Prince of Peace Catholic Church 702 Valley Forge Blvd. Sun City Center (813) 634-2328	St. Anne Catholic Church 106 11th Ave., NE Ruskin (813) 645-1714
CHRISTMAS EVE		
4 p.m. English Mass 7 p.m. Spanish Mass with Children's Christmas Play	4 p.m. Church and Conesa Center 11:30 p.m. Choral Singing followed by Midnight Mass	8 a.m. Mass followed by Reconciliation 3:30 p.m. Choral Singing 4 p.m. Vigil Mass 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7 p.m. Family Vigil Mass 9 p.m. Vigil Spanish Mass 11:30 p.m. Choral Singing followed by Midnight Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY		
Bilingual Mass 10:30 a.m.	Mass 8 a.m. 10 a.m. and noon	Mass 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon (All Masses in English)



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

Brianna Brown, 7, checks out the cats at the Hillsborough County Animal Services event.

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Confession Schedule

Saturday, December 21st
8:30 to 9:30am; 12 to 1pm;
3 to 3:50pm

Sunday, December 22nd
9 to 9:50am; 11 to 11:50am

Monday, December 23rd
7:30 to 7:50am; 12 to 1pm;
4:30 to 5:30pm

Tuesday, December 24th
8:30 to 9:30am; 12 to 1pm

Christmas Mass Times

Tuesday, December 24th
Vigil 4:00 pm Conesa Center
Vigil 4:00 p.m. Church
12:00 a.m. Midnight

Wednesday, December 25th
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

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www.popcc.org



"All the animals are really well looked after and cared for here," said Ashley Sherman, an Animal Services volunteer who is hoping to study veterinary medicine at college.

A home for the holidays

► Continued from page 3

about the shelter over the last 18 months, people want to see for themselves what is going on now that there have been a changes in leadership," Osborne said. Former Animal Services director Ian Hallett was transferred last month after complaints from animal welfare advocates.

Osborne has some simple advice for those considering buying a pet for Christmas from a pet store: don't do it.

"I am an animal activist so I think pet stores tend to buy their dogs in particular and cats, too, from people who just breed them for profit. They are really not concerned with what happens with the animal and many times those animals end up here," Osborne said.

"You can get just about any breed of animal here, age, color, male or female, whatever you want and we normally will have it here and I am talking dogs or cats. I am heartened by the turnout here."

Buying a pet as a surprise for a child on Christmas morning is never a good idea, Osborne said. "We recommend the family come in and decide on the animal together."

Dexter Barge, the county's code enforcement director who is running the shelter while the county looks for a full time replacement, said he was surprised by the turnout.

"The event has already exceeded our expectations. The parking lot was filling up 90



KEVIN BRADY PHOTOS

More than 300 people turned out for "Be the Way Home Before the Holidays" at the Hillsborough County Animal Services Dec. 14.

minutes before we even opened the doors. Our goal is to get out as many loving, well-cared-for animals into nice, loving homes. It's a win-win for everyone," Barge said. "The turnout was very encouraging."

The \$20 adoption fee covered an initial checkup, microchipping, vaccinations, rabies tag and spaying/neutering.

For anyone who missed the event, animals may be viewed at www.HillsboroughCounty.org/AnimalServices. Applications can be downloaded and printed out, but must be submitted in person at the shelter, 440 N. Falkenburg Rd.

For more information, call the shelter at 813-744-5660.

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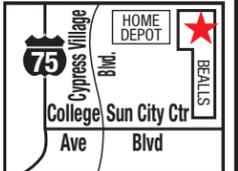
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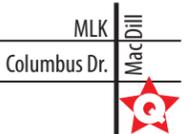
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Northside Baptist Church presents a live nativity scene



Northside Baptist Church on Hwy 41 in Ruskin presented a drive-through live nativity scene last weekend for all members of the community. The scenes included the Inn in Bethlehem, the Shepherd's Field, the Wise Men's Home and the Stable of the Inn, with Joseph, Mary and the manger, along with costumed guides to greet visitors at each scene. The church also invited all visitors to park afterwards to enjoy hot cocoa and cookies. For more information, visit www.northsideruskin.com.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



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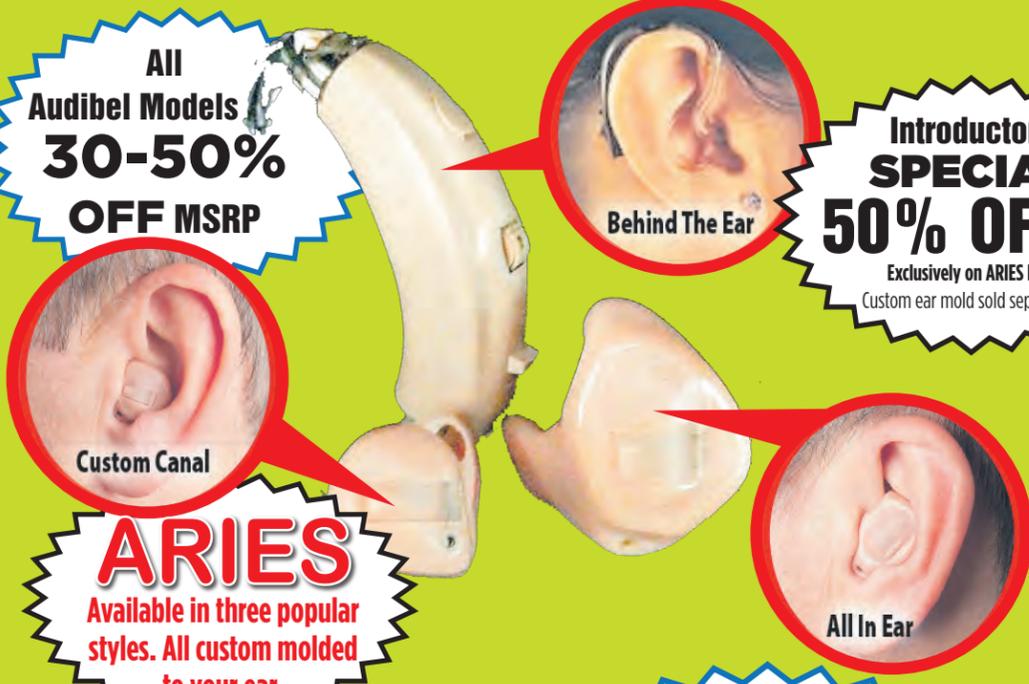
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Ruskin Elementary Terrific Kids for November

In November, Ruskin Elementary School honored the following students as Terrific Kids for possessing the character trait of compassion: Noe Ortiz Villanueva, Demari Thurman, Liliana Reyes, Briana Alonzo, Rogelio Robledo, Jamarion Sanchez, Elex Crisp, Arianna Ochoa, Matthew Cordle, Joselin Rodriguez, Jared Ruiz, Madeline Cutler, Guadalupe Bernal Acosta, Sadie Potter, Alexa Soria, Dontaine Sterling, Kimberly Castillo, Ana Zepherino, Adrian Hernandez, Jaylah Juarez, Emily Rubio, Jaiden Gaylord Austin, Alissa McKinney, Ella Wheeler, Camille Francois, Briana Gonzalez, Jonathan Gonzalez Torres, Elijah McNabb, Emily Vazquez, Aliyah Fernandez-Aguirre, Kailee Harper, Madison Gosney, Alexandro Rocha, Angelina Maurice, Jasmine Carty, Steven Gonzalez, Ivan Luna, Joshua Ortega, Elisabeth Heron, Jacqueline Rosales, Cruz (Trey) Lopez, Brianna Monrial, Samantha Skirvanie, Melissa Whitsel, Ruby Robles, Maria Calixtro, Johnny Fuentes, Lex Vega, Alondra Carranza, Makiya Sanchez, Skylee Tyler, Abigail Potter, William Morales, Tania Esparaza, Kevin Suarez, Abigail Lopez. Also in the photo are members of the sponsoring SunCity Center Kiwanis Club :Donna and Tom Braden, Charlene Wirick, and Principal Lisa Amos. Students who received the award but were not present for the photo were Celia Gomez, Sarah Guerrero, Yessenia Ortiz, Billy Elmore and Niyemah James.



Corr Elementary celebrates Terrific Kids for November

On Dec. 6, Corr Elementary honored the following students for keeping a positive attitude: Pre-K – Lazaro “Anthony” Castillo and Jayden Morino; K – Tristen Brown, Sophia Mehle, Madison Todd, Cameron Paquette and Carlos Morales; 1st – Sergio Ceballos, Alexandra Lopez, Jeymen Iturriaga, Emmanuel Perez, Mirykle Twillie, Nevaeh Joiner, Jose Sanchez, and Fernando Perez-Bustamante; 2nd – Darien Osorio, Luke Nesmith, Mario Smith, Dominic Maldonado, Adalia Knight, Emily Cordova and Sunny Pierce; 3rd – Ysamine Orhanli, Estrella Cruz-Campero, Aaliyah Joiner, Bushra Aydah, Emily Powers, Dulce Ariza and Azhia Jackson; 4th – Mandy Sperendo, Jennifer Maldonado, Mia Laboy, Zaira Paredes and Mariana Rodriguez; 5th – Collin Reinisch, Grace Haerther, Kevin Velazquez, David Muniz, Leslie Molina, Karrin Hailey, Grey Taylor and Emmanthony Tui.



Your SEARCH is over!

Really, my dear, when it comes to finding a professional, there is no substitute for our Business & Trade section. It's elementary! page 34

THE OBSERVER NEWS
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Cypress Creek assistant principal Michelle Tranten displays two of the 25 gift boxes students filled for ‘their’ Marines for the holidays.

Cypress Creek Elementary ‘adopts’ deployed Marines for the holidays

Across Hillsborough County Public Schools district, assistant principals of elementary schools sought the help and support of their teachers and staff. Each year the Assistant Principal Service Committee selects a minimum of two organizations to assist. This year one of those was to “adopt” a “shop” of deployed Marines. The goal was to provide a little bit of comfort to these Marines.

Cypress Creek Elementary teachers and staff adopted a Marine “shop” for the holidays, each with ten Marines. Michelle Tranten, assistant principal, along with teachers and staff, set a goal of filling one large flat-rate USPS priority mail box for each Marine. Not only did they attain their goal of 10 boxes, they surpassed it. Cypress Creek Elementary filled 25 boxes.

Each Marine in the “shop” will receive an individual large flat-rate priority mail box filled with a variety of snacks, toiletries, reminders of home, and handmade cards from students. The other 15 boxes are filled with additional snacks, books, envelopes, stamps, books, magazines, laundry detergent, toiletries, and more handmade cards.

In order to cover the \$425 shipping charges, Assistant Principal Tranten received a generous donation from the Acupuncture and Wellness Clinic in Ruskin. Donations are currently being collected from teachers and staff of Cypress Creek Elementary to cover the remaining shipping cost. She commented, “I am honored to work with such a nurturing and caring group of teachers and staff at Cypress Creek Elementary. Their dedication extends beyond the walls of the classroom with the support they provide to our students, families, and community.”

