



Observations:  
**Goodbye,  
Brenda,  
my friend**

I woke up with a start, as I often do, and realized that I was holding my breath, not something I often do. I didn't want this day to begin; I didn't want this time to come at all. I was afraid — somehow I knew that on this day I would get the call telling me that a woman who has been a remarkable, prodigious part of my life, a woman who helped define my life, was gone.



■ By **Mitch Traphagen**  
mitch@observernews.net

Those first thoughts caused a sharp, electric sensation through my veins. And then I realized that I needed to sit in front of a blank page on a computer screen and try to write it out. I exhaled and worried that I was not up for that. I don't possess the talent to sum up a life such as hers. To even try would mean feeling something, and feeling it powerfully as I did in those moments I would remember, but with the knowledge that those moments are now gone forever. The smiles, the laughter, the arguments and my flashes of anger, but mostly just love and respect, would all be felt acutely yet they would merely be ghosts. Right now, I'm not sure that I can endure that. Right now, there is a hole in my life and in my heart.

And then when the news did

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# THE OBSERVER NEWS

www.ObserverNews.net

## From the ashes, a grove returns to life

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

Outside of a metropolis of four million people lies a field of dreams. For generations there was an orange grove just outside of Ruskin that produced fruit and provided a living for families that extended well beyond the owners. The Houghtaling family, through Dooley Groves, has long sold their produce locally, but they also bought locally. The money they spent on their groves stayed right here.

The grove never had much in the way of citrus canker but neighboring trees did have it and eight years ago there was only one prescription for that — and that meant that Dooley Groves, a family farm, would be burned to ashes. In all, 22,000 healthy citrus trees were burned and bulldozed, leaving behind nothing but dry, sandy soil. A long family legacy seemed to go up in smoke, due not to disease but to the mere threat of it. There was nothing that owner Mike Houghtaling could do.

Or so it seemed. Mike and Diane Houghtaling are not the types to wring their hands and give up in despair. Under his watch, the grove produced premium fruit, not the kind that was mashed into juice containers but the kind that made up beautiful baskets for the enjoyment of locals and were wrapped as gifts for those not blessed to live here.

Three years ago, Mike and Diane, their family and employees, replanted 8,100 orange trees by hand. They also installed a state-of-the-art irrigation system. Most of the trees they planted were to produce Honeybell tangelos, one of the most rare, most sought-after, and difficult to produce varieties of citrus in Florida.

And today, just over three years later, those trees are bearing fruit. Delicious fruit.

Houghtaling has a long association with the land. His great-grandfather was working it in South Hillsborough in the late 1800s; his father, Julius "Dooley" Houghtaling, expanded the family farm but went on to become a nuclear physicist. The land is in Mike's blood, and it turns out there was a silver lining to watching his family legacy involuntarily

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Mike Houghtaling of Dooley Groves with some freshly harvested Honeybell oranges. After losing the grove to the mere threat of citrus canker, Houghtaling brought it back, with the first harvest going on now.



"It doesn't get any more real than this. It is local, it is fresh," Houghtaling said. Above, the oranges are rinsed as part of the selection and packing process.

## Events planned for Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Awareness video to be shown Jan. 12

■ By **PENNY FLETCHER**  
penny@observernews.net

For the whole month of January, Janet Cardulla is collecting necessities for rescued victims of human trafficking. Cardulla, the president of the Sun City Center Community Campaign Against Human Trafficking, says just about anything people can donate is needed, from toiletries to underwear.

The Sun City Center group is an offshoot of the Tampa Bay Community Campaign, which June Wallace, also a resident of Sun City Center, founded after taking special training from law enforcement officials.

Wallace has been a resident of South County since 2011, coming from Largo, where she had won awards for her activity against human trafficking.

"People don't realize that Florida is one of the three worst states for trafficking of this kind," Wallace said in an interview Jan. 4. "There are more than 100,000 children attacked by sex traffickers every year and at least 200,000 more at risk [nationally]."

The other two states with the highest numbers are Texas and California.

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## James Vann: From prison guard to celebrated artist, teacher

■ By **KEVIN BRADY**  
kevin@observernews.net

For two decades as a guard at one of America's toughest prisons, James Vann held the keys to the cells of con men, killers and thieves. But it was with a paintbrush, not a key, that Vann unlocked and connected with the hard men of Rikers Island jail in New York City.

"A lot of people find themselves when they are locked up," Vann said. "I found most of the prisoners were creating either through writing, painting or even sculpting with soap scum from the showers and hair from the barber shop."

A word with his supervisors, and the prison art program was born with Vann leading classes at city prisons. "I would take their artwork to galleries in SoHo (the Mecca of New York's art world) and the inmates' pieces would sell more than mine" because people were intrigued by the stories of the artists creating art behind bars, Vann said.

And while he's never stopped teaching, Vann is also always creating.

"Art and Soul," an exhibition of Vann's work, is featured this month at Center Place Fine Arts and Civic Association, 619 Vonderburg Dr., next to the Brandon Regional Library. Vann will be on hand for an opening night reception, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9.

A graduate of the High School of Art & Design in New York City, Vann attended New York's Albert Pels School of Art before he began a career as corrections officer. Recognizing his artistic ability, Vann was quickly promoted to art director in New York City Department of Corrections' Public Affairs Division, where he led art classes for more than 20 years.

"Jimmy has a true commitment to the arts and his life is dedicated to promote not only the arts, but the artists with a loving and generous commitment to helping those artists who are just now

▶ Continued on page 2

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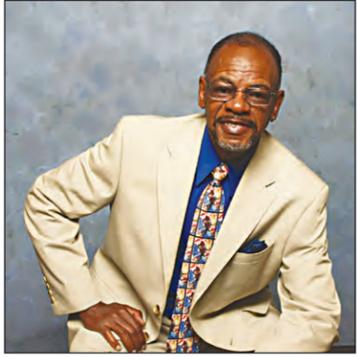
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# James Vann: From prison guard to celebrated artist, teacher



PHOTOS COURTESY JAMES VANN  
James Vann's work, featured this month at Brandon's Center Place Fine Arts and Civic Association, is inspired by old-school jazz.

Continued from page 1  
"budding," unknown for now, just loving their experience under an experienced and generous professional artist," said Ronna J. Metcalf, former director of Tampa's Life Enrichment Center where Vann has taught for 12 years. The recipient of numerous com-



*Dizzy* by James Vann is inspired by Dizzy Gillespie, one of the greatest jazz trumpeters of 20th century.

missions for designs and murals from the New City Police and Fire departments and the Hillsborough County Public Art Committee, Vann was named Artist of the Year by the Greater Brandon Arts Council in 2011. Most recently, he completed six large outdoor murals on the African American history of the Bay area at the Tampa Police Department's District III headquarters in East Tampa.

"Jimmy's work is unique, tying together his love of jazz and neocubist art," Metcalf said. "He is, I believe, a one-of-a-kind artist in the Tampa Bay community."

Vann's love of classic jazz drips from each canvas.

"Most of my artwork is based around old-school jazz. It's the music I grew up on, and I try to recapture that flavor with my art," said Vann, who can take anywhere from a couple of days to months to create a painting. "There's a lot of jazz around today but much of it is electrified or amplified. I try to capture the soul of the old-school jazz," said Vann, who also creates ties featuring jazz greats.

While paint flows through his veins, his passion for teaching runs just as deep.

"Every class I teach, you get someone who will say they can't draw a straight line with a ruler but I just say 'let's sit down and try' and I have not had one person who could not paint. We all can draw and paint," said Vann who has led classes for seniors at the University of South Florida's Center for Creative Aging and at-risk teens in Sulphur Springs.

"When I retired to Tampa 22 years ago, my plan was just to paint for myself but every time I see the successes of my students I

can't stop," Vann said.

Vann is always working to help students reach their greater potential, Metcalf said. "Whether it's older adults, like our students at the Life Enrichment Center, or children. Jimmy is an artist with a heart that is even larger, in my opinion, than his prolific and accomplished artistic career."

Vann's fame extends beyond the art world. Donald Bain, author of *Murder, She Wrote*, and a fan of Vann's work, decided to set the latest version of the popular murder mystery series in Ybor City

after spending time in Tampa with Vann. *Prescription for Murder* includes an acknowledgement to Vann and wife Jeannette, and also references the Life Enrichment Center.

Center Place's gift shop has been displaying Vann's work for "a couple of years now so we just thought we would ask him to do a show here and display his work," said Lisa Rodriguez, the center's marketing director. "He's a very interesting person, and his work is very colorful so I think the exhibition will draw a huge crowd."

Vann, 74, will carry his paintbrush to the grave.

"Like any artist or musician who loves his art, you can't retire from it. You might retire from the stage, but you can't stop singing or plying your craft."

Vann's artwork will be on display Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Jan. 29 at Center Place. Call 813-685-8888 for more information.

Visit Vann's website, <http://jamesvannart.com/> or email the artist at [jazzycanvas@aol.com](mailto:jazzycanvas@aol.com) to learn more about his work.



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# South County YMCA to break ground Jan. 21

■ By **PENNY FLETCHER**  
penny@observernews.net

The groundbreaking of a new South County YMCA won't be a public affair, but the Y plans an Open House later in the year.

Meanwhile, YMCA officials want to keep the community and its potential users informed about its progress.

On Jan. 21 at 11 a.m., a private affair for members of the Tampa Bay Metropolitan Area YMCA and county officials helping to

make the project happen will take place inside Vance Vogel Park on Bullfrog Creek Road in Gibsonton.

The new Y will be located off Big Bend Road, just east of Interstate 75, directly south of Vance Vogel Park.

The plans for this originally came up almost three years ago when the county was seeking a way to expand fields and programs in the area through a public-private

partnership such as it had in several other areas.

Three public meetings were held in South County before the plan went to County Commissioners Aug. 7. They voted to commit to providing \$2 million toward Phase I of the project, with the Y putting up another \$1.5 mil.

The first part of Phase I was the Design Phase, and will now be followed by the construction of three athletic fields; a single-court

covered open gym; a pavilion with restrooms, storage and concessions; a playground; site grading, utilities, drainage, permits and parking.

Originally this phase was scheduled to be completed by April 2015 but now the county and the Y expect to have it open — with programs running — by December.

“At that time we plan to hold a grand opening for the public complete with a ribbon cutting,” said Cindy Sofarelli, senior group vice president for the YMCA area including all of South County, Balm, Lithia and Brandon.

A special land-lease with the county makes it possible for new fields and athletic programs the county cannot pay for or operate alone, said Kurt Gremley, representing Hillsborough County.

Such a public-private partnership between the county and the Y has been successful in Town n’

Country, Gremley said.

The YMCA will be responsible for paying for Phase II, which is slated to include two multi-purpose athletic fields and a second “air-nasium” court (which is an open gym) at a cost of about \$400,000, to open approximately a year after Phase I.

Last is the aquatics center and a multi-purpose family facility, which would be expanded as funds allow.

The estimated cost of this phase is about \$1.5 million of Y funds and is expected to be finished in 2016.

This will allow local high schools to have swimming teams, and for many other events not now available to the schools, Sofarelli said.

More information about the YMCA, and contact numbers for those who would like to become involved in its boards and councils, is available at <http://www.tampaymca.org>.

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# Positive Talk: Up to here with vegetables

Boy, what I would not give to have some of those great country dumplings smothered in gravy that were made from cooking an old-fashioned stewing chicken. I say old-fashioned because it is hard to find a stewing chicken these days. Okay, I would also take pot roast with brown gravy and potatoes that had been cooked with the meat. Heck, I would be thrilled with a quarter-pound hamburger, but instead I am looking at a plate full of raw vegetables.

They should rename January to Veggitary, because it seems that every year the same thing happens. I start eating all the good things put before me during the November and December holidays, certainly

not focusing on vegetables, and then all the veggies that I missed during that time are force-fed me in January. Yes, I have gained a few pounds but is that any reason for this cruel and inhumane treatment?

I am promising myself to lose those extra pounds and have come up with some changes in lifestyle. Here are a few of the things I'm trying to do.

• Scrutinizing snack foods kept in the house. I am being more selective about things I eat between meals. It is amazing how many calories are contained in one handful of nuts and I can never eat just one. You have to eat a lot of carrots to make up for one handful of pecans.

• Increasing my exercise. I don't know about your household but here we play the game, "While you are up..." The rules are quite simple. You wait until someone gets up and then you say, "While you are up, would you get me..." Most of us have that game down to an art form. For the time being though, if I don't want it bad enough to get up and get it, I don't have it. There are other small adjustments that I'm trying to adopt. All in all, the best exercise is to just "move," so if I get on my feet — whatever I'm doing — I am burning calories. Then there are all the bonus fitness activities such as walking, running, dancing, etc. By the way, if you are a walker, remember that you gain more benefits from staying on your feet longer than by going the same distance in a shorter time.

