

INSIDE:



The Have a Heart Caring Castle is officially taking donations. This week Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry is highlighted. See [page 5](#)



Neighbors are helping a burned out Riverview family amid worries that code violations are adding up. See [page 17](#)

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THE OBSERVER NEWS

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Behind the scenes at

Dry Creek

The little show that could proves it can

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

In Manhattan's W Hotel, Les McDowell no doubt felt a sense of awe in gathering with some of the biggest names in the television industry. It wasn't that he was in awe of the personalities; as an award-winning former Tampa Bay area country music radio host he was accustomed to working with big names. Rather, he must have thought about the path that led him there, to a television awards ceremony in New York City. His path didn't include multimillion-dollar production budgets backed by networks and actors that were household names. His path was more of a rutted dirt road, formed by the hooves of horses and wagon wheels.

Industry professionals turn out to help bring family programming back to television

It was a path created by passion, dedication and sheer faith.

Les McDowell dreams. And then he makes those dreams come true. Shortly after signing off of the radio airwaves, he found himself with time, idle hands that yearned to be active, and a mind filled with dreams and ideas. On his 40-acre ranch near Parrish, he began building an 1880s town, which, on the surface, at least, was to be a backdrop for cowboy poetry that he broadcast via a YouTube channel. Beneath the surface, it is likely he was building a time machine, a place from another era when things seemed clearer than they do today. It was a place where problems are much like we have now, but the solutions were apparently so much

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Survivor of Mariel Boat Lift named HCC Dean of Students

By **PENNY FLETCHER**
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Yaima Serrano's story is somewhat like the one about President Abraham Lincoln growing up in a log cabin and studying law by candlelight.

It's every bit as impressive because it shows how a child of refugees learned a new language and grew up to excel in a challenging field and now helps other students do the same.

Yaima Serrano has been named the new dean of Student Services at Hillsborough Community College's South County campus. And that's quite a change from her early life, which wasn't easy. In fact, if it hadn't been for the perseverance and fortitude of her parents, Vilma and Pedro Rodriguez, she could have ended up living in a tent in Cuba begging for food.

A survivor of the Mariel Boat Lift, now called by some the Freedom Flotilla, Serrano was one of the 125,000 Cubans who made it to Florida in 1980 between April 15 and Oct. 31 on small boats, rafts and anything else that would float.

She was a baby then, and now has no memory of the event, only the stories from her parents, who were also interviewed by email for this story.

"My mother was 17 and my dad was 21," said Serrano in her HCC office with floor-to-ceiling glass overlooking the front of the campus. "But even though they were married, in Cuba my mother still had to have the permission of her parents — my grandmother — before she could leave."



Yaima Serrano was named Dean of Student Services at Hillsborough Community College's South County campus Jan. 17. She has been with the college in many positions, starting as a clerk in 1998. Serrano is one of the people who came from Cuba during the famous Mariel Boat Lift of 1980, which is now often referred to as "Operation Freedom Flotilla."

Serrano's office is a lifetime away from when she was taken below deck during the Mariel Boat Lift.

"The captain allowed my mother to take me below, because I was so young and people were vomiting." There were no restroom facilities on most of the boats used in the lift either, so many got very ill.

Her parents remember that the weather was bad and the water very rough. But they said, "If we had to do it all over again we wouldn't think twice. There's nothing more important than a

► Continued on page 11

SouthShore Chamber honors businesses, volunteers, Dickman family

By **MITCH TRAPHAGEN**
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Chamber of Commerce annual dinners generally aren't surprising affairs, but organizers for the SouthShore Chamber dinner, held on Friday at the Del Webb South Shore Falls Clubhouse in Apollo Beach, were surprised by at least one thing: Members of the area business community turned out in force for it, driving attendance to capacity levels.

"This has been a wonderful place to hold this

event," said Melanie Morrison, chamber executive director, while looking out at the full tables spanning the length of the large meeting room in the development. "But next year we'll need to find a bigger space."

Morrison also spoke about how increasingly visible the growing success of South Hillsborough has become in greater Tampa Bay.

The event was designed to be relaxed and fun, with the attire ranging from suits and ties

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

SouthShore Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Melanie Morrison with Glenn and Ned Dickman as the chamber recognized and thanked the Dickman family for its long support of area businesses and the community.

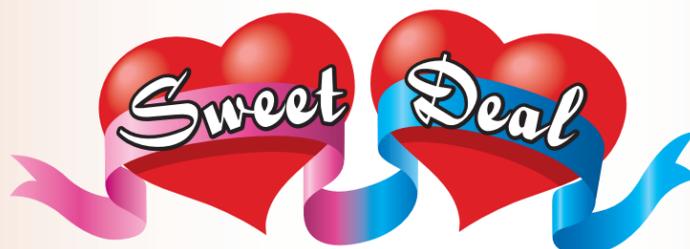


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“Doc, I can’t live with this excruciating foot and leg pain!”

When you hear this from a patient it gets your attention. Typically, I get the worst of the worst pain patients but when I recently heard this exclamation, my attention was particularly piqued. Let’s call this patient Bob. Bob is 62 years old with neuropathy in his hands and feet. He had poorly controlled Type II Diabetes and his life was literally as he described “a living hell.” Clearly he was coming to the end of his rope. The nerves in his legs and feet were damaged and he was in HORRIBLE CONSTANT PAIN!

I can’t Sleep at Night!

He complained to me, “I can’t sleep at night because my legs feel like they are being eaten by little bugs or chewed on by small animals.” During the day, he could hardly walk and every step sent shooting pain like lightning from his toes and up his legs up almost to his knees. He has numbness in his feet and couldn’t feel his feet very well and had terrible balance problems. He was worried he might fall and injure himself. He said that he could not go on living with this constant, debilitating pain that had made every day a tragedy.

I had to help This Man!

I recently was fortunate enough to accidentally discover a new noninvasive and non-drug treatment for severe and constant foot and leg pain caused by Neuropathy.

I learned about a new type of non-surgical and painless high tech treatment that was working wonders with severe, constant chronic pain, including pain caused by Neuropathy.

It had the ability to quickly increase circulation to an area (much needed in neuropathy patient). It could reduce and/ or eliminate pain in as little as a few treatments and was changing the lives of patients with severe debilitating pain in offices across the nation.

Based on the research about this new type of technology and because of the almost immediate type of pain relief, I had to have one of these deep tissue treatments in my facility no matter what the cost.

I invested and implemented this new treatment that utilized state of the art pain relieving therapies as well as other therapies, all customized to the patient’s particular needs.

I enrolled in extensive training. My staff and I witnessed some amazing reductions and eliminations of



some of the worst pain syndromes I have ever seen... And it was FAST! After just a few minutes of treatment on patients with extreme chronic pain of the worst kind, including neuropathy of the feet and legs, we had patients telling us how their pain levels had decreased and they were shocked. **Some of them had their pain even alleviated after only one treatment.**

We were able to reduce or even eliminate neuropathy pain of the worst kind.

I now offer a noninvasive, non-surgical and painless neuropathy pain treatment. I help patients reduce or eliminate their neuropathy pain using a combination of natural therapies, customized to each individual patient’s needs. These therapies may include a possible combination of: Nutritional therapies, specific

non-surgical, noninvasive relaxing re-integration and stimulation of peripheral nerves, vibration therapy, laser therapy, myofascial release, and more.

Here’s what some patients have said about their treatments: My experience with Sarasota Spine and Nerve:

I am a vigorously active 69 year-old-man. For two years, I have pursued various medical specialists and solutions seeking relief from my agonizing affliction with Neuropathy in my feet. I had become completely frustrated with surgical, pharmacological and exercise therapies that were prescribed for



me. “Masking” the pain, burning and numbness were not acceptable solutions. All that changed when I was introduced to Dr. Tyson and Sarasota Spine and Nerve. The integrated regimen of Neuroanalgesic, lower extremity circulatory massage and vibration therapy, combined with a carefully crafted combination of nutritional supplementation and lifestyle management, have resulted in an extraordinary improvement in my condition. My overall improvements in comfort and physical agility have been nothing short of amazing. I have experienced dramatically reduced pain and burning, improved balance and agility, and gained a level of recovery I never thought possible. The staff at the clinic is simply incredible. I am deeply indebted to Dr. Tyson and the staff at Sarasota Spine and Nerve.

-Milton Brown, Valrico, FL

When I came to Sarasota Spine and Nerve I never dreamed that anything would change. My hands and feet were so painful that I could hardly bear it. I was taking pain medication two times a day and sometimes a third if needed. It was

painful to wash my hands. They felt like they had been fried. My fingernails even hurt. My feet were terrible. I couldn’t stand for anything to touch them. Wearing shoes was miserable. Now I can tell a big difference. Before I started this treatment it even hurt to clap my hands, but not anymore. Thank you God, Dr. Tyson and all of your staff at Sarasota Spine and Nerve.

-Brenda Hill, (Retired) Sarasota, FL

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Tampa Bay's largest ecosystem restoration project kicks off near Ruskin

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

The Southwest Florida Water Management District, along with state and local officials, kicked off on Monday what is heralded as the Tampa Bay area's largest ecosystem restoration project, known

as the Rock Ponds Ecosystem Restoration.

Located near Ruskin, south of Cockroach Bay and just off County Line Road, along the Hillsborough and Manatee counties line, the multiphase project is an initiative to restore various

coastal habitats for Tampa Bay. The project is part of a Surface Water Improvement and Management program that has already been performed on the north side of Cockroach Bay.

The project is unique not only for its size and scope but also for the preservation of a large parcel of coastal land, an increasingly rare commodity as Florida continues to develop.

The 779-acre project, part of a larger, 2,500-acre project, will include 381 acres of restored coastal uplands and 398 acres of restored freshwater and estuarine wetlands. The restoration is intended to offset habitat losses suffered throughout Tampa Bay, and thus provide space for the public and for the thousands of coastal species that live within the Tampa Bay ecosystem.

This is a wonderful effort by local partners," said Robert Beltran, executive director of Southwest Florida Water Management District. "We have worked to find a balance between human and environmental needs."



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard Jr. speaks during the kickoff event for the Rock Ponds Ecosystem Restoration Project near Ruskin. He praised the cooperation of many agencies in making the restoration possible.



Located on County Line Road south of Ruskin, the project is being heralded as the largest ecosystem restoration in the Tampa Bay area. Once completed, it will link nearly 20 miles of conservation land north and south of Cockroach Bay.

Beltran spoke about the thousands of acres that have been restored in greater Tampa Bay over the years, and of the enormous scope of the current project. "One point six million cubic yards of dirt will be moved in this project," he said. "That is enough to stretch from Miami all the way to Tampa."

Once a series of pits created by the commercial excavation of shells and sand, the land will be restored to provide public access and a home for thousands of species of wildlife.

Attending the kickoff event on Monday were Herschel T. Vinyard Jr., secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Carlos Beruff, the Southwest Florida Water Management District board chairman; and Jack Carlisle, director of the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department.

The event also included a symbolic tree planting, with the commemorative tree donated by Florida Natives Nursery.

The nearly \$12 million project is being funded from state grants, as well as grants from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and other sources. Once complete, the project will connect nearly 20 continuous miles of

conservation land north and south of Cockroach Bay in the Ruskin area.

Financial support was provided by the Gardinier Trust Fund, via the Florida and Hillsborough County departments of environmental protection, the Hillsborough County Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program, and the Tampa Bay Environmental Fund / National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as well as from state funds from various trust funds.

The event nearly coincided with World Wetlands Day, Feb. 2, first so proclaimed in 1997.

The Rock Ponds Ecosystem Restoration Project is located at 4480 County Line Road, just south of Ruskin.

Volunteer needed for help with newsletter

Mary & Martha House, a non-profit organization providing emergency shelter and transitional housing for homeless and abused women and their children, is looking for someone with the skills needed to help produce a newsletter for the organization.

Since the organization is non-profit, the position would be on a volunteer basis.

Anyone with computer experience with newsletters and layout, and who has a few hours to donate to a good cause, is encouraged to call Mary & Martha House at (813) 645-7874 for information on hours and days.

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Positive Talk: Fix faults and forget them

English novelist Elizabeth Gaskell said, "People may flatter themselves just as much by thinking that their faults are always present to other people's minds, as if they believe that the world is always contemplating their individual charms and virtues." Don't concentrate on your faults and few others will. Correct your faults and then forget them. Sounds simple, doesn't it? But it is much more difficult to do than seems reasonable. I know that in my years on this Earth, I have continually strived to correct my faults, but some of them persist in dogging me long after they are gone. How is this possible, you ask? It is possible for two reasons.

The primary way is that along with the fault came a memory, and the memory is so strong that even though we are not engaged in the activity we called a fault, the guilt feelings are still there and easily triggered. For example, a friend of mine is an alcoholic. For five years, he has been sober and part of Alcoholics Anonymous. Yet he cannot put the guilt feelings behind him for his actions during the time in which he drank to excess. Intellectually, he knows that during that time he was sick and the sickness was the cause of his actions. But emotionally, he holds onto the blame. He is not unlike a child who overeats and becomes obese. Even in later life, when the child grows into an adult of normal

weight, he may be cursed to think of himself as fat all of his life.

Second, there are some among us who feel it is their God-given duty to make sure people around them never forget the fact that they are not now or never will be perfect. These people revel in finding fault in others and dredging up past faults if there are no new transgressions to harp on. They rarely, if ever, update their tapes to reflect changes for the better in their targets. Like heat-seeking missiles, they are deadly at finding sore spots in their prey. These sore spots, again, are the guilt feelings from previous actions. When poked at, they will not heal. In fact, when the effort to improve is not praised, but rather criticized, there is a very strong chance improvement will cease and that old habit patterns will resume.

In the first instance, the only way to correct the situation is to forgive yourself for past actions. Recognize that you are not perfect and that fallible creatures will make mistakes. In fact, the person who does not make mistakes was probably hired by one who did. The wonder of the human creature is that we learn and grow from our mistakes.

In the second instance, recognize that anyone who derives their self worth from finding fault in others has more problems than you do. People who have nothing better to do than call attention to those who

fall are small people indeed. They can have an effect on you only so long as you value their opinion. In the first instance, I suggested that you forgive yourself. In this instance, I suggest you forgive them. That may seem to be strange advice, but when you do this, you cease to be a target worthy of pursuing.

Never forget you are unique, you are special, and you are great. If you are to achieve your potential, correct your faults, and then forget them. It is the best thing you can do for yourself because it frees up memory for positive pursuits and more pleasant thoughts.

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, that airs Mondays at 8 p.m. (Bright House channel 950, Verizon channel 30) and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (BH channel 949, Verizon channel 36). The shows can also be viewed at www.hodgesvideos.com. Phone: (813) 641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com



By William Hodges

Support group formed for gays, lesbians

The South Shore Coalition on Mental Health and Aging has started a new support group for gays and lesbians.

This short-term (five sessions) group will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. on Thursdays, starting Feb. 20, at the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce.

The group will be facilitated by Sandra McCaw, Ed.S, CPC, Certified Professional Life Coach. Sandra is a former certified group therapist at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Manhattan.

For more information, call Sandra at (973) 902-8401.



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Mary Todd Lincoln comes alive

On Saturday, Feb. 8, the Performing Arts Company presents Carlyn Laurent as Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in *Whatever Became of Mary Lincoln?*

Performances will be at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the Rollins Theater, 970 Cherry Hills Dr. in Sun City Center. Tickets are \$12 and are available at the SCC Atrium Kiosk, weekdays from 9 a.m. - noon, or via credit card by calling (813) 400-7803.

Whatever Became of Mary Lincoln? is a one-woman play that will have its premier performance at the Rollins. Through many of Mary Todd Lincoln's own words, audiences will relive her troubled childhood; her time as a fun-loving socialite; and her years as a young mother, vilified presidential wife, grieving mother, and shattered widow. Laurent has performed on radio, television, telethons, in commercials and has entertained at conventions. She has been writing professionally for 40 years: weekly newspaper and monthly magazine columns, feature articles, advertising copy, theatrical publicity, as well as the historical play *Whatever Became of Mary Lincoln?*

For more information and details on the shows, call the ticket line at (813) 400-7803 or visit the PAC website at www.PerformingArtsCompany-SCC.org.

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Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry serving more seniors

The second in a series of articles on South County food banks benefiting from the "Have A Heart Caring Castle" community food drive co-sponsored by JSA Medical Group and The Observer News, The SCC Observer and The Current.



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

The number of families using Sun City Center's Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry has increased 65 percent over the last year, and more seniors than ever are lining up every weekend to put food on the table.

"This time last year our average was about 110 families a week," said Tom Bullaro, co-director of the pantry with his wife Anita. "It's up to 170 now."

Most of his customers are from Wimauma, Bullaro said, adding "We have seen at least a 10 percent increase in the number of seniors coming to the pantry over the last year."

Started in 2000 when Our Lady of Guadalupe volunteers handed out food on Saturday mornings, the pantry has grown into one of the county's largest, helping as many as 200 Sun City Center, Wimauma and Balm families a week. That, said Bullaro, has grown into a four-day-a-week operation with 40 volunteers.

"When I started nine years ago we were serving 50 families a week," he said. "Now we average about 170 a week, although we sometimes get 200."

Each family is eligible to receive 50 to 60 pounds of food every two weeks at Our Lady of Guadalupe. "The typical box includes a lot of protein so we give them meat, rice, peanut butter and jelly, vegetables and potatoes, and we make sure everyone gets the same amount," Bullaro said. "It's not enough to last them for two weeks, but it will last them at least a week. I know many also use other local pantries to supplement what they receive from us."

Helping to keep the pantry's shelves stocked are donations from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center and the InterFaith Council of Sun City Center via the Nearly New Shop. Weekly collections at the church also help.

Project Hunger, a food and financial donation drive on the third weekend of the month at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, also helps keep the wolf from the pantry's door. That project is run by the Knights of Columbus chapter 7282. "That amounts to more than \$25,000 a year that we can buy food with," Bullaro said.



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

Tom Bullaro, far right, co-director of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry says volunteers, some of whom are pictured above, are the backbone of the pantry. "We couldn't do it without them," Bullaro said.

Those donations provide Bullaro with about \$1,000 a week to spend on food at Feeding America Tampa Bay, buying about 1,800 pounds of food. Feeding America, a regional food bank, serves pantries throughout Tampa Bay.

While the church, which also runs a popular thrift shop, donates space for the food bank to operate, Bullaro, a retired homebuilder from Pennsylvania, ensures that the pantry pays its own way as

much as possible. He said, "We are currently looking for new freezers, and people have said 'just get the money from the thrift shop,' but we don't receive any funding from the thrift shop. That goes to operate the church mission."

A welcoming and professional attitude pervades the food pantry. Bullaro said he and his staff make sure of that.

"No one looks down on anyone who comes here for help," he said. "God said help the poor, and that's what we are doing. We don't want the people to feel down and out.

We want them to feel they are just as good as anyone else. They need help and we are here to help."

Working at the pantry has become almost full time for Bullaro, as it has for his staff.

"I am forever trying to get more food for the pantry," he said. "It takes a lot of work but the volunteers are a very dedicated group of people."

Bobbi Burnette is one of those volunteers. Burnette, at the pantry two years, said, "I think because of the economy and the increased

Continued on page 31



Connecting our mission to our communities

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- Reduce listening effort in noisy environments.
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- Enhance phone calls
- Virtually eliminates whistling and buzzing
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• The Outer Ear

When sound waves reach the ear, they are gathered by the funnel-shaped outer ear and channeled into the middle ear. Sometimes hearing loss can be easily and quickly corrected by clearing blockage that can occur from wax build up.

Years of using q-tips to clean your ears can embed layers of wax so tightly that it affects your ability to hear clearly. That's why the first part of your ear exam will be with an otoscope to determine if there is any blockage that can open up your ear canal and allow you to enjoy the beauty of unmuted sound again.

• The Middle Ear

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

• The Inner Ear

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

Why Do People Delay Addressing Hearing Loss?

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

Accepting & Correcting Your Hearing Loss

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

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

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

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

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

To Schedule Your FREE HEARING TEST
CALL ANY OF THE LOCATIONS LISTED BELOW TODAY!
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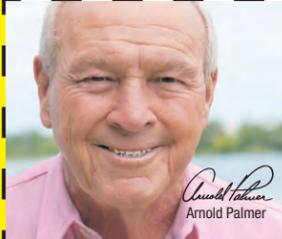
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How Hearing Is Tested

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

What Hearing Tests Show

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

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

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



Thomas Edison Suffered From Hearing Loss!

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

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

20 Locations in the Tampa/St. Pete Area, one just minutes from you - www.floridahearing.com

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

Upcoming Events

Friday 6 p.m. Feather Your Nest.
Saturday, Feb. 8 5 p.m. Steak dinner. 6:30 p.m. Music by the Myakka Band.
Sunday 6 p.m. Feather Your Nest. \$1 draft beer all day and evening.
Monday 6 p.m. Bingo.
Tuesday \$1 draft beer all day and evening.
Wednesday Come on down and socialize.

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

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 Elks and their guests.

Every Wednesday — Best Spaghetti in Town - \$7, All You Can Eat, for 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 Elks and their guests from 5 to 7 p.m. \$8. Music by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.

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

SouthShore Regional Library Kids program/event highlights

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

Teen Game Zone — Thursday, Feb. 6, 5:30 p.m.

Teen gamers, come join us as we plug our Xbox 360, Wii and PlayStation into our large projector screens for two hours of gaming.

Bedtime Stories — Thursday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.

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

Teen Advisory Board Meeting — Thursday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.

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

Stuffed Animal Slumber Party — Saturday, Feb. 8, 10:30 a.m.

For ages 4-8 ~ Ever wonder what it would be like to spend the night at the Library? Your furry friend has the chance to find out! Bring your stuffed animal friend to the Library by 5:30 p.m. on Friday (Feb. 7) and leave them overnight where they will enjoy a slumber party with other stuffed animal friends. On Saturday, come back at 10:30 a.m. for a story time and picture review of all the activities your stuffed animal did overnight! Parents, please make sure your little one can do without their stuffed friend overnight. Registration is required. Please register at the Information Desk or call (813) 273 3652. Stuffed animals can be dropped off any time before 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7.

Baby Time — Monday, Feb. 10, 1:35 p.m.

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

Toddler Time - Tuesday, Feb. 11, 10:05 and 10:35 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10:35 a.m.

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

Pee Wee Artists: Let's Create! - Tuesday, Feb. 11, 10:30 a.m.

Pee Wee Artists, 3-5 years with caregiver, will join our art instructor and have fun creating an art project to take home. Limit 18. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling (813) 273-3652.

Story Time - Tuesday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, 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.

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



Apollo Beach Elementary names Students of the Month

The Students of the Month at Apollo Beach Elementary School are: Madelyn Ahlgren, Sam Botwinski, Brooke Brandenburg, Jayden Collier, Madeleine Cook, Sam Cooper, Christopher Davis, Stephen Difede, Emelie Distefano, Emiko Dutcher, Jake Foster, Mauricio Hernandez, Jordyn Hinegardner, Blake Huff, Teresa Huff, Jessica Huynh, Logan Juszczak, Luna Laureano-Leon, Darrell Lee, Carter Menotti, Madison Mongeau, Jaylen Morris, Jalyn Morton, Brayden Nystedt, Ayonna Oberting, Alberto Ramos, John Rees, Sophia Robinson, Xavier Robinson, Sophia Rosenberg, Hannah Selke, Gavin Smoak, Luzmaria Torres, Caitlin Wade, Jacob Wolf, Shelby Woolbright, Cassie Wortner, Anna Wright and Chase Wykes. Patrol: Dax Corr. The Student of the Month program is sponsored by the South Shore Kiwanis Club.



Grocery delivery service holds ribbon cutting

Kris White, owner of Bull Bagger, cuts the ribbon on Jan. 29 in a ceremony at the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce. Bull Bagger is a new grocery delivery service that shops for you at Walmart, Publix and Winn Dixie. For every delivery fee, \$1 is donated to Feeding America. For more information, visit www.bullbagger.com.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary holds Change of Watch ceremony

They're known as "America's Volunteer Livesavers," the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary who donate their time, energy, money and expertise to help America's boating public avoid costly and heartbreaking accidents and deaths on our waterways. They can be found along our coastlines and in the nation's heartland, teaching safe boating classes, offering free vessel examinations and patrolling the waterways to ensure our trips and excursions are trouble-free.

On Jan. 8, Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 75, of Ruskin conducted its annual Change of Watch, ensuring a seamless transition of outgoing elected and appointed officers to new, as well as inducting a new member and awarding others for their years of dedicated service.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2014. Established by an Act of Congress in 1939 as the Coast Guard Reserve to recruit boat owners to help patrol the East and West Coasts, the Auxiliary was re-organized in 1941. The organization is based on four cornerstones: Member Services, Operations and

Marine Safety, Recreational Boating Safety, and Fellowship.

Flotilla 75 (Ruskin) celebrated its 54th anniversary in December. During that time, it has quietly served the boating public in Lower Hillsborough Bay. Monthly business meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Ruskin Senior Center. The public is always invited. The unit is looking for a permanent home to conduct safe boating classes, member training, and a place to store all the equipment required to accomplish its mission.

To learn more about Coast Guard Auxiliary membership, contact Judy Clapp: 813-633-5416; scjudy@msn.com.

To register for a boating safety class or schedule a courtesy vessel examination, contact Guy Mandigo: 813-641-2488; auxmandigo@earthlink.net.



Have a (healthy) heart by visiting the wellness bus for free screenings in Riverview

February is Heart Month, and BayCare Health System's wellness buses are on the roll, offering heart health screenings across the area. On Saturday, Feb. 22, these screenings will be offered from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hospital-South, Physician Office Building, 10141 Big Bend Rd. in Riverview.

The free health screenings include blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol and Body Mass Index. Participants will get an overall snapshot of their heart health and tips for a healthier life from BayCare's heart health specialists.

Registration is required; call (855) 546-6304.

Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death for Americans and claim more lives than all forms of cancer combined, according to the American Heart Association. About 83.6 million Americans are living with some form of heart disease or after-effects of stroke. Heart disease accounts for 1 in 6 deaths in the United States.

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



Never put anything smaller than your elbow in your ear.

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

FREE Ear Canal Inspection and Hearing Screening for a Limited Time Only! Monday Thru Friday - February 10th - 14th

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

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Trade-in offer is subject to participation and quantity limitations. No other offers or discounts apply. Discount does not apply to prior sales.

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Wow your Valentine with songs

Par for the Chorus quartets will be available for 'singing valentines' on Feb. 13, 14 and 15. For a \$30 fee, the recipient will hear two love songs sung to them by one of the group's quartets, and will also receive a live rose.

For appointments, call Pat at (813) 922-6233, or Dorothy at (813) 642-9905.



Calling all kettles!

Good Samaritan Mission needs help to organize its first annual Ladies Tea Party.

Specifically, the Mission needs electric kettles, teapots, teacups and saucers to complete the event.

The event is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15, in the banquet room of the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are \$15 per person.

Attendees will be treated to a selection of gourmet teas and their choice of sweet and savory refreshments. The program will include entertainment provided by members of the Florida Boy Choirs.

The SCC Chamber is located at 1651 Sun City Center Plaza.

To donate or to purchase tickets, call the Mission at (813) 634-7136.

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



2013 IndyCar Rookie of the Year Tristan Vautier

Sunday's Race for a Cure to feature IndyCar Rookie of the Year

Tristan Vautier, the 2013 IndyCar Rookie of the Year, will join organizers of the Race for a Cure for MS this Sunday, Feb. 9, at the Anderson Race Park in Palmetto. He will be available for pictures and autographs, and will also participate in the Enduro Race.

The event starts at 8 a.m. and continues to 5 p.m., with the Enduro Race from 2-4 p.m. Participants driving 9hp/45 mph Indy-style carts will have a chance to compete with the IndyCar superstar.

The cost is \$25 for the first session, including safety gear and training; each additional session is \$20. Participants may put a team together and compete in the Enduro Race.

Prizes will be awarded to drivers who set the fastest lap in their age group. Food, beverages, music and educational materials will also be available.

All proceeds benefit the National MS Society.

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Choose from:

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All entrees served with vegetables Du Jour and your choice of side. All items come with House Salad or Cup of Soup.

Sunday Brunch

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Featuring:

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Cypress Creek Golf Club

1011 Cypress Village Blvd., Ruskin

Please call for reservation **813-440-4576 Ext. 2**

LUNCH: Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

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

ACLU director to speak to South Shore Dems

South Shore Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting, Thursday, Feb. 13, at SouthShore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin.

Program begins with refreshments at 1:30 p.m. and a Meet 'n Greet at 1 p.m.

Voter suppression efforts, pending immigration legislation and other Florida issues will be discussed by Joyce Hamilton Henry, director of the Tampa Regional ACLU office. Henry, an excellent speaker, brings years of experience in dealing with these topics.

All Democrats and like-minded individuals are urged to attend the meeting.

Visit www.southshoredemocraticclub.org or www.facebook.com/SS-DEMCLUB for more information.

University Women offers lowest dues

The Sun City Center/South-Shore Branch of the American Association of University Women is matching the national organization in offering a winter discount for anyone who joins between now and Saturday, March 15.