Jen’s MarketPlace now at Waterset the third Sunday of every month

Jen’s MarketPlace has added a new location its growing list of sites: its inaugural stop at Waterset™ was Dec. 15 and it plans to return to the community the third Sunday of every month.

The location will be The Landing & Cafe at 7012 Sail View Lane in Apollo Beach. The time will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jen’s MarketPlace is free to attend and is pet-friendly.

Due to current road construction at the Waterset entrance, use the Covington Park Sub-Division entrance (one block east) and follow the signs to the event.

Vendors will bring fresh local produce and foods, arts and crafts, set outside in a “street market” style. New vendors to Jen’s MarketPlace include Mr Ice Berg - a soft ice cream truck, Miss Vi’s Caribbean Chicken and Simply Savory - offering organic blends of herbs and spices for delicious dips and sauces. Mickey O’ Bryan will entertain shoppers with an assortment of jazz and holiday music. Shoppers can grab a bite to eat

from one of the many food vendors, shop, relax and enjoy a fun day in the community.

This will be the third location for Jen’s MarketPlace. Jennifer McCafferty, owner of Jen’s Market, Inc. stated, “We are excited about partnering with Waterset to have a MarketPlace in this new and growing community. The Landing, with the lake behind, paved trails and a screened pavilion, is a perfect location for a community gathering.” Plans for 2014 include mini-classes on organic and slow cooking methods, wine making and water safety for children.

Waterset is a new master-planned community located between the established Newland communities of Covington Park and Mira Bay.

Contact: Jennifer McCafferty Owner, Jen’s Market, Inc. 813-846-1316, jennifer@jens-market.com.

Mailing address: 235 Apollo Beach Blvd. # 140, Apollo Beach, FL 33572.



The Landing at Waterset is the third location for Jen’s MarketPlace.

Positive Talk: A Christmas poem



By William Hodges

It is a time of magic, love and goodwill to all. This week's column is dedicated to a poem that a friend sent to me from South Africa. Online communications have shrunk the world and it just may be that these electronic conversations between average people from nations far and wide will help to give us the peace on earth and goodwill to men that we have all been looking for so long. I hope you enjoy this poem as much as I did. I only wish I knew the author so that I could thank him or her for penning such touching words. Happy holidays.

Dear Santa...
Snowflakes softly falling
Upon your window play,
Your blankets snug around you,
into sleep you drift away.

I bend to gently kiss you,
when I see that on the floor
There's a letter, neatly written,
I wonder who it's for.

I quietly unfold it
making sure you're still asleep,
It's a Christmas list for Santa—
one my heart will always keep.

It started just as always
with the toys seen on TV,
A new watch for your father
and a winter coat for me.

But as my eyes read on
I could see that deep inside
There were many things you wished for
that your loving heart would hide.

You asked if your friend Molly
could have another dad;

It seems her father hits her
and it makes you very sad.

Then you asked dear Santa
if the neighbors down the street
Could find a job, that he might have
some food, and clothes, and heat.

You saw a family on the news
whose house had blown away;
"Dear Santa, send them just one thing:
a place where they can stay."

"And Santa, those four cookies
that I left you for a treat,
Could you take them to the children
who have nothing else to eat?"

"And as you fly your reindeer
on this night of Jesus' birth,
Could your magic bring to everyone
goodwill and peace on earth?"

"There's one last thing before you
go—
so grateful I would be—
If you'd smile at Baby Jesus
in the manger by our tree."

I pulled the letter close to me;
I felt it melt my heart.
Those tiny hands had written
what no other could impart.

"And a little child shall lead them,"
was whispered in my ear
As I watched you sleep on Christmas Eve
while Santa Claus was here.

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 : 813-641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com

SouthShore Regional Library Adult program/event highlights

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

Book Discussion: *The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards* by Kristopher Jansma - Thursday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m.

Book discussion: As much a story about a young man and his friends trying to find their way in the world as a whipsmart exploration of the nature of truth and storytelling, *The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards* will delight readers with its near perfect alchemy of emotional depth and warmth, formal playfulness, and sophisticated but always accessible exploration of what it means to grow up"-- Provided by publisher. Copies of the book are available at the Library.

Early Closings

Library will close at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 23 & Thursday, Dec. 26.

Christmas Holiday

Library is closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 & Wednesday, Dec. 25.

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.

Holiday Deadlines

The Observer News will be closed December 25

The Deadlines will be moved up as follows for the 12/26/13 publication

News Releases.....Wed., Dec. 18 at 4 p.m.

Display Ads.....Thur., Dec. 19 at 11 a.m.

Classified Ads.....Thur., Dec. 19 at 4 p.m.

Questions call 813-645-3111



PET TIP: Don't be tempted to postpone training until your new puppy or dog settles in. Dogs and puppies are learning from day one. They will either learn good behavior or bad unwanted behavior.

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EDITORIAL:

Chere Simmons.....Editor
chere@observernews.net

Mitch Traphagen.....Online Editor
mitch@observernews.net

Penny Fletcher.....Contributing Writer
penny@observernews.net

Kevin Brady.....Contributing Writer
kevin@observernews.net

Warren Resen.....Travel Writer
w630@aol.com

All press releases, news articles and photos may be emailed to news@observernews.net, faxed to 645-4118, or mailed to Observer News, 210 Woodland Estates Ave. SW, Ruskin, FL 33570

SALES:

Vilma Stillwell...Display Advertising Rep.
vilma@observernews.net

Nan Kirk.....Display Advertising Rep.
nan@observernews.net

CLASSIFIED / CIRCULATION:

Beverly Kay.....Classified / Circulation
beverly@observernews.net

PRODUCTION:

Chere Simmons.....Creative Director
chere@observernews.net

Carol MacAlister...Graphic Arts / Layout
carol@observernews.net

Jason Martin.....Graphic Arts / Layout
jason@observernews.net

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Vic Granowicz, architect and co-owner of Lands End Marina and partner in Circles Restaurant in Apollo Beach, has planned the largest fireworks show in Florida for this New Year's Eve.

Largest New Year's fireworks show in Florida

► Continued from page 1

called in the experts: Pyrotecnico. When they told him the largest display this year was in Fort Myers, he asked what they meant by "largest."

That's when they told him about Fort Myers' \$25,000 price tag.

To give him an idea he could picture, he was told that Clearwater's July Fourth celebration has about \$44,000 in fireworks; Tampa's July Fourth show usually runs around \$18,500; and Channelside shows off about \$10,000 worth on the Fourth.

That gave him an idea.

Five thousand wasn't enough. So sponsors started coming on board.

"TECO matched us with another \$5,000," he said. Then others started coming. The list is so long we can't name them all here.

"With the help of the community, businesses are going to make this the best New Year's Eve party ever," he said.

"Events will start with live music at 3 p.m., then later the Luna Blue

Band [which is local] will start playing and continue until 2 a.m."

Fireworks will be launched from a barge floating behind Circles as midnight nears.

Reservations are needed for seating and there are several times open for dinner reservations as well.

For more information, call 813-641-3275.

Circles is located at 1212 Apollo Beach Blvd.



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Church youth group supports puppy at Southeastern Guide Dog School

The youth group at My Father's House in Ellenton worked and saved for two years in order to raise \$3,500 to name and support a puppy from the Southeastern Guide Dog School.

They held car washes and bake sales and sold candy and subscriptions and finally the day arrived when Rev. Judi Carlton delivered a check to Nicholas Olson (shown above with his ambassador dog Bobby) of Southeastern Guide Dogs.

The young people have not yet selected a name for the puppy, but plan to pick one from Biblical scripture in the near future.



Merry Christmas



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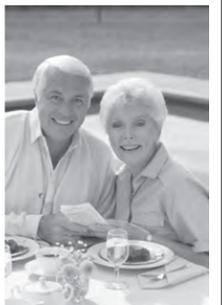
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THE SAVVY SENIOR :Simple Changes for Making a Home Senior-Friendly

Dear Savvy Senior,

What tips or products can you recommend to help make a home safer and more convenient for aging in place: My husband and I are in our 70s and don't have the money for any big renovations, but we want to do what we can to stay in our house as long as possible.



By Jim Miller

Homebodies

Dear Homebodies, There are lots of small adjustments and simple modifications you can do to

make your home safer and livable as you age that are very inexpensive or completely free. Here are several to consider.

Fall-Proofing

Since falls are the leading cause of home injury among seniors, a good place to start is by picking up any possible clutter that can cause you to trip like newspapers, books, shoes, clothes, electrical or phone cords. If you have throw rugs, remove them or use double-sided tape to secure them. And if you have stairs, consider putting handrails on both sides.

Good lighting is also very important, so add lamps or light fixtures where needed, and install brighter full-spectrum bulbs in existing fixtures

to improve visibility. Also purchase some inexpensive plug-in nightlights for the bedroom, bathroom and hallways, and consider installing motion sensor lights outside the front and back doors and in the driveway.

In the bathroom get some non-skid bath rugs for the floors, put a non-slip rubber mat or self-stick strips on the floor of the tub/shower, and have a carpenter install grab bars inside the tub/shower.

And in the kitchen, organize your cabinets so the things you use most often are within easy reach without using a step stool.

Simple Modifications

Growing old can also bring about various physical limitations which can make your home more difficult to use. Some simple solutions, for example, that can help weak or arthritic hands is to replace round doorknobs with lever handles, or get some inexpensive doorknob lever adapters. The same goes for twist knob kitchen or bathroom faucets. You can easily replace them with lever faucet handles that you can purchase for a few dollars in most hardware stores, or get a single lever handle faucet installed.

In the kitchen, you can make your cabinets and pantry easier to access by installing pullout shelves or lazy

susans. And D-shaped pull-handles for the cabinets and drawers are also recommended because they're more comfortable to grasp than knobs.

In the bathroom consider getting a hand-held adjustable shower head installed, and purchasing a shower or bathtub seat, so you can shower from a safe seated position if need be. And for easier toilet access, purchase a toilet seat riser for a few dollars. This can make sitting down and standing up a little easier, especially if you're 6 foot or taller.

And, if you get to the point where you need to use a walker or wheelchair, you can adapt your house

by installing ramps on entrance steps, and mini-ramps to go over high entrance thresholds. And, you can widen the doorways an additional two inches by installing "swing clear" offset door hinges.

More Tips

For many more tips, visit The Fall Prevention Center of Excellence website at homemods.org, and see "The AARP Home Fit Guide" (publication D18959) which offers dozens of modification suggestions to make your home safe and livable as you age. You can access it at online at homefitguide.org, or if you're an AARP member, call 888-687-2277

and ask them to mail you a free copy.

Or, if you want personalized help, get an in-home assessment with an occupational therapist, or OT, who can evaluate your home, make modification recommendations and refer you to products and services to help you make improvements. Medicare will pay for a home assessment by an OT if prescribed by a doctor. Ask your physician for a referral.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today Show and author of The Savvy Senior book.



