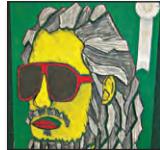




The city of Tampa is due for its annual invasion Saturday with the pirate ship Jose Gaspar leading the armada. **Page 35**



East Bay High School stole the show at the SouthShore Arts Council competition. **Page 20**



Nitish Rele reviews the Toyota Avalon Hybrid for Observer readers. **Page 33**

January 23, 2014
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THE OBSERVER NEWS

www.ObserverNews.net

FDOT says county, developers responsible for next step in roadway improvements

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

As development continues along the Big Bend corridor, traffic gets worse.

During morning and evening rush hours, sitting through three or four changes of "green arrow lights" to enter the northbound ramp of I-75 is not unusual. Worse yet, backups on the Interstate at the southbound exit ramp often extend well beyond the deceleration lane, pushing exiting cars into a stopping position in a line in a moving lane.

In an October 2013 interview about improvements in this area, Michael Williams, county engineer, explained that the plans for alleviating this by widening the exit ramps were anchored by an agreement made between the county and area developers.

Although this still has not changed, now new short- and long-term plans to build two new ramps (and later a cloverleaf) are also in the works.

The problem is that none of these plans are funded, although both county and state planners have it on their future maps, one of which is included with this story.

The next moves are up to the developers of the new mall, which will be called Southbend and lies directly to the south and southeast of the Waterset community on the south side of Big Bend Road.

Waddah Farah, FDOT's project development and technical analysis administrator, explained that when the Florida Department of Transportation did the Master Plan for the transportation system that runs through all of Hillsborough County, it broke down needs into short-term goals, dated for 2015, and long-term goals, dated 2030.

During the Master Plan phase of development planning, County Commissioners voted that private developers would pay for some of the improvements as they developed land in the area, in cooperation with the county's public works personnel.

At that time, the economy was booming and a mall — the name of which was not known until now — was expected to break ground

within months.

But mall developers have not yet found enough anchor stores to begin, and so the site work has not been done.

Meanwhile, some other improvements are slated to be done although timing depends upon funding, Farah said.

"First will be lengthening of the southbound deceleration lane [for the Apollo Beach exit of I-75 at Big Bend Road] by 1,200 feet, and Big Bend will be widened from four lanes to six between Covington Gardens to the off-bound ramp. Then, in the future, the Waterset community has agreed to pay for the construction of another off-bound ramp that will greatly alleviate any traffic exiting the Interstate to go to their development, or to the other things that will be built in the area in the future," he added.

So the way it now stands, FDOT is waiting for the county and developers to fulfill their part of the plan, while it makes plans for State construction as traffic in the area continues to build.

Much rests on the development of the mall, which is planned to be larger than Westfield in Brandon. When last interviewed in the fall, developers stated they were waiting for anchor stores to sign on before beginning site clearing and utility work. But two additional Interstate ramps are eventually planned for Big Bend Road — as well as the widening of existing ramps — because of the heavy development eventually coming in.



■ By **KEVIN BRADY**

kevin@observernews.net

A community-wide food drive benefiting several major food banks throughout South County is slated to begin Feb. 1.

"Have A Heart Caring Castle," the brainchild of Roseanne Korfant of Sun City Center's JSA Medical Group, aims to not only feed South County's burgeoning number of hungry families but raise awareness of an issue all too often forgotten after the holiday season.

"People donate food and remember the needs of the hungry at Christmastime but when Christmas is over you still have the same hungry people yet we don't have as many focused food drives. So I thought this would be a good way not only to include

the food pantries but to include 'Have a Heart,' the American Heart Association's theme for February," Korfant said.

However, the month-long food drive is about more than just collecting food. Organizers hope the event builds awareness and relationships that benefit food banks and hungry families year-round.

"We are going to do this in February, but who is going to do it in June and July? I would really hope this helps the pantries initiate and maintain new relationships because that's the only way we are going to survive," said Korfant, JSA Medical's activities coordinator.

The SCC Observer, The Observer News, and The Riverview Current, which are backing the effort with design, print and



Where to donate

Canned and non-perishable food stuffs can be dropped off at the JSA Activity Center
787 Cortaro Dr. (behind Burger King on SR 674) Sun City Center

editorial support, will provide weekly updates on the amount of food collected and feature stories on the food banks benefiting from the effort.

We are looking to give back to the community and replenish the food banks in the area especially

► Continued on page 32

HCC presents:

'How Indian tribes were forced to change their culture'

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

Annawon Weeden spends his life telling the story of the many American Indian tribes that inhabited the land that later became known as the United States of America.

His cousin Kristine Thomas, PhD, who teaches biology and physiology at the South County campus of Hillsborough Community College, was approached by the campus president Allen Witt and asked if she could book him to give presentations there.

Jan. 14, he did.

First, Weeden performed in classrooms in front of students, teachers and faculty. Then that evening, there was a public presentation made at HCC for anyone in the community who wished to attend.

He started the presentation in the traditional dress of his tribes and gradually removed items

explaining the symbolism of what each one meant.

"The braid," he said, unbraiding his long black hair, "is the symbol of the three parts of us. The body, the mind and the spirit."

With the elimination of each piece of jewelry, fur or ceremonial dress, he told its story, and also of how the tribes were captured and sent away.

"Many were moved to parts of the country where they couldn't survive," he said. "And while they were bringing in African slaves, they were sending Indians to the islands." Some of the places they went were Bermuda, Jamaica and other neighboring islands in that region.

Weeden is descended from a mixture of tribes. His mother was from the Wampanoag, whose home was Mashpee, Mass., while his father was Narragansett and Pequot from Rhode Island.

When not traveling, telling the

► Continued on page 31



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO
Annawon Weeden, Native American educator, tells the story of many tribes both before and after the Europeans came to what is now the United States. He shows many things the tribes used and how they were saddened to have been forced to change their culture.

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• **The Middle Ear**

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

• **The Inner Ear**

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

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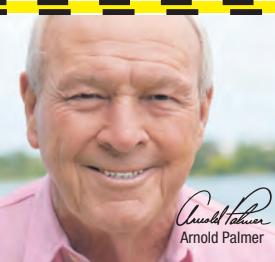
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What Hearing Tests Show

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.

Why Do People Delay Addressing Hearing Loss?



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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Castor backing measure to delay flood insurance rate hikes

■ By KEVIN BRADY
kevin@observernews.net

Congress is moving to give at least some relief to homeowners facing massive rate hikes in their federal flood insurance rates.

Language to delay some of the increases triggered by changes to the flood insurance program is part of a \$1.1 trillion 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Act passed Jan. 14.

With Democrats and Republicans agreeing to the appropriations act, supporters hope a majority of lawmakers from both sides of the aisle will support the measure.

The Act would stop enforcement until October of higher premiums on homeowners who would see them under new flood maps. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is overseeing the implementation of the higher rates, would also have 60 days to provide Congress with a report on ways to keep rates more affordable, according to the Act.

"During the delay, FEMA and

Congress need to go back to the drawing board for a permanent fix to ensure that our neighbors and small business owners do not suffer unconscionable increases," said Congresswoman Kathy Castor Jan. 14.

The Democrat's waterfront district includes Riverview, Apollo Beach and Ruskin as well as Tampa and the southern tip of St. Petersburg.

"The Act would immediately halt increases for existing homeowners and help approximately 2 million Florida families through fiscal year 2014," said Castor, who has been pushing Congress to address the issue since last November and co-sponsored a bipartisan bill to address skyrocketing rate hikes last year. "I urge my colleagues in Congress to support the legislation and provide a lifeline to millions of our neighbors right away."

Thousands of Hillsborough County homeowners and businesses currently pay subsidized flood insurance rates through the



PHOTO COURTESY OF REP. KATHY CASTOR
Rep. Kathy Castor

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Flood insurance rate hikes, and uncertainty over whether Congress will act to delay or repeal them, has cast a pall over the mar-

ket for homes in flood-prone areas, said Amy Soto, a Riverview Realtor who has been buying and selling homes in South County for 13 years.

Soto said homeowners and Realtors would welcome any action to decrease the amount of the rate hikes "but it would still leave the uncertainty" over substantial rate hikes in the future.

"As a buyer, if I knew there was a temporary delay in rate increases, I don't know that I would still buy that home because I don't know what's coming in the future. It may make the home affordable right this second but it doesn't make it affordable for the long term."

With the NFIP \$24 billion in the red after losses from Hurricane Katrina and other devastating floods, Congress passed the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 in an attempt to restore solvency to the program with insurance rates more reflective of the risk of living on the water.

As a result of the 2012 law, rates jumped dramatically for some homeowners last October. Businesses and vacation homes in areas prone to flooding would all see their subsidized insurance rates

phased out over time under the law. Single-family homeowners keep their federally subsidized rates under the 2012 law; however, that subsidy does not apply to anyone who wants to buy their home.

Of the NFIP's 5.6 million policy holders, 1.1 million are subsidized, according to FEMA. Florida is the program's largest customer with 2 million policies. Of those, 270,000 are subsidized by the federal government. Around five percent of subsidized property holders — those covering non-primary residences, businesses, and severe repetitive loss properties — saw immediate increases in their premiums under the 2012 law.

The flood insurance rate hikes — 600 percent for one Apollo Beach home was not atypical under the new rate scheme — were repeated across the country in waterfront communities from Louisiana to Florida and created a massive outcry from homeowners.

Local Realtors also criticized the rate hikes, saying it would hurt Florida's real estate market, which was starting to show signs of recovery after years of falling prices and foreclosure rates among the highest in the nation.

The real estate market needs to see the issue resolved, Soto said.

"Everyone that I have been dealing with is staying away from homes that would require flood insurance."

For more information on changes to NFIP flood insurance rates, see FEMA's web page on the subject: www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-reform-act-2012.

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Positive Talk: Bouncing back (Part 2)

In last week's column I offered some ideas on how to defeat depression, but space did not allow me to expand on the subject. I believe in self help, so I'm offering more suggestions of things you can do to head off, reduce or eliminate depression. Do all within your power to chase away the gloom from your life or that of someone you love. But always keep in mind that for serious clinical depression, trained professional medical help may be indicated.

- Eliminate negative objects from your surroundings. As one example, many offices and homes have negative sayings or pictures (in the form of humor) posted where they can be seen on a constant basis. In one store, I saw a large picture of a group of scraggly looking people dressed poorly, and under the picture was the caption: Our staff is just waiting to help you. I know the owner thinks the picture is cute, but every time I think about his store, I picture the staff as he has them portrayed on the wall. I find that depressing, and I can imagine that the people on the staff are not real happy with the depiction of them. Take a critical look around you for things that might be causing you depression or adding to your sense of uneasiness.

- Introduce as much humor as possible to your life. Humor is the great healer. My late friend Dr. Norman Cousins swore that humor brought him back from the edge of death twice. He was told that he had a very small chance of survival in two separate instances and both times he relied on humor to build



By William Hodges

the endorphins in his system, which facilitated his healing. Humor may not be able to cure every human ailment, but it can go a long way toward making illness bearable.

Take every opportunity to laugh, be a little silly, and look for the good in everything that happens to you. Even something as serious as cancer can be the subject of humor and it can help the patient. Another friend, Christine Clifford Beckwith,

inspired by her experience with breast cancer, wrote *Not Now... I'm Having a No Hair Day*. It is one of the first books of its kind to offer hope to cancer victims, their families and friends through the healing power of humor.

• Music has a tremendous impact on our moods. Be sure it is the right music to pick you up, not put you down. I remember a few years ago at a Defense Supply Agency base in Columbus, Ohio, the commander ordered the playing of march music at the end of the working day. Many thought it a hokey thing to do; but as a visitor to the installation, I noticed a real difference. At quitting time, the employees at that facility walked briskly to their cars with heads held high. Comparing that to the shambling movements I see of employees at other companies and government installations, I believe that the music made the difference. Much of country music is depressing if you listen to the words. People tell me all the time, "I don't listen to the words — I just like the beat." Well, be aware that your mind is recording the words and they are impacting you. The good news, I am told, is that if you

play country music backwards, you get your job back, your truck back and your girl back. Choose your music carefully — it will set the tone for your feelings.

Depression is contagious; you can catch it and you can give it to others. Try hard not to be a carrier and even harder not to allow your atmosphere to be a fertile place for it to grow.

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

Chili Cook-Off & Car Show comes to E.G. Simmons Park

On Saturday, Feb. 15 the 20th Annual Chili Cook-Off & Car Show returns to E.G. Simmons Park in Ruskin.

Prizes will be awarded for the best chili as well as the best decorated booth. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, and there will be live entertainment.

The car show starts at 10 a.m., and chili will begin to be served at noon. The entire event will conclude at 2 p.m.

Admission is the standard \$2 park entry fee per vehicle to enter E.G. Simmons Park, 2401 19th Ave. NW in Ruskin.

The Chili Cook-Off & Car Show is sponsored by the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department.

Organizers are seeking more chili cookers. For information, call 813-671-7655.

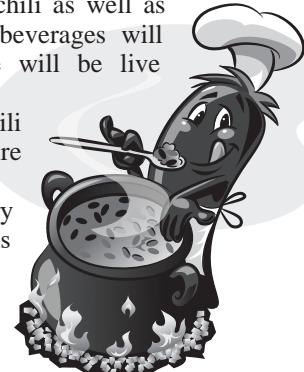
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Hillsborough County Extension Office is offering free tax preparation assistance for individuals and families with incomes of \$58,000 or less in 2013. Tax filers will be able to access a self-guided tax preparation program and receive assistance, as needed, from an IRS-trained and certified volunteer.

This free service is offered as part of the United Way Suncoast Prosperity Campaign. For a list of other free tax prep sites visit www.myfreetaxes.com/tampa.

Appointments are required and will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 2 to 7 p.m. starting Feb. 4 through April 8.

For more information or for individuals requiring special accommodations, contact Lisa Leslie at 813-744-5519 or leslie@hillsboroughcounty.org.



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Apollo Beach students learn about Native American music, history



Apollo Beach Elementary Principal Barbara Mercer poses with Native American flute player Gareth Laffely and music teacher Jim Mira, after Gareth's performance for Mira's 5th grade music class Jan. 17.

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and the Native American culture.

Gareth performs across the U.S. and Canada. He has recently released his newest CD, *The Journey*, which he recorded with two-time Grammy Award-nominated hit songwriter and Dove Award-winning producer Robert White Johnson (Celine Dion, Larnelle Harris, the Beach Boys, Edyta, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Cheap Trick, .38 Special).

Gareth also volunteers with hospice, using his music to soothe terminal patients. He also performs programs for school systems focusing on anti-bullying awareness with a song he wrote about bullying

called *This Time*. Gareth's music video, *Move On* (recorded and released when he was 13 years old), gained him national recognition. He wrote the song about a friend who had been misdiagnosed and passed away from cancer. The song has been used to raise awareness for cancer and Gareth donates all proceeds from the song to help find a cure.

Gareth enjoyed answering the students' questions about music and the Native American culture while he visited Apollo Beach Elementary.

For more information about Gareth visit www.GarethMusic.com.



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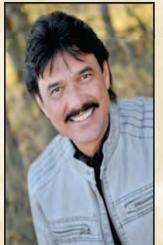
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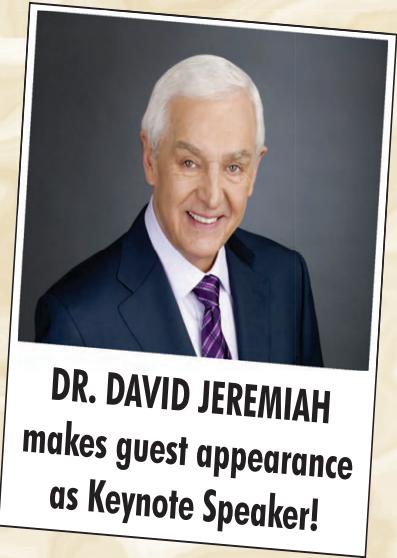
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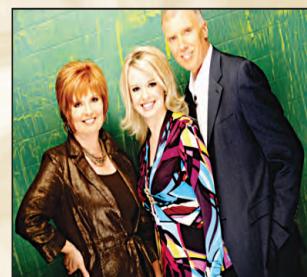
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Adult Computer Classes for the Technologically Challenged

Free Open Source Software Programs & O/S - Thursday, Jan. 23 at 3 p.m.

For adults. An introduction to free open source software alternatives to commonly used programs. Discover free alternatives to Microsoft Office products, Photoshop, even a completely free alternative to Windows O/S uBuntu.

Windows 8: Introduction - Friday, Jan. 24 at 3 p.m.

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

Kindle Demonstration & Open Lab • Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 3 p.m.

For adults. Bring your Kindle and operation questions with you. Will demonstrate how to register the device, open an Amazon account, and get an eBook on the device.

Computer Tutor - Wednesday, Jan. 29 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.



Standing, from left are: Sharon Vasquez, President, Jeanne Burkeson, Robin Kreimeier, Sara O'Neal, Ginny Burrow, Lois Kelley Beverly Fletchall and Judy Peck, VP Membership. Seated are Janet Pizzichetti, Sonja Davidson and Genevieve Waite. Carol Newcomb is missing from the photo.

Apollo Beach Woman's Club honors long-time members

At the January meeting of the Apollo Beach Woman's Club 11 members were honored for their longevity in the club. Judy Peck, 2nd VP, introduced the honorees and gave a brief history of their participation in ABWC. Sharon Vasquez, President, presented each with red and yellow roses, signifying friendship and love.

Sonja Davidson (35 years) is the cornerstone on whom the foundation of the ABWC depends. Sonja

has been on the board from 2002 to the present and for nine years she was the annual bake sale chairperson. This year the bake sale netted over \$1900 for the Scholarship Fund.

Janet Pizzichette joined ABWC in 1984 and has been a supporter for 30 Years. Beverly Fletchall (20 years) joined ABWC in 1994 and remembers when 18 ladies attended the meetings; today they have 150 members. Beverly held many

board positions, including President, and at present is Co-chair of Community Service with Marcia Ward. Carol Newcomb (20 years) continues to enjoy the Culture Club trips and attending events. For 15 years Ginny Burrow, Lois Kelley and Genevieve Waite have shared their enthusiasm and support in the many activities at ABWC. Jeanne Burkeson, Robin Kreimeier and Sara O'Neal have given 10 years of wisdom and service to ABWC.

7 things you must know before putting your home up for sale

Hillsborough County — A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and — worse — financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most

homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar."

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-800-665-3797 and enter 1000.

You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

This report is courtesy of Keller Williams Realty Kathy Farrell. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copyright © 2014

in the middle of a big adventure. Suspense, adventure, intrigue, and mystery intersect in this charming new Montooth tale.

Author Robert Jay has been honored by the Florida Writers Association, receiving its prestigious Royal Palm Literary Award for historical fiction. He has also been recognized by the Young Voices Foundation for his devotion to inspiring and educating his audience, receiving literary awards for both adult and young adult fiction.

This year's awards program recognized local author Robert Jay, who was awarded an Honorable Mention in the Young Adult category for his latest novel, *Montooth 3: Red Cross of Gold*.

Published by Cloverleaf Corporation, Publishing Division, *Montooth 3: Red Cross of Gold* is the newest release in the multiple award-winning Montooth quintet. *Montooth 3: Red Cross of Gold* was released after the premiere of the *Montooth and the Canfield Witch* film book trailer (produced by HuB Studios) which can be viewed by visiting: www.montoothbooks.com.

When *Montooth 3: Red Cross of Gold* opens, it's the mid-1950s—smack dab in the middle of the rock 'n' roll era. Television shows are replacing radio programs, and refrigeration retires horse-drawn home milk delivery and kitchen canning. Change may be afoot, but one thing is constant: heroine Carty and her band of broth-ers are about to find themselves used on roads.

Cloverleaf Corporation, Publishing Division is an independent press headquartered in Ruskin, Florida. *Montooth 3: Red Cross of Gold* is available for purchase at www.montoothbooks.com, by calling 888-388-1882, and where books are sold.

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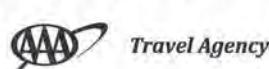
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South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities



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.

Monday, Jan. 27 - Blue Plate Special for all Elks and their guests, 5 p.m., \$8 per person. Menu: ½ Baked Chicken with all the trimmings, including dessert. Only 50 tickets available.

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



HUTH & BOOTH PHOTO

ECG Wellcare holds ribbon cutting ceremony

On Jan. 14, Dr. Alicia Thomas of ECG Wellcare invited the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce to conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony. The event was held to celebrate the expansion of their neurofeedback and biofeedback therapy services to children with ADD/ADHD, reading difficulties, speech problems and sport concussions.

ECG staff offers a welcoming, family-centered patient care environment, committed to providing expert, compassionate care to each pediatric patient, as well as re-

sponding to the concerns and needs of parents and family members.

Gve them a call at 813-373-0016 to get more information or to schedule a visit. ECG Wellcare is located at 10008 Park Place Ave. in Riverview. You can also visit their website at www.ecgcares.com.



Steve Nesthus, left, and Charles Conover, Lt. Col. USA (Ret.), MOWW Commander

Spoto High School JNROTC instructor speaks at MOWW luncheon

At their Jan. 16 meeting/luncheon at the Sun City Center Freedom Plaza Club, the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) heard retired Navy Lt. Commander Steve Nesthus give a presentation on the JNROTC (Junior Naval ROTC) program at Spoto High School in Riverview.

Upon retiring in June 2001, he opened the Flanagan JNROTC Unit in Pembroke Pines. He spent six years there and his JNROTC students went to three state championships and four national championships, and were crowned the National Champions the fourth year.

After a stint at Gulf High School in New Port Richey, Steve moved to Spoto High School.

Steve presented the group with information relative to the training of the JNROTC student, i.e., the techniques, type of training and ultimate goals of the program, emphasizing academics, military skills, discipline and respect of country.

Public meeting to focus on Bloomingdale area transportation improvements

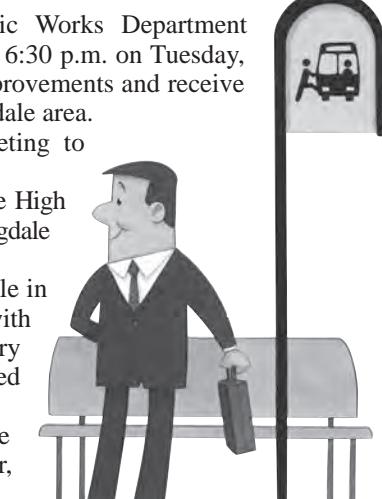
The Hillsborough County Public Works Department has scheduled a public meeting for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4 to discuss transportation improvements and receive community input for the Bloomingdale area.

County staff will be at the meeting to answer questions.

The location is the Bloomingdale High School Auditorium, 1700 E. Bloomingdale Ave. in Valrico.

All meeting facilities are accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Additional necessary accommodations will be provided with a 48-hour notice.

For more information, call Steve Valdez, Citizen Services Manager, 813-272-5275. TTY: 301-7173.



Riverview author explores Golden Rule and bullying in new book

In her new children's book, *Scary Bully*, author Cathy Finch White explores the concept of the Golden Rule to raise awareness on bullying.

The story introduces readers to Antwon, the meanest kid in his class. He takes children's lunches, pushes them around and breaks their things. But there is one girl Antwon just can't seem to push around. When Nikia discovers a secret about Antwon, she decides to try to beat Antwon at his own game. Readers will follow along as Antwon and Nikia find out the importance of treating others the way they would like to be treated in *Scary Bully*.

Published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises, the book is available through bookstores nationwide, from the publisher at www.tatepublishing.com/book-store, or by visiting barnesandnoble.com or amazon.com.

White began the journey of writing for children shortly after the birth of her grandson. Her goal is to educate children by showing them the importance of reading.

RUSKIN VFW POST #6287



Ruskin VFW Post #6287, 5120 U.S. 41 N. has listed the following weekly activities. Meetings are: VFW and LAVFW on the 2nd Wednesday each month; and MAVFW on the 3rd Thursday each month. Chapel duty at the VA Hospital every Sunday all month, 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, Jan. 23 - Bar Bingo 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 24 - Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. Music by Full Circle 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25 - Crew Games. Music by You 2 Kan till ???

Sunday, Jan. 26 - Lounge Games 2 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy 6:30 p.m. Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 27 - Crew Games 6 p.m. Steak dinner 4:30 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 - Lounge Games 1-4 p.m. Bingo: doors open 3 p.m., Bingo 6 p.m. Kitchen opens 4:30 p.m.

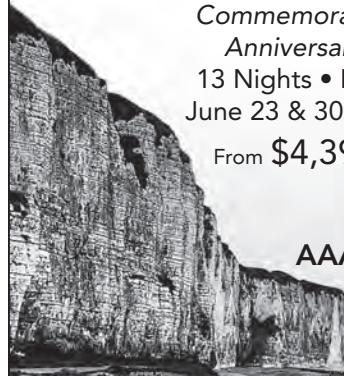
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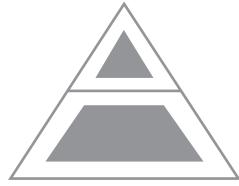
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Chuck Cobb appears Jan. 31 at Manatee RV Park

Singer/Guitarist/Entertainer/Musician Chuck Cobb will appear in a free concert at Manatee RV Park on Friday, Jan. 31 from 7 to 11 p.m.