The discounted dues of \$20 allows women an easy trial period to attend monthly luncheon meetings with speakers to see if AAUW is an organization worthy of their membership in future years.

The AAUW is a national organization that focuses on pay equity for women, awards grants and offers other membership benefits.

The local branch has monthly luncheons and special events, such as the annual Women of Distinction Ceremony, that raise money for mature women scholarships to HCC/Ruskin. They also support

the state organization in its annual summer camp, selecting girls to attend a week of experiences concerning careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Any woman with at least an Associate Degree in the geographic region of Brandon south to the Manatee County Line is invited to join.

Anyone interested in membership should call Diane Waronka, membership chair, at (813) 641-2722, or Sandy Dillmuth, president, at (813) 642-0425.

Enjoy dancing at Manatee RV on Feb. 8

Manatee RV Park will host a social dance from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8 in the community's clubhouse. Music will be by Bobby Remp.

Take along your own refreshments; ice will be provided. The cost is \$5 per person, and the public is invited.

Manatee RV Park is on US Hwy 41 seven miles south of Ruskin or four miles north of the I-275 interchange.

For more information, call J. Sullivan at (603) 322-5342, or E. Rescj at (813) 649-1185.

AARP Safe Driver course offered

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

On Saturday, Feb. 8, Beggins Century 21 sponsors the AARP Safe Driver course at its Apollo Beach office at 6542 US Hwy 41.

Call (813) 645-8481 to make a reservation. Each class is six hours, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and requires a check payable to AARP. The cost for AARP members is \$15; nonmembers pay \$20. Bring a lunch, your driver's license and AARP number.



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Survivor of Mariel Boat Lift named HCC Dean of Students

► Continued from page 5

person's freedom." Because of a poor economy and people starving throughout Cuba, President Fidel Castro allowed more than 10,000 Cubans to take asylum with the Peruvian Embassy. But more had to be done.

An agreement between Cuba and the United States — and pressed by Latino Americans — gave permission for the boatloads of people to head from Cuba across

the 90 miles of rough water to Key West.

Serrano's parents were among the first to leave during the first month of the boatlift.

They were fortunate, they said, to be in a boat that had a captain. They said many people paddled on homemade rafts and anything else they could find or build.

When the boat riders first arrived, there were so many people

there was no shelter for everyone, so many, including the Serranos, were sent to California with the help of churches. There were no real living quarters for them there either. They said it was difficult to find even enough tents for so many people at once.

"My mother says it was just like the beginning of the movie *Scarface*, with tents and people everywhere" Serrano said.

Her parent's early lives were instructive, she said, and taught her never to give up.

After only a few years of day labor, her father found a permanent job at Sears, and later he was able to transfer to Tampa.

"They feared the earthquakes in California," she said. "Especially the big one, I think it was around 1987," she said.

Her father later opened his own landscaping business and also worked as a subcontractor for Sears. He learned English on the job, but Serrano learned in school.

"I remember being in classes where they were speaking English and not knowing one word that was spoken," she said.

Serrano said she can't praise the ESOL (English as a Second Language) program enough. Gradually, the English words began to make sense.

"I still think in Spanish," she said — without any accent or hesitation.

Four years after they arrived in the States, her brother Pedro was born. The family continued to progress, Serrano said, and that she was mentored by Virginia Perez, an educator. "She'll never know what it meant to me to have someone help and mentor me so much," she said.

Both Dr. Allen Witt, president of the South County college, and Kimberly French, community relations manager at HCC, praised Serrano. She was appointed dean of Student Services on Jan. 17.

Each campus has two deans, and Dr. Craig Hardesty is academic dean.

A letter from Dr. Witt explains to the faculty that Serrano was chosen after serving as assistant dean under the campus's founding dean of student services, Steven Stancil.

"Ms. Serrano has served the college for more than 13 years in progressively responsible positions of Student Services," Witt said.

According to Serrano's resume, she began as a clerical aide in 1998 and the following year was promoted to Student Assistant, helping parents and students through the financial aid process. From there she became a financial aid technician and, by 2005, a financial aid counselor. By 2008, she was managing the Financial Aid Department, and then became Student Services Manager in 2011.

She has been acting dean of Student Services throughout most of 2013.

"Ms. Serrano is one of the most talented student services professionals that I have ever worked with," Witt said. "She rose through the HCC ranks, through talent, intelligence and old-fashioned hard work. Our campus is fortunate that she applied to lead our student services team. Any community college would have been lucky to find her." Witt said he credits Stancil with recognizing that she could head the department

after his retirement.

Serrano's goals include allowing staff to be as innovative as possible, letting people "think outside the box" to find new ways of accomplishing goals and also promoting more staff and faculty interaction with students in their projects.

"I am open to suggestion and anxious to move forward," she said.

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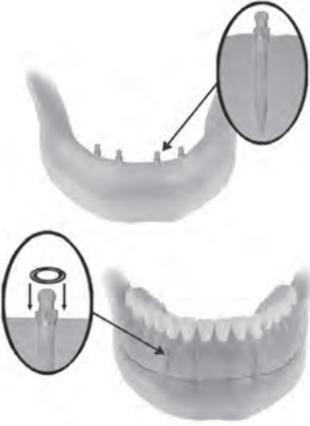
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WILLIAM KIRLAND PHOTO

CMIT Solutions of Brandon wields the scissors, holds a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Riverview Chamber

CMIT Solutions of Brandon recently played host to the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce to conduct a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating its new office space.

On Jan. 22, Ann and Matt Spire, along with their suite partner, Ac-

curate Tax & Bookkeeping Services LLC, (also conducting a ribbon-cutting), provided tours of their offices and talked to the group about their services.

CMIT takes care of computer support services for businesses, offering strategic advice and infor-

mation technology expertise.

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For more information, visit its website at www.CMITSolutions.com/Brandon.

Riverview Chamber of Commerce welcomes new members

The Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce has kicked off the new year with a monthly membership luncheon sponsored by Mosaic Fertilizer LLC. Attendees filled the room at Riverview's The Regent.

Joe Eletto, Century 21 Beggins, took the podium for the first time as 2014 Riverview Chamber president at the January meeting. After welcoming everyone and thanking the ambassadors, board members, staff and sponsors, he recapped the Annual Awards Dinner and recognized all winners.

Nancy MacLauchlan, Riverview High School DECA and marketing advisor, asked the audience to support her students' fundraising efforts so that they may attend competition.

Jennifer Whelihan of the Florida Small Business Development Center also informed the members about her services and their connection with the chamber.

David Robinson of the Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance, encouraged business owners to take advantage of the alliance's services and grants programs.

Jim Johnson, Mosaic's public affairs coordinator and chamber board member emiratus, greeted everyone and spent a few moments talking about Mosaic's global presence in the world of fertilizers, phosphates and potash. He also detailed some of the community partnerships that Mosaic has



HUTH & BOOTH PHOTO

New members of the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce.

around the world and especially in the local area.

Michael Beiter of Preservation 1st Financial Group, and Jennifer King of Rodan & Fields, took to the podium in full "Puttin' on the Ritz" regalia in order to promote the chamber's "Roaring 20th" Golf Tournament.

During the luncheon, 14 new chamber members were welcomed and awarded 2014 membership plaques to display:

- Aflac - Nick Baker
- Aflac - Salce/Spatt
- CrossFit Apogee
- Fairfield Inn and Suites
- Lifestyles After 50
- Michelle Shimberg for Hills-

borough County School Board, District 2

- Miller & Sons LLC
- Pep Boys
- Plumbing Today
- Positive Transformations PA
- Simmons Loop Baptist Church
- Socialights Connection Inc.
- TrustCo Bank

Attendees were encouraged to attend the next GRCC membership meeting luncheon set for Tuesday, Feb. 25, sponsored by *The Tampa Bay Times*. The chamber's luncheons are held the fourth Tuesday each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the public is welcome to attend. Fee for nonmembers is \$20.



Riverview Chiropractic holds ribbon-cutting ceremony

Dr. Steven J. Minafri, center foreground, of Riverview Chiropractic, cuts the ribbon at the ceremony held by the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 23. Located at 11353 Big Bend Rd., the practice offers massages and facials in addition to chiropractic treatment.

Rep. Spano to host Small Business Roundtable in Riverview

The next meeting of the quarterly *Small Business Roundtable* will from 9 to 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, at the Winthrop Barn Theatre in Riverview. Representative Ross Spano (R-Dover) will be the host.

The topic for this session is "Previewing the 2014 Small Business Legislative Agenda."

Said Spano, "Input from small-business owners who live and work right here in the community is critical to implementing an effective legislative agenda."

If you are interested in attending, email matthew.yost@myflorida-house.gov.



Riverview Branch Library

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Baby Time — Thursday, Feb. 6, 10:05 a.m.

Early literacy begins at birth. Bond with your baby through stories, bouncy rhymes and songs in this 20-minute lap-sit program that introduces early literacy skills and encourages language development. For children up to 18 months and their caregivers.

Toddler Time — Thursday, Feb. 6, 10:35 a.m.

Stories, finger plays and songs make up this fun 20-minute program that highlights early literacy skills and encourages reading readiness. For children ages 18-36 months and their caregivers.

ABCs and 123s of Yoga — Thursday, Feb. 6, 11 a.m.

For children 2 to 5 and their parent/caregivers. Kids benefit from yoga too! In this program, Lucky Cat Yoga introduces yoga to toddlers with basic yoga postures. Bring a towel or yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing.

Game Zone — Thursday, Feb. 6, 2:30 p.m.

Get in the zone and join friends for gaming fun with games such as Super Smash Bros. Brawl, Mario Kart, Super Mario Bros. and more.

Yoga 101: Intro to Yoga for Adults — Monday, Feb. 10, 10:30 a.m.

Yoga is an activity that can help heal the mind, body and soul. In this one-hour class, Erin Wheeler of Lucky Cat Yoga introduces adults to yoga. Participants will learn basic yoga postures and pranayama (yogic breathing). The class is moderately paced, allowing participants to leave with lots of energy. Participants should wear athletic or comfortable clothing and bring a mat or towel.

Managing Media — Monday, Feb. 10, 2 p.m.

For adults. Tutoring available in Microsoft software, email and the Internet.

Story Time — Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m.

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. For children 3-5 and their caregivers.

Book Discussion: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot — Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2 p.m.

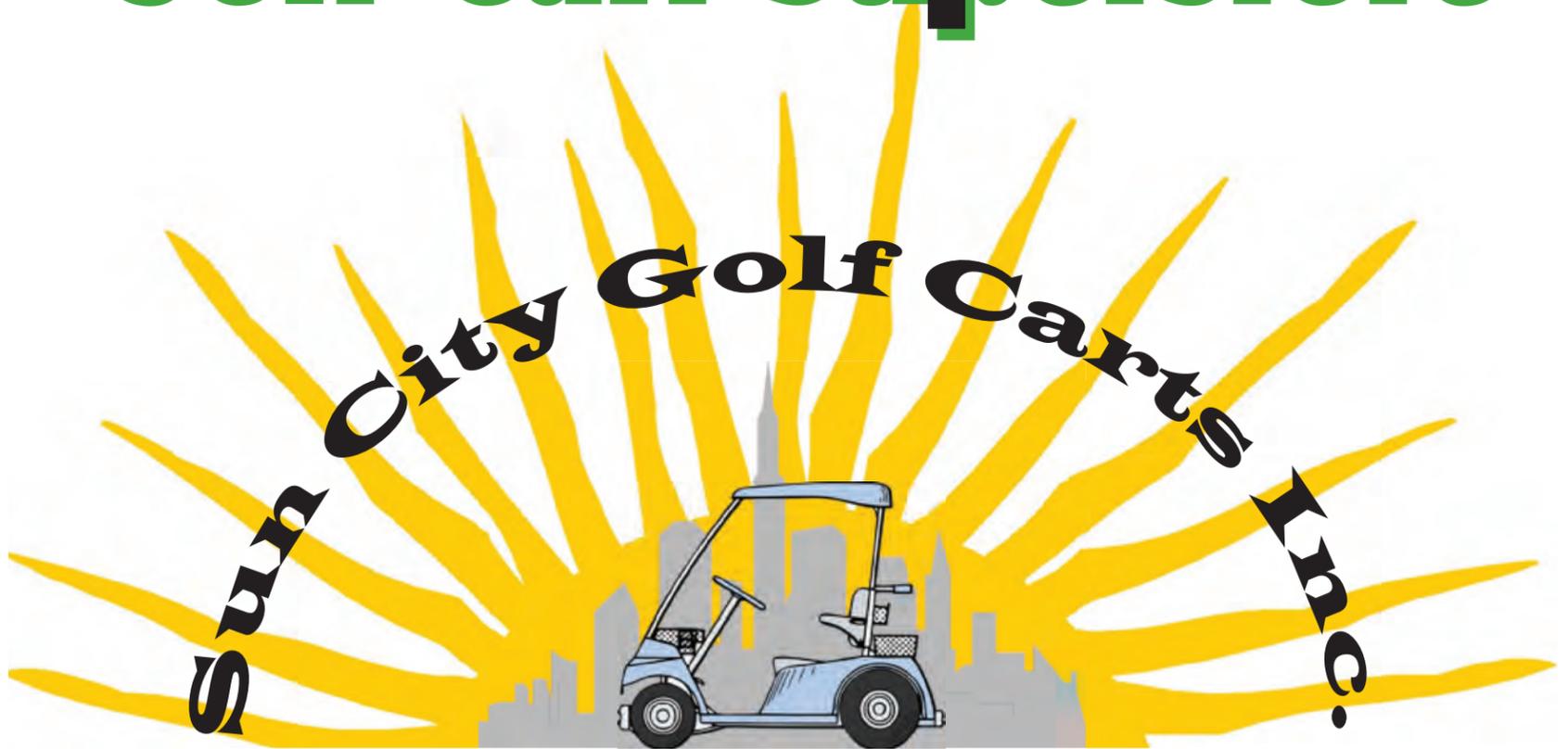
Black History Month: Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization, and gene mapping.

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You, me and business: Random acts of kindness

It boggles the mind that with all of the issues facing this country, our Congress wasted time decreeing Aug. 20 as National Lemonade Day. And this week alone, we celebrate Lane Duck Day (6th) and Umbrella Day (10th.) Did you know every single day of the year is a national "something" day?



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

But this coming week, we will celebrate something worthwhile. It's National Random Acts of Kindness Week. Now this is something I think we can all agree is worth Congress's time and something we can all get into.

Can't think of anything kind to do? Here are some ideas:

► Why not introduce yourself to your neighbors? Not just the ones on either side of you but the ones three doors down you see outside at the mailbox every day. Say hello and tell them your name.

► Compliment a stranger. You like the sweater the lady in front of you is wearing, so tell her so. Tell someone their garden is gorgeous or they have kind eyes.