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Record 130 entries help car club help area kids

Mick and Barbara Wright's 1934 Ford street rod was voted top choice among more than 130 collectible vehicles at the recent Roamin' Oldies annual holiday benefit show.

The event collects gifts and toys and delivers them to charitable groups each year for distribution to families in the South Shore area who need a little help to enjoy the holidays. The Christmas show is among the club's most popular events, and this year's turnout was an all-time high.

Both of the Wrights enjoy driving their thoroughly modernized Model 40 Tudor, which is their all-time favorite. In addition to a 350 cubic-inch Chevrolet engine and automatic transmission, it is equipped with power brakes, windows and door locks, and air conditioning.

The Roamin' Oldies host a cruise-in from 6 to 9 p.m. the first Thursday of every month in the Apollo Beach Winn-Dixie Plaza on US 41, with a rain date the following Thursday.

About 100 of the area's finest antique and collectible cars often take part, accompanied by classic oldies music played by DJ Joey Ferrante. The event is sponsored by Thompson's Auto Parts and Sun City Center Funeral Home.

For information, call Chet at 813-842-1511.



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Adult Computer Classes for the Technologically Challenged

Craigslist: Introduction • Thursday, Dec. 19 at 3 p.m.

Learn how to become a member, browse, search, and buy items on Craigslist. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

Craigslist: Listing & Selling • Thursday, Dec. 19 at 3:45 p.m.

Learn how to create a listing, and sell items on Craigslist. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

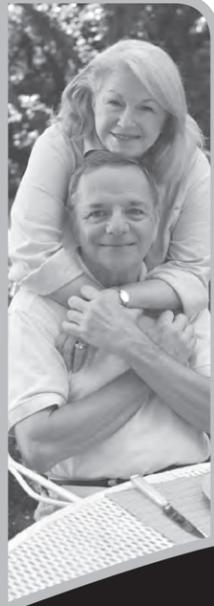
Introduction: Windows 8 • Friday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m.

Learn the layout, switching from tiles to desktop, and how to get the Start button back. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

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Wednesday, December 25th

11 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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Choice of

Prime Rib served with sautéed onions and mushrooms, vegetable and a twice baked potato

Roast turkey, traditional stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes or sweet potato casserole, vegetable and cranberry sauce

Wild caught Alaskan Salmon blackened or grilled with lemon dill sauce served over rice pilaf with twice baked potato

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SouthShore Regional Library

Kids program/event highlights

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Bedtime Stories - Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.

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

Teen Advisory Board Meeting - Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.

For teens in grades 6-12 ~ Join the Teen Advisory Board to get involved with the Library's teen programs or earn community service hours for graduation, scholarships and more. Funding provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

Early Closings

Library will close at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 23 & Thursday, Dec. 26.

Christmas Holiday

Library is closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 & Wednesday, Dec. 25.

Riverhills Magnet School hosts info session

Riverhills Elementary Magnet School for International Studies has a new approach to learning: students don't just learn about experiences ... they experience to learn. The school is open for campus tours so you can see the magic in action. Contact Diana Favata, Lead Teacher, at 813-987-6911 x241 for more information or to schedule a visit.

There will be an Information Session on Thursday, Jan. 16 for families interested in learning more about Riverhills and the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Presentation begins at 5 p.m. with a campus tour to follow. You are invited to see the campus and inquire about what makes Riverhills unique.

The magnet application window for the 2014-15 school year has opened for existing Hillsborough County public school students for online applications. All other interested families can print an application starting Jan. 14 at www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/choice/. The application window closes for all on Feb. 14 and families will receive their results in mid-March.

Area businesses donate services to Mary & Martha House

Mary & Martha House would like to thank the two local businesses that stepped up to donate their time and services.

While renovations were being done at one of the transitional homes, evidence of active termite damage was discovered and the house needed to be treated and tented.

When the agency called the Golden Rule of Ruskin, the company they always depend on for service, Golden Rule partnered with a Tampa company for help. Haskell Termite & Pest Control, Inc. is the largest family-owned and operated pest control company in Tampa Bay.

Thanks to the teamwork and generosity of both companies, the services were donated and the work was done quickly with minimal disruption to the residents.

Mary & Martha House provides emergency and transitional housing and support services to homeless and abused women and their dependent children and serves all of Hillsborough County. For information about Mary & Martha House, call 813-645-7874.

Protecting Paradise: Stay safe, be responsible on public lands



■ By Katie Purcell

Across the nearly 6 million acres in Florida's wildlife management area (WMA) system, officers with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) can be found atop buggies, operating all-terrain vehicles, in patrol trucks and on foot. One part of their job is to patrol public lands.

This time of year, many hunters are also in the woods, too, scouting or enjoying archery season, and other nature-lovers are taking advantage of the cooler weather.

Through state, federal and private partnerships, Florida boasts many diverse and exciting public hunting opportunities. The FWC encourages adults and children to get out and enjoy all the state has to offer, and its officers make sure that people do so safely and responsibly.

"We want people to be safe outdoors and the resources to be around for generations to come," said the FWC's Lt. Albert Wass de Czege, a field supervisor in northwest Florida.

Safety while hunting is of paramount importance, which is why hunter safety courses are required for

most hunters. FWC officers make sure all bag and size limits are followed, appropriate methods and equipment are used, and that hunters are hunting during the right hours and possess the necessary license and permits.

"We also check that all users, not just hunters, are being safe and responsible in our WMAs," Wass de Czege said. "They should be operating on open roads or trails, staying off closed roads, following speed limits and showing courtesy to others."

As more people hit the woods this fall, FWC officers may set up surveillance and plain-clothes details and use radar devices to accomplish this. Also, they are just a phone call away if people find themselves in need of assistance.

Violations involving licenses and permits could warrant a \$50 fine plus the cost of the license. Penalties can escalate for people with recent previous violations. Some hunting and other violations can lead to more serious consequences, including higher fines and even jail time.

"If you follow all posted information and treat others and the resources with respect, you will be setting yourself up for a great time in the outdoors," Wass de Czege said.

All safety precautions and resource laws are of vital importance, on both public and private lands. Those hunting on public lands just need to re-

Who is Angelique?

By Francine Webb

Tampa Sailing Squadron's "Group of Seven" — Drew Barrett, Andy Tucker, Loretta Corder, Dave/Sue Richardson and Dave/Francine Webb — recently enjoyed a leisurely barge trip on the Seille and Saone Rivers through the heart of France, experiencing the "real" France.

It was a great way to see the country at a slow pace, but this isn't a story about the quaint little villages along the way, nor is it about the wineries. It's not even about the cuisine, although we did sample Tartiflette, Boeuf Bourignon, Andouillette, Crepes, Lapin Dijonnaise, French Onion Soup and enjoyed daily croissants. *Mais non!* This is about Angelique.

Who is Angelique? Loretta spotted her first, asking, "Is that a feather in her mouth?"

Closer inspection revealed that a fishing lure was caught in the swan's mouth and on her neck, preventing her from lowering her mouth to drink or eat. Since we couldn't coax her to come to us, we decided that the best course of action was to corner her and get her on land. Dave Richardson made good use of a nearby life ring by throwing it across the narrow inlet and with Andy's help, directed her toward land where we could catch her.

By this time, we were attracting a small crowd of onlookers. Dave then caught Angelique and Sue tried to remove the lure but, without the right tools, was unable to remove the barbed lure. As the

Arts Council will award \$2,000 grants to local artists

The Arts Council of Hillsborough County is accepting applications from local artists for grants of up to \$2,000 from its 2014 Individual Artist Grant program. This grant program funds specific projects that will further the artist's career.

The grant program provides money to experienced artists who are 18 years or older and a resi-



dent of Hillsborough County since January 2012. Degree-seeking students and full-time faculty in higher education are ineligible. Applications for grants are considered from artists in the theater, visual, dance, music, literary, media and folk art disciplines.

The Individual Artist Grants are reimbursement-type grants and only expenses that take place during the grant period of March 1-Sept. 30, 2014 are covered. Applications are reviewed and scored by a panel of arts professionals. Applications are evaluated on:

- Potential for the proposed project to contribute to the artist's personal growth
- Impact of the artist or proposed project on the community

• Evidence of the artist's commitment to personal artistic development

- A realistic and well-defined budget
- And the quality of the artist's work samples

Artists interested in applying should visit the Individual Artist Grant program page of TampaArts.com for details on program guidelines, eligibility requirements and applications or call 813-276-8250.

The application deadline is Friday, Jan. 24, 2014.

About the IAG program: The Arts Council of Hillsborough County provides grants to individual artists, cultural groups and community organizations. Since 1989 it has awarded more than \$640,000 to Hillsborough artists.

Brandon Regional Hospital announces community events for December

Brandon Regional Hospital has a number of activities set for the balance of December. All events will be held in the Oakfield Medical Plaza on the campus of Brandon Regional Hospital, 119 Oakfield Dr. in Brandon, unless otherwise noted.

- Gestational Diabetes — Thursdays, Dec. 19 and 26, 8:30 a.m., Classroom C, Suite 258
- Surgical Solutions for Weight Loss — Thursday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m., Classroom B, Suite 260
- Surgical Weight Loss Support Group — Thursday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m., Classroom A, Suite 262
- Newborn Care Class — Saturday, Dec. 21 at 9:30 a.m., Classroom A, Suite 262
- The Childhood Obesity Epidemic: Should We Worry?, January 22, 2014, 6 p.m., Classroom B, Suite 260

Seating is limited and reservations are advised. For more information and to register call 813-653-1065 or visit BrandonRegionalHospital.com.

For more information contact Patricia Montgomery, 813-571-5105 or go to BrandonRegionalHospital.com.

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Ruskin artist Dolores Coe welcomes patrons to her exhibit in Sarasota



Ruskin artist Dolores Coe during her Dec. 13 artist's reception at Allyn Gallup Contemporary Art in Sarasota.

■ By **MITCH TRAPHAGEN**
mitch@observernews.net

Renowned Ruskin-based artist Dolores Coe welcomed art patrons to the latest exhibit of her work, held at Allyn Gallup Contemporary Art in Sarasota. Several dozen people turned out for the Dec. 13 reception to hear Coe talk about her work.

"The paintings in the exhibition are mostly large-scale, oil-on-canvas of invented spaces populated with source imagery drawn from familiar sources I photograph around me" — including local parking lot

carnivals in Ruskin, the annual one-ring Showman's Benefit Circus and Hwy 41 concrete statuary outlets.

"The exhibition reception is one of the few opportunities to be present when a whole range of people first see the paintings. This one was an enjoyable mix of strangers interested in art, other artists, friends, students, collectors and curious guests. I really enjoy meeting and talking with people

and hearing their thoughts and questions," Coe says.

Coe is a former professor at Ringling College of Art and Design. She is also represented by the Clayton Galleries in Tampa.

Allyn Gallup Contemporary Art is located at 1288 N. Palm Ave. in Sarasota. Her exhibit runs through Dec. 28.

For more information, visit her website at www.dolorescoe.com.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Santa visits Hydro Harvest Farms

Santa Claus has been busy on his annual world tour and has paid special attention to South Hillsborough with numerous visits to the area this year. This weekend he was at Hydro Harvest Farms in Ruskin, listening to the Christmas wishes of children and passing out candy canes. It was purely coincidental, of course, that he bears a passing resemblance to Hydro Harvest Farms owner John Lawson. For more information visit www.hydroharvestfarms.com.



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HOLIDAY DEADLINES
The Observer News office will be closed Wed., Dec. 25, for Christmas and Wed., Jan. 1, for New Year's. All news deadlines will advance to Friday, Dec. 20 and Friday., Dec. 27, respectively.

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Fish Tales:
Merry Christmas on the waterways

*The full moon this week was all aglow,
 Lighting up the waterways for our Christmas show
 Local anglers were out with their guests,
 Showing off our waterways, which is the world's best.*



By Jonie Maschek
 Member: Florida Outdoor Writers Association

*Our 80 degree weather in December
 Will be something for all to remember.
 Boats were arriving from far and near,
 All coming out, not to fish, but for holiday cheer.*

*Many were gliding across the water in the moonlight,
 With their entire boats in Christmas lights.
 What a sight to see.
 Boats decorated with Christmas trees.*

*Friends were being made
 With anglers of all age.
 All boats were anchoring in a circle
 Making room for others,
 Talking as if they were brothers.*

*Kind words were in the air
 None seem to have a care.
 No one came to fish, "Fish Tales" were being told,
 Mostly by the old.*

*Mullet were jumping through the night,
 But not a net was in sight.
 The sharks were hanging around,
 Thinking food may be found.*

*Permit were there out of sight,
 Afraid of the noise of the night.
 Sailfish were gliding along,
 As the sounds of the waves played a song.*

*The tarpon were sailing up in the air,
 Putting on a show for all to share.
 Spanish mackerel were nearby
 Watching the boats with an evil eye.*

*Flounder were sleeping below on the sand,
 But soon wakened with the voice of man.
 Redfish were playing hide and seek,
 Popping up to take a peek.*

*The amberjacks were having a ball,
 Ready to join the party at any call.
 All of the trout were in a hole
 Afraid that someone might have a fishing pole.*

*The group grew larger and larger,
 With each arrival, the sounds were louder.
 It soon was midnight and a huge cloud appeared
 Together they yelled, "Look, it's Santa Claus and his reindeer."*

*Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Good Health and Good Cheer
 We hope we all can repeat this next year!
 Motors started to roar...
 With all going ashore.*



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The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was formed Dec. 1, 1941, as a local coast-line defense effort against German submarines. They flew only single-engine light aircraft, but are still credited with sinking one, and possibly two, submarines. They assisted in national surveillance, national security and air messenger service.

Today CAP is known as The United States Air Force Auxiliary, and is still very active.

All members are volunteers. Of the three main focus areas of CAP, Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Emergency Services, Emergency Services is Civil Air Patrol's busiest function. It includes air search and rescue, disaster relief such as for floods, tornados and hurricanes, sundown patrols to search for boats in distress, aerial photography, and can even supplement local police agencies searching for persons who may have gone missing in rural areas. They can hunt down the source of an aircraft's errant emergency locator transmitter just to be sure it's a faulty device and not an actual downed aircraft.

When a CAP squadron is called upon to search for a missing aircraft there is also a team on the ground that will follow-up once the aircraft has identified the location of the incident.

Senior squadrons are for adults over age eighteen. However, there are many cadets involved. Teenagers may serve in a cadet or composite squadron (seniors and cadets) until they reach their 18th birthday. If they wish to continue serving after they reach 18, they must join a senior squadron.

Seniors can be retired, or still a contributing member of the workforce. Cadets are generally middle and high school students.

The CAP was extremely active during the *Deep Water Horizon* oil spill and flew hundreds of hours tracking the spill. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center designates which military unit or CAP squadron will handle or assist in any emergency. CAP flies Cessna 172 and Cessna 182 aircraft which are provided by the Air Force.

As of October 2013 there are ap-

proximately 25,000 cadets and 34,000 seniors in squadrons nationally.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, approximately 35 members met at the Tampa Executive Airport, home base of the Hillsborough One Senior Squadron, for a Search and Rescue Exercise that offered members the opportunity to hone their skills and perform the duties necessary to qualify for new certifications. Members from Pinellas Senior Squadron and squadrons from Brandon, Tampa, Clearwater, Zephyrhills and Brooksville attended. The group used these opportunities to hone its skills, procedures and teamwork as pilots, scanners, radio operators, observers, airborne photographers, ground search and rescue team members and mission staff assistants. The operations were a genuine success that once again proved how well different units of the Civil Air Patrol work together.

The Civil Air Patrol is authorized to market its services to government or private entities. Their services are available 24/7.

The squadrons are always looking



for civic-minded people who want to make a difference.

This includes pilots. In order to fly a CAP aircraft a pilot would first have to meet the requirements as a Scanner before being checked out as a pilot. While they don't fly every day, there are many "missions" that they fly regularly, not only for training, but also as search and rescue efforts.

If you want additional information about a CAP squadron in your area just Google Civil Air Patrol and the city in which you are interested. The results of your Google search will provide specific information such as meeting days, times, locations, con-

tact names and phone numbers.

If you want information on how to become a member, contact Capt. Sam Chiodo, Squadron Commander, Hillsborough One Senior Squadron at 813-748-4139 or email him at samchiodo@verizon.net.

Anyone interested in the CAP may stop in whenever there is a meeting being held. The Hillsborough One Senior Squadron meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 9334 Vandenberg Airport Rd. in Tampa. This address is at the south end of the former Vandenberg Airport, which is now known as Tampa Executive Airport.

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Indulge in the Festival of Chocolate

MOSI will host the fourth annual Festival of Chocolate, Florida's largest all-chocolate themed event Saturday through Monday, Jan. 18 - 20, 2014. Sponsored in part by Bank of Tampa, the Festival of Chocolate will feature amazing chocolate indulgences, the Cocoa Couture Fashion Show and a live cake-decorating competition.

The event features the area's best chocolate and confection companies selling tastes and treats of everything chocolate.

Award-winning pastry chefs and chocolatiers will host interactive demonstrations, sharing techniques and tricks of the trade, and the Cocoa Couture Fashion Show returns on Jan. 18, featuring chocolate-wraper fashion for the couture crowd. On Jan. 19, a live cake decorating competition will give artistic creations a tasty twist.

Entrance into the Festival of Chocolate is included with the purchase of MOSI admission (Adults: \$21.95; Children: \$17.95). Each adult ticket purchased in advance will receive two dollars in chocolate coins to spend at the Festival. MOSI Members pay only \$10 per ticket for adults, and member children 12 and under can attend for free. Members can buy tickets in advance at 987-6000 or by visiting mosi.org.

Day trips: Fun things to do around Florida

▲ Stephen Foster Festival of Lights

White Springs, now through Dec. 31. Over 5 million holiday lights! Free popcorn and hot cocoa. Model train display, outdoor movies, snow machine, crafters and more. www.floridastateparks.org/stephenfoster/

▲ Fellsmere Frog Leg Festival

Fellsmere, January 16 - 19, 2014. Fun, food and entertainment for the entire family! Frog leg and gator tail dinners served each day. Enjoy all the wild and crazy rides for the young as well as the more adventurous. www.froglegfestival.com

▲ Bok Tower Gardens

Lake Wales. Now through Jan. 5, Christmas Carillon Concerts every Thursday and Saturday at 1 and 3 p.m.; tours of Edward Bok's home, the 20-room Pinewood Estate mansion. December 21, hands-on workshops will help you create your own holiday décor. boktowergardens.org

▲ Manatee County Fair

Palmetto, January 16-26, 2014, www.manateecountyfair.com

▲ DeSoto County Fair

Arcadia, Jan. 17-26, 2014, www.desotocountyfair.org

desotocountyfair.org

▲ Charlotte County Fair

Port Charlotte, Jan. 31 - Feb. 9, 2014, www.thecharlottecountyfair.com

▲ Chalo Nitka Festival, Glades County Youth Livestock Show and Chalo Nitka Rodeo

Moore Haven, Feb. 24 - March 1, 2014, www.chalonitka.com

▲ Florida Strawberry Festival

Plant City, Feb. 27 - March 9, 2014, www.flstrawberryfestival.com



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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

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The S.S. *American Victory* will host an unparalleled viewing of Tampa's annual holiday "Boat Parade of Lights" from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21. The event will serve as a fundraiser to help support the maintenance of the historic World War II-era vessel. Promising the "best seats in Tampa" for the lighted boat parade, the event will also include music and light refreshments. The ship will most certainly provide the most unique and exciting vantage point for the parade. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$7 for youths 4-12, and \$7 for seniors, members of the military and veterans. For information, call 813-228-8766 or visit www.americanvictory.org.

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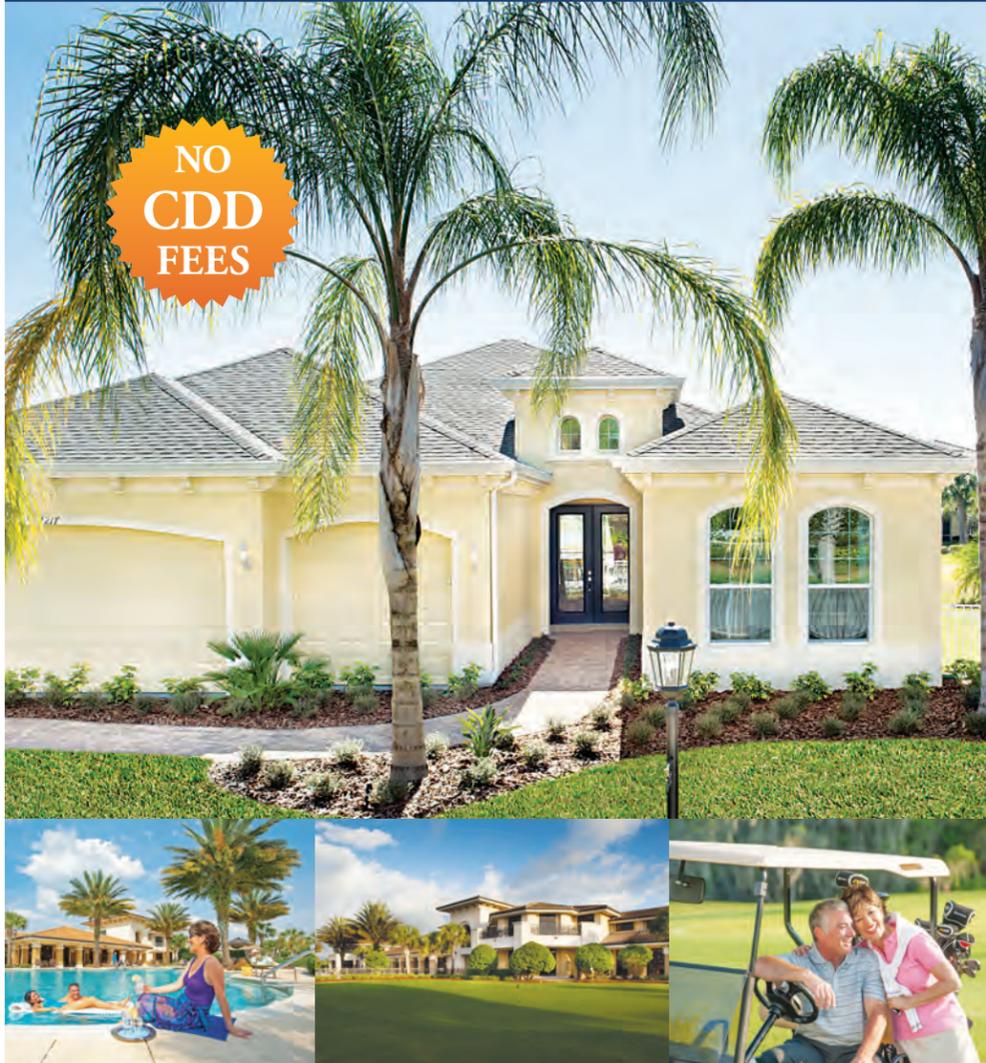
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Fri 20:	SALSA DANCING YOGA CANCELLED TODAY	10 to 11 am CANCELLED TODAY
Mon 23:	SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm
Tue 24:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	11 am to Noon
Wed 25:	MERRY CHRISTMAS!	CLOSED TODAY
Thu 26:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	9:30 to 10:30 am
Fri 27:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm
Mon 30:	SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm
Tue 31:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE!	11 am to Noon

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JANUARY 2014 EVENTS

Wed 01:	HAPPY NEW YEAR! JSA CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY!	CLOSED
Thu 02:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	9:30 to 10:30 am
Fri 03:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm

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Brenda Knowles, editor/publisher, forged the good path

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ers and advertisers. She often asked, “What if...” or “I wonder what...” and then provided the leadership to see those questions become award-winning articles or impactful advertising campaigns that invariably had positive results for both the readers and the finances of area businesses.

“I came to M&M Printing [parent company of *The Observer News*] eight years ago and she greeted me with the biggest smile,” said M&M Printing CEO Wes Mullins. “She has always been positive. She always liked to be the ‘good news’ newspaper. Anytime something negative would come in, if it was for the better of the community, she would print it but it would just turn her inside out.”

Mullins went on to say that as the head of the company, he never had to worry about the newspaper division. “She took care of all aspects of it. Her vision of where the paper was, where it was going, was always right.”

During her tenure, *The Observer News*, *The SCC Observer* and *The Current* newspapers have won hundreds of awards for editorial and advertising excellence from the Community Papers of Florida (CPF), an organization that represents newspapers serving nearly nine million people.

“CPF has known Brenda Knowles for a number of years,” said Dave Neuharth, CPF Board Secretary. “She has been a strong supporter of the association and participated in the CPF classified network that provides the funds that has made this association a success. We thank her. Without a doubt, as a publisher that led a small group of publications, the papers excelled under her leadership. The newspapers won top awards in the annual ‘Best of the Best’ awards contests and she can be proud of the excellence her staff added to this annual event.”

“I haven’t said thank you enough over the years,” said M&M Printing owner Mickey Mixon. “And those awards and that recognition were a good pat on the back. She could take a lot of pride in what she was doing. So many newspapers today have lost sight of that, sacrificing quality. Brenda didn’t lose sight of that.”

Through her personality and vision, Knowles had a knack for attracting and retaining talented people in all aspects of the news-

paper, from sales to creative to editorial. She provided the direction and then allowed those people the freedom to fulfill the vision she had.

“Brenda was a company girl,” Mixon continued. “It was never about ‘me’, it was always about ‘us’. She did the best she could to hire the best people she could get. And then when she got them, she gave them a task and got out of the way.”

Mixon and Knowles first met in 1969 when Mixon and his wife invited Knowles and her husband over for grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. A friendship was forged and nearly 20 years later, in 1988, Knowles joined M&M Printing as a sales person for classified advertising. Her drive, optimism and success paved the way for her rapid rise to editor and then to publisher.

“Just a week or so ago I was talking to her,” Mixon said. “I told her, ‘you know, Brenda, we’re lucky. For the past 20 some years, we’ve both been able to do what we wanted to do. We didn’t get rich, but we played a role. We kept 18 to 25 families alive for a long time.’ Brenda is a really big part of the community and she has played a big role in the community.”

“*The Observer News* has grown consistently over my years here,” Mullins said. “And that was solely due to Brenda and the team she put together. Even during the recession, Brenda did not skip a beat — the papers continued to grow. Her vision has been impressed upon her team and has developed over the years to make *The Observer News* the good news newspaper.”

The many nonprofit organizations serving those in need in South Hillsborough always knew they could count on Knowles to help them help others by reaching the ever-growing population of the area. But as dedicated as she was to the communities, she was, perhaps, even more dedicated to her staff. That was not unrequited. Her good heart and commitment has been the foundation of her success and much more. She is and remains a boss who is dearly loved by all those who work for and with her.

“I have worked for seven newspapers in Hillsborough County since 1982, and I have to say working with Brenda has been

the best experience of all,” said *Observer News* freelance writer Penny Fletcher. “She lets me use my creativity and go ‘outside the box’ if a story calls for something special. She has allowed me to use my talent in ways I could not do at other area media. But she isn’t just a great boss; she’s a really good person. I hadn’t worked for her two weeks when I had to go into Tampa General Hospital for a week and when I came home she brought food to my house and stayed and talked like she had all the time in the world, when I knew she was busy. I knew right then what kind of a person she was.”

Brenda Knowles is a woman who chose to serve her readers, communities and advertisers on a fateful day in September twelve years ago and on every day. She chose a path not of exploitation



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

“Brenda has always been and is the most positive person I have ever met in my life,” said M&M Printing CEO Wes Mullins.

but of healing, of service, of accentuating the positive. She forged that path well before 9/11 and continued it long after. Her heart was, and continues to be, in the right place and with that success came naturally.

“Her children are all successful,” Mixon said. “Not only is she a great editor, but she’s also a great mom. How could I ask for more than that?”

While those in the newsroom will feel her absence acutely, her presence will remain firmly in

place. She genuinely loved her communities, her newspapers and her staff and that love is returned. Brenda Knowles helped to make the communities and those who work for her better in so many ways. She forged the good path.

M&M Printing CEO Wes Mullins has assumed the role of Publisher. Creative Director Chere Simmons, who, like Knowles, first joined The Observer News in 1988, will assume the duties of editor for the publications.





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MICHELLE TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The writer and the boss: Brenda Knowles with some of the hundreds of awards won during her tenure for editorial and advertising excellence from the Community Papers of Florida.



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You, me and business: Evaluate the year, then learn from it

If you're like most of us, the month of December is a blur of activity. It seems you wake up one morning and it's the first of the month and when you go to bed that night, it's New Year's Eve. With all of the family activities, who has much time to do business marketing?

And yet, it's a great time of the year to make an impact.

Most of your clients and customers are too busy to answer the phone or take a visit from you, so do the next best thing and deliver New Year's voicemails to them. It takes less than one minute per customer, but it means a lot. A simple "Beth, I want to personally wish you a wonderful New Year and I look forward to us doing great things together in 2014" works wonders.

Do you want to do something nice for your best customers — and your best referral sources — but don't have time to see them all? Send them relevant business books or magazine subscriptions instead. You can do it online in just a couple of hours and a subscription will remind them of you twelve more times throughout the year. Fifty-two times if you give them the Wall Street Journal.

Speaking of referral sources, how is your scorecard looking? You know what I mean. How many referrals have you sent them? Do you return the favor? This is a good time to take stock of how they've treated you throughout the year and how you've acknowledged their help.

What were your highlights and low points in 2013? What worked best for you and what tanked? By all means, learn from your mistakes and trash the ideas that didn't work. But more importantly, take a look at your successes and see how you can improve on them. If a certain direct mail campaign gave you a surprising return on your investment, maybe you want to send it out to more prospects...



By **DANA DITTMAR**
 Executive Director
 SCC Chamber of Commerce

Once you've assessed how the old year went, set your personal marketing goals and objectives for 2014. Yes, most large companies do this earlier in the year and this is really last-minute planning. But it's better than no planning at all, which is what most small businesses are guilty of.

It's hard to schedule time with your mentors, business partners, and trusted advisors right now, so wait until just after the first of the year. They've got end-of-the-year deadlines right now as well, so much as they love you, they really don't want to see you right now.

But it's just the opposite with your staff. Take your "team" out to celebrate the year and thank them. Remind them that you'd be lost without them and show them you treasure what they do for your company. Relax and have some fun. Isn't it time you did that?

And when you open the new calendar to a brand new year, you'll see that doing just these few things this month will make a huge impact on next month.

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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, Dec. 19 - Bar Bingo 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 20 - Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 21 - Surprise for the Ladies. Adult Christmas Party 7 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 22 - Lounge Games 2 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy 6:30 p.m. Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 23 - Crew Games & free hot dogs 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Games in lounge, 1-4 p.m. No Bingo. Open Juke Box.

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas from all at Ruskin VFW. Open 1 to 10 p.m. Please bring covered dish 1 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan.

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PHOTOS MARLENE GREENBERG



Lenny

Lenny is a black and white kitten with white chest and a little goatee. His mother is Nellie, a beautiful tabby. Lenny loves to play with the other kittens at the shelter as well as his siblings. He is quite a charmer and will let you hold him quite readily. Lenny would like to come to live at a forever home of his own. Go visit this handsome guy and make him part of your family. Lenny has been neutered and he is current on his shots and as part of his adoption Lenny will be microchipped.

DOB: April 25, 2013.

Cooper

Cooper is a delightful little man. He has an easygoing, affectionate personality and gets along well with everyone. He is a lap dog and would make a great companion. Cooper enjoys walks and Swiss cheese Cheez-its. Go and meet handsome Cooper today! As part of his adoption, Cooper has been microchipped, brought current on his shots and neutered. He does require daily eye medication that will be discussed at the meet and greet.

DOB: April 2, 2012.

Ruskin Eagles Aerie 4351 1205 1st St. S.W.

Upcoming Events

- Monday** 6 p.m. Bingo. Free hot dogs.
- Tuesday** \$1 draft beer all day and evening.
- Wednesday** Come on down and socialize.
- Friday** 6 p.m. Feather Your Nest. Food available
- Saturday, Dec. 21** Taco Salad dinner 5 p.m. music by Full Circle 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday** \$1 draft beer all day. 6 p.m. Feather Your Nest
- Tuesday, Dec. 24** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 25** Christmas dinner for members and guests at 2 p.m.

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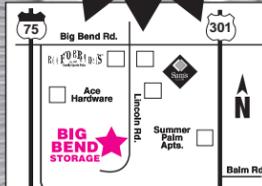
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<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2007 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK#L050685A CARFAX 1 Owner, Just Arrived!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$8981</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2009 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK#L056943A New Arrival, Great MPG!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$9991</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2006 FORD F-150 STX REG CAB</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK#L855230B Low Miles, Ready For Work!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$10,961</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2008 HYUNDAI SONATA LIMITED</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK#L054523B Low Miles, Loaded w/Features!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$12,683</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2011 TOYOTA TACOMA REG. CAB</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK#L031972A, CARFAX 1 Owner, Popular Color Combo!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$12,753</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2010 FORD FUSION SE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK#LS1176 Low Miles, Chrome Wheels!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$13,463</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2012 TOYOTA YARIS LE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK#LP1196 Great Value & MPG!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$13,971</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2010 MINI COOPER</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK#L026531A Keyless Start, Loaded!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$14,974</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2012 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK#LP1190 Sunroof, Low Miles, Loaded!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$15,762</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2011 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5L PREMIUM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">STK#L832924A Low Miles, CARFAX 1 Owner!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$16,994</p>

All offers with approved credit and exclude tax, tag, title, registration and include dealer fee. Factory rebates and incentives to dealer. While supplies last. Limit one holiday wreath per household. ^Must mention advertisement at time of write-up. Excludes oil change or tire purchase. Other restrictions may apply. *Example: New 2013 Toyota Tundra 5.7L V8 Double Cab, STK#L139181, MDL#8241. MSRP \$36,746 - \$2500 Toyota Cash Back - \$4500 Dealer Discount = Sale Price \$29,746. Additional options and features from Toyota are extra and not included in discount. †On select models. Interest accrues from date of purchase. **0% is \$16.67 per month per \$1000 borrowed with \$0 down. Offers cannot be combined. Prior sales excluded. In-stock units only. Photos for display only. See dealer for complete details. Offers expire end of day 12/22/2013.

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IN UNIFORM

AIR FORCE

Air Force Airman James Cuevas graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Cuevas is the son of Hilda Diaz of Riverview, Fla., and Alberto Cuevas of Lynn, Mass.

He is a 2010 graduate of Riverview High School.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Colby T. Fairfax graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Fairfax is the son of Kevin and Nancy Fairfax of Riverview.

He is a 2008 graduate of Riverview High School.

Air Force Airman Brandon E. Gorgas graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Gorgas is the son of Erich and Dustina Gorgas of Riverview.

He is a 2008 graduate of Newsome High School, Lithia.

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Benjamin Miranda graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Miranda is a 2005 graduate of Riverview High School.

Air Force Airman Jarryd N. Rita graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Rita is the son of Kimberly and Antonio Rita of Riverview.

He is a 2012 graduate of East Bay High School, Gibsonton.

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

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

ARMY

Army Pvt. Carlos A. Galeano has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Galeano is the grandson of Miguel Coll of Riverview.

Army Pvt. Richard W. Hall has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Hall is the son of Christina Hall of Apollo Beach.

He is a 2011 graduate of East Bay High School, Gibsonton.

During the nine weeks of training, each soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesies, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Locally created art is donated to Hillsborough County

Hillsborough County's visual art collection is richer after acceptance by the Board of County Commissioners on Nov. 6 of two donations recommended by the Public Art Committee.

The first donation, *North/South/East/West Tampa*, is a suite of four mixed-media photographic assemblages by Steven S. Gregory celebrating the history and character of all parts of Tampa. Gregory, a photographic artist whose work is rooted in his innate curiosity, had his first public showing at the 2005 Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, where he was chosen as the Best Emerging Artist. Since then he has received a Hillsborough County Individual Artist Grant, a State of Florida Artist Fellowship, and was commissioned as a City of Tampa Photographer Laureate. His photographs are in numerous collections throughout the country, including: Polk Museum of Art, The Center for Fine Art Photography, Florida State University, Tampa General Hospital, Shumaker, Loop, & Kendrick, LLP, Robert & Elizabeth Sanchez Collection, and the City of Tampa Public Art Collection. The donated artworks will initially be displayed in County Center.

The second donation, the 12-foot-high sculpture *Key Tree*, provided by the Arts Council of Hillsborough County, was a collaboration between Robert G. Woods, a Plant City artist, and 60 fifth grade students of Tampa Palms Elementary School. Woods pursues his artist journey through commissioned sculptures incorporating various

materials, such as stainless steel, cold steel, brass copper, blown glass and paint. He created the steel tree sculpture, and approximately 4,000 keys were collected and installed on the tree's 14 ridged branches as a student project partially funded by the Arts Council of Hillsborough County. The sculpture will be installed on the rear patio of the New Tampa Library.

Hillsborough County's Annual Public Art Plan enhances the appearance of public buildings and spaces to expand the historical, cultural, and creative knowledge of citizens. The Public Art Program has not accepted a donation of artwork since 2008 when *Winter Morn on the Alafia* was donated by Ronald Friedman.

The Public Art Program has installations at 37 different locations across Hillsborough County and all are open to the public for viewing. Recent installations include:

- *Fructose of Orthos* sculpture at MOSI, by Robert Chambers



North/South/East/West Tampa by Steven Gregory

- *Where Do We Go?* murals at Brandon Head Start, by Michael Parker

- *Ride the Sky* mural at Apollo Beach Skate Park, by Tim Payne

- *William of Orange* photograph at Animal Services, by William Wegman

- *Mangrove* photograph at Sefner Mango Branch Library, by Carlton Ward

Images and locations of the public art in Hillsborough County's collection can be found online at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/index.aspx?NID=2114.

Better Business Bureau advises ... What to look for when buying jewelry



Jewelry is on the wish lists of a quarter of respondents in a 2013 holiday survey by the National Retail Federation. Is it on yours?

Choices are many when it comes to gifting with necklaces, earrings or bracelets. If you're shopping for costume jewelry, there are no rules. This generally low-priced option allows you to pick pieces without being concerned about being ripped off.

But if you're shopping for real bling — diamonds, gemstones or pearls — you'll want to wade carefully into the jewelry aisles to be sure you're not taken for a ride. Start by doing your homework. Several websites outline differences between 24K gold and 14K gold, diamonds vs. cubic zirconia, natural gemstones vs. laboratory-created gemstones and cultured pearls vs. imitation pearls. Doing this research will also help you determine what you can reasonably afford.

Another key to buying the perfect piece of jewelry is to know what the recipient likes and wears. Does she wear mostly colorful and chunky costume jewelry? Or does she opt

for gemstone pendants? Does she (or he) wear studs or hoops? Does he prefer tungsten or copper?

When you're ready to shop in earnest, Better Business Bureau Serving West Florida advises:

Location. If you're interested in trying a new or unfamiliar online merchant, ask the company for its physical location (address and phone number) so you can check its BBB Business Review at www.bbb.org; or through BBB's online mobile app accessible on your Smartphone at m.bbb.org.

Know their policies. Determine the company's refund and return policies before you buy. If online companies can't offer concrete commitments on how they will handle any potential problems you may have with their products or services, reconsider doing business with them.

Understand all the charges. Be sure you have a thorough understanding of everything involved before placing an order. Be clear on the total cost of the transaction, including tax, any shipping and handling and other related charges.

Know the terms of any product or service guarantees, including any known delays or shortages of stock. Find out how long it will be before you receive your order.

Guard your personal information. Only provide your credit card number online in a secure environment. Look for the prefix "https://" in the URL box listing the website's address to be sure that the site you are using is secure. Review the company's Privacy Policy to understand how your personal information may be used.

Ask about post-holiday policies. If you're buying as a gift, ask whether it will accept returns when the season is over. If not, consider buying elsewhere or taking more time to be sure the item is exactly what you want before making the purchase.

Third party seals of approval. Make sure any third party seals of approval are current and can be verified to confirm the company's commitment to those standards.

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



New SSSAR officers are Gordon Bassett, President; Chuck Hawley, Vice President; Charles Dean, Secretary; and Luther Lloyd, Registrar. Included with officers in photo is Dan Hooper, regional vice president FLSSAR. Not in photo: William Love, Treasurer.

SSSAR chapter officers are elected

At the South Shore Sons of the American Revolution luncheon meeting held at Freedom Plaza on Nov. 2, the following current 2013 officers were re-nominated and re-elected for 2014: Gordon Bassett, President; Bill Love, Treasurer; Luke Lloyd, Registrar.

Newly nominated and elected were Charles Dean, Secretary; Chuck Hawley, Vice President; Al Tisdale, Chaplain; Jim Pearson and Cliff Knox, Governors/Members at Large for two-year terms; Chip Churchill and Don Gunn, one-year terms. Jack Bolen was reaffirmed as the Tampa Chapter advisor/liason to the South Shore Chapter.

Appointed to chair committees were: Luke Lloyd, Awards; Chip Churchill, Publicity; Don Gunn, JRROTC; Jim Pearson, Law Enforcement; Chuck Hawley, Web Master.

At the same meeting Com-patriot Charles Alfred Churchill was

given an award citation and the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal in recognition of his long years of SAR service and his hard work in helping create the South Shore SAR chapter.

All officers were inducted at the Saturday, Dec. 7 luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at Freedom Plaza. Wives of SAR members and DAR members are welcome to attend all monthly meetings.

The South Shore SAR Chapter serves the communities of Apollo Beach, Brandon, Ruskin, Riverview, Sun City Center, Gibsonton, Wimauma and Valrico. Activities include a variety of programs that promote the patriotic, educational and historical interests resulting from the American Revolution.

Anyone wishing to attend a future meeting should call Treasurer Bill Love at 813-634-2749.

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Baobab Tree Gallery offers fanciful wood carvings

During December and January, the Baobab Tree Gallery in Bradenton will feature a new menagerie of delightful painted animals and fanciful figures from the wood carvers and painters from the small towns surrounding Oaxaca City, Mexico. These one-of-a-kind hand-carved sculptures spring from the dreams and imaginations of skilled village artisans.

In addition, the gallery will offer a collection of hand-blown glass necklaces from the island of Murano, Italy, just a short boat ride from Venice. Each unique necklace is a piece of art that reflects the tradition of years of Italian glass-making.



Oaxaca Cyclist

Moonglow Holiday Dance is Dec. 26

Moonglow Ballroom Dance Club will feature the live music of Rudy Rosa at its Holiday Dance from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 26 at Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. in Sun City Center. Take your holiday visitors along to enjoy dancing and/or listening to this unique entertainer.

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

Moonglow schedules monthly dances year-round for those who enjoy dancing and/or listening to live music.

The Club's Annual Dinner Dance on Thursday, Jan. 23, will be open to the public. Suncoast Catering will serve a delicious meal with two entree choices and appetizers included. BYOB. Mario DeLeon will provide dance music after the dinner. Paid reservations will be due Jan. 15. For more information, call 813-633-1297 or 813-642-8845. If you would like to receive Moonglow Information by email, contact gail3357@gmail.com.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities



Every Sunday - Football, 1 p.m.. 5 high-definition TVs.
Every Monday starting Jan. 6 - Karaoke for Elks and guests, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
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 from 5 to 7 p.m. 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.

