

Bill Carroll, a volunteer dog handler at Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort no-kill animal shelter, works with Star, a dog at the Ruskin shelter.



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

Poker Run benefits C.A.R.E. Animal Shelter

By KEVIN BRADY
kevin@observernews.net

Animal lovers will take to the streets April 5 for a poker run to benefit a local animal shelter that has saved thousands of cats and dogs.

"Cruisin' for Critters" benefits Ruskin's Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort, a no-kill animal shelter.

A poker run fundraiser has been suggested several times over the years for the shelter, said Sharon Becker, C.A.R.E.'s president.

"We hope the poker run generates funds, but we would also like to be seen in a new market," Becker said. "So if we reach a different audience and sign up new members, that will be a success."

Operating from a three-acre site on 27th Street SE, the shelter provides temporary homes and care for cats and dogs that might otherwise be killed, finding families for up to 10 animals a month.

Equipped with multiple kennels, clinics and several play areas for the animals, the shelter operates with only one full-time employee, a small army of volunteers and a meager \$100,000 annual budget covering everything from utilities to dog food.

Participants in the event, open to cars and motorcycles, can register for the poker run between 10 to 11:30 a.m. at The Dog House, 204 Shell Point Road W, Ruskin. The \$25 per vehicle fee includes

► Continued on page 30

Garden workshop for veterans and their families

The Manatee County Agricultural Museum and Palmetto Historical Park are offering a "Build a Container Victory Garden" for veterans and their young children.

The workshop will be held Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to noon at 515 W. 10th Ave., Palmetto.

Preregistration is necessary for the workshop, as space is limited. Call 941-721-2034 to register.

BACK PAIN

The "Healthy Living" seminar series at South Bay Hospital last week featured treatment options for back pain presented by neurosurgeon Dr. Larry Fishman. Read the story on page 7 for information on where to register and find a list of upcoming topics in the series.

NEXT WEEK...

Have you been driving 20 miles to buy fabric? Then you'll be pleased to know there is now a wide selection of fabrics available locally, along with children's sewing classes, quilting and the latest technology in sewing machines. Read it in the April 3 issue.

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Lennard High student wins college soccer scholarship

By KEVIN BRADY
kevin@observernews.net

Kristopher Ospina is the rarest kind of athlete: The Earl J. Lennard High School standout soccer player has brains and brawn to burn.

One of the best soccer players the Ruskin school has ever produced, Ospina has earned a scholarship to Florida College in Temple Terrace.

Ospina operates as a center

midfielder, spraying passes to set up forwards and winning tackles to snuff out opposition attacks. If there were a quarterback in soccer, it would be the center midfielder.

"He's one of the best players I have ever had skillwise," said Mark Robinson, who has been coaching soccer for 20 years, the last eight as head of Lennard's boys soccer program. "He's as good as any center midfielder I've ever had."

In 41 games, the Lennard captain has scored 26 times and set up 20 other goals, according to Max Preps, the bible for high school athletic stats. But it's the contributions that stats can't measure — breaking up attacks, envisioning how to develop plays, and leadership on the field — where Ospina excels.

"Ecstatic," was Ospina's reaction when he heard about the scholarship offer. "It's pretty nice to hear that they wanted me to come to their school."

While he will be keeping his

eye on the ball, Ospina is also mindful of the future and plans to earn a business degree at the school. "I just want to develop my soccer there, but also get a degree as well."

Ospina is a student of the game, constantly looking to improve but also "working hard to make those around him better. He can also see a play developing, and when the other team has the ball, he can see what side of the field that play will shift to," Robinson said.

It's those qualities that caught the eye of Saif Alasafer, the new head soccer coach at Florida College.

"Kristopher has tremendous potential, on and off the field, which is exactly what we look for in a student athlete," said Alasafer, a former Florida College player who was named head coach last month. "He is smart, reads the game well, has great athletic ability and has just about everything you would ever want in a soccer

► Continued on page 16



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

Lennard High soccer standout Kristopher Ospina puts pen to paper on his Letter of Intent to play soccer at Florida College in Temple Terrace. Looking on, right, are his parents, Jorge and Olga; John Guarisco, Lennard's assistant principal for administration, third from right; Lennard soccer coach Mark Robinson and Florida College coach Saif Alasafer.

Local artists take center stage at Winthrop Arts Festival

By KEVIN BRADY
kevin@observernews.net

Some of the area's best artists helped draw thousands of visitors to Riverview for the sixth annual Winthrop Arts Festival, March 22 and 23.

The festival showcased the work of more than 80 artists in categories ranging from oil paintings to ceramics and jewelry, with musical entertainment provided by local bands and schools.

Larry Meckley, for one, was impressed by the quality of the work.

"It's all top-notch material," said Meckley, a first-time visitor to the festival at Winthrop Town Centre. "We had a chance to walk around and visit many of the vendors, and there are a lot of diverse, talented people here."

All of which is music to the ears of Riverview's Jolanta Pietras, a glass and silversmith artist who has been working local art shows for a decade.

"This is my neighborhood and I see a lot of people locally who come by," Pietras said. "It

helps brings people together. The response has been wonderful. Everyone also seems to like what I am doing, which is always nice." Pietras said she exhibits in Ybor City every weekend but that "this is nice because it is so close to home."

Ron Deel, a former industrial artist who studied art in college but first took up painting seriously eight years ago, has sold more than 1,000 pieces of art. The Ruskin native specializes in eye-catching nature scenes, his work on turtles and birds seeming to leap from the canvas.

"My work is a modern graphic, bold, in-your-face kind of wild-life," he said. "You can walk 100 feet away from my work, and all my pictures come out at you. They literally have magnetism and draw you in."

Deel is a regular at arts festivals in Apollo Beach and Ruskin every year. He says attending the shows helps artists get their name out while also helping with sales.

"I have probably 30 to 40 patrons who collect my work,"

Deel said, "and they come to the shows that I tell them I am going to attend."

Daniel and Stacy Tabb traveled from Lakeland for a chance to display their work in leather, fiber, knit and paint.

"We do a little bit of every-

thing," Daniel said. "We have had a lot of people come in and just 'ooh' and 'ahh,' the response has been great. Besides just the crafting, we make practical art. It's all very well-made and will last a long time."

► Continued on page 17



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

Ron Deel, a Ruskin artist, says he has sold more than 1,000 pieces of his unique artwork.

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ABWA hosts annual High Tea

The South Shore Chapter #1409 of the American Business Women's Association held its annual high tea and fashion show March 15 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sun City Center. The event included a fashion show with clothing from the Rose Boutique in Ruskin. The gently used clothing and accessories boutique is owned by the Mary & Martha House shelter for abused and homeless women and their children. Above, models show some of the reasonably priced items that can be found at the boutique. There was also a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and ticket sales for the event that all went to the club's scholarship fund for local high school girls. For more information about ABWA, call Kathy Hicks at 813-746-1232. The chapter meets the third Monday of every month at the Sandpiper Grille & Bunkers, 1702 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., Sun City Center. Membership is extended to all business women in the South-Shore area.

CHERE SIMMONS PHOTOS



Dolores Berens was named Woman of the Year for her contributions to ABWA as well as her many other accomplishments. She was presented a crystal plaque by club president Kathy Hicks, right.



Members modeled fashions from the Rose Boutique.



One of the beautifully decorated tables at the tea.



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

With the restaurant booming on the day Ciccio Cali held its grand opening, partners Ryan McGough, left, and Matthew Lanza, right, with chef Ryan Mitchell, were all smiles.

Ciccio Cali cuts ribbon with help of Riverview Chamber

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

With perfect weather and a nearby arts festival dropping thousands of potential customers near his doorstep, Matthew Lanza couldn't have picked a much better day for a ribbon cutting at Ciccio Cali in Riverview's Winthrop Town Centre on March 22.

But if the visitors to the Winthrop Arts Festival had their first taste of the restaurant's fare, it will be consistency of service and quality that will keep them coming back, said Lanza, a Ciccio's partner.

"Everyone makes mistakes, but we are persistent and really make sure the quality is there," he said. "We are also always looking for great, innovative people who can bring something to the table because, at the end of the day, if you don't have good people working for you, it doesn't matter. We, however, have a really good team now, and that takes a lot of pressure off me and my partners," said Lanza, who grew up in the business with his parents running several New York City restaurants.

The Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce conducted the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which included live music, a magician and a children's bounce house.

Part of the Ciccio Restaurant Group, this is the third Ciccio Cali in the Bay area, with similar restaurants in South Tampa and St. Petersburg.

Offering a health-infused approach to dining out, with bowls, wraps and stir-fry options, the 3,000-square-foot restaurant also features dairy- and gluten-free

food, along with traditional fare such as macaroni and cheese, pizza and quesadillas. Pets even get a bowl of water when they sit on the patio.

"We pride ourselves on healthy, well-balanced meals," Lanza said.

While restaurants often seem to come and go before the paint has a chance to dry on their walls, Lanza, with 25 years in the business, believes he has the recipe for success.

He credits chef Ryan Mitchell, a former employee of the renowned Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, with helping Ciccio Cali maintain high standards throughout the company's kitchens.

"This job has given me a lot of freedom on how to execute things on the line, and they have also given me free range for kitchen design, hiring and training, so it's been a lot of fun for me," said Mitchell, who has been working in restaurants for 12 years. "It's fun every day, and not like coming to work."

With three locations in the Bay area, consistency is key in the kitchen, Mitchell said. "It's very important customers get the same experience at each location, and all the food tastes the same."

Ciccio Cali's is open Monday through Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; also a Saturday and Sunday brunch from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., a Saturday dinner from 3 to 9:30 p.m., and Sunday dinner from 3 to 9 p.m.

For more information on Ciccio Cali, 11230 Sullivan St., call 813-436-3840 or visit cicciorrestaurant-group.com.



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Detectives fear more victims after 4 arrested in Wimauma, Ruskin robbery spree

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

Detectives believe there may be more victims after arresting four people in a three-day crime spree that included armed robberies and assaults in Wimauma and Ruskin.

“Based on the random nature of these crimes, there may be additional victims who may have been victimized by these suspects but did not make a report,” said the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office in a statement announcing the arrests.

The first attack occurred at around 10 a.m., March 15, when a 13-year-old boy was taking out trash at a migrant worker camp at 5242 Guadalupe Blvd., in Wimauma, when two men approached him on foot and asked if he had any money.

When the boy said no, he was knocked to the ground and kicked in the head. The two men searched his pockets and fled after they found no money. The victim received minor injuries, said

investigators.

The next day at 5:45 a.m., a 28-year-old man was leaving the Prime Time Food Store when he was confronted by two men, both armed with handguns.

The victim was able to run back to the store before the suspects could take anything. He was not injured. Witnesses later described the possible suspect vehicle as a silver Chrysler 300.

A few hours after that attempted robbery, at about 9 a.m., a 50-year-old woman was walking on 5th Street SW near College Avenue in Ruskin when a man and a woman jumped out of a silver Chrysler and took the victim’s purse at gunpoint.

And, about an hour later, a man, 55, was riding his bicycle along Lightfoot Road and Sundance Trail in Wimauma when a silver Chrysler pulled up next to him. Three males carrying handguns and wearing ski masks knocked the victim from his bike and took cash from the victim’s pocket



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Adan Vasquez Jr.



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Eddie Martinez-Heredia

while one attacker held a gun to the man’s head.

The last reported attack took place at 7:40 a.m. on March 18, when a man, 56, was walking home from Tienda Los Primos store, 5530 North St., Wimauma. He told officials a silver vehicle pulled up next to him, a man wearing a ski mask and carrying a handgun got out of the car and ordered him to the ground and stole his wallet.

None of the victims, except the 13-year-old boy, was physically injured.

Investigators say they developed a significant lead in the case March 18 through a surveillance photo of a Chrysler 300 that was parked at the Prime Time Food Store just before the March 16 robbery. Detectives issued a countywide alert for the vehicle.

Detective Eric Johnson spotted

the car and the alleged suspects the next day at the Circle K at 5133 State Road 674. All four suspects were taken into custody.

Arrested were:

- Eddie Martinez-Heredia, 24, of Wimauma. He was charged with armed robbery with a firearm, attempted armed robbery, strong-armed robbery, aggravated battery, battery, driving while his license was suspended, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- Adan Vasquez Jr., 19, of Wimauma. He was charged with armed robbery with a firearm, attempted armed robbery, strong-armed robbery, aggravated battery and battery.

Two other suspects, aged 16 and 17, face various counts of armed robbery and aggravated battery

Anyone victimized by any of these suspects and who has not made a report is asked to contact the Sheriff’s office at 813-247-8200.

There is no indication at this time that these incidents are gang related, investigators said.

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Positive Talk: Working up to potential

The 40-hour work week is dead. According to several studies, we are now working longer and harder hours than we were 10 years ago. Leisure time is shrinking at an alarming pace. It is amazing that this can be happening in a time when modern equipment has taken over many of the drudgery jobs of past years. We have a choice: Continue to work these hours, or look for ways to get our jobs done in less time. We can work smarter, not harder, at any task we tackle, whether it's in the workforce or a volunteer activity, but we must organize in order to do it. Here are several suggestions for achieving peak performance.



By William Hodges

and stopping a project is counterproductive and will add hours that produce no tangible results.

4. If possible, divide a large project into separate tasks that, when completed, do not have to be handled again. You will then be able to complete the project in sections over a period of time without loss of efficiency.

5. Remove distractions whenever possible, and be wary of diversions. Simply turning your chair so you are not facing a traffic pattern and being distracted by people walking past can save you hours during a year's time. Since you are not making eye contact with them, they are less likely to stop and talk with you. You may also wish to take the desktop icons off your computer for the games of solitaire and hearts. If you are not addicted to these games, this piece of advice will not be understood; but I suspect many of you will know what I mean. These games can divert many hours from useful projects.

6. In the immortal words of early film star Greta Garbo, do not hesitate to tell people "I need to be alone." Within the bounds of courtesy, be assertive enough to ask those people who sit at your desk and waste your time to leave. On the other hand, be sure that you are not one of those people who wastes the time of others.

7. Last but not least, be sure that you are doing what you do best, and that you have delegated the things that should be done by others. It is difficult for many people to let others complete a part of a task. However, if you are ever

to be really successful, you must learn to let go and trust others to work with you to a common goal.

Working up to your potential can help to recover some of the hours you may now be wasting, and it may allow you more time for the things you really enjoy. These are just a few ideas about how to increase efficiency. Try them in your office or in your home this week; see what a difference they can make in your performance.

Hodges is a nationally recognized speaker, trainer and syndicated columnist. He also hosts an interview-format television program, Spotlight on Government, on the Tampa Bay Community Network, that airs Mondays at 8 p.m. (Bright House channel 950, Verizon channel 30) and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (BH channel 949, Verizon channel 36). The shows can also be viewed at www.hodgesvideos.com. Phone: 813-641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com

1. Over a two-week period, keep a record of the time of day you feel you are most effective. Then begin scheduling your most difficult problems for that time. This will allow you to bring your full abilities to bear in solving the problem. Save your off-peak hours to work on things that are less complicated and/or more interesting. Remember that you do not have to be very productive to have fun.

2. British poet Edward Young said, "Procrastination is the thief of time." Pick a project and then get started. Time spent trying to decide what to do, beyond a reasonable amount of planning, is unproductive. As the Nike commercials say, "Just do it."

3. Set aside sufficient time to complete a project. Starting



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Spring art show set for April 5 at Riverside Club

Head on over to the Riverside Club Golf & Boating Resort in Ruskin on Saturday, April 5, for the community's Spring Art Show.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 30 quality artists and crafters will display their work at the Landings Clubhouse. In addition, there will be live music.

To get to Riverside Club, turn onto Universal Drive off U.S. 41, turn right on Stephens Drive, then follow the signs for the art show.

Riverside Club's address is 1 Pier Drive, Ruskin.

Calling all fiber artists!

A group fiber exhibit is planned for November/December 2014 at the SouthShore Regional Library, and organizers are seeking artists in quilting, weaving, handmade paper and felting.

Applications are available at the library's Information Desk, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin. Applications must be returned by April 28.

For more information, call Laurie Burhop at 813-273-3652.

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Cypress Creek woman recognized for charitable work

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

Marge and Dick Yarger chose the Tampa Bay area because of their love of sports, but sports isn't what their life's been about.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Marge Yarger was stunned to receive the Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership Award while serving on the altar with the Rev. Mark Salmon at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church March 23. "I had no idea I was going to be the one to receive it, and I was so shocked when they started reading the bio and I heard 'from Lansing, Michigan,' I reached out and touched Rev. Mark to be sure I was still standing up."

"When we lived in Port Charlotte, we would drive up this way to see the Lightning and the Rays games," Marge said. "We followed them closely from the beginning, and we were there when the Lightning won the Stanley Cup."

So in 2002, when it came time for the two lifelong educators to retire, they bought a house in the Villages of Cypress Creek, close to their daughter Wende in Ruskin and still not far from their son Kirk in Sarasota, and continued to go to the games and follow their teams.

But other things about the area began to draw their attention, and having been involved in churches where they lived before, soon they were heavily involved in St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.

In addition to being an Elder and Deacon, Marge has served in many areas of ministry, including Circle Leader, Secretary-Treasurer of the Presbyterian Women, on the Health Cabinet and Nominating Committee, and has taught Christian education classes.

This year she was also on the World Day of Prayer Planning

Committee and is a Stephen Ministry leader, co-chairwoman of the Prayer Shawl Ministry and Vice Moderator of Presbyterian Women.

She has been active in the community as well, and has volunteered with Friends of the Library and backstage with the Pelican Players.

Sunday, March 23, while she was helping the Rev. Mark Salmon on the altar, she was surprised by being presented with the Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership Award.

According to the Presbyterian calendar, that was the Sunday designated as Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday.

But Marge hasn't been active only here in her community. Ever since obtaining a master's degree in education from Michigan State University, she's been interested in people and cultures, and she and Dick put that curiosity to use by traveling the world in a different way than most travelers do.

"We don't just see the tourist attractions, although we do get to do a lot of fun things and see beautiful places," she said. "I wish I had gone as a child — or at least when I was much younger. We here in this country have so much we don't realize, and seeing the things we've seen puts a whole new light on everything. Like here, we sleep in beds. In Cambodia, they sleep on the floor."

Booking only with Overseas Adventure Travels, they go to places others might overlook: Cambodia, Australia, Africa and China. And while they're there, they participate in the local culture, work with schools, and Marge has even thatched roofs and carried supplies on her head with the natives.

"We chose Overseas Adventure because they have a foundation that supports orphanages and schools, and through them we get to meet families and see and do things with them," she said.

Recently the Yargers held a slide presentation at St. Andrew that included their time with the Maasai tribes, some of which are nomadic and some stay in one place.

"They impressed me a great deal, especially their housing," Marge said. "They live in huts.



DICK YARGER PHOTOS

On her recent trip to Africa, Marge Yarger participated in the daily life of native tribes as they carried supplies through the jungle and thatched roofs on their huts.



The women and children get the wood and the men build them, and then the women thatch them on top and put together termite mound dirt and dung from their animals and plaster the walls with that."

After being told how the tribes lived, women from St. Andrew began making them "pillowcase" dresses; called that because they have no shape so they will fit women of many sizes.

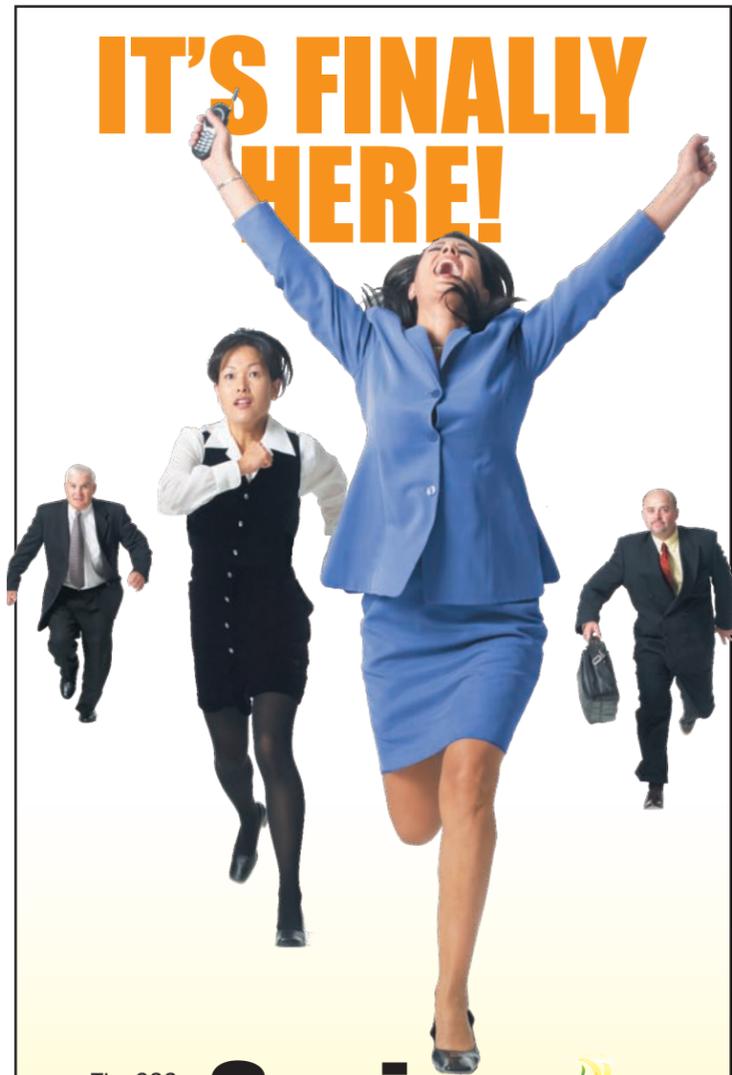
"We've become involved in a lot of things because of Marge," said Dotty Guerrero. "Marge and Dick explain the plight of the people in Africa so well. And Marge is supporting our Presbyterian Women's group project to help children all over the world through the Heifer Project," (where cows are bought for villages to raise).

The Presbyterian Women are

active in all sorts of projects, both locally and globally, said Guerrero. "As Vice Moderator, she's responsible for planning and producing four gatherings a year, each with a program of importance, to draw interested people from all over Hillsborough and Manatee counties.

"In February we learned about prison ministry. People find it easy to overlook that segment of our population, and as a result of the program, we now have several people working with the speaker she brought in, Rebecca Reynal, in prisons and halfway houses, either through donations or with volunteer work."

To find out more about St. Andrew's programs or to become involved, call the church at 813-634-1252 or stop by the office at 1239 W. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center.



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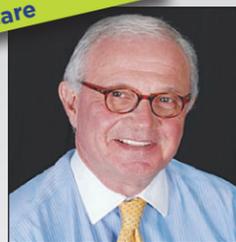
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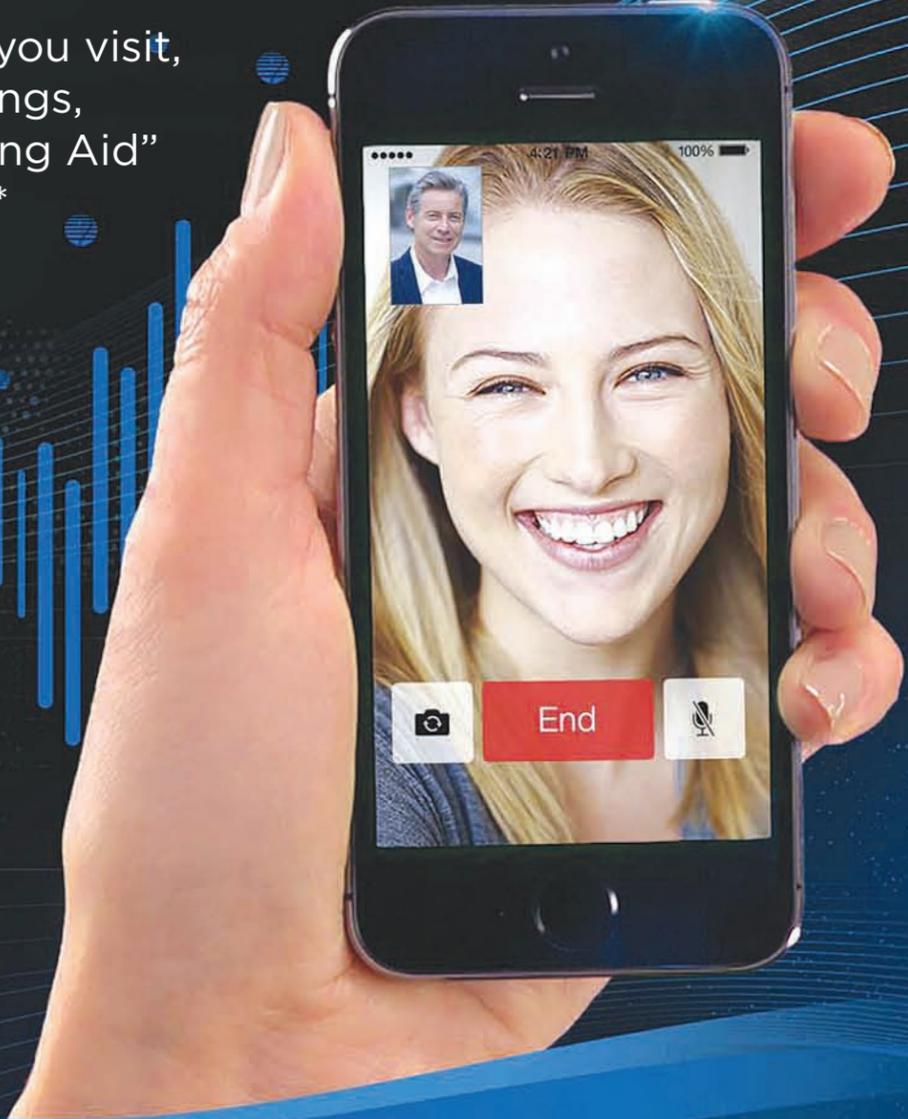
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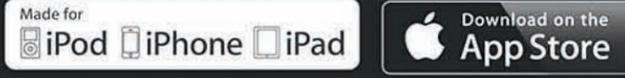
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'Healthy Living' educational seminars Treatment options for back pain

By **LIA MARTIN**
A cute pain causes many adults to ask questions and seek answers. They describe it as a stabbing, burning, twisting, tearing or squeezing sensation. They will do most anything not to have it. Spinal and joint pain is common in seniors as part of aging. If you have been diagnosed with arthritis, you are one of the 46 million adults in the United States who have it.

Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common form of arthritis. About 23 million adults have been diagnosed with OA by their doctor, accounting for 50 percent of all arthritic cases. One in two people will experience some form of OA in their life. It is more common in women than in men.

To complicate pain issues, there are more acute diagnoses that will impact some. For instance, what does it mean if you have a "bulging disc," or a "herniated disc"? When do you get surgery for carpal tunnel syndrome? What about "Band-Aid" surgery?

So when Dr. Larry Fishman, a neurosurgeon, came to speak on back pain as part of the "Healthy Living" series sponsored by South Bay Hospital, quite a few in Sun City Center came to listen.

Vonda Kloke, a Sun City Center resident, said she came with her husband Virgil to hear Dr. Fishman speak on joint and spine pain because her primary physician

recommended him to her for treatment of a bulging disc.

"I came because my doctor referred me to him, and I wanted to hear him before I went," Vonda said.

The Klokes were very pleased with Fishman's presentation, and Vonda will go and see him as a patient, she said.

"And it was educational," Virgil said, indicating that he had not expected to learn so much.

The Klokes were two of more than 50 people who registered for the seminar. Attendees asked intelligent questions and received informational answers.

When someone asked Fishman about reasons for the pain associated with degenerative disc disease, he explained how some pain in the back is just part of the normal aging process.

"Young people have nice, fat, juicy discs," Fishman explained. He showed how our discs dry up when we get older, and that arthritis is normal wear and tear of the spine and joints.

He also stressed there were three ways to treat degenerative disc disease: conservative therapy, microdiscectomy or discectomy and fusion.

Fishman advised against surgery as a general rule. Before he would recommend surgery, he said, he would advise a more conservative therapy, including exercise and pain medicine, where indicated.

He said if the pain is occasional and not interfering with your life, you can alleviate the pain and live a normal life without turning to surgery.

In fact, Fishman said, insurance companies require a proper diagnosis to pay for an operation ordered by a surgeon. As an example, he said, osteoarthritis would not be approved by insurance companies as a good reason to have surgery because it is a condition and cannot be corrected by an operation.

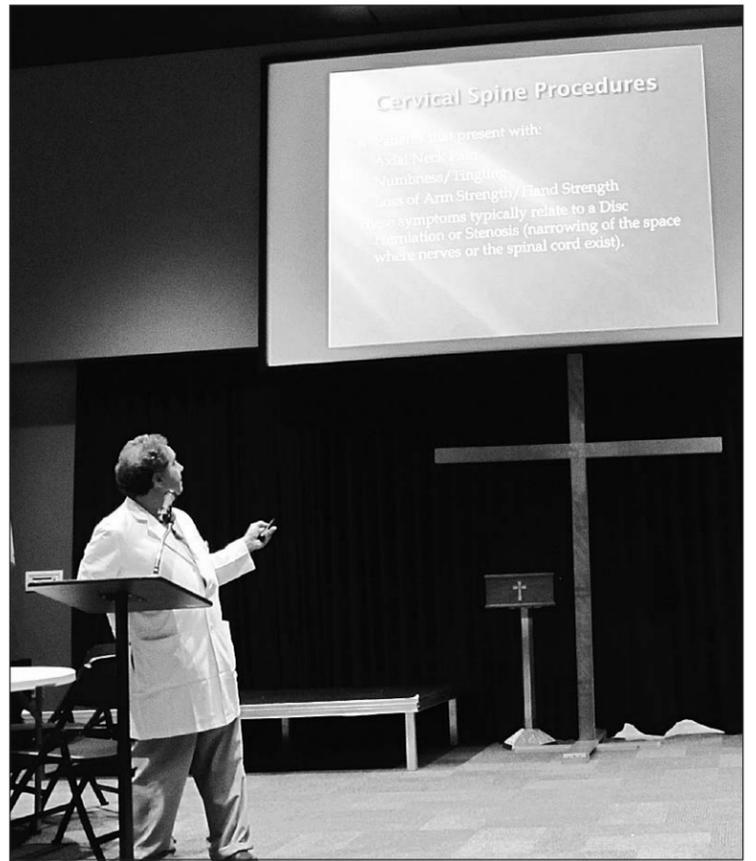
However, Fishman said he is a proponent of outpatient surgery, which requires shorter anesthesia times and is also a solution for a patient on blood-thinning medication. Often called Band-Aid surgery, microdiscectomy can be used to remove a portion of the bulging or herniated disc. Using a microscope, the surgeon can see what he is doing, said Fishman, and remove only the part of the disc that is pressing on a nerve.

"Microdiscectomy is the gold standard," Fishman said.

He also said that using a technology called balloon kyphoplasty for vertebral compression fractures was effective, especially in treating post-menopausal women.

VCF leads to sudden, severe back pain, loss of height and deformity of the spine, causing a curved "hunchback" shape.

"Patients are miserable," Fishman said. He recommended that his own mother have the balloon kyphoplasty outpatient procedure because she had been suffering with VCF. He said his mother was able to drive back home to Delray Beach that same day, after the procedure was done.



LIA MARTIN PHOTO

Neurosurgeon Dr. Larry Fishman gives a health-education seminar last Wednesday to those who had registered for the "Healthy Living" series of talks sponsored by South Bay Hospital in Sun City Center.

What makes this technique work, Fishman said, is that it actually corrects the spinal deformity and strengthens the bone. The patient no longer has to wear a brace.

According to Fishman, after the balloon is inserted, cement fills the cavity and the balloon is removed.

"The stent stays and is stronger than the bone surrounding it," Fishman said. "It changes people's lives."

Dr. Larry Fishman practices at 4031 Upper Creek Drive, Ste. 100, Sun City Center and at 427 S.

Parsons Ave., Ste. 110, Brandon. Dr. Fishman is on staff at South Bay Hospital, Brandon Regional, Tampa General and South Florida Baptist, and has practiced for 25 years in Sun City Center.

South Bay Hospital is located at 4016 Sun City Center Blvd., Sun City Center, FL 33573. See other "Healthy Living" education events at www.SouthBayHospital.com or call 1-888-685-1595 to register for a seminar. Dr. Ashok Dhaduvai, gastroenterologist, will give a colorectal cancer-prevention seminar at 11 a.m. on Thursday. The seminars are held at 1210 W. Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City Center.

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THE SAVVY SENIOR

How to fight age discrimination

Dear Savvy Senior,
What constitutes age discrimination in the workplace, and where can I turn to for help if I think I've got a case?

Demoted at 64



By Jim Miller

Dear Demoted,
Age discrimination has become a much more frequent complaint in recent years as more and more people are

working into their retirement years. But you need to be aware that proving it is extremely difficult to do, especially since the 2009 Supreme Court decision that raised the bar for the type of legal proof that workers need to win age discrimination lawsuits.

With that said, here are the steps you'll need to take to fight age discrimination if you think you've been treated unlawfully.

► ADEA protection

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act is your first defense against age-discrimination. This is a federal law that says an employer cannot fire, refuse to hire, or treat you differently than other employees because of your age. Some examples of age discrimination include:

- You were fired because your boss wanted to keep younger workers who are paid less.
- You were turned down for a promotion, which went to someone younger hired from outside the company, because the boss says the company "needs new blood."

• When company layoffs are announced, most of the persons laid off were older, while younger workers with less seniority and less on-the-job experience were kept on.

• Before you were fired, your supervisor made age-related remarks about you.

• You didn't get hired because the employer wanted a younger-looking person to do the job.

The ADEA protects all workers and job applicants age 40 and over who work for employers that have 20 or more employees – including federal, state and local governments as well as employment agencies and labor unions.

If your workplace has fewer than 20 employees, you may still be protected under your state's anti-age-discrimination law. Contact your state labor department or your state's fair-employment-practices agency for more information.

Another protection for older workers is the federal Older Workers Benefit Protection Act. Under this law, an employer cannot reduce health or life insurance benefits for older employees, nor can it stop their pensions from accruing if they work

past their normal retirement age. It also discourages businesses from targeting older workers when cutting staff and prohibits employers from forcing employees to take early retirement.

► What to do

If you think you are a victim of employment age discrimination, your first step is to file a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, usually within 180 days from the date of the alleged violation. You can do this by mail or in person at your nearest EEOC office (see www.eeoc.gov/contact), or by calling 800-669-4000. They will help you through the filing process and let you know if you should also file a charge with your state anti-discrimination agency.

Once the charge is filed, the EEOC will investigate your complaint and find either reasonable cause to believe that age discrimination has occurred, or no cause and no basis for a claim. After the investigation, the EEOC will then send you their findings along with a "notice-of-right-to-sue," which gives you permission to file a lawsuit in a court of law.

If you decide to sue, you'll need to hire a lawyer who specializes in employee-discharge suits. Lawyers.com and Findlaw.com are two websites that can help you locate discrimination attorneys in your area.

Another option you should consider is mediation, which is a fair and efficient way to help you resolve your employment disputes and reach an agreement. The EEOC offers mediation at no cost if your current or former employer agrees to participate. At mediation, you show up with your evidence, your employer presents theirs, and the mediator makes a determination within a day or less.

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

Super Seniors Savings Seminar set for HCC Tampa on March 28

Local residents are invited to attend the Super Seniors Savings Seminar on Friday, March 28, at Hillsborough Community College's Dale Mabry Campus, 4001 W. Tampa Bay Blvd., Tampa. The event is free, open to the public, and runs from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

The seminar is sponsored by the Elder Rights Task Force of the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging Inc. and HCC. WFLA-News Channel 8 anchor Yolanda Fernandez will be on the program, welcoming residents to the event.

The Super Seniors Savings Seminar is an educational forum with information on avoiding scams and fraud, money-saving tips, Medicare and more. There will also be a tai chi demonstration, a Frugal Fashion Show, door prizes and more.

The West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging Inc. is a private nonprofit organization. For more information on this event, call Patricia Henderson at 813-740-3888 or email her at patricia.henderson@agingflorida.com.

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Casting notice

Venue Theatre is casting its summer play, *A Bench in the Sun* by Ron Clark.

Harold and Burt, longtime friends, live in a retirement home and spend their days bickering on a bench in the garden. A once-famous actress has just moved in, giving them something new to argue over. When they learn that the home is about to be sold, and they will have to find a new residence, the three join forces to prevent this upsetting development.

Venue is seeking two experienced senior actors: Harold (60s), who considers himself to be a man about town, and Adrienne (60s), a former actress and eternal optimist who still manages to be a big flirt.

Casting will be held at Venue Theatre at 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 6. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m., and will be on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (Sundays as needed). Production dates are May 30 to June 15.

Interested actors who cannot make the audition may call producer Frank Kronyak at 727-563-6009 for an audition time on Tuesday, April 8.

Venue Theatre is located at 9125 U.S. 19 North, in the Hudson's furniture Plaza at the intersection of Mainlands Boulevard in Pinellas Park. Call 727-822-6194 for directions.

AARP Smart Driver class is April 19

On Saturday, April 19, Beggins Century 21 will sponsor the AARP Smart Driver course at its Apollo Beach office, 6542 U.S. 41. Call 813-645-8481 to make a reservation. Each class takes six hours, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and requires a check payable to AARP.

Classes are also held in Sun City Center and Kings Point every month. For these dates and locations, call Encore Bank, 813-634-8001.

All classes are six hours. Participants are asked to bring a lunch, their driver's license and a check payable to AARP.

The cost for AARP members is \$15, nonmembers pay \$20. Call soon to reserve a place.



Retired Marine Col. Bill Shanks (World War II - Pacific Theater), left, and retired Army soldier Augustine Fleischman (World War II - Normandy Beaches, France, Germany, and later Philippines and Japan), seated, with their "guardians" Connie Lesko and Colin Howgill at St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport at the start of Honor Flight Mission 13, October 8, 2013.

MFST seeking WWII veterans to go on Honor Flights to Washington, D.C.

The Military Family Support Trust, based in Sun City Center, is looking for World War II veterans whom they can take on Honor Flights to Washington, D.C.

The daylong Honor Flights that visit Washington and the war memorials are complimentary gifts of thanks to WWII veterans. Each veteran must have a "guardian" for the visit.

MFST has a special program, the Donald P. Schings Honor Flight Support Program, to sponsor guardians for veterans who otherwise may not be able to take advantage of this wonderful program to honor and say thanks for

the service of WWII veterans.

Both veterans in the photo above have a message for their fellow WWII veterans: Don't miss out on the once-in-a-lifetime experience. You earned it; now enjoy it!

If you are fit to travel, can take any medications you need with you and can be, if needed, pushed in a wheelchair by your guardian for the day, then go for it now. It's a long day, but worth every minute. Contact MFST and they will make the arrangements.

You can reach the MFST office on weekdays, 10 a.m. to midday, by calling 813-634-4675 or by email to President@mobc-online.org.

Children's charity golf tourney is April 19

The Frank E. Lowe Children's Charity 12th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on April 19 at the Apollo Beach Golf Club, 801 Golf & Sea Blvd., Apollo Beach.

The cost is \$75 per golfer and includes greens fees, golf cart, lunch by Brocato's, cold keg beer, door prizes and an awards banquet.

Proceeds from the tournament are used to help under privileged elementary school children. In addition to thousands of dollars given to elementary schools, the tournament has awarded more than \$50,000 in college scholarships to area high-school seniors.

This year, Dixon Golf will sponsoring a hole-in-one prize of a trip to Las Vegas. So, gather your team and submit your payment by Tuesday, April 1, and your four-person entry is just \$280.

Last year's tournament was sold out, so reserve your team with Jim Greenmun at 813-419-4113, Mike Woratzeck at 860-389-5037 or Frank Lowe at 813-689-7701.

If you would like to join the organizers' growing list of sponsors, there are sponsorship options available ranging in price from \$25 to \$1,000. Sponsorships are tax-deductible. Call Frank, Mike or Jim (at the above phone numbers); they will explain the options and provide you with an activity report for last year.



Florida Master Naturalist Program to focus on the Upland Habitats

In May, the Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service will offer the Florida Master Naturalist Program - Upland Habitats module.

The FMNP is a University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension adult-education program for persons interested in learning more about Florida's ecosystems or wishing to increase their knowledge for use in educational programs as volunteers, employees and ecotourism guides.

Through classroom instructions, field trips and practical experience, this six-day module will provide instruction about Florida's natural habitats, the flora and fauna that live within the habitats, how we have an impact on the natural habitats, and conservation issues of Upland Habitats in Florida. The class will address naturalist interpretation skills, environmental ethics and the role of humankind in shaping our past and determining our future.

Classes run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4 and June 11. At 9 a.m. on June 17, in the Manatee County Commission Chambers, the class will be presented with a University of Florida IFAS certificate of completion, embroidered FMNP patch, and an FMNP Upland Habitats lapel pin.

The cost for the course is \$225, which includes all field trips, 40 contact hours of instruction and a comprehensive student reference workbook. The only requirements of students are enthusiasm, attendance and completion of group final projects.

If you are interested in registering for the Florida Master Naturalist Program - Upland Habitats Module, send an email to Lisa Hickey at lisa.hickey@ufl.edu or call 941-722-4524 for additional information.

PET TIP: Adult cats groom their kittens to keep them healthy and well cared for. Cats lick people for similar reasons. It may also be a way of marking you as one of their own, especially if you have been handling other cats.



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SouthShore Regional Library

Kids program/event highlights

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

Crafternoon — Thursday, March 27, 4:30 p.m.

For children ages 5-10 ~ Join the children's librarian and create colorful and fun crafts to take home with you. Preregistration is required. Ask at the Reference Desk or call 813-273-3652. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Bedtime Stories — Thursday, March 27, 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 Talent Show — Saturday, March 29, 2-5 p.m.

Like to sing, dance, do stand-up comedy or have a unique talent? Want to perform in front of an audience for a chance to win cash? The top three winners of each participating library will be invited to perform at the Grand Finale at the John F. Germany Public Library for a chance to win more cash! Sign up for the Teen Talent Show! Register solo or as a group for a chance at stardom. Registration forms are available at the information desk of participating libraries.

Baby Time — Monday, March 31, 1:35 p.m.

Tuesday, April 1, 11:35 a.m.

Wednesday, April 2, 10:05 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.

Mad Science: Laser Light Show — Monday, March 31, 7 p.m.

For children ages 5-12 ~ Join us for this fun science program all about lights, colors and special effects. Children will be dazzled and entertained as they interact with the Mad Scientist! Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Library.

Toddler Time - Tuesday, April 1, 10:05 and 10:35 a.m.

Wednesday, April 2, 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, April 1, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, April 2, 11 a.m.

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

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



Operation Fight the Blight arrives in Tropical Acres next week

Hillsborough County Code Enforcement continues its *Operation Fight the Blight* program with a cleanup campaign in the Tropical Acres community scheduled April 1-4, April 7-11, and April 14.

The cleanup boundaries are Rhodine Road on the north, Big Bend Road on the south, Balm Riverview Road on the west, and Lovers Lane on the east.

During the operation, several dumpsters will be located at Stephen J. Wortham Park, 12108 Rhodine Rd., Riverview. Residents who live within the cleanup boundaries may dispose of various items at no charge by showing proof of residence, such as a Florida Driver's License, Florida Vehicle Registration, or a utility bill.

The dumpsters will be available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each of the weekdays during the cleanup (but not on the weekends).

The following items may be placed in the dumpsters:

- furniture, junk, trash, debris
- metal
- electronics
- tires (limit 5 per residence).



Terrific Kids at Ruskin Elementary School

February's Terrific Kids at Ruskin Elementary School were selected for their traits of respect and responsibility. The following students were present for the photo: Gabriel Pacheco-Rodriguez, Jack D'errico, Malia Clark, Charlyze Rivera, Humberto Alanis Perez, Osbaldo Martinez, Giovanni Peluso, Jazmine Santana, Kasey Velasquez Agustin, Kylee McCarthy, Kevin Rosquero, Marcela Garcia-Ortiz, Juan Ramirez Hernandez, Delilah Villalon, Jade Gonzalez, Layla Mendoza, Valeria Lopez, Isabella Robledo, Mary Rios, Jonathan Voorbrood, Jose Pablo Flores, Chidubem Anaëbo, Arianna Montoya Campos, Ivan Roblero, Antonio Gomez, Joseph Herrera, Alyssa Meyer, Esmeralda Garcia-Jimenez, Nancy Ceballos, Jesus Montoya, Ashley Funez-Portillo, Arius McCray, Alyssa Garcia, Jorge Bosa, Isaiah Meza, Jade Eguia, Carol Avonce-Martinez, Erlin Arias, Dajanique Dortch, Xitlally Hernandez Rodriguez, Leonardo Barrera, Sherlin Borja Martinez, Cesar Barrientos, Carolina Basave, Angel Aguilera, Louie Tingley, Austin Gruber, Braylon Henry, Bruce Islas, Brianna Elliott, Vanessa Medina, Soleil Mondello, JaLynn Hunter, Abel Barrera, Maelis Jaimes, Tamy Simms, Brandon Elliott, Chloe Breault, Myleisha Diaz, Brandon Weaks, Alexis Gonzalez, Joshua Dealy, Terry Carswell, Jennifer Robledo, Gentry Hindman and Tyler Harper. Also present were Ruskin Elementary Principal Lisa Amos, Assistant Principal Rebecca Salgado and representatives from Sun City Center Kiwanis, which sponsors the Terrific Kids program: Donna and Tom Braden, and Charlene Wirick.



Terrific Kids at Gibsonton Elementary School

The following students have been recognized as Terrific Kids for showing their peers how to be inquisitive: Steven Binyard, Bradly Vogt, Angel Moore, Bradley Rampersad, Dontaveia Weaver, Bradley Gudde, Lianne Vazquez, Marti Pineda, Colin Phillips, Asher Qualls, Christal Hernandez, Elizabeth Arnold, Nicoless Martinez, Lola Hernandez, Hunter Eargood, Manuel Medina, Jazmin Sneed, Edgardo Herrera-Rodriguez, Alberto Castillo, Jesus Flores, Matthew Wing, Skylar Humphreys, Brittany Hernandez, Giovanni Palmares, Adon Keizer, Kaylen Owens, Xhyrhi Rock, Harvery Purcell, Aiden Diamond, Evan Harris, Kathy Hernandez, Anthony Hidalgo, Aninata Ka and Jayden Welsh.



Terrific Kids at Corr Elementary School

On March 21, Corr Elementary School honored its Terrific Kids, recognized for accepting similarities and differences. They are: Pre-K – Gennesys Zarate; kindergarten – Delani Astacio, Kaylie Toro, Samantha Kremkau, Itiel Martinez-Delgado, Brandon Sainline, AJ Smith and Eugenio Velazquez; 1st grade – Zaina Shabana, Andrya Palmer, Eric Pita, Marc Similien, Abdulmajeed Gbadegesin, Julian Garcia, Daniyal Saleem and Likayla Hopson; 2nd grade – McKenzie Fogle, Jack Bernard, Anaya Mayo, Zion Castro, Kayli Robinson, Genesis Barahona, Elias Cortez-Zuzack and Changis Taylor; 3rd grade – Kiara Moore, Daviyon Campbell, Emma McHenry, Alexandra Medley, Patrick Barone, Oscar Melendez, Lexy Palmer and Tyona Jackson; 4th grade – Lizbeth Fuentes, Gage Mehle, Steven Torres, Patrick Pittard and Jhene Earby; 5th grade – Rachelle Difilippo, Giselle Valdez-Ramirez, Eliud Rodriguez, Ezequiel Lopez-Bautista, Johnny Fogarty and Olivia Dejesus.

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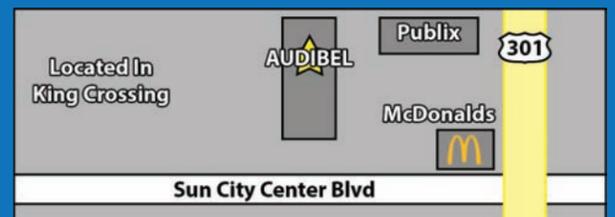
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Even in quiet times, South County nonprofit works to save lives

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

Shortly before every Fourth of July or New Year's Eve, the television cameras and reporters come calling, and Sandy Duran once again relives the horrific night when her then-12-year-old son was brought down by a bullet shot into the air as so-called "celebratory gunfire."

The shooter has never been found.

It is on those holidays that celebratory gunfire appears to be at its worse, and Duran's two-year effort to educate the public about the dangers of celebratory gunfire seems to be having an effect: No one was killed in the Tampa Bay area last New Year's Eve, no one was killed here on the last Fourth of July. But there were a few injuries. Things, it seems, are getting better. And that is, in all likelihood, largely thanks to the nonprofit organization Duran created called Bullet Free Sky, along with the help of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Shooter's World and other people helping to publicize her message.

In addition, multiple other gun shops and gun ranges have printed and promoted Bullet Free Sky's message, including Gun Craft, Inc. in Ruskin, Aegis Tactical in Lakewood Ranch, Family Fire Arms and Smooth Action in Brandon and Shoot Straight in Tampa.

Duran and Bullet Free Sky are not anti-gun — she joined the National Rifle Association — she is, however, extremely pro-gun education. She does not want what



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Diego and his mother Sandy Duran during a Bullet Free Sky fundraiser last year. With each approaching Fourth of July or New Year's Eve, the television cameras seek them out, but the danger exists all year. Diego and Sandy are working to change that.

happened to her son Diego to happen to anyone else. She does not want another mother, another family, to endure what her son and family endured beginning in the early moments of 2012. Diego went through a full year of surgeries and rehabilitation. There were moments in which his life was touch and go. Today he is a polite, charming and happy teenager, but he is still recovering from an errant bullet shot into the sky in the name of "celebration." It was the ultimate in careless mistakes on the part of the shooter. For some victims, it is a fatal one. People have been injured and killed in their own homes, in their bedrooms, in churches and simply walking across parking lots. And every Fourth of July and New Year's Eve, the stories emerge

from across the nation.

The reality is that the risk remains omnipresent. If you think you are safe on your Sun City Center lanai on any given evening, think again. If you think you are safe in Riverview or Apollo Beach, think again. A bullet fired into the sky can travel for miles before crashing back to earth, sometimes, all too often, with horrific and even fatal results. If you live anywhere in South Hillsborough, you are not safe from celebratory gunfire. Your child is not safe.

Duran has devoted much of her life for the past two years to working to stop the needless carnage — not through aggressive confrontation born of anger over what happened to her son, but through education and understand-

► Continued on page 31

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APRIL EVENTS

WED., April 2 NOW EVERY WEDNESDAY! • 10 - 11 a.m. • **Therapeutic Tai Chi open to the public!** Our therapists have advanced training in therapeutic Tai Chi for Seniors, and will provide guidance in this healthy exercise. Tai Chi has been proven to increase strength and balance!

THUR., April 3 • 3 - 4 p.m. • **Aging Gracefully Support Group.** This is a support group for individuals who are learning to live with the effects of aging in a graceful, healthy manner. Facilitated by Kay Coburn Dyer, Geriatric Care Manager.

TUES., April 8 • 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. • **"Better Breathers" Support Group C.O.P.D.** (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Please join Lorrie Quistad, RRT who facilitates this growing group. The first half of each meeting consists of education for those learning to live with COPD. During the second half of the meeting, physical therapists take you through guided exercises to assist you in your recovery.

WED., April 9 • 10 - 11 a.m. • **Charles Schwab Investment Series** Don't miss this opportunity to meet with Ann MacKay, CFP with Charles Schwab, and learn about: Funding your paycheck in retirement.

WED., April 9 • 2:30 - 4 p.m. • **Diabetes Support Group** Please join Lisa Endick, RN from Nurse on Call Home Health Care, as she facilitates our support group "Everyday Basics of Diabetic Care".

THUR., April 10 • 10 - 11 a.m. • **Meet the Candidate!** Michael Scionti for Circuit Court Judge Group 19 With 18 years of commitment to our community, Michael served as a State Prosecutor, litigating hundreds of cases in Florida's county, circuit, and appellate courts, and has supported a fair and balanced justice system as a State Representative. Michael volunteered for tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan as a U.S. Army Soldier and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Michael's experience and honorable service have earned him endorsements from the State Attorney, the Public Defender, the Sheriff, and the law enforcement community. Don't miss this opportunity to meet Michael!

THUR., April 10 • 1 - 2 p.m. • **Neuropathy Support Group** Sponsored by the Men's Club of SCC - Held at the Community Association in the Caper Room on North Pebble Beach. Are you suffering from pain and numbness in your extremities? Our speaker this month is Nataliya Sia, Nurse Practitioner from Holistic Medical Care Clinic. She will be talking about myths and realities of medical diets, and will discuss health benefits of certain types of food groups as well as practical tips for obtaining good health. Nataliya Sia is a nurse practitioner with Dr. Rucker at Holistic Medical Care Clinic in Apollo Beach. She was born and raised in Ukraine and got her master's degree in nursing from the University of South Florida. In her practice she integrates Western and non-traditional medicine to bring patients to their optimal level of function. Complimentary Valet Available at Entrance.

THUR., April 10 • 2:30 - 4 p.m. • **Peace of Mind Support Group** Facilitated by Edmond Dubreuil MSW, RCSWI mental health professional. Supported by: South Shore Coalition on Mental Health & Aging & United Methodist Church of SCC.

Come to Sun Towers Retirement Community, 101 Trinity Lakes Dr., Sun City Center, FL. Call Debbie Caneen at 813-892-2990 for more information.

RSVP 2 days prior to event to... 813-634-3347 Assisted Living Facility License #4991



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Small-business workshops offered on contracts/legal strategies

The Small Business Development Center offers a three-part series on "Contracts and Legal Strategies for Managing Your Business," on Wednesdays, April 2, 9 and 16 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Port Tampa Bay Building.

By attending this three-part series, you'll receive nine hours of legal guidance and have an opportunity to participate in Q&A during each session.

The course will teach you about the legal issues you'll run across in managing insurance, suppliers, banking, accounting and intellectual property. You'll also learn how to navigate basic contract structures, terms and conditions as well as avoiding troubles of double taxation, hidden liabilities and

unwanted assets.

Although it's a three-part series, you can take the classes individually:

- April 2: Navigating Business Contracts
- April 9: Legal Considerations & Basic Business Organizations
- April 16: Succession Planning, & Buying and Selling

The course is led by Joe Russo of Donnelly & Russo. He is the Small Business Resource Network chapter president and a business-law attorney who's practiced in the area for more than 14 year.

The series registration is \$375; individual courses are \$150 each.

To register or for more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/observer-legal-courses>.

They've got a good thing growing

The Manatee County Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program is accepting applications now through August 1.

If you would like to become a professional volunteer in an urban horticulture program and share gained horticultural knowledge with homeowners through the Plant Diagnostic Clinic, this program is for you.

The 13-week training starts Sept. 5, and meets one to two times a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The \$200 fee covers all textbooks and program materials.

To download an application, visit <http://preview.tinyurl.com/cmytyef> or call Cindy Mozeleski at 941-722-4524 to have an application mailed to you.

You, me and business: Lord Stanley and Dickie V

Periodically, rare and wonderful perks come along with this job that create memories to last a lifetime. Such was the case last week when my friend Deb Adams at BMO Harris Bank asked me to join her and other guests at their box suite to see a Lightning game. Even though it was St. Patrick's Day and pouring rain, my husband and I joined some other Chamber members and went into the Tampa Bay Times Forum.



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

The box featured scrumptious food and drink, leather seats and pub-style tables with a great view.

And that's when it happened. As I glanced sideways into the next suite box, I saw a face I've seen on television for years. As a graduate of an ACC university and a die-hard basketball fan, I'd know the face and voice of Dick Vitale anywhere. For those of you who don't follow the game, Dickie V is the primo analyst of college hoops.

He was announcing back in 1983 when my beloved alma mater NC State University — known

as the Cardiac Pack because of the way they came from behind at the last second to win by one point — took on Houston for the national championship. Given the moniker Phi Slama Jama, Houston was led by future NBA star Hakeem Olajuwon.

Coach Jimmy Valvano, Dick Vitale's best friend, was our head coach. I'll never forget that year when we took the national title. Nor will I forget the years to follow when Coach V was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

When I was going through my own battle with breast cancer 10 years later, Coach V died. He had been my inspiration, and now he was gone. Dickie V kept up the work with the Jimmy V Foundation to cure cancer, and I volunteered with them until I moved to Florida. Coach V was a huge part of my life.

Back to the game last week. Somehow my connection to Jimmy V made its way through the wait staff at the suites, and soon

Dick Vitale emerged into the hallway. I was able to talk to him and have my picture taken with him. It was a highlight of a lifetime.

Oh, and lest I forget, I also got to meet Lord Stanley. They were celebrating the 10th anniversary of Tampa Bay winning the Stanley Cup, replaying playoff footage and introducing the alumni of that 2004 team.

As part of the celebration, guests were allowed to have a picture taken with the trophy. There I was. Standing right next to it. It's HUGE!

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to meet some cool celebrities: actor Erik Estrada, journalist Linda Ellerbee, pro quarterback Roman Gabriel, and former Marine Corps Lt. Col. Oliver North, just to name a few. But shaking hands with Dick Vitale was a personal connection for me. It brought me closer to Coach V, and reminded me of his immortal words: "Don't give up. Don't ever give up."

Thanks, Dick, and thanks, Deb, for giving me a very memorable night!

Florida EcoSafaris at Forever Florida announces the new zipline Thrill Pack

Florida EcoSafaris at Forever Florida (www.FloridaEcoSafaris.com) has added a new Thrill Pack to its offerings. This half-day adventure is for those seeking the most adventurous activities in ziplining.

The Thrill Pack offers four of the attraction's most exciting adventures: the Rattlesnake Rollercoaster, Peregrine Plunge, Panther Pounce and the Swooping Crane Swing. These adventures give a unique view of the 4,700-acre Forever Florida Wildlife Conservation Area, one of Florida's most pristinely kept wild places.

Located about an hour and half east of Brandon, the Zipline Safari is an easy drive, but is designed to feel like you're a world away.

Tickets for the Thrill Pack are \$65 per person. Participants must be at least eight years old and weigh between 55 and 265 lbs. Other adventures offered by Florida EcoSafaris at Forever Florida include the fully guided Horseback Safari, two-hour Coach Safari tour, Cypress Canopy Cycle and the Zipline Safaris. Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 407-957-9794. For more information, visit www.FloridaEcoSafaris.com.

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SouthShore Regional Library Adult program/event highlights

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Android Open Lab — Thursday, March 27, 12:30 p.m.

Bring in your Android along with your questions or problems, and we'll do our best to help!

Movie Discussion: "1001 Movies You Must See Before You Die" — Friday, March 28, 10:30 a.m.

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

Windows 8: Introduction — Tuesday, April 1, 12:30 p.m.

Learn the parts of a window, how to navigate in the Windows environment and file management. Limit: 20.

eBooks for Kindle and Kindle Apps — Wednesday, April 2, 10:30 a.m.

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

Paper Crafting for Adults — Wednesday, April 2, 1 p.m.

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

SouthShore Needle People — Wednesday, April 2, 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.

Master Gardener: Butterfly Gardening — Wednesday, April 2, 7 p.m.

For adults ~ Become skilled at identifying the many types of butterflies in our area. Learn the two types of plants butterflies require. When you plant both types in your yard, you will be guaranteed not only a visit to your garden but also possible permanent residency by these beautiful creatures. Presented in partnership with Hillsborough County Extension Service.

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.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities



Every Tuesday — Jam Session — 3 p.m. - 5ish. No charge for Elks and their guests.

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

Every Friday — Seafood, Sandwiches, and a Chef's Special for Elks and their guests from 5 to 7 p.m. \$8. Music by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.

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

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

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



PHOTOS MARLENE GREENBERG

Meepers

Meepers is an adorable little lady who just happens to have Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. Meepers is a special cat in need of a special home. She came to C.A.R.E. in March 2010, ready to deliver kittens, and she was just a kitten herself. After delivering six beautiful babies, she was diagnosed with FIV. Treatment consists of good nourishment, protection from stress and infectious disease, and management of secondary conditions. Meepers should be in a home with no other cats. The main route of transmitting the disease is through biting and breeding. She has been spayed and is current on vaccines. She needs to be kept indoors because immuno-suppressed cats are more susceptible to infection. In the right environment, Meepers' quality of life could be good for many years.

DOB: November 2, 2009.



Donna

Donna is a beautiful wire-haired terrier/dachshund mix, found as a stray in Ruskin. Donna adores people and loves to snuggle and rest peacefully while being held. She has a very sweet and gentle disposition. Because Donna just arrived at the shelter, she currently does not have canine playmates, but will soon. She is a young pup and is very affectionate with people, so she would be good with children. Stop by the shelter to give Donna a chance to steal a place in your heart and home. As part of Donna's adoption, she will be spayed and microchipped. She is current on vaccinations.

DOB: October 2, 2013.

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Barron's names Sequoia among top advisors in the country

Sequoia Financial Group LLC, which has a branch in Sun City Center, has been named to Barron's 2013 list of "The Top 1,000 Advisors" in the country. The listing comprises the leading advisors in each state. One of only five Northeast Ohio advisors named to the list, Sequoia ranked 12th overall in the state of Ohio, previously ranking 15th in 2012.

Sequoia Financial Group has a

local branch at 823 Cypress Village Blvd.; 813-289-0551.

Barron's is America's premier financial weekly magazine, with in-depth news reports and analyses on global financial markets. Its Top 1,000 Advisor ranking is based on data provided by more than 4,000 of the nation's most productive advisors. Data provided include assets under management, revenue produced for the firm, regulatory

record, quality of practice and philanthropic work.

"Sequoia's passionate and dedicated team is incredibly proud to be included on this prestigious list," said Chris Redhead, executive vice president of Sequoia. "We have strategically focused on investing in the right people to create the right team for our clients. Our approach has always been slightly different, and it's really paying off."

Soccer scholarship

▶ Continued from page 1

player. He also has good character and is a good kid. And from what I understand, he is going to work his tail off for us, so we appreciate that about him."

Alasafer, who played semi-pro soccer with the Tampa Bay Marauders of the National Professional Soccer League, recognized the young Ospina's game.

"He reminds me of me," Alasafer said. "He has lots of ability, and, like me, he flows in and out of the game a little bit sometimes, so he might need a little bit of direction there. But he is very calm and composed on the ball, just an excellent player."

While soccer is littered with tales — and YouTube videos galore — of youngsters with phenomenal talent, seemingly destined for greatness only to never be heard of again, Alasafer knows what makes the difference between raw talent and a successful soccer career.

"The real difference is mental toughness and how they were brought up," Alasafer said. "You may be on a team with 50 players trying for 11 starting spots every week, and if you don't have the mental toughness, you will not be able to handle it."

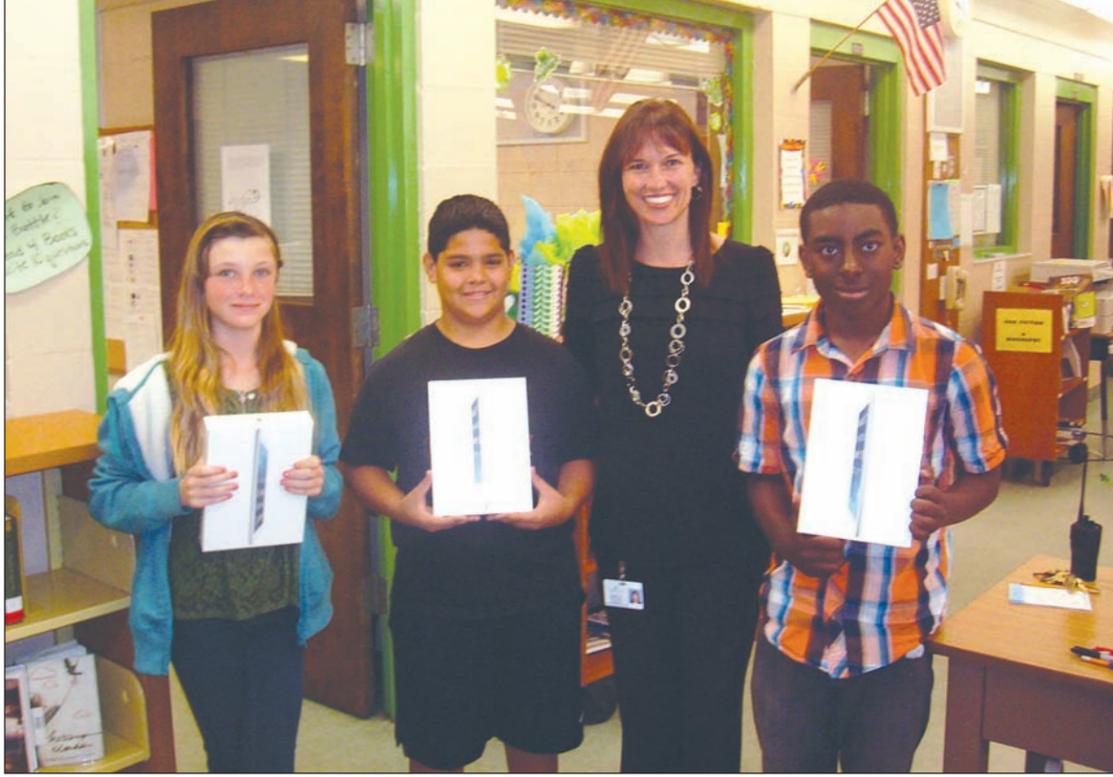
"We are just so proud. It's hard to put into words," said an emotional Jorge Ospina as his son prepared to sign for Florida College in a special ceremony at Lennard.

A former semiprofessional player from Colombia who now lives in Ruskin, Jorge said his son's ability was clear to see early on. "Even at a very young age, he was the only one who could see the whole field. He could see the whole game," said Jorge,

whose son also had an offer to tryout with a professional team in Germany.

Earning a soccer scholarship is no mean feat in Florida, where many major colleges back football over all else. Colleges in the Northeast and Midwest place a much higher value on soccer, where even smaller colleges routinely hand out soccer scholarships.

"Soccer scholarships are few and far between in Florida," Robinson said. "It's not one of your big sports in the state. Florida and Florida State don't even have a soccer program. Many of the big colleges here tend to give their scholarships to football, baseball, basketball and track."



PAUL BURKE PHOTO

Perfect attendance earns Eisenhower students iPads

Three Eisenhower Middle School students are using new iPads today, thanks to their record of perfect attendance at the Gibsonston school. The students, from left, seventh-grader Jeannie Wood, sixth-grader Carlos Molina Guadalupe and eighth-grader Andrew Hamlin, are shown with school principal Danielle Shotwell. The iPads were presented courtesy of the Waterset Community, one of the school's business partners. Paul E. Burke, the school's dropout-prevention specialist, has been developing more business partners for the school. The school rewards students with the Brian McNeely Student Achievement Award every nine weeks. The awards are named for a former physical education teacher who died earlier this year after a battle with cancer. McNeely was 28. The coach's widow, Mindy, will be on hand for the event at the school. The school plans to award three iPads again next month to a sixth-, a seventh-, and an eighth-grader who best show "Turn Around Achievement."



LISA GREENAKER PHOTO

Ospina's girlfriend, Sarah Schaub, congratulates Kristopher on his scholarship.

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JSA Medical Group Sun City Center Activity Center EVENTS CALENDAR

JSA Medical Group - Sun City Center Activity Center is open to the community & offers a variety of FREE community & patient events including Yoga, Tai Chi, health lectures, parties, line dancing & more! (*Classes are subject to change)

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Mon 31:	MONDAY MORNING MOVIES SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 am to Noon 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm

APRIL 2014 EVENTS *REGISTER NOW!

Tue 01:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	11 am to Noon
Wed 02:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm
Thu 03:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* WII BOWLING	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm
Fri 04:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm
Mon 07:	MONDAY MORNING MOVIES SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 am to Noon 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm
Tue 08:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	11 am to Noon
Wed 09:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm
Thu 10:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* WII BOWLING	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm
Fri 11:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm
Mon 14:	MONDAY MORNING MOVIES SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 am to Noon 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm

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

NEXT COPD WORKSHOP: Tuesday, Apr 15 1 to 3 pm
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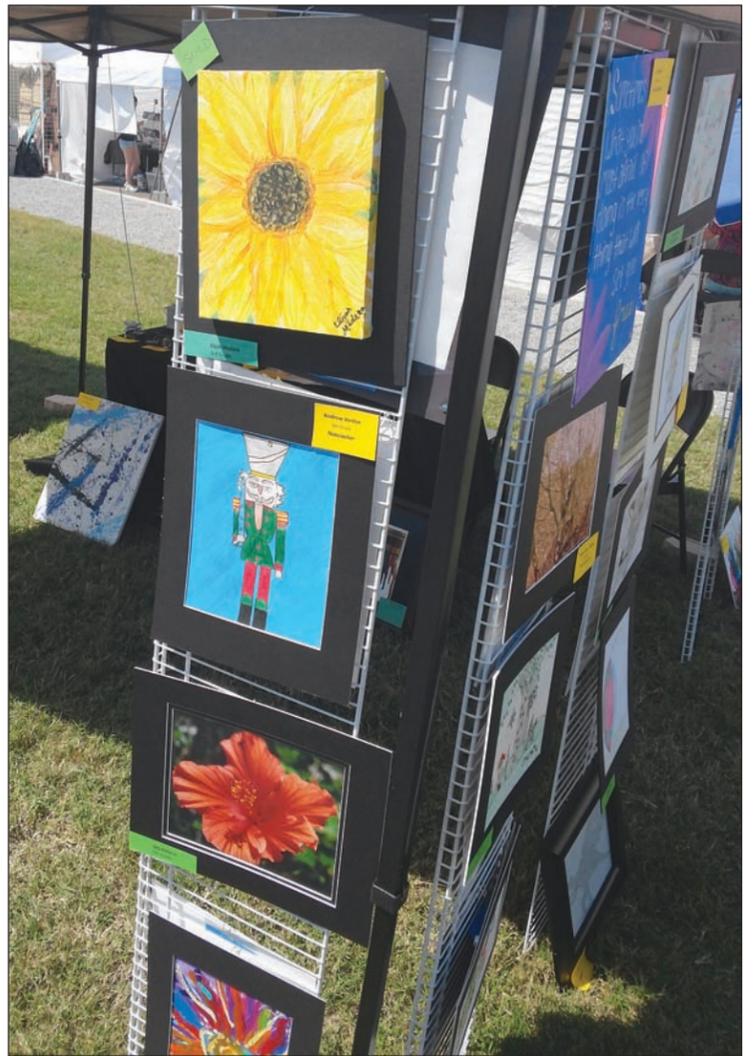
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KEVIN BRADY PHOTOS

The festival featured a booth of artwork from students at Riverview's Winthrop Charter School.

Winthrop Arts Festival

► Continued from page 1

Carol Holt, a St. Cloud artist, has been painting for eight years, she said.

"It's good to get the word out about your art at events like this, but also nice to talk to the children about art."

Brian Ellis, another first-timer at the festival, said he would like to see more local festivals showcasing the work of home-grown artists.

"The work is all very unique and very well done," Ellis said. "I

would love to see more festivals like this, not only to get the artists in the public eye, but also to expose young people to the work and get them interested in art."

"We want this to be a fine arts, fine crafts festival for the community as a tradition," said festival director Bryan Martinez.

For more information about the festival or exhibiting in the future, call 813-601-3129, email info@WinthropArtsFestival.org or visit www.WinthropArtsFestival.org.



Regulars at weekend shows in downtown Lakeland, Daniel and Stacy Tabb traveled from Lakeland for the festival.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Kings Point Mixed Chorus offers musical welcome to spring

The Kings Point Mixed Chorus has the date for its Spring Concert. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 5, for an evening of musical entertainment.

The concert starts at 6 p.m. in the Kings Point Borini Theatre. Tickets can be purchased for \$6 at the Kings Point Box Office and will also be available at the door. Seating is round-table, cabaret-style, so gather your friends, BYOB and prepare to enjoy the show.

Music will include a variety of chorus numbers, solos, duets, small-group numbers and sing-a-longs, as well as a few added surprises.

The chorus of more than 60 voices, under the direction of Charles Wirick and accompanied by Ruth Hewitt, has been hard at work preparing the program. Chorus members are from not only Kings Point but also Sun City Center and surrounding South Shore communities, such as Apollo Beach and Brandon. The concert is open to the public.

<p>Kids Cut (11 & under) Free Shampoo & Lite Dry Specialty cuts, blow-dry style, design lines, set or curling iron extra. Not valid with other offers.</p> <p>\$7⁹⁵</p> <p>OK3 - EXP. 4/30/14</p> <p>Fantastic Sams</p>	<p>Adult Cut Free Shampoo & Lite Dry Specialty cuts, blow-dry style, design lines, set or curling iron extra. Not valid with other offers.</p> <p>\$11⁹⁵</p> <p>OA6 - EXP. 4/30/14</p> <p>Fantastic Sams</p>
<p>CHI BUNDLE! CHI Color with Styled Cut™ Price will vary with length and/or condition of hair. Haircut extra. Not valid with other offers.</p> <p>\$54⁹⁵</p> <p>OB6 - EXP. 4/30/14</p> <p>Fantastic Sams</p>	<p>Quick & Easy™ Perm Wave Free Shampoo & Cut Price will vary with length or condition of hair. Design wraps extra. Not valid with other offers.</p> <p>\$44⁹⁵</p> <p>OP5 - EXP. 4/30/14</p> <p>Fantastic Sams</p>
<p>Styled Cut™ Shampoo, Cut & Finished Style Price will vary with length or condition of hair. Specialty cuts/flat iron extra. Not valid with other offers.</p> <p>\$19⁹⁵</p> <p>OS2 - EXP. 4/30/14</p> <p>Fantastic Sams</p>	<p>Highlights/Lowlights Free Shampoo & Style Price will vary with length or condition of hair. Haircut extra. Not valid with other offers.</p> <p>\$10 off</p> <p>\$50 Minimum</p> <p>OH2 - EXP. 4/30/14</p> <p>Fantastic Sams</p>
<p>Shampoo & Set Price will vary with length or condition of hair. Haircut extra. Not valid with other offers.</p> <p>\$12⁰⁰</p> <p>OSS1 - EXP. 4/30/14</p> <p>Fantastic Sams</p>	<p>5-7 Foil Highlights & Haircut Bundle Price will vary with length or condition of hair. Not valid with other offers.</p> <p>\$29⁹⁵</p> <p>OB2 - EXP. 4/30/14</p> <p>Fantastic Sams</p>

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Observations: Leaving home (Part 1)

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

I placed my hand on Brenda's hand, and we just talked. I had known her for 13 years; she was my boss and my friend. I learned over the course of our friendship that her instincts were almost always spot on; she was amazing that way. Her heart was good and was always in the right place. She was a wonderful woman; a good and compassionate person who truly cared for things — even things beyond those that favored her personally.

I was wondering if I was losing my mind, but I chose not to share that concern with her. She was

beyond such insignificant quibbles with life. I told her that I had just spent way too much money on a new camera body, something we both knew my salary could not possibly justify. But I tried to justify it, thinking that in an era when newspapers have declined to the point that they are using iPhone photos on front pages — something that has only furthered their decline — the new camera would provide a boost for both the paper and me. Despite that she was dying, the newspaper was still important to her.

But it wasn't the newspaper that mattered at that moment. I mattered to her.

"If there's one thing I've learned through this, you have to do what makes you happy and then don't worry about it," she said in her wonderfully gentle tone with a warm and ever-so-slight trace of a southern accent.

A few days later, she was gone.

He said, Bill, I believe this is killing me, as the smile ran away from his face. Well I'm sure that I could be a movie star if I could get out of this place.

— Piano Man by Billy Joel

I don't believe that I could be a movie star. But I've always



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Cory Ricker and Jonathan Hurst worked hard and managed to pack our lives into a 17-foot U-Haul truck, something I was in no shape to do. Cory can be contacted at cgricker76@gmail.com.

dreamed of accomplishing something in life that supersedes my life. Being a writer is a dream, an often stressful and sometimes disappointing dream, but a dream, nonetheless. I am blessed to be able to make a living with words and photos. And it was *The Observer News* that made that possible for me — and it was you, the readers, who made it possible. I am, and shall remain, eternally grateful to you.

I don't know how many words I've written for this newspaper since joining it in 2001, but I'm sure it is over a million. That is more than 10 books, and most all of those words disappear in the small fraction of time known as a week. That is far more words than I could possibly expect anyone to read. Over the years I've tried to shake things up and change my voice from week to week, but over the course of a million words, I worry that I am becoming a droning monologue in a monotone.

If there is anything I have learned in more than a half century of life, it's that there is nowhere on the map that deserves the name Nirvana. Nowhere is perfect, every place has problems. That is as true of Florida as it is anywhere else I've ever been. It is attitude that makes all the difference. The chances are good that merely changing ZIP codes won't change any unhappiness you may have — the grass isn't always greener, it's just different. The best you can do is to find a place to call home where you feel at home. Perhaps a place that offers something to push you on in life. Because life isn't over until it's over, and a quest to see what is beyond the horizon should last to the very last breath.

There is a great deal of generosity and compassion in South Hillsborough. As much as things have changed, people still do look out for each other in this corner of the world, just as they did in whatever you may define as the "Good Old Days." There are so many people who give of themselves to make things better for others that I could fill this newspaper with their names and stories. To the greatest degree possible, I've tried to do that and always with the support of the wonderful people for whom I work. They are among the generous and compassionate, too. They take being a community newspaper seriously — we all have joined in a mission to promote and advance our communities. This is a good place to work because we are encouraged to do good work.

One of the first things Michelle and I loved about Florida was seeing what were to us, as recovering Minnesotans, indoor plants growing outdoors. I also loved seeing four-foot-tall birds walking around. And, of course, coming

from the cold, white North, February was an absolute joy. August, not so much, but it was doable, all things considered. I loved the sunrises and the sunsets. I loved the palm trees and the warm breezes. I loved the people in all of their colorful glory. Florida brought me happiness that I'm certain I could never have known in Minnesota, despite that the

Land of 10,000 Lakes is also a wonderful place to live. More than two decades ago I remember sitting on the end of a long, rocky pier in Two Harbors, a small town on the northern shore of Lake Superior, and looking south over the

huge lake, wondering what was over the horizon. To me at that time, I saw Florida.

I've lived more of my life in South Hillsborough than anywhere else on earth. This place, to me, is home. It is a really good place to call home. But I've found myself falling into a routine that I don't believe to be good for a man my age. It's time to shake things up. In the past few months I have lost a dear friend and had a wakeup call in the form of a minor health scare. Life changes and life goes on. Yet how it does that is up to each one of us.

As much as I love South Hillsborough, as much as it has become my home, I'm still just young enough to wonder what is over the horizon, to allow myself the time to see if I can get tired of a new place, a new life, an entirely new experience; perhaps somewhere that the book I've always thought to be inside of me could come out. But in order to do that, I need to get out of this place.

In 1870, Henry Traphagen was elected mayor of Jersey City, New Jersey. New experiences are good, yes, but there is no need to completely reinvent the wheel. I think it's time to find out what Henry saw in that place. If I'm lucky, it will feel like home.

Legacy of Valor Veterans' Art Exhibit

The Palmetto Historical Park and Manatee County Agricultural Museum are hosting the "Legacy of Valor Veterans' Art Exhibit" through April 19. The exhibit features work by local veterans and veterans across the country. Their work includes paintings, sculpture and photography.

This exhibit is part of the Park and Museum's partnership with Legacy of Valor, a local campaign that rallies the community to honor veterans, inspire patriotism and pass freedom on to others. If you would like to read more, visit FreedomPassItOn.org.

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Little Manatee River State Park Eco-friendly Spring Fling debuts

Little Manatee River State Park, Wimauma, will be hosting its first Spring Fling event Saturday, April 12.

The event begins at 9 a.m. and features live music from local artists, nature-themed displays, a native plant sale, kids' activities and food, courtesy of Friends of Little Manatee River. The sponsors hope to hold the event annually.

Some of the activities scheduled for the day include guided horseback rides, guided nature tours, face painting for kids to become their favorite critter, a fish-printing workshop so folks can take home a one-of-a-kind art piece, and live animals will be on hand from the Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center and Save All Birds Rescue.

Park entry is \$5 per vehicle with up to 8 passengers. There will be free water refills for those who bring their own water bottle.

The park is located off U.S. 301 at 215 Lightfoot Road, Wimauma, FL 33598. For information, call 813-671-5005.

'All Things Salsa' festival set for Saturday

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

Fancy a party with music, games, great food and contests?

Mark your calendar for March 29, when the "All Things Salsa" festival is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Mission, 14920 Balm Wimauma Road, Wimauma.

All proceeds from the event go to the Mission, which emphasizes education and helping the poor break the cycle of poverty.

"There is no entrance fee, and the food is priced very reasonably," said Anne Madden, a volunteer at Good Samaritan. "It's all about family and bringing the community together. There is something for everyone at the festival."

Among the local restaurants featured at the event will be Ana's Restaurant, a Wimauma staple that features "amazing food," Madden said, as well as Pita Kabob of Apollo Beach: "Wonderful food and always made with fresh ingredients," Madden said.

Organizers hope to attract 2,000 people for the festival, one of the Mission's major annual fundraisers.

Founded in 1984, the Good Samaritan Mission emphasizes education and opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

"The Mission offers the folks they serve an opportunity to take a step forward," Madden said. "They offer people the opportunity to improve their lives and not just eat for the day."

Along with the salsa, the festival includes traditional American cuisine, authentic Mexican food, music and free games for children.

Besides games, special activities for children include a puppet theater and the Home Depot Children's Booth, where children can build their own toy to take home at no charge.

Crafts created by Mission volunteers will be available for sale at La Casita, and Good Samaritan Mission tours and information will be available throughout the day.

The festival will also feature a recipe contest, where visitors sample and vote on their favorite salsa.

More than 50 vendors are expected for the event as well as local businesses and crafts vendors.

Several local nonprofit groups and government agencies will be offering information about the services they provide.

Attendance at the festival is free. Organizers are requesting a \$5



GOOD SAMARITAN MISSION PHOTO
Mission volunteer Gloria Smith holds her handmade quilt that attendees at the Family Salsa Festival can win by registering at the festival's Good Samaritan Mission information booth.

donation per vehicle for parking on Mission property.

The Mission started offering short classes last February for anyone who wanted to use the group's food bank. The classes cover domestic violence, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy and gang violence, among other issues.

"If we are really going to go to the core issue of what these people are going through and effectively help them to better their lives, then we need to address those issues," said William Cruz Jr., the Mission's executive director.

Students earn a token for each class they attend. Each token entitles the user to a grocery bag they can use to shop at the Mission food bank. The more classes a student takes, the more tokens they earn and the more bags they can fill.

The food bank is also open to those who don't want to take the classes. They are, however, required to spend some time volunteering at the Mission before they can use the food bank.

More than 300 people have graduated from the classes since they began in earnest 13 months ago. A typical week now sees 40 to 50 students taking classes at the Mission.

"It's all about giving people an opportunity to better themselves and give back to the community," said Cruz.

For more information and directions, visit the festival web site, www.familyaalsafestival.com, email gmission1984@gmail.com or call 813-634-7136.

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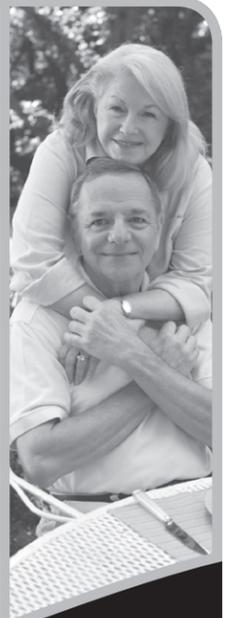


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Fish Tales: There's more than one way to cook a fish

■ By **JONIE MASCHEK**
Member: Florida Outdoor Writers Assn.

I stopped by Williams Park in Gibsonton last week and was amazed at the overflowing parking lot of boat trailers.

With longer days due to daylight-saving time, combined with Florida's great weather, many anglers spent the weekend fishing.

Boats were coming in with a variety of catches. I asked, "Do you catch only what you can eat, or do you eat what you catch?" The majority answered that they eat what they catch, but some told us that they give their catches away. I wondered why anyone would fish and then give the catch away, and this was a frequent answer: "My wife won't cook fish. She says it smells up the house, and, after fishing all day, I don't want to cook."

I believe that it is as much of a challenge to learn how to cook your catch, as it is to catch them.

It takes practice to properly fillet a fish. Many anglers won't even attempt it with other anglers watching. Some of the masters of this cleaning skill will not reveal their secret. Go to your local bait shop, buy a fillet knife and practice until you master the art of perfect fillets.

If you don't want to cook your fish indoors, wrap each piece in foil along with sliced potatoes, tomatoes, onions, green pepper, butter and salt and pepper. The



FISH TALES

veggies will flavor the fish. You can place about six of these on top of your grill about five inches from the coals. Cook for 50 to 60 minutes.

If deep frying your fish, heat oil to 350 degrees and cook until the fish starts to float. Try not to overcook.

Also consider oven-baking your catch. For about three pounds of fish, bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes. It is ready when the flesh is flaky and separates easily.

Many trout catches were made last week. Some were in about four feet of water over the grassy flats. I'm told that the rivers are full of trout. Do you know what a school of trout is called? It is called a hover.

Redfish was a great catch last week with some anglers saying the best spot was Fort De Soto Park. There was also success at Simmons Park, and at Little Manatee and Alafia rivers.

Flounder were everywhere. Almost every boat that reeled in redfish also had a flounder or two.

Freshwater catfish were plentiful, and catfish and hush puppies graced many dinner tables last weekend.

Largemouth bass were playing hide and seek with the anglers last week. They were hiding in holes, said some fishermen, but they outsmarted a few and made some great catches.

Freshwater fishing is in the upper fresh waters of our rivers and lakes.



MMA Cage Fighting returns to Dallas Bull

Following on the heels of its sold-out February show, Florida Championship Fighting will return to Tampa's Dallas Bull on Sunday, April 13, for another action-packed night of Mixed Martial Arts.

Florida Championship Fighting Live will feature more than 10 bouts. Along with MMA action, Florida Championship Fighting will also feature Ring Girls, vendors, a live deejay, prize drawings, giveaways and much more.

Tickets start at \$30 in advance and are available online at www.fcfighting.com, participating Buddy's Home Furnishings stores and Abby's Bail Bonds. VIP tickets include reserved seating in the first row, early entry at 5 p.m., a laminated souvenir pass, free T-shirt and a program.

The first 500 fans to purchase Cage Side Reserved Seats online or at Abby's Bail Bonds will receive a free FCF T-shirt, courtesy of Abby's Bail Bonds.

Florida Championship Fighting is sponsored by Buddy's Home Furnishings, Abby's Bail Bonds, Dallas Bull and Monster Energy Drinks.

Dallas Bull is at 3322 U.S. 301. This amateur MMA event is sanctioned by Global Fighting Solutions under jurisdiction from the Florida Boxing Commission.



Riverview Branch Library

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Baby Time — Thursday, March 27, 10:05 a.m.

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

Toddler Time — Thursday, March 27, 10:35 a.m.

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

ABCs and 123s of Yoga — Thursday, March 27, 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, March 27, 2:30 p.m.

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

Block Party! — Tuesday, April 1, 4 p.m.

For children in grades K-5. Kids use Lego building blocks to build a fun, interactive and creative project. The library provides the Legos; kids provide the imagination! Funded by the Friends of the Riverview Branch Public Library.

Master Gardener: Wildlife in the Garden — Tuesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.

Learn how to create a backyard habitat to attract butterflies and birds using native and local plants. Presented in partnership with Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service.

Puppet Show: The Gingerbread Boy — Tuesday, April 2, 11 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.

For children 3 and older. "Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!" The Gingerbread Boy has escaped from the oven and is running away from the little old woman, the little old man and quite a few other animals! Find out who will be lucky enough to capture him, or if he successfully escapes! Presented by Creative Arts Theatre of the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department.



Apollo Beach Women's Club to learn more about Honor Flight at meeting

At the Wednesday, April 9, meeting of the Apollo Beach Women's Club, attendees will hear from retired U.S. Army LTC. James Haake of Honor Flight of West Central Florida, who will give an overview of what is involved to take local World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit their memorials.

The meeting will be at Little Harbor, 611 Destiny Drive, Ruskin.

In addition to the presentation, there will be an Easter Hat Contest, organized by Sonya Davidson; the judges will be the wait staff at Little Harbor.

Luncheon reservations (\$16) must be made by Friday, April 4; call Deanna Anest at 813-938-3541 or email hooker06@hotmail.com.

Since its inception in 1959, the ABWC has awarded scholarships to high school students living in Apollo Beach, who have demon-

strated high academic achievement, community service, leadership skills and financial need. ABWC fundraising this year has been achieved through a Witches Wing Ding (Halloween party), bake sale, book sale, high tea, wine tasting, fashion show, raffles and 50/50 drawings.

Upcoming activities include:

- **Book Club**, April 24, hosted by Barbara Lamneck. *A Turn in the Road* by Debbie Macomber.

- **Garden Club**, April 16, hosted by Barbara Lamneck. Master Gardener Carolyn Roberts will discuss "Back Yard Wildlife."

- **Culture Club**, April 16, bus trip to Weeki Watchee State Park to view the famous Mermaid Show and a riverboat ride.

For more event information, call Sharon Vasquez, club president, at 813-641-7856.

For membership information, call Judy Peck at 813-746-1072.

Welcome spring's arrival: Adopt-A-Manatee®

With spring and Easter around the corner, Save the Manatee Club suggests surprising the youngsters this year with manatee gift adoptions.

Kristy Dorsey, who resides in Colorado, decided to adopt Flicker from the club's Tampa Bay adoption program as an Easter gift last year for her daughters, Norah and Bailey. "After a visit to Lee County Manatee Park in Fort Myers, the girls became very interested and concerned about the future of the manatees," explained Kristy. "Today's children will be tomorrow's conservationists, so I thought this would be a fun way to instill those important values in them."

A gift adoption from Save the Manatee Club costs \$25, is tax-deductible, and includes a color photo, biography and adoption certificate of a real endangered manatee living in Florida.

Photos and a list of the manatees available for adoption, including Flicker, can be found on the club's website at savethemanatee.org adoptees.

Also included with the gift adoption is a membership handbook filled with photos, facts and information, plus subscriptions to the Club's official quarterly newsletter, *The Manatee Zone*, and the bimonthly e-newsletter, *Paddle Tales*. Shipping is free within the United States. For

\$35, an eight-inch plush manatee toy is also included with the adoption package — a fun addition to any Easter basket.

Last year was particularly dire for the manatees, with 829 deaths recorded, setting a new somber record for the endangered marine mammals.

"Historically, the largest known cause of manatee deaths has been from collisions with boats," said Patrick Rose, Save the Manatee Club's executive director. "In recent years though, hundreds of manatees have died from cold stress. And last year, many succumbed from a red tide outbreak in southwest Florida, and from an unusual ongoing mortality event on Florida's east coast. The population cannot continue to sustain such heavy losses, but, with the public's much-needed help and support, we can continue to make critically important progress to protect manatees and their aquatic habitat."

The club's mission is to protect imperiled manatees and their habitat for future generations. A nonprofit conservation and manatee welfare organization, Save the Manatee Club has been the voice for manatees since 1981, when it was founded by singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett and former Florida governor and U.S. senator Bob Graham.

The club raises public awareness;

educates; sponsors research and rescue, rehabilitation, and release efforts; supports land acquisition; promotes aquatic habitat protection; advocates for improved on-the-water protection measures and supports education and conservation efforts in other countries.

"You can't help but be in awe of these amazing creatures," said Coloradoan Kristy Dorsey. "Plus manatees are so cute and lovable. Without more help, I feel their numbers will continue to decline. My girls have become advocates for the manatees, and they look forward to receiving the Club's newsletter and reading about how the manatees are doing."

"The adoption program makes them feel part of Save the Manatee Club's conservation work and that they are contributing by helping the club with their efforts."

To adopt a real manatee for Easter or for a springtime surprise, visit Save the Manatee Club's website at www.savethemanatee.org, or call 1-800-432-JOIN (5646). Also, sign up for the Club's free e-newsletter, and watch manatees in their natural habitat on the club's Blue Spring webcams at manatv.org.

Manatees also can be seen at the Tampa Electric Manatee Viewing Center in Apollo Beach. For information, call 813-228-4289. Admission and parking are free.

Area Obituaries

Ellen Marie Norton

Ellen Marie Norton, 71, of Sun City Center, loving wife and mother, went to be with the Lord on March 19, 2014. She was preceded in death by her parents, Emory and Grace Helms.

She is survived by her loving husband, Paul Norton; sisters Vernice Waddick and Barbara Raines Baker; sons David (Tammie) Norton and Michael (Angela) Norton; grandchildren Whitney, Ashley, Matthew and Christopher Norton; and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held on March 22, at Sun City Center Funeral Home. Burial was at Hillsboro Memorial Gardens, Brandon.

She is survived by her children: Donald Edward Shanley (Dave Barba) of Branford, Conn.; Karen Shanley (Mary Galvin) of West Haven, Conn.; and BarbaraJean Gage (Kenneth Gage) of Sharon, Mass. She had three grandchildren: Christine (Gage) McCarthy (Kevin McCarthy) of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; Stephen Gage of Jamaica Plain, Mass.; and John Donald Galvin Shanley of West Haven, Conn. She was predeceased by her sisters Jean Anderson, Elsie Ek, Mary Dinwoodie and Ann Trotta, and her brother Bruno Belbusti. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews who cherished their Aunt Margo and have many fond memories of family picnics and holiday celebrations.

As a young woman Margo was employed as a telephone operator in New Haven. She raised her family in North Haven and Northford, and lived in Florida for the past 25 years. To keep active, she intermittently worked until the age of 85 at various part-time jobs, most recently as a demonstrator for Publix Supermarket, serving patrons samples of promotional food items. She was an active parishioner at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City Center, and also enjoyed square dancing, in which she was active for the last 45 years. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at a later date in North Haven, Conn., with interment to follow at St. Agnes Cemetery in Branford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Margo's memory may be made to the Lupus Foundation of Florida, www.lupusflorida.org.



Margo B. Shanley

Margo B. (Belbusti) Shanley, 86, of Sun City Center, Fla., born in Northford, Conn., passed away peacefully March 2, 2014, in Florida. Mrs. Shanley enjoyed a long life of good general health, despite her diagnosis of lupus 40 years ago.

Margo was born June 26, 1927, daughter of the late Adelino "Fritz" Belbusti and Theresa (Barberini) Belbusti. Her parents died tragically in a house fire in 1935, when Margo was saved by her mother, who pushed the eight-year-old out a second-story window. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Donald E. Shanley, and infant son John.

Lillian Bonnie Butler
 March 29, 1917 to August 24, 2009
 Happy Birthday, Mom!
 love,
 Sheila, Sandy and Danny

Tebow among speakers June 20 & 21 at Men's Impact Weekend conference

The 2014 Wildfire "Men's Impact Weekend" Conference is coming to the USF Sun Dome on Friday, June 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and Saturday, June 21, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Tickets are available at www.SunDomeArena.com. Sign up for the Sun Dome VIP Pass to receive all the information you need about this event and others at www.SunDomeArena.com.



TIM TEBOW

Join 10,000 men, fathers, sons, brothers and Christ-followers, coming together to worship God and to learn more about the life of true adventure He intends for men.

ESPN analyst Tim Tebow and Jase Robertson of A&E's *Duck Dynasty* have been confirmed as headliners for the event.

Tebow will be sharing his personal testimony of faith on Friday evening at the conference. Tebow won two college football national championships at the University of Florida, was a first-round selection in the 2010 NFL Draft, and led the Denver Broncos to the 2011 NFL Playoffs for the first time in six years. He lives a life that consistently reflects his values, and founded the Tim Tebow Foundation™, which partners with CURE International to build hospitals in the Philippines. He was also named one of *TIME* magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2012.

Joining Wildfire Founder Tim Clinton and Tebow will be a stellar lineup of some of America's premier athletes, outdoorsmen, Bible teachers and speakers, including Robertson; Ken Whitten, senior pastor of Idlewild Church; Joe White, president and founder of Kanakuk Kamps; Rick Rigsby, a dynamic motivational and leadership speaker, and more.

This inaugural gathering will also feature inspirational praise and worship by Michael O'Brien. Attendees can expect a two-day event full of workshops, exhibits and fun around the things that men love — hunting, fishing, motorcycles, racing, athletics, extreme sports and other outdoor activities — taught by some of the leading specialists in the world.

Looking ahead to this landmark men's event, Clinton said, "Wildfire is designed to help men draw closer to the heart of God and become better fathers, husbands, sons and leaders. Our 2014 program will bring together thousands of men — many with their sons — to hear real-life testimonies of faith, worship together, and be challenged to live the life of true adventure that God created us for."



Prince of Peace remembers St. Joseph

On March 19, parishioners of Prince of Peace Catholic Church gathered to celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. To commemorate this special day, all were invited to participate in a special St. Joseph's Table celebration. Many parishioners brought breads, pastries and other baked goods for a time of fun and fellowship.

According to legend, there was a famine in Sicily many centuries ago. The villagers prayed to St. Joseph and asked his intercession before the throne of God. Their prayers were answered. With the ending of the dreadful famine, a special feast of thanksgiving was held in commemoration of the saint.

Prince of Peace Catholic Church is located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd., Sun City Center. For more information, visit www.popcc.org.



Martin Luther once wrote to a friend, "Your thoughts of God are too human!" That certainly was not true of David.

David saw the greatness of God and the glory of His creation: "O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of Your name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens!" Perhaps he was thinking about the time when there was nothing and no one but God. Perhaps he was allowing his mind to wander and entertain the idea that God chose to make Himself known to man. It may have been that David was "awe-struck" to think of the possibility that he could actually communicate with God or get His attention by calling on Him.

And he continues his thoughts about the greatness of God when he writes of His "majesty and glory" — the power that He has over the heavens, the earth and all that is in and on the earth. Nothing is beyond Him.

Notice two very important things: David begins with "O Lord" — describing his personal relationship with God. He knew that by "speaking" His name he would get God's attention. How impressive is that! This powerful God is present with him at that moment, and is personally concerned about him, and will respond to him if he calls upon him. And this is just the beginning.

Notice that "O Lord" is followed by "Our Lord," which includes all of us. God, speaking through David, wants us to know that He, this "majestic" God, is always thinking of us, watching over us and concerned about us.

Visit us at Guido Gardens, Metter, GA.

Area Places of Worship

Ruskin United Methodist Church

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

Friendship Baptist Church

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

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

Unity COMMUNITY OF JOY

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

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
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
 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

Welcome to the: 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

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

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC

Meets in the Henry Gibson Social Hall of the Beth Israel Synagogue • 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd.
 Thursday, 7:00 PM • Call 633-0396 • www.sccuu.org
 It is important to be able to sacrifice what we are for what we could become. — Charles Dubois

PRAYER - PRAISE - WORSHIP The Anointing Church

324 Green Manor Drive, SCC, FL • 813-922-6640
 www.theanointingchurch.com

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539
 http://www.sccumc.com
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.

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

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

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

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 SUNDAY SERVICES
 8:00 AM-Rite I
 9:00 AM-Contemporary
 11:00 AM-Rite II & Choir
 Fellowship Hour after all services

Morning Prayer & Healing Service
 10 AM every Wednesday

Fr. Lee Miller
 Priest

SUN CITY CENTER 1015 Del Webb Blvd. E
 813-633-3970 - stjohnrus@aol.com

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 a.m.
Sunday School..... 10 a.m.
Wednesday Service..... 5 p.m.
Reading Room..... Wednesday 4 to 4:45 p.m.

All Are Welcome

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
 Sunday Services 9:30 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 between Services.
 Refreshments served.

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

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

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

~ MASSES ~

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



GEORGE L. VEAZEY III PHOTO

Local community band marks 5th anniversary

The Eastern Hillsborough Community Band, a 55-piece concert band, will celebrate its fifth anniversary with a concert at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, at the United Methodist Church in Sun City Center.

The community is invited to the concert titled "A Memorable Evening." The band will perform "Bolero," "Stevie Wonder in Concert," "The Beatles Remembered," big-band music by George and Ira Gershwin and several other pieces.

The church is located at 1210 W. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center. There is a \$5 suggested donation at the door.

The band is conducted by Ken Watts. For more information, call 813-569-1771, email info@ehcb.org or visit www.ehcb.org.

Saturday is movie night at Friendship Baptist Church

Friendship Baptist Church will show the movie *No Lost Cause* at 5 p.m., Saturday, March 29.

The film tells the story of a young agnostic woman who is wheelchair-bound after a car crash and forced to live with her estranged Christian father, while living with the fear she will never walk again.

Everyone is invited to the movie; food will be served during an intermission.

The church is at 1511 El Rancho Drive, Sun City Center.

Sisterhood plans closing brunch

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel will hold its closing brunch of the season on Tuesday, May 6.

The event will take place in the Henry Gibson Social Hall at the Synagogue on E. Del Webb Boulevard, Sun City Center.

The program will include the installation of officers for the 2014-2015 season.

A dairy brunch will be served, which includes desserts, coffee and tea. The cost is \$5, and the deadline for reservations is April 25. Send your check, made out to Beth Israel Sisterhood, to Rochell Lafer, 2247 Oakley Green Drive, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

SCC Men's Chorus to sing at UCC

At 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, the Men's Chorus of Sun City Center will present a Spring Concert in the sanctuary of the United Community Church.

No tickets will be sold, but a free-will offering will be taken for the chorus.

For more information, call Paula at 813-633-6739.



UCC to present da Vinci's living Last Supper

The men of the United Community Church, Sun City Center, will present a living dramatization of Leonardo da Vinci's painting, *The Last Supper*. After a supper of soup and bread at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, in the Great Hall of UCC, the dramatization will begin. All are invited and welcome. A free-will offering will be taken. For more information, call Paula at 813-633-6739.



Pastor David Allman and Sister Sara Proctor admire her medal from Pope Francis.

Redeemer Lutheran welcomes Sister Sara Proctor

Sister Sara Proctor, program coordinator from Catholic Mobile Medical Services, was a welcome speaker recently at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sun City Center. Catholic Mobile Medical Services uses volunteer physicians as well as other health and social service professionals to provide free medical, health promotion and social services to the rural poor of eastern and southern Hillsborough County. The program operates under the auspices of the Florida Department of Health Volunteer Health Care Provider Program.

Most of the program services are provided through a mobile bus taken directly to the target population. These mobile bus visits are scheduled during convenient evening and weekend hours, and are located at accessible sites such as churches, community-based social service agencies, and daycare centers.

Sister Sara received the Pontifical Award *PRO ECCLESIA ET PONTIFICE*, the highest award conferred upon members of the laity by the Holy See. Catholic Mobile Medical Services has been and continues to be a Benevolence for a month each year at Redeemer. For information, call 813-534-1292.

St. Andrew musical director chosen for symposium

Raymund Ocampo, musical director of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Sun City Center, was one of only five conductors worldwide chosen to participate in the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir's Annual Choral Conductors' Symposium.

Ocampo had the rare opportunity to conduct the 100-voice choir and the 20-voice professional Eldora Festival Singers in rehearsals throughout the week of Jan. 28, and in the concluding Community Concert held Feb. 1.

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir was founded in 1894 and has a long history of singing the best of the traditional symphonic choral



repertoire, introducing rarely performed and/or contemporary choral works.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation at Prince of Peace

On Thursday, March 27, from 5 to 7 p.m., every Catholic Church in the Diocese of St. Petersburg will be open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions).

Priests will be available at Prince of Peace Catholic Church during this time to hear confessions. There will be no penance service associated with The Light Is On for You. Priests will simply be available for you to stop and make an individual confession on your way home from work or school or wherever you may be.

The brochure, *A Short Guide to the Sacrament of Reconciliation*, is available in English and Spanish to read and download at www.dosp.org.

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

RUSKIN BRANCH LIBRARY

1 Dickman Drive SE • Ruskin 33573



Adult Computer Classes for the Technologically Challenged

Word III: Paragraph Formatting - Thursday, March 27 at 3 p.m.

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.

Word: Tables I - Thursday, March 27 at 3:45 p.m.

Create professional-looking tables for forms and lists, format table structure, and more. Previous experience with Microsoft Word is recommended.

iPad/iPhone: Demo & Open Lab - Friday, March 28 at 3 p.m.

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

Manatee Sail and Power Squadron to meet

The Manatee Sail and Power Squadron holds General Membership meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Palmetto Elks Lodge, 4611 E. 4th Ave., Palmetto (behind Peggy's Corral).

MSPS welcomes those interested in learning more about its education programs for new boaters and those who have been boating for years; its genuine love of sharing fellowship in a wide range of interesting activities; and its commitment to a variety of community service organizations.

For more information, email membership chair, Lt. Barbara Brown, at membership@manatee-squadron.org or visit www.manatee-squadron.org.

Manatee Sail & Power Squadron Inc., a unit of the United States Power Squadrons Inc., is a local, nonprofit organization dedicated to safe boating, education and service to the community. It serves Manatee County and southern Hillsborough County (West Central Florida), including but not limited to the cities of Bradenton, Apollo Beach, Palmetto, Ruskin, Ellenton, Parrish and Lakewood Ranch.



HUTH & BOOTH PHOTO

TaxHappens hosts Riverview Chamber ribbon cutting

On March 10, TaxHappens LLC of Riverview hosted a Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Theresa Wells, CPA, owner of TaxHappens, hosted the ceremony in the parking lot of her brand-new office within the Park Place Office complex.

The large crowd was treated to food, drinks and hospitality, courtesy of Wells and her good friends at Loyalty Multimedia Group, Fancy That Specialty Linen LLC, and Cakes by NIKKI.

TaxHappens is a Certified Public Accountant firm providing hands-on tax and accounting services to

small businesses and individuals. Honesty and integrity are the cornerstones of their business.

Call Theresa Wells at 813-767-5423 to discuss your tax and accounting needs. Her office is at 10018 Park Place Ave., Riverview. For more information, visit www.taxhappens.com.



Terrific Kids at Cypress Creek Elementary School

The Terrific Kids for March at Cypress Creek are: Uriel Herrera, Araceli Juarez, Melanie Chavez, Alejandro Rosario, Talia Rusnak, Jurnee Bailey, Isabella Montanaro, Allisson Figueroa, Josue Diaz, Monserrat Chavez-Mejia, Jillian Galvan, Catherine Delacruz, Tatiyana Edwards, Sophia Bocanegra, Giovany Toledo-Escobedo, Jaiden Clinkscates, Jocelyn Fielder, Ashley Powell, Simon Doan, Sarahi Luciano, Daniel Vazquez, Damion Rodriguez, Trenton Peppers, Jordyn Murray, Gladys Perez, Isabella Ramos, Daniela Aguirre, Joe Fuentes, Rafael Santiago, Lily Barrett, Alexaira Nivens, Arianna Santana, Sofia Carrasquillo-Rivera, Joshua Leenim, Joshua Dias, Hunter Lopez, Andrew Otero, Rudio Varrera-Godinez, Nilka Rodriguez, Emilio Best, Kayla Engram, Jasin Benjamin, Tyler Nelson, Riddick Fournier, Brandon Dillon, Adriana Velasco-Francisco, Angel Dubon-Centeno, Bianca Sanchez, Bryan Perez-Acevedo, Jose Martinez, Mariel Maya, Amira Sanchez, Tevin Gibson, Brianna Anderson, Derick Armas, Rylee Sopka, Jamie Sanchez-Zapata, Michael Ezell, Ze'Veon Cooper, Selena Rodriguez, Kimberly Elliott, Lizbeth Arellano and Alejandra Carrasquillo-Rivera. The Terrific Kids program is sponsored by the Sun City Center Kiwanis Club.

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Ad Council

TEACH ::::

Kite Fest returns April 12

The annual Kite Fest, sponsored by the Apollo Beach Beautification organization, is set for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, at the Apollo Beach Nature Park.

There will be free kites for children, free hotdogs, watermelon, cookies, chips and water. Donations accepted.

The rain date is Sunday, April 13.

The Observer News • The SCC Observer • The Current

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

100

105 PERSONALS

Thank you St. Jude & St Anthony for prayers answered. AK

FARMER'S MKT

200

260 FRUITS/VEG.

Council's Strawberry U-Pick

2910 Gulf City Road, Ruskin. Hrs. Tuesday-Saturday 8:30am-5pm, Sunday 10am-5 pm

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MERCHANDISE

300

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

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

Huge community wide multi family bi-annual garage sale. Bahia Lakes, Ruskin. (off US 41 & 11th Ave., NW) Saturday, 3/29, 8am-1pm.

310 GARAGE/ YARD SALE

(2) Dining room tables & chairs, lamps, bookcases, small refrigerator, tools, garage rugs, kitchen items. Saturday, March 29, 8am-2pm. 720 Fox Hill Dr., SCC.

1810 Breth Ct., SCC. March 27, 28, 29, 8am-noon. Kitchen table w/ chairs, foot cycle, 3 wheeler, GF electric grill, household items. 1x clothes.

Friday & Saturday, 8am-2pm. 1702 Atrium Dr., SCC. (off W Del Webb) Tools, heaters, fans, computer equipment, clothes, household items, electronics & radio control equipment.

Multi family 2213 & 2214 W. Del Webb, SCC. 3/28 & 2/29, 7:30am-noon. 2208 3/29 only. Furniture, clothing, golf clubs. Too much to list.

Saturday, March 29, 8am-1pm. 504 Line Tree Ct. SCC. Quilting books, craft supplies, clothing, furniture. Something for everyone.

3 family garage sale. 1309 New Bedford Dr., SCC. Friday, 3/28 & Saturday 3/29. 8am-2pm. Kitchen items, jewelry, clothes & more.

Multi family 8am-1pm. March 28 & 29. 2218, 2211, 2205 North Creek Court, SCC. Household, hunting items, adult/ children's clothing, toys & misc.

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WE BUY & SELL COINS & GOLD
813-938-1104

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Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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www.svdpruskin.org

Please call (813) 645-5255

1311 3rd St. NE • Ruskin
Behind St. Anne Church and next to Kencco Mfg.

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Moving sale. Misc. items, furniture. 3305 Arrowsmith Rd., Sundance (off Hwy 301 to Lightfoot Rd) Saturday, March 29, 9am-?

2 family sale. 9am-3pm. Saturday & Sunday. Clothes, movies, PC games, M&M candy collection, books, puzzles, craft items. Much much more. 2314 & 2319 Chaplin Dr., (follow signs)

Come a pickin! Friday & Saturday, 9am-2pm. Collectibles, dishes, furniture, antiques, handicap equipment, even a kitchen sink. Too much to list. 408 Edwin Dr., Ruskin. 813-645-5850 (if raining, next weekend)

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 9am-1pm. Trash to treasures. Soup to nuts. Coca Cola items, Liberty Falls buildings, antique oak dining room set, Waterford prism lamp, Grandfather clock. 1505 Allegheny, SCC.

12TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

with Bake Sale to benefit the Community Cupboard

Saturday, March 29 • 8 a.m. to noon
Raindate: Saturday, April 5

The Villages at Cypress Creek
(SR 674 and Cypress Village Boulevard area)
Ventana and La Paloma Villages (located off Cypress Village Boulevard) AND Villa d'Este Village (located just east of Cypress Village Boulevard, off 19th Avenue).

Look for directional signage on Cypress Village Boulevard and 19th Avenue.

Arts and crafts, golf cart, bedroom and living room furniture, bookcase, fishing equipment, elliptical, china cabinet, household items, toys and lots more!

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Estate Sale

Above The Rest! 3 house sale. Dining room table 6 chairs & matching china cabinet. King & (2) queen beds, dressers, night stands, sofa w/ love-seat, wicker tables, breakfast table w/ 4 chairs on rollers, large computer desk, office chairs, (2) Dell laptop computer, HP printer/ scanner, office supplies. Patio set, Club Car golf cart, tools, work bench, tool cabinet, ladders, men & women clothing, jewelry, purses, shoes, books, magazines, sewing items. Too much to list. 2217 New Bedford Dr., SCC. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm. Don't miss this one!!

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6819 U.S. 301 S., Riverview
(813) 677-8180

312 ESTATE SALES

BEVERLY'S & SUN CITY ANTIQUES ESTATE SALE

March 28th & 29th
7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

1105 Cherry Hills

North Pebble Beach Blvd. to Cherry Hills, turn by Community Association
DO NOT PARK ON SIDE OF STREET WITH CONES.
THANK YOU.

Matching loveseat & sofa bed, light wood coffee & end tables, 2 recliners, drop-leaf table, 6 needlepoint chairs ('30s), hard rock maple table, 6 chairs, small sleep sofa, white rattan couch, coffee & end tables & chair, sofa table, 2 stools. Sanyo 2008 TV, small flat-screen TV, queen poster bed, dresser & nightstand, dbl. poster bed, computer desk, twin beds, entry table, antique mission-style coat rack, microwave, Gold's Gym Power Spin 230k, men's clothes (M), women's shoes (7½) and purses, walker, shower chair, lamps, pictures, kitchen, linens, luggage, Lenox, Hummels, many, many tools.

508-0307

NETTIE'S ESTATE SALES

Cell: (813) 382-7536

1111 El Rancho Drive
Sun City Center

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

March 28th & 29th
7 a.m. - NOON

Part 1 of a 2 Part Sale

Contents Include: 1996 Mercedes E 320, Large Collection of Brass, Antiques & Collectibles, Matching Broyhill Sofa & Loveseat, Coffee & End Tables, Glass-Top Dining Room Table w/Chairs, China Cabinet, Vintage Kroehler Full Bed Set, Hospital Bed, Paintings/Prints, Collection of Clocks, Glassware, Kitchenware, Jacuzzi Hot Tub, Books, Bookcases, And Much More!

Please park on side of sale due to emergency vehicles.
See You There!

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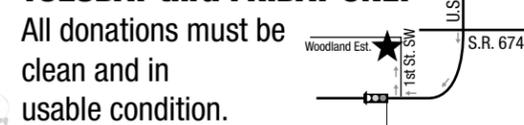
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Poker Run benefits C.A.R.E.

► Continued from page 1

breakfast, score card, T-shirt and the first card of their poker hands. Additional passengers can pay \$5 and get a meal, with extra poker hands going for \$10. T-shirts cost \$15.

The fun starts at 11:30 a.m., when drivers head to local businesses to pick up their cards, stopping first at Peggy's Corral, 4511 U.S. 41, Palmetto, then to Woody's River Roo, 5717 18th St., Ellenton, and then to Uncle Mike's Smokehouse, 106 State Road 60 E., Plant City.

The winning hands will be determined at the final stop, The Alley at SouthShore, 10221 Big Bend Road, Riverview, where drivers will enjoy a free meal, drinks and desserts.

"The Alley is always looking to give back to the community, and we thought this would be another way for us to give back," said Melissa Hartmann, events sales manager at The Alley, which is donating food for up to 100 people as well as their location for the event.

The winning hand will take home four tickets to SeaWorld; two tickets to Busch Gardens go to the second-place hand. There will also be other prizes, a 50/50 drawing and a raffle.

"We are trying to do something a little bit new," said Joann With, C.A.R.E.'s outreach coordinator and a former president. "We seem to see the same people coming back, so we are hoping maybe this event will appeal to a broader audience, get us some new friends, adoptions and maybe volunteers."

C.A.R.E. receives no tax dollars, and is funded by memberships, grants, donations and adoption fees. "So, we rely on the public to fund our operating costs," With said.

"We have only one paid employee, so all the money goes to animals."

A vendor booth at the final stop is \$50. Sponsorships, \$100, are also available for the event. Call 813-846-1316.

To register online for the Poker Run, visit www.careshelter.org or call 813-645-2273.

Housing between 15 to 20 dogs and 35 to 45 cats, the shelter's dogs live outside during the day in kennels or in three large exercise yards. Adoptable cats live in one of three large open bay rooms in the shelter's cat facility. The cats are separated by age, roaming freely in their rooms.

Adoptions run up to \$120, although most are cheaper. All animals are spayed and neutered, are up to date with shots, checked by a veterinarian and tested for diseases.

Founded in 2000 by veterinarian Hal Ott and a small group of local citizens concerned about the high number of healthy animals being euthanized each year in Hillsborough County, C.A.R.E. took on the mission of rescuing, rehabilitating and adopting stray and owner-relinquished animals.

Over the years C.A.R.E. has added an intensive-care unit for newly arrived cats, a large-cat facility and a small-breed dog addition to allow the smaller dogs to be separated.

The C.A.R.E. website, www.careshelter.org, features photos of all the animals available for adoption and is updated weekly.

The shelter is currently open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 813-645-2273 for more information or directions.

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South County nonprofit works to save lives

► Continued from page 12
 ing. She is tackling it head on, person by person. She knows it happens, she even understands it to a degree, but she wants it to stop. She knows that educating those inclined to shoot a bullet into the air is the key to stopping it. She believes that people are inherently good and, once they understand the danger, they will stop. There are no statistics that can show that she has changed a mind or saved a life because a bullet that wasn't fired, a bullet that didn't injure or kill someone, does not provide statistics.

"Two years on...because of our experience, we know that it can affect anyone, anywhere," Duran said. "People can be shooting miles away and still impact innocent people. It is a legitimate concern for everyone out there. We just want people to be safe."

Bullet Free Sky is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. No one involved gets paid, and every dollar goes either toward education or for materials to earn more money to fund education. Every single dollar matters and is put to work.

Although as a fledgling nonprofit organization operating funds are an ongoing concern, Duran's overlying interest is in creating awareness and in saving lives.

"Celebratory gunfire is far more common than we all think," she said. "The biggest help that anyone can give us is to visit our website at www.bulletfreesky.org and read the stories that are posted. We also have a section called 'Get Involved,' which allows people to print posters and fliers in both English and Spanish to help us spread awareness."

The posters are available for download and provided at no charge.

"We would like to invite other gun ranges, shops and the public to join Bullet Free Sky in our effort to promote gun safety and responsible ownership," she said. "All they have to do is print awareness fliers from our website and make them visible to educate people and prevent celebratory gunfire. They should also let us know via Facebook or email so that we can give them credit."

Only after that did she mention the shirts, magnets and other small items that provide needed revenue



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

With Diego Duran looking on, Lawrence McKinnon of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office speaks to the media about the dangers of celebratory gunfire.

for the organization. On any single item, Bullet Free Sky makes only a few dollars, but again, every dollar matters. Other revenue comes from donations, either through the website or during events, both locally in South Hillsborough and in Ybor City and Tampa.

On Saturday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Duran and Bullet Free Sky will have a booth at the Family Salsa Fest in Wimauma at 14920 Balm Wimauma Road. And then in May, the organization will have a booth at the South Shore Chamber's annual Pigs in the Parking Lot on the 16th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the MiraBay Winn-Dixie (formerly Sweetbay) Plaza on U.S. 41 in Apollo Beach.

Invariably, during events Duran meets someone who has used guns to celebrate in the past. She has long since passed the anger stage, if she indeed ever had it.

"It feels great to meet people who have practiced celebratory gunfire because that means we can make a difference," she said. "Now they know how dangerous it truly is to their neighbors and even their own families."

In addition to education, Duran is also hoping that laws can be changed to reflect the true potential impact of celebratory gunfire. Recently she met with Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandra Murman to discuss possibilities for change. She doesn't want to restrict guns or ammunition in any way, she doesn't want to put people in jail. She just wants the act of it to be taken seriously.

"It's a second-degree misdemeanor, and I don't think that people take it seriously," she said. "We are hoping to change that. It's not about sending anyone to jail, it's about preventing this from happening in the first place."

Murman made time to hear Duran's concerns, but the issue is one of legislative policy rather than one easily addressed by local laws.

"Safety for our children and families is important in the community, and Sandy is trying to bring this issue to the forefront," Murman said.

According to Duran, when holidays roll around, her now-14-year-old son worries — not for himself but for others. He has largely recovered from his critical injury, but he knows far more about life's dangers than any young man his age should know.

"His memory is always getting better," his mother said. "I don't think he is 100 percent yet, but with teenagers it can be hard to tell. Yes, he worries. He is not afraid, but he worries for us and for others."

Like his mother, like Shooter's World and the HCSO, like those who leave a five or a 20 dollar bill at their booth or buy a T-shirt from the website, he worries and then he does something about it — he is trying to stop needless tragedies and make this world a little more safe. Diego knows the dangers all too well.

Mitch Traphagen is a member of the Bullet Free Sky board of directors.



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