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■ A Riverview teacher is honored by Gov. Scott for her life of service to country and now community. **See page 18.**



■ Three tips for building strong families when there's diverse personalities. **See page 10.**

February 20, 2014  
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# THE OBSERVER NEWS

www.ObserverNews.net

## Fund-raising drive underway to pay for funeral of child killed in Ruskin fire



KEVIN BRADY PHOTOS

The blaze completely gutted the Carmona family's home on 18th Street in Ruskin. Right, Alejandra Carmona was always laughing and had a smile for everyone she met, said Irene Valdez, the 4-year-old's grandmother, who supplied this photo.



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

Family and friends of Alejandra Carmona, who died in a Ruskin mobile-home fire on Valentine's Day, are trying to raise money to help pay for the four-year-old child's funeral.

Her father, Monico Carmona, and two of her siblings were still in the hospital Sunday, Feb. 16, after the fire engulfed their home at a Ruskin mobile-home park in the 400 block of 18th Street late Friday night.

Monico Carmona suffered serious burns, cuts and smoke inhalation as he tried to rescue his children, his girlfriend and two other young children. All managed to escape the blaze, which is being blamed on a short circuit in the home's electrical wiring. The family's dog also died in the blaze.

"They were sleeping when the fire started, and Monico noticed smoke coming from beside his bed," said Irene Valdez, the victim's grandmother, who is organizing a fund-raising drive to pay for Alejandra's funeral. "He thinks it was started by an electrical connection in the room."

Monico and his girlfriend rushed out of the bedroom, carrying their two youngest children, Angel, 7 months, and Lexi, 2, from the home.

"He went back in to find Alejandra, crawling along the floor in the children's room to find her, but he had to run out because he couldn't breathe anymore, and then he just collapsed," Valdez said.

A neighbor then broke a window in the children's room, calling to the trapped child. "He couldn't see her but he heard her crying," Valdez said, "and yelled 'Come to me. Come to my voice,' but she was probably in shock and couldn't move."

Overcome by smoke, cuts and burns, the neighbor had to pull back from the window. The neighbor "couldn't breathe, and after that he couldn't hear her anymore, so she probably just collapsed from the

smoke," Valdez said. "Monico now blames himself for the fire. He is very traumatized."

Monico and his girlfriend, who also suffered severe burns to her feet, are expected to be released from the hospital this week. The two surviving children were treated for smoke inhalation and are expected to make a full recovery.

The fire also destroyed the family's truck and left the Carmonas with little more than the clothes on their backs, Valdez said.

Alejandra Carmona was the type of child every parent wishes for, Valdez said. "She was a sweetheart. She was kind and would always laugh and smile with everyone."

"I couldn't believe it when I heard," said Herlinda Sanjuan, a friend of the family. "Losing a home is bad enough, but to lose a child at the same time is too horrible to imagine."

Valdez is trying to set up a bank account in Alejandra's name for donations and at least help her son-in-law clothe and feed his family once they are released.

"He has no clothes and no car now, so we are at least trying to help him get a cheap little car for \$300 or \$400 so he can get to work," Valdez said.

Valdez, talking at a car wash in the parking lot of a Rent King store at US 41 and College Avenue to kick off the fund-raising drive Feb. 16, is grateful for the support the family has already received.

"I love how this community has really gotten behind the family," she said. "It's been non-stop since we started the car wash, with just car after car. People have even stopped to just give money. They didn't even want their car washed."

Along with money to cover Alejandra's funeral costs, the family also needs: baby clothing, diapers and formula; adult clothing for a man, Monico wears size 11 shoes, large-size shirts and 32-inch pants; and clothing for two-year-old Angel, who wears 3T size clothing.

**To donate money or clothing to the Carmona family, call (813) 400-8441 or (813) 645-7014.**



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

Tractors doubled as ice chests for the health fair, which drew more than 100 employees.

## \$3 million Ring Power initiative focuses on health, saving lives

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

Sitting down for a blood pressure screening at a health fair at Ring Power Corp., the man thought he felt fine. A few minutes later he was in an ambulance and heading for a hospital.

Turns out the local Ring Power employee's blood pressure was so high he was in danger of a heart attack.

"His wife called me the next day crying, telling me we had helped save her husband's life," said Shelly Minzenberg, Ring Power's wellness coordinator and part of the team that helps organize the company's health fairs. "You can't put a price on something like that."

It's those kinds of cases that make investing \$3 million in employee health a no-brainer, Minzenberg said. "The benefits may not show up in dollar signs, but it shows up with our employees."

More than 100 Ring Power employees turned out Feb. 8 for the company's health fair at its Tampa area headquarters in Riverview.

"It's always important to me to know where I am with my health," said Pam Kopp, an assistant marketing manager at Ring Power who took advantage of the health fair. "I think being proactive about your health and your body is the best way to see yourself into old age."

The health fairs are part of a three-year drive at Ring Power's

▶ Continued on page 19



Flowers appeared at the scene of the mobile-home fire within 24 hours of the blaze that killed Alejandra Carmona.



A fund-raising car wash at Rent King in Ruskin brought in some much-needed cash for the Carmona family, who need to raise money to pay for Alejandra's funeral.

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# Ruskin food pantry, mission a labor of love for Cruz family

The fourth 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. Next week, we profile Wimauma's Good Samaritan Mission.



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

It's the children who break Sharon Van Loan's heart. Hungry and sometimes too embarrassed to go to school because they have no shoes or clean clothes, the children often have little hope other than The Lord's Lighthouse Mission.

"The children are the ones that really tug at my heart," said Van Loan, a founding member of the Lord's Lighthouse board. "They will not go to school if they don't have shoes; they feel humiliated. Whatever the situation, it's not their fault."

The mission served around 50 families when it was opened in 2008 by Pastor William and Dora Cruz. Today the pantry provides food for 275 to 350 families a week, most of them farm workers but an increasing amount are seniors, said Dora.

"We have many who come in wheelchairs and walkers," said Dora, who estimates that 30 percent of the mission's clients are seniors.

The complexion of those seeking help also has changed since 2008.

"When we started, it was mostly Mexican families, but today we have white, black, Hispanic and even Chinese," said Carlos Rivera, the mission's treasurer.

Cruz and her husband have been ministering to the poor since 1952, when they married and added a vow to help the poor as part of their pledge to each other.

"When I met her, I knew this was the person that would be loyal and be with me all the way," said William Cruz.

Pastor William and Dora went on to establish missions

throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, including the Good Samaritan and Beth El missions in South County. It's a family affair for the Cruz family — all six of their children are involved in helping with mission work. Their son, William Jr., runs Wimauma's Good Samaritan Mission.

Retiring from Good Samaritan in 2008, 25 years after they founded it, Dora and William thought they were ready to let others take the lead in helping the poor. But although they are both in their late 70s, they find they can't stay away from mission work.

"We were ready for retirement," Dora said. "But after a few months we decided we were still strong and we still had the call from God to help the poor. So we contacted

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ROSEANNE KORFANT PHOTOS

Lending a hand to build the "Caring Castle" at JSA Medical are, from left, Steve Sciuga, president of A+ Air Conditioning; Don Jones, former manager of human resources at United Parcel Services; and Mike Stryker, president of American Contractors Inc. Also helping out were Janice Wideman and Jack Lowell.

## 'Caring Castle' taking shape as donations arrive

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

The "Caring Castle" is already taking shape at JSA Medical Group in Sun City Center.

The monthlong food drive benefiting South County food banks started Feb. 1, and has already brought in 500 pounds of food.

The brainchild of Roseanne Korfant of Sun City Center's JSA Medical Group, the campaign is supported editorially by *The Observer News*.

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

"Each of these volunteers said they just wanted to give back to the community," Korfant said. "JSA Medical Group appreciates the continuing community support and the flow of donations for the needy in our area."

You can follow the progress of the castle, and donate, at the JSA Activity Center, 787 Cortaro Drive, Sun City Center.

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

Korfant hopes the campaign not only creates awareness about hunger in South County but also builds new relationships between those who can help and the pantries.

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

**Sun City Information Center will take on a new look**

Work on the new Information Center that will be built at the main entrance of Sun City Center's central complex on Cherry Hills Boulevard can't happen soon enough for its director, Janet Dittmar. Ground is set to be broken sometime in early March on the corner of Cherry Hills Drive and Pebble Beach Blvd. South for the new facility. Dittmar said recently that 2,466 visitors passed through the current center in 2013, and 1,124 information packets were mailed to those who requested them. She said hundreds of questions were answered by telephone by the center's 73 alternating volunteers. Just in the last quarter, there were 300 out-of-town visitors — many from as far away as China — and 250 residents who came to the center to inquire about various things. Information Center personnel want to be sure residents know their facility is not only for people looking to

move to the area or who have recently moved, but also for all who want more information about the community and what it offers. This and other building projects have been and will continue to be covered in *The Observer News*, *The SCC Observer* and *The Current*. Articles about the Sun City Center building project and other stories may be found on line at [www.observernews.net](http://www.observernews.net).

**Radio frequency application withdrawn**

John Bowker, a Sun City Center resident with a deep background in the media, has reported that the application made by the Sun City Center Radio Club to the Federal Communications Commission was withdrawn Feb. 13 because there were only two alternatives given to grant it: one, that the new station share a frequency with two other local stations, both owned by nonprofit organizations. One of these organizations has had airtime for more than 10 years while the other is fairly recent. The second alternative given the club by the FCC was to buy airtime. This request to withdraw the application was approved by

**Back in the news**



the Sun City Center Community Association at its Feb. 12 meeting, two days before the deadline to withdraw.

**New road to alleviate some Big Bend area traffic**

Traffic has been a concern at the intersection of Big Bend Road and US 301 since it was named the third most dangerous intersection in the county by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's

Office five years ago. Since then, some lane improvements have been made and more are planned by the Florida Department of Transportation, including new interstate ramps to be installed when funds permit. Meanwhile, something on a smaller scale is being done to help residents of the Summerfield development. An east-west roadway is being built that will alleviate some of the backed-up traffic heading out of the Summerfield development toward US 301.

This is a developer project and is not being paid for by county or state funds. Much has been written about the traffic tie-ups along the Big Bend corridor. The east-west road will aid only traffic leaving Summerfield on the east side of US 301. It is an extension of Woodbridge Avenue through what is now wooded area, built extending parallel to Big Bend Road, and will end at the plaza on the southeast corner of US 301 anchored by SweetBay. News stories about the traffic issue may be found online at [www.observernews.net](http://www.observernews.net) by entering "Big Bend Road traffic" in the subject line.

**David Brown appointed to represent community**

Sun City Center resident David Brown has been fighting against the way backflow valves are installed since 2007. His work explaining the potential dangers of the way the valves are now installed has led to a "Proposed Change of Rules" by the Florida



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

David Brown

Department of Environmental Protection that will go before the Florida Legislature in the next few weeks. The DEP and an administrative judge both agree that Brown has made his case that the valves currently in use should be changed. Brown says that not only should the valves be on county easement instead of a homeowner's property, and be installed by the county instead of by homeowners, but that the type now used can be replaced by a much cheaper and easier-to-maintain valve that is much safer. The backflow valves are designed to prevent people who use well, pond or lake water to irrigate their lawns from getting leakage of unclean water into their potable water supply. Because of his consistent efforts, the Sun City Center Community Association has designated Brown to represent its 11,000 members to the county and state when dealing with the backflow valve issue. Brown says because of the DEP's proposed rule change, the effort should eventually become statewide.

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## Positive Talk: From irritation to pearl

It has been said that the only people in the world who do not have irritations and problems are those who live in places named Forest Lawn, Eternal Rest, Memorial Gardens or some other burial site. In fact, if you have no irritations or problems,



By William Hodges

I suggest you get your house in order because God may have just given up on you. Problems and irritations are among the spices of life that help us grow and develop to who we are as functioning human beings. But humans are not the only ones who have problems. The following poem, credited to Elder Boyd K. Packer, tells how one living being successfully handles irritations.

### There Once Was an Oyster

*There once was an oyster whose story I tell,*

*Who found that some sand had got into his shell.*

*It was only a grain, but it gave him great pain.*

*For oysters have feelings although they're so plain.*

*Now, did he berate the harsh workings of fate*

*That had brought him to such a deplorable state?*

*Did he curse at the government, cry for election,*

*And claim that the sea should have given him protection?*

*"No," he said to himself as he lay in his shell,*

*"This thing tickles and scratches and itches as well.*

*Since I cannot remove it, I shall try to improve it."*

*Now the years have rolled 'round, as the years always do,*

*And he came to his ultimate destiny — stew.*

*And the small grain of sand that had bothered him so*

*Was a beautiful pearl, all richly aglow.*

*Now the tale has a moral, for isn't it grand*

*See what an oyster can do with a morsel of sand?*

*What couldn't we do if we'd only begin*

*With some of the things that get under our skin?*

What irritation or problem do you have that you could shape and polish into a beautiful pearl? I suspect some of us could make an entire necklace. But if we are to survive, we must believe that every adversity, every failure and every heartache carries within it the seeds of equivalent or greater benefit. To believe otherwise would lead us to desperation and despair. If an oyster can do it, so can you.

Hodges is a nationally recognized speaker, trainer and syndicated columnist. He also hosts an interview-format television program, Spotlight on Government, on the Tampa Bay Community Network, 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](http://www.hodgesvideos.com). Phone: (813) 641-0816. Email: [bill@billhodges.com](mailto:bill@billhodges.com) Website: [www.billhodges.com](http://www.billhodges.com)

## University Women hosts Happy Hour

The SouthShore branch of the American Association of University Women invite any women with an associate's, bachelor's or higher degree (who live in Brandon south to the county line) to a Happy Hour on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Incognito on US 41 in Apollo Beach for some socializing and sipping.

The event runs from 4 to 6 p.m. Organizers will provide finger food, and bar prices will be discounted.

If you stay until 6 p.m., you will be serenaded by the sounds of a sweet saxophone.

## Pet Expo in Ruskin set for March 1

The pet-friendly Bahia Lakes Community in Ruskin will host a Pet Expo, open to the general public, on Saturday, March 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the corner of Tahoe Springs Court and Seminole Sky Drive.

In order to promote pet adoption and responsible pet ownership, the community's social committee has put together an event where you will be able to meet and ask questions of rescue organizations with adoptable animals, pet service providers and county animal control officials.

A pet costume contest will be held at 1 p.m. Pet-related items will be for sale, with half the proceeds donated to the attending rescue organizations.

For more information on the expo, call Karen Zients at (800) 642-2469 or email [tcpcorp@aol.com](mailto:tcpcorp@aol.com).

## SCC Chamber meets Feb. 20

The Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce will hold its February membership luncheon on Thursday the 20th at the Sun City Center United Methodist Church.

The luncheon is sponsored by 7th Inning Stretch, and will feature entertainers Hal Jeffreys and guitarist Rick Kiser. Kiser is a Chet Atkins protégé and a member of the Country Gospel Music Association and the International Country Gospel Music Association.

Networking begins at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at noon. The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for guests.

To RSVP, call (813) 634-5111.

## East County Dems to weigh balance of growth and green

The East Hillsborough County Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, at O'Brien's Irish Pub, 701 W. Lumsden Rd., Brandon.