Chuck Cobb has been entertaining people of all ages for the last 40 years. His blending of vocals and humor with an uncanny musical sense has made him a local celebrity along the beaches of West-Central Florida. He is a one-man band with a set list that covers solid gold oldies, folk, rock 'n roll, rhythm 'n blues, Caribbean soul and beach boogie.

BYOB to this free event open to the public. Manatee RV Park is at 5050 Manatee Creek Blvd. off US Hwy 41, seven miles south of Ruskin and four miles north of I-275.



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Jazzy

Jazzy is a dilute calico who is one of the shelter's senior cats. She has a white front and is a very pretty girl. She was a C.A.R.E. cat many years ago and has had a home since then; however, she recently lost her home due to owner illness. She is very friendly and loves the attention of the volunteers. Her problem is that she is not used to all the other cats so she chooses to stay in the cages in the adult room. Go visit with this senior girl; she would love to go to a forever home with you. As part of her adoption Jazzy has been brought up to date on her shots, and will be micro chipped. She has also been spayed.

Approx. DOB: January 2, 2001.



Holly

Holly is a cheerful, joyful poodle mix. She is slightly shy at the beginning of introductions because she's still trying to figure out why she's at the shelter. Holly was surrendered to C.A.R.E. because her caregiver found it was too much to handle two young dogs. Holly is a dainty, elegant beauty who would love to be part of your life. As you talk to Holly she sits and tilts her head and listens intently as if she understands what you are saying. Holly would be a great addition for anyone — single, couple or family. As part of Holly's adoption she has been made current on routine shots, and will be spayed, and micro chipped.

DOB: May 2, 2013.

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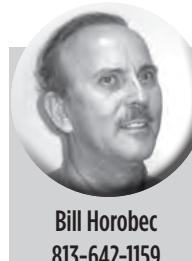
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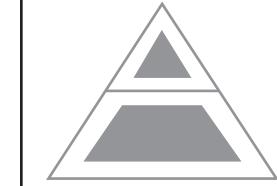


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C.A.R.E. Pets of the Week

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

PHOTOS MARLENE GREENBERG



Holly

Holly is a cheerful, joyful poodle mix. She is slightly shy at the beginning of introductions because she's still trying to figure out why she's at the shelter. Holly was surrendered to C.A.R.E. because her caregiver found it was too much to handle two young dogs. Holly is a dainty, elegant beauty who would love to be part of your life. As you talk to Holly she sits and tilts her head and listens intently as if she understands what you are saying. Holly would be a great addition for anyone — single, couple or family. As part of Holly's adoption she has been made current on routine shots, and will be spayed, and micro chipped.

DOB: May 2, 2013.

Emergency help in paying electric bills available

Hillsborough County has funds immediately available to assist low-income residents with payments of delinquent electric bills through its Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Qualifications

Low-income households may qualify if they meet the following criteria:

- Have a total household gross income below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Reside in Hillsborough County
- Are a U.S. Citizen, qualified alien or permanent resident of the U.S.
- Have a recent past due or final notice energy bill

Additional requirements may be necessary for eligibility determination. Applicants will be informed of these requirements at the time of application.

How to Apply

Local applicants will need to bring the following information with them to the Ruskin (SouthShore) Community Resource Center, 201 14th Ave. SE in Ruskin; 813-671-7647:

- Proof of income for all household members for the last 90 days. This proof can be a pay check stub, employer letter, public assistance check, Supplementary Security Income check, unemployment check or a pension check stub.

• Proof of home energy obligation or electric bill

- Picture identification

• Proof of Hillsborough County residency, such as: valid driver's license with current address, a letter from your landlord or mortgage company, voter's registration card, etc.

- Birth Certificate for anyone under 18
- Social Security cards for all household members

Hillsborough County's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally-funded program offered by the Department of Family and Aging Services. For more information, contact the neighborhood service center or 813-272-6770.

Riverview chamber committee hears advantages of hiring military spouses

■ By **PENNY FLETCHER**

penny@observernews.net

While it's a general belief that businesses hiring spouses and other dependents of military personnel means they are likely to lose them quickly, a program called InGear Career shows why that's not true.

The third Friday of each month the Veteran's Affairs Committee of the Riverview Chamber of Commerce meets at the Bridges Retirement Community on Bloomingdale Avenue (across from the Barn Theatre) to discuss how local businesses can help veterans.

While discounts are popular, according to Eros Dahl, who is in charge of talking with business about discounts, the team said they knew more could be done and has been investigating ways to go about it.

One of the biggest problems military families have is that spouses with careers are displaced and while they may have good job skills, they have no connections when they enter new communities.

"It's the general belief that if you hire spouses or other dependents of military personnel, you'll lose them and have to replace them quickly," said Amanda Patterson Crowe, executive director of InGear Career, a program specifically developed to help these spouses get jobs. "We incorporated as a chapter here in 2013 as a nonprofit 501(c)3 because this is one of the biggest concerns of military families."

She went on to explain that 84 percent of military spouses are college graduates; 26 percent are unemployed; and 42 percent are



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

The Veteran's Affairs Committee of the Riverview Chamber of Commerce meets with Amanda Patterson Crowe, executive director of a program that helps employ spouses of military personnel in hopes of informing local businesses about the advantages of hiring them. Meeting Jan. 17 are (from right, starting at the head of the table) Richard Rohde, Eros Dahl, Tanya Doran, Joe Eletto, Frank Strom, Amanda Patterson Crowe, and Tina Provo.

underemployed.

"Much of this is in remote locations like Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Tampa Bay is much better, but still, businesses have the idea if they hire them they will quickly have to retrain someone else," she said.

InGear Career started with the Tampa chamber and is now working into the outlying areas surrounding MacDill Air Force Base because the families are spread all over the area.

"We've found that the chambers are the best way to introduce our job seekers to businesses," Crowe said. "Statistics show that military spouses don't change jobs at a higher rate than the general population. But their resumes can be very jumbled, and that's where we can help by making the introduction and showing what a good candidate the person is. You see, maybe a spouse is a nutritionist, and is applying for a job as a budget analyst because

they're good with numbers and there aren't any nutritionist jobs available. But the skills can cross over nicely."

Spouse employment is a big reason why many people leave military service, she added. "If the spouse isn't happy, it's a strain on the whole family."

Meanwhile, Dahl has been working diligently to find businesses that will offer true discounts to military families. "Coupons are one thing, but deep discounts are another," he said.

He has researched and is now working with the Brandon Foundation on this issue, he added.

Gayle Cook of the MacDill Family Resource Center also brought information about their services.

The group is involved in many upcoming events as well.

On Feb. 14 there will be a national salute at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa

at 11 a.m. with "goody bags" taken to hospitalized vets. Also, working with the South Shore Music Association, they are getting a music festival together with Mike Self, one of its organizers.

Then there will be the 7th Annual Poker Run for the Haley House Fund hosted by the American Legion Riders Alafia Chapter Post 148, said Richard Rohde, team leader for the chamber's Veterans Affairs Committee. This will be held Saturday, March 1 at the Post, 7240 U.S. 301 in Riverview.

The group will soon have a

dedicated page on the Riverview Chamber of Commerce website, said the chamber's executive director Tanya Doran.

Meanwhile, anyone who wishes to help in any way may contact the chamber at www.riverviewchamber.com or just show up at a meeting at The Bridges at 8 a.m. on the third Friday of the month.

Crowe may be contacted directly by businesses at Amanda.crowe@ingearcareer.org.

More may be learned about InGear Career at www.ingearcareer.org.

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DINNER: Wed. - Sat. 4 to 8 p.m.

BRUNCH: Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Psychic offers six-week lecture series

Psychic Carol Ann Liaros will offer a lecture series every Friday morning at Denny's Restaurant, 3747 Sun City Center Blvd.

The lectures will run from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and will cover the following subjects:

Jan. 31 - Exploring Inner Vision
Feb. 7 - Safe and Dangerous Doorways to the Unconscious

Feb. 14 - Intuition Formula

Feb. 21 - Connecting with Unseen Energies

Feb. 28 - Free Will ... or is the Future Predetermined?

March 7 - Living in Abundance

The cost for the six-week series is \$25; individual lectures are \$5 per person.

For more information, call 813-634-6534.



CAROL ANN LIAROS

Apollo Beach students named to Dean's Honor Roll

Teddy Gray and Toia L. Gray have been named by Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kans. to the Dean's Honor Roll for the fall 2013 semester.

The list includes undergraduate students only. To be eligible, students must have enrolled in 12 or more credit hours and have a minimum grade point average of 3.60 for the semester.

Teddy Gray is a senior majoring in information networking and telecommunications (computer networking).

Toia L. Gray is a sophomore majoring in political science.

District asks homeowners to "Skip a Week" of irrigation this winter

With recent rainfall and cooler temperatures this week, the Southwest Florida Water Management District is reminding residents who irrigate their lawns to "Skip a Week" or more of watering during the cooler months of January and February.

According to research by the University of Florida, grass doesn't need to be watered as often during the cooler months. One-half to three-quarters of an inch of water every 10–14 days is sufficient. In fact, if your lawn has received any significant rainfall, then you can turn off your irrigation system and operate it manually as needed.

"Overwatering can encourage pests and disease in your lawn," said Robin Grantham, water conservation coordinator. "Too much irrigation can also make lawns less able to survive droughts."

Skipping a week of watering is as easy as "off" for residents with irrigation timers. "Turn the timer to 'off' for the week that you want to skip, and 'on' for the week that you want to water," said Grantham.

You can determine when your grass needs water when:

- Grass blades are folded in half lengthwise on at least one-third of your yard.
- Grass blades appear blue-gray.
- Grass blades do not spring back, leaving footprints on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it.

Watering every other week during the winter will help conserve drinking water supplies that the public needs for critical uses during the dry season. In fact, if everyone skipped one week of irrigation this season, it could save an estimated 1.9 billion gallons of water.

For additional information about water restrictions and water conservation, visit the District's website at WaterMatters.org/SkipAWeek.



SouthShore Regional Library Kids program/event highlights

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

Crafternoon - Thursday, Jan. 23 at 4:30 p.m.

Join the children's librarian and create colorful and fun crafts to take home with you. Pre-registration is required. Register at the Reference Desk or by calling 813-273-3652. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Bedtime Stories - Thursday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.

For ages 5-10. with a caregiver ~ Stories, action rhymes, songs, interactive activities, and crafts make up this fun 30-minute program that celebrates a love of reading. Children may wear pajamas and bring a blanket and favorite cuddly toy.

Story Time with Dora and Diego - Saturday, Jan. 25 at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for this special program featuring stories and songs about Dora the Explorer and her friend, Diego. After the stories, do some coloring and have your picture taken with Dora and Diego.

Baby Time - Monday, Jan. 27 at 1:35 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 11:35 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 10:05 a.m.

For children ages 0-20 months and their caregivers ~ Early literacy begins at birth. Bond with your baby through stories, bouncy rhymes and songs in this 20-minute lapsit program that introduces early literacy skills and encourages language development.

Fritzy Brothers One-Man Circus - Monday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

For children ages 2-12. Join us for the exciting, hilarious, hysterical, silly, absurd, and witty One-Man Circus. Laugh with and at Fritzy Brothers as he entertains through juggling, riding his unicycle and other circus activities. Don't miss "The Hoop of Death!" Funding provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Toddler Time - Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 10:05 and 10:35 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 10:35 a.m.

For children ages 20-36 months and their caregivers ~ Stories, fingerplays, songs and interactive activities make up this fun 20-minute program that highlights early literacy skills and encourages reading readiness.

Pee Wee Artists: Let's Create! - Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 10:30 a.m.

Pee Wee Artists (3-5 years, adult must be present) will have fun with our art instructor creating an art project to take home. Limit 18. Registration required at either the SouthShore Regional Library Information Desk or by calling 813-273-3652.

Story Time - Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 11 a.m.

For children ages 3-5 and their caregivers ~ Stories, action rhymes, songs and interactive activities make up this engaging 30-minute program that highlights early literacy skills, and encourages reading readiness and social interaction.

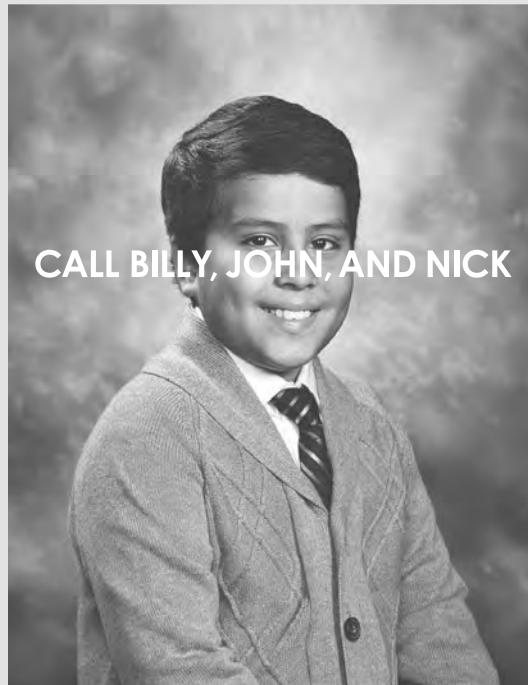
Teen Volunteer Orientation - Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.

Prospective teen volunteers are invited to attend this informational session. Topics will include the application process, filling out school forms, shelving guidelines, and volunteer expectations.

Adult/Teen Zentangle Drawing - Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Join art instructor Patsy Monk and have fun learning about "Zentangle" drawing. The instructor will teach step by step pattern design. Turn your simple drawings into art designs. All levels welcome. Limit: 22. Registration required at either the SouthShore Regional Library Information Desk or by calling 813-273-3652.

Membership with the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library helps provide the funding for free programs offered at the Library. If you would be interested in becoming a Member of the Friends of the Library, call Jim Duffy @ 813-634-1396. www.southshorefriends.com.



FOUR PLANS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Make sure your family knows what to do during an emergency. Who to call. Where to meet. What to pack. Visit ready.gov/kids for tips and information.



SouthShore Regional Library

Adult program/event highlights

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

Introduction to Kindle Fire - Thursday, Jan. 23 at 12:30 p.m.

An introduction to the Kindle Fire, including the registration of an Amazon account, WiFi, and other basic functions and settings. Limit: 20.

1001 Movies to See Before You Die - Friday, Jan. 24 at 2:30 p.m.

Join us to watch a film from the list, 1001 Movies You Must See Before You Die. After the showing, there will be a brief discussion of the movie.

Adult Writing Workshop - Monday, Jan. 27 at 1 p.m.

Connect with fellow writers to inspire, encourage, and exchange ideas about the writing process. Opportunities to share your writings and receive feedback will be available. If you've ever wanted to be a writer, this is the group for you! All levels of writers are welcome.

eMail for Android - Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 12:30 p.m.

Learn to set up and use the Android email app. Limit: 20.

Online Genealogy - Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 3:30 p.m.

Learn how to begin your family history research using Internet resources and databases, including Ancestry Library Edition, Fold 3, Family Search and Heritage Quest.

eBooks for Kindle and Kindle Apps - Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 10:30 a.m.

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

SouthShore Needle People - Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 6 p.m.

Join other needle people to share techniques, tips and experiences about knitting and other fiber and fabric crafts. Bring a project to work on. Beginners and questions are welcome!

Adult/Teen Zentangle Drawing - Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Join art instructor Patsy Monk and have fun learning about "Zentangle" drawing. The instructor will teach step by step pattern design. Turn your simple drawings into art designs. All levels welcome. Limit: 22. Registration required at either the SouthShore Regional Library Information Desk or by calling 813-273-3652.

Mah Jongg Club - Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of the popular table game, Mah Jongg. Participants are asked to bring their own Mah Jongg card. Limited to 32 players. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652.

Membership with the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library helps provide the funding for free programs offered at the Library. If you would be interested in becoming a member of the Friends of the Library, call Jim Duffy at 813-634-1396, www.southshorefriends.com.

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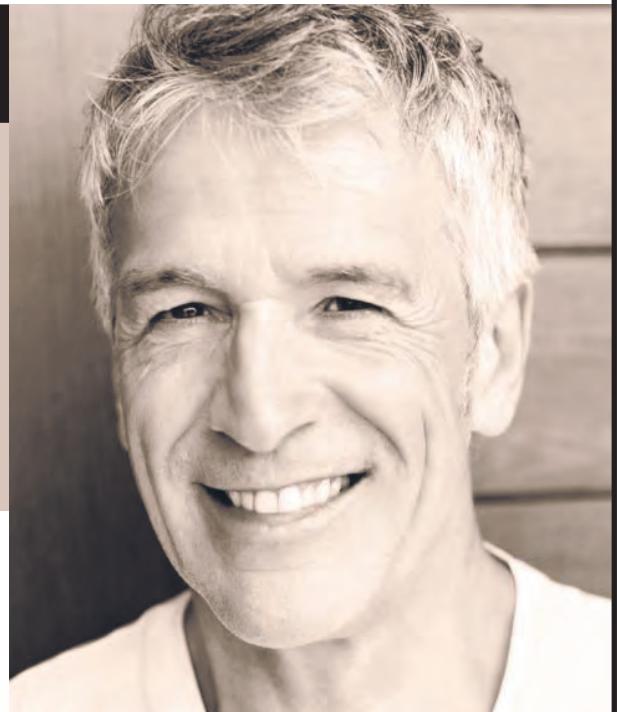


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Fish Tales: A brief history of our fishing heritage

Hoppy waters last weekend kept many anglers close to home and off the waterways. For those that did brave the elements, their days were spent on a bridge, pier or land. Because of the cooler weather and so much going on in the area, such as Children's Gasparilla Parade, Monster Jam, East/West Shriners Game, and Jeeter's



By Jonie Maschek
Member: Florida Outdoor
Writers Association

Golf Tournament, there was much to do besides going fishing.

I saw a few catches this week such as sheepshead, flounder, redfish and a few freshwater catfish and bass.

To all the visitors who have just arrived in our paradise, let me give you a little history:

Florida became a state in 1821.

Many pioneers braved the journey to Florida in the 1800s, to the land of snakes, alligators, mosquitoes, palm fronds, and underbrush. We were not a tourist haven.

Oxen and horses were the most common means of transportation on land. Boats were made from

hollowed-out tree trunks and canoes from animal hides. The first settlers were taught by the Indians who already had taken residence in this area.

At one time the town of Ruskin was known as Siberia. It was a place where convicts from the north were sent to die.

Waterways here were so full of fish, it seemed to be the only means of survival.

It wasn't until the 1900s that the marine engine was available, but not many boaters could afford one. The majority of boats were still operated by hand or sails.

Tom Saffold had a great boat named *Isadore*. It was a two-masted schooner with no engine. It would only run upriver on high tide. It wasn't too many years later in the mid 1900s that anglers were adding engines to their boats. O.J. Williams added a Frisbie engine and probably had the largest boat. The Selner brothers, Rob and Henry, added a 16-horse Globe engine to a 30-foot boat which they used to take hogs and farm items to market in Tampa. Many of the

early settlers became commercial fishermen, like Nebraska Buzbee, and Charley Jahn. Charlie's boat was named *Annie J.*

If you operated a boat in the early years you were called a Captain.

In those days all types of shell fish were plentiful in this area. Some say the Indians ate so many oysters the shells were piled high enough to use the mound as a lookout for Jose Gaspar. This took place at Shell Point, which was originally named Bellamy Road. The name was changed to Shell Point, the County hauled huge mounds of shells away and dropped them all along the way.

Tarpon have stayed in our waters and are still jumping around. The redfish are roaming and sheepshead are around the docks.

Freshwater panfish and catfish are schooling with the largemouth bass in the upper waters of the rivers.

Snook are under rocks or in deep holes, because they can't tolerate cold water.

Enjoy our great outdoors, be safe, be kind, help out strangers in our waterways, it is now their paradise too, not just yours and mine.

Ruskin Eagles Aerie 4351

1205 1st St. S.W.

Upcoming Events

Friday	6 p.m. Feather Your Nest.
Saturday	5 p.m. Dinner. 6:30 p.m. Music by Eddie Shannon & Betty
Sunday	\$1 draft beer all day and evening.
Monday	6 p.m. Bingo.
Tuesday & Wednesday	Come on down and socialize.

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

Parrish chili cook-off

Everyone is invited to the annual Parrish Chili Cookoff, immediately following the Parrish Heritage Day Parade. The event will take place on the grounds of the Florida Railroad Museum, U.S. 301 N. at Hwy 62, Parrish.

There will be live entertainment, adult and children's activities, food and beverages, and, of course, tons of chili. Tickets are \$5 per person with kids under 12 free.

Anyone interested in entering the chili contest should visit www.ParrishChili.com for rules and registration, or for more information.

All proceeds will go to The Parrish Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that provides grants to groups who serve the residents of the Parrish community. It is sponsored by the Parrish Civic Association.

BUSINESS NEWS

Deborah Hazlett joins BMO Harris

BMO Harris Bank has hired Deborah Hazlett as a mortgage banker for south Hillsborough County and Manatee County.

Hazlett has worked in the financial industry for more than 20 years, 18 of those in mortgage lending. She has been involved with the Women's Council of Realtors, the Sarasota and Manatee Chamber of Commerce, Sarasota Board of Realtors, Creative Business Connections network group, and American Business Women's Association.



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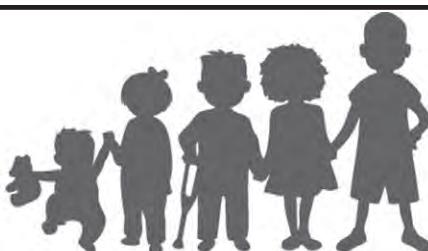
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The Children's Board of Hillsborough County has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP)

Pro 2014-03

South County Uniting Grant RFP

Fiscal Year 2014

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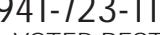
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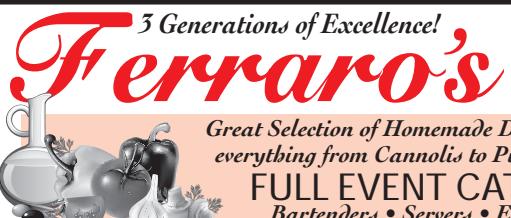


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THE SAVVY SENIOR

Tips and Tools to Help Seniors Regain their Flexibility

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you offer some good stretching tips and resources for seniors? I've gotten so inflexible in recent years I can hardly bend over to tie my shoes anymore.

Stiff Senior



By Jim Miller

Dear Stiff,

Of all possible exercises, stretching tends to be the most overlooked and neglected among seniors, yet nothing is more vital to keeping an aging body limber and injury free. Here's what you should know along with some tips and resources to help you regain some flexibility.

As we age, our muscles naturally lose their elasticity if we're not active, which can make common day-to-day activities like reaching down to tie your shoes, or looking over your shoulder to back your car out of the driveway difficult.

But the good news is, by incorporating some simple stretching exercises into your routine (at least three times a week) you can greatly improve your flexibility, as well as enhance your balance, posture and circulation, relieve pain and stress, and prevent injuries. In addition, stretching is also important as a warm-up and cool-down for more vigorous activities, and leg stretching is an excellent way to prevent nighttime leg cramps, too.

Stretching Basics

Stretching exercises should focus on the muscles in your calves, front and back thighs, hips, lower and upper back, chest, shoulders and neck. If you've had hip or back surgery, you should talk to your doctor before doing lower-back flexibility exercises.

If you don't have any experience with stretching, there are books like *Stretching for Dummies* and *Stretching for 50+* that you can purchase at your local bookstore or amazon.com that provide instructions and illustrations of proper techniques.

There are also a number of DVDs and videos you can buy to guide you through a series of stretching exercises you can do at home. Collage Video (collagevideo.com, 800-819-7111) sells several at prices ranging between \$10 and \$20, as does iefit.com and

amazon.com.

Also see go4life.nia.nih.gov, a resource created by the National Institute on Aging that offers a free exercise DVD and booklet that provide illustrated examples of stretching exercises. You can order your free copies online or by calling 800-222-2225.

While stretching, it's very important to listen to your body. You want to stretch each muscle group to the point where the muscle feels tight. If it hurts, you've gone too far. Back off to the point where you don't feel any pain, then hold the stretch for 10 to 20 seconds. Relax, then repeat it three to five times, trying to stretch a little farther, but don't bounce. Bouncing greatly increases your chance of injury.

It's also a good idea to warm up a little before you start stretching by walking in place and pumping your arms. And remember to breathe when you stretch. Also keep in mind that muscles that have not been stretched in a while take time to regain their flexibility. So be patient and go slow.

Eastern Options

Another popular way to improve your flexibility is through gentle yoga or chair yoga. In chair yoga you replace the yoga mat with a chair where most poses can be duplicated. This is much easier on tight, inflexible muscles.

To get started, there are DVDs and videos that offer yoga instructions and routines for seniors that you can do at home. Some good resources for finding them are peggycappy.net and yogaheart.com, or check with your local public library.