• Changing my eating patterns. Many times we eat because of the activity we are participating in at the time, not because we are hungry. I like to multi-task, so I'm always tempted to eat while watching television. The food commercials don't help. At our house that's not much of a problem because we record everything and then zoom through the com-

mercials; but for many people watching in real time, it is. The other night, as an experiment, I counted 14 food commercials in an hour's time, all of them trying to get me to eat something other than veggies. If I spend time on the computer instead of in front of the television — using both hands for the keyboard — hours can go by without me even thinking about food. Take a look at your activity patterns. What causes you to eat; is it hunger, stress, boredom? When you know that, you can avoid those patterns of activity.

Well, that's it for now. I'm using my power of positive thinking to make my plate of grilled chicken, broccoli, and baked potato taste like a hot beef sandwich.

*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*



By William Hodges



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

## At Simmons Park on Saturday: No swimming, no problem

Water quality testing conducted by the Florida Department of Health on Dec. 30, resulted in a beach closed for swimming at E.G. Simmons Park. On Saturday, at least, that wasn't a problem for some of the day as the tide was so low, the waterline was well off the beach, making swimming an unlikely event, not considering the cool temperatures. The low water proved to be an opportunity for treasure hunters combing the beach. While the water may have been off-limits, the trails, playground and swingset were fully operational. For area water quality information, visit [tinyurl.com/observer-beachwater](http://tinyurl.com/observer-beachwater).

## Want to write your life story?

If you've been meaning to create a legacy for your heirs but don't know how to begin, consider taking the popular eight-week non-credit course in nearby Hillsborough Community College's South Shore campus in Ruskin. It starts on Friday, Jan. 17 and runs from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Now beginning her tenth year, Joan Shalleck will help you develop family stories about your life and times using literary devices that will make your life experiences more interesting for the reader. You'll travel back in time as you recall childhood, career choices, travel, romance and more.

Call 813-259-6010, the Lifelong Learning Line, for more information and to register.

Send your news and press releases to: [news@observernews.net](mailto:news@observernews.net)

## Chairman of Hillsborough Dems to speak

Michael K. van Hoek, chairman of the Hillsborough County Democratic Party, is the scheduled speaker at the next South Shore Democratic Club meeting on Thursday, Jan. 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the SouthShore Regional Library in Ruskin.

Van Hoek has a unique vantage point to view the current political scene as it happens locally and state-wide running up to the 2014 mid-term elections. His topics are potential candidates, key issues and controversial positions on critical issues.

The library is located at 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin. Meet and greet refreshments start at 1 p.m. All Democrats and like-minded persons are urged to attend the meeting.

Visit [www.southshoredemocraticclub.org](http://www.southshoredemocraticclub.org) for more information.

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# New Studies Link Hearing Loss to Several Medical Problems

## Research Shows Importance of Early Detection

— Chicago, IL

New research now connects hearing loss to a wide assortment of health issues. These findings appear to indicate that hearing loss, a condition currently untreated in about 85% of those affected, may, in fact, be the nation's most damaging and costly sensory concern.

### Untreated Hearing Loss Could Put You at Risk

A recent national study found that individuals who neglect or ignore hearing loss put themselves at greater danger for a broad range of physical, cognitive and emotional problems,



including dementia, depression, irritability and balance issues. Even mild hearing loss was shown to triple the chance of falls, especially among older adults.



### Many Everyday Illnesses Can Harm Hearing

Scientific findings now point to an extensive list of common medical conditions – from high blood pressure and diabetes to measles and chicken pox – as potential causes for hearing damage. Even more surprisingly, a list of over 200 medications, including common antibiotics, allergy drugs and even aspirin – can result in permanent or short-term hearing loss.

### A Simple Hearing Screening – Your First Line of Defense

“With so much evidence emerging on the potential link between hearing loss and various illnesses and medications, it becomes all the more pressing for people to identify and address hearing loss early on,” says Dr. Sergei Kochkin, executive director of the Better Hearing Institute (BHI). **Treating hearing loss at its onset can slow, or even stop, its progression, along with many serious physical and psychological illnesses.**

That is why experts urge anyone over 50 to make hearing screenings a routine part of their medical care. It is also recommended that before starting any medication, a licensed hearing care professional should establish a baseline record of an individual's hearing, in order to track potential changes over time.

### Good News – Today's Hearing Aids are Incredibly Effective

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## Apollo Beach resident places 2nd in Toastmasters Humorous Speech Contest

Anthony Yeoman of South Shore Toastmasters of Apollo Beach placed 2nd in the 2013 Toastmasters District 48 Fall Conference Humorous Speech Competition. The event was held November 16, 2013 at the Courtyard Marriott in Bradenton.

"I joined Toastmasters to build skills as a public speaker. I never imagined I would be participating in a contest like this five months into my membership," says Yeoman.

Yeoman, having won at two previous levels, represented Toastmasters District 48 Division D and competed against five other Toastmasters representing divisions A, B, C, E, and F. All in all throughout the competition at all levels more than a 1,000 competitors were involved.

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches communication and leadership skills through a worldwide network of more than 14,350 clubs in 122 countries. In District 48, which covers west/central Florida, there are 141



Toastmasters clubs.

South Shore Toastmasters is open to the public and meets regularly each 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the SouthShore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin. For more information about the club, visit their website: 619417.toastmastersclubs.org

The next meeting of the South Shore Toastmasters is Tuesday Jan. 14. Drop in visitors are welcome.



## Free Music Makers workshop for kids

Children ages 4-10 can attend a free workshop on the second Saturday of every month from 9:30-11 a.m. at Music Showcase at 402 Oakfield Dr. in Brandon.

This fun and interactive workshop allows children to hear and see band and orchestral instruments like the flute, trumpet, tuba, or violin — and they get to try them out themselves.

Kids will also make an instrument that they get to take home along with a goody bag.

"This is a great opportunity for children to learn about different instruments and then hopefully decide that they want to learn how to play one because music is fun and helps students improve their math and schoolwork," says Deborah Evans, public relations director at Music Showcase.

The Music Makers Workshop will take place on Saturdays, Feb. 8, March 8, April 12 and May 10.

The workshop is free, but you must register in advance by visiting faopa.org.



## Pita Kebob celebrates one-year anniversary in Apollo Beach

Pita Kebob, a Mediterranean restaurant at 243 Apollo Beach Blvd. in Apollo Beach, is celebrating its one-year anniversary this week.

Khalid Abouelhouda, chef/owner, would like to take this opportunity to thank the Apollo Beach and nearby communities for their support in the past year.

Pita Kebob features a menu dotted with offerings from Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt and many other Mediterranean cultures.

The restaurant, open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.,

offers gyros as well the simple grilled pleasures of lamb, beef, kofta, or chicken kebobs. They also feature spinach and meat pies, chicken shawarma, grilled fish, crispy falafel and salads, such as tabouli, fatoush or Greek salad. Kids get their own special menu, and everyone will enjoy rice pudding or baklava for dessert.

Ask about Pita Kebob's catering solutions for your next corporate event or social occasion.

To reach Khalid Abouelhouda, call 813-419-4926.

## IN UNIFORM

### Army

Army Pvt. Oscar Esparza has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, core values and traditions. Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewman.

Esparza is the son of Maricela and Ruben Esparza of Ruskin.

He is a 2010 graduate of Lennard High School, Ruskin..

### Army

Army Pfc. Ryan J. Figueroa has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, core values and traditions. Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewman.

Figueroa is the son of Jacqueline Santana of Winter Garden, and Sheldon Figueroa of Riverview.

He is a 2009 graduate of East Bay High School in Gibsonton.



### Air Force

Air Force Airman 1st Class Tyler S. Harris graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman 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.

Harris is the daughter of Angela Osborne of Brandywine, Md., and Darryl Harris of Gibsonton, Fla.

She is a 2008 graduate of Riverview High School.

## Better Manage Your Time



The Riverview Woman's Club welcomes Mary Owens of Black Diamond Associates who will help members and participants better manage their time.

Join them Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. at Summerfield Crossings Golf Club. Cost is \$17 for non-members and \$15 for members. Bring your friends and neighbors to meet a dynamic group of women who have the same interest, to give back to their community. RSVP to 813-334-3196 or Jeanne@square-oneinspection.com.

## 'Around the World with Wine' is Jan. 31

The Apollo Beach Woman's Club will hold a wine-tasting event from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31 at Apollo Bistro, 6520 Riches Way in Apollo Beach.

"Around the World with Wine," presented by Hugh Moore of PRP Wines International, is open to the community. Tickets are \$10 per person, with the money going to the scholarship fund. Wine will be available for both tasting and purchase.

For tickets or information contact Louise Smith at 813-641-8202.

To join the Apollo Beach Woman's Club (\$20 annually) or learn more about the organization, contact Judy Peck at 813-746-1072.



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### Word III: Paragraph Formatting • Friday, Jan. 10 at 3 p.m.

Learn paragraph formatting from setting margins to line spacing and how to create bulleted and numbered lists. Word II is recommended. Seating limit: 18.

### Word: Mail Merge - Friday, Jan. 10 at 3:45 p.m.

Discover an easy way to send your letter to multiple people using Mail Merge. Previous experience with Microsoft Word is recommended. Seating limit: 18.

### iPad/iPhone: Demonstration & Open Lab • Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 3 p.m.

Bring an iPad/iPhone and operation questions to the class. Will demonstrate how to install the required software for eBooks, open an Apple account, and how to download an eBook to the device. Seating limit: 18.

### Online Genealogy Resources - Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 3:30 p.m.

Learn to use the library's online genealogical databases, including Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest, and strategies to overcome genealogy research problems. Seating limit: 36.

### Computer Tutor - Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Tutoring in Microsoft software, email, and the Internet. Seating limit: 18. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the program start.

For all of the above programs, registration in person is required no earlier than one hour prior to the program start.

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## Tampa Bay WAVES meet Jan. 11

Tampa Bay WAVES Unit #55 will meet on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 11 a.m. The Unit meets on the second Saturday of each month in the Assisted Living Facility of Hawthorne Village, a retirement community located on W. Lumsden Road in Brandon, just west of Kings Avenue on the south side of Lumsden. The Assisted Living building is the first one on the right of the entrance road into the Hawthorne compound.

In the new year, the Unit will continue to participate in various events assisting American veterans, especially female veterans, including support of programs at James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa.

The Unit is actively seeking new members and welcomes all women who served honorably (including those currently serving) in the U.S. Navy, Navy Nurse Corps, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Maritime Service, or related reserve components. For more information call Jeannette Green at 813-657-9164.

## C.A.R.E. Pets of the week

C.A.R.E. is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For directions, visit [www.CareShelter.org](http://www.CareShelter.org) or call (813) 645-2273.



PHOTOS MARLENE GREENBERG



### Noel

Noel is a long-haired beautiful gray cat with pretty white markings who is adjusting to people, thanks to C.A.R.E. volunteers. She allows people to pet her and seems to enjoy it. She will also allow you to pick her up on special occasions, but the screened-in lanai is her favorite place to be. Why not give this big, beautiful cat a forever home? Noel is spayed and up-to-date on her shots. As part of her adoption she will be microchipped. DOB March 2, 2005.



### Sarah

Sarah is a darling hound mix puppy, a gentle soul and simply beautiful. A kind citizen saw Sarah get left behind as a stray in the Ruskin area. During her short time at the shelter she has been responsible for many giggles. Like most young dogs, Sarah loves getting attention and giving affection. Stop by to visit with Sarah; she is ready to flourish in her forever home. As part of Sarah's adoption she has been made current on her shots and will be spayed, and microchipped. DOB: July 1, 2013

**PET TIP:** When moving with your cat, it is best to keep it in a large carrier while unpacking. Also, do a safety check of the house. Make sure all window screens are secure and cords on curtains won't fall off and become a choking hazard. Check that all vents are securely covered.

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to purchase windows now and pay later, while taking advantage of the "no cost now" program.

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## A native son comes to the Firehouse Cultural Center with magic

Magician and entertainer Nathan Coe Marsh will bring his nationally renowned talents in magic and comedy to the Firehouse Cultural Center for two shows on Saturday, Jan. 11. The first show for families and children of all ages will take place at 3 p.m. The second show will take place during the weekly Firehouse Pub at 7:30 p.m. and is billed as "an evening of infectious laughter, stunning impossibilities, and the most fun you've had with a blowtorch, samurai sword, duct tape, and an iPad."



Magician and entertainer Nathan Coe Marsh

Metromix described his show: "Marsh's physical comedy rivals Jim Carrey... The show was top-notch, and Nathan Coe Marsh was personable, funny, engaging and — as a magician — stellar at his craft."

Nathan Coe Marsh is the son of Ruskin artists Bruce Marsh and Dolores Coe.

Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door for a slightly higher price.

On Jan. 12 at 2 p.m. the cultural center will screen the WEDU documentary film, *Too Close to Home*, human trafficking in Tampa Bay. The event is free and open to the public but reservations are recommended.

Beginning on Friday, January 17, the cultural center will host three presentations of *An Illiad*, performed by The Gorilla Theater. The FCC says this about the performance: "Every time I sing this song, I hope it's the last time." So says The Poet as he digs deep to sing Homer's epic story of war, honor, violence and the Greek siege of the city of Troy. He's told this story for centuries, conjuring the heroes and battles for different

cultures and eras. Now in the shadow of modern wars, he unleashes the story's power for a modern audience. Has anything really changed since the Trojan War?"

*An Illiad* will play at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 17 and 18 and at a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Advance tickets are recommended.

On Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m., the FCC will host Belmot & Jones, the Tallahassee-based country-blues duo of Charlie Engstrom and Carrie Hamby.

Advance tickets are recommended.

The Firehouse Cultural Center is located at 101 1st Ave. NE in Ruskin, near the intersection of U.S. Hwy 41 and Shell Point Road. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 813-645-7651 or visit their website at [www.firehouseculturalcenter.org](http://www.firehouseculturalcenter.org).



## Coming Soon to Curbs in Sun City Center and Kings Point

Automated residential garbage and recycling collection service will begin in the Sun City Center and Kings Point communities on Jan. 15, 2014. Automated collection is a process where garbage and recycling containers are emptied using a mechanical arm on the collection vehicle, instead of workers lifting cans and bins by hand.

### WAIT UNTIL JAN. 15 TO SET CARTS OUT AT CURB

Beginning the week of Jan. 6, a **GRAY** roll cart for garbage and a **BLUE** roll cart for recycling will be delivered to Hillsborough County Solid Waste customers in Sun City Center and Kings Point. **DO NOT** place the roll carts out for collection until the new service begins the following week.

### BE SMART WHEN IT'S TIME TO USE THE CARTS

Please read the important information that will be delivered with the carts. When the new service starts, allow a 3-foot clearance around each cart at the curb. All garbage and recyclables must go in the carts.

There will be **NO** change to your yard waste collection. It will still be picked up manually, in containers and cans provided by residents, or in bags and bundles.

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*"I don't go to casinos," Mike said. "But the truth is that farmers are the biggest gamblers in the world."*

# Dooley Groves

▶ Continued from page 1

ly burn. He was able to start over, working the land again in a way that brings him even closer to it.

"This feels good," he said looking out at a grove of 8,000 trees. "We had 300 acres at one time and we had six stores. I'm much happier now. If something breaks, I just have to walk down the road instead of driving to a grove in Manatee County."

He now farms about 25 or so acres.

Three years after planting them, the trees are five to seven feet tall, ideal for walking through the grove and picking your own, harvesting the fruits yourself, which is an opportunity that Dooley Groves will soon offer. He had no way of knowing, when planting all of those little stalks of trees, what would really result from all of that hard work. Farming is indeed science but Mother Nature still plays a role in everything.

"I don't go to casinos," Mike said. "But the truth is that farmers are the biggest gamblers in the world."

There is far more than a roll of the dice in being a citrus farmer. There is knowledge passed down the generations, there is an enormous amount of science, some of which is emerging daily. On display in their store, just off Stephens Road outside of Ruskin, are farm implements that have been passed down through the generations of his family and neighbors. Mike Houghtaling's knowledge and love of the land is something that grows over time and with passion, much like the groves he now tends.

He talks to scientists and

to other growers; he attends meetings and learns more. "This is the way it is going to be done in the future," Mike said while looking at his brand-new grove. His standards are extremely

high, something that has also been passed down through the generations of his family, and despite that his trees are producing fruit, Mike sees some

▶ Continued on page 17



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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Mike and Diane Houghtaling in their grove with some freshly picked oranges.



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SUN CITY CENTER RESIDENTS: Our names are Dr. Darrin Tyson and Dr. Shanelle Tyson. If you have idiopathic Peripheral Neuropathy or Diabetic Neuropathy, you may be asking yourself any or all of these questions:

- Why do I have pain in my legs, feet, toes?
- What causes the tingling sensation or numbness in my legs and feet?
- Am I at risk for infection or amputation – even if I’m not a diabetic?
- Why do my feet feel like they’re on fire?

If any of these problems or concerns are creating a situation where the quality of your life is being compromised, then you need to pay close attention to what we’re telling you in this article. Isn’t it sad to otherwise feel so alive and full of vigor, but not be able to fully participate in life because the pain, tingling, and numbness is so pervasive, so intruding – and so unfair? Don’t you sometimes feel downright angry that these symptoms have appeared – and won’t go away?? If you do, it’s only normal. After all, who wants to be burdened with carrying a load of pain, and live life through an all-encompassing fog of discomfort? Pain that’s always there, always reminding you of its presence. Always raising its ugly head, no matter how hard you try to ignore it. It’s always there – sitting in your recliner. Going to the store. Playing golf with friends, or just trying to get some much-needed sleep and rest at night. Anything you do is accompanied by the sharp pain, tingling, and the numbness.

### Here’s What Makes Peripheral Neuropathy So Dangerous:

See, PN is so bad because it sort of sneaks up on you. Quietly like a thief in the night. Like the angry spouse in the detective stories who slowly poisons the other spouse with arsenic.....PN is a condition that slowly eats away at you. It doesn’t happen in an instant like breaking a leg. No, it’s just like a poison (especially with diabetes), doing its damage to nerves slowly. So slowly, that at first, when it’s already done some damage, you won’t even notice it.

### What About Your Future?:

Are You Worried About Your Job – Your Life? Unfortunately, there are people who have been forced to quit their jobs or give up their social life because of PN symptoms. So what do you do? What choices do you have? If you’re like most people, the outcome of your visits to the MD have resulted in taking cortisone injections, Motrin, prescriptions for Neurontin, and you’ve experienced the drowsiness it causes – only giving you a brief relief from the pain – or none at all. Only to have it return as soon as the tranquilizing, nerve-deadening effect wears off. What good is that??

### So, Back To The Question:

What are YOU going to do if you’re stuck between the tingling, prickling, hot fire-like burning sensation in your feet or continuing to take mind-numbing Lyrica and Neurontin? Finally – some good news! A patented, extremely effective non-invasive diabetic and peripheral neuropathy treatment is now available, for the first time ever, in the Sarasota and Bradenton area. If your feet feel like you’re walking on thumbtacks or are “on fire”, or if they tingle unbearably, or they feel as cold as a frozen Popsicle you owe it to yourself to check out this new technology.

*There May Be Hope For You With A New Technology For Treating Peripheral Neuropathy Called:*



### Neuro-Analgesia

Neuro-Analgesia, sometimes referred to as Electronic Signal Treatment, is a patented, innovative treatment modality that utilizes a modulated and attenuated pulsed electronic signal (current) that can substantially reduce or even possibly eliminate – the burning, sharp pain and associated numbness and tingling of PN!

### So, How Does Neuro-Analgesia Work?

Neuro-Analgesia, or electronic signal treatment, uses a modulated electronic signal that pulses very rapidly, firing off very short micro-bursts of current that effectively “overrides” pain receptors. The attenuated current or signal penetrates deeply through and across both nerveendings and affected muscles and other associated tissues, producing profound physiological changes, such as reduced swelling and inflammation. Microcirculation is increased and pain levels can drop dramatically after just a few treatments! The physiological changes are triggered by the electronic signal or current, making this a true healing modality. Neuro-Analgesia or electronic signal treatment does not require the use of drugs or surgery; side effects are, for the most part, non-existent! Most importantly– Neuro- Analgesia may achieve results faster than other treatment options!!!

### What Do You Experience During A Treatment?

Patients remain fully clothed, and you may sit in a chair, lay down on a table, or better yet – “kick back” in a recliner! During every phase of the treatment you will be very comfortable and relaxed. You’ll experience a soothing sense of electrical stimulation in your feet and legs. Some patients read or watch TV throughout the procedure; others close their eyes and take a nap!

**NOTE: This technology is patented, exclusive technology. This is not available anywhere else in the State of Florida. Therefore, space and availability is extremely limited.....**

### What Patients Are Saying About Peripheral Neuropathy Therapy

“I can’t begin to tell you how much your Peripheral Neuropathy Therapy program has done for me. I used to have constant leg pain, burning, numbness and stinging sensations in the feet. I could barely

stand to brush my teeth or walk through the grocery store. I had been to see just about every kind of doctor there is, and I just kept getting worse and worse. I had virtually quit all of the things I used to enjoy doing-golf, bowling, square-dancing, going to football games-just about everything. My improvement has been continuous and steady-pain levels and discomforts have dropped to a fraction of what they used to be, and I’m now able to do most of the things I used to do! Thank you, and thanks to your staff too!”  
- Alexander Holbert

### Who Should Call For A Qualifying Assessment?

- If you’ve had severe peripheral neuropathy (diabetic or otherwise) for at least six months, and nothing has helped
- If you’re over the age of 65
- If you have tried just about everything and anything and nothing seems to help
- If you’re practically at the end of your rope, and out of other options

### Who Should Not Call?

- Do not call us if you are under the age of 60 (we have to reserve this technology for the “worst of the worst” )
- Please do not call if your problem is not very bad – (again, we must reserve this for the worst cases)
- Do not call if your problem is already improving, and please do not call if you have not tried some other form of treatment!

### Now, What’s the Next Step You Should Take?

We have decided to make it super-easy for you to take action. This is the very first time that we have released any information on our Peripheral Neuropathy treatment program to the public – to date, we have only treated established, existing patients with this new technology. We will only be able to accept 15 new patients, so you must call as soon as possible to schedule your complimentary (free) Qualifying Assessment.

## The FREE 4-Point Qualifying Assessment

No charge at all and you don’t need to buy anything. But, you will find out if you qualify for this revolutionary new therapy. You won’t leave our office wondering if it’s something that could have helped you get rid of your pain. During your assessment, we’ll check out your: pain levels, reflex response, balance & risk of fall assessment and a complete quantitative & qualitative examination. Expires 2/9/14.

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**Manatee RV Park dance is Jan. 11**

Manatee RV Park will host a social dance from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11. Music will be provided by Brian Ashley.

BYOB; ice will be provided. The cost is \$5 per person, and the public is invited.

For more information, contact J. Sullivan at 603-332-5342 or E. Resch at 813-649-1185.

Manatee RV Park is on U.S. Hwy 41, four miles north of I-275 or seven miles south of Ruskin.



**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.

**Friday, Jan. 10** - Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. Music by Full Circle 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 11** - Crew Games & free hot dogs 6 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 12** - Lounge Games 2 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy 6:30 p.m. Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 13** - Crew Games & free hot dogs 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 14** - Games in lounge, 1-4 p.m. Bingo doors open 3 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m. Kitchen opens 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 16** - Bar Bingo 6 p.m.

**South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities**



**Every Sunday** - Football, 1 p.m.. 5 high-definition TVs.

**Every Monday** - 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. \$8. Music by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.

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.

**Fundraising tea party to benefit Good Samaritan Mission in Wimauma**

On Saturday, Feb. 15 the public is invited to participate in a very special tea party to benefit Good Samaritan Mission in Wimauma. The party will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. in the banquet room of the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce, 1651 Sun City Center Plaza in Sun City Center. Tickets are \$15 per person. Attendees will be treated to a selection of gourmet teas and their choice of sweet and savory refreshments.

The program will include special entertainment provided by members of the Florida Boy Choirs.

For information or to purchase tickets call the Mission at 813-634-7136.

Good Samaritan Mission is a 501(c)3 organization located at 14920 Balm Wimauma Rd. in Wimauma. The Mission has been providing support to families in need since 1984. For more information about the Mission, see its website at [www.gsmission.org](http://www.gsmission.org).

**East County Dems meet Feb. 11**

The East Hillsborough County Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at O'Brien's Irish Pub, 701 W. Lumsden Rd. in Brandon. The speaker will be Mitch Perry, News and Politics Editor of *Creative Loafing*.

The club will also elect a slate of officers for 2014.

Donations of food and clothing for ECHO will be appreciated.

Visit [www.hillsboroughdems.org](http://www.hillsboroughdems.org) for more information. Club President Mike Angel can be reached at [ehdclub@yahoo.com](mailto:ehdclub@yahoo.com).

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# Observations: Goodbye my friend

► Continued from page 1

come, my heart seemed to stop. Brenda Knowles, my boss, my friend, a woman that I loved like my own family, has passed away. Although the rational side of me knew this was coming, the emotional side refused to accept it. It came too quickly. She is too much a part of my life to lose.