► Hold the door open for someone. This is common courtesy but seldom done anymore. And if they seem to be in a real rush, let them go in front of you. And while you're at the store, walk your cart to the return cage or back up to the front of the store. Don't leave it in an empty space for someone else to move.

► Likewise, let people merge-in during traffic. The world would be a lot better place if we all used signals *before* we turn or let someone have that parking space.

► Go through your things and give freely to those in need. The Chamber has three different do-

nation bins, and there are several thrift shops in the area that support local charities, so clean out your closet, gather up those cans of soup from the pantry, and give them to someone who really needs them.

► Pick up the phone and call everyone you care about to tell them you love them.

► You know that frail lady who lives two doors down? Grab her newspaper at the end of the driveway and take it to her front door.

► Next time you're out for coffee, offer to pay for the person behind you. You might make a new friend.

► Share your umbrella with someone who doesn't have one.

► Already sweeping leaves off your sidewalk? Do your neighbors' sidewalk, too.

► Notice a kid being well-behaved? Tell their parents how good they are while the kid is standing there. It will encourage the kid to continue being good, and will make the parents feel good.

► Leave nice comments on blogs, Twitter, and Facebook or share a photo that has other people in it.

► Fill up the gas tank and/or wash the car for your partner and then leave candy on the dashboard for them to find in the morning before work.

► Tip generously. Those servers only make two dollars and change per hour, and those tips are almost all they get.

Just doing one or two of these things will make your day and someone else's as well. Hey, it's better than celebrating National Toothache Day (Feb. 9).

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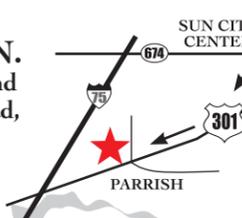
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SouthShore Regional Library

Adult program/event highlights

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Windows 7: Intro and Intro to Computers — Thursday, Feb. 6, 12:30 p.m.

Learn the parts of a window, how to navigate in the Windows environment, and file management. Learn about the parts and basic terminology of computers. Also covers basic purchasing considerations. Limit: 20

Paper Crafting for Adults — Thursday, Feb. 6, 1 p.m.

Using the latest Stampin' Up products, create a beautiful card and/or 3D creation. All materials will be provided. Limited to 12 participants. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call (813) 273-3652. Funded by the Friends of SouthShore Regional Library.

Adult Writing Workshops — Monday, Feb. 10, 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. Focus on novels, short stories, poetry, narrative nonfiction and memoirs.

Windows 8: Introduction — Tuesday, Feb. 11, 12:30 p.m.

This program with Craig MacDougal will feature a short astronomy presentation inside the Library, detailing what will be observed, followed by an outside viewing of the moon and planets through a telescope. No registration required. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Adult Writing Group eBook Launch — Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Join Library writing group authors in celebrating the launch of their eBook anthology, *Tattle Tales*. Local entertainer Sandy Nitch will sing several sets between readings. Drawings for free books from members of the writers group will be done throughout the night. The public is invited to bring their Kindles, iPads and other e-reading devices.

SouthShore Needle People — Wednesday, Feb. 12, 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.

Mah Jongg Club — Wednesday, Feb. 12, 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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Brandon Foundation, helpful neighbors aid victims of Riverview fire



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

The mobile home, located on the corner of McMullen Road and Palm Avenue just southwest of the Riverview High School, had rooms built on and was once 2,300-square feet, home to three generations.

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

The Cozzetto family doesn't have the money to hire an industrial crew to clean up its burned-out mobile home. And some neighbors don't like the pop-up removed from a camper truck that the Cozzettos are living in, nor the portable toilet on the Riverview property.

Other neighbors, and the Brandon Foundation, are helping the family, but the Cozzettos worry their help will not come soon enough to keep ahead of code vio-

lations.

Cleaning up the 2,300-square-foot burned-up home at 10809 McMullen Road on the corner of Palm Avenue just southwest of Riverview High School is not an easy task, said Eros Dahl, a local mortgage broker. He said he became involved because he drove by the property and saw the family cleaning up the debris by hand.

County code enforcement officials said no fines have been levied yet and that they want to help by granting extensions to fix any code violations. But the burned-out structure is dangerous, officials said, adding that the complaints are valid.

Holly and Vince Cozzetto didn't expect it to be easy when they moved to Riverview from Georgia last September to help Holly's 86-year-old father through his last days.

They didn't make it in time. "He died before they got here," said Randy Walter, a neighbor who recently retired from the Air Force and now is employed at MacDill Air Force Base. Gesturing at the burned-out home, Walter explained that he and his friends have been trying to help the Cozzettos.

The couple was just completing the funeral arrangements when they realized the home was subject to code violation.

According to Jim Blinck, operations manager for Hillsborough County Code Enforcement, the first violation was written Oct. 18, before the fire and before the

Cozzettos became involved. That was issued because of a complaint about a blue tarp that Holly's father had on the mobile home's roof, Blinck said.

"Dad was old and couldn't keep things up," Holly Cozzetto said. Also living in the home after falling on hard times were Holly and Vince's pregnant daughter and son-in-law and their two children, ages 1 and 2.

They all know they're fortunate to have made it out alive, and the younger family of four is now staying with friends. Holly and Vince, however, are living in the donated pop-up and trying to clean up the property manually, which is permissible without a permit because although the structure had built-on rooms and looked like a house, it was a mobile home.

"A mobile home can be demolished without a permit," said Blinck. "A permanent structure can't."

Walter and his friends got involved because he saw the couple in the pop-up trying to clean up the property by hand. None of them wanted to be photographed, asking that the focus be kept on the Cozzettos.

One side of the property is covered with piles where burned boards have been separated from metal and anything else that's salvageable.

Dahl has called on his friends in the real estate business and a title company. He has also contacted

► Continued on page 23

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CORRECTION

Jordann Scruggs was the winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award at the Riverview Chamber of Commerce annual awards banquet. The award is named for Margy Watkins and Watkins was inadvertently named as the winner in last week's news story.

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SouthShore Chamber honors businesses, volunteers, Dickman family

► Continued from page 1

and sequined dresses to tropical attire, mirroring a Gilligan's Island sort of theme. Several Mary Anns and Skippers could be seen among

the crowd, fostering an atmosphere of Friday night conversation and revelry.

It was a night for area businesses and those who have helped the

chamber achieve success over the past year, and for those who will be leading the chamber into what is expected to be an even more successful year in 2014.

Hillsborough County Commissioners Ken Hagan and Sandra Murman were in attendance to not only recognize those achievements but also to connect with local business owners.

It was also a night to recognize and thank the Dickman family, a founding family and one that has been a household name since the very first settlement of South Hillsborough more than a century ago.

Morrison, representing the chamber, provided Glenn and Ned Dickman with a plaque of appreciation for their long and continuous support of the chamber and the South Hillsborough community.

Murman then provided the Dickman brothers with a commendation from the county for both their impact and their family's long, positive impact on Hillsborough County as a whole. She also recognized Dickman Realty, a business that has been serving the region for nine decades.

Murman then officially commended the SouthShore Chamber for its support of businesses and for its work in South Hillsborough. While the primary mission of the chamber is to support and enhance the local business community, the SouthShore Chamber has long invested efforts in supporting area schools and charitable organizations. Murman congratulated and thanked the SouthShore Chamber for having a positive impact in the ever-increasing development of South Hillsborough, ranging from all-important medical care to the growing influx of new businesses, all with an eye toward making life better for those who live here.

"This has truly become a wonderful place to live, work and play," Murman said, referring to South Hillsborough.

Morrison and the board of the chamber then recognized outstanding chamber members and local businesses.

Chamber member Charlotte Clark was recognized for her work as 2013 Ambassador of the Year.

Jason Fredricks of Legal Shred, Inc. was named the 2013 Small Business of the Year. Judy Martin of Bay Care-St. Joseph's Hospital South accepted the award on behalf of the organization for the 2013 Large Business of the Year.

Tony Zipperer, owner of Zipperer's Funeral Home, was awarded the highly regarded E.G. Simmons Award for outstanding community service.

The Volunteer of the Year Award went to "Magic" Mandy Burdick.

Chamber board member John Smith was also recognized for his service to the chamber and the community.

Ron Simpson, chamber president, then turned over the gavel to incoming 2014 president Carrie Elwell.

Also during the dinner, 2013 Honorary Mayor Lindsay Hicks turned over the mayor's sash to 2014 Honorary Mayor Shannon Brown, who will make appearances at chamber events throughout the coming year. Brown's campaign for honorary mayor raised funds for Kids R Kids SouthShore and the East Bay and Lennard high school athletic booster clubs. In all, nearly \$15,000 was raised by all of the candidates benefiting area charities and chamber activities for the coming year.

The annual membership and awards dinner was sponsored by Baycare-St. Joseph's Hospital South, Mosaic, South Bay Hospital, Tampa Electric Company, American Momentum Bank, Artful Conceptions, BMO Harris Bank, Kids R Kids SouthShore, Legal Shred, Paul B. Dickman Realty, Ruskin Moose Lodge #813 and Zipperer's Funeral Home.

Support also was provided by Harriet's Flowers, Photos by Moose and The Resort and Club at Little Harbor.

For information about the SouthShore Chamber, visit www.southshorechamberofcommerce.org or call (813) 645-1366.

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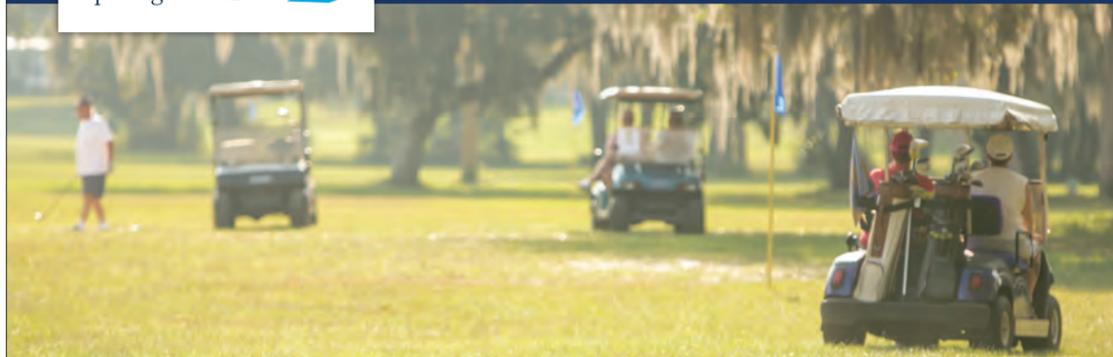
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Spongy- Little or no increase in speed when accelerator is pressed. Continuing to push pedal down will eventually increase speed.

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandra Murman recognizes and commends the SouthShore Chamber for its work in enhancing the growing success of South Hillsborough.



Honorary Mayor Lindsey Hicks turns over the key to South Hillsborough to 2014 Honorary Mayor Shannon Brown.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Dry Creek creator Les McDowell, left, with production assistant Sandra Cole and director Curtis Graham during the filming of *The Doll* episode.

Dry Creek

► Continued from page 1

easier, so much more heartfelt.

And with that, the town of Dry Creek was born, and a calendar had been turned back by more than a century.

It wasn't long before McDowell and a handful of friends and volunteers began thinking of Dry Creek in terms of a television show, with much the same value and family orientation as *Little House on the Prairie* or *The Waltons*. Armed with a \$100 digital camcorder, they began filming

episodes — sometimes they could complete two in a single week.

McDowell's vision was to create a television show that parents could comfortably watch and enjoy with their children. That meant no cursing, no subtle sex scenes, no violence — simply a show from the heart with common-sense answers to the basic problems people have faced since the dawn of time; the answers that have somehow been lost in the avalanche of information and imagery from the Internet, iPhones and Xboxes.

Dry Creek soon found a home on the cable channel BlueHighways TV. And after the second season, McDowell found himself with a nomination in hand in New York's W Hotel with people from Disney and other big networks. They had huge production budgets, while McDowell's budget for *Dry Creek* was whatever his pocketbook could bear. The event was an awards ceremony, and *Dry Creek*, sometimes referred to by friends of McDowell as the "Little Show That Could," picked up an



Honorable Mention in the category of Best Family Friendly Series at the annual CableFAX awards. With that, people took notice of the guy from Parrish competing and being compared to those in the big leagues. This was now far more than a dream.

On a recent Saturday morning, the little town of Dry Creek was bustling with activity. It was straight out of the 1880s, with children and adults alike in period-correct clothing, and men on horses riding into town. Things have changed in town.

The \$100 digital camcorder had long since been replaced, but now there was a high-end, professional camera mounted on a dolly. Just

► Continued on page 34



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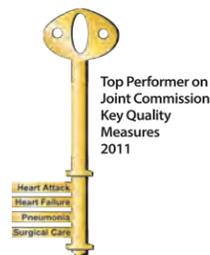
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Sun Towers Retirement Community earns Caring Stars 2014 award for service excellence

Sun Towers Retirement Community has been selected as a "Caring Star" of 2014, as part of an annual nationwide program honoring service excellence based on consumer ratings and reviews posted on Caring.com, the leading senior care website. In reviews from families, seniors, and others concerned about assisted living and Alzheimer's care, Sun Towers Retirement Community captured a five-star consumer rating (the highest possible score). About 400 communities — the top 1 percent of assisted living communities nationwide — achieved this recognition.

The Caring Stars 2014 award was determined from consumer ratings and reviews posted on Caring.com between Dec. 1, 2012, and Dec. 1, 2013. To qualify, the community had to have received all of the following:

- Three or more reviews during the time frame, at least one of which with the highest rating of five stars
- An average overall rating (across all reviews on their listing) equaling greater than 4 stars
- No unresolved negative reviews

To help these communities stand out to families searching for senior living, a special badge is featured on their listing in Caring.com's assisted living or Alzheimer's care directories and search results.

Sun Towers Retirement Community is located at 101 Trinity Lakes Dr. in Sun City Center, and can be found and reviewed on Caring.com at www.caring.com/local/assisted-living-facilities-in-sun-city-center-florida/sun-towers-retirement.

SCC Woman's Club and Firehouse Cultural Center bring awareness of child sex trafficking in Tampa Bay

On a recent Sunday, the Firehouse Cultural Center and the SCC Woman's Club teamed up to present WEDU Public TV documentary *Too Close to Home*, which reveals Tampa Bay's human trafficking crisis.

Prior to the viewing, Community Campaign Founder and SCC Community Campaign President June Wallace gave an explanation of the Clearwater/Tampa Bay Area Task Force on Human Trafficking and what the Community Campaign is doing to assist with awareness and victim services.

Survivor Connie Rose, who is also featured in the documentary, told of her victimization from the age of 2 through the age of 18. She asked attendees to help "Paint the Town Yellow" by placing Post-it® notes with

the Trafficking Hotline phone number, (888) 3737-888 on the back of bathroom stalls. [The phone number is written thus for easy memorization.]

Misty Sherwood spoke last, explaining the SCC Campaign's upcoming program of moving along-

side Ruskin Elementary School and Wimauma Elementary School with "Speak Up, Be Safe" prevention education as well as helping with reading skills and mentoring.

For more information, email Misty at mstsherwood@gmail.com.



From left are: Karen Ransbury; members of Community Campaign against Human Trafficking Sarah Hardy, Sally Dittman and June Wallace; Firehouse Cultural Center ED Georgia Vahue; trafficking survivor and keynote speaker Connie Rose; and Community Campaign members Joan Kramer and Carla Miles. Missing from the picture is speaker Misty Sherwood, Chair of the Community Campaign's Prevention Education Committee.

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US Coast Guard Auxiliary played an important role in keeping Gasparilla safe

Although the weather was cool, with the sun shining on them the crew of *Bayou Bengal* felt comfortable before departing Antigua Cove Marina in Ruskin for the 2014 annual "Gasparilla Pirate Invasion" boat parade.

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary crew was aboard one of nearly 20 private boats that are designated as Coast Guard Auxiliary Operational Facilities when under Coast Guard orders.

The men and women of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary donate their time, energy, money and expertise to help America's boating public avoid costly, heartbreaking accidents and deaths on waterways. They can be found along coastlines and in the nation's heartland, teaching safe boating classes, offering free vessel examinations and patrolling the waterways to ensure boating trips and excursions are trouble-free.

The mission of the crew of *Bayou Bengal* during the 2014 Gasparilla was to patrol an area north of an imaginary line of Hillsborough Bay to enforce a "Slow Speed" zone imposed by the Coast Guard for the event.

The morning and early afternoon were ultimately a non-event for the crew; a few boat operators received counsel about their boat's excessive speed (boat wakes can do a considerable amount of damage). No vessels in distress to tow and (fortunately) no one to fish out of the bay.

The crew returned to Ruskin to refuel, wash the boat and prepare it for its next mission. They went home very satisfied with what others might consider just a ho-hum day on the Bay. After all, that's what they volunteered for.

Visit <http://flotilla75.org>. To learn more about Coast Guard Auxiliary membership, contact Judy Clapp at (813) 633-5416, or sccjudy@msn.com

South Bay Hospital wins Business of Year award

South Bay Hospital received top honors and was awarded Large Business of the Year during the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet Jan. 21.

South Bay Hospital was selected as Business of the Year due to the hospital's commitment to quality health care, expansion of vascular services and community involvement. Special mention was made of South Bay Hospital's recent recognition by the Joint Commission as a Top Performer in Key Quality Measures for the third year in a row, the only hospital in Hillsborough County to receive that distinction for three years.

Business of the Year awards are presented to locally operated businesses that best represent entrepreneurship in the greater Riverview area. Businesses are nominated by their peers and a panel of judges reviews and selects the winners based on nominee applications.

For more information about South Bay Hospital, call (813) 634-0496.



PHOTO BY VALERIE FERNANDEZ, FLOTILLA 78, ST. PETE BEACH

The crew of *Bayou Bengal* before departing on the Gasparilla mission. From left: Keith Westbrook, Valerie Fernandez, Guy Mandigo and Pat Stone.

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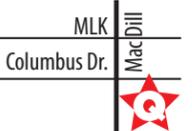
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Brandon Foundation, helpful neighbors aid victims of Riverview fire

► Continued from page 17

The Brandon Foundation. He said, "The Foundation has provided for two dumpsters at \$400 each, and is taking care of arrangements for the portable toilet facilities, but these people need hands-on demolition help out there."

"I know Holly wants to keep the property," said Walter. "But what would be best would be to get a buyer — maybe someone who flips properties — to advance the couple enough to move into another place and then pay them whatever else they get from the property sale af-

ter the place is cleaned up.

"It's obvious there's no way to salvage the home," he said.

Dahl said another possibility is enough monetary donations to allow the Cozzettos to clean up the property and put another mobile home on it.

Dahl said he is busy with the Veterans Aid Committee of the Riverview Chamber of Commerce but that he is continuing to try to help. He said he and several friends have given the couple some Walmart gift cards.

"When there's no electricity and

no running water, there's not any sense in people bringing food," he said. The Cozzettos are "better off buying what they need by the day," he said.

The Brandon Foundation is about to get heavily involved, said its executive director, Rich Strehl. So far, direct contact with the family has been made by Foundation member Alex Hebert.

The Cozzettos say they're caught between a rock and a hard place.

"I don't have any idea what we can do," Holly Cozzetto said. "We're doing everything we can."

But her father had no homeowner's insurance because it was a mobile home on private property — not in a park — and that, she said, is very hard to obtain.

Meanwhile, they're living in the small pop-up with no running water, using the donated portable toilet and using a generator for electricity. All of which raises even more problems with county code.

Blink said two inspections were made by code enforcement official Jeffrey Ramer after the Dec. 22 fire and that officials are granting the couple more time.

"We want to bring this to resolution somehow," Blink said. "But at some point, citations will have to be issued with some kind of time limit."

County records also show that the home is on an acre and a half of land and that the deed is in both Holly and a relative's name. The relative of record is listed as Ollie Camp, Holly's brother.

Dahl said they need some help with someone who knows how to get the deed "squared away" because there are problems with the deed.

The Cozzettos know this situation can't go on this way for long.

"I'm just afraid we'll be evicted before we get this thing straightened out," Holly Cozzetto said. "I don't know what we'd do then."

Those who want to help may contact info@brandonfoundation.com, Strehl said.

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PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Holly and Vince Cozzetto are thankful their entire family escaped their Dec. 22 fire, but now find themselves cleaning up the burned-out Riverview home that belonged to Holly's father, who recently died. The couple moved from Georgia to care for him and did not know their neighbors until they stopped and offered help.

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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.

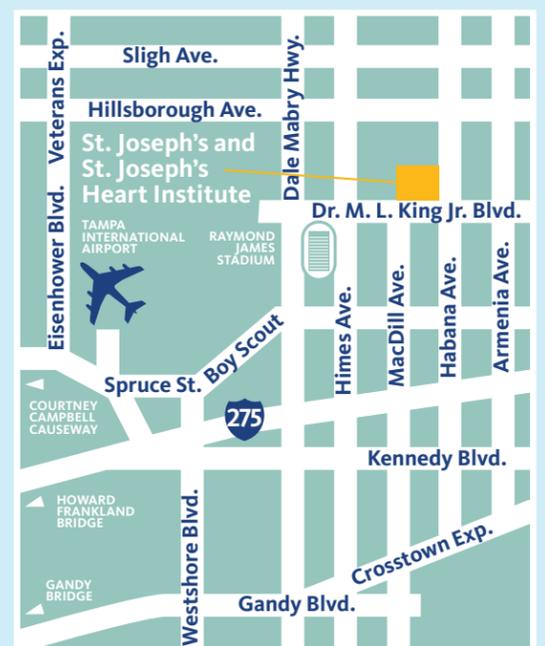
Register today: (813) 644-4391 | BayCareEvents.org



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.

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1 Dickman Drive SE • Ruskin 33573



Adult Computer Classes for the Technologically Challenged

Excel I: Introduction - Thursday, Feb. 6 at 3 p.m.

For adults. Layout, entering data, inserting rows and columns, and other techniques. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Limit: 18. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

Excel II: Formatting - Thursday, Feb. 6 at 3:45 p.m.

For adults. Learn different formats for expressing numbers in a spreadsheet. Excel I is recommended. Limit: 18. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

Excel III: Performing Calculations - Friday, Feb. 7 at 3 p.m.

For adults. Learn about functions and formulas and how to use them in calculations. Excel II is recommended. Limit: 18. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

Excel: Charts and Graphs - Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 3 p.m.

For adults. Create and format charts from data for visual emphasis. Previous experience with Microsoft Excel is recommended. Limit: 18. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

Excel: Data Entry and Printing Options - Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 4:45 p.m.

For adults. AutoFill, freeze titles, sorting, and Excel printing options. Previous experience with Microsoft Excel is recommended. Seating limit: 18. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the program start.

Computer Tutor - Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 5:30 p.m.

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

RCMA fundraiser is set in Plant City strawberry fields

Wish Farms, the largest grower and shipper of strawberries in Florida, will be hosting the first annual Bright House Networks Strawberry Picking Challenge on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7-8, in Plant City.

As with prior Wish Farms fundraisers, this event will benefit Redlands Christian Migrant Association, a Florida nonprofit that provides quality child care and early education for children of migrant farm workers and rural low-income families.

For the past eight years, Wish Farms has held a charity tennis tournament, which last year raised over \$86,000. This year, the action shifts from the tennis courts to the strawberry fields for a more farm-focused event open to the public.

During the Bright House Networks Strawberry Picking Challenge, corporate-sponsored teams will participate in a relay-style race as they compete to win the title of "Best Harvest Crew."

The event will kick off Friday evening with drinks, dinner and dancing at the TPepin Hospitality Centre in Tampa. Saturday's family-friendly event will be held at Futch Farms in Plant City and is open to the general public. In addition, Radio Disney of Tampa Bay will be on site leading games and



activities for children. Families can enjoy fresh strawberries and strawberry shortcake.

Tickets are \$25 per adult and \$8 per child 12 and under, and includes lunch, strawberry shortcake and a gift bag. Advanced tickets can be purchased online at www.wishfarms.com/spc.

Tickets will also be sold on site on Feb. 8, but space will be limited.

Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) operates 70 child-care centers for Florida's rural poor, including 18 in the Tampa Bay area. RCMA also runs three charter schools, including two in Wimauma. Founded in 1965, RCMA has given thousands of children a vital boost toward success in school and life.



WILLIAM KIRLAND PHOTO

Accurate Tax & Bookkeeping holds ribbon-cutting to mark anniversary

Greg Menia of Accurate Tax & Bookkeeping Services LLC recently invited the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce to conduct a ribbon-cutting ceremony in celebration of his first-year anniversary with the chamber, as well as his recent move to a new and larger office.

Greg and his suite partner, CMIT Solutions of Brandon (also conducting a ribbon-cutting), treated the crowd to lunch and a tour on Jan. 22.

Accurate Tax & Bookkeeping is a Brandon-based full-service tax, accounting and consulting firm that offers services to businesses and individuals throughout the area. Its areas of expertise include tax preparation and planning; accounting and bookkeeping; payroll, and representation in matters between the state and the IRS.

Call Menia at (813) 655-9702 to discuss tax and accounting needs. His office is at 710 Oakfield Dr., Suite 159, Brandon. For more information, visit www.BrandonAccountant.com.

Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union holds grand opening ribbon-cutting

The Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Jan. 24 on behalf of Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union in honor of its grand opening.

The credit union's new Riverview branch is on Gibsonton Road. The group present at the Jan. 24 ribbon-cutting learned that Suncoast Schools FCU believes in an earth-friendly environment; the new building is designed to be

net-zero, which means it will use zero net energy consumption and produce zero carbon emissions annually.

Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union is the largest credit union in Florida and the 14th largest in the United States, ranked by assets.

You can find Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union at 10405 Gibsonton Dr. in Riverview or visit its website at www.suncoast-fcu.org.

Ruskin Little Caesars premieres new \$5 lunch combo

Lane Rickman, Little Caesars® franchisee in Ruskin and Sun City Center, is participating in the pizza chain's new promotion of a \$5 Hot-N-Ready Lunch Combo.

Little Caesars, one of the country's largest pizza chains, introduced the \$5 lunch promotion Feb. 3. It features four slices of the company's popular deep dish pizza paired with a 20-ounce Pepsi product.

"There is no calling, waiting or online ordering required," said Rickman. "It's hot and ready when they arrive, making it a convenient and affordable lunchtime option."

Little Caesars touts the speed of the new lunch option, saying that the \$5 Lunch Combo gets customers in and out of the restaurant in around 30 seconds.

Rickman's Little Caesars location is 3848 SR 674 (Sun City Blvd.) in Ruskin.

SouthShore Chamber members step up to help Ruskin Elementary

Last week the Educational Partnership Committee of the SouthShore Chamber of Commerce asked for help from chamber members. They were seeking someone to supply a second-grade classroom at Ruskin Elementary School with specific vocabulary books that have been proven to increase reading and comprehension skills.

The cost was \$160 for the books. The chamber agreed that if one member would supply a classroom with these books, the chamber itself would pay for an additional set for another classroom.

The response from members was overwhelming and the committee has announced that all ten second-grade classrooms will be presented with their books this week.

The following chamber members supported the effort: Joe Kilgore, Charlotte Clark, Bell Shoals Baptist Church Apollo Beach Campus, Paula MacDonald-Image Suite PR/Marketing/Media, Annette Harting- Harting Insurance, At Home Auto Care, H&R Block Business Services, Kids R Kids- SouthShore, and YMCA-SouthShore.



Operation Fight the Blight begins its battle in Old Sun City in February

Hillsborough County Code Enforcement will kick off its 2014 Operation Fight the Blight with a cleanup campaign Feb. 3-7 and Feb. 10-13 in Old Sun City, south of Ruskin. The cleanup is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each weekday.

The Old Sun City cleanup boundaries include two areas: Vidor Avenue on the north, Fox Street/Fox Place on the south, US Hwy 41 on the east and Uncle Brack Road on the west. Also, Ince Drive on the north, First National Drive on the south, Talmadge Avenue on the east, and US Hwy 41 on the west.

Residents who live within these boundaries and wish to participate in the program will be asked to show proof of residence, such as a Florida driver's license, Florida vehicle registration or a utility bill.

During the operation, several dumpsters will be located at Sun City Heritage Park, 3030 US Hwy 41 S for residents to dispose of the following items at no charge:

- accumulations (furniture, junk, trash, debris)
- metal
- electronics
- Items that will NOT be accepted for disposal:
- tree debris
- commercial vehicle tires
- hazardous chemicals

Hillsborough Code Enforcement officers are partnering on the cleanup campaign with several other county agencies, including Animal Services, Public Utilities, Office of Community Affairs/Neighborhood Relations, Public Works, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Tampa Electric Co.

For more information, call Hillsborough County Neighborhood Relations at (813) 307-3564.

Area Obituaries



Jana Hatfield Cruz

July 10, 1979 - February 1, 2014

On February 1, 2014, Jana Hatfield Cruz of Ruskin left us to become one of God's Angels in heaven.

She is survived by her loving husband Raymund Cruz; sons Austin, Cole Caleb, Jacob and Landon; parents Jay Hatfield and Betty Hatfield; and siblings Tracy, Jamey and Jason.

She was a loving mother, wife and daughter who will be greatly missed. May she soar to heavens and find everlasting peace.

Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 7, 2014, at Zipperers Funeral Home in Ruskin.

Donald Henry Eaton

January 5, 1928 - December 13, 2013

Donald Henry Eaton, 85, passed away on December 13, 2013, in Weston, Florida. He was born on January 5, 1928, in Green Lake, Wis., to Donald McLelland Eaton and Elaine Marie Gentzen Eaton.

Donald grew up in West Allis, Wis. He graduated from West Allis Central High School in 1945 at age 17, and immediately joined the Merchant Marines.

Donald married Sally Frances Emmett in 1947. They were happily married for 29 years until Sally's death in 1976. In 1981, he married Geraldine Gudmundson.

Donald started work at the flour mill in Superior, Wis. He then worked for Fowler Towel company in Milwaukee, where he became a Teamster's union member, and soon thereafter began working for Teamster's union 695 as a business agent. He quickly became President and, subsequently, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 695 in Madison Wis.

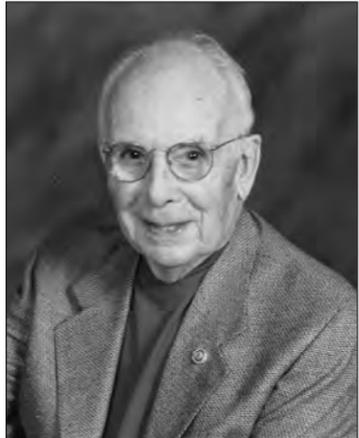
He was voted Man of the Year in 1969 in the City of Madison for his contributions in settling a bus drivers strike. He later worked as a Commissioner of Labor Mediation for the Federal government, first in the Minneapolis office, and then in Atlanta, Ga. prior to his retirement. In retirement, he moved to Sun City Center, Fla., and became an avid golfer, joining four leagues, and keeping scores for some of them. He was part of the local neighborhood watch group, and provided community service as a volunteer mediator.

Donald was preceded in death by brother Lawrence Albert Eaton, wife Sally Frances Emmett Eaton, and parents Donald McLelland Eaton and Elaine Marie Gentzen Eaton.

Donald is survived by children Jamie Beatty of Columbus, Ohio; Christopher Eaton of Madison, Wis.; Laurie Eaton (James Jasper) of Minneapolis, Minn.; Nell Henry (James) of River Falls, Wis.; grandchildren S. Patrick Eaton (Yuko Sasano), Hank Beatty (Angie), Jesse Beatty, Samuel Underkofler (Angelia Gomes), Kelly Underkofler, Jake Underkofler, Casey Underkofler, Kate Henry and Allie Henry; great-grandchildren Reika Sasano, Kei Sasano, Jamie Beatty and Harley

Snyder; brother Phillip Eaton of Sun City Center, Fla.; nephew David Eaton; spouse Geraldine Eaton of Weston, Fla.; stepchildren Dean Gudmundson, (Dierdre); Holly Cruse; Jennifer Gudmundson; and Nicole Moore, (Patrick).

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations be made to Macular Degeneration Research, 22512 Gateway Center Dr., Clarksburg, MD 20871.



Harold Wendell Fitts

Harold Wendell Fitts, 88, passed away on Monday, January 20, 2014, in Sun City Center, Fla. Born and raised in Barre, Vt., he graduated from Spaulding High School and the University of Vermont. He served in WWII and returned from the war to marry Doris (Ding) Paterson and to work in the family business, the Homer Fitts Company. During his career at the Homer Fitts Company, Wendell was actively involved in the community, belonging to Barre Elks, Barre American Legion, Barre Community Baseball Association, Lighthouse and the Barre Rotary, where he served as district governor. At one point in his career, he was honored by a national retailers association and shared the award with the president of Sears Roebuck.

Wendell and Ding raised six children and served as hosts to more than two dozen foreign exchange students through AFS and Rotary International. Upon retirement, Wendell and Ding continued their Vermont connection by summering at Leyford Pond, and they spent the remainder of the year in Sun City Center, Fla., where Wendell enjoyed golf and good times with friends.

Whenever Ding and Wendell traveled, they always returned home having made new friends; they had friends around the world.

Following Ding's death, Wendell met Edna Royle, and they were married in 2003. Together, they continued to enjoy golf and their families. Wendell leaves two brothers, Homer and Stanley of Barre, Vt., and six children: Donald (Nancy) of Sarasota, Fla., David of Sacramento, Calif., Stephen (Susan) of Sun City Center, Robert (Terri) of Maitland, Fla., Wendy (Jerry) Marcotte of Sun City Center, and Scott (Mary) of Wilmington, Del. He also leaves a step-daughter, Lois (Allan) Marquardt of St. Louis, Mo. He was predeceased by his sister Barbara Corrigan and stepson David Royle. He leaves 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren who loved him dearly.

A celebration of his life took place January 21, 2014, at the Hospice House in Sun City Center, and a memorial service and burial will take place this summer in Barre, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lifepath Hospice of Sun City Center, 3725 Upper Creek Rd., Sun City Center, FL 33573. Arrangements by Zipperer's Funeral Home.

Klaus J. Fraebel

Klaus J. Fraebel, 76, of Sun City Center, Fla., passed away on January 26, 2014.

Klaus is survived by his loving wife Christel; daughter Andrea and husband Fred; daughter Beate; and three grandchildren Michael, Daniel and Christal. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.



Esther Schiele Greenlee

Esther Schiele Greenlee, 94, passed away at LifePath Hospice on January 25, 2014. She is survived by daughter Janet Vassallo and son Ralph Greenlee as well as granddaughters Jennifer Theodore and Sarah Schweiger plus great-grandson Jonathon Theodore, as well as other loving extended family members.

Esther was born in Syracuse, New York, and was very active in her country club, Meals on Wheels and Syracuse University, her alma mater.

When she and her husband Thomas moved to Sun City Center she continued her service with the Meals on Wheels project. She was a member of Caloosa Golf & Country Club and was known for her excellent skill in playing bridge.

Esther's faith was very strong and was fortified by her weekly attendance at Redeemer Lutheran Church.



Verla M. Hirneisen

Verla M. Hirneisen of Sun City Center, Fla., formerly of Lancaster, Pa., went to be with the Lord on December 2, 2013, after a short illness. She was the wife of the late Carl Hirneisen, who passed away in January 2012.

Verla worked at Schick Inc., Totes and Datcon. She moved to Sun City Center in 2001.

She is survived by daughter Judith (Michael) Krantz, son Veryl Ed Geltz and his partner Gary Lancaster, daughter Carla (Bruce) Texter, and son Brad (Cindy) Hirneisen; grandchildren Karen (Ronnie) Ellmaker, Leslie (Ken) McCollough, Holly (Anthony) Reynolds and Jarred Texter; and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15, at Sun City Christian Center Church, 17566 US Hwy 301 South, in Wimauma.

Interment will be at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 17, at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 SR 72 in Sarasota.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions in her name to Sun City Christian Center.

Corrected date: Rummage sale at Beth Israel is Feb. 11

Beth Israel will hold its annual Rummage Sale Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This is a one-day-only sale, so everything is priced to sell. The sale will take place at the synagogue: 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City Center.

Area Places of Worship

Ruskin United Methodist Church

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

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US:

SUNDAY MORNINGS: Nov. - April..... 8:30 a.m. **Day Care Available**
 and All Year..... 10:45 a.m. Mon. - Fri.
 Rev. Richard Nussel Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Phone: 645-1241 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
 11 a.m. Bible Study
 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Worship
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: sccredeemer.org

Worship Services on Sunday 10 a.m.

Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m.

Unity COMMUNITY OF JOY
 Spirituality Rather Than "Religion"

Henry Gibson Social Hall, Beth Israel Synagogue

1115 Del Webb E. • Sun City Center, FL

www.unitycommunityofjoy.com

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

813-481-9060

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 * Interpreter for the Deaf
 9912 Indiana St. • Hwy 41 & Estelle Avenue
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*Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
 *Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
 Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M.
 Mid-Week (Wed.) 7:00 P.M.
 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.nbc.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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Rev. Dr. Jean M. Simpson

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SERVICES: Sunday.....9:30 & 10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

EVERETT TATE, MINISTER

Wimauma Church of God

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

Loving God, Loving Others
 Serving All

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

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

Pastor Tom Durrance

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC

Meets in the Henry Gibson Social Hall of the Beth Israel Synagogue • 1115. E. Del Webb Blvd.

Thursday, 7:00 PM • Call 633-0396 • www.sccuu.org

Wisdom tells me I am nothing. Love tells me I am everything. — Nisargadatta Mahara

PRAYER - PRAISE - WORSHIP The Anointing Church

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www.theanointingchurch.com

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539

http://www.sccumc.com

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 9:30 a.m. Traditional Service
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 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
 4:00 p.m. Hispanic Worship

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Area Places of Worship



Southside Baptist Church

"A Warm, Loving & Friendly Church"

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

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



Worship Service @ 10:30 am

Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 am

1707 55rd Street Southeast
Ruskin, Florida 33570

www.firstchristiansuncitycenter.com
Phone: 813-419-4930
Minister Mike Grant



CELEBRATING our 75th ANNIVERSARY

820 College Ave. W. • Ruskin, FL 33570
645-6439

www.fbcuskin.org • A Resource for Families

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

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Fr. Lee Miller
Priest

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

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..... 5:00 p.m.	Reading Room..... Wednesday 4 to 4:45 p.m.

All Are Welcome



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Sunday Services
Traditional Service 9:00 a.m.
Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.

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

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

1239 Del Webb Blvd. West Phone: 813-634-1252
Sun City Center, FL 33573 For information visit:
Church is Handicap accessible www.standrewatssc.org

Saint Anne Catholic Church

SouthShore: Apollo Beach, Ruskin, Sun City and S. Gibsonton



U.S. Hwy. 41
106 11th Ave. NE
Ruskin
813-645-1714
SaintAnneRuskin.org

~ MASSES ~

Vigil Mass.....Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Sunday Mass..... 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m.	Holy Days Contact Parish Office for Schedule
Español.....Sabado 6:00 p.m.; Domingo 12:30 p.m.; Jueves 7:00 p.m.	
Confession.....Thursday 6:15 p.m.; Saturday 3:15 p.m.	

St. John the Divine hosts fish fry Feb. 7

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church will hold a fish fry from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7, at its Sun City Center campus, 1015 E. Del Webb Blvd.



Besides fish, the dinner includes French fries, coleslaw, a variety of desserts, as well as coffee and tea. Tickets are \$9 if bought at the church office weekdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door. For more information, call Sandi at (813) 298-9632.

Find a treasure at Redeemer Lutheran rummage sale

Redeemer Lutheran Church will hold its 7th annual rummage sale from on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7 and 8. The hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday; Saturday, from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

Lots of household items have been donated for the sale. Crafts, clothing and baked goods will also be available. The church is located at 701 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center.

New Beginnings celebrates 16 years of worship

At the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, Feb. 9, the congregation of New Beginnings Fellowship will celebrate its 16th year of worshipping together.

Rev. Arthur "Buddy" Brady, from Blakely, Ga., will bring the message that morning. Starting at 1:30 p.m., there will be a Gospel Sing with the group Three Blessed, also from Blakely, Ga. There will be no evening service.

Take along a friend and go be blessed. The church is at 1120 27th St. SE in Ruskin. For more information, call Pastor R. Lewis Brady at (813) 654-1018.

Let's remember George Washington

On February 4, 1784, George Washington was elected the first US President. On Thursday, Feb. 6, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC, the Rev. Robert P. Tucker will look at some of the elements of Washington's life and service that made his contemporaries feel, when with him, they were in the presence of greatness.

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

The Healing Power of the Bible

A talk by
Elise L. Moore
International speaker and
Christian Science healer

Explore specific Bible verses that heal the heart and cure disease

Sunday, February 23
3:00 p.m.
Florida Room, The Atrium
945D North Course Lane

Palm Tree Home Companion returns to United Methodist Church of SCC

The Drama Team at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will present the third edition of *A Palm Tree Home Companion Radio Show* at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, in the Life Enrichment Center.



Written and directed by Glenn Appleyard, the radio show parodies the very popular NPR radio offering known as *A Prairie Home Companion* that features Garrison Keillor and airs on Saturday evenings.

Appleyard promises that those unfamiliar with the NPR show will still find his parody very entertaining, with various skits and special guest musicians, including members of the Front Porch Pickers, Amanda Jordan and Kelly Sleight, and silly commercial sponsors (Songs for Snowbirds and Martha's Mulletts & More are both back).

In addition to the musical guests, performers for the evening festivities include Glenn and Eric Appleyard, Manny Escudero, Jeff Jordan and Tiffani Martinez.

Tickets are \$10 each and include desserts and complimentary beverages.

The first two editions of the show were sellouts, so the public is encouraged to buy advance tickets, available from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays in the church office, 1210 W. Del Webb Blvd. in SCC.

Noted Russian pianist in concert at St. Andrew Church in Sun City Center

Noted young Russian pianist Konstantin Soukhovetski will appear in a return concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 9, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.



Konstantin Soukhovetski

The concert continues the Fine Arts Concert Series at St. Andrew for the 2013-2014 season.

Soukhovetski is rapidly earning a reputation as a young pianist who captivates with lyricism, immaculate technique, refinement and vigor. The winner of many international piano performance awards, he has performed with major orchestras around the world, including recitals at Alice Tully Hall and Weill Hall in New York and the Bolshoi Hall of the Moscow Conservatory.

Soukhovetski will perform his own arrangements of Verdi's *La Traviata*, and works by Mozart, Beethoven and Strauss.

Tickets are \$10 at the church reception desk on weekdays, or at the door the day of the concert.

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is at 1239 W. Del Webb Blvd.

For more information, call St. Andrew at (813) 634-1252, or Judy Voorhees at (813) 642-8125.



JAY SPARKMAN PHOTO

Trinity Baptist hosted IFC meeting

Trinity Baptist Church members of the InterFaith Council of Sun City Center are, from left, Nancy Majoriki, Vern Elarth, Gerry Harding, Kathy Clor, Jim Clor and Katie Boykin. The church hosted the IFC January meeting and heard Cindy Sofarelli, senior group vice president for the Tampa YMCA, report on the progress of the new Family Y at Big Bend Road and Bullfrog Creek Road.

Patchington's featured in upcoming show

The Council of Catholic Women of Prince of Peace Parish in Sun City Center will hold its annual spring fashion show, *Bridge to Spring*, at noon Thursday, March 6, at Community Hall. Doors open at 11 a.m.

prizes. Tickets are \$25, and may be purchased at the Atrium Kiosk from 9 a.m. to noon, Feb. 5 and 7 and Feb. 10, 12 and 14.

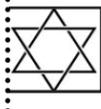
This year's show will feature fashions from Patchington's in St. Petersburg; the clothing will be available to try on and purchase. Banquet Masters will provide a buffet lunch. There will be door

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Bridging Freedom, an organization that combats the sex-trafficking of minors.

For additional information, call Lynn at (941) 723-8431.

► CHURCH NEWS

continued on page 32



BETH ISRAEL The Jewish Congregation
of Sun City Center,
1115 Del Webb Blvd. E. Sun City Center (813)634-2590

SHABBAT SERVICES FRIDAY EVENING AT 7:30 PM
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ANNOUNCEMENTS 100

105 PERSONAL

Art teacher wanted. Looking for an artist to give individual art classes on water color & acrylic painting. Please call 813-645-1582 or email to: bettyscorner418@gmail.com

**Metaphysical Society
EXPO**
Saturday, Feb. 8
10 am - 5 pm
vendors • speakers
door prizes
FREE ADMISSION
Community Hall
1910 South Pebble Beach Blvd. SCC
For information, call (813) 398-7033

115 LOST & FOUND

Found 2-3 month old, rusty brown female puppy in the area of Universal & Talmadge Rd., Ruskin. Call 989-640-0462 to identify

FARMER'S MKT 200

280 PETS

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THRIFT STORE
1009 1st Street SW • Ruskin
Open Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - noon
WE HAVE FURNITURE, TOO!
Donation drop offs accepted
TUESDAY thru FRIDAY ONLY
All donations must be clean and in usable condition
All proceeds benefit the Mary & Martha House a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing emergency shelter and transitional housing for homeless and abused women and their children.

MERCHANDISE 300

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

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

Multi family yard sale. Lots of clothes, tools, fishing rods, boating supplies, kitchen, baskets. Friday & Saturday, 9am-5pm. 102 8th St., NE, Ruskin. No early birds.

(2) Cannon down riggers, (2) hp out board nice golf clubs & balls. (2) pull carts. Ruskin. 802-734-1540

Huge yard sale. Saturday, 2/8 & Sunday 2/9, 8am-2pm. 3711 Nazimova Ave., Ruskin. Hwy 41 to Universal, follow signs.

Little Manatee Springs annual park wide (50+) yard sale. 3 1/2 miles south of SCC on Hwy 301. Saturday 2/8, 8am-1pm. Watch for balloons/ signs. Please observe marked traffic pattern & parking. No large trucks or trailer until after the sale. Beverages, donuts, hot dogs available.

Furniture, floor area oriental rugs & other household items, dining table, entertainment center, steamer. Saturday 9am-noon. 1809 Haverford Ave., SCC.

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

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Tuesday - Friday: 10 am - 3 pm
Saturday by appt. only
918 North Pebble Beach Blvd.
(813) 634-3816
(813) 503-4189

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Sale. Tools, fishing gear, 16ft boat, yard tools, household, collectibles, clothing & more. Everything goes, make offers. Saturday, Feb. 8, 9am-2pm. 613 24th Ave., SW, Ruskin.

Rummage Sale

Redeemer Lutheran Church. Corner of Valley Forge & SR 674, Sun City Center. Friday, Feb. 7, 8am-1pm. Saturday, Feb. 8, 8am-11:30am. Lots of donated items, clothing crafts.

Friday & Saturday 2/7 & 2/8, 8am-2pm. Furniture, collectibles, household goods. 915 Windton Oak Dr., College Chase, Ruskin.

Yard sale. SCC. 720 Torrey Pines. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm. Keyboard, lamps, dishes, road bike, antiques, artware, glassware, golf accessories, hand tools, jewelry

Feb. 8th, 8am-2pm. 1515 Ft. Duquesna, Sun City Center. Lots of misc. items. Too much to list.

1711 Council Dr., SCC. Thursday through Saturday, 8am-4pm. Dishes, lamps, entertainment center, full size mattress & spring, lots of misc.

Greenbriar Entire neighborhood sale. Friday & Saturday, Feb 7 & 8 8am-2pm. SR 674 to S. Pebble Beach Blvd., 1 mile down & take a right. Parking on one side of the street only.

Feb. 7th & 8th, 8am-1pm. 1017 El Rancho Dr., SCC. Oak desks, file cabinets, wicker LR set, hutch, table, caster chairs, Singer commercial & home sewing machines, guitars, violin, wind surfing equipment, Reel mower, tools, shelving, table saw, welder, much more.

Church Yard Sale
Friday & Saturday
February 14 & 15
9 am - 2 pm
Many items!
First Christian Church
1707 33rd St. SE
Ruskin
(1 mile on 33rd,
behind Bob Evans)
All proceeds benefit our Mission Programs

**FLEA MARKET
BAKE SALE**
SATURDAY, FEB. 8
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• Lunch Served •
Lots of items
Great prices!
NO EARLY BIRDS!!
Woodland Estates Park
602 Woodland Estates Ave. • Ruskin
off Hwy. 41 S. between 4th & 10th St. SW
Mobile Home Park Rec Hall

Calvary's
Angel Attic
Thrift Store
Wed., Fri. & Saturday
9 a.m. - Noon
Feb. 5, 7 & 8
50% OFF
all shoes
Plus - the Secret Sale
1480 E. College Ave. • Ruskin
813-641-7790
Ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Estate sale. Feb. 7 & 8, 8am-1pm. Projector equipment & more. Really low prices. 736 Torrey Pines Ave., SCC

311 AUCTIONS

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what it takes the other
guys a week to do.
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PROFITABLE, TROUBLE-
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312 ESTATE SALES

Anne's Estate Sales
813-758-7952, Kim. Doing estate sales
in Sun City Center for over 17yrs.

The Perfect Piece

Quality used furniture. 2406 College Ave., Ruskin. Bring ad in for \$10 off any item \$50 or more. Stop in you will be pleasantly surprised. We buy & sell. 813-645-1800

Above The Rest

Estate Sale, 811 Fox Hills, SCC. Friday & Saturday 8am-1pm. Slot machine, dining room table, chairs, china cabinet, twin, queen & king beds. Beautiful living room chairs, table, chest a drawers, dressers, night stands, leather sofa, chair & ottoman, sofa sleeper, love seat, rockers, wicker items, World globe, patio furniture, kitchen items, knickknacks, tools & office supplies.

Don't Miss This One

**NETTIE'S
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SALES**
Cell:
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New & Gently Used Furniture
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Daily Trips to SCC
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312 ESTATE SALES

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or Eve: 633-1173



Jim's Estate Sales
serving South Hillsborough County
813-601-0983

330 FURNITURE

For sale. Like new, love seats. Off white. 62ft long/ 36 deep/ 27ft high. \$150 for the pair. 813-634-5606, SCC

Sofa/ love seat, cream, green, yellow flowers, excellent condition. Reduced \$150. Large seaside picture. \$20. 813-633-2129, SCC

360 GOLF CARTS

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

MARINE 400

425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

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

TRANSPORTATION 450

455 AUTOMOBILES

1996 Cadillac Deville Contour, one owner, only 67,000 miles. Beige/ black Landau top, Excellent condition. \$5,000. Garage kept. 812-838-6903

REAL ESTATE 500

510 WATERFRONT FOR SALE

3br/2ba, beautiful, spacious mobile home in lovely waterfront park. \$51,900 Ruskin. 813-610-7515

511 HOUSES FOR SALE

Valencia Lakes. 55+ gated community. Immaculate 3br/2ba/2cgs. 2011 construction. \$274,900. Beautifully upgraded. Full recreational facilities. Contact agent Jennifer. Smith & Associates. 708-334-0759

Classifieds are Informative

511 HOUSES FOR SALE

Cathy Griggs
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
 813-391-8653 cathygriggs@msn.com

- **NEW LISTING!! BEAUTIFUL 3/2/2**, gated community, no CDD, low HOA \$159,900
- **WATERFRONT SPECIAL!! 3/2/3+**, dock, built 2007, LOW insurances \$229,000
- **NEW ON THE MARKET 3/2/2** built in 2008, short sale \$126,900
- **PRICE REDUCED!!** Custom 3/2/2 waterfront home with covered lift \$279,900

511 HOUSES FOR SALE

OPEN HOUSE
 Sunday, Feb. 9 • 1-4 pm

2 Bedroom/2 Bath home
506 Lime Tree Court
 Sun City Center
\$137,500

Vickie Bruni
(813) 892-8256
 VickiebHomes@yahoo.com
 www.thebruniteam.com

PERFECT WINTER/RETIREMENT HOMES:

- **KINGS POINT 2/2 CONDO:** Tile floors in living area, laminate in MBR, walk-in shower in MBA, tub in 2nd BA, enclosed lanai with washer/dryer, sitting area with shady tree on side of condo. \$42,500.
- **2/2 CONDO IN PET-FRIENDLY AREA:** Recently repainted, new windows, remodeled kitchen, furnished and equipped, large enclosed lanai overlooking conservation area, attached carport. \$68,900.
- **3/2 MANUFACTURED HOME, GATED COMMUNITY:** New flooring, split BR plan, large living-dining area, inside utility, enclosed lanai, carport, low monthly fees for community pool, clubhouse, etc. \$49,500.

CLAIRE TORT
 Cell: (813) 363-7250

DICKMAN REALTY

OPEN HOUSE
 Sunday, Feb. 9 • 1-4 pm

3 bedroom 2 bath home sits on a pond and golf course and is move-in ready.
\$167,000
 2327 E. Del Webb Blvd.
 Sun City Center

Vickie Bruni
(813) 892-8256
 VickiebHomes@yahoo.com
 www.thebruniteam.com

M.H. HOUSING 550

565 M.H. IN PARKS

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

On river, 1 bath, 2 bedrooms, washing shed, 55+ MHP, lowest rent. Carport, lanai, furnished. \$6,000 obo. 813-867-9139

Buy or rent. 3 bedroom, 1 bath Double wide. New floors & roof, 12x26 work shop. Owner finance. \$11,500 813-260-2636 or 813-230-0846

Ruskin Loves our Classifieds

RENTALS 600

611 HOUSES FOR RENT

For rent. Single family block home. \$1,000 monthly. Fenced yard. Apollo Beach. 727-391-1121 or 813-325-8483

55+ Community

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

3br/2ba unfurnished modular home on large lot, covered parking with dock on Little Manatee. \$1,300 monthly plus deposit. Background check. 813-562-4413

Huge 1,600 sf on one acre, modular home, 3br/2ba, family room, formal dining room. \$975 monthly. First, last, security required. 813-391-6768

4br/2ba, fully furnished, w/ appliances. no pets/ no smoking. Lithia area. \$2000 monthly (excludes utilities). One month security deposit required. 401-369-2991

612 APTS FOR RENT

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

Fish from your yard. One bedroom apt. \$600 monthly. Riverfront, Ruskin. 813-391-6768

630 M.H. RENTALS

RV for rent. 1 bedroom on private property. \$125 weekly includes utilities plus deposit. 813-363-6001

Lovely furnished, 3br/2ba in waterfront park. Fishing dock, rec hall, great neighborhood. Ruskin. \$1,200 monthly plus electric. 813-610-7515

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

645 OFFICE SPACE

Office space with character. The Corina Cigar Factory has a 500 sf space for \$325 monthly Free parking, 24/access. Just south of Ikea/ Ybor 800-248-2196

646 WAREHOUSE SPACE

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

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651 BOOKKEEPING

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661 BUSINESS OPP.

Moving restaurant for sale. Routes available. Priced right. Make an offer. Call Oscar 813-523-3610

663 COMPUTER

Steve's Computer Service
 Troubleshooting solutions. Personalized home instruction. Wireless home networking. Operating system upgrades. New system installations. Virus detection/ removal tools. Sun City Center. Free phone consultation. 813-506-7748

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Ron's Cleaning Service
 Quality housecleaning with integrity. Call for free estimate. 7days a week. Move-in, move-out, rentals. Insured, bonded, licensed. Ruskin, Apollo Beach, Sun City Center.
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LIKE NEW - 2BR/2BA, 1080 Sq. Ft. Double Wide with a small stream behind the home. A 12x21 Florida Room faces the stream and open area behind, making a very pleasant setting. The home sells with all appliances, a handicapped ramp, or enter through the attached shed to the entry/laundry area. **The home sells with the share for \$79,900.**

LARGE 2BR/2BA, 1,440 Sq. Ft. Double Wide partially furnished, including appliances. Make this your permanent home or getaway place. The kitchen has a newer, flat-top stove, a large eat-in area and a wet bar. There is also an extra 412 Sq. Ft. family room attached to the home. **This spacious home and share can be yours for only \$58,900.**

Vacant Lots (Shares) from \$17,000



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SPOTLESS 2BR/2BA/2CG condo in desirable Sun City Center with updated interior, gorgeous kitchen, large screened porch, freshly painted driveway and garage floor, large utility room, within minutes to everything, and priced to please at only \$115,000 **CALL JO ELLEN MOBLEY 645-1540.**

LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN WILD. Your family and friends, too, on this beautiful lot that is nearly an acre in Valrico. Large 4BR/3BA older home with possible in-law quarters. Terrazzo floors, updated kitchen, brick front, screened porch, 2-car garage, large outbuilding. **\$164,900 CALL JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU Make your own hiking, horse trails and take advantage of Sundance community trails, too. Acreage provides opportunity to build your dream home on beautiful treed lot. Survey available to help you with your planning. **\$29,000** possible owner financing. **CALL JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

INVEST IN THIS RENTAL! 2BR/1BA concrete block with eat-in kitchen and attached utility room. Nice size backyard with 2 storage sheds. 1/2 block from river in quiet neighborhood. **\$59,750 CALL MARGOT WARD 486-9480**

6 BEDROOM/3 BATH POOL HOME Formal living and dining room, spacious eat-in kitchen open to family room. Large master and bath with garden tub, separate shower. Hardwood, ceramic tile and carpet throughout. Intercom, fenced yard. **\$269,000 CALL MARGOT WARD 486-9480**

PRICE REDUCTION ON THIS STRESS-FREE EASY-LIVING HOME !! This 2BR/1BA mobile home in Riverbreeze Mobile Home Park. Nice well-maintained single-wide mobile home with bright and open living — dining room and screened porch with carport and storage room. **JUST \$35,000 CALL LINDA BADGEROW 695-5515**

Price Reduction!! MOVE IN READY. Spacious family home with 3BR/2BA, 2-car garage. Home is fenced on 3 sides with large storage shed, security alarm, and enclosed Florida room with tinted and insulated windows. Close to schools, shopping and major highways. **\$149,000 CALL LINDA BADGEROW 695-5515**

PRIME LOCATION! 11-acre parcel that is surrounded by development of all kinds and located near Hawks Point Subdivision. Easy access to Highway 41 and I-75. 1985 mobile home on property is incidental to value. Beautiful property with lots of trees! **\$650,000 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

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

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

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

VERY NICE 70X108 lot on a nice pond in Beautiful Bimini Bay. Ready to build your dream home and choose your own builder. **\$69,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

PRICE REDUCTION!! RIVERBREEZE ESTATES IN RUSKIN! Very well maintained 2BR/1.5 BA totally furnished mobile home including a golf cart. The attached garage has plenty of room for a full sized van and a golf cart, plus room for a workbench. This corner unit is beautifully landscaped with a covered area for grilling and also offers a nice open floor plan with a large eat-in-kitchen and family room. **\$49,000 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 813-748-2201 VERY WELL MAINTAINED AND TOTALLY FURNISHED**

INVEST NOW, BUILD LATER! Great location on busy State Road 674. 3BR/2BA house amid huge oak trees, but value is in the land. 2.1 acres with SMU6 land use. Multiple possibilities. **\$799,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672**

COMMERCIAL ACREAGE IN RUSKIN! 3.7 acres (MOL) with CG Zoning. The initial work has been done for office buildings. This property has a great location, on corner of 10th St SW and Woodland Estates. **\$299,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

A STEAL OF A DEAL! Better than new. 1890 Sq. Ft. of commercial space. Doctors, Lawyers or Indian Chiefs will love the cabinetry (all custom made). Priced to sell at **\$204,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201. With substantial down owner will finance.**

PRICE REDUCED!! ON WELL MAINTAINED 3BR/1.5BA mobile home in the age-restricted, gated community of Riverbreeze Estates. This home has much to offer with a bright and open floor plan and an extra-large kitchen with plenty of cabinets and counter space. Other features include: gorgeous laminate flooring in the living area, two Florida rooms, newer A/C, newer roof over and more! Amenities include: a nice clubhouse, community pool, shuffleboard and a fenced area for parking RVs and boats. **\$39,900 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 813-748-2201**

FABULOUS WATERFRONT POOL-HOUSE IN PARKLIKE SETTING! Almost 1 acre lot with 136 ft on Ruskin inlet, with dock, boathouse and lift, surrounds this spacious 3BR/3BA main house, with parquet floors, fireplace, loft and porches overlooking water and 1BR/1BA guest-house. Circular driveway to carport-workshop area. Easy commute to Tampa or Sarasota. **\$450,000 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

APOLLO BEACH COMMERCIAL BUILDING: Half-acre lot, with 3 entrances from front and back, fenced area, good parking space. Zoned C-G, this property can accommodate 1 large business or 3 separate businesses. Newer CHA & roof, new drywall, fresh paint. **\$299,000 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

RUSKIN GREAT FAMILY HOUSE ON 3/4 ACRE LOT: 3BR/2BA, screened porch, fenced backyard, 2-car garage, newer roof and CHA, established neighborhood, no HOA, no CDD, not in flood zone. Other nice features include open floor plan, fireplace, split BR, walk-in-closet. River and boat ramp close by. **\$165,000 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

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Food banks

► Continued from page 5

cost of medicine we have seen an increase over the years, but it is something I enjoy doing.”

The simple thanks they receive from families, many with young children, are reward enough for Bullaro and his staff. “Just that ‘thank you’ is enough for us,” he said.

Where to donate

Canned food and nonperishable foodstuffs can be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., through Feb. 28, at the JSA Medical Group Activity Center, 787 Cortaro Dr., Sun City Center, behind Burger King on State Road 674.

Other local food banks benefiting from the Caring Castle include The Lord's Lighthouse, Good Samaritan Mission, Beth-El Mission and St. Anne Church.

Organizers plan to build a castle



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

Bobbi Burnette, left, and Alice White are among the 40 volunteers at Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry.

with donations, using canned goods and other nonperishable foodstuffs as bricks. The castle will be redesigned and rebuilt weekly as donations roll in.

The drive is already enjoying community support, turning in food even before the Feb. 1 start date.

“The feedback has been fabulous,” said Roseanne Korfant of Sun City Center’s JSA Medical Group, who pioneered the idea of a “Caring Castle” food drive at her previous job with the chamber of commerce in Cleveland, Ohio. “Everyone really thinks it’s a wonderful campaign.”

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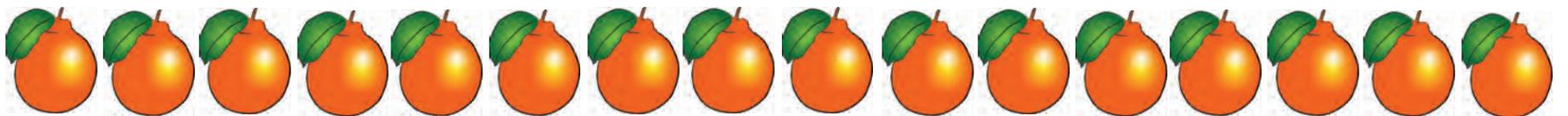
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Travel 2 miles. Dooley Groves is on the left.

FROM TAMPA/BRANDON AREA: Take I-75 South to Exit 240 (Ruskin exit) then follow above directions to Dooley Groves.

United Community Church selects Paula Lickfeldt as Woman of the Year

The United Community Church of Sun City Center has three circles within its women's organization, and each woman votes for her choice of "Woman of the Year." Paula Lickfeldt was the overwhelming choice for 2014.



Paula Lickfeldt

In Sun City Center, Paula has been active on the Emergency Squad for 10 years, starting as an emergency medical responder. She was the squad's lead first responder for two years. After passing the Emergency Vehicle Operator course, Paula has been driving the wheelchair van for the past four years.

Paula has been a leader on the board of directors of her Red Hat Group, The Purple Butterflies, helping plan and execute monthly activities and travel for the group. She is an active member of the Sun City Center Federated Woman's Club.

Paula is a very active member of the United Community Church: She was a deacon for three terms, and team captain for one of those terms; she continues in charge of support responsibilities for all memorial services at the church; she has been on the annual nominating committee three times; she has been an active member of the Mission Board; she decorates the tables in the Great Hall, changing the themes monthly; she handles publicity and photography for the church; and is also co-chair of the

Fantastic Friday dinner theater.

Paula also created and organized the Fun Brigade. She decided the church needed to have a "fun" activity each month, and began organizing and advertising fun activities for church members and residents of the greater SCC. She also planted and maintains the flower garden at the entrance to the parking lot, counts the money in the offering envelopes, and is a member of the church council.

Paula says she loves the United Community Church, United Church of Christ, for what it represents and for the opportunities that it provides for the SCC community to worship, find companionship and have a good time in a beautiful facility where everyone is welcome.

UMC to screen The Lost Valentine Feb. 14

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will screen *The Lost Valentine* on Friday, Feb. 14, as part of its Friday Night at the Movies series.

The movie will be shown in the LEC building of the United Methodist Church. Doors open at 6 p.m., and there will be freshly baked cookies, popcorn, tea and coffee. The movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

The movie is free; a donation for the refreshments is appreciated.

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Friday, Feb. 7 — Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 8 — Crew Games, free hot dogs 6 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 9 — Lounge Games 2 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy 6:30 p.m. Queen of Hearts drawing 7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 10 — Crew Games, free hot dogs 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 11 — Lounge Games 1-4 p.m. Bingo: doors open 3

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Huey

Huey is a gray tabby who was found as a stray. He is a friendly, full-size boy and enjoys interacting with the volunteers. He was way up on the cat tree and had to be coaxed down with a few treats for his photo. He can be friendly or coy as the case may be and as his mood strikes. Huey is neutered and current on his shots. As part of his adoption he will be micro-chipped.
DOB: Feb. 2, 2009.



Ginger

Ginger is a Terrier with the most heart-melting eyes. Everyone falls in love with her gentle and loving nature; Ginger even gives standing hugs. She came to C.A.R.E. as a stray, flea-infested and underweight. With TLC she is good as new. She has several playmates at the shelter and has been around our house cat too. Ginger is a sweet, sensitive dog. She is spayed and current on her shots. DOB: Jan. 2, 2012.

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Dry Creek

▶ Continued from page 20

out of town, off the set, there were trailers for dressing rooms, a table for cast and crew meetings and for lunch or dinner, editing and lighting trucks, even a satellite truck. There were cameramen and a director, production assistants and actors with Screen Actors Guild cards in their pockets. Instead of filming a few episodes in a week, now an hour or three could be spent filming a mere moment of a single scene.

Things have changed in *Dry Creek*, and although the budget is still a struggle and a concern, the dozens of people on the set had turned out because they had heard of McDowell's dreams and they, too, believed. They believed in him. They believed in making something happen on a television landscape that often seems overly populated with divisive reality shows. They believed in making something good happen.

"I recently sent out a letter to our *Dry Creek* family explaining where we were at on our journey," McDowell said. "We started the trip with just a knapsack and a few folks climbing the mountain to where we dreamed that good family programming lives. With prayer, passion and hard work we got so far and started running out of oxygen. I yelled out for the cavalry, and they came."

After many days of work and filming, the third season pilot, "The Doll," was nearing completion. Networks have expressed interest, but in a fleeting industry nothing is ever certain until it actually airs. McDowell wants to stay with BlueHighways TV, but he also hopes to find perhaps a second television home, perhaps the Hallmark Channel, and perhaps to find connections with those who can help to build on the dream, financially and professionally. But that doesn't necessarily require a network, it simply requires asking. People want to help. People often talk about the "good old days," and McDowell is trying to bring them back, at least for 30 minutes to an hour each week. He wants to make a positive impact on a nation that increasingly seems to be struggling to find its moral center.

"We just wrapped filming of it

[the pilot episode] and it brings tears to my eyes to have all these people come and help us raise *Dry Creek* up into the air like an Amish barn raising," he continued.

Back on that Saturday on the set, a horse-drawn wagon repeatedly rumbled through the small town of *Dry Creek*, running again and again to get this or that just right for the discerning eye of the director and the high definition camera. Between each pass, production crew members ran out to the town's dirt road to shovel the dirt kicked up by the fast-moving wagon back to its normal state of footprints and the tracks of horse hooves. No detail was too small. Cast members waiting for their turn before the cameras mingle in costume as one actor rides up on a horse. With the exception of the cameras and the crew, along with an occasional truck seen just off the set, it might well have been the 1880s.

McDowell's dream has come true. He built it on faith, and then help arrived when he needed it. More is needed, but that, too, is a matter of faith. Something good is happening in that little town, and everyone on the set seems to know it. They are all volunteers; they are all there because they believe.

"We are so thankful they came out to *Dry Creek*," McDowell said. "Everybody knows where *Dry Creek* is, 'cause it's inside each and every one of us."

Dry Creek is broadcast in the Tampa Bay area on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. on BrightHouse Networks channel 195 or HD channel 1316.

Dry Creek may be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DryCreekTV.

Information about BlueHighways TV is available at www.bluehighwaystv.com.

Les McDowell can be contacted via email at les@drycreektv.com or via mail to Dry Creek Productions LLC., P.O. Box 58, Parrish Fl. 34219.

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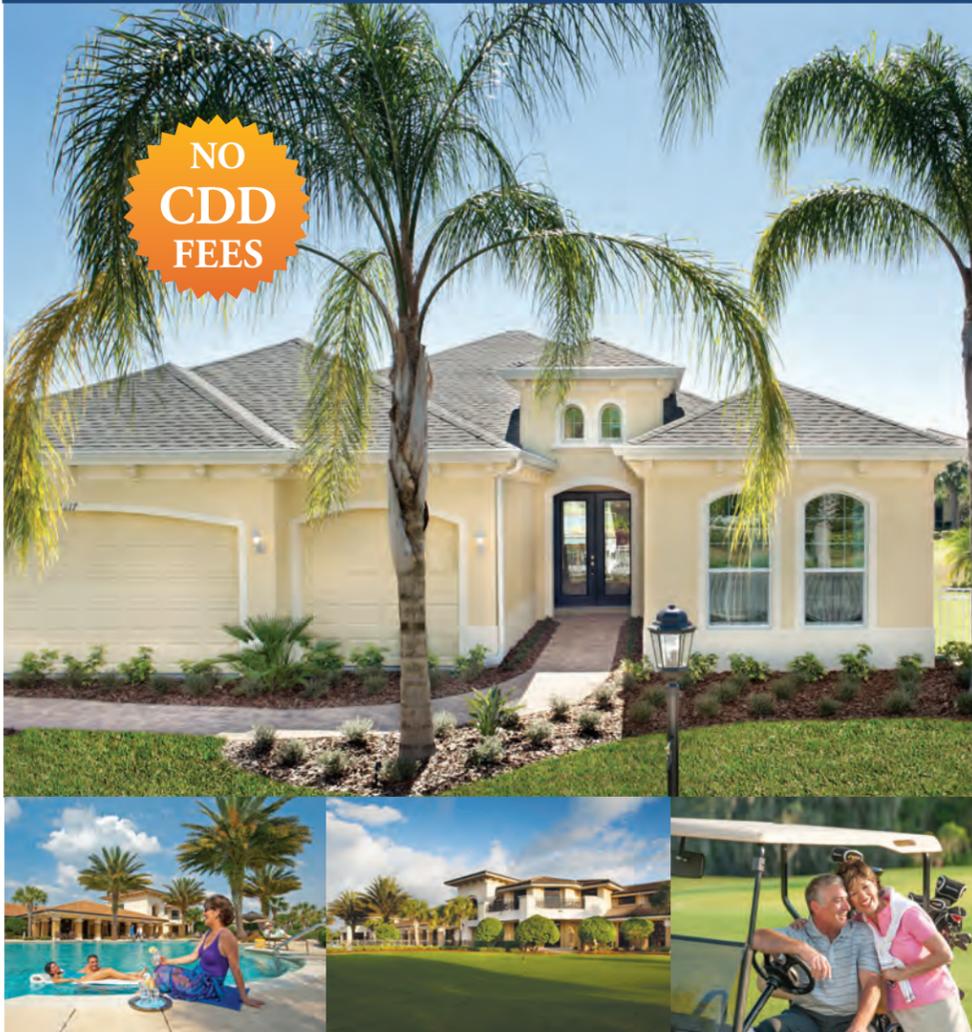
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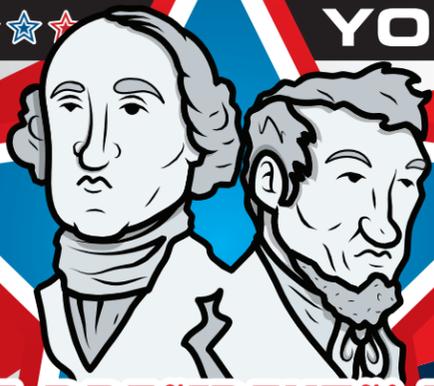
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