Tai chi is another good exercise option for improving flexibility and balance. To learn it, it's best to work with an instructor who can teach you the correct movements and breathing techniques. To locate a class in your area, call your local senior center, health club or wellness center or check your yellow pages. If nothing's available, tai chi DVDs for seniors (see amazon.com, collagevideo.com and iefit.com) are good alternatives.

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

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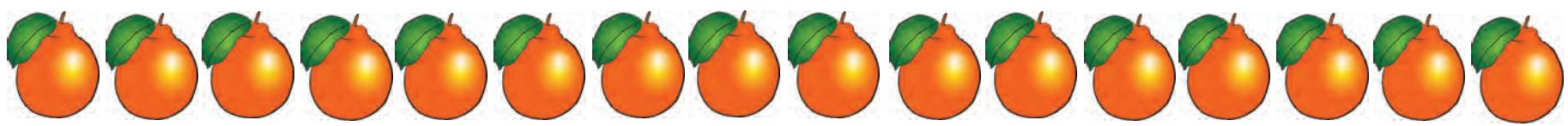
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High school art competition displayed at SouthShore Library

Students from four local high schools have their art competition on display at the SouthShore Regional Library thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center, the John and Elizabeth Crawford Fund and some additional fundraising. Sponsored by the SouthShore Arts Council, the juried show included Lennard, East Bay, Riverview and Spoto High Schools. The display will remain at the library throughout the month of January. Winners of the competition were: Best of Show - Lyzmarie Irizarry-Colon, East Bay High School; 1st Place Non-Photo - Kyle Santos, East Bay High School; 2nd Place Non-Photo - Alexandra Neal, East Bay High School; 3rd Place Non-Photo - Almas Rojas, East Bay High School; 1st Place Photo - Destiny Santos, East Bay High School; 2nd Place Photo - Vanessa Torres, East Bay High School; 3rd Place Photo - Ashleigh Pilley, East Bay High School; People's Choice Award - Jacob Council, Lennard High School. The public is welcome to view the exhibit at the library, along with other artists featured by the SouthShore Arts Council.

CHERIE SIMMONS PHOTOS

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JSA Medical Group Sun City Center Activity Center EVENTS CALENDAR

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Fri 24:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm	
Mon 27:	MORNING MOVIES CANCELLED YOGA CANCELLED	CANCELLED TODAY CANCELLED TODAY	
Tue 28:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* HYPERTENSION CLASS *MUST REGISTER: ARLETTE (727) 828-2411	11 am to Noon 1:30 to 3:30 pm	*MSROM: Muscular Strength & Range of Movement Classes
Wed 29:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm	
Thu 30:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* WII BOWLING (NEW!)	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm	
Fri 31:	SALSA DANCING YOGA CANCELLED	10 to 11 am CANCELLED TODAY	Please check your insurance coverage for SILVERSNEAKERS class participation eligibility.
FEBRUARY 2014 EVENTS			To register for classes please call Rosie at (813) 419-5020
Mon 03:	MONDAY MORNING MOVIES SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 am to Noon 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm	
Tue 04:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	11 am to Noon	
Wed 05:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm	
Thu 06:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* WII BOWLING	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm	
Fri 07:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm	

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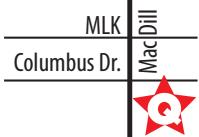
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Tampa Sailing Squadron hosts 50th Annual Gasparilla Regatta Feb. 7-8

Tampa Sailing Squadron will host the 50th annual Gasparilla Regatta on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7-8.

This regatta ties in with the annual Gasparilla celebrations, parades and pirate festivals in the Tampa Bay area. It also includes a shoot-out challenge to the Davis Island Yacht Club Racer/Cruisers for the coveted Musketeer Award.

Racing will include both Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker classes, as well as Racer/Cruiser, Multihull, True Cruising and Mother Lode. One-design fleets are encouraged to attend. Go to www.tampasailing.org for more information.

Schedule of events:

►Friday – Feb. 7 – Race Meeting
1730 (5:30 p.m.) – Hamburgers, snacks and free beer

1700 to 1900 (5-7 p.m.) – Late Registration
2000 (8 p.m.) – Skipper's meeting

►Saturday – Feb 8

0800 (8 a.m.) – Continental Breakfast
1100 (11 a.m.) – Warning signal for True Cruising and Mother Lode; Long Course, Pursuit Start. Warning signal for Racer/Cruiser and Multihull; Long Course, Flag Starts

1130 (11:30 a.m.) – Warning signal for the first class in the start sequence for Spinnaker, Non-Spinnaker and One-Designs; Drop Mark Course, Flag Starts.
1800 (6 p.m.) – Dinner, Trophies and Party



Costs: Entry Fee is \$50 per boat and includes 2 dinners and 2 shirts. Dinner is \$13 per person. Shirts are \$12 each

For additional information, call Regatta Chairman Dan Fels at 813-917-8558, or the TSS Clubhouse at 813-645-8377.

Limited dock space is available on a first-come basis. Contact Steve Lookabough, Dockmaster at 813-922-4096. Four (4) or more entries received by TSS no later than 1900 (7 p.m.) on Friday, Feb. 7, 2014, may constitute a class.

Possible classes include J-24, Flying Scots and others. To form a class, contact Regatta Chairman: Dan Fels at 813-917-8558 before Friday, Feb. 7, 2014.

Online registration is linked to www.Sail-TSS.org.

Animal rescue organization seeks golf cart donations

New and used golf cart donations are being sought by Nate's Honor Animal rescue in Lakewood Ranch.

The rescue organization uses golf carts to transport supplies and animals around the 8-acre, no-kill ranch shelter.

Nate's Honor Animal Rescue, powered by an all-volunteer team, rescued 1,013 abused or abandoned animals in 2013. Since 2008, the group has rescued, rehabilitated and found permanent homes for over 3,500 cats and dogs in the Sarasota/Tampa Bay Area.

To donate a new or used golf cart to Nate's Honor Animal Rescue, contact Sylvia McNichol via

telephone: 941-747-4900 or email info@honoranimalrescue.org

Nate's Honor Animal Rescue is a 501(c)3 no-kill animal rescue organization that relies solely on the generous donations of the community and volunteers. Its mission is to save the lives of homeless pets by changing the way the community views animal sheltering and shelter pets. The rescue provides an educational and family friendly environment to animals and families.

For more information on Nate's Honor Animal Rescue go to www.honoranimalrescue.org or schedule a visit to the animal village located at 4951 Lorraine Rd. in Bradenton.

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Goodwill donors get \$2 off Florida State Fair admission

The Florida State Fair is offering Goodwill donors \$2 off adult admission.

From now through Sunday, Feb. 16, each person who drops off clothing or household items at any Goodwill Industries-Suncoast donation site will receive a coupon good for \$2 off a single adult ticket to the fair.

Goodwill-Suncoast shoppers who "Round Up" their purchases to the next dollar to support Goodwill's mission will also receive the discount coupons.

The discount applies to tickets sold at the fair admission gates and

may not be used for advance ticket purchases. For each redeemed discount coupon, \$1 will be donated to Goodwill.

The Fair runs Feb. 6 - 17 at the Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. 301 N., Tampa.

This year's fair features three concerts free with admission — America, Sister Hazel and Uncle Kracker. There will also be rides and extraordinary food, from the traditional corn dog to all sorts of deep-fried delicacies.

For a list of Goodwill-Suncoast stores and attended donation sites, visit www.goodwill-suncoast.org.

Record-breaking Centenarian Celebration planned

The Centenarian Celebration Committee is looking for local residents who are 100 years or older to honor during their Centenarian Celebration.

The celebration will take place 3 p.m. on May 8 at the Sun City Center Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd.

This year's celebration is expected to be one of the largest Centenarian Birthday Parties ever held in Sun City Center. Organizers hope to break the world record for Largest Gathering of Centenarians; the current world record is 29 centenarians.

Anyone who is 100 years or older, or who is turning 100 years old this year can call 813-634-0172 for more information on how to participate in this event.



Homes needed for horses and quarter ponies

Napier's Log Cabin & Animal Sanctuary is seeking homes for several companion horses/quarter ponies. They are undersized, too big for a pony but too small for a horse; approximately 11 hands. They are between five and ten years old and have not been broken to ride. All have had shots, including rabies, have been de-wormed and are negative Coggins. They were left behind in a foreclosed-upon home and are still in need of weight gain. If you have land and can offer a home for one of these animals, call 941-750-8185.

Napier's also has cats, kittens and dogs available for adoption.

Napier's Log Cabin Horse & Animals Sanctuary, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 no-kill Florida corporation that relies on the generosity of the community to survive. No other government funding or grants are received. Visit www.NapierFamilyFarm.com for more information. Mailing address: 20010 East SR 64, Bradenton, FL 34212. Hours are by appointment only. One hundred percent of donations go to caring for the animals and are tax-deductible as allowed by law.



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Observations: A story of life

The first girl that I ever had a crush on has died. People have read her obituary, attended her funeral, mourned her passing (some longer than others, of course) and then went on with life. And that is exactly as it should be. Life cannot be fully lived if you are always looking back, living in the past. Everyone has to go on, taking a step into the next second, the next minute and the next day, carrying mementos, perhaps, but leaving the past in the past where it belongs. That is just how life works.

I haven't thought about her in

30 years, and her passing caught me by surprise. As such, I'm not entirely ready to let her go yet. So please bear with me as I share a little of her life with you.

Leesa Tow was the sole focus of my first crush while in first grade at West Elementary School in Worthington, Minnesota. I thought she was one of the most beautiful girls I had ever seen in all of my six years of life. Today, seeing her photo with her obituary, it is clear that

not only was I right back then, she remained beautiful throughout her life. She passed away just one week shy of her 51st birthday.

In first grade, I knew that she loved animals, horses in particular. She had all sorts of horse stuff, and I seem to recall that she was very good at drawing horses. Later in life, she would become

an accomplished equestrian, competing in national shows.



Observations

By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

For all of us, our lives will eventually be summed up in an obituary, people will mourn and then the sun will rise again and those remaining will go on with life. And that is exactly how it should be.

Her love for animals apparently never diminished as she would go on to become a veterinarian. I also remember, way back in first grade, that she had a 64-crayon box of Crayolas that included a built-in crayon sharpener. Only a very special girl could have had such a thing in those days.

I'm sure I pulled some pretty suave moves for a six-year-old in order to get her attention but I never succeeded. It's a good thing for me that times were different back then or I might have been arrested for being a classroom stalker. Okay, so maybe I wasn't that bad but I was certain that I was in love. I was never a "girl's germs" kind of guy. I always thought girls were cool. And Leesa was the coolest of them all.

In addition to listing loving family and friends, her obituary in the *Worthington Daily Globe* also mentioned that she was survived by her beloved service dog, Isis. How wonderfully appropriate for a woman who devoted her life to caring for animals to include Isis in her final *au revoir*. It sounds like she had some rough years in terms of her health but even during the worst, she never lost

her love and compassion for animals. I firmly believe that a lot can be said about a person in how they treat our furry little friends.

Almost everyone with a four-legged companion knows the story of the Rainbow Bridge — the place our beloved pets go when they pass. There, they return to health and happiness without a care in the world, except for missing the human that was in their life. You see, the only thing that animals really want is to just be in the same room with the person they love. That is enough. That is everything. I hope to the bottom of my heart that Leesa is visiting the Rainbow Bridge now, smothered in kisses and wagging tails from all of the quadrupeds she helped over the years.

Had you asked 30 or more years ago I wouldn't have thought this, but 50 years old is far too young to die. I hope she is at peace, at least. I now wish, too late, that I knew more about her.

Everyone of us has a story to tell, something that should remain with someone else after our passing from this life. Please

► Continued on page 35

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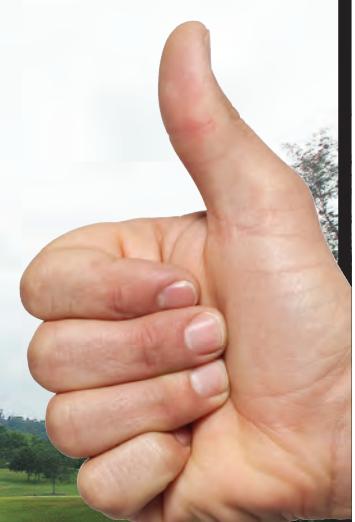
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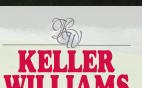
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Royalaires in Gibsonton on Jan. 26

The Royalaires, a Gospel trio from Circleville, Ohio and Sun City Center, will sing at the First Baptist Church of Gibsonton at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 26. The group has traveled the country and overseas and, for 25 years, have been featured on "Singing At Seas," a Southern Gospel Cruise offered by Templeton Tours.

For the past 20 years the Royalaires have been regular guests at First Baptist in Gibsonton, located at 9912 Indiana St. All are invited to attend.

A new worship experience launches Feb. 5 at First UMC Brandon

What is "The Table?" A brand-new worship experience at First UMC Brandon on a different day, at a different time, and with a different style than any of its four, current Sunday morning worship services.

How will it be different? It's designed for this generation and everyone is welcome. Senior Pastor Jamie Westlake says, "I'm a 51-year-old pastor who has been a Christ follower for 34 years. This service is not designed to reach me, but I'm welcome here." The music will be loud. The environment will be cozy. The setting will be like church in a café. While The Table is designed for this generation there is room for everyone at The Table. It's the perfect place for imperfect people.

Why a table?

Ricc Conner, a team leader at The Table says, "A table is a rich symbol of relationships and friendships. It is a place where new friends and old friends gather together. It's a place for family. A



table was where Christ invited His followers into greater fellowship. A table is a place where the hungry are fed. Hospitality happens at the table. Growth happens at the table. Blessings happen at the table."

What will a typical evening look like?

"Creating community is a big deal for us," explains Vicki Harrison, mission and outreach coordinator, "and that's why we will start with a meal together at 6 p.m. It's \$2/person and children under 12 are free. Then we'll worship together in Logan Hall at 7 p.m. — with separate childcare and children's ministry provided.

'Jimmy' is movie at First Baptist this Saturday

The first film of the season at Friendship Baptist Church is *Jimmy*, the story of a mentally challenged, autistic 14-year-old and the day-to-day struggles his loving family must overcome.

All are invited to the movie on Saturday, Jan. 25 and are asked to bring a dish to pass. Show time is 5 p.m.; food is served during an intermission.

Friendship Baptist Church is located at 1511 El Rancho Dr. in Sun City Center.

Sisterhood holds Bingo fundraiser

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel will offer a fun afternoon of Bingo on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the synagogue.

The cost is \$5 for cards, snacks and treats. Extra cards will be available for an additional fee.

Tickets will be sold at the door.

Beth Israel is located at 1115 East Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City Center.

Phil Provenzano and Jazz Xperience return to UMC

Phil Provenzano and the Jazz Xperience return to the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center on Sunday, Jan. 26 at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

A local favorite with a large following, Phil's ensemble is a mainstream, straight-ahead jazz combo that was originally formed to perpetuate the West Coast jazz sounds of musicians like Gerry Mulligan and Chet Baker.

Since its inception 20 years ago, the group has grown to include other mainstream jazz styles, including their own unique sound.

Concert-goers are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat as the



group is gaining a larger and larger fan base in this area. A donation of \$5 is requested at the door. For additional information about this and other concerts and recitals at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, contact Jeff Jordan, Director of Worship Arts, at 813-634-2539.



The Front Porch Pickers to entertain at UCC

Friday, Jan. 24 is the date for the next Fantastic Friday at the United Community Church. Go for a catered dinner and to be entertained by the Front Porch Pickers.

Tickets are \$17 per person for the dinner and the show; \$5 per person for the show only. Tickets can be purchased on Sunday mornings after worship or on Tuesday or Thursday in the narthex of the church from 10 a.m. until noon.

For more information call Paula 813-633-6739.



Redeemer Lutheran women prepare for annual rummage sale

On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7 and 8, the Redeemer Lutheran Church will hold its 7th annual Rummage Sale. Lots of household items have been donated for the sale; crafts, clothing and baked goods will also be available. The hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday; 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. Redeemer Lutheran is located at 701 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center. For information, call 813-634-1292.

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EXAMPLE OF OUR PRICES
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Area Obituaries

Wayne Alderfer

Wayne Alderfer, age 88, passed away at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, Fla. on January 6, 2014. He was born in South Bend, Ind. on August 29, 1925, where he spent his childhood, graduating from John Adams High School. He served in the U.S. Air Force starting in 1943 and served through the end of World War II.

Wayne graduated from the University of Vermont with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Wayne was employed by Studebaker Motor Company of South Bend, Ind., in the payroll department. He was later employed by IBM, first in Greencastle, Ind. before transferring to the IBM facility in Essex Jct., Vt. He retired from IBM in 1987, spending the next 26 years living his life to the fullest.

Wayne enjoyed travel, fishing, golf, boating and watching sports of all kind, including soccer while cheering his grandchildren's play. He was a member of the Board of Directors for Highgate Four at Kings Point in Sun City Center, Fla.

Wayne is survived by his wife of 37 years, Lorraine Alderfer; daughters Linda York and Bonnie Michel; granddaughter Jennifer Andrzejewski and husband Peter; stepson Bradley Revoir and wife Kim; stepdaughter Nancy Revoir Dezotell and husband Jeff; five grandchildren - Travis Dezotell, Kyle Dezotell, Jason Revoir, Karli Revoir Clark and Tanner Revoir. Wayne also had five great-grandchildren: Cailyn Dezotell, Camden Dezotell, Ethan Revoir, Arabella Revoir and Porter Clark. He was predeceased by his parents Ferd and Blanche Alderfer, sisters Bernice Lewis and Joyce Alderfer, and his first wife, Betty Earl.

Wayne will be missed greatly by his family and friends from his residences in Sun City Center, Fla. and Island Pond, Vt. Wayne was known for his strong faith, cheerfulness, love and zeal for life, along with a positive loving attitude for all.

A celebration of Wayne's life will be held at Spectacle Pond, Vt. this summer.

John Anderson

John Anderson, born August 29, 1927 in Illinois, went to be with the Lord on January 18, 2014.

John was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during WWII. He lived in Indianapolis and worked for the U.S. Federal Finance Center at Fort Harrison until he retired and moved to Florida. He has been a resident of Sun City Center, Florida for the past several years.

He is survived by wife Joyce Anderson; son Don Larson (Donna); brother Jim Anderson; sister Millie Lietz; step-daughter Cindy Thurston; stepson Rodney Templon; several step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mary, one brother, one brother-in-law and two sisters-in-law.

A memorial service for friends and family will be held at the Sun City Center Methodist Church on Saturday, January 25 at 2 p.m.

Richard W. Herrmann

Richard W. Herrmann, 82, of Sun City Center, Florida, formerly of Centralia, Ill., died Saturday, January 4, 2014 at Cartersville Medical Center in Cartersville, Ga.

Born December 18, 1931 in Peru, Illinois, he was a son of the late William Herrmann and the late Ethel Keutzer Herrmann. Mr. Herrmann was a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, serving aboard the USCGC Blackthorn during the Korean War, and later was a Blue and Gold Officer for the U.S. Naval Academy. He was employed with AT&T (formerly Illinois Bell Telephone Co.) for 32 years, retiring in 1985. His career encompassed various positions, including Lineman, Engineer, and eventually Construction Supervisor for the entire Southern Illinois region. After retirement from AT&T, Mr. Herrmann worked as a Realtor for the Chaney Agency.

the gentle hands of my Hubby Russ, daughter Darby, SCC-based sisters Terrie and Nan McNamara, and Ken Romain, I gratefully answered the call of Jesus at the age of 60. Thanks also to LifePath Hospice, which provided invaluable service. I would like to have made more art with my friends Melissa Haines, Pam Tipton and Anne Walker of SCC. I wanted to cook more desserts, see more art shows and swim more, but it wasn't to be. I already knew how to love, learn and laugh. Now, I know how to let go. Love always, Peg.



Sandra Fuller George

Sandra Fuller George, 83, of Yorba Linda, Calif., died on December 17, 2013, when she succumbed to Parkinson's Disease. Sandy was married to the late Thomas Henry George. The George's were long-time residents of Tunkhannock, Pa. Sandy is survived by two children, Thomas George of Reading, Pa., and Mary Ruth Weisner of Yorba Linda, Calif. She is also survived by granddaughter Audra Freeland and three great-grandsons, Jared, Brent and Paxton, all living in Yorba Linda, Calif.

Mrs. George was a graduate of Meshoppen High School in 1948 and Robert Packer Hospital School of Nursing in 1952. She worked as an R.N. at both Clark Summit State Hospital and the State Correctional Facility in Dallas, Pa. Sandy spent most of her retirement in Sun City Center, Fla., prior to moving to Yorba Linda, Calif. in 2010.

Services will be held at Sheldon Funeral Homes, Main St., Meshoppen, Pa., at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 25, 2014, with Pastor Vickie Ellis, of the Beaver Meadows United Methodist Church officiating. Sandy will be interred at Jersey Hill Cemetery in Auburn Center, Pa.

Online condolences may be made at www.sheldonfuneralhomes.com.



Peg Critendon

Hi! This is Peg Critendon. I passed on January 13, 2014, but I want to take a moment to thank my Sun City Center family and friends for their loving care these past weeks. Under

Mr. Herrmann was a resident of Centralia, Illinois for over 34 years where he was very active in his community. He was a member of the First United Presbyterian Church for over 30 years, where he served as a Deacon and a Trustee. Mr. Herrmann was an active member of the Centralia Rotary Club, served as a Board Member of the Centralia City Schools and on the Board of Directors of Old National Bank. He also served as local Chairman for the Habitat for Humanity Project, and Chairman of the Board of the local chapter of the American Cancer Society.

After moving to Sun City Center, Mr. Herrmann was a member of the SCC Men's Club and attended Trinity Baptist Church. He also served as a volunteer driver with the SCC Security Patrol for five years and a volunteer driver with Samaritan Services in Sun City Center for two years. He was a loving husband and a wonderful father who put God and family first in his life.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Margaret A. Herrmann; his children, Susan Herrmann Stonecipher and her husband Brad of Wildwood, Mo., Stephen R. Herrmann and his wife Denise of Pensacola, Fla., and Alan L. Herrmann and his wife Jessica of Coronado, Calif.; sister Audrey Gee and her husband George of Lockport, Ill.; brothers Ronald Herrmann and his wife Mary of Granville, Ill., and Kenneth Herrmann of Arvada, Colo.; grandchildren Blake and Will Stonecipher, Mallory, Abigail and Sophia Herrmann, Ryan and Garrett Herrmann; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at Trinity Baptist Church in Sun City Center, Florida. The service will be followed by a light luncheon in the church fellowship hall.

Memorials honoring Richard Herrmann should be made to the Trinity Baptist Church, 702 Del Webb Blvd. West, Sun City Center, FL 33573.



Robert M. Margosian

Robert M. Margosian, 87, passed away January 4, 2014.

He was born in Boston, Mass. Robert moved to Farmington, Conn. where he and his family lived for 40 years, retired to Wells, Maine in 1987 and happily moved to Sun City Center, Fla. in 1999.

Robert served three years with the U.S. Navy during World War II in the South Pacific as an Aviation Metalsmith.

After earning B.A. and Master's in Library Science degrees, his career included working as a librarian at the Watertown (Mass.) Public Library and the Hartford (Conn.) Public Library, in an insurance agency, as the Supervisor of Corporate Records with CIGNA Corp. in Bloomfield, Conn. and, for several years, as an Assistant Secretary in CIGNA Field Properties Department.

Upon retirement, Robert started "Your Pet's Portraits", a professional pet photography business that benefited animal shelters and veterinarians.

In Sun City Center, Robert volunteered with the Sun City Center Emergency Squad and was an avid reader and card player.

He is survived by his loving wife Teresa (Roubian) of 64 years; loving son Kirk D. Margosian and his wife

OBITUARIES continued on page 27

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 MORNING:	Nov. - April 8:30 a.m.	Day Care Available
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Phone: 645-1241	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	call 645-6198

Friendship Baptist Church

Rance Goad, Pastor (Southern Baptist)

1511 El Rancho Dr.
Sun City Center, FL 33573
Phone/Fax: 813-633-5950

TRADITIONAL WEEKLY SERVICES:

Sunday	9 a.m. Bible Study
Wednesday	6 p.m. ... Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
	FriendshipBaptistChurchSCC.com

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

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

Reverend David Allman, Pastor

Telephone: 813-634-1292 • Website: scredeemer.org
Worship Services on Sunday 10 a.m.
Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m.

Unity COMMUNITY OF JOY

Henry Gibson Social Hall, Beth Israel Synagogue
1115 Del Webb E. • Sun City Center, FL
www.unitycommunityofjoy.com

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
813-481-9060

First Baptist Church of Gibsonton

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

Traditional Worship Service

*Sunday School 9:30 A.M.

Old-Time Gospel Hymns

*Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.

Nursery Available

Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M.

* Interpreter for the Deaf

Mid-Week (Wed.) 7:00 P.M.

9912 Indiana St. • Hwy 41 & Estelle Avenue

Gibson, FL 33534

Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor

813-677-1301

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

702 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC, FL 33573
Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670

www.popcc.org

Masses:

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

Daily 8:00 a.m.