Three years ago I was halfway across the Chesapeake Bay and was freaked out and freezing. It was November 22, my birthday, and I had just set out on my boat with a long way to go to get home. I also had a deadline for the newspaper bearing down on me, the first of a then-unknown number of many deadlines yet to come while I inched the boat down the East Coast home to Ruskin. I was almost insanely anxious about the boat, the long, cold journey ahead, and my job. Alone, shivering in the cockpit, I called Brenda.

"Don't worry about the deadline. Don't worry about the paper. Pull in somewhere, get warm and enjoy the day," she said cheerily over the phone.

What kind of boss would do that? Especially these days? But that was Brenda. She cared deeply, and she had an incomparable heart. She cared enough to let her employee take off for something open-ended that was important only personally. She knew what it would mean to me. She also had enough confidence to believe that it would work for the paper. Few people in my life have ever demonstrated such confidence in me. She made me want to live up to it.

That night, tied up to a dock in a warm boat, I wrote about her in my column. A few days later I received an email from her, written in humor:

*Mitch: Just checking to see if you are warm and toasty or frozen solid. Just because I printed your Observations today doesn't mean you get out of writing my BIG obit when it is time. However, I will have to put my foot down when it comes to writing nice things about me for the newspaper otherwise there won't be anything nice left to say for the obit. Stay safe and warm. BBK*

There isn't enough room for all of the nice things I could say. There aren't enough words.

In August of 2001, I walked into the igloo-looking building on Shell Point Road in Ruskin, the then-home of *The Observer News*, and asked if I could speak with the editor. That is when I met Brenda. Nervously, I pulled out an old film camera with some decade-old lenses and a brand-new digital camera that I had just bought a week prior, and offered to take pictures for free. Brenda told me that I could take pictures if I wanted, but it couldn't be free. The modest sum the paper paid seemed princely at the time. I left her office feeling as though she had opened the door to something amazing in my life, which is exactly what she had done.

When the paper was smaller, quieter, we spent hours talking after the press had run and the newspapers were out for delivery.

No one would be in the office but us — and we would talk about everything going on in life, some of it, occasionally, even involved our jobs.

I made her cry. Some instances of that were okay. I would write a personal column that truly was personal and she would walk over and say, "You made me cry!" Brenda was no pushover when it came to the written word. She was a voracious reader — she read every single word in the newspapers she published and, when finished with that, would fire up her Kindle to read books over lunch. That she actually felt something in reading my meager words was a good sign, I thought.

But I also made her cry for the wrong reasons. When something would turn in my personal life, she took it personally, too. She felt that deeply and I felt as though I had made my own mother or sister cry. No one wants to do that. But in the end, that is part of life and ironically it is a part to be celebrated. When you love people, you sometimes get to hold hands while riding on life's roller coaster.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The newspaper was a big part of Brenda's life and through it, she opened doors for others, including me.

Sometimes you are laughing, sometimes your eyes are tightly closed in fear. But you always know someone is with you. That is a blessing. Brenda was a blessing.

She is among the strongest and bravest women I have ever known. A few years ago she went through treatment for cancer and almost no one knew about it. She would have an appointment for radiation treatment or chemo and then come into work. She didn't complain, she didn't let on how she must have felt. She just went on.

Running a "good news" newspaper wasn't a business strategy for her, it was how she lived. She saw the good in people and in life. She was a woman of class, intelligence and optimism and a Floridian through and through — and that meant something inexplicably good. In many ways, the newspaper was a reflection of how she saw and approached life: as something that was truly, inherently good. I wish there were more

► Continued on next page



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# Observations: Goodbye my friend

► Continued from page 14

people like her. She was right, life is good; but now it is less so without her.

She dearly loved her children and she had every reason to be immensely proud of them. They are all successful and happy, a strong testament to her success as a mom. They gave her grandchildren that became the joy of her life. All of the many photos are still up in her office. I can walk in and look at them and almost hear her say, "Did I tell you about...?" Even if she did, I wanted to hear it again. And now I only wish I could.

Last week, her illness turned to the point that she was largely bed-ridden but her mind and her remarkable wit were as sharp as ever. I brought a newspaper over to her, fresh off the press, and she tore through it, no doubt finding mistakes we made but saying nothing about them. Together we laughed about a morbid long-running inside joke we had regarding someone we were convinced would be writing both of our obits, and what they might say about us. She knew what was coming and she was approaching it with the

same dignity and grace with which she approached everything in life.

And then on my last visit, she communicated awareness but not much more. Life was becoming a struggle that was too much for even one of the strongest women I have ever met. But her dignity, her grace, her wonderful heart were all still there. I had to fight back tears — selfish tears — wondering what I would do without her. It is hard to know what to wish for, you know? You don't want to lose someone you love, but you don't want them to suffer.

Years ago, when I left Florida to start my own newspaper, rarely a day went by when she didn't carve time out of her busy schedule to talk. I was overwhelmed and she offered advice — she always had ideas — but mostly she provided reassurance. She innately knew that was something I desperately needed. She provided the calm in my many storms. Looking back, I can see that she had done that repeatedly since I met her.

Writers are a cranky lot and she took far more abuse than she deserved. The truth is, of course, that she didn't deserve any at all. Writers see their work as art, mixed in with saving the world. But the reality is that without Brenda that would not have been possible. For writers it is an often selfish quest cloaked as a selfless mission. But Brenda knew the bigger picture, the bigger mission, that the world would be fine, let's just try to make it a little better, bit by bit. And she did just that — not just for the newspaper but also for

her cranky writers, whether or not we appreciated it.

I appreciate it deeply now.

She said she was my biggest fan. I don't think I deserved that. She taught me a lot; she provided friendship, guidance, and her very heart, along with plenty of patience, when it was needed. I have learned from that but I'm not as strong or as brave as Brenda. She never gave up trying.

Writer Mitch Albom wrote about his parents in his book *For One More Day*. For me, it also works for Brenda:

*But she wasn't around, and that's the thing when your parents die, you feel like instead of going in to every fight with backup, you are going into every fight alone.*

Losing a friend and defender of so many years, I suddenly feel alone. I miss you, Brenda. I hope someday I'll be worthy of seeing you again. Goodbye and Godspeed to you, my friend.

*Memorial arrangements will be announced in next week's edition.*

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A snapshot of Brenda Knowles at a lunch meeting in Ruskin. She was a woman of intelligence, wit and grace. She was my friend.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

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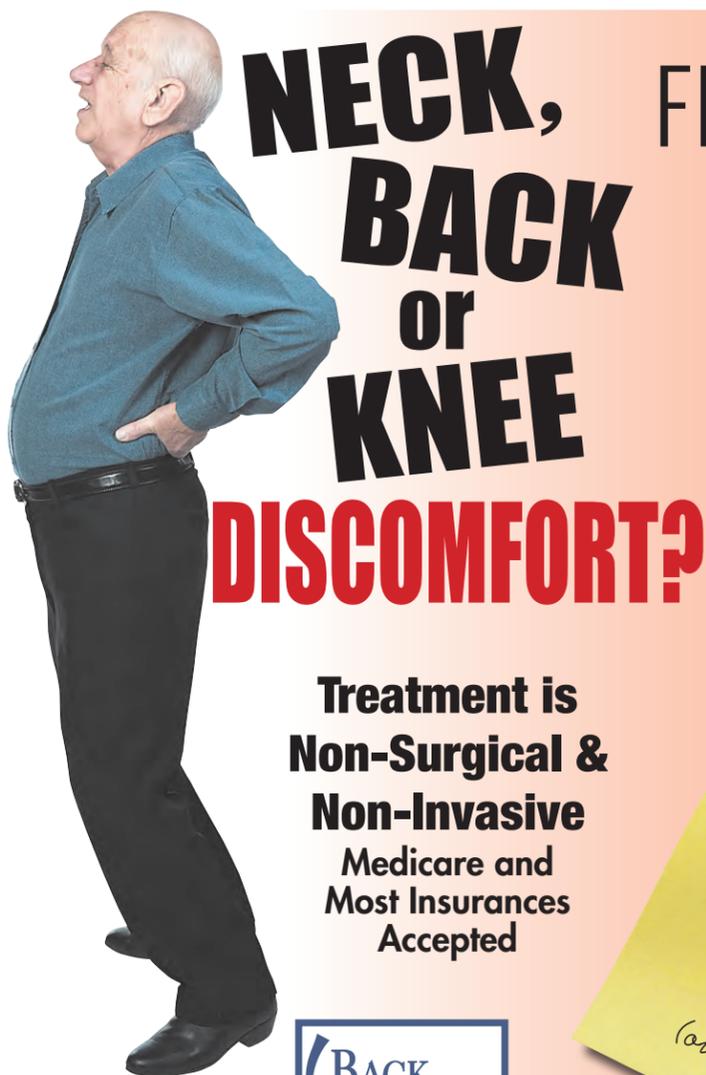
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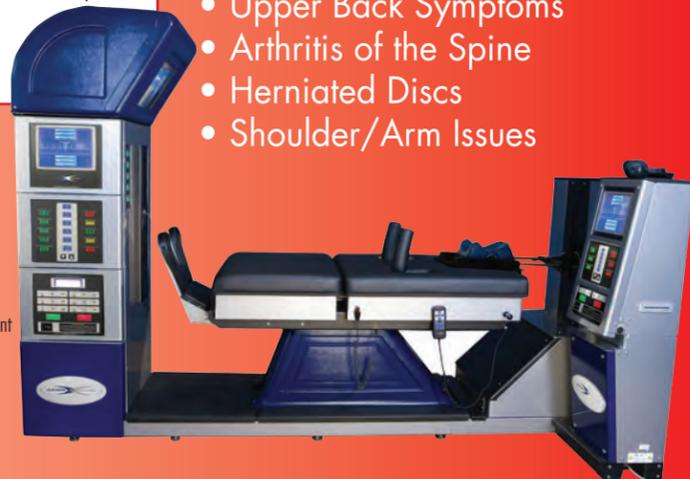
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Mike Houghtaling reaches for a Honeybell orange. It would not be possible to get fruit more fresh than this. MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

# Dooley Groves

► Continued from page 11

that aren't producing the fruit he wants. They will be cut down and replaced, doubtless difficult for the fledgling grove.

Honeybell tangelos tend to ripen only in January; there is just one crop per year. And now even the weather is cooperating.

"The recent cold weather is good for the oranges," Mike said. "They are ripe and ready to go but there hasn't been enough cold weather."

Until now, at least.

Citrus canker still exists and is nearly everywhere, including in neighboring groves. Although how it is dealt with is no longer a policy of slash and burn, Mike planted eucalyptus trees around his groves to act as barriers to the disease. They also help to shelter the trees during the rare hard freezes.

"This is real," he said. "It doesn't get any more real than this. It is local, it is fresh. This is everything to us."

"We decided that giving up was not an option for us," Diane added.

Their store is bright, sunny and filled with the fruits of their labor. In addition to their varieties of produce (which includes beautiful, enormous ponderosa lemons, which Diane refers to, accurately, as "Dr. Seuss lemons"), there is a wide array of other locally produced products, from syrup to candies. But it is the Honeybell oranges, the lemons and the grapefruit that are the stars of the show. They all come from home.

"This year our aim is to sell most everything through our store," Mike said. "Next year we hope our production will double or triple."

Three years ago, the article that ran in *The Observer News*, *The SCC Observer* and *The Current* drew to a close with a quote from Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, one of Florida's most famous writers and a woman who lovingly tended her own orange grove. And now with beautiful groves bearing fruit rising from the ashes,

another Rawlings quote offers an invitation:

*It is necessary to leave the impersonal highway, to step inside the rusty gate and close it behind. ...One is now inside the grove, out of one world and in the mysterious heart of another. Enchantment lies in different things for each of us.*

Drive U.S. Hwy 41 south of Ruskin to Universal Drive, take a right on Stephens Road and you'll come to Dooley Groves. And there, you can enter another world, an enchanting place where it is beautifully quiet, a place where faith and perseverance won out over adversity. A place where a couple, generations into working the land, have devoted everything to producing something wonderful in Florida, in America. They could have sold their land, there could be houses planned for what has long been a family legacy but instead they worked the dry, sandy soil into lush, wonderful groves.

"I might be very stupid," Mike said with a laugh, and then received a kiss from Diane. That is not a term anyone who meets him would ever consider.

He then looked out at the grove and spoke again.

"We don't really have any problems. We have everything we need."

*Dooley Groves is located at 1651 Stephens Rd. in Old Sun City. For information, call 813-645-3256 or visit their website at www.dooleygroves.com.*

*For more photos, visit www.observernews.net.*



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**Temperature Gauge/Light** Indicates the temperature of your vehicle's coolant. A reading in the "H" zone of any light means "HOT" and is an indication of trouble. Pull over, shift into neutral (N) and allow the engine to idle. Do not continue to drive if the temperature does not return to normal or the "HOT" light stays on.

**Service Engine Soon (SES) Light** This may also be called the Malfunction Indicator Light and is part of the Onboard Diagnostic System, which maintains the Emissions and Engine Control System. Normal operations may show this light briefly when the ignition is turned on. However, if the light remains on during driving, there may be a potential engine problem; seek service promptly.

**Voltage Gauge/Battery Light** Indicates the Electrical System's voltage when the engine is running. Service is required if the pointer moves to either "HIGH" or "LOW," indicating too much or not enough voltage, or if the battery light comes on.

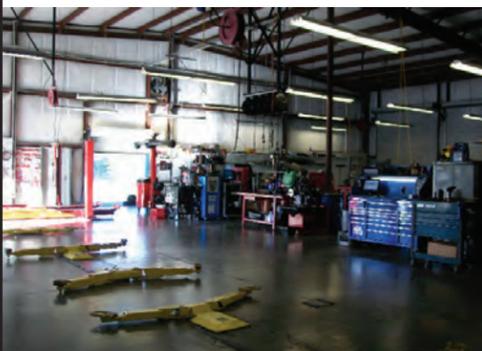
**Oil Gauge/Light** Indicates oil pressure, not the amount of oil in the engine. A continuous "HIGH" or "LOW" gauge reading indicates an engine lubrication malfunction and the need for immediate service. If you have a problem with your oil, the oil light may stay on after you start your engine or come on when you're driving. This light shows that oil is not going through your engine quickly enough to keep it lubricated. The engine could be low on oil or have another problem. Have your vehicle serviced immediately.

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\*Available on 2004 MY and newer GM models equipped with the GM Engine Oil Life System. diagnostics not available on Cadillac Catera, Pontiac Vibe, Saab 9-3 and 9-5. Diagnostic services vary on Cadillac SRX V-8, Saturn VUE, Ion and L-Series, Chevrolet Silverado diesel and GMC Sierra diesel. For details, call 1-888-4ONSTAR (1-888-466-7827).

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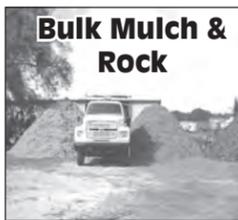
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## Fish Tales: Catfish got your tongue?

Due to the choppy water and winds, boats were advised to stay ashore last week. There were those who boated with caution and fished all week despite the weather.

There were reports last week of a waterway full of baby tarpon. This week there are reports of bullsharks chasing the tarpon. Some reported that each time they hooked a tarpon, the sharks were there in pursuit of their catch.

Saltwater catfish have provided an entertaining week for many who seemed to catch only this fish all day. One angler said he was just as happy with his catfish catches as if he were catching game fish. He had a lot of action and felt that the days fishing were great.

Catfish are known around the world. There are thousands of different species depending upon which authority you care to accept.

In the United States, we claim only seven varieties. It seems that every region has their own names. Our seven are called: channel cat, which seems to be the most common, white, blue, black, bullhead (both brown and yellow), and the flathead.

The catfish feeds by sight and smell and eats almost anything dead or alive. Anglers can use dead shrimp, worms, frogs, grasshoppers, chicken or beef liver, to name a few, for bait.

The color of the catfish depends upon the bottom of the water where they live. They could be steel gray or milky white, some have scattered spots, others blue with yellow bellies.

Fishing for catfish is simple. It is often the first fish that children catch with a bamboo pole, string, and a hook.

Catfish are often found dead on piers and bridges because anglers don't throw them back into the water as catch and release. Many kill them as soon as they catch them.

Freshwater catfish graces many dinner tables poached in white wine or cooked with chopped white onion, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper. Cover with thin sliced

lemons, put a lid over it and let it steam. Watch it closely because fish isn't good when overcooked. This proves that fish can be cooked without a pan full of grease.



By Jonie Maschek  
Member: Florida Outdoor Writers Association

I enjoyed fried catfish and cajun rice while in New Orleans. In Mississippi we enjoyed it with cheese, garlic, hot spices, and tomato sauce. In Georgia, they called it 'Redneck catfish,' dipped in

a heavy flour/egg batter and cornmeal, served with hushpuppies. Alabama's Dixieland catfish was heavy on paprika, had a cavity full of lemons and was baked in French dressing. Catfish I've enjoyed in Florida have been deep-fat fried, served with cheese grits and hushpuppies.

In the State of Washington where I was born, they deep-fried catfish and served them with oysters, sizzling in a skillet, direct to your table.

I asked some boaters how they cooked their catfish catches and they all said: "We cook it in beer."

Saltwater catfish are not all trash fish. Yellow and black bullhead are good tablefare.

Black drum are still in the rivers. Some throw this fish back because they think it is a trash fish. It is edible, small size only, as the larger ones often are full of worms.

Sheepshead seem to be in all waterways this week. This fish has a lean, white meat which makes great tablefare. Catches have been reported from the canals, piers, bridges and rivers.

Larger than usual flounder catches came in from out in the deeper waters, along with some cobia catches.

Fresh waters were active this week, with pan fish, largemouth bass and catfish.

Some anglers were surprised to find king mackerel still in our waterways this week.

We've had unseasonably warm weather this past week with a day of a cold front arriving, still making it the best fishing waters around.

Watch the weather, fish together, in your boat, keep a raincoat.

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## You, me and business:

### Charitable giving can lead to affinity marketing

I've often heard people ask the question, why can't the charitable giving we see during the holidays last all year? Yes, we do give more at Christmas. Mostly to Toys for Tots or a local angel tree. We also donate meals and warm clothes to the less fortunate.

But believe me, charitable giving does go on all year, and mostly by local merchants who understand how giving is great for business! An increasing number of small business



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

owners are affiliating themselves with charities and voluntary organizations to get their business noticed, and to help promote their products and services. It's a total win-win for the company who gets the great PR and the charity that gets what it needs.

Linking your name with a charitable cause is an important part of charitable marketing. Even if you are participating in a charity for altruistic reasons, there's no reason why you shouldn't benefit from some great positive exposure.

We all like to associate ourselves with businesses (and their owners) that support good causes, especially those causes that are near and dear to our hearts. In the South County area, the most popular are charities for animals, disadvantaged seniors, health issues and anything for our wounded warriors and veterans.

Now, these great charities are smart! They know the businesses are looking to get some return on their "investment" with them. That's okay! Most of these non-profits are little media machines and very experienced at helping the companies get some great press.

Are you looking to partner with a local charity? Here are some great ways to maximize your involvement for both of you.

The most important thing is to make sure you and the charity are a good fit. It's a no-brainer for a hospital to support the American Cancer Society. Likewise, our independent

and assisted living communities often sponsor the Walk to End Alzheimer's. So, look for charities that you believe in and to which you have some affinity. Not only will it be more fun, but also you'll be happier giving your time and means.

The first priority for this kind of affinity partnership is to benefit the charity. But at the end of the day, the business wants meaningful exposure to a large number of influential people. If you are sponsoring a charitable event, try to choose one that will bring those people to the party. I'm thinking of the annual Good Samaritan Ball, for instance. And if it's appropriate, wear your company shirts to the event to further publicize your business! Let them know it's YOU handing out bottled water at the 5K race!

Now, none of this benefits the business unless people know about it. You've got to let folks know you donated goods or services to the charity by sending press releases and photos to our local press and media. Of course, most of the high-profile causes get the most attention, but here in South County, our local papers are great at covering all kinds of good causes, big and small.

You spend a lot of money on your brochures and printed materials. Do they mention your charitable involvement? What about your newsletters, signs, displays, ads? What about your website or Facebook page?

And don't forget to ask your charity to recognize your support in their own publicity efforts. Most charities have thousands, perhaps even millions of people that either belong to the charity or who have some sort of affinity with it. And, in many cases, these people will make excellent prospects for your products or services because you share a special cause.

So create a win-win scenario for your business and your favorite cause with an affinity program this year. It's a great way to benefit both of you!

### U.S. monetary system is topic

At 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 13 Richard Hoffman and Stan Birkinshaw will discuss the U.S. monetary system, including the Federal Reserve System, gold standard, national debt and how they affect our purchasing power.

The program is sponsored by the South Shore Chapter of the Tampa 912 Project and is free and open to the public.

In addition to discussion of the monetary system, Jeff Lukens will provide background and an update on interest in a Convention of States designed to force an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The presentations will be held on the second floor of Beggins Real Estate, located on U.S. Hwy 41 just north of Apollo Beach Blvd. and the Publix shopping center.



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# THE SAVVY SENIOR: What You Should Know About Your Parents' Affairs

Dear Savvy Senior,

My pastor recently suggested that I get informed on my elderly parents' financial situation and end-of-life plans so I can be better prepared when something happens to them. What's the best way to handle this and what all do I need to find out?

Apprehensive Daughter



By Jim Miller

Dear Apprehensive,

Most adult children don't know much about their parents' financial situation or end-of-life plans, but they need to. Getting up to speed on your elderly parent's finances, insurance policies, long-term-care plans and other information is important because some day you might have to help them handle their financial affairs or care, or execute their estate plan after they die. Without this information, your job

becomes much more difficult.

### Have the Talk

If you're uncomfortable starting up a conversation like this with your parents, see TheConversationProject.org for guidance. It's also a good idea to get your siblings or other family members involved. This can help you head off possible hard feelings, plus, with others involved, your parents will know everyone is concerned.

When you meet with your parents, you'll need to sit down and create several lists of important in-

formation, find out where they keep key documents and how they want certain things handled when they die or if they become incapacitated. Here's a checklist of areas you need to focus on.

### Personal Information

- **Contacts:** Make a list of names and phone numbers of close friends, clergy, their doctors, lawyer, accountant, broker, tax preparer, insurance agent, etc.
- **Personal documents:** Find out where they keep their Social Security card, marriage license, military discharge papers, etc.
- **Secured places:** Make a list of places they keep under lock and key or protected by password, such as online accounts, safe deposit boxes, safe combination, security alarms, etc.
- **Service providers:** Make a list of the companies or people who provide them regular services like utility companies, lawn service, etc.
- **Medical information:** Make a copy of their medical history (any drug allergies, past surgeries, etc.) and a list of medications they take.
- **Pets:** If they have a pet, what are their instructions for the animal's care?
- **End of life:** What are their wishes for organ or body donation, and their funeral instructions? If they've made pre-arrangements with a funeral home get a copy of the agreement.

### Legal Documents

- **Will:** Do they have an updated will or trust, and where is it located?
- **Power of attorney:** Do they have a power of attorney document that names someone to handle their financial matters if they become incapacitated?
- **Advance directives:** Do they have a living will and a medical power of attorney that spells out

their wishes regarding their end-of-life medical treatment?

### Financial Records

- **Income and debt:** Make a list of their income sources such as pensions, Social Security, IRAs, 401Ks, investments, etc. And do the same for any debt (mortgage, credit cards, medical bills, etc.) they may have.
- **Financial accounts:** Make a list of the banks and brokerage accounts they use (checking, savings, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, IRAs, etc.) and their contact information.
- **Company benefits:** Make a list of any retirement plans, pensions or benefits from their former employer including the contact information of the benefits administrator.
- **Insurance:** Make a list of the insurance policies they have (life, long-term care, home, auto, Medicare, etc.) including the policy numbers.
- **Property:** Make a list of the real estate, vehicles or other properties they own, and where they keep the deeds and titles.
- **Credit cards:** Make a list of all their credit and charge cards, including the card numbers and contact information.
- **Taxes:** Find out where they keep copies of past year's tax returns.

For more information, call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 and ask them to mail you a free copy of their publication *Let's Talk: Starting the Conversation about Health, Legal, Financial and End-of-Life Issues*, or you can read online at [eldercare.gov](http://eldercare.gov).

Send your senior questions to: *Savvy Senior*, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of *The Savvy Senior* book.



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Mon 13:	MONDAY MORNING MOVIES NO YOGA CLASSES TODAY	10 am to Noon CANCELLED TODAY
Tue 14:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	11 am to Noon
Wed 15:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm
Thu 16:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* WII BOWLING (NEW!)	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm
Fri 17:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm
Mon 20:	MORNING MOVIES CANCELLED SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	CANCELLED TODAY 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm
Tue 21:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	11 am to Noon
Wed 22:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm
Thu 23:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* WII BOWLING (NEW!)	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm
Fri 24:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm

**LINE DANCING PARTICIPANTS:** Close-toe shoes with non-stick bottoms only permitted. No scented perfumes & lotions to class.

\*MSROM: Muscular Strength & Range of Movement Classes

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# Human trafficking

► Continued from page 1

The Tampa Bay group covers all of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties and works closely with the cities of Tampa, Clearwater and St. Petersburg, she said.

It is active year round, developing and implementing programs to keep children and teens safe and rescue those who have been captured.



**JUNE WALLACE**

Sometimes victims, especially teenage girls who have not been cared for by their parents properly, develop what has become known as the Stockholm Syndrome. They develop a loyalty and may even think they are in love with their captors because they are the ones who give them food and shelter (and often drugs) when they behave as they are told, which usually means working as prostitutes.

In September, WEDU public television got a grant of \$100,000 from the Allegany Franciscan Ministries to produce the documentary *Too Close to Home*, about human trafficking in Tampa Bay. Because January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the video will be shown Sunday, Jan. 12 at 2 p.m. at the Firehouse Cultural Center in Ruskin. Two speakers will also be on hand. First, Wallace will explain the problem, and then trafficking survivor Connie Rose will give a talk about her experience.

On Saturday, Jan. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon, "Change the World Day" — an event subtitled Keeping Our Children Safe — will be held at the United Methodist Church in Sun City Center, and on Thursday, Jan. 23, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the SouthShore Library, people can hear about and discuss programs that are being implemented in schools and after-school programs to keep local children safe.

"One of the big things that is happening right now is that Misty Sherwood [a local resident] has gone through the training to give the program in schools, but the teachers can't do it alone, they are just too busy," Wallace said.

They need volunteers to train for this, and also to read and help children with their reading skills, especially at Ruskin Elementary School.

"We saw how Wimauma Elementary went from a D school to an A school when the Hope Fund started mentoring and helping there," Wallace said. "The mentoring and reading and keeping children safe can all be done if we can get enough people willing to go into the school

in Ruskin."

That school went from an A school to a D school, she said, showing a state grade sheet.

The Hope Fund was the brainchild of Carla Miles, begun about 10 years ago to help underprivileged children in the Wimauma-Balm area who used the schools and parks programs there.

"Frances Herford of the Ruskin Woman's Club is getting her club involved, but the problem is so large we need everyone we can get," Wallace continued.

Bob Devagno who does the sex education program at Wimauma Elementary has invited "Speak Up and Be Safe" talks to be given in his class, and volunteers are also needed for that, she said.

"Speak Up and Be Safe" is a program developed by the Monique Burr Foundation for Children Inc., a nonprofit organization established in memory of the late Monique Burr, who was a passionate advocate of abused and abandoned children.

The average age for abduction is 12, with children as young as 8 being taken every day.

While "Speak Up and Be Safe" is going to be given in elementary schools, a video called *Chosen* will be used in high schools and one called *Carissa*, a documentary about a "throw-away child," will be shown in local detention centers.

Another documentary called *Trust* is about children being lured on computers.

"One girl was promised she'd be a movie star," Wallace said. "There are people out there stalking children on the computer all the time."

The thing that is most needed besides volunteer help is a shelter for rescued victims, Wallace explained, showing an architectural rendering of a whole complex. "It needs to be set back to be safe, yet not too far away from town."

About 80 to 100 acres are needed for this. "Often the police have no place to put them once they rescue them. Many can't go home — a lot are throw-aways whose parents don't care for them, and others are runaways because of abuse.

"They need a place to go where they can feel safe while they get used to the real world again," she said.

Anyone who suspects human trafficking in any of the three counties served by the Clearwater/Tampa Bay Area Task Force on Human Trafficking may call 727-562-4917 or visit [www.CATFHT.org](http://www.CATFHT.org) or call the national trafficking hotline at 888-373-7888.

Locally, those who want to help may contact Wallace, at [junemwallace@gmail.com](mailto:junemwallace@gmail.com).

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Area Obituaries

**Esther Ellen Long Bateman**

Esther Ellen Long Bateman, 86, of Brandon passed away peacefully on December 16, 2013. She was originally from Missouri and had lived in the Brandon area since 1957.

Esther was a very dedicated teacher, first in Missouri, then she taught at Riverview Elementary School in Hillsborough County for over 32 years. She had the pleasure of teaching three generations of children before retiring in 1991.

She is survived by daughter Kathleen, son Bruce, a sister, one grandson, and many nieces and nephews.

A private service will be held on January 19, 2014. For information, call Kathleen at 813-817-2002.

**Walter Sidney Eberhard**

Walter Sidney Eberhard, 92, of Sun City Center passed away peacefully on December 8, 2013. Sid was born in Boston, graduated from MIT and worked as a chemical engineer for Sylvania for 40 years, traveling around the world.

A truly nice guy and the epitome of integrity, he made many friends through tireless community service and leadership in the Lions, Tampa Sight Fund, church, SCC Emergency Squad and Security Patrol. For recreation, he played tennis and golf and enjoyed square dancing and ballroom dancing.

He is survived by his loving wife Eleanor, children (Gini, Jack, Karen and Doug), 18 grand- and great-grandchildren, and sister Jean Hughes.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Sid's life at Aston Gardens clubhouse on Monday, Jan. 13 at 10:30 a.m. Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home.



**Thomas R. Haynes Jr.**

Thomas R. Haynes, Jr. passed away on Friday evening, January 3, 2014, surrounded by his family at Tampa General Hospital in Florida, after a long battle with diabetes.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Elizabeth "Bette" Haynes; daughter Tanya Haynes; son Jeffrey Haynes; daughter-in-law Cheryl; grandsons Joshua Haynes and Kyle Haynes.

Tom was a 30-year employee of the Timken Company, retiring in 1989, and Past President of the North Canton Jaycees.

Private family services were arranged in Florida. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages contributions to the American Diabetes Association, 1701 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311 or the Southeastern Guide Dogs, 4210 77th Street East, Palmetto, FL 34221. Arrangements by Zipperer's Funeral Home.

**Redeemer women to meet**

The women's organization of Redeemer Lutheran Church (Women of the ELCA) will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 15 beginning with refreshments at 9:30 a.m.

Kelly Akerley, a coordinator in the Behavioral Health Program at Brandon Hospital, will present a program on depression and the elderly.

Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, call 813-634-1292.



**Ralph Douglas Knell**

Ralph Douglas Knell, 86, of Ruskin, Florida, formerly of Osterville, Mass., passed away on Wednesday, January 1, 2014 surrounded by his family and his Persian cat Beau. He was the beloved husband of Irene (Rose) Knell for 64 years.

Born in Boston, Ralph was the son of the late Ralph and Emma (Powell) Knell. Ralph was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy. He was a graduate of Boston Trade School and was service manager for National Cash Register Company on Cape Cod and the Islands for 36 years. Ralph was a member of the Ruskin United Methodist Church and a former member of the Osterville Methodist Church. He was a member of the Mariners Lodge A.F.&A.M. Cotuit, Mass. Ralph was a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Boston and a member of Aleppo Shriners Temple, Wilmington, Mass.

In addition to his wife, Ralph is survived by his children, Paul D., Kenneth C., Howard R., 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and his sister Eileen Lynch. His sisters Margaret Carlin, Barbara Schow and Joan Knell predeceased him.

Funeral services were held on January 8 on Cape Cod. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ralph's memory may be made to LifePath Hospice, Inc., 3725 Upper Creek Drive, Ruskin, FL 33573. For online guestbook, please visit www.johnlawrencefuneralhome.com.

**Discover the treasures of Catholicism**

Beginning next week, Prince of Peace Catholic Church will offer two courses for adults to help enrich their understanding of the Scriptures and of the Catholic Church.

The first course, "Gospel According to Matthew," will offer the opportunity for Catholics and non-Catholics to discover the deep richness of the Gospel of Matthew. This course will take place on Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 14, from 12:30 until 1:30 p.m. in the Conesa Center. There is no limit to the number of participants and the course is free of charge.

The second course, the acclaimed "Catholicism" series directed by Father Robert Barron, will be led by Deacon Matt Shirina. This course will take place on Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conesa Center. Class size will be limited to 16 people. Course materials are \$30.

Registration for these courses is now available. Contact Karen Fernandez-Valentine in the parish office at 813-634-2328. Prince of Peace Catholic Church is located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center.



**Kenneth J. Whitfield**

Kenneth J. Whitfield, 70, of Sun City Center passed away December 12, 2013. He was the devoted husband of 43 years to Dolores; loving father of Vincent (Janice), Shannon Kessler (Eric) and Colleen Hiers; beloved grandfather of Ryan and Declan Whitfield, and Chance and Carter Hiers. He is also survived by three brothers and a sister.

Ken was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the U.S. Navy on a destroyer. Services were held at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. Arrangements were handled by Sun City Center Funeral Home.

**'The Better Angels of Our Nature' is topic**

At the Thursday, Jan. 9 meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC, Morris Firebaugh will review the book *Better Angels of our Nature* by Harvard professor Steven Pinker, a leading humanist of our time.

Dr. Firebaugh is a retired Professor Emeritus of the University of Wisconsin.

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

**Taking control of your life is focus**

The South Shore Christian Women's Connection will hold its January luncheon and program on Thursday, Jan. 9 at Club Renaissance, 2121 South Pebble Beach Blvd. in Sun City Center.

Inspirational speaker Marilyn Nase will share "From out of control to cruise control: Finding out who's in control." In addition, Doris Graham will share some of the treasures found at The Pages of Life Book Store.

Seating begins at 11 a.m.; the program runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The menu is penne pasta primavera plus beverage and dessert. An alternate meal of tossed salad with grilled chicken is available. If you want this option, be sure to order it when you make your reservation. The cost is \$17 inclusive, and reservations are required. Call Pat Butler at 813-938-4320 or e-mail aunt.butler@gmail.com.

**'Five Wishes' seminar at UMC**

At 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16 the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will host a seminar on *Five Wishes*, the first living will that talks about your personal, emotional and spiritual needs as well as your medical wishes.

This seminar guides you in talks with family, friends and doctor about how you want to be treated if you become seriously ill. *Five Wishes* focuses on maintaining your human dignity and getting your needs met.

Call the church office at 813-634-2539 to reserve a seat and informational booklet.

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

**Friendship Baptist Church**

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

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**

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

**Unity COMMUNITY OF JOY**  
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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 9:30 A.M.  
Old-Time Gospel Hymns 10:30 A.M.  
Nursery Available 6:00 P.M.  
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9912 Indiana St. • Hwy 41 & Estelle Avenue  
Gibsonton, FL 33534  
Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor  
813-677-1301

**Prince of Peace Catholic Church**

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

**NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**

"Loving God, Loving Others, Serving Beyond Borders"  
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

**UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ United Church of Christ**

1501 La Jolla AVE, Sun City Center, FL 33573-5329  
A Caring Church United in God's Love Serving Others  
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Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.  
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**Wimauma Church of God**

Loving God, Loving Others  
Serving All  
Pastor Tom Durrance  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Youth Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Service ..... 7:00 p.m.  
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  
To have courage for whatever comes in life; everything lies in that. — Teresa of Avila

**PRAYER - PRAISE - WORSHIP The Anointing Church**

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10:00 a.m. .... Contemporary Service  
11:00 a.m. .... Traditional Service  
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## Area Places of Worship

**Southside Baptist Church**  
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 4208 U.S. Hwy. 41 S • Sun City, FL 33586 • 813-645-4085

"Getting to Know You" (Donuts & Coffee)..... 9:00 a.m.	Sunday Evening Service..... 6:00 p.m.
Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.	Wednesday Evening Service..... 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:55 a.m.	Thursday Morning Prayer..... 10:00 a.m.

**First Christian Church**  
 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

**CELEBRATING our 75th ANNIVERSARY**  
**First Baptist Church of Ruskin**  
 820 College Ave. W. • Ruskin, FL 33570  
 645-6439  
 www.fbcuskin.org • A Resource for Families

Sunday School..... 9:45 a.m.	 Dr. Barry Rumsey CHRISTIAN SCHOOL K-2 Through 12th Grade
Morning Worship ..... 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	
Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.	
Wednesday Night Service ..... 7:00 p.m.	
Awana ..... 7:00 p.m.	

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

Fr. Lee Miller  
 Priest

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

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

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

*All Are Welcome*

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church**  
 Sunday Services  
 Traditional Service 9:00 a.m.  
 Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.  
 Prayers with anointing for healing and wholeness during worship the second Sunday of every month.  
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 Sun City Center, FL 33573  
 Church is Handicap accessible

Phone: 813-634-1252  
 For information visit:  
 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.

### Women's Aglow meets Jan. 11

Women's Aglow International invites you to join its Christian Women's Bible Study at 10 a.m. this Saturday, Jan. 11.

The group meets at Palm Garden, 3850 Upper Creek Dr. in Sun City Center, to discuss the mind of Christ and the treasures and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Women's Aglow is open to all Christians seeking a better and more knowledgeable relationship with their creator.

### 'True Couponing' class at Good Samaritan Mission

On Thursday, Feb. 6 the public is invited to attend classes from 7 to 9:15 p.m. from the "True Couponing" team. Classes will be offered at the basic level in both English and Spanish.