The Lodge will be closed Dec. 23 - Jan. 6, except for Sundays when football will continue, still at 1 p.m. with 5 high definition TVs.

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

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48" W x 48" H.....	\$224 Installed	60" W x 62" H.....	\$75 Installed
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Winn-Dixie announces holiday hours

All Winn-Dixie stores will open at their regular time and close at 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve, with pharmacies closing at 5 p.m. All Winn-Dixie stores will be closed on Christmas Day.

In addition, all Winn-Dixie stores will be open during regular hours on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day; however, pharmacy hours will vary. All pharmacies will close at 5 p.m. on New Year's Eve and will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on New Year's Day.

Niche cruises become new popular travel trend

Themed cruises are a popular new trend for travelers looking for something different. Now cruises are being tailored to travelers' taste in music, art, and culinary intrigue. AAA's newest niche cruise, Rocky and the Rollers' Rockin' the Caribbean (Royal Caribbean Lines), is the most popular with more than 2,500 people booked.

"There is such a growing demand for niche travel that AAA will expand its portfolio to 60s, disco, country, and jazz cruises. We're also creating special interests trips focused on sports, culinary, and the arts," said Julio Soto, AAA Travel director.

Rockin' the Caribbean Cruise sails to the Western Caribbean on April 27, 2014. The final day to book is January 14. To reserve a cabin, contact your local AAA office.

A second generation joins A-1 Connection Realty

A second generation has again joined A-1 Connection Realty in Sun City Center. Greg and Kathy Bolduc have been coming to SCC to visit family for the past 20 years. Their decision to follow in the real estate footsteps of Kathy's mother Pat Wilbert and aunt Beverly Parker was driven by the desire to continue the successful real estate path that was laid before them.

The experience that Greg and Kathy bring with them will be extremely beneficial for their future clients. Greg brings a 25 year business career with a Fortune 500 company and most recently as an owner of an excavating business. As for Kathy, she has a 30+ year career in the social services field as well as being a certified real estate agent in the states of Ohio and Massachusetts. Kathy has also been helping out at Beverly's Estate Sales in the SCC area.

You can reach this second generation team by contacting the A-1 Connection Realty office at 813-633-2020 or directly at 781-706-1445 (Greg) or 774-454-3499 (Kathy).



Left to right, are Beverly Parker, Kathy Bolduc, Greg Bolduc and Pat Wilbert of the A-1 Connection Realty team.

Edward Jones Ranks No. 1 in National Survey

For the 19th time, the financial-services firm Edward Jones ranked number one in the WealthManagement.com/REP magazine annual survey of the nation's six largest financial services firms, according to the following Edward Jones financial advisors in the South County area.

- Jim Kelly, Edwards Jones in Sun City Center, located at 3842 State Road 674, can be reached at 813-633-0044.

REP. magazine randomly selects financial advisors nationwide and asks them to rank their firms in various categories. Edward Jones' overall score was 9.5 out of 10 possible points. The firm scored top marks across the board, earning near perfect scores in overall ethics (9.8) and public image (9.7), according to WealthManagement.com.

For more information about Edward Jones, please contact an area advisor or visit www.edwardjones.com. Member SIPC.

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Area Obituaries

Lorraine K. Caldwell

Lorraine K. Caldwell, 91, of Riverview passed away December 9, 2013. Lorraine was born July 29, 1922, in Birmingham, Alabama, to the late James and Hattie Mae Bailey, Sr. Lorraine opened the first beauty salon in Riverview and provided services for 40 years.

Lorraine's body will rest next to her husband's, the late Malcolm Caldwell, in Hackney Cemetery. Per her wishes, there will be no services. Lorraine is survived by sons Roger Van Fleet and Herbert Van Fleet; daughters Jacqueline Nanwani and Ginger Hodge; brother Cecil Bailey; sisters Marjorie Patterson, Barbara LeDoux, and Lois Hart; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Bradenton Gospel Tabernacle, 1218 7th Ave. East, Bradenton, Florida 34208.

Arrangements by Serenity Meadows Memorial Park, Riverview.

was a member of the Hellam VFW, American Legion, Hawks Club, Elks Club, Vikings, York Motorcycle Club, and former member of the Shriners. He was an avid golfer and previous member of Cool Creek Country Club in Wrightsville, Pa. and Sandpiper Golf Club in Sun City Center, Fla.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to LifePath Hospice in Ruskin, Fla.



William Charles Ladue

William (Bill) Charles Ladue, 71, of Sun City Center, Fla./Milton, Vt. passed away peacefully on December 12, 2013 following a brief illness, surrounded by his loving wife and children.

Bill was married to the love of his life, Anne (Pixie), with whom he shared over 50 years of wedded bliss. He is also survived by his four children: SFC Phillip Ladue and his wife Julie of Highgate, Vt. and their children Morgan and Sean, Jeff Ladue of Bradenton, Fla. and his children Olivia and Jake, Matthew Ladue and his wife Dawn of Fort Bragg, N.C., and Nicole Morrison and her husband Don of Reno, Nev. and their children Noah and Jonas.

Bill is also survived by brother Fred Ladue of Cambridge, Vt./Mims, Fla. and sister Helen Golaovich of Burlington, Vt.

Condolences may be sent to 1204 Fordham D., Sun City Center, FL 33573. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the Sun City Center Emergency Squad, 720 Ray Watson Dr, Sun City Center, FL 33573.



Nancy White Eastburn

Nancy White Eastburn passed away on December 6, 2013 after 10 happy years at Neshaminy Manor in Doylestown, Pa. She was 104 years young.

Born in Philadelphia, she was the daughter of the late Robert G. and Anna Bradley White and the sister of the late Helen White Peddle and the late Robertson White.

Nancy was the beloved wife of the late William H. Eastburn II, who passed away in 1997, and mother of Gail Eastburn-Schultz of Scarborough, Maine, the late William H. Eastburn III and the late Linda Bradley Eastburn. She was the mother-in-law of Connie A. Eastburn of Doylestown and the late Arthur B. Schultz.

With her engaging charm and a great sense of humor, she was affectionately known as "Nana Banana." She was the grandmother of Page Eastburn O'Rourke of Yarmouth, Me., Holly Eastburn MacEwan of Falmouth, Me., William H. Eastburn IV of New Hope, Pa., Christopher Eastburn of Arlington, Mass. and Brooke Eastburn of Charlotte, N.C., and great-grandmother of twelve. Nancy and her husband lived in Wayne, Pa. before moving to Rhode Island. In the summers, family and friends would gather outside her Weekapaug cottage for Nancy's famous clam fritters.

In the mid-seventies, they retired to Sun City Center, Florida where Nancy enjoyed playing golf, bridge and flourished as an artist. She won numerous awards for her paintings as well as being president of the Art Club in Sun City Center. She was an active member of the Sun City Center Emergency Squad and in January of 2000 she was named a Deacon of St. Andrew Church in Florida.

The Eastburn family would like to thank the wonderful people at Neshaminy Manor for their warm friendship, enriching activities, and loving care for Nancy. A memorial service to celebrate Nancy's life is being planned by her family for the near future. www.fluehr.com



Dr. Gaspar Salvador

Dr. Gaspar Rafael Salvador, 69, of Cortez died Tuesday Dec. 3, 2013 at Tidewell Hospice following a brave battle with cancer.

Gaspar Salvador was born October 23, 1944, in Camaguey, Cuba, the son of Hortensia and Gaspar Salvador.

Gaspar was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He received his medical degree from the University of Seville, Spain.

He was a family practice physician at Sunhill Medical Center and the medical director at Sun Terrace Rehabilitation Center for 34 years in Sun City Center.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Judy Weidner Salvador. He is also survived by son Stan (Samantha); grandchildren Sophie and Levi; sister Silvia Munoz; aunt Catalina Zaldivar; nephew Francisco Muñoz; niece Tashi Muñoz and her children Jaim and Ayla.

Dr. Sal had a lifelong passion for boating and deep-sea fishing.

Cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wounded Warrior Project (http://support.woundedwarriorproject.org).

► Continued on page 29



Donald Joseph Cantwil

Donald Joseph Cantwil, 81, of Sun City Center, Fla. passed away December 9, 2013. He served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He retired from Columbus Equipment as a Field Service Engineer and later worked for Freedom Plaza as a driver for 16 years.

Survivors include his wife of 28 years, Jo Ann; children Diana (Tim) Erdmann, Donald P. (Debra) Cantwil, Deborah Petersheim (David), Dawn (Stephen) Hertzfeld, Jeffrey H. Miller and Juliann (Joe) Bagwell; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A funeral Mass was held Wednesday, December 11, at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Sun City Center, Fla. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 702 Valley Forge Boulevard, Sun City Center, Fla 33573. Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home.



Preston Edward Cunningham

Preston (Pret) Edward Cunningham, 84, of Sun City Center, Fla., passed away on December 11, 2013. He was born in Hellam, Pa. on November 24, 1929 to the late Spurgeon and Estella (Reever) Cunningham.

Preston is survived by his wife of 62 years, Juanita L (Whetzel) Cunningham, Sun City Center, Fla.; daughters Sandy McAfee of Conway, S.C.; Debra Fonda of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Beverly Hoak of Columbia, Pa.; son Michael Cunningham of Jupiter, Fla.; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by brothers Spurgeon, James, Clarence, Kenneth, Blaine, Barry, Allen, Mark and Robert; sisters June Clinton, Gladys Beck, Patsy Heiland, Alma Klahold, Darlene Evans, Phyllis Dellinger, Mary Lou Gross, Judy Fourhman and Linda Wilson.

Preston was predeceased by son Richard Cunningham and brother Dennis Cunningham.

Preston served in the U.S. Army and

Area Places of Worship

Ruskin United Methodist Church

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

Friendship Baptist Church

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

701 Valley Forge Blvd. • Sun City Center, FL 33573-5354
Reverend David Allman, Pastor
Telephone: 813-634-1292 • Website: sccredeemer.org
Worship Services on Sunday 10 a.m.
Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m.

Unity COMMUNITY OF JOY
Spirituality Rather Than "Religion"

Henry Gibson Social Hall, Beth Israel Synagogue
1115 Del Webb E. • Sun City Center, FL
www.unitycommunityofjoy.com
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
813-481-9060

First Baptist Church of Gibsonton

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19
Traditional Worship Service *Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Old-Time Gospel Hymns *Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Nursery Available Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M.
* Interpreter for the Deaf Mid-Week (Wed.) 7:00 P.M.
9912 Indiana St. • Hwy 41 & Estelle Avenue Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor
Gibsonton, FL 33534 813-677-1301

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

702 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC, FL 33573
Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670
www.popcc.org
Masses:
Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon
Saturday Vigil..... 4:00 p.m.
Daily 8:00 a.m.
Confessions:
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. and Sat. 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.
EVERETT TATE, MINISTER

Wimauma Church of God

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

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC

Meets in the Henry Gibson Social Hall of the Beth Israel Synagogue • 1115. E. Del Webb Blvd.
Thursday, 7:00 PM • Call 633-0396 • www.sccuu.org
Without the abundance of the heart nothing great can happen. — Paul Tillich

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www.theanointingchurch.com

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539
http://www.sccumc.com
Come Belong Grow Serve
The United Methodist Church
WORSHIP SERVICES:
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8:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
9:30 a.m. Traditional Service
10:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
4:00 p.m. Hispanic Worship
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Assistant Pastor: Rev. Samuel Rorer

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 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Evening Service..... 7:00 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:55 a.m. Thursday Morning Prayer..... 10:00 a.m.

First Christian Church
 Worship Service @ 10:30 am
 Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 am
 1707 55rd Street Southeast
 Ruskin, Florida 33570
 www.firstchristiansuncitycenter.com
 Phone: 813-419-4930
 Minister Mike Grant

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 Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Night Service 7:00 p.m.
 Awana 7:00 p.m.
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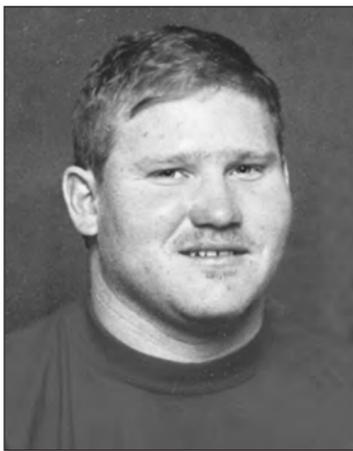
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 204 2nd St. N.W. • Ruskin, FL 33570
 (813) 645-6102
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 Wednesday Service..... 4:00 p.m.
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 Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.
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 1239 Del Webb Blvd. West Phone: 813-634-1252
 Sun City Center, FL 33573 For information visit:
 Church is Handicap accessible www.standrewatcc.org

Saint Anne Catholic Church
 SouthShore: Apollo Beach, Ruskin, Sun City and S. Gibsonton
 U.S. Hwy. 41
 106 11th Ave. NE
 Ruskin
 813-645-1714
 SaintAnneRuskin.org
 MASSES
 Vigil Mass.....Saturday 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday Mass..... 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m.
 Holy Days Contact Parish Office for Schedule
 Español.....Sabado 6:00 p.m.; Domingo 12:30 p.m.; Jueves 7:00 p.m.
 Confession.....Thursday 6:15 p.m.; Saturday 3:15 p.m.

Obituaries

▶ Continued from page 28



Kenneth B. Yeager III

Kenneth B. Yeager III, 32, of Apollo Beach passed away December 4, 2013 at LifePath Hospice due to complications of diabetes.

Survivors include mother Sandra Yeager, father Kenneth Yeager, Jr., sister Heather Yeager, aunt/godmother Sherian McIntyre of Pa., and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Kenny will always be remembered and forever missed.

A Memorial Service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013 at LifePath Hospice House, 908 Upper Creek Dr., Sun City Center.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes that donations be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Unitarian Spirit of Christmas

Arch Bush will review some memorable ideas about the Christmas holiday from notable Unitarians, including Charles Dickens and Dr. A. Powell Davies, at the Thursday, Dec. 19 service of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC.

The Fellowship meets at 7 p.m. in the Henry Gibson social hall of the Beth Israel Synagogue on Del Webb Blvd. East. All are welcome.



The three Guerrero sisters (from left) Haileigh, age 11; Kyleigh, 8; and Aleigh, 4 are excited to be in a photo with Santa and Baby Jesus.

Community Christmas Party: Join Santa Claus at St. Andrew

All children, young and old, are invited to visit with Santa when he arrives on Thursday, Dec. 19 to worship the Christ Child at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. Each year Santa and Mrs. Claus love to be the first people to wish Jesus "Happy Birthday!" Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at 3 p.m. and stay until 6:30 p.m. that night to greet children and adults at the church, located at 1239 W. Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City Center. Homemade cookies and hot chocolate will be served in Fellowship Hall. Please join Santa to celebrate the gift that God gave to all of us: Jesus Christ.

Prince of Peace asks you to 'Come and See'

Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City Center holds an outreach ministry called "Come and See," a kind of Catholic Open House, each third Friday of the month from 1-2 p.m. in the Conesa Center. The next session will be Friday, Dec. 20.

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

If you or someone in your circle of family and friends has shown an interest in, has some unanswered questions or perhaps misconceptions about the Catholic Church, or is looking for a spiritual home, perhaps "come and see" would be helpful. All inquiries are welcome, and there is no cost or obligation. For more information, contact Marilyn Vahovich: 813-634-6900.

Prince of Peace Catholic Church is located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center. More information can be found on www.popcc.org.



Saint Anne continues Giving Tree tradition

A beautiful tradition known as the "Giving Tree" was begun by the Saint Anne Parish Council in 2001. The first year, approximately 300 gifts were donated for children who might not otherwise have had the child's joy of gifts on Christmas morning. That number has grown to 730 recipients in this, the tradition's 13th consecutive year.

It takes many volunteers to make this project a reality. The sign-up process begins early in November, primarily through the Saint Anne Food Pantry, although other outreach ministries also submit names for inclusion. The generic information for each recipient is printed on a label, which is pasted into a card and hung on the tree. This year, all 730 cards were claimed by parishioners on the first weekend they were displayed. Once the wrapped presents are placed under the tree, other volunteers help to organize the gifts for distribution.

Through the generosity of many parishioners, more than 7,000

needy children have been provided for over the life of the program, one of many outreach ministries sponsored by Saint Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin. Anyone interested in more information is welcome to visit the parish website at www.SaintAnneRuskin.org.

United Methodist Church supports the Salvation Army

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center supports "Doing The Most Good," the Salvation Army's promise to the community and to all who are served by this organization. As the December Mission of The Month, members of the Congregation filled 400+ stockings and committed to "ring the bell" at Publix in memory of Sala Halm's dedicated support of this mission. One of the Salvation Army drivers commented, "I believe this is the most stockings I have ever picked up at a church."

Live Nativity at Ruskin United Methodist Church

The youth group at Ruskin United Methodist Church will present two live performances telling the story of the birth of Christ on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 6 and at 7 p.m. Both performances are free.

This is the eighth year that the youth have scheduled this re-enactment.

As in the past, live animals will be a part of the presentation so parents should bring cameras for special photos with the cast and the animals in the corral. The manger is located on the Ruskin Church property with plenty of parking available.

Children in attendance will receive candy canes and the church Ladies and Men's clubs will also provide hot chocolate, coffee, cookies and snacks.

A special addition this year will be members of the Ruskin Chorus performing select music to enhance the Nativity presentation.

Youth members participating include Alaina Rinaldi, Kyle Williamson, Matt Williamson, Zack Williamson, Vaughan Siegrist, Shyanne Taylor, Cole Alter, John Nichols, Alex Ruiz, Lauren Rodriguez, Emily Anderson, Brian Ruiz and Brandon Cusic.

Ruskin United Methodist Church is located at 105 4th St. NW, just one block west of Hwy 41 behind SunTrust Bank.



Christmas at the United Methodist Church

“The Promise of Light,” a Christmas musical by Joel Raney, inspired 1,200 in attendance at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center on Sunday, Dec. 8. Senior pastor Warren Langer welcomed the near-capacity congregation.

Under the direction of Jeff Jordan, director of Worship Arts, the Praise Team, the 50-voice Chancel Choir, and church organist Valerie Southwell, along with church musicians and technicians, joined together to offer a unique blend of Christmas music. J.A.M., the church’s Children’s Performance Choir, carried lighted candles, symbolizing the “the promise of light.”

Jeff Jordan perhaps said it best, “Everyone present felt the true spirit of Christmas in worship this morning.”

For information on upcoming Christmas events at the church, contact Jeff Jordan at 813-634-2539.

Seeds From the Sower

Michael A. Guido, D.D.
Metter, Georgia



And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior — yes, the Messiah, the Lord — has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others — the armies of heaven — praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

Visit us at: SowerMinistries.org.

UMC to screen ‘The Christmas Wish’



On Friday, Jan. 10, the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will host *The Christmas Wish*, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m.

Businessman Will Martin (Neil Patrick Harris) tries to uncover a family secret for his grandmother Ruth Martin (Debbie Reynolds) after he returns to a small town to modernize his family’s real-estate company. During Thanksgiving dinner, Ruth tells him she has discovered a woman named Lillian in her husband’s journals. He had visited her every Christmas Eve since shortly after the death of their son and daughter-in-law in a car accident. Ruth’s Christmas wish is to find out who Lillian is. The search takes him on a journey through his grandfather’s life and helps him understand the true meaning of love and forgiveness.

Come early for popcorn and coffee. Cookies, tea and water will also be served, as well as homemade cookies freshly baked by the Good News & the Disciples Sunday School Classes.

The Christmas Wish is not closed captioned and is about an hour and a half long.

South Bay Church Christmas week services

South Bay Church, located at 13498 U.S. 301 South in Riverview, will offer family services this Sunday, Dec. 22, at 8:15, 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. The South Bay Kids area will be open for children from birth to three years old only. This service is designed to emulate the warmth of a family gathering around the living room singing Christmas and worship songs.

On Christmas eve there will be three services: 3, 4:30 and 6 p.m. South Bay Kids will be open for all students, newborn to fifth grade.

This year’s message is centered around the true meaning of Christmas ... Simply Jesus. Join Pastors David Speicher and David Oates in celebrating the simplicity of the season.

For more information, visit www.SouthBay.cc or call the church office at 813-677-0721.



Songs of Christmas fill the air

Members of the Presbyterian Women circles at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church met recently to enjoy a Christmas tea party. Each table was decorated by a different circle. Vocal entertainment at the tea was provided by, standing from left, Carol Quam and Vallie Cospser, with Claire Hadley accompanying on the piano. St. Andrew is located at 1239 Del Webb Blvd. West in Sun City Center.

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Merry Christmas to All
Above the Rest. Come in for a free gift. 139 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., SCC. Open Christmas Eve day till 4pm.

Garage/ moving sale. 2105 Sterling Glen, SCC. Friday 12/20 Noon-4pm. Saturday 12/21, 8am-1pm. Furniture, pictures, area rugs, kitchen, glassware, home decor.

SCC 1601 & 1624 Bentwood Dr., Thursday & Friday, 12/19 & 12/20, 8am-2pm. From soup to nuts. Everything must go

Garage sale. 826 Birdie Way, Apollo Beach, Dec. 20 & 21. Gibson guitar SG, Feather Weight sewing machine, antique portable dental cabinet, antiques. Too much to list.

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Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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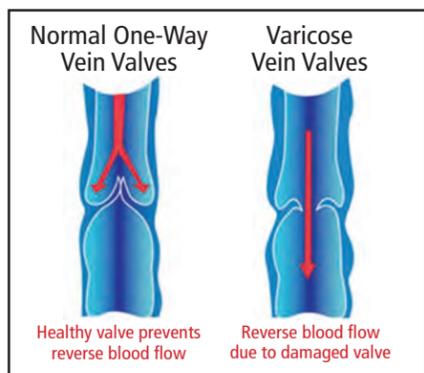
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