Confessions:

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

NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

"Loving God, Loving Others,
Serving Beyond Borders"

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

Sunday School (all ages)..... 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

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

Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor



UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ United Church of Christ

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

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



Wimauma Church of God

Celebrating 100th Anniversary Feb. 16
at the 10:30 a.m. worship service

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

Pastor

Tom Durrance

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

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC

Meets in the Henry Gibson Social Hall of the Beth Israel

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Area Places of Worship



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



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

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Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Service	7:00 p.m.
Awana	7:00 p.m.

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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

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

A CARING CHRISTIAN FAMILY—WIGGLY CHILDREN WELCOME

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

Sunday Service.....	10:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Service	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.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark E. Salmon
Meet friends in Fellowship Hall after each Service.
Refreshments served.

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

Phone: 813-634-1252
For information visit:
www.standrewatscc.org

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

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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.

Robert Margosian

continued from page 26

Catherine, and loving daughter Robin Margosian Carr and her husband Michael; and treasured grandsons Ethan Carr and his wife, Lindsay, Trevor Carr and Gabriel Jon Margosian.

A memorial service was held on January 11, 2014 at the Sun City Christian Center, 17566 U.S. Hwy 301 South in Wimauma.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Sun City Center Emergency Squad, 720 Ray Watson Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573. Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home.

Florence R. Mateer

Florence R. Mateer, age 103, passed away on January 11, 2014 at Silver Bluff Village in Canton, N.C. Florence was born Oct. 4, 1910 to the late Patrick and Florence Bradshaw Glynn.

In addition to her parents, Florence was preceded in death by her husband, John Francis Mateer, and her sister, Frances Sarah Wyand.

Left to cherish her memory are son John Francis Jr. (Phyllis); daughters Florence Regina Estill and Fidelis "Dale" Jackson (John); 8 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Florence was a former resident of Aston Gardens at the Courtyards.

Services will be held at a later date. Garrett Funerals & Cremations in Waynesville, N.C. is assisting the family.

Evelyn S. Rust

Evelyn Marie Staben Rust, 93, passed away on January 11, 2014 in Sun City Center, Fla. She lived a full adult life as an artist, wife, mother, and grandmother.

She was born in Springfield, Illinois,

the daughter of an orthopedic surgeon, and was a graduate of MacMurray College and the Art Institute of Chicago. As a professional artist, she was a member of the prestigious Watercolor Society of America, and produced fine art in various media, including watercolor and oil paintings, charcoal and pastel drawings, and silkscreen prints in styles ranging from portraits to the abstract. Her oil painting, *Blue Bouquet*, won first prize for abstract art in the Boca Raton Art Festival, and her work was displayed in art shows across Florida.

After growing up, marrying, and starting a family in Illinois, Evelyn and her husband (Dal) built a home and raised their children in Boca Raton, Florida before moving to Sun City Center after their retirement. She loved to travel and learn from many cultures across the world. At Sun City Center, Evelyn continued to paint and take art classes. She read books and loved music, and she was one of the earliest members of the Unity Community of Joy Church, as well as the Sun City Center Metaphysical Society.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Paul Dallas Rust, Jr., and parents George and Mabel Staben. She is survived by sisters Dottie Quick and Ginger Henrichs; sons Paul D. Rust, III and George S. Rust (wife, Cynthia Tucker Rust); grandchildren, Alex, Lily, Christina, and Daniel; and great-grandchildren Leeman, Everett, and Lucas.

Funeral services were held Monday (Jan. 20) at the National Cremation and Burial Society in Ruskin, Florida. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a charity of your choosing that eases suffering or builds peace or helps nurture love and light worldwide.



Sun City Chamber Players present varied concert at UMC

On Friday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m., the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will host the first concert of the 2013-2014 season by the Sun City Chamber Players.

This first concert of the new year will include Dvorak's *Terzetto in C Major Op. 74*, Martinu's *Three Madrigals for Violin and Viola*, and Tchaikovsky's lovely sextet, *Souvenir de Florence*.

The Sun City Chamber Players are a group of professional musicians from the west coast of Florida who gather together to provide performances selected from the best of the chamber music repertoire. Each performance features a different number of players, from two up to full chamber orchestra.

A donation of \$10 is requested at the door on the evening of the concert. The church is located at 1210 West Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City Center.

For additional information about this and other concerts 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 UMC, visit [www.umcsc.org](http://umcsc.org).

Ethical treatment of animals is topic

Hal Ott, D.V.M. will present a program to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC on Thursday, Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. on two related subjects: The Ethical Treatment of Animals and Vegetarianism. Dr. Ott practices veterinary medicine at his office in Ruskin.

The Fellowship meets in the Henry Gibson Social Hall of the Beth Israel Synagogue on East Del Webb Blvd. All are welcome.



Karin Ann Yoblonski

Karin Ann (Yates) Yoblonski, 69, formerly of Sherman, Connecticut, passed away at home on January 11, 2014 in Sun City Center, Florida after a long illness. She was born on October 7, 1944 in Queens, New York to Karin and Robert Yates (predeceased). She graduated from Danbury High School. She attended Americo House of Beauty and became a licensed beautician, which she practiced for several years. She became an executive secretary and worked for Neeltran for a number of years. She then worked on many homesteading projects, including a large garden, beekeeper, and raised beef cattle and sheep.

She was married to Wilmer N. Boyer from 1963 to 1983, with whom she had two children. They resided in Danbury and Sherman, Conn. Her second marriage was to Walter A. Yoblonski in November 1984; after his retirement in 1997, they moved to Sun City Center, Fla.

During her years in Sun City Center, Karin was active in a number of organizations: she was an Exterior Vice President for the Stained Glass Club, Deputy Captain for the Security Patrol, was a member of the Lapidary Club, the Elks, the Red Hat Society and the RVing Club. She enjoyed time with friends during the Tuesday "lunch bunch" and the Thursday dinner group.

She is survived by husband Walter; daughter Karin (Tim) Carr; son David (Debra) Boyer; grandsons Timothy (Christina) Totten and Matthew (Alecia) Boyer; and great-granddaughter Adriana. She also leaves stepdaughters Lenora (David) Carr and Diana (Ron) Zorick; brother Robert (Barbara) Yates; nephew Jeffrey and many dear friends.

Karin touched the lives of everyone she met and will be sadly missed by all. There will be no memorial services. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, toll-free 866-232-8484.

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament offered at Prince of Peace

Each Wednesday from 8:45 a.m. until 3 p.m., Prince of Peace Catholic Church holds Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Adoration is a sign of devotion to and worship of Jesus Christ, who is believed by Catholics to be present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, under the appearance of the consecrated host.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament concludes at 3 p.m. with Benediction. Prince of Peace invites everyone.

Prince of Peace Catholic Church is located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd in Sun City Center.

SHMA monthly Sing is at St. Anne

South Hillsborough Ministerial Association (SHMA) will host the monthly Community Sing on Monday, Jan. 27 at Saint Anne Catholic Church, 1106 11th Ave. NE in Ruskin.

The "prelude" to the Sing begins at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Call 813-645-1714 for more information.

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Huge community yard sale. Saturday, Jan. 25, 8am-noon only. Over 30 families participating. Riverside Boat & Golf Resort, 3 miles north of Ruskin. Universal Dr. just off US 41. No early birds.

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

Garage sale. 1005 Yellowbird Place, SCC. Household items, books, twin bed frames, newer twin mattress & box springs, pictures, cordless phones, much more. Friday & Saturday, 9am-2pm

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Leukemia Benefit sale. 202 Flamingo Dr., Apollo Beach. Saturday, Jan. 25, 8am-noon. Multiple families. Antiques, tools, fishing, music, household items.

2 family sale. 1/23 to 1/25, 8am-2pm. 734 Tam O Shanter Ave., SCC. Refrigerator, furniture, tools. To much too list. Cash only.

New, used collectibles & misc. 6119 Nundy, Gibsonton. Thursday through Sunday, 9am-5pm. weather permitting. No reasonable offer refused. Dealers welcomed.

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Huge moving sale. 3016 Saffold, Ruskin. South of US 301. Friday, Saturday & Sunday. 9am-5pm. Girls clothing, baby furniture, car seat

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AAUW Women of Distinction Luncheon is Feb. 11

The Sun City Center/South Shore branch of the American Association of University Women will host a luncheon Tuesday, Feb. 11 at Community Hall in Sun City Center.

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and available at the Atrium Kiosk, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Or you may call Lois at 813-633-6484. Proceeds will benefit Mature Women's Scholarship.

AAUW will be honoring this year's Women of Distinction:

► **Deidre P. Dixon** graduated from West Point U.S. Military Academy in 1984 with a degree in Engineering. Other degrees include an MBA from Duke, an MS in Public Administration from Central MI, and at present she is a PhD student at Case Western Reserve University. She now teaches Leadership Courses at the University of Tampa. LTC Dixon served in the Army for 22 years in various positions in the Airborne Corps, overseas in Desert Storm and teaching at West Point. She is involved in the local community and has held many leadership positions in the these organizations.

► **Pat Collier Frank** has a long

history of service to her state and community. A graduate of Florida State and Georgetown School of Law, she has served on Hillsborough County School Board, in the Florida House of Representatives, Florida Senate, and on the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners, which she has chaired for three years. In 2004 she was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court, where she now serves. She has received numerous awards and honors over her many years of service in each of the positions she held.

► **Major Elaine White**, a migrant child, graduated from Florida State with a BS in Criminology (Institutional Management). Elaine worked for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office for 25 years, retiring as a major in 2007. At that time she was in charge of the Orient Road Jail, which had an average of 2,000 inmates and a staff of 700. Since retiring she has taken a position as Probation Management Division Chief at the Salvation Army Correctional Services, where she monitors some 3000 clients.

For more information, call Roxanne at 813-746-1350 or Sandra at 813-642-0425.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

After Weeden put on everyday American clothes, he taught the people in the audience, including HCC's South County Campus President Allen Witt, PhD, a traditional American Indian dance.

'How Indian tribes were forced to change their culture'

► Continued from page 1

story as his father did, he lives in Mashpee, which he said is still the home of many descendants.

Starting at a young age, Weeden began public performances that recounted the major events in the history of the tribes as more and more people from other lands took over their country.

"His passion and desire to preserve the culture is evident in his work," said Witt, who participated in the program.

When not traveling and giving presentations, Weeden works at the Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth, Mass., where visitors are given a close-up view of how both Indians and former Europeans lived when they began to share the country.

There, it's easy to experience the 17th century, be in a grist mill, and watch the Indians in a presentation of life called Children of the Dawn.

Weeden is also the Outreach Educator at the Boston Children's Museum and its Native Program Specialist. He has been in many movies and documentaries, but has also refused parts that were later taken by famous actors.

"I will not be a part of anything that does not convey the truth," he said to about 40 people at the evening presentation.

The documentary *We Shall Remain* is one PBS special in which he is proud to have taken part.

During his presentation at HCC, he used dates written on paper to show the effect on the native tribes, beginning with 1602 when those who met the new people began to feel they were being made to change.

"Everything that was a part of our culture, everything we believed, we were told was wrong," he said.

"Then in 1675, our people were taken from our homes."

His ancestors were fortunate, he said, because his family was purchased by a kind slave master.

"John Weedon was treated kindly, but he was a slave and was forced to cut his hair," he explained, unbraiding his, and pinning it atop his head so it did not look long anymore.

At that point he also pulled on men's trousers and a long-sleeved white business shirt.

He laid his furs and jewelry and feathers on the floor.

"We were not allowed to do anything that was within our culture," he said. "Later we heard that some African slaves were being freed. We were happy for them, but we were not freed."

"This was our land for 12,000 years, and I only want to keep our story, and our culture alive," he said.

At that point, he lifted the somber mood by showing a drum and how the drumbeat symbolized the heartbeat of Mother Earth.

"Music and dance are key to our culture," he said.

Before the end of the presentation, he had participants, including Witt, dance an Indian Circle dance of Thanksgiving.

To find out more about Weedon, visit www.mcnaa.org, the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness and Plimoth Plantation at www.plimoth.org.

JSA Medical, *Observer* team up for food drive

► Continued from page 1

at this time of year

"The *Observer* has always been a community newspaper and looked to give back to the community where we can so when they came up with this idea we thought it would be good for us to get involved and help out," said Wes Mullins, CEO of M&M Printing, parent company of *The Observer News*.

Following the progress of the drive will be easy for anyone drop-

Food Bank Facts

A 2010 report by Feeding America Tampa Bay, which supplies many of the South County's food banks, reported the following facts about hunger in the Tampa Bay area.

- 37% of households served by America's Second Harvest of Tampa Bay are children under 18 years old.
- 6% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5 years.

- 44% of seniors interviewed are facing very low food security or hunger.

- 58% of clients served by America's Second Harvest of Tampa Bay report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities.

- 22% of households include at least one employed adult, but only half are fulltime.

- 36% of households that are served report having at least one household member in poor health, and 63% of the clients have unpaid medical or hospital bills.

- 40% of the clients interviewed identified themselves as African-American, 40% white and 20% Hispanic.

- 44% of client households served by America's Second Harvest of Tampa Bay receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) benefits.

Source: Feeding America Tampa Bay



ping off donations at the JSA Activity Center, 787 Cortaro Dr. in Sun City Center.

Organizers plan to build a castle with donations, using canned goods and other non-perishable foodstuffs as bricks. The castle will be redesigned and rebuilt weekly as donations roll in.

Korfant pioneered the food castle idea while working with the Chamber of Commerce in Cleveland, Ohio.

"I thought building a castle with the donations would be a little more spectacular way to show the donations. We even had folks from the American Institute of Architects come in and build it on their lunch breaks."

The castle concept proved to be a winner. Over 10 weeks it yielded more than 16,000 pounds of foodstuffs for Cleveland pantries.

Local food banks benefiting from South County's first Caring Castle include The Lord's Light-house, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Good Samaritan Mission, Beth-El Mission, St. Anne Church and Life Church.

There is no shortage of need, according to Tom Bullaro, co-director of Our Lady of Guadalupe food pantry with his wife Anita for the last nine years. The pantry serves an average of 170 families a week in Sun City Center, Wimauma and Balm.

"This time last year our average was about 110 families a week," said Bullaro who cites food stamp cutbacks and unemployment among the pressures driving more families to his door.

"We serve a lot of migrant food pickers who may only be here



Roseanne Korfant
Activities Coordinator,
JSA Medical Group

for a couple of weeks or months and then they are gone, but on average we get about 20 new families a week who sign up," said Bullaro.

The pantry, which gives each family a 40- to 50-pound box of food every two weeks, has more than 1,200 families signed up

for aid.

"I have to look at the big picture and see how much food we have to distribute," said Bullaro, who credits community volunteer ef-

forts for keeping the wolf from the door of local pantries.

"You feel so bad when people come in here; you want to give them the shirt off your back," Bullaro said.

Korfant wants to help Bullaro, and those like him, stock their shelves year-round.

"I would hope that every pantry would get *beaucoup* pounds of foodstuffs. But beyond that we want to generate excitement about what the community is doing for its own and also encourage folks

to continue to do this," Korfant said.

Caring Castle is about building awareness and relationships with "those people who can help the pantries and for those people who need the help to let them know where to go. JSA wants to promote a healthy lifestyle so this is also an overall part of lifestyle awareness as well."

Where to donate

Canned and non-perishable food stuffs can be donated at the JSA Activity Center, 787 Cortaro Dr., Sun City Center, behind the Burger King on SR 674.

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RCMA School Board Meeting Notice

The RCMA School Board Meeting will take place on Monday, Jan. 27. The meeting will be held at the RCMA Leadership Academy, 18236 US Hwy 301 S., Wimauma. The School Board Meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. and is open to the public. If you have questions or concerns, please call Angie Alfaro at (239) 658-3560, ext. 224.

NEW CAR REVIEW

Redesigned Toyota Avalon Hybrid an admirable gas sipper

■ By NITISH S. RELE
motoringtampabay@gmail.com

You can essentially go 650 miles on a full tank in the redesigned Toyota Avalon hybrid. That's at about 39 mpg in city or highway driving. Not bad, though the front-wheel-drive ride is priced at \$41,400. But then this is luxury on wheels. For 2013, the sedan is wider, lower and shorter by 2 inches than its predeces-

sor. The 2014 model continues without any substantial changes except a backup camera is now standard on all trims.

A 2.5-liter DOHC inline-4 cylinder gas engine develops just 156 horsepower @ 5700 rpm and 156 pounds-feet of torque @ 4500 rpm. It is coupled to an electric motor, which boasts hp up to 200. Zero to 60 mph is clocked at around 8 seconds. The sedan also

is fitted with a 244.8-volt nickel-metal hydride battery, which is recharged by energy captured as the driver applies the brakes or coasts. Also, the Continuous Variable Transmission-equipped car gets a regenerative braking system. When the car is coasting or the brakes are applied, the electric power functions as a generator, capturing kinetic energy that would normally be lost as heat through the brakes. Instead, it converts the energy into useable electricity for recharging the batteries.

The Avalon operates in three modes: EV, which allows the car to travel for about a mile at 20 mph in perfect conditions; Eco, which is an efficient mode where the driver can control the throttle opening; sport, for the enthusiast behind the wheel. Just keep an eye on the needle-type Hybrid System Indicator and you will eke out substantial fuel savings.

That this is a hybrid version of the sedan is evident from the blue tint in the Toyota emblems as well as the badging on both front side doors. The revised and now sharp-appearing Avalon gets a longer flowing roof line, larger grille opening flanked by HID quad headlights, LED daytime running lights and wide-angled fog lamps.

White-ice interior ambient lights enhance the cabin look and feel along with striking wood that dots the dashboard.

Other niceties include three-zone auto climate control, power rear sunshade and moon roof, 10-way power driver and 8-way front-passenger seats, heated and cooled front seats and perforated leather seats. Storage bins are abundant in the 102.3 cubic feet of passenger space though the trunk area is limited because of the battery.

Forget your grandfather's bulky Avalon. The revamped hybrid version is attractive, practical and an excellent gas sipper (at a somewhat hefty price!) that will take you to Atlanta and beyond on a tank in comfort and style.

AVALON HYBRID (LIMITED)

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Length: 195.2 inches

Suspension: independent

MacPherson strut front; dual-link rear

Steering: electric power

Weight: 3,585 pounds

Fuel capacity: 17 gallons

Test drive the Avalon hybrid at Toyota of Lakewood, 5959 E. SR 64 in Bradenton, call 1-877-261-5187 or visit www.toyotaoflakewood.com.



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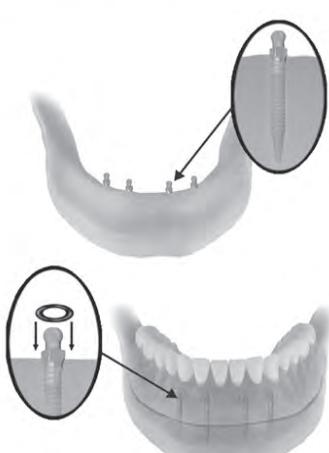
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2014 Toyota Avalon hybrid (Limited).



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"As tax season approaches, many Florida families and business owners are facing the arduous task of preparing their financials and may need to hire a CPA," said Ken Lawson, Secretary of DBPR. "There are many financial and tax professionals that can assist with various financial needs, but only CPAs are licensed by the state and can provide specific services."

Licensed CPAs have successfully passed the Uniform CPA Examination, in addition to meeting the necessary education and experience requirements mandated by Florida law. CPAs are licensed to perform audits, reviews and

compilations, as well as express opinions of financial statements that provide a level of assurance regarding the reliability or fairness of the financial information at hand.

Before any work necessitating a licensed CPA is performed, consumers should always verify the individual's State of Florida professional license, which can be verified online at www.myfloridalicense.com or by calling 850-487-1395.

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation's mission is to license efficiently and regulate fairly. The Department licenses and regulates more than one million businesses and professionals ranging from hotels and restaurants, real estate agents and certified public accountants to veterinarians, contractors and cosmetologists. For more information, visit www.MyFloridaLicense.com.



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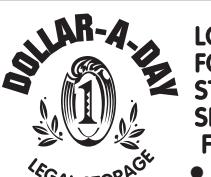
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More Roofing at top of next column...

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Gasp!arilla invades Tampa on Saturday



If you find yourself suddenly in need of beads, the solution to your problem is rapidly approaching. The "unsuspecting" city of Tampa is due for its annual invasion on Saturday with the pirate ship Jose Gaspar leading an armada into the city. The invasion begins at 11:30 a.m., the 3.8 mile Gasparilla street parade runs from 2 to 5:30 p.m., with the Pirate Street Festival running all day in Downtown Tampa from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. For parade maps and more event information, visit www.gasparillapiratefest.com.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN FILE PHOTOS

Are you over 65?

Did you know people over 65 have a **50% higher** likelihood of developing Skin Cancer?

NOW ACCEPTING TRICARE PRIME



CALL TODAY for your FREE Skin Cancer Screening

Call 813-634-1455 to reserve your spot

The Skin Cancer Centers / Dermatology Associates

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4002 Sun City Center Blvd., Unit 102 • Sun City Center, FL 33573 (One Block West of the Hospital)

WWW.THESKINCANCERCENTERS.COM

"SOUTH HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY'S ONLY FELLOWSHIP TRAINED MOHS SURGEON"



17th Annual Kumquat Festival

**SATURDAY,
JANUARY 25, 2014
9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.**

**HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
DADE CITY, FLORIDA**



COME SEE US AT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL!

Tour the Kumquat Growers Packing House on Thursday or Friday Prior To The Festival!

Here is your opportunity to visit the area in the days PRIOR to the Festival and tour the Kumquat Growers Packing House. These free tours will be on Jan. 23-24, 10 am - 3 pm.
Learn more at www.kumquatgrowers.com/openhouse.html
or by calling 352-588-2761 or 352-567-3769

Presented By



For more information contact the Dade City Chamber of Commerce at 352-567-3769.

www.dadecitychamber.org

A SOUTHEAST TOURISM SOCIETY TOP 20 EVENT

Observations

► Continued from page 23
share yours with someone, particularly those you love and trust. If you don't feel you have anyone, then you have me. I'll keep or share your story as appropriate. This is life we are talking about. Life in all its glory, boredom, minutiae and wonder. A life lived is a life that should be remembered, at least carried forward by someone to keep us alive, in a sense, even after we are gone. I know from experience in hearing so many incredible stories in my years of working for this newspaper that absolutely everyone has a story worth knowing. It is, in fact, a privilege to have someone share their story with you. I have been privileged many times and for that I am grateful.

Godspeed, Leesa, from a child who was smitten by you and a man who is belatedly so very impressed with you. Thank you for your life.

To help local animals, visit C.A.R.E. at www.careshelter.org, Critter Mama Rescue at <http://crittermamarescue.org> or Hillsborough County Animal Services at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices.

For more stories and photos, follow Mitch Traphagen on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mitchtraphagen.



You're Invited Heart Institute Grand Opening Event



Ever-Evolving Heart Care

St. Joseph's Hospital is proud to announce the opening of the new Heart Institute. This 35,000-square-foot facility will provide the most advanced and comprehensive care for all of your cardiovascular needs.

Be among the first to see this new facility at the free grand opening celebration on February 6. Activities will include:

- Facility tours
- Healthy heart screenings (includes blood pressure, glucose and body mass index)
- De-stress massages
- American Heart Association Heart Saver hands-on CPR demonstration
- Nurse, dietitian and fitness educator available to answer your questions
- Heart-healthy snacks and refreshments
- Enter to win Valentine's Day gift

Registration is encouraged. Space is limited.

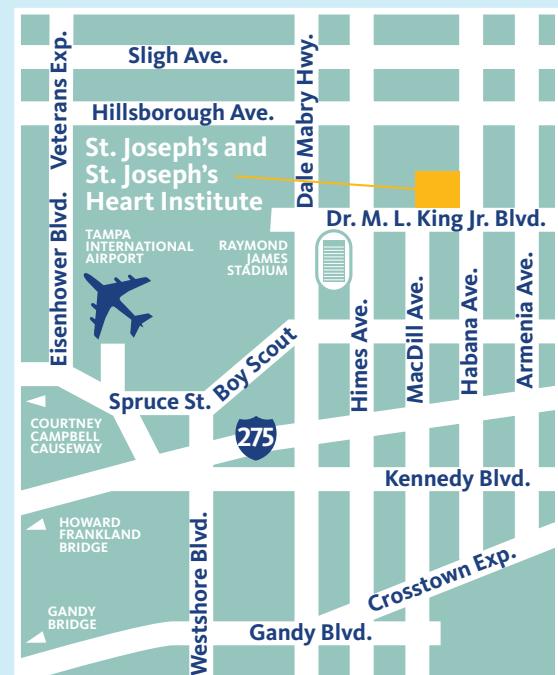
Register today: (813) 644-4391 | BayCareEvents.org

 **St. Joseph's Hospitals**
BayCare Health System

Heart Institute

**Journey to a
Healthy Heart**
**Thursday
February 6**
8–11am

St. Joseph's Hospital
Heart Institute
3001 W. Dr. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd., Tampa



Enter the hospital campus from
Habana Avenue and follow event signs.