True couponing is a method for using consumer coupons for groceries, home and personal care products. Learn how to save for your own family while being a blessing to others. This system has been featured in many local media outlets. To learn more about True Couponing, see their website at <http://truecouponing.com>.

There is no charge to attend class but reservations are requested. For information or to make reservations, call the Mission at 813-634-7136.

Good Samaritan Mission is a 501(c)3 organization located at 14920 Balm Wimauma Rd. in Wimauma. The Mission has been providing support to families in need since 1984. For more information about the Mission, see their website at [www.gsmission.org](http://www.gsmission.org).

### South Shore Concert Band plays SCC Jan. 17

The 45-member South Shore Concert Band will perform in Sun City Center at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17 at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 1015 East Del Webb Blvd.

The suggested donation is \$5 at the door. The band is led by Ken Easton, one of the Tampa Bay area's busiest instructors, performers and conductors.

### St. Vincent de Paul offers financial help

The St. Vincent de Paul Society offers assistance to those in the community who have fallen on difficult times. Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. until noon at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society are on hand to help those who are in need of financial assistance.

For more information, call 813-385-6110. Prince of Peace Catholic Church is located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center.



Noted pianist Dr. Michelle Tabor and Alfonso Lopez, concertmaster of the Venezuelan Symphony Orchestra, will appear Jan. 12 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Sun City Center.

### Tabor and Lopez in concert at St. Andrew Presbyterian Jan. 12

Alfonso Lopez and Michelle Tabor will perform a violin-piano concert on Sunday, Jan. 12 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Sun City Center.

This concert is part of the Fine Arts Concert Series, now in its 15th year, offered by the church.

This remarkable duo has made some memorable music at St. Andrew. Lopez is a violinist, composer, conductor and teacher who is currently concertmaster of the

Venezuelan Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Tabor is a professor of music at the University of South Florida and noted concert pianist who has performed with Lopez in the U.S. and Venezuela since 2001.

Tickets for the concert are \$10, available at the reception desk or at the door. St. Andrew is located at 1239 West Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City Center.

For more information, call the church at 813-634-1252.

### Last Generation gospel duo to perform concert at United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center welcomes the southern gospel duo Last Generation for a concert on Friday, Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Based out of Somerset, Pa., and formed in 1982, Last Generation consists of Mike and Karen Matieszyn. Married in 1979, Mike and Karen have dedicated their lives to the call of God and the furtherance of the Gospel.

Mike, a former insurance agent, and Karen, a former dental assistant, started "Last Generation Ministries" as a part-time ministry in 1982. In June of 1996, they answered the call of God on their lives by resigning their secular jobs and careers, and stepping out in full-time ministry.

Whether through a testimony, words of a song, a guitar instrumental or sharing the Gospel through the preaching of the Word, Mike and Karen strive to not just "entertain" but to "minister" so lives will be changed.

Since 1982, Mike and Karen, under the name of Last Generation, have made numerous recordings, and several of their songs have gone national, ap-



pearing on Gospel Music charts across the nation.

As one pastor said, "Your music is just like a cup of hot chocolate on a cold winter day."

A donation of just \$5 is requested at the door on the night of this performance.

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

To learn more about the church, visit [www.umcscc.org](http://www.umcscc.org).



### Gospel Workshop of America to be at UCC Jan. 12

The Gospel Workshop of America, Tampa Chapter, will present a concert in the sanctuary of United Community Church at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 12. No tickets are needed, but a free will offering will be requested to be given to the singers. A reception will follow the concert in the Great Hall. All are welcome and all are invited.

# Do You Hear, but not Understand? You May Have Hearing Loss.... or Maybe it's just WAX.... We Can Find Out!

**Never put anything smaller than your elbow in your ear.**

Even this X-Large cotton swab is too small to put in your ear. Your ears are actually self-cleaning! Using a cotton swab to clean your ear pushes wax deeper into the ear canal and can create a blockage. **Wax blockage is one of the most common causes of hearing loss, and we have an easy and painless way to check your ears.** We'll use a miniaturized camera to do a complete inspection of your ear canal and ear drum to see if there's a wax blockage problem. **Please call today to make an appointment for your FREE Ear Canal Inspection!**

## FREE Ear Canal Inspection and Hearing Screening for a Limited Time Only! Monday Thru Friday - January 9<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>

Because of the comprehensive nature of the hearing screening, please call ahead for your special appointment.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS 100

### 105 PERSONAL

#### Win for Losing

Weight loss support group. Begins Jan. 9, Apollo Beach. Get a head start on your New Years resolution. Register today. 813-690-6424

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin. (Never Known to Fail). Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause I your hands (3 times). Say this payer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it and it will be granted to you. MJL.

## FARMER'S MKT 200

### 280 PETS

#### All About Paws 813-634-6215

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## MERCHANDISE 300

### 310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Garage sale. Saturday, Jan. 11, 8am-? Furniture, collectibles, clothing, books, etc. 6504 Senegal Palm Way, AB

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

Friday, Saturday & Sunday. 1/10, 1/11 & 1/12. Antiques furniture & misc. items. 10402 Gloria St., Gibsonton.

Neighborhood yard sale. 304 Wendi Lane, Ruskin. Jan. 11 & 12, 10am-?

Garage sale. 1325 Bluewater Dr, SCC. Queen size bedding, massage table, pictures, gun cases, beach chairs. Quality items, price to sell. Friday & Saturday 8am-1pm.

#### Annual Garage Sale

Jan 11th. 9am-12:30pm. Rice Creek RV Resort. 10714 Hwy 301. Over 30 tables in our Rec Hall. Bake sale, donuts, lunch. Tools, furniture., etc. Open to the public.

#### Calvary's Angel Attic Thrift Store

Wed., Fri. & Saturday  
9 a.m. - Noon

Jan. 8, 10 & 11  
**50% OFF**  
all Sweaters & Jackets  
Plus — the Secret Sale

1480 E. College Ave. • Ruskin  
813-641-7790

Ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church

Read the entire newspaper online including the classifieds by going to Observernews.net. Community news & advertising 24/7 is only 1 click away.

## 311 AUCTIONS

### DON'T HASSLE WITH ESTATE SALES

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

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Please feel free to call about the sale or its contents.

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### AAA Furniture New & Gently Used Furniture

**BUY & SELL  
Daily Trips to SCC**

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

Riverview's  
Best Kept  
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6819 U.S. 301 S., Riverview  
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## 312 ESTATE SALES

### The Perfect Piece

Quality used furniture. 2406 College Ave., Ruskin. Stop in you will be pleasantly surprised. We buy & sell. 813-645-1800

### 330 FURNITURE

6ft wide red couch, like new \$300. Serta perfect sleeper bed, twin size, remote/massage/up & down \$300. 813-260-3333

### 360 GOLF CARTS

Golf carts wanted. Buy sell, trade. Chargers, parts all related. Ronny's Carts & Parts. 813-484-9855 or 813-645-4515

### 390 MISC. FOR SALE

Water softener. Aquarius, Clack WS1 central value. Looks new \$275. White screen door 30.5x80, in perfect condition \$40. 305-740-7488

## MARINE 400

### 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

South Bay RV & Boat Storage. Specializing in outside storage for RVs, boats & trailers. 813-677-2000 www.SouthBayStorage.com

## TRANSPORTATION 450

### 459 MOTORCYCLES

2005 Suzuki Boulevard motorcycle, gray, almost mint condition. 1,360cc, 7K miles Asking \$3,900. 813-645-7922

### 461 TRAVEL TRAILERS

1994 36ft park trailer with 2 tip outs, Great for RV Park or as a hunting trailer. New plumbing & fixtures. Asking \$5,000 obo. 813-404-1209

Good driving is based on practice and being alert at the wheel. When driving, you must make sure that nothing interferes with your ability to see the road, You must look down the road, to the sides and behind your vehicle and be alert for unexpected events. Be alert to what is going on around you and do not take your eyes off the road for more than a few seconds at the time.

## REAL ESTATE 500

### 511 HOUSES FOR SALE

Beautiful villa in Valencia Lakes with \$35,000 in upgrades, offered at \$197,000 by owner. A fantastic price compared to cost of a new build. Call 813-399-2538

RE/MAX South Shore Realty  
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Hampton (2BR/2BA) 1,100 sq. ft. with up-level lanai, CARPORT IN KINGS POINT  
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### RENTALS

KP 2BR/2BA - 1,700 sq. ft. - double-car garage on Golf Course. Unfurnished  
..... \$1200 /month

SCC 1BR/1BA - FURN seasonal  
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## WATER VIEWS 2 Open Houses Sat., Jan. 11 • 9 am to 1 pm

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### BEST DEALS IN TOWN!

• **NEW PRICE!** Seller motivated! 3/2/3+, dock, LOW insurances **\$229,000**

• **BEAUTIFUL HOME IN CYPRESS CREEK VILLAGE** 3/2/2, no CDD, low HOA **\$176,200**

• **PRICE REDUCED!! CUSTOM 3/2/2 WATERFRONT HOME WITH COVERED LIFT** **\$279,900**

## Mary & Martha House THRIFT STORE

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

## Bank Owned Real Estate Auction

**375,000sf+ Greenhouse Production Facility**  
(Currently in Operation)

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20.22± Acres Within Minutes of I-75, Just South of Tampa, FL  
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**511 HOUSES FOR SALE**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Friday, Jan. 10 • 1 - 4 pm

**1606 Poplar Glen Court**  
55+ neighborhood • SCC  
2BR /2 BA / 2 Car Garage  
Large Lot • Furn. or Unfurn.  
**Motivated Seller!**  
**\$164,900**

■ **RUSKIN, OLDER M-HOME ON LARGE LOT!** – Cute, nicely maintained and furnished 1BR+addition/2nd BR, 1BA, large screened porch, carport, and 2 huge sheds for workshop and utility/storage. No HOA, not in flood zone, close to river and boat ramp. **\$44,900.**

■ **CORNER LOT ZONED FOR HOME OR DUPLEX:** Water and electric on site, cleared lot with large beautiful oaks, convenient location close to schools and shopping. Possible owner's financing. **\$16,900.**

■ **RIVERFRONT RENTAL:** Spacious newer 3BR/2BA unfurnished modular home on ½ acre lot, covered parking, huge wood dock on river. **\$1,400/month** + deposit.

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**M.H. HOUSING**  
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**565 M.H. IN PARKS**

One bedroom mobile home in waterfront park with dock. Room addition., with view of river. No pets \$6,000. Call for info. 813-645-2446

Advertise in the newspaper that your community is reading.

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**WATERFRONT** - 3BR/2BA, single wide - 672 Sq. Ft. with an additional 600 Sq. Ft. of living space. Also includes 2 screen rooms, a shed and carport. The home sells furnished including central AC and appliances. **Own this, ON THE WATER, for \$74,900 including the share.**

**WATERFRONT WITH BOAT LIFT** - 2BR/2BA single wide - 729 Sq. Ft. plus an added 216 Sq. Ft. family room. The home sells freshly painted with new floors, partially furnished with appliances, central AC, a shed, carport and deck overlooking the water. Also included is a boat lift - the pontoon boat on it is also for sale. **The WATERFRONT HOME and BOAT LIFT are offered at \$64,900 including the share.**  
**Vacant Shares from \$17,000**

**RENTALS**  
**600**

**611 HOUSES FOR RENT**

Apollo Beach 3br/2ba house for rent. New carpet, paint & tile. Fenced yard. \$1,250 monthly. Non smoking only. Call Beth Christo, Century 21 Beggins. 813-714-3811

One bedroom furnished house, single adult only. No pets. \$650 monthly & \$650 deposit. Utilities & washer, dryer included. 813-633-4913

**55+ Community**  
SCC 1br/1ba with: lawn care, water, sewer, trash collection, recreation card. No smoking, no pets. 813-634-9695

**612 APTS FOR RENT**

For rent: Efficiency apartments. Weekly rates, utilities furnished 813-601-1542 or 813-850-7886

**630 M.H. RENTALS**

One bedroom water & electric included. \$165 weekly, plus security deposit. R & M Mobile Home Park Gibsonton. 813-236-9207

Large RV for rent. \$175 includes utilities \$400 deposit. Ruskin area. 813-363-6001

**For Rent: Clean Mobile Homes With A/C. 813-677-1086**

1br/1ba, AC, washer/ dryer/ range/ refrigerator/ microwave/ Fios TV/ internet. Non smoker. \$625 monthly plus deposit. Ruskin. 813-645-5956

**646 WAREHOUSE SPACE**

Garage & mini storage, RV lots & mobile home lots for rent. Call Pirates Treasure Cove, Gibsonton. 813-677-1137

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Food truck for sale, w/ route. \$45,000 obo. or trade for property. Call Oscar 813-523-3610

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Quality housecleaning with integrity. Call for free estimate. 7days a week. Move-in, move-out, rentals. Insured, bonded, licensed. Ruskin, Apollo Beach, Sun City Center.  
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**Flat rate \$75, full clean**

Do you need a house cleaner? Call Sandy. Honest, dependable & reliable. 17yrs experience in SCC. 813-645-5273, leave message.

**708 MOVERS**

Affordable Moving & Hauling. Local or long distance. Full service moving to/ from anywhere in US. Load & unload storage units, truck & more. Licensed & insured. Free estimate. Call Dave 813-447-6123. Ask about free boxes

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in business 40yrs. Move 1 piece to whole household plus haul away anything in your way. Packing services available. (Fully Insured). Best rates. Call 813-629-0108, 813-260-9840 US. DOT #434469

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**FLUFFY OR FIDO**, where your masters go, you'll be allowed also, if they buy this newly listed 2BR/2BA condo in Kings Point Fairfield. Pet-friendly area on short street, no backyard neighbors. Tile floors throughout, attached carport, screened porch, utility/storage area. Furnished or unfurnished, great rental potential, and priced low at **\$57,500 JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

**RUSKIN FABULOUS RIVERFRONT PROPERTY, PARKLIKE SETTING!** Almost 1 acre lot and 136 ft waterfront with dock, boathouse and lift. Main house is spacious 3BR/3BA with loft, parquet or tile floors, fireplace in Fam-Rm, enclosed porch overlooking river and inside utility-rm, guest house/studio is a 1BR/1BA kitchenette, great room and its connecting breezeway. Other features include pool, circular driveway and carport/workshop area. Easy commute to Tampa or Sarasota: **\$450,000 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

**RIVERVIEW PERFECT PROPERTY FOR HOME AND BUSINESS:** ½ acre lot with 2BR+Den/1BA house, inside utility and carport, and detached 14X28 building with electric. Lot faces 3 busy roads, a block from 301, PD-Zoning allows professional services. **\$140,000 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

**NEWER 3/2 MANUFACTURED HOME ON 1/3 AC. CORNER LOT:** Spacious, bright and well maintained with split plan, high ceilings, enclosed lanai, newer appliances, inside utility-rm, large shed and a detached 2-car garage! Boat ramp a block away. No HOA, not in flood zone. **\$69,900 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

**RUSKIN GREAT 3BR/2BA DOUBLEWIDE IN GATED RETIREMENT COMMUNITY:** New flooring and paint, large enclosed lanai at level of home, carport and utility shed, on corner lot. Amenities include pool, club house, shuffle board, all for a low monthly fee: **\$49,500 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

**RUSKIN - AFFORDABLE INVESTMENT PROPERTY!** Invest in this 2BR/1BA concrete block with eat-in kitchen and attached utility room. Nice size backyard with 2 storage sheds. ½ block from river in quiet neighborhood. **\$59,750 CALL MARGOT WARD 486-9480**

**PLENTY OF ROOM FOR YOUR FAMILY IN THIS 6BR/3BA POOL HOME!** Formal living and dining room, spacious eat-in kitchen is open to family room. Large master bedroom and bath with garden tub, separate shower. Hardwood, ceramic tile and carpet throughout. Intercom, security and surveillance systems and so much more! **\$269,000 CALL MARGOT WARD 486-9480**

**SUN CITY CENTER!! Great location for this 2BR/2BA split bedroom plan home.** New tile roof with transferable warranty. Laminate floors, freshly painted & ready to move in, & enjoy all the amenities of Sun City Center. Golf cart shopping a breeze! **\$159,000 CALL LINDA BADGEROW 695-5515**

**NEW LISTING!! MOVE IN READY.** Spacious family home with 3BR/2BA, 2 Car Garage. Home is fenced on 3 sides with large storage shed, security alarm, and enclosed Florida Room with tinted and insulated windows. Close to schools, shopping and major highways. **\$155,000 CALL LINDA BADGEROW 695-5515**

**PRIME LOCATION WITH A LAKE VIEW IN RIVERVIEW!** This spacious and well maintained 2BR/2BA plus a den and a one-car garage, second-floor condo is located very close to Highway 301, I-75 and the Crosstown Expressway! Special features include: a huge (21x10) screened lanai overlooking a gorgeous view of a lake and natural landscaping, a split floor plan with vaulted ceilings, plenty of closet space, a large eat-in kitchen, a large master bedroom with a huge walk-in closet & dual sinks in the master bath, dining area, security system and much more! **\$144,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

**FANTASTIC LISTING IN RIVERBREEZE ESTATES IN RUSKIN!** Very well maintained 2BR/1.5 BA totally furnished mobile home including a golf cart. The attached garage has plenty of room for a full-sized van and a golf cart, plus room for a work-bench. This corner unit is beautifully landscaped with a covered area for grilling and also offers a nice open floor plan with a large eat-in kitchen and family room. **\$51,900 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

**AWESOME HOME IN GREAT LOCATION!!** 3BR/2.5BA WITH SALTWATER POOL. Tile floors throughout, complete privacy in backyard plus extra lot to build or play on. Excellent condition newer roof & A/C and lots more. **CALL KAY PYE FOR PREVIEW 361-3672 \$284,900**

**GREAT PRICE ON COMMERCIAL ZONING!!** Prized zoning "M" 5021 sq. ft. office and storage in place. Easy access to major highways and port. Completely fenced. .81 acre on dead-end street. Cell phone tower brings income. Please call for tour. This one won't last long. **\$374,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

**FANTASTIC LOCATION WITH 28.8 ACRES PERFECT FOR DEVELOPMENT ON BULL FROG CREEK.** A LARGE 5 BR home with plenty of room for a growing family and your own ball field. Perfect for animal lovers and big families. **JUST 1,900,000 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

**A STEAL OF A DEAL!** Better than new. 1890 sq. ft. of commercial space. Doctors, **INVEST NOW, BUILD LATER!** Great location on busy SR 674. 3BR/2BA house amid huge oak trees, but value is in the land. 2.1 acres with SMU6 land use. Multiple possibilities. **\$799,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672**

Lawyers or Indian Chiefs will love the cabinetry (all custom made). Priced to sell at **\$204,900 Call Kay Pye 361-3672 or Roxanne Westbrook 748-2201. With substantial down owner will finance.**

**AWESOME COMMERCIAL LOCATION ON BUSY HIGHWAY 41 IN RUSKIN!** .84 ACRE with 150 feet on Highway 41. Easy access to I-75. Property is zoned CG/General. **\$164,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

**OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!! 3.7 ACRES (MOL)** on the corner of 10th St. SW and Woodland Estates in Ruskin. Property has zoning for a shopping center that allows manufacturing, all engineering drawings are available to new buyers. County has already approved the plans. **\$299,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

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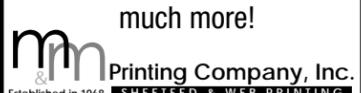
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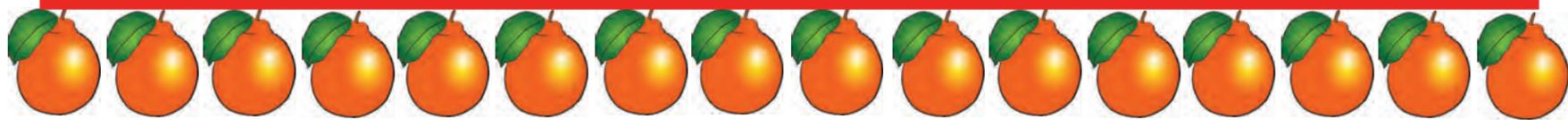
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At the entrance to the middle ear, sound waves hit the eardrum. A damaged eardrum can not only be painful, but it can muffle natural sounds and make it extremely difficult to hear clearly. If you're experiencing hearing loss, it's important to find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

**• The Inner Ear**

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

## Why Do People Delay Addressing Hearing Loss?

In America, the average person with hearing loss delays dealing with it for 5 to 7 years. The big question is, "Why do people wait so long before confronting the obvious problems that come with an inability to hear clearly?"

**Accepting & Correcting Your Hearing Loss**

Researchers estimate that over 30 million people in the United States suffer from hearing loss, but almost 75% avoid scheduling a hearing test to determine the cause and how to remedy this condition. As the baby boomer generation ages, more people are going to experience hearing loss.

Many people with hearing loss do not take the steps needed to correct the problem. The first step starts with getting a hearing exam when you first notice you are experiencing symptoms. A hearing test can determine the cause of your hearing loss, and which state-of-the-art hearing devices can improve your quality of life. There is often a period of denial or hesitation that must be overcome before the appointment for the hearing test is made.

At first it may seem like you only have very mild hearing loss, if any, because you can hear someone talking to you, or you can hear the TV, radio, or a movie, you just can't catch every word. Or you may have trouble following conversations, but you always come up with a reason why it's too noisy, people are speaking too fast, or there are too many people talking at once.

The truth is that when you have early, mild hearing loss, you will start to have trouble hearing certain higher frequency sounds. Consonant sounds are in the higher range and are the first to go. While you may hear voices, you may find yourself mistaking similar-sounding words, like "rent" and "sent" or "time" and "lime".

If you believe you have mild hearing loss, begin by getting a hearing exam. You can use the results of the hearing test to rule out or fix any correctable conditions, and then you can assess if any of the new and advanced hearing technologies can help you hear more clearly.

After your hearing test you will be able to make a more educated

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**How Hearing Is Tested**

To evaluate your hearing a specialist will perform a series of hearing tests. These tests are often performed by using a combination of electronic equipment and headphones.

**What Hearing Tests Show**

Hearing tests can determine whether a hearing impairment exists and what the cause may be.

Your hearing examination will also let you know the degree of hearing loss you are experiencing, from mild to profound, and what technologies are available to help correct your hearing loss.

The results of your hearing exam will provide you with the road map to what you should do next to regain and restore your ability to hear clearly again.



**Thomas Edison Suffered From Hearing Loss!**

One of the most famous people with hearing loss in history is the inventor Thomas Edison (1847-1931), who is credited with inventing the phonograph, light bulb, and movie camera. What many people are not aware of is that Edison became technically deaf in his early teens. It could have been from a childhood illness or the result of a "boxing" of his ears by a train conductor.

decision about what your options are to prevent further hearing loss and hear more clearly immediately, improving your overall quality of life.

Purchasing a hearing aid is not a decision made lightly. It's important that the person you are working with listens to you and works together with you to address your specific hearing needs. You need to be able to trust their guidance in choosing a solution to match your lifestyle.

**Advances In Hearing Care!**

A hearing specialist with Audibel Hearing Centers will be available to answer all your questions and discuss the latest advances in hearing care. Even with the new technology, your brain still needs time to readjust to hearing sounds it may not have been hearing for years. You will be amazed at your own ability to reconnect with your life with the help of this advanced technology.

In addition, technology is constantly changing. A hearing test can now determine if you have even very mild hearing loss, and the new generation of digital hearing aids has nearly eliminated the problems of feedback, and extraneous noise that was bothersome with earlier models.

Most hearing losses don't require expensive hearing aids to help you

with sounds you were missing, including those lost consonants, without introducing additional, distracting noises. Personalized programming adjustments ensure your hearing aid is set to your specific loss and unique needs.

**No One Will Know**

It is true that hearing aids of past years did have a stigma attached to them. They were large and bulky, and usually they were visible to anyone who walked by. But just as the internal technology has changed, so have the external characteristics of digital hearing aids. New models are virtually invisible when worn making your Audibel hearing aid far less noticeable than your hearing loss. With advanced digital technology and miniaturization, nobody else has to know that you're wearing a hearing device.

In addition, hearing aids technology has an exciting future. Even now you can have your hearing aid connected to different external devices, such as an MP3 player, a cell phone, radio, or your TV. As microchips continue to get smaller, the amount of data processing power continues to increase at astronomical rates, allowing for hearing aids to be made smaller while continuing to improve sound quality. If you checked out hearing aids five years ago, you should take a look at the new models - you might be surprised at how far things have come and how easily hearing loss may be corrected.

Hearing loss can affect people of all ages. If you were in the military, law enforcement, or simply exposed to the loud noises of machinery in a factory, you could have developed hearing loss at an early age. Don't be embarrassed by your inability to hear clearly - take action now and get a hearing test to find out what you can do to enhance your ability to hear clearly and prevent continued deterioration.

Start by having a hearing test and then take steps to decide if you feel comfortable with the new technologies. Think about it - how much time and energy are you spending apologizing because you misheard something, or asking someone to speak louder or to repeat themselves? Having a hearing test and wearing a hearing device can alleviate many problems caused by hearing loss — and that is priceless!

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**TAMPA**  
(813) 831-9442

**Sun City Center**  
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**ELLENTON**  
(941) 722-7200

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