Kent Bailey, 2014 Executive Committee member of the Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club, will speak about preserving the state's environment while creating economic growth.

Food and clothing donations for ECHO, Brandon's emergency help organization, are appreciated.

For more information, visit [www.hillsboroughdems.org](http://www.hillsboroughdems.org) or contact Michael Newett, club president, at [ehcd-club@yahoo.com](mailto:ehcd-club@yahoo.com).

## Enjoy a Pops Concert next week

The South Shore Concert Band and its director Ken Easton will present a Pops Concert at Community Hall in Sun City Center at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27.

Included in the program will be selections from *Les Misérables*, *Concerto for Drum Set and Band*, Aaron Copland's *Hoe Down*, the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and much more.

Tickets are \$5 and can be

purchased at the Sun City Center Atrium kiosk on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. They may also be purchased at the door on concert night.

Community Hall is at 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. in Sun City Center.

For more information, call (813) 642-2001.

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# Observations: A serious adult

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

I grew up in the 1960s and wanted to be a hippie, although I had no idea what a hippie actually was. I had assumed it was something like the Beatles. I really liked the Beatles. My first record album was the Chipmunks singing the Beatles greatest hits. I brought it to my kindergarten class and the teacher reluctantly played it as we all rolled out our little sleeping pads for naptime. Yes, that's right, 20 five-year-olds fell asleep to a falsetto chipmunk singing John Lennon.

In the summer months, perhaps it was even the Summer of '68, I tried walking around barefoot a lot with a leather strap tied around my ankle, but that was about as far into hippiedom as I had actually ventured back then. I remember seeing the results of a haircut given by my mom and shouting out in angst, "I look like a Beatle!" Apparently that, too, was a phase as years later I let my hair grow and even had a beard (sort of). Judging by photos from that time, I doubt that I would be allowed to board airplanes today had I kept that appearance. But that was the '70s, and pretty much all of us looked bad in the '70s. It wasn't an attractive decade.

Back to the '60s: I grew up in a small rural town where even the Democrats were Republicans and most of the unrest the nation was experiencing was far, far away. Nothing happened in Worthington, Minn. Well, there were rumors of a passing motorcycle gang killing a guy but no one in town turned up missing. I lived a "Leave It to Beaver" life until the age of 15 when my Dad suddenly

died from a heart attack. I saw it happen. Things changed, but really not all that much, except for finding a new depth of sadness. Although astonished by it, I found that the world kept turning. Somehow my trajectory felt out of step.

I joined a rock band but didn't do drugs and I didn't drink much — and even that, not until college. I have never been arrested.

I moved to Colorado and finished college, graduating with honors after a brief and sadly inglorious collegiate record in Minnesota. Everything changed in Colorado — I cut my hair, shaved off the beard and believed that I was well on my way to becoming a Serious Adult. Colorado eventually morphed into a return to Minnesota, which morphed into a move to Florida, literally the last state I ever expected to live in.

I eventually wound up in a distant suburb (of sorts) of Tampa. Tampa is a big city that has no concept of being a big city. To an outside observer, at least those who dare to venture off the beaches, it is a seemingly haphazard collection of trailer parks, gated communities and strip malls linked by traffic-choked roads. But, of course, there is much more to it than that.

You can probably consider yourself a Floridian when you realize that you can recognize the license plates of every northern state east of the Mississippi from a distance. I know them all, even with all of the variations that are so common today: Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York,

New Jersey and the not-quite states of Quebec and Ontario.

And with that realization I began to wonder if, perhaps, I've been in Florida too long. I arrived here a mere child of 32 years with numerous dreams, and, two decades later, I see some of those dreams lying about forlorn and neglected. But at the same time, I found new dreams that have come true. I'm not sure those dreams would have happened anywhere but in Florida.

Florida has challenges. A good percentage of the population is from somewhere else, and, while they may stay

in Florida, many still consider a different state their home. Florida is the only state for which the Associated Press publishes its annual weird news report. Generally speaking, Florida is as crazy as it is made out to be — but that's a different Florida than what I seem to know. Everyone knows the stories of drunken guys calling 911 asking the operator to run out to get them some more beer, or the people who call 911 from McDonald's to report they had been shorted on Chicken McNuggets — but I don't know anyone who would do that. My personal favorite weird news story involved a woman who was cited for animal abuse for leaving a baby pig in her closed-up car while she was inside a convenience store. Why would she have a baby pig in her car? She was driving around the neighborhood leaving it on street corners for a few minutes, hoping to lure her boyfriend's giant boa constrictor that had escaped from their mobile home. Now that's just not something you hear about happening in Worthington, Minn.

The reality is that Florida is simply an easy target. Pick any state, even the supposedly staid and respectable states, and chances are good that you'll find even crazier stuff going on there. Florida's problem is that it is just too easy. And more, communities form slowly, if at all, and sometimes only with intense opposition. For many people, Florida is just a place to vacation, even if that vacation lasts from retirement



**Observations**



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Somehow life's winding trails have led us all here. There are certainly worse places.

until death — or until someone's less-than-stellar past catches up with him or her from a northern state and is hustled off in cuffs.

I don't know that I want to die here, but then again, none of us knows what tomorrow will bring. Each day is a gift. And this month, with polar vortexes and blizzards pounding the North, Florida is a gift of epic proportions.

Why am I telling you an abbreviated version of my life story? Time is ancient but life is short — yet it is amazing how many twists and turns we take in our time here on earth. My story may not be all that different from yours. And

besides, we all have one thing in common: The trail of our lives has led us here. To Florida.

A lot has changed since the 1960s. What dreams may come seem to shape themselves to the times and the place. And Florida dreams are certainly not the worst kind to have. I don't know what tomorrow will bring but I'm hoping I'll have time to get a haircut. It's long overdue. And then some Beatles music will be on tap while I am avoiding any boa constrictors that may be roaming the neighborhood. And then I'll think some more about becoming a Serious Adult.



## A Valentine greeting

Last week when Ralph Wozniak walked out the front door of his Riverview home, he encountered a small snail inching its way around on the pavement. With disregard, Ralph continued on his way. Later, when his wife arrived home from shopping, she was greeted with the above heart shape, left behind by the snail. The gesture was just in time for Valentine's Day and a quiet reminder that there is beauty everywhere in creation if you take the time to look for it.

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## Riverview Branch Library

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### Baby Time — Thursday, Feb. 20, 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 ages up to 18 months and their caregivers.

### Toddler Time — Thursday, Feb. 20, 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 18-36 months and their caregivers.

### ABCs and 123s of Yoga — Thursday, Feb. 20, 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. 20, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 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.

### Tail Waggin' Tutors — Friday, Feb. 21, 3:30 p.m.

Join the Friends of the Riverview Branch Library as they discuss ways to help the library. You can join the Friends and volunteer in their bookstore, help to decide what types of programs the Friends will sponsor, and provide feedback to library staff.

### Saturday Movie Matinee — Saturday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m.

Relax at the library and enjoy a movie with your family. Stay after the movie for a chance to win the DVD.

### Yoga 101: Intro to Yoga for Adults — Monday, Feb. 24, 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.

### Google: Utilities — Monday, Feb. 24, 2 p.m.

Using Utilities from Google, learn how to create and store documents using cloud storage, access your music collection remotely, translate text and navigate with Google Maps. Create and upload a Google document. Remote access music files with Google Play. Translate text using Google Translate. Become orientated with Google Maps.

### Story Time — Wednesday, Feb. 26, 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.

## RUSKIN VFW POST #6287



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

Thursday, Feb. 20 — Bar Bingo 6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 21 — Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. Music

by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 22 — Crew Games, free hot dogs 6 p.m. Steak dinner 5 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 23 — Lounge Games 2 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy 6:30 p.m. Queen of Hearts drawing 7 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 24 — Crew Games, free hot dogs 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 25 — Lounge Games 1-4 p.m. Bingo: doors open 3 p.m., Bingo 6 p.m. Kitchen opens 4:30 p.m.

## Apollo Beach menu: High Tea for women

The Apollo Beach Woman's Club will hold an English High Tea from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27, at the Wellspring Club in Southshore Falls, 5831 Cascade Falls Dr., Apollo Beach.

Tickets are \$20; proceeds benefit the scholarship fund.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Sharon Vasquez at (813) 641 7856.

## 'Denim & Diamonds' is theme of Ruskin Woman's Club fund-raising fête

The community is invited to attend the GFWC Ruskin Woman's Club annual spring fund-raising event, "Denim & Diamonds," on Saturday, March 22, from 4 to 8 p.m.

The event will include a BBQ dinner, live entertainment, silent auction, chance drawings, cash bar and a chance to win the infamous "Wheelbarrow of Cheer." The event will take at the home of David and Kathy Wiles, 3920 33rd St. SE, Ruskin.

This popular event often sells out, so call early for tickets: Kathy Wiles at (813) 645-7283. Tickets are \$25 per person; all proceeds go to the GFWC Ruskin Woman's Club to enable them to continue their charitable work in the community.

The GFWC Ruskin Woman's Club is a member of the GFWC Florida Federation of Woman's Clubs and the General Federation of Woman's Clubs, one of the largest and oldest women's volunteer organizations in the world.

The Ruskin Woman's Club holds general membership meetings at 2 p.m. the first weekend of the month at 503 US 41 N, Ruskin. For more information, visit [www.theruskin-womansclub.org](http://www.theruskin-womansclub.org).

## Mark Rossmiller State Farm Agency to run in 5K, support arts in Apollo Beach

Mark Rossmiller State Farm Insurance in Apollo Beach will send a team of agents and office staff to participate in the Gasparilla 5K on Feb. 22. The firm is also a sponsor of the 22nd annual Apollo Beach Manatee Festival of the Arts on March 8 and 9.

The entire office signed up to run in the Gasparilla 5K as a team. With other State Farm agencies running as well, the event is a fun way to have some healthy "competition between offices," said owner Mark Rossmiller.

For its second year, the insurance agency is also sponsoring Manatee Festival of the Arts at the TECO South Shore Community Events Center. The festival is an innovative showcase of fine arts and fine crafts that draws talent from across the country. The Mark Rossmiller State Farm tent will have its staff available during the festival to answer questions about available insurance.

The Mark Rossmiller State Farm Agency is at 212 Apollo Beach Blvd. in Apollo Beach. For a free insurance quote or for more information, visit [www.markrossmiller.com](http://www.markrossmiller.com) or call (813) 645-3276.

## Riverview HS fair is fundraiser for Relay 4 Life

Riverview High School is having a vendor/garage fair starting at 7 a.m. on Saturday, March 1.

This is a community event to help raise money for Relay 4 Life, a program of the American Cancer Society.

Vendor spots are \$20. Contact Michelle Battle to reserve your vendor space: email [m.battle1004@gmail.com](mailto:m.battle1004@gmail.com) or call (813) 380-4608.

## Newborn at Brandon Regional wears red for National Wear Red Day®

Brandon Regional Hospital believes that heart health starts from day one. Recently a newborn at The Baby Suites at Brandon Regional Hospital received a reminder of Brandon Regional Hospital's commitment to women's heart health. The official National Wear Red Day, sponsored by Go Red for Women, was Feb. 7.

Go Red for Women is part of the American Heart Association's solution to help save women's lives. With one out of three women still dying from heart disease, Brandon Regional Hospital is committed to fighting this number one killer, which is largely preventable.

The website [www.GoRedforWomen.org](http://www.GoRedforWomen.org) is a source of information and education, connects millions of women of all ages and gives them tangible resources to turn personal choices into life-saving actions.



New mother Lineda Cenoble holds her baby, Jade Rochelle Cenoble, who wears red in honor of National Wear Red Day®.

The movement is nationally sponsored by Macy's and Merck & Co. Inc., and locally sponsored by the hospitals of HCA West Florida, including Brandon Regional Hospital.

## Roll the dice and help raise money for scholarships with Brandon Junior Woman's Club

The GFWC Brandon Junior Woman's Club will host its annual Bunco for Education on Thursday, March 13, at Center Place, 619 Vonderburg Dr., Brandon.

Take along a friend and enjoy an evening of Bunco fun with light hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, 50/50, door prizes and raffle prizes.

This year Bunco players will also have an opportunity to purchase used paperback and hardback books. Social hour begins at 6 p.m.; Bunco starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased on line at [www.thebjwc.com](http://www.thebjwc.com). Tickets are also on sale at Center Place.

Proceeds from the night of Bunco fun will go toward scholarships awarded to senior high school

girls who volunteer in the community. Scholarship applications are available now in area high school guidance counselor offices and online at [www.thebjwc.com](http://www.thebjwc.com). The scholarship application deadline is April 1, 2014, and it must be post-marked or received by this date to be eligible.

Proceeds are also used to purchase school supplies for the 2014-2015 school year for the club's adopted "school in need" — Kenly Elementary. Each year, school supplies are distributed to Kenly students at their open house event. Students receive all the necessary supplies to begin the school year.

For more information, call Leslie Kadubec at (813) 436-6064 or email [Lesliek67@aol.com](mailto:Lesliek67@aol.com).



Summerfield Ladies Club officers are, from left: Connie Vina, treasurer; Patsy Jackson, secretary; Irene Efchak, vice president; and Nancy Rademaker, president.

## Summerfield Ladies Club is in full swing

The Summerfield Ladies Club at Summerfield Crossings in Riverview is in full swing for 2014, with a new slate of officers, all committees and service groups in place and ready to go.

Summerfield Crossings is a subdivision off US 301 and Big Bend Road.

The club meets at 11 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Summerfield Crossings Community Center, for a business meeting, entertainment and lunch. On the third Thursday of each month, the ladies have an outing for lunch and shopping, a craft day or a game

day. Having a good time is the order of the day, no matter what they are doing. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

A Community-wide Garage Sale is planned for Saturday, April 5, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the Ladies Club as sponsor. About 200 households will participate, so head out and look for bargains.

Also planned for April is the club's 15th Anniversary Party, to be held at Freedom Plaza, Sun City Center. For more information call (813) 677-4610. This party is by reservation only.

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## Get your tix for Route 66

Opening night to benefit the American Cancer Society

The Performing Arts Company will present a new musical, *Valentine's on Route 66*, at the Rollins Theater at 7:30 p.m. on Feb 26, 27, 28 and March 1, 6, 7 and 8; there will also be a matinee at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 8. Tickets are \$12 and available at the SCC Atrium kiosk, weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon, or via credit card by calling (813) 400-7803.

TV personality Phoebe Snow, losing a battle with a disease she's been fighting for years, decides to cross off some of the things on her bucket list and takes a road trip along Route 66 in a yellow Corvette convertible to Disneyland to try and find some magic. On her way, she makes a stop in her hometown of Valentine, Ariz., to tie up some loose ends.

Filled with colorful characters, shady bad guys, laughter, tears, triumph, fears and great songs, *Valentine's on Route 66* was created by and stars the team of Ellen Kleinschmidt and Teri Council. Also featured are PAC favorites Dan Tackitt, Bev Carnes, Babs Cominoli, Jeanne Naish, Harold Emanuel and Kathy Straub. *Valentine's* is directed by former New York actor/director Lew Resseguie.

*Valentine's on Route 66* deals with a woman suffering from leukemia. For 100 years the American Cancer Society, the official sponsor of more birthdays, has been leading the way to transform cancer from deadly to preventable. The cast and crew of *Valentine's* all have been affected by cancer in one way or another. In an effort to give back and to help celebrate more birthdays, the Performing Arts Company has dedicated opening night of *Valentine's on Route 66* as a benefit show. A portion of each ticket sold will be donated to the American Cancer Society to help fight all kinds of cancer, including leukemia.

Donations to the American Cancer Society also will be accepted at each show.

For more information and details on *Valentine's on Route 66*, call the ticket line or visit the PAC website at [www.PerformingArtsCompany-SCC.org](http://www.PerformingArtsCompany-SCC.org).

## Sandpiper Grille made this wedding an all-in-the-family affair

An American dream unfolded in front of surprised guests at the Sandpiper Grille and Bunkers this past Valentine's Day.

While hundreds of couples were enjoying a Valentine's Day dinner with a view of the beautiful Sandpiper Golf Course, 40 well-dressed guests walked from the adjacent Bunkers Pub and assembled on the lawn facing the restaurant's panoramic 50-foot window and the diners inside.

Then, as if to provide an answer to everyone's shared question, a handsome groom emerged to stand between his guests and the pleasantly surprised diners. With all eyes upon her, the bride-to-be walked an aisle of lush grass to her groom. Framed under grand old southern oaks, they turned to face the minister.

As the ceremony began, everything in the restaurant came to a standstill as the couples stopped their dinners to watch the spectacle that unfolded through the window, as if they were watching a full-color silent movie. Servers were shooed away from tables, and some couples went outside to hear the ceremony. It was picture perfect.

Wedded couples of many years teared up, while, at other tables, some women wished, some men squirmed.

Fifteen minutes later, Clarisa Blakely and Pavel "Paul" Svatos were husband and wife as they walked down the aisle to begin their American Dream.

A short reception followed in the



Clarisa Blakely and Paul Svatos.

Sandpiper Grille's Parquet Room, and the celebration continued well into the night at Bunkers Pub.

After enduring a long-distance relationship, Paul and Clarisa decided to settle in America, leaving many of Paul's friends and family back home in the his native Czech Republic. Clarisa, 29 years old and a native of Florida, works as a bartender at Bunkers. Paul, 28, works as contract handyman and landscaper for the the Sandpiper Grille.

The wedding was attended by many of Clarisa's Bunkers customers and many friends, family and co-workers. It was sponsored in part by the Sandpiper Golf Course and the Sandpiper Grille and Bunkers.

## Seminar for seniors with aches, pains

The Bridges Retirement Community, partnering with Brandon Regional Hospital and the Campo Family YMCA, will host a "lunch and learn" event on Thursday, March 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Bridges, 11350 Bloomingdale Ave., Riverview.

Dr. Edward Becker, a fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon, will present "Understanding Aches & Pains in the Active Senior." He will specifically address rotator cuff tears, shoulder pain and meniscus tears.

Trained at the renowned Kerlan-Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic in Los Angeles, Dr. Becker applied his talents to several professional sports teams in the Los Angeles area. His clinical focuses are sports medicine and arthroscopy.

Dr. Becker practices at Orthopaedic Medical Group of Tampa Bay in Brandon and is on the medical staff at Brandon Regional Hospital.

An exercise demonstration by a YMCA instructor will give attendees the opportunity to practice proper stretching to keep joints and muscles flexible.

There is no fee to attend, and lunch will be provided. To reserve a seat, call Brandon Regional Hospital's reservation line at (813) 653-1065.

## Surgeon to discuss options for back pain treatment

South Bay Hospital will host a free Dine with the Doctor seminar featuring information for those suffering back pain.

At noon on March 19, Dr. Larry Fishman, neurosurgeon, will facilitate an information session entitled "Treatment Options for Back Pain." Dr. Fishman is on staff at South Bay Hospital, is board certified and specializes in kyphoplasty and minimally invasive spine surgery.

For more information, or to make a reservation for the free seminar, call (888) 685-1595.

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Michelle Halcomb, DDS

# St. Anne Catholic Church breaks ground for new food pantry



Food pantry coordinator Paul Wiskatoni hopes the new 4,000-square-foot food pantry will be operating by July or August. The church currently serves 375 to 400 families each week.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



St. Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin ceremoniously broke ground for its new food pantry on Sunday, Feb. 16, just after the church's 10 a.m. Mass. According to food pantry coordinator Paul Wiskatoni, the church currently serves approximately 375 to 400 families per week. The church also participates once each

month in the Feeding America mobile pantry, providing meals, banana boxes filled with food, to about 400 needy families. "We are hoping that we will have the new building up and running by July or August," Wiskatoni said. "If all goes right, we should officially break ground in another month." Right, Paul Wiskatoni, longtime former food pantry coordinator Bill Richards, and Father John McEvoy ceremoniously break ground on the new 4,000-square-foot building as more than a hundred parishioners look on. For information, visit [www.saintanneruskin.org](http://www.saintanneruskin.org) or call (813) 645-1714. St. Anne Catholic Church is located at 106 11th Ave. NE, in Ruskin.



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## FAMILY NEWS

# Three tips for building strong families

What worked in the old days still works today, says award-winning author

Have you ever wondered how members of the same family, from aunts, uncles and cousins to siblings born of the same parents and raised in the same household, can be so very different?

“We see it in every family – Grandma’s so easygoing and her son is so strict; Mom’s a zany beatnik and her sister’s a corporate v.p. Anyone with brothers and sisters will even see it within their own sibling group,” says Lynn Shafer, award-winning author of *Stories from Brooklyn: Ancient Voices, Ritual Chants*, (www.jo-anbooks.com), a timeless look at the interplay of disparate members of an extended 1940s family.

A ground-breaking study by researcher Robert Plomin in the 1980s is still the preeminent resource for psychologists seeking to understand personality diversity within families. Even among siblings, the study showed, while physical traits may be very similar, personalities can be as varied as random individuals from the general population.

“Expand that to the extended family, including the vast non-traditional extended families we see today, and you’re likely to see more differences than similarities,” says Shafer. “Still, many of these families are tight-knit and cohesive. They serve as an inspirational example for humanity as a whole. Despite a union of very different people, we can all love,

learn and grow together.”

How can you build a strong family? Shafer shares timeless tips:

- **Establish a solid foundation based on shared values.** It’s no secret that very religious families tend to be close-knit and strong. Why? “Because religion provides a structured means of sharing beliefs and values, a process that begins in infancy, when babies are taken to worship services and undergo the rituals that mark their membership in the religion,” Shafer says. While fewer American families are religion-focused than were in decades past, they can all still strive to emphasize the importance of family values and their role in reuniting every family member. Creating rituals and traditions are one way to emphasize values.

- **Make your family history a story to celebrate.** The story about how brave Uncle Joe once rescued a dog from a well; the singing talents of the three great aunts who performed at county fairs as little girls; the one-cheek dimple that is the family hallmark — these are the stories that make your family special. “It’s not about memorizing the family tree, but about ensuring children know that they are part of something greater than themselves — and that is both a privilege and a responsibility,” Shafer says. A child who is constantly reminded, with fondness, that she’s the spitting image of wonderful Aunt Bessie will feel a bond with Aunt Bessie — even if she’s been gone for decades.

- **Commit to attending, or hosting, family gatherings.** Often, the places for sharing those stories are family gatherings — weddings and funerals, holidays and anniversaries. “It may be a question of the chicken or the egg,” Shafer says. “Strong families tend to have many shared family stories. Strong families also tend to gather together frequently — and that’s where those stories are most often shared.” Family gatherings are also a good place for family members with very different personalities to learn to find common ground and practice getting along for the sake of everyone at the special event. “Imagine what a more peaceful world it would be if we were all forced to play nicely with our obnoxious cousins as children!” Shafer says.



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## Children’s activities in Palmetto

Special activities for children will be offered Saturday, March 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Palmetto Heritage Day at the Palmetto Historical Park and Manatee County Agricultural Museum, 1015 6th St. W, Palmetto. The North River Fire Department will be operating a Children’s Fire Challenge where children will get to try on mini fire gear, spray a water hose and assume other firefighter duties.

Also available all day will be craft projects, writing letters to soldiers, participating in a Kids’ Basic Training Obstacle, the FFA goat-petting corral, and First Baptist Church of Palmetto will be providing free train rides to children.

In addition, a special writing and painting workshop titled “What Freedom Means to Me,” is being offered by the Palmetto Art Center at half-hour intervals between noon and 2 p.m. Completed works will be sent to enlisted troops. Pre-registration is required for this workshop; call (941) 721-2034 to register. All activities are free.

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Mr. Hollander emphasized the program is effective immediately and he will be able to arrange low monthly payments to suit the budgetary needs of every home. This amazing program allows you to purchase windows now and pay later, while taking advantage of the “no cost now” program.

This very special program features the finest vinyl windows and fiberglass doors manufactured in Florida. WeatherTite Windows and Doors come with 7 great warranties, meet stringent codes for hurricanes and provide year round energy savings for your home.

In addition, for the next 2 weeks only, new clients who purchase WeatherTite Windows will get a special offer. Buy 2 windows Get 1 FREE, PLUS receive a FREE fiberglass entry door with minimum purchase. Certain restrictions apply and doors are limited.

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## South Shore SAR gains insight into George Washington

The February meeting of the South Shore Sons of the American Revolution, held in the Nile Room at Freedom Plaza, welcomed John Skillman, past president of the Tampa chapter.

Compatriot Skillman presented a monologue portraying James Crawford, a courier for George Washington during the Revolutionary War and neighbor thereafter. He told Crawford's story, which described General Washington's life 50 years after the war.

Registrar Luke Lloyd presented the Military Service Award to Treasurer Bill Love; he also presented the War Service Medal to President Gordon Bassett.

The March luncheon meeting will feature a speaker who will talk about Community Emergency Reaction Teams, and April will have a representative from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department who will address the Citizens Academy.



John Skillman



Anglers Cody Chivas and Chris Cenci took first place in Round One of the Power-Pole Florida Pro Redfish Tournament.



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## Over \$10,000 in cash and prizes at Power-Pole Florida Pro Redfish Series

Over \$10,000 in cash and prizes were presented at Round One of the Power-Pole Florida Pro Redfish Tournament. The field of 50 boats, 100 anglers, geared up to endure the elements in Ruskin on Feb. 8. The day was filled with less than stellar conditions — intermittent rain, wind and chilly temperatures.

All anglers returned to the Resort and Club at Little Harbor by 3:30 p.m. for the weigh-in. The first place check and prizes were awarded to Team Salt Rock. Anglers Cody Chivas from Indian Shores and Chris Cenci, owner of Slayer Inc. Lure Company in Jacksonville, brought in two magnificent redfish for a total weight of 14.49 lbs. Team Salt Rock received a check for \$2,500 and took home two Reactor watches and two TFO fishing poles for a total package of \$3,540. "It was a tough day out there," said Cenci. "We caught both of our fish within the

last hour of fishing time — it was a brutal day."

Launched in 2013 on both Florida coasts, Florida Pro Redfish Series consists of four qualifier tournaments on each coast, culminating an all-inclusive championship for the top 25 teams from each coast in Panama City. The series is structured to identify and award Florida's Top Professional Redfish Team. Run entirely by volunteers, FPRS is a nonprofit organization promoting the sport of inshore saltwater Redfish fishing and focused on conservation within Florida. Florida Pro Redfish Series is an artificial baits only, catch and release, 100 percent Plus Cash Payback tournament series.

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## SouthShore Regional Library

### Kids program/event highlights

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#### Teen Game Zone — Thursday, Feb. 20, 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. 20, 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. 20, 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.

#### Baby Time — Monday, Feb. 24, 1:35 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 11:35 a.m.

For children ages 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.

#### Adult/Teen Watercolor Painting — Monday, Feb. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Join art instructor Cory Wright and brush up on your painting skills. All levels welcome. Materials provided. Limit 22. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling (813) 273-3652. Funding for this program provided by the Friends of SouthShore Regional Library.

#### The Tricky Dogs Shows — Monday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m.

For children ages 5-12 ~ See this hilarious circus-style dog comedy act, starring a group of tricky little dogs and their pet human. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

#### Toddler Time - Tuesday, Feb. 25, 10:05 and 10:35 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 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.

#### Story Time - Tuesday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 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 would be interested in becoming a Member of the Friends of the Library, call Jim Duffy at (813) 634-1396. [www.southshorefriends.com](http://www.southshorefriends.com).

## Join the Spring Clean-Up at Ruskin cemetery

Spring Clean-Up at Ruskin Memorial Park will be on Saturday, March 29, starting at 8 a.m.

This is the time of year to prepare for the rainy season. The cemetery is run on a very tight budget and managed by volunteers. Everyone's help is needed.

Go out and join this community effort to keep Ruskin Memorial beautiful and easy to maintain.

Bring yard tools and equipment such as weed-eaters, shovels, saws, rakes, pruning items and gloves.

Community Service Hours are available. For more information, call (813) 892-7235.

## 'Life After Graduation' meeting set for Feb. 27 at East Bay High School

East Bay High School Guidance Department will host a college fair entitled "Life After Graduation" from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27, in the school's media center and cafeteria.

The event will be a college-planning workshop where students and parents may learn about the application process, SAT-ACT testing, military options, community service, scholarships, financial aid, NCAA eligibility, technical-career schools and more.

There will be two workshop sessions in the media center, at 6 p.m. and at 6:45 p.m.

Those who attend may meet and talk with college admissions representatives from the following schools:

- University of Florida
- University of South Florida
- University of Central Florida
- University of North Florida
- Hillsborough Community College
- Hi-TEC Centers
- USF St. Petersburg
- St. Leo University
- Bethune Cookman University
- Keiser University
- Florida Polytechnic University
- Johnson & Wales University

No registration is required. All high school students and parents in the South Shore community are welcome to attend

For more information, email Kayzie Weaver, college and career counselor at East Bay, at [mary.weaver@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:mary.weaver@sdhc.k12.fl.us), or call (813) 671-5134, ext. 245.



## Social dance this weekend at Manatee RV Park

The Manatee RV Park will host a social dance from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22. Music will be by Musical Memories.

Bring your own refreshment; ice will be provided.

The cost is \$5 per person, and the public is invited.

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

Manatee RV Park is off US 41, four miles north of I-275 or seven miles south of Ruskin.

## BoutiqueOnWheels arrives in Apollo Beach March 7

The next meeting of the Apollo Beach Woman's Club will be Wednesday, March 12, at Little Harbor Resort, 611 Destiny Drive, Ruskin.

Headlining the program will be Denise Kelley from BoutiqueOnWheels, a family-owned and operated Florida business committed for 35 years to providing quality fashions at affordable prices. Women from ABWC will be the models, and the clothing will be available for purchase.

Luncheon reservations are \$16 and must be made by Friday, March 7, by calling Dianna Anest at (813) 938-3641, or email her at [hookr06@hotmail.com](mailto:hookr06@hotmail.com).

ABWC membership, open to all women in Apollo Beach and surrounding communities, was founded in 1959 by a group of women who wished to contribute to the community by providing college scholarships to Apollo Beach High School graduates. Scholarship applications are available on the ABWC website: [www.apollobeachwomensclub.com](http://www.apollobeachwomensclub.com) and also at East Bay and Lennard high school guidance counselor's offices.



Christine Tran



Richard Scilabro

## Ruskin Christian School students win district-wide essay contests

Seventh-grader Christine Tran and 10th-grader Richard Scilabro placed first in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Essay Competition.

Their essays were first submitted to the VFW Ruskin Chapter for the local competition. Molly placed first in Patriot's Pen, the junior-high essay competition, and Richard placed first in Voice of Democracy, the high-school competition. The students represented the local chapter at the District 12 competition, and Molly placed first and Richard placed second.

Both students received plaques from the local and district levels in addition to monetary awards for their accomplishments.



## Honorary Mayor of SouthShore donates to high school athletics

2014 Honorary Mayor of SouthShore Shannon Brown, of Kids 'R' Kids Southshore, recently presented \$1,700 in checks to the athletics departments of both Lennard and East Bay high schools. Shown above, Shannon is with John Guarisco, assistant principal of administration at Lennard High School. The funds are designated to provide students in need with athletic equipment. Shannon wants to give all students the opportunity to participate in school athletics, regardless of their finances.



## Ruskin Elementary School Terrific Kids for January

The following Ruskin Elementary School students were honored in January for the character trait of cooperation: Giovanni Moran Cruz, Daniellah Rodriguez, Jenny Moran Cruz, Vicky Galindo, Kaylynn Garcia, Kevin Monterrosas Coeto, Jaslene Bence, Kathy Macias, Kevin Ambriz, Jada Smith, Emily Dirzio, Valentina Salazar, Ozuneya Bryant, Lizbeth Islas, Yanell DeLaRosa, Nathaniel Pena, Tyler Padilla, Ricardo Rodriguez Lucas, Juan Gomez, Inayah Martinez, Arely Navarrete, Yaritza Molina-Torres, Brooke-Lynn Mendiola, Damien Uribes, Daniel Nickerson, Brooke Duerr, Lille Tran, Suany Hernandez Enrique, Jasmine Torres, Kimora Williams, Emmanuel Vazquez, Daniel Meza, Sean McAllister, Javian Baez, Giselle Meneses, Nephtalie Sainitdor, Eduardo Lopez, Manuel Molina, Jose Ibarra, Xenia Jiang, Jennifer Cerecero, Itzel Montoya, Christopher Vazquez, Alfredo Silva, Makenna Miley, Gloria Flores Cortes, Kyle Parenteau, Clayton Nieves, Elsa Perez, Nathaly Martinez, Damaris Monrial, Alana Fisher, Brizeyda Rodriguez and D'Nilson Cerecero. Students not present for the photo were: Bryan Norona, Bruce Islas, Shane Sausal, Soleil Mondello, Jo Lynn Hunter, Abel Barrera and Tamyia Simms. The Terrific Kids program is sponsored by Kiwanis of Sun City Center. Kiwanis members were Donna and Tom Braden and Charlene Wirick.

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

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

**• The Middle Ear**

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

**• The Inner Ear**

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

## 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.

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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.

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

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

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

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

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**Custom Dodge coupe is cruiser of the month**

A spectacularly customized 1948 Dodge coupe owned by Maurice and Sandy Wells of Ellenton has been voted February cruiser of the month for the Roamin' Oldies car club.

Maurice spent four years building the low-riding coupe on an S-10 frame, with a Buick-style fender treatment, grille and headlights, and with 1959 Cadillac taillights.

The body was chopped, channeled and revised from a pot-type to a hardtop. The hood and trunk open electrically by remote control. Power is provided by a 5.7-liter Dodge Hemi coupled to a 6-speed automatic transmission.

The coupe is so heavily modified,

Maurice says, that only six of its original parts remain intact.

The Roamin' Oldies host a cruise-in from 6 to 9 p.m. the first Thursday of every month in the Apollo Beach Winn-Dixie Plaza on US 41, with a rain date the following Thursday. There is no charge for spectators or participants, who vote to select the cruiser of the month.

About 100 of the area's finest antique and collectible cars often take part, accompanied by classic oldies music played by DJ Joey Ferrante.

The event is sponsored by Thompson's Auto Parts and Sun City Center Funeral Home.

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

**THE SAVVY SENIOR**

**2014 Tax Season Filing Requirements for Seniors**

Dear Savvy Senior,

What are the IRS income tax filing requirements for seniors this tax season? My income dropped way down when I retired last year, so I'm wondering if I need to even file a tax return this year

Recently Retired



By Jim Miller

Dear Recently,

Whether or not you are required to file a federal income tax return this year depends on your gross

income, as well as your filing status and age. Your gross income includes all the income you receive that is not exempt from tax, not including Social Security benefits, unless you are married and filing separately.

To get a detailed breakdown on federal filing requirements, along with information on taxable and nontaxable income, call the IRS at

(800) 829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy of the *Tax Guide for Seniors* (publication 554), or see [irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p554.pdf](http://irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p554.pdf).

In the meantime, here's a rundown of the IRS filing requirements for this tax season. If your gross income from 2013 was lower than the amount listed in your filing status, you probably won't have to file. But if it's over, you will.

■ Single: \$10,000 (\$11,500 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2014).

■ Married filing jointly: \$20,000 (\$21,200 if you or your spouse is 65 or older; or \$22,400 if you're both over 65).

■ Married filing separately: \$3,900 at any age.

■ Head of household: \$12,850 (\$14,350 if age 65 or older).

■ Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child: \$16,100 (\$17,300 if age 65 or older).

**Special requirements**

Be aware that there are some special financial situations that require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirement. For example, if you had net earnings from self-employment in 2013 of \$400 or more, or if you owe any special taxes to the IRS such as alternative minimum tax or IRA tax penalties, you'll probably need to file.

To figure this out, the IRS offers a resource on their website called "Do I Need to File a Tax Return?" that asks a series of questions that will help you determine if you're required to file, or if you should file because you're due a refund. You can access this page at [www.irs.gov/uac/Do-I-Need-to-File-a-Tax-](http://www.irs.gov/uac/Do-I-Need-to-File-a-Tax-)

Return%3F, or you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at (800) 829-1040. You can also get face-to-face help at a Taxpayer Assistance Center. See [irs.gov/localcontacts](http://irs.gov/localcontacts) or call (800) 829-1040 to locate a center near you.

**Check your state**

Even if you're not required to file a federal tax return this year, it doesn't necessarily mean you're also excused from filing state income taxes. Check with your state tax agency before concluding that you're entirely in the clear. For links to state and local tax agencies see [taxadmin.org](http://taxadmin.org) – click on "State Agencies/Links" on the menu bar.

**Tax-prep assistance**

If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can get help through the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (or TCE) program. Sponsored by the IRS, TEC provides free tax preparation and counseling to middle and low-income taxpayers, age 60 and older. Call (800) 906-9887 to locate a service near you.

Also check with AARP, a participant in the TCE program that provides free tax preparation at more than 5,000 sites nationwide. To locate an AARP Tax-Aide site call (888) 227-7669 or visit [aarp.org/findtaxhelp](http://aarp.org/findtaxhelp). You don't have to be an AARP member to use this service.

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

**Beth Israel holds OPEN HOUSE for Prospective Members**

Beth Israel, the Jewish Congregation of Sun City Center, extends an invitation to the public to enjoy a bagel brunch, learn about our activities and meet the representatives of our various committees.

We look forward to meeting you.

Membership Committee

**Sunday, February 24**

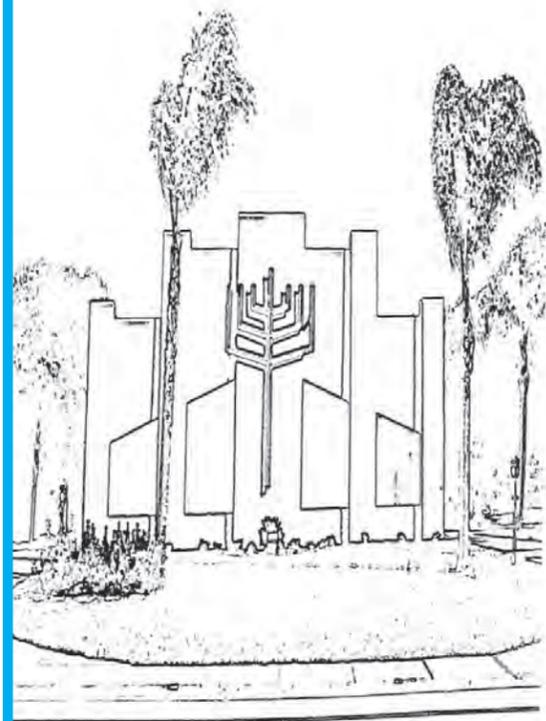
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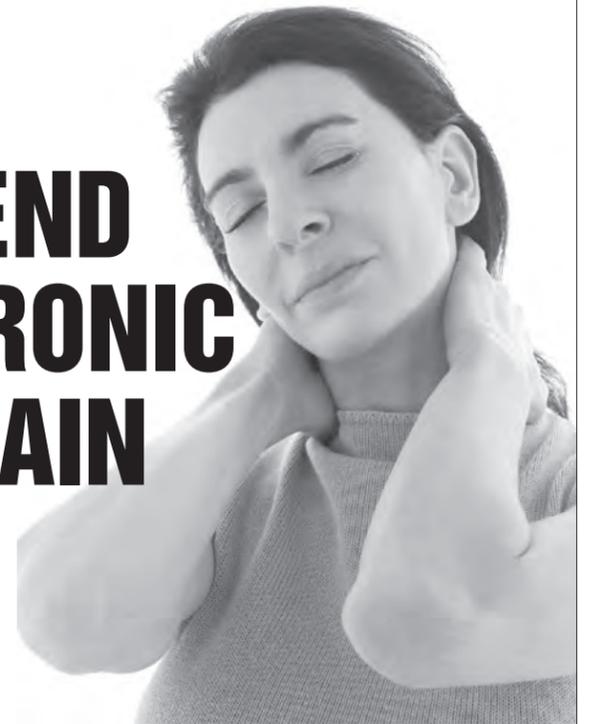
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# Fish Tales:

## Use live bait; wait with bated breath

Because it is February you should change your baits from artificial to live, regardless of the weather.

A great game fish right now is the mighty tarpon. It has no food value but has always been a good trophy fish. Use at least a 50-pound test line and a wire leader of 80 pounds or more with a heavy rod and a 6/0 hook. Take a buddy along to snap the photo and help you reel in this fighter. Snap the photo and release the tarpon for someone else to catch. Your trophy will be made from the photo by your taxidermist. There are still some around.

Cobia is another game fish that is enjoying our waters. It is strong and will give you a good workout before being boated. It is very good to eat. In the winter months it stays in the warm water flow of the TECO plant near Apollo Beach.

We have dolphin and sailfish in our area, too. I have had both follow alongside the boat when out in deeper water.

Some anglers only fish for shark. This is another fish that to land you should have a buddy along to help. I have eaten blacktip shark that was battered and deep fried and served with cheese grits.

At a local bait shop last week, I overheard a fisherman say "We caught some convicts today. Boy were they tricky." Sounded like a law enforcement officer talking, but it was one of two anglers who had been catching sheepshead. Many call them convict fish because their entire body is covered with black and white stripes. The tricky part is trying to hook this fish. They have a solid bone mouth and rows of teeth like a sheep. It is very difficult to set your hook. From experience, and being taught by the best, I have discovered that when you

feel a nudge, count to three and then jerk the line to set your hook. Many anglers jerk at the nudge and spend all day feeding them all of their bait. This fish is bony, but a lean white meat fish, and very good table fare. Must measure 12 inches minimum and you may take 15 per person, per day.

The South Shore area is close to many beautiful parks: The Little Manatee River State Park located off of US 301 in Wimauma is one of them. It is five miles south of Sun City Center off Lightfoot Road in Sundance. It is 2,416 acres of fun. Canoe rentals are available and you can even bring your horse for trail riding. It's also a great place to fish.

The Alafia River State Park is in Lithia and has 6,000 acres to play, fish, ride your horse and camp.

Simmons Park is in our back yard in Ruskin. Here you can fish, swim and camp. All these parks are close, so take time to enjoy them.

Hillsborough River State Park in Thonotosassa has been a favorite for years for families. It is 3,413 acres. It opened to the public in 1938 and is one of the oldest. It's just 12 miles north of Tampa.

The upper areas of the rivers were teeming with bass hovering in deep holes to escape the cold.

Fresh water catfish are abundant in our rivers, too. They also are great table fare.

Be thankful for the pure clear water, the seabreeze you are breathing, and the beauty of God's creation.



By Jonie Maschek  
Member: Florida Outdoor Writers Association



## Art show to benefit SouthShore Arts Council

A show of work by artist Grace McKee on Saturday, March 15, is a fund-raiser for the SouthShore Arts Council.

A \$5 donation to the council gains you admission to the exhibit of graphite, carbon and charcoal pencil sketches entitled "Portrait Sketches from Selfies."

The show will be at the Mira-Bay Clubhouse, 205 Point Harbor Lane, Apollo Beach.

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## Retirement investing for women is topic

Pat Kaye, financial advisor with Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, will speak about retirement investing for women at the February dinner meeting of the Southshore Charter Chapter of American Business Women's Association.

The meeting will take place on Monday, Feb. 24, at the Sandpiper Grille, 1702 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., Sun City Center. Networking and sign-in start at 5:30 p.m., with the dinner and program at 6 p.m.

The menu will offer six options for dinner, including entree, dessert and beverage. The cost is \$16, cash or check only.

This dinner meeting is open to anyone interested in attending; non-members are welcome.

To RSVP, send an email to [diana@brandonfamilylaw.com](mailto:diana@brandonfamilylaw.com).

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# Riverview teacher honored by Gov. Scott for her life of service and contribution

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

When she received the phone call, Regenia Smith, a former US Marine and a teacher at Collins Elementary School in Riverview, thought someone was playing a joke on her.

Regenia Smith has served for her entire life. She served her nation, retiring after 21 years of active duty service with the US Marine Corps, and today she continues to serve both her community and nation in helping to shape tomorrow's leaders as a teacher.

"I've always wanted to teach," Smith said. "Once I knew I was going to retire, I knew this is what I was going to do. This is not about a job, it's not about the money, it is about making a difference. There are always days, but overall it is fun. Especially those days when you can see it in the eyes of the children. Making a difference, whether it is little or not, is the feeling."

Although to Smith, educating and helping the children is all the reward and recognition she needs, Gov. Rick Scott recently recognized her as well. It was a recognition well-deserved.

The governor's office said in a press release:

During a recent meeting of the Florida Cabinet, Gov. Rick Scott recognized seven educators who formerly served in various branches of the military with

the Governor's Shine Award for their service to our country and their contributions to Florida's students.

Scott said, "Recognizing the men and women who have not only served our country, but are now also teaching Florida students, is a tremendous honor. Florida's education system continues to succeed because of the dedication of educators like these. I want to thank these teachers for their dedicated service both to our country and our classrooms."

The Shine Award is presented to Floridians who have positively impacted children through education.

Regenia Smith, US Marine Corps, Hillsborough County, Collins Elementary School – Smith retired from the United States Marine Corps after 21 years of active duty service. After retirement she fulfilled her longtime dream of becoming an educator and received a Master of Education Leadership degree from Strayer University. Her teaching career began three years ago after being a substitute teacher for four years. She currently teaches fourth grade at Collins Elementary in Riverview. The philosophy for her students is "student success through academic achievement."

*Congratulations, Ms. Smith, and thank you for your service in all the forms you have so selflessly chosen.*

**Collins Elementary School fourth-grade teacher and one of seven recipients statewide of Gov. Rick Scott's Shine Award, Regenia Smith is surrounded by her students, cheering for her well-deserved recognition.**

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO



## Correction

Because of a reporting error in last week's article about the Lennard High School Robotics Club, the Rotary Club that provided the annual \$250 donation was incorrectly identified. The correct name is the Rotary Club of South Bay After Hours. For information about this Rotary Club, contact Peggy Gleason, president, 986 Villeroy Greens Drive, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Email pegbern416@aol.com or call (239) 898-8718. We regret the error.

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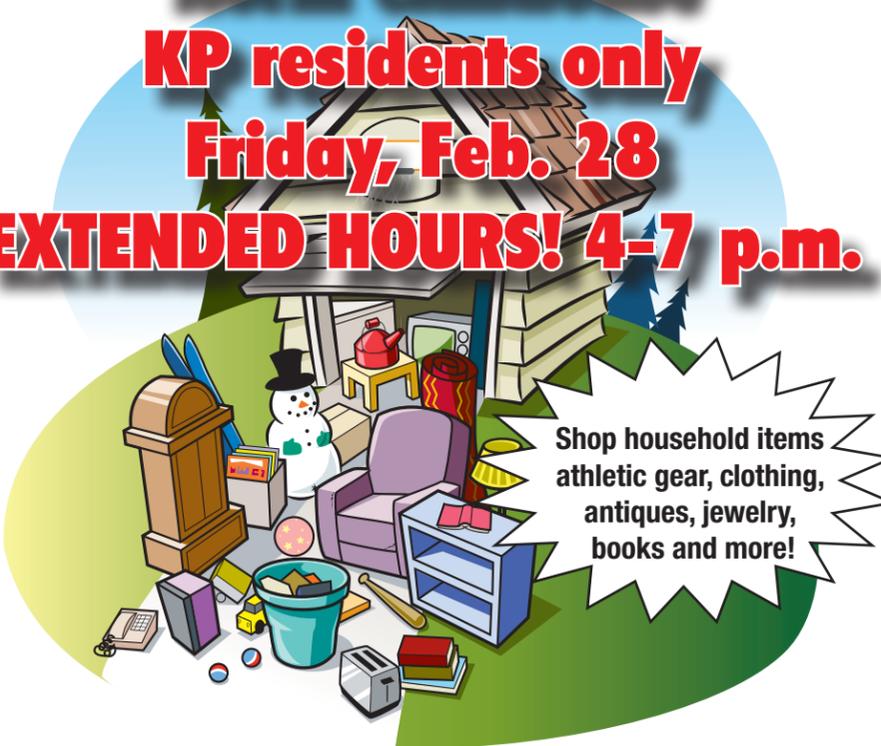
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# Ring Power initiates healthier lifestyles for employees

► Continued from page 1

four largest Florida locations covering nutrition, weight loss, gym reimbursements and preventive health.

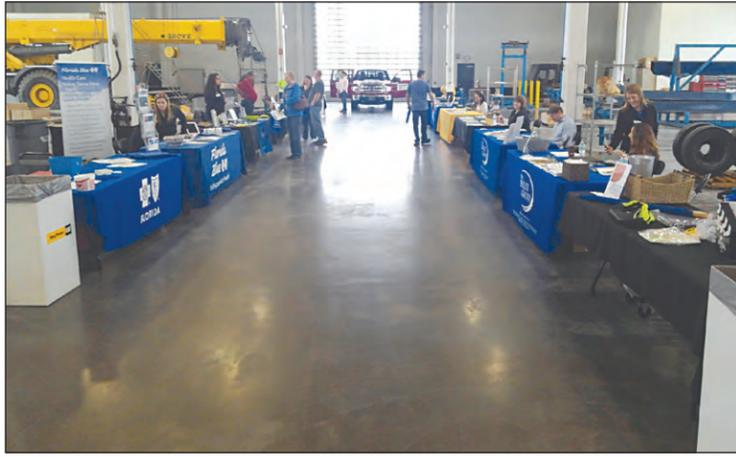
“Some of our employees have medical conditions they never knew they had, like heart conditions or diabetes. We have already found some employees today who are pre-diabetic and did not know it,” said Minzenberg, an assistant vice president at Ring Power. The company is a Florida-based Caterpillar dealership covering the state’s north and central regions, and has 400 employees in Riverview.

Minzenberg said that, while many employees expressed an interest in health, nutrition and fitness, “many didn’t know how to deal with that, so we felt it was up to us to assist them, and this is the way to do it in a way that doesn’t cost them anything.”

With an average employee tenure between 15 and 20 years, Ring Power knows health care is an issue that is foremost in many of their employees’ minds. “It’s a very tight-knit group of long-term employees,” Minzenberg said.

The event included screening for diabetes, blood glucose, cholesterol and obesity. Health coaches were on hand to offer advice.

Now in its fourth year, the health fair found employees who didn’t realize they were obese according to body mass index guidelines. As a result, Ring Power partnered with local gyms and the YMCA to encourage exercise. They also brought in nutrition specialists to promote healthy eating. The company also has contracts with local farmers markets to bring fresh fruits and



KEVIN BRADY PHOTOS

More than 100 employees turned out for the Ring Power health fair in Riverview.

vegetables to each location.

The Healthy Builders program covers gym reimbursements, paying 50 percent of any Weight Watchers fees, and a biggest losers weight contest with prize money.

The biggest loser contest had been very well received by employees, said Vicki Wood, a human resources liaison and wellness coordinator who handles the contest at Ring Power’s Riverview office.

“We had a great turnout already for the contest, which kicks off Monday. There’s been a lot of positive feedback. Everyone wants to lose weight and be healthy. People really like it and want more of it.”

The health fair gives employees better tools to deal with health issues. “A lot of people don’t go to the doctor or go for their annual checkup, but they come here and they get a shock and then they go to the doctor and get checked out,” Minzenberg said.

“Any time you have a wellness

program in a company, it pays off for the company because you have healthy employees, which leads to productive employees. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

“The feedback had been great,”



Kari and Shelly Minzenberg, left, joined Jody Hough at the health fair.

said Jaime Sanders of the Bailey Group, one of several vendors with tables at the event. The benefits broker company helps Ring Power employees with their health insurance and retirement planning.

“This is a physical job, so it’s a great benefit to be able to come here and get checked out for free,” said William Berry, an 18-year Ring Power service technician. “It helps you see that you can get yourself back on track with your health. Even my kids come with me now.”

“The fairs help you find out where you are going, and with the health experts you get to know what you need to proceed,” said Jean Wynne, a rental supervisor with 16 years at Ring Power. “There’s no pressure, either,” she said. “They are not there to condemn you by saying things like ‘you are too big.’ They understand and talk to you like a real person and don’t make you feel bad. There’s no judgment there.”



Jaime Sanders of the Bailey Group, right, and Rachel Lando, were among the vendors at the health fair.

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## Observer News travel writer wins gold

The North American Travel Journalists Association has announced that Warren Resen, travel writer for *The Observer News*, *The SCC Observer* and *The Current*, has won gold in the 2013 Annual

NATJA Awards Competition. His winning category was Travel Series - Newspaper, and his winning entry was his series entitled *See The USA*. This awards competition, now in its 22nd year, honors

the "best of the best" in travel writing, photography and promotion that cover all aspects of the travel industry worldwide.

Warren has been writing for *The Observer News* family of newspapers for four years. This is the first time he has submitted an entry to the NATJA competition. His work is in good company, with other winners coming from national publications such as *National Geographic Traveler*, *Virtuoso*, *Delta Sky*, and *USA TODAY's Travel*.

NATJA Awards recognize excellence in travel writing, photojournalism, social media, multimedia platforms, advertising, marketing

and public relations for the travel and tourism industry. This year, NATJA received 600 submissions from all over the world.

"This year's entries were an outstanding mix of local and international stories with dynamic and creative elements that provided the visual through words or photography to transport the reader to the destination," said Helen Hernandez, chief executive officer of the organization. "The judging has become increasingly difficult every year, given the abundance of talent in the travel journalism community."

NATJA is the second-largest

travel media association in North America and also publishes *TravelWorld International Magazine* ([www.travelworldmagazine.com](http://www.travelworldmagazine.com)).

For more information about NATJA, visit [www.natja.org](http://www.natja.org).



## Paul Utter receives Champion of Service Award

During a meeting of the Florida Cabinet, Gov. Rick Scott and Volunteer Florida chief executive officer Chester Spellman presented the Volunteer Florida Champion of Service Award to Paul Utter, a Southeastern Guide Dogs graduate and volunteer.

According to the governor's office, "It is an honor to present the Champion of Service Award to Paul for his volunteer efforts with Southeastern Guide Dogs. He demonstrates the variety of ways that Floridians improve and inspire the lives of many in their communities."

Utter is a US Air Force veteran and volunteer for Southeastern Guide Dogs Inc., which has provided guide dogs to people with visual impairments for over 30 years. Paul was matched with a veterans service dog named Ellie in April 2011 through Southeastern Guide Dogs' "Paws for Patriots" program. The Paws for Patriots program pairs visually impaired veterans with guide dogs and also trains and places exceptional veterans service dogs into a partnership benefiting veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress.

Since his partnership with Ellie began, Paul has worked tirelessly to increase his comfort around large groups of people so he can share information about Southeastern

Guide Dogs' mission. He has volunteered with veterans service dog trainers, provided support and encouragement to veterans who are newly matched with guide dogs, and has even thrown the first pitch at a Tampa Bay Rays game to raise awareness about Southeastern Guide Dogs.

The Volunteer Florida Champion of Service Award honors individuals and groups for outstanding volunteer efforts. For more information about the Volunteer Florida Champion of Service Awards, visit [www.VolunteerFlorida.org](http://www.VolunteerFlorida.org).



Paul Utter, a recent recipient of the Volunteer Florida Champion of Service Award, sits with Ellie, his Southeastern Guide Dog companion since 2011.



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|                                  |   |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Thu 20:                          | SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*<br><b>WII BOWLING</b>  | 9:30 to 10:30 am<br>2:30 to 3:30 pm                       | <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">LINE DANCING PARTICIPANTS:</p> <p>Close-toe shoes with non-stick bottoms only permitted. No scented perfumes &amp; lotions to class.</p> <p style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">*MSROM: Muscular Strength &amp; Range of Movement Classes</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Please check your insurance coverage for SILVERSNEAKERS class participation eligibility.</p> <p style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">Food Bank Coordinators are asked to pick up their goods from the Have a Heart Caring Castle at the JSA office: 787 Cortaro Drive 9 am to NOON</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">See the entire calendar online: <a href="http://JSAMedicalGroup.com">JSAMedicalGroup.com</a></p> |
| Fri 21:                          | SALSA DANCING<br><b>SLOW FLOW YOGA</b><br>GENTLE CHAIR YOGA   | 10 to 11 am<br>1 to 2 pm<br>2:15 to 3:30 pm               |  |
| Mon 24:                          | MONDAY MORNING MOVIES<br><b>SLOW FLOW YOGA</b><br>GENTLE CHAIR YOGA                                       | 10 am to Noon<br>1 to 2 pm<br>2:15 to 3:30 pm             |  |
| Tue 25:                          | SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*  | 11 am to Noon   |  |
| Wed 26:                          | LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)  | 11 am to Noon;<br>12:15 to 1:15 pm                        |  |
| Thu 27:                          | SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*<br><b>WII BOWLING</b>  | 9:30 to 10:30 am<br>2:30 to 3:30 pm                       |  |
| Fri 28:                          | SALSA DANCING<br><b>SLOW FLOW YOGA</b><br>GENTLE CHAIR YOGA   | 10 to 11 am<br>1 to 2 pm<br>2:15 to 3:30 pm               |  |
| MARCH 2014 EVENTS *REGISTER NOW! |   |   |  |
| Mon 03:                          | MORNING MOVIES CANCELLED<br>CARING CASTLE FOOD DISTRIBUTION<br><b>SLOW FLOW YOGA</b><br>GENTLE CHAIR YOGA | CANCELLED<br>9 am to Noon<br>1 to 2 pm<br>2:15 to 3:30 pm |  |
| Tue 04:                          | SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*  | 11 am to Noon   |  |
| Wed 05:                          | LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)  | 11 am to Noon;<br>12:15 to 1:15 pm                        |  |
| Thu 06:                          | SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*<br><b>WII BOWLING</b>  | 9:30 to 10:30 am<br>2:30 to 3:30 pm                       |  |
| Fri 07:                          | SALSA DANCING<br><b>SLOW FLOW YOGA</b><br>GENTLE CHAIR YOGA   | 10 to 11 am<br>1 to 2 pm<br>2:15 to 3:30 pm               |  |

## US Coast Guard Auxiliary honors the nation's veterans

Last week a group from US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 75 in Ruskin, accompanied by Trooper, a 10-year-old golden retriever, visited with veterans at Bay Pines VA Medical Center, and delivered Valentine packages that had been assembled by schoolchildren from the Sarasota area. Each Valentine package contained a personal note thanking the veteran for his service. Many veterans were moved to tears while reading these messages.

The week of Feb. 14 each year is an opportunity for all citizens to say thank you to a special group of men and women, the more than 98,000 veterans of the US Armed Services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, outpatient clinics and nursing homes.

Aside from this kind of activity, the Coast Guard Auxiliary can be found along the coastlines and the nation's heartland, teaching safe-boating classes, offering free vessel examinations and patrolling the waterways.

To learn more about Coast Guard Auxiliary membership, call Judy Clapp at (813) 633-5416, or email [scjudy@msn.com](mailto:scjudy@msn.com). To register for a boating safety class or to schedule a courtesy vessel examination, call Guy Mandigo at (813) 641-2488, or email [auxmandigo@earthlink.net](mailto:auxmandigo@earthlink.net). And to learn more about Flotilla 75, visit <http://flotilla75.org>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUART N. SIDELL OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Vietnam-era Navy veteran Gregory Maynard lifts his arm for a left-handed salute to the USCG visitors; his illness prevents the use of his right arm.

## SCC Interfaith Council sponsors guide dog for Gibsonton resident

Through its grants program, the Interfaith Council of Sun City Center recently sponsored a student at Southeastern Guide Dogs in Palmetto. Bill Winston and his guide dog Roguespiere (better known as Piere to his friends) were graduated from Southeastern Guide Dogs, Jan. 30.

A resident of Gibsonton, Bill fell while street skating as a teenager. The accident detached his retina, and for years his vision deteriorated.

Before graduating, Bill lived and trained at the Southeastern Guide Dogs facility for 26 days. While there, he learned how to care for Piere and how to navigate with a guide dog's help.

Bill said that before getting Piere his routine consisted of going to work at the Social Security Administration and going home. He didn't get out much. Now that he has Piere, he plans to go on walks and spend time at the mall. He said he trusts Piere, and now has the confidence to venture out.

The Interfaith Council comprises nine Sun City Center houses of worship. Its funding for scholarships and grants comes from the Nearly New Shop. Community support for the Nearly New Shop makes it possible for the IFC to help South Shore students as well as organizations that promote education, health and human services.

For more information on how to get involved with Southeastern Guide Dogs, visit [www.Guidedogs.org](http://www.Guidedogs.org).



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Pat Pelton, left, vice president of the IFC; William Winston and Roselyn Cruthis, IFC grants chairman.

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## SouthShore Regional Library Adult program/event highlights

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

### Introduction to Android — Thursday, Feb. 20, 12:30 p.m.

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

### Book Discussion: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot — Thursday, Feb. 20, 2 p.m.

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells — taken without her knowledge — became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than 60 years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they’d weigh more than 50 million metric tons — as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave. Intimate in feeling, astonishing in scope, and impossible to put down, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* captures the beauty and drama of scientific discovery, as well as its human consequences. [From the Publisher’s Trailer] This program is part of the Library’s Black History Month celebration. Copies of the book are available at the Library.

### Movie Matinee: *42* — Friday, Feb. 21, 2:30 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon film in celebration of African-American History month. This historical sports drama/biopic, directed by Brian Helgund, covers the 1947 baseball season in which Brooklyn Dodgers general manager, Branch Rickey (Harrison Ford), decides to sign the first black Major League player, Jackie Robinson (Chadwick Boseman). Rated PG-13. 128 minutes. This program is part of the Library’s Black History Month celebration.

### Adult Writing Workshop — Monday, Feb. 24, 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 is on novels, short stories, poetry, narrative nonfiction and memoirs.

### Adult/Teen Watercolor Painting — Monday, Feb. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Join art instructor Cory Wright and brush up on your painting skills. All levels welcome. Materials provided. Limit 22. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling (813) 273-3652. Funding for this program provided by the Friends of SouthShore Regional Library.

### Internet: Safety and Security — Tuesday, Feb. 25, 12:30 p.m.

Learn how to surf the Internet while avoiding common scams and pitfalls that can compromise your security. Learn about different types of malicious software, how they get on the personal computer, how to remove them, and precautions to take when using the internet. Limit: 20

### Introduction to African-American Genealogy — Tuesday, Feb. 25, 3:30 p.m.

An introduction to the Library’s print and online resources available to learn about your African-American ancestors. Discover research hints and strategies, and learn how to organize your data. This program is part of the Library’s Black History Month celebration.

### eMail for iPod — Wednesday, Feb. 26, 12:30 p.m.

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

### Family Center of Deafness Telephone Distribution — Wednesday, Feb. 16, 1 p.m.

Presented by Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc. FTRI provides free specialized equipment and training to qualified Florida residents who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired. The equipment enables them to place and receive phone calls.

### SouthShore Needle People — Wednesday, Feb. 26, 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. 26, 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 interested in becoming a member of the Friends of the Library, call Jim Duffy at (813) 634-1396, www.southshorefriends.com.

## Take a trip back to the lives of the early Florida pioneers

The United Daughters of the Confederacy, Judah P. Benjamin Chapter, and the Florida Park Service will host the 54th Annual Spring Open House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 2, at Gamble Plantation Historic State Park in Ellenton.

Once again you can travel back to the Old South during the day through the many lifestyle demonstrations of that time period, including women dressed in period costume. The Gamble Mansion and Patten House will be open to the public with free tours of each building. Additionally, the 4th Florida Volunteer Infantry will be dressed in military uniforms re-enacting a Confederate encampment. Music, crafts and more await attendees. Admission and parking will be free.

Gamble Plantation Historic State Park is on US 301 in Ellenton, one mile west of I-75 off exit #224. Florida State Parks are in various stages of accessibility. Should you need assistance to enable your full participation, contact Gamble Plantation.

For further information, call Gamble Plantation Historic State Park at (941) 723-4536.

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# Community Foundation celebrates the power of the purse



Appropriately, Miche purses, provided by Lynn Wise, were raffled as prizes. For information, visit [www.lynnwise.com](http://www.lynnwise.com).

The South Shore Council of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay held a Women's Fund Luncheon at Club Renaissance in Sun City Center last Thursday. The theme was "Celebrating the Power of the Purse." During the luncheon, the Community Foundation awarded grants to Woman's Club chapters in Apollo Beach, Riverview, Ruskin, Sun City Center and Valencia Lakes. For information about the Community Foundation, visit [www.cftampabay.org](http://www.cftampabay.org) or call (813) 282-1975.



Spencer Faircloth, a Sun City Center resident with a long history in community philanthropy and in the Community Foundation, visits luncheon attendees.



Priscilla Shiner, left, with Denise O'Brien of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

## Women's Bible study features "Gideon" by Priscilla Shiner

Have you ever felt insufficient? Could it be that your weaknesses are the keys that unlock God's strength? Through a look at the life of Gideon, you can discover that instead of ignoring, neglecting or trying to escape your weaknesses, you can see them as the gifts given specifically and strategically by God to unlock the door of His strength.

Beginning Tuesday, March 18, at 9:15 a.m., the women of South Bay Church will embark on a seven-week study of Priscilla Shiner's *Gideon*. This study is open to all women in the area; you do not need to be a member of South Bay Church. Register online at [www.SouthBay.cc](http://www.SouthBay.cc) under the events tab. The cost is \$15 and includes a workbook. Childcare, with advanced registration, is \$5 per family, per class. For more information, email [faith@southbay.cc](mailto:faith@southbay.cc) or call (813) 677-0721.

The church is located at 13498 US 301 S, Riverview, just south of Big Bend Road.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Rick Rios, chairman of the South Shore Council of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, announces the grants.



Joe Lang, CFP - Glenn Krcmaric, OSJ - Robyn Payant, President - Tom Payant, C.E.O., Lillian Brassil, Office Manager - Heidi Oelgart, Marketing Assistant - Peter Farina, CFA®

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For adults. An introduction to free open source software alternatives to commonly used programs. Discover free alternatives to Microsoft Office products, Photoshop, even a completely free alternative to Windows O/S Ubuntu. Limit: 18. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

**iPad/iPhone: Demonstration & Open Lab - Friday, Feb. 21 at 3 p.m.**

For adults. Bring an iPad/iPhone and operation questions to the class. Will demonstrate how to use the device and popular functions. General Settings, Security, iCloud, Software, and Apps. How to open an Apple account, Internet access, and more. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

**Internet: Malicious PC Software - Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 3:45 p.m.**

For adults. Learn about different types of malicious software, how they get on personal computers, how to remove them, and precautions to take when using the Internet. Limit: 18. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

**Computer Tutor - Wednesday, Feb. 26 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.

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

### Upcoming Events

- Friday** ..... 6 p.m. Feather Your Nest.
- Saturday, Feb. 22** ..... Chili Cook-Off 3-5 p.m. Music by Nickles and Dimes
- Sunday** ..... \$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.

### Mix the DBPR with the DHR, and what do you get? Alphabet soup? No, a 54 percent cut in license fees

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Division of Hotels and Restaurants is cutting 54 percent off the fee for obtaining an annual temporary event license for public food service establishments.

The fee reduction is expected to attract more operators previously unable to afford the higher licensing cost, as well as reduce the workload required of the department, creating operational efficiencies.

"This fee reduction means businesses participating in temporary events such as food festivals and fairs, which are taking the state by storm, can now have an affordable avenue to participate in an infinite amount of events each year," said Ken Lawson, secretary of DBPR.

Beginning in February, the food service annual temporary event license fee will cost \$456, which is a reduction from the previous fee of \$1,000.

The Division of Hotels and Res-

taurants licenses and inspects public food service establishments at temporary events, such as fairs, carnivals, flea and farmers markets and other short-term events. Under current law, the DBPR is required to perform an inspection each time a temporary permit is obtained by a licensee. By making the annual temporary license more affordable, DBPR would be reducing burdensome license fees that do not make good business sense, increasing internal efficiencies and streamlining operations.

Annual vendor licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase and allow the licensee to operate at an unlimited number of temporary events throughout the year.

A separate license is required for each food service booth or facility. In addition to the annual vendor license, temporary event licenses can be issued for events lasting one to three days as well as four to 30 days.

### County commissioner Sandy Murman earns top leadership award



Sandy Murman

Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay recently announced that Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandra L. Murman has been chosen from more than 187,000 US volunteers to earn the organization's premier award for volunteerism, the Bronze Leadership Award.

The purpose of the Bronze Leadership Award is to recognize JA volunteers who have performed outstanding service to Junior Achievement. By sharing their personal and professional experiences and skills with students, volunteers help students make the connection between what they learn in school and what they will need to succeed in work and life.

"Sandy Murman is a wonderful example of how one person can make such a huge difference in the lives of young people in our community," said Richard George, president of Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay.

"The local business community has been extremely supportive of Junior Achievement's goal of inspiring local students to succeed in the global economy," said George. "And Commissioner Sandy Murman is a remarkable example of that spirit of generosity. In a very real way, she helps Hillsborough JA students develop financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work-readiness skills, contribute to the community and participate in the revitalization of the economy."

Junior Achievement's Bronze Leadership Award honors volunteer excellence. The award is presented in recognition of participation and leadership in supporting and expanding JA's student impact, increasing resources and/or operational excellence and sustainability.

### Free pancakes at IHOP® on National Pancake Day March 4

Go to IHOP® restaurants on National Pancake Day, March 4, to enjoy a free short stack of buttermilk pancakes — and help raise money for charity.

IHOP restaurants will again serve up free short stacks of its buttermilk pancakes on National Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday, March 4, and after eight years of success, and over \$13 million dollars raised in the United States, the family-friendly restaurant chain will expand the program into Canada, Puerto Rico and offer a similar fund-raising effort in Mexico for the first time.

IHOP hopes to raise more than \$3 million for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, Shriners Hospitals for Children and other local charities this year.

More than 1,500 IHOP restaurants in the United States, including, for the first time, Canada and Puerto Rico, will be participating in 15 hours of pancake delight on National Pancake Day, when millions of free pancakes will be served from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

In exchange for the free short stacks, customers are encouraged to leave a voluntary donation in support of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, Shriners Hospitals for Children and other local charities.

In Mexico, IHOP restaurants will offer a stack of two buttermilk pancakes for the radically reduced price of 29 pesos, with that money



being donated to *Asociación Mexicana de Ayuda a Niños con Cáncer*, which provides accommodations and resources to children undergoing treatment for cancer and their families.

Going on now, through National Pancake Day on March 4, participating IHOP locations will also sell "Miracle Balloons" for \$1 and \$5 each to benefit the local Children's Miracle Network Hospital. All proceeds will help provide life-saving care, equipment and programs at 145 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. The Miracle Balloons, another way for customers to get involved in helping IHOP restaurants meet their fund-raising goal, will be displayed throughout the restaurants. Customers who purchase a \$5 Miracle Balloon will receive a \$5 off coupon that can be used during their next dining visit.

For more information on National Pancake Day or to learn more about Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and make a donation, visit [www.ihoppancakeday.com](http://www.ihoppancakeday.com).

### Three signs it's time to call 9-1-1

Each year, about 600,000 Americans — die from heart disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Of the 715,000 Americans who have a heart attack each year, about 525,000 are first-timers, says the CDC, and those individuals may not know what's happening. Sadly, many people do not get to the hospital on time, says paramedic Dale Hemstalk.

"If someone is having a heart attack, for example, they should get to the hospital without delay upon the initial onset of symptoms," says Hemstalk, who is also a software developer with Forté Holdings Inc., a provider of health care software that works closely with paramedics, emergency medical technicians and firefighters to speed delivery of medical services.

"We live in an age in which we should be taking greater advantage of our technology for health purposes — but you have to call for help first!" Hemstalk says.

He shares warning signs that it's time dial 9-1-1:

• **Symptoms for a heart attack:** Men and women frequently report different symptoms. Men tend to have the "classic" signs, such as pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest that goes away and comes back; pain that spreads to the shoulders, neck or arms; chest discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

For women, symptoms tend to be back or jaw pain; difficulty breathing; nausea or dizziness; unexplainable anxiety or fatigue; mild flu-like symptoms; palpitations, cold sweats or dizziness. Triggers tend to be different between the sexes, too. In women, it's often stress; in men, it's physical exertion.

• **Symptoms for a stroke:** There are clear, telltale characteristics of a stroke, including sagging on one side of the face, an arm that's drifting down and garbled speech. But there are also more subtle signs from the onset, such as sudden numbness of one side of the body, including an arm, leg and part of the face; sudden confusion, trouble speaking and understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden loss of balance; sudden headache for no apparent reason. Risk factors include diabetes, tobacco use, hypertension, heart disease, a previous stroke, irregular heartbeat, obesity, high cholesterol and heavy alcohol use.

• **Symptoms for heart failure:** This is not the same as a heart attack, which occurs when a vessel supplying the heart muscle with oxygen and nutrients becomes completely blocked. Heart failure is a chronic condition where the heart can't pump properly, which may be due to fluid in the lungs. Warning signs include shortness of breath, fatigue, swollen ankles, chest congestion and an overall limitation on activities. Just one of these symptoms may not be cause for alarm; but more than one certainly is. Risk factors include various heart problems, serious viral infections, drug or alcohol abuse, severe lung disease and chemotherapy.

"At no point should anyone be discouraged from calling 911; the bottom line is, if you feel it's an emergency and you need to call 911, call 911!" Hemstalk says. "There are many reasons to seek assistance from emergency responders, and they are not limited to those that I've mentioned."



Be sure to search our classified section starting on **page 32**

Have something to announce yourself?  
**Call Beverly**  
**813-645-3111**

Area Obituaries



**James R. Carney**

James R. Carney, 87, of Sun City Center, Fla., passed away February 14, 2014. He served in the United States Navy and retired as a charter boat captain. He was a member of the VFW, the Moose and the Elks lodges in both Maryland and Florida. He was preceded in death by his four brothers: Chester, Robert, William and Gene Carney.

Survivors include his wife of 33 years, Judith; daughters Sandra (Jorge) Alves, Andrea (Bill) Schoonover, Cheryl Wilkinson and Lori (John) Suomela; 11 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Memorial service with Military Honors will be at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 23, 2104 at Sun City Center Funeral Home, Sun City Center. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, 5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite 250, Dallas, TX 75244.



**Travis Caudill**

Travis Caudill, 81, of Ruskin died Monday, February 10. He was born to the late Stephen and Corsia Caudill on July 10, 1932, in Clay County, Ky. He married Etna Eileen on August 6, 1955, and they lived together in Bethel, Ohio, where they had three children, Joan, Darrell and Jeffery, before relocating to Ruskin in 1976.

Travis was a spot welder for General Motors and retired after several years of service. He attended Ruskin First Assembly of God and Destiny Church since 1976. He loved to travel with his wife Eileen and they enjoyed many road trips together.

Travis is survived by wife Eileen; son Jeffrey; daughters-in-law Jill and Lorraine; grandchildren Donna, Shanna, David and Travis; as well as several nieces and nephews and extended family that loved him dearly.

Travis enjoyed fishing, music, singing, spending time with family and traveling.

Travis will be remembered as a loving, caring, funny, patient, strong, praying man of God. A great legacy for all of us to live up to. He is walking the Streets of Glory with his son and daughter. Forever in our hearts until we meet again in Heaven. Arrangements by Zipperer's Funeral Home.

**Correction**

Because of an editing error, the obituary for Virginia Gummere that ran last week included an incorrect location. She was in Wilkesboro, N.C., at the time of her death. We regret the error.



**Claude V. Gardner**

Claude V. Gardner passed away on February 13, 2014. Claude was born in 1910 in Lola, Kan. He grew up in Arkansas City, Kan., where he met and married Edie in 1932. They had four children: Donald, Lynn, Jill, and Claudia. They lived many years in St. Louis, where Claude calculated rates for a trucking company.

In his free time, Claude single-handedly built a family swimming pool, repaired old clocks, refinished antique furniture and restored a 1948 Pontiac convertible. He entered this automobile in a number of car shows and won first place many times.

After retirement, Claude and Edie lived in California for a number of years, before moving to Sun City Center in 2006. He had good friends at the Sun City Center walking pool, where he walked for an hour every day. He was a dear husband, father, and friend.

Arrangements by Zipperer's Funeral Home.

**Dorothea Morgan Oaks**

Dorothea Morgan Oaks, age 103, of Chapel Hill, N.C., passed away on Monday, February 10, 2014, at her residence. A native of Lebanon, Ind., Mrs. Oaks was the daughter of the late Vern Morgan and Beatrice Powell Morgan. She worked in retail and was a member of the Baptist faith. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ivan Oakes, daughter Patricia N. Abney, who passed away in 2008, and sister Thelma Harris, who passed away in 2007.

She is survived by granddaughters Malia (Jimmy) Reed of Chapel Hill and Lisa Michon of Nashville, Tenn.; grandson Kevin (Cathy) Wilson of Sparta, N.C.; 11 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

The family will hold private services at a later date.

Condolences of sympathy may be sent to [www.billsmcgaugh.com](http://www.billsmcgaugh.com).

Bills-McGaugh Funeral Home & Crematory of Lewisburg, Tenn., is in charge of the arrangements.



**Clarke K. Olson**

Clarke K. Olson, of Sun City Center, Florida (formerly of Lake Linden, Mich.), passed away Monday, February 4, 2014, after a short illness. He was born in Owatonna, Minn. on April 27, 1917, the son of Lynn Stevens Olson, a banker in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and Lillian King Olson. He is predeceased by brother Cort Olson and sister Lynor Olson Currier.

Clarke attended public schools in Owatonna and Duluth, Minn., and attended and graduated from Michigan Tech University, where he helped put himself through school playing saxophone and singing baritone for Warnie Ruhl's big band at dances in Houghton, Mich. He continued his music, entertaining family and friends his entire life. He later attended Ann Arbor School of Law before joining

the Army just before Pearl Harbor. He left the army as a major, staying in the reserves a few more years. While in the service, he married Celia Pearce of Lake Linden, Mich. (deceased in 2001) and lived in several locations, including Arlington, Va., and Bend, Ore., before returning to Houghton County, Mich., where he headed the Superior Bottled Gas Co., serving the Upper Peninsula and parts of Wisconsin.

He later earned his master's degree and taught mining math at Michigan Tech University in Houghton, Mich.

Clarke and Celia raised five children in Lake Linden and Bootjack, Mich.: Lynn Gareau, deceased in 2013; Jim, deceased in 2012; Chester Pearce, currently of Silver Springs, Fla.; Kathryn Umbarger (John) of Burbank, Wash.; Betsy West of St. Petersburg, Fla.; and Deborah Frontiera (Jasper) of Houston, Texas.

Over the years, Clarke, his family and Celia traveled by sailboat, and later motor trawler, exploring most of Lake Superior's islands and lakeshore. At one point he took his trawler up the St. Lawrence River, down through New York State canals, down the East Coast to Ruskin, Fla., where they spent winters, returning four years later by the same route.

He and Celia also traveled extensively in Europe and the Middle East, spending winters in Sun City Center, where Clarke finally settled for the last 13 years.

Besides his children and niece Cortney Webb (Gary), he is survived by 12 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. in the Auditorium at Freedom Plaza, 1010 American Eagle Blvd., Sun City Center, on March 3, 2014. For more details, call (727) 600-7751.

In lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to do so may make donations in Clarke's name at Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KA 66675; [www.woundedwarriorproject.org/donate](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/donate).



**William (Bill) Richmond Sr.**

William (Bill) J. Richmond Sr., 79, who was born in Latham, N.Y., and resided in Riverview, Fla., passed away on Feb. 14, 2014, after a courageous fight against cancer.

He was Catholic by faith and a career Navy Corpsman whose service spanned through Korea and Vietnam. He retired again from the VA Hospital, Albany, N.Y., where he served as a Physician's Assistant, caring for fellow servicemen. He was a mentor of youth in the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, serving as NE Regional Commander at the rank of Lt. Commander.

He is preceded in death by parents Alfred E. and Ada, brothers John and Alfred G., and beloved first wife Marie Lucille. He is survived by loving wife Joyce; sister Adelaide; sons Marc, Michael, James, Edward and William Jr.; daughter Michele; stepchildren Patrick, Cheryl, Mark and Paul; 21 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was appreciated by many and loved by all for leaving this world a better place. He will be missed by a mass of friends associated with Summerfield Crossings and all those he met through life's journey ... as he never met a stranger.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. at Summerfield Crossing Golf Club on Thursday, Feb. 20, with the final resting ceremony to be held in St. Joseph, Minn., at a date to be determined.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Disabled American Veterans or Wounded Warriors.

**Obituaries**

► continued on page 28

**Area Places of Worship**

**Ruskin United Methodist Church**

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

**Friendship Baptist Church**

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  
**Rance Goad, Pastor** (Southern Baptist)  
1511 El Rancho Dr.  
Sun City Center, FL 33573  
Phone/Fax: 813-633-5950

**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](http://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](http://www.unitycommunityofjoy.com)  
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
813-481-9060

**First Baptist Church of Gibsonton**

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19  
Traditional Worship Service  
Old-Time Gospel Hymns  
Nursery Available  
\* Interpreter for the Deaf  
9912 Indiana St. • Hwy 41 & Estelle Avenue  
Gibsonton, FL 33534  
\*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](http://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"  
Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor  
1301 U.S. Hwy. 41 N., Ruskin, FL • 645-1121 • [www.nbc.org](http://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.

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

1501 La Jolla Ave., Sun City Center, FL 33573-5329  
A Caring Church United in God's Love Serving Our Community  
Rev. Dr. Timothy Shirley  
Worship Services ~ 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.  
(813) 634-1304 ~ [www.uccsuncity.org](http://www.uccsuncity.org)

**South Hillsborough Church of Christ**

1611 First St. SW • Ruskin, FL • 645-7607  
—NON-INSTRUMENTAL—  
SERVICES: Sunday.....9:30 & 10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.  
EVERETT TATE, MINISTER

**Wimauma Church of God**

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

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC**

Meets in the Henry Gibson Social Hall of the Beth Israel Synagogue • 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd.  
Thursday, 7:00 PM • Call 633-0396 • [www.sccuu.org](http://www.sccuu.org)  
Do not be too moral. Be not simply good;  
be good for something. — Henry David Thoreau

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

324 Green Manor Drive, SCC, FL • 813-922-6640  
[www.theanointingchurch.com](http://www.theanointingchurch.com)

**The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center**

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539  
<http://www.sccumc.com>  
Come Grow & Serve  
The United Methodist Church  
Serving Small World, Making Big Change  
WORSHIP SERVICES:  
**SUNDAY**  
8:30 a.m. .... Contemporary Service  
9:30 a.m. .... Traditional Service  
10:00 a.m. .... Contemporary Service  
11:00 a.m. .... Traditional Service  
4:00 p.m. .... Hispanic Worship  
Bookstore 633-8595  
FREE  
Nursery Provided  
Senior Pastor: **Dr. Warren Langer**  
Assistant Pastor: **Rev. Samuel Rorer**

## 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.fbcruskin.org • A Resource for Families

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

Dr. Barry Rumsey  
**CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
K-2 Through 12th Grade

### 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 ..... 4:00 p.m.          |  |
| Reading Room..... Wednesday 4 to 4:45 p.m. |  |

All Are Welcome

### St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

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

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

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

1239 Del Webb Blvd. West      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.                 |

## SHMA Community Sing is Feb. 24

The South Hillsborough Ministerial Association will facilitate its monthly Community Sing at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, at the Maranatha Church of God, 55 Sixth Ave. S.E., Ruskin

The hosting church is Grace and Truth Fellowship International.

The Prelude to the Sing will start at 6:30 p.m.; refreshments will be served afterward.

SHMA is an interactive group of local church ministers and congregations committed to the work of Jesus Christ in South Hillsborough County.

For more information, call (813) 633-5404.

## Chorus concert this Sunday at Prince of Peace

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23, Prince of Peace Catholic Church will host three accomplished graduating seniors and two faculty members from the Department of Music at Ave Maria University for a recital of art songs, opera selections and solo piano repertoire in the church's Conesa Center.

Musical selections will include pieces by Schumann, Bellini, Mozart and many others. The concert is open to the public and free of charge. A free-will offering will be accepted.

Prince of Peace Catholic Church is located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center. For more information, visit [www.popcc.org](http://www.popcc.org) or call (813) 634-2328.



South Shore Brass Quintet

## South Shore Brass Quintet to perform at United Methodist Church in Sun City Center

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center welcomes the South Shore Brass Quintet for a special concert at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, in the church sanctuary.

This local ensemble will be performing music in a great range of styles, from rag and jazz to popular and classical.

The quintet was organized by Harry Stanton (trombone) and Annette Stanton (French horn) in 2012, and has since played recitals with organ and choir as well as complete recitals.

Other performers include Armand Olevano and Ken Easton on trumpets, and Dave Brown on tuba.

A donation of \$5 is requested at the door on the evening of the concert. The United Methodist Church is at 1210 W. Del Webb Blvd.

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



## Bishop Lynch presents Saint Jude Award

Cissy Barr was recently awarded the Diocese of St. Petersburg's Saint Jude the Apostle Medal in recognition of "distinguished and outstanding service" at St. Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin. Pictured after the award ceremony are, from left: the Very Rev. John F. McEvoy, V.F., Pastor of St. Anne Church; John Barr; the Most Rev. Robert N. Lynch, Bishop of St. Petersburg; and Cissy. St. Anne Catholic Church is located at 106 11th Ave. N.E., Ruskin. Its website is [www.SaintAnneRuskin.org](http://www.SaintAnneRuskin.org).

## 'The Healing Power of the Bible' is topic at Feb. 23 program

Elise Moore, international Christian Science speaker from Nashville, will present a one-hour talk on "The Healing Power of the Bible" at 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 23, in the Atrium's Florida Room in Sun City Center.

"My own spiritual journey began with a love of the Bible," says Moore. "I've experienced physical healings from Bible study. We'll talk about theological concepts of baptism, being reborn, and salvation, and explore how this relates to physical cures."

Her talk will include the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the Bible and scriptural insights from theologian Mary Baker Eddy from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. The talk's sponsor, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Ruskin-Sun City Center, says handouts will include examples of Bible verses and prayers that have proven to heal consistently, as well as several articles on effective prayer and healing.

Moore has been in the Christian healing ministry for more than 25 years. She has been a chaplain for a homeless shelter, organized after-school programs for disad-



Elise Moore

vantaged youth, organized adult literacy programs and participated in interfaith organizations. She has given talks in a variety of venues in 13 countries and more than 300 cities.

She teaches classes in Christian Science healing and is known for giving step-by-step practical tips that anyone can practice in his or her own life.

For more information, call (813) 938-1065. There is no charge for the talk, and no collection will be taken.



## The Taylors are coming

The Taylors, a brother-sister quartet from the heart of North Carolina, are coming to Simmons Loop Baptist Church, Sunday, Feb. 23, at the 10:45 a.m. service. Siblings Jonathan, Suzanne, Christopher and Leslie are dedicated to stirring up the faith of the Christian community, as well as reaching others with the good news of Jesus Christ through gospel music. The church is located at 6610 Simmons Loop Road, Riverview. For more information, call (813) 677-9310 or visit [www.simmonsloop.org](http://www.simmonsloop.org).

## Friendship Baptist Church airs second movie of its season

Friendship Baptist Church will air the movie *Brother White* at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22.

The movie deals with the story of an associate pastor at a rich megachurch in Southern California who is assigned to a small community church in an inner-city Atlanta neighborhood.

Everyone is invited to the 5 p.m. showing, with food served during an intermission. Friendship Baptist is at 1511 El Rancho Drive in Sun City Center.

**Obituaries**

► continued from page 26

**Signy Landmark Rudolphy**

Signy Landmark Rudolphy, 84, of Sun City Center, passed away February 8, 2014, after a long battle with cancer. She was predeceased by her husband, Edward, who died in October 2011.

Signy is survived by daughters Cynthia Wood, Pamela German, Jennifer Bieksha and Margaret Brusletto; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

A private memorial will be held at a later date in Hilton Head, SC.

The family wishes to extend its appreciation to the LifePath Hospice Gold Team, and to the many kind staff members of ManorCare of Carrollwood, for their caring support during their mother's illness.



**Gary Lee Tharp**

Gary Lee Tharp, 59, of Cottondale, Fla., went home to be with the Lord on January 31, 2014, at the Northwest Florida Community Hospital.

Gary was born on November 17, 1954, in Tampa, Fla., to Perry Lee and Sara Frances Tharp. He had lived in Cottondale ever since he moved from Ruskin, Fla., in 1984.

Gary was a member of Sapp Holiness Church. He loved gospel music and going to church. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister Linda Hailes.

He is survived by sister Diane Fleming of Ruskin; brother-in-law Malcolm Hailes of Chipley, Fla.; nieces and nephews Vicki Silva of Ruskin,

Bill Stroud of Glenrock, Pa., Dwayne Phillips (Susan) of Dade City, Fla., and Chrissy Ward (James) of Chipley; several great-nieces and -nephews; and extended family.

Funeral services were held on February 4 at Sapp Holiness Church. Burial followed in Rock Hill Cemetery in Chipley.

**In Memory of Jana Lynette Hatfield Cruz**

The family of Jana Lynette Hatfield Cruz wishes to thank members of the extended family and many friends who helped and gave support during our loss.

Special appreciation is extended to Tom Beck, the spiritual counselor who performed the service, to those who brought food and sent flowers, to those who helped to direct the services, and to those who read the poems on behalf of the children.

A special thanks goes out to Mike and Erica Schaub for opening their beautiful home up to all family and friends following the services.

"There are three things that last and the greatest of these is LOVE"

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, It's about learning to dance in the rain."

**'What you don't know about religion (but should)' is topic**

Dr. Ryan Cragun of the University of Tampa specializes in the sociological study of religion. At 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20, he will speak to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sun City Center on "What You Don't Know About Religion (But Should)."

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



**UCC couples celebrate milestone anniversaries in 2014**

Thirty six couples who are members of United Community Church in Sun City Center will celebrate "milestone" anniversaries in 2014. Two couples, Gerald and Judy Bell and Dr. Lou and Barbara Leone, celebrate 50 years; five celebrate 60; one 61; eight 62; five 63; one 64; two 65; four 66; one 67; four 68; and two couples, Robert and "Dusty" Held and Bob and Elaine Rich, celebrate 70 years of marriage in 2014.

**Mr. Frank Strom**

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Hillsborough County Office of Veteran Affairs

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Noon**

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**The Healing Power of the Bible**  
A talk by **Elise L. Moore**, Nashville, TN



**International Christian speaker, Chaplain for the homeless, Christian Science healer.**

*Explore specific Bible verses that heal the heart and cure disease. Receive handouts that include examples of Bible verses that have proven to heal consistently.*

**Sunday, February 23, at 3 p.m.**

**Florida Room, The Atrium  
945D North Course Lane  
Sun City Center**

*No charge, no collection will be taken*

— King Crossword —  
Answers  
Solution time: 27 mins.



**IN UNIFORM**



Ragoodial

**Air Force**

Air Force Airman 1st Class Brandon K. Ragoodial has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

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

Ragoodial is the son of Shamesh Ragoodial of Gibsonton and Sharon Ramoutar of Sarasota.

He is a 2012 graduate of Community Christian School in Brandon.

**Air Force**

Air Force Reserve Airman Victor A. Bartolomei graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

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

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

Bartolomei is the son of Mildred and Ismel Garcia of Ruskin.

He is a 2013 graduate of Lennard High School.



**Air Force**

Air Force Airman 1st Class Kayla I. Lassalle has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

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

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

Lassalle is the daughter of Carlos Lassalle of Riverview and Cynthia Burns of Brandon.

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



**Air Force**

Air Force Airman Jahyla A. Veira graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

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

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

Veira is the daughter of Royena Lynch of Riverview and niece of Saida Lynch of Ruskin.

She is a 2011 graduate of Celebration High School.

**Army**

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

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

Hall is the son of Christina Hall of Apollo Beach.

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

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**ACROSS**

- 1 Slithery squeezer
- 4 Gridlock sound
- 8 Fork option
- 12 Screw up
- 13 Jealousy
- 14 Therefore
- 15 Sign up
- 17 Black, in verse
- 18 Peanut
- 19 Puncturing tool
- 21 Pigpen
- 22 Fellow's address
- 26 Calendar information
- 29 Card player's call
- 30 Hasten
- 31 Unsigned (Abbr.)
- 32 Blue
- 33 Detective novelist
- 34 "Monty Python" opener
- 35 Navigation gizmo
- 36 Waste channel
- 37 Nun
- 39 \$ dispenser
- 40 Ostrich's cousin
- 41 Asian hostess

|    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5 | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |    |
| 12 |    |    | 13 |   |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    | 16 |   |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |
| 18 |    |    |    |   |    | 19 | 20 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 21 |   |    | 22 |    | 23 | 24 | 25 |    |
| 26 | 27 | 28 |    |   | 29 |    |    | 30 |    |    |    |
| 31 |    |    |    |   | 32 |    |    | 33 |    |    |    |
| 34 |    |    | 35 |   |    |    | 36 |    |    |    |    |
| 37 |    |    | 38 |   |    |    | 39 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 40 |   |    |    | 41 |    | 42 | 43 | 44 |
| 45 | 46 | 47 |    |   | 48 | 49 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 50 |    |    |    |   | 51 |    |    |    | 52 |    |    |
| 53 |    |    |    |   | 54 |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |

- 45 Hair salon request
- 48 Flour holder, maybe
- 50 Barrel piece
- 51 Paradise
- 52 Branch
- 53 Grooving on
- 54 Creates dust?
- 55 Chesapeake, for one
- 6 Prior night
- 7 Increase progressively
- 8 Rods' partners
- 9 Scepter topper
- 10 Past
- 11 Mafia title
- 16 "Ghosts" playwright
- 20 Victory
- 23 Melt
- 24 Green land
- 25 Caboose's place
- 26 Raised platform
- 27 Con
- 28 Pitch
- 29 Petrol
- 32 Makes neat
- 33 Big rigs
- 35 Prized possession
- 36 Oktoberfest supply
- 38 Beat
- 39 Ford predecessor
- 42 Attempt
- 43 Queen of Olympus
- 44 Host
- 45 - Beta
- 46 A billion years
- 47 Decay
- 49 Oklahoma city

**DOWN**

- 1 "Wozzeck" composer
- 2 Sandwich treat
- 3 Jason's ship
- 4 Surrounds
- 5 Contestant

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**Angie**

Here is a lovely and friendly young tabby cat. Angie is the recent proud mom of four babies, who also reside at C.A.R.E. Mother Angie is happy to lounge on the lanai and look over her beautiful babies, but she would really like to live at a forever home of her own. Visit this beautiful girl and her children, and give her that home. Angie is updated on her shots and spayed. As part of her adoption, she will be microchipped.

DOB: October 2, 2011.



**Buddy**

Buddy is a beautiful, brawny chocolate lab with a joyful disposition. Found as a stray in the Ruskin area, he has warm caramel-colored eyes that will melt your heart. Buddy's handsome face has a whisper of gray around his eyebrows and snout, which makes him look like a distinguished gentleman. He is a happy dog who is eager to please and to receive attention. Buddy is current on his vaccinations and, as part of his adoption, he will be neutered and microchipped.

DOB: December 2, 2007.

## Historic walking tour of Palmetto

The Palmetto Historical Park and the Manatee County Agricultural Museum are hosting walking tours of historic Palmetto on Tuesday, March 25, and Wednesday, March 26, at 2 p.m. Each day's tour leaves from the historical park at 515 10th Ave. W, Palmetto. This walk, approximately two hours long, will highlight some of the historic buildings downtown and along the riverfront in Palmetto. It includes a tour of the Palmetto Riverside Bed and Breakfast, which was a Sears and Roebuck house, built by the town founder's son, J.A. Lamb. Wear comfortable shoes.

This tour is free, but reservations are required. Call (941) 723-4991 to make reservations.

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Families start lining up for food at The Lord's Lighthouse an hour before the pantry opens its doors on Tuesday. COURTESY OF THE LORD'S LIGHTHOUSE

# Ruskin food pantry, mission a labor of love for Cruz family

► Continued from page 2

St. John the Divine Church, and they opened their doors for us."

So began The Lord's Lighthouse Mission.

Hungry families begin lining up at the pantry on East College Avenue before 7 a.m. on Tuesday mornings, food distribution day. Each family receives a 10-pound bag of food, including beans, rice and tortillas and anything else that might have been donated that week.

"There is a great need here in Ruskin," Dora said. "If not for donations we would have very little on the shelves."

The pantry spends \$800 a week on food, buying staples like rice and beans from Sam's Club and fresh tortillas from Apollo Meats.

Grants from the Community Foundation of Sun City Center (\$20,000 last year) and the Interfaith Council (\$15,000 in 2012), free food from five area 7-11 stores, and individual donations help keep the wolf from the pantry's door, but the wolf is never far away, said Carlos Rivera, the mission's treasurer.

"Most weeks, the food is all gone by 10 a.m." Rivera said.

The pantry also provides a free meal to the homeless and hungry after the 11 a.m. Sunday service at St. John's on College Avenue. Homeless for eight months, William (not related to the Cruzes) is among some 100 people who turn up for the Sunday meal.

"It helps tide me over," he said. "I don't know what I would do if it was not here. Thank God they are."

Julio, homeless since October, is another regular at the Sunday food bank. "This is the only place I come to," he said. "I don't know what I would do without it; go hungry, I guess."

The mission's Access program also helps clients apply for federal programs like food stamps, Medicare and Social Security. "Some of the people who come in don't even know they are eligible for help," said Van Loan. "But they have people there that are licensed who can help with the applications."

The mission's clothing and furniture store also help, especially in cold weather.

"The places that a lot of the people live are often not very warm or well-insulated," Van Loan said. "The need is just so great. I think everyone has a responsibility to take care of others. Some of us have so much, while others have so little, but it is very rewarding to be part of it."

Now 82, Dora Cruz shows no



Pastor William and Dora Cruz, both in their 80s, have helped establish some of South County's largest food banks during the last 30 years. KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

sign of slowing down. Her husband is 85.

"Dora is an amazing person with prayer, but she also doesn't hesitate to call people when they don't have enough food," Van Loan said.

The Lord's Lighthouse, 815 East College Ave., is always looking for donations of food, clothing and furniture. Financial donations are especially welcome because these can be leveraged to buy food by the pound from local suppliers. For more information, call (813) 641-7100 or (813) 321-9723 or visit the group's website, www.lordslighthouse.org.

## Where to donate to 'Caring Castle'

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 Drive, Sun City Center, behind Burger King on State Road 674.

Other local food banks benefiting from the Caring Castle include St. Anne Church, Good Samaritan Mission, Beth-El Mission, Our Lady of Guadalupe and Life Church.

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



Raquel Comacho, a volunteer at The Lord's Lighthouse, helps feed the homeless after a Sunday service at St. John the Divine Church. KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

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### ANNUAL YARD SALE & BAKE SALE

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### 310 GARAGE/ YARD SALE

## Timely Treasures Sale

Friday, Feb. 28 • 8 am to 1 pm  
Sat., March 1 • 8 am to noon

United Methodist Church of SCC  
1210 Del Webb Blvd. West  
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Something for Everyone  
Furniture • Antiques • Electronics  
Sporting Equipment • Jewelry  
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## 3rd Annual

Bahia Del Sol condo community yard sale. Ruskin. Saturday, Feb. 22, 8am-1pm. Rain or shine. US 41 to W. Shell Point. Follow signs to Little Harbor. From Restaurant turn north. Bahia Del Sol Drive. Please park on street.

Sale. Quantity of white German China for painting etc, plates, tea cups variety. Organ & piano music. Antique Zenith Trans Oceanics radio, Edison player, brass horn, last century with cylinder records. Malodian, Featherlite Singer sewing machine. 823B Bahia Del Sol Drive 8am-1pm. Feb. 22. 813-645-4991

Multi family garage sale. Saturday, Feb. 22, 8am-noon. Platinum Dr off South Pebble Beach Blvd., SCC. Look for balloons

Moving sale. Furniture, tools, kitchen items, hardware, misc. household items. Saturday, Feb. 22, 9am-3pm. 810 Light-foot Dr., Sundance. South of 674

## Huge Sale

Quality jewelry including gold & silver. Appliances, tools, books, health aids, animal things & more. Friday & Saturday, 8:30am-? 1302 Bluewater SCC. Buying gold & coins.

Multi family yard sale. El Rancho to Ojai to 1401 Hacienda, SCC. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm. Lots of misc. & antiques.

Moving sale. Friday & Saturday, 8am-2pm. Tools, craft supplies, household items, bedroom suite, roll top desk, small freezer, Schwinn bicycle & much more. 633 Oakmont Ave., SCC.

Move in sale. Mowers, ladders, dehumidifier, jewelry, hammock & much more. 1625 Faxon Dr., SCC. off W. Del Webb. Friday 9am-4pm. Saturday, 9am-1pm.

Moving sale. 2325 E. Del Webb SCC. Friday & Saturday, 8am-2pm. Furniture, complete queen bedroom set, kitchen items, Polish pottery,. Christmas stuff, air compressor & other tools, decor & treasures



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Moving sale. 1742 Cloister Dr., SCC. 2/20 through 2/22, 8am-1pm. Household items, decor, clothing, furniture, tools, collectibles & much more.

Multi family yard sale. Saturday, Feb. 22 only. 8am-2pm. Something for everyone. Quality clothing, housewares, motorcycle stuff & much much more. 11306 North St., Gibsonton (off Symmes Rd)

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Moving sale. Friday 9am-1pm. Saturday 8am-2pm. Furniture, appliances, scrap wood, etc. 123 Lookout Dr., Apollo Beach (behind Circle K)

Huge yard sale. Tools, furniture, household & more. 135 21st St. NW, Ruskin. Friday 2/21 8am-5pm. Saturday 2/22, 8am-3pm.

Huge garage sale. St Andrews Estates. Friday & Saturday, 2/21 & 2/22, 8am-1pm. Household items, furniture, books, clothes, some Christmas, metal shelving, bicycle, great selection of misc. treasures. Something for everyone. Come look us over!! 414 Stoneham Dr., SCC

SCC Multi family yard sale. 641- 642 Ft Duquesna, SCC. Feb 20, 21 & 22, 8am-2pm. Antiques, clothing, household goods, tools, small furniture

Block sale. Feb. 20, Thursday, 7am-2pm. SCC. Indian Wells Ave., Augusta, Riveria & Desert Hills, Lots of misc.

Moving sale. Lots of furniture, clothing, TVs, Christmas stuff, glass figurines, antiques, pictures. Friday, Saturday, & Sunday 8am-? 6021 Fauna Lane, Apollo Beach

## For Sale

Bus tickets March 22, Art Festival \$20. CD radio I-POD Panasonic \$45. HP printer \$20, Secretary 3 drawers \$50. 813-938-1464

Large garage sale. 2027 New Bedford Dr., SCC. Friday & Saturday, Feb. 21 & 22, 9am-5pm. Golf clubs, exercise bike & much more.

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**RUSKIN WINTER/RETIREMENT HOME:** 3/2 doublewide in resident-owned gated community, new floors, new paint, enclosed lanai, carport, nice corner lot. Amenities include active clubhouse, heated pool and more, for \$75 monthly fees. **\$49,500 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

**RIGHT IN TOWN, 3BR DOUBLEWIDE ON ¾ AC LOT:** Very homey and well maintained home, new laminate floors, newer CHA, nice open floor plan, huge screened porch, large wood deck and breezeway leading to double carport. Corner lot may be developed. **\$125,000 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

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**NEW LISTING! LOOKING FOR COUNTRY & PRIVACY?** Nice 3BR/2BA POOL home on almost an acre (.82). Very conveniently located, off US 41 in Ruskin, not in a flood zone! No CDD fees or HOA fees. Nice open kitchen with stainless appliances and an adjoining dining area, ceramic tile, gorgeous fireplace in living room, split bedroom plan, partially fenced, ample parking, large screened pool with a huge lanai and more! Attached two-car garage converted to a man-cave and a one car garage. There is also an unattached garage and a storage building on the property. **\$199,900 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201 OR KAY PYE 361-3672**

**FISH TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT** on this 1.6 acre corner lot on Blue Heron Lake. Subdivision has 4 lakes of 123 acres each & each has its own boat ramp & gazebo furnished with picnic tables & grills. Birds & wildlife play in every direction. 274 ft. frontage. Live the good life for just **\$76,300 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

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**Nice large lot with privacy fence on rear.** Only lot in subdivision available. **CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 \$35,000**

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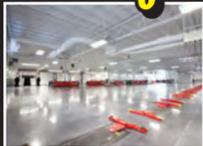


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