



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Chill on the beach, bang on the drum

A free beach sunset drum circle to begin on Sunday at Little Harbor

Jurgen Wochnik, manager of the Sunset Grill at Little Harbor, will hold a weekly sunset drum circle beginning this Sunday on the beach at the resort. Wochnik is also a professional musician. See page 7.

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THE OBSERVER NEWS

April 3, 2014 • Volume 58 • Number 11

www.ObserverNews.net

County: New land-code amendment will reflect intent of Ruskin Community Plan

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

The Ruskin Community Plan, hammered out over two years, more than 40 public meetings and involving hundreds of residents, developers and landowners, is supposed to be a guideline for future development.

The vision for the future of the historic South County community covers, among others things, future development of downtown Ruskin, economic growth, parks and transportation.

The county says a new amendment is needed to implement a key part of the plan, which was

adopted in 2005.

Dry as a sand sandwich as subject matter, these types of plans and land codes dictate almost every aspect of a community's quality of life, from how many and what types of homes can be built to what types of businesses can operate.

"Ruskin will continue to be a community that preserves its small-town character, celebrates its unique history and agricultural past, embraces its multicultural diversity and protects its abundant natural resources," according to the plan's introduction.

The 16-page, 3,200-word community plan can be found as a link with this story online at www.observernews.net.

The plan outlines specific guidelines for land use, density and lot sizes in four areas of Ruskin. For example, single-family detached homes are recommended for one area while multifamily townhomes are suggested in another.

The plan's vision statement says: "Our plan identifies four

distinct neighborhoods, each having a defined character that provides home styles serving all Ruskin residents. The scale and type of residential development shall vary according to the character of each of the four neighborhoods that were identified during our community mapping exercise."

All of which, residents were assured when the plan was officially adopted in 2005 by the Hillsborough County Commis-

sion, would be implemented. No changes to the county's Comprehensive Plan or Land Development Code would be needed, residents were told at the time.

In fact, the guidelines have been cited in Ruskin rezoning cases verbatim since 2005 without objection from the county attorney's office or developers.

But last April, after a developer's challenge, county attorney

► Continued on page 16



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

A standing-room-only crowd of mostly Ruskin residents and landowners turned out March 24 at SouthShore Regional Library to discuss a new Land Development Code amendment covering future development.

Technology collides with grandma's pastime

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

It's not your Grandma's pastime anymore.

When sewing and embroidery are mentioned, most people don't think of computers or technology; they think of embroidery hoops and trying to get thread to fit through the eye of a needle.

It's just not that way now.

Walking into the newly opened store of Cypress Vac and Sew could make the technologically-challenged draw back, until they find out that anyone interested in buying a machine gets one-on-one instructions besides the classes offered to the general public.

Owner Sherri Huffman bought Cypress Vac and Sew 13 years ago, and operated it mostly as a place that sold and repaired sewing machines and vacuums. But she saw a need for a larger operation, a place where classes could be held, fabric sold and handmade items made and sold on consignment to the public.

The new store, located at 3804 Sun City Center Blvd. (just to the east of Home Depot) on SR 674, held its grand opening Jan. 4, and most days stays busy from opening at 9:30 a.m. to closing (weekdays) at 5:30 p.m. and

Saturdays at 1 p.m.

That's because so much is going on there.

When interviewed, Huffman sat in a back room repairing a vacuum. She said it wasn't one

► Continued on page 12



Billie Avery teaches a children's sewing class Saturday mornings.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TAMPA ELECTRIC

Big Bend Power Station in Apollo Beach.

Big Bend works to meet compliance standards \$76 million benefit to customers

■ By **LIA MARTIN**
lia@observernews.net

By 2016, it is possible that customers serviced by TECO's Big Bend Power Station in Apollo Beach will begin seeing a cost savings on their electric bill.

There are nearly 700,000 customers in the Big Bend service area, including all of Hillsborough County and parts of Polk, Pinellas and Pasco counties.

"Tampa Electric wants to change the ignition fuel at its Big Bend Power Station to natural gas from oil," said Cherie Jacobs, Tampa Electric/TECO People's Gas media spokesperson. "All customers will benefit from fuel savings."

The Big Bend Power Station is a coal-fired operation, which uses light oil currently as the startup process — called "lighting off" — to warm up the firebox enough to establish a stable flame pattern

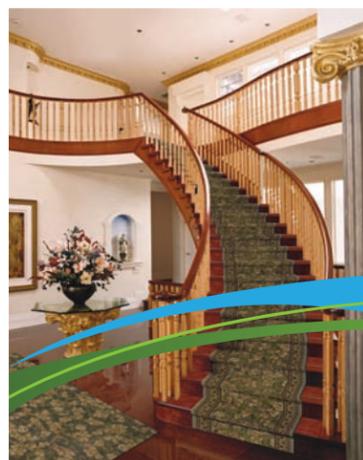
before the primary fuel is switched on, which in this case is coal. Using natural gas as the ignition fuel is a less troublesome fuel, and it is much cleaner.

"The ignition fuel starts the fire," Jacobs said. "The emission fuel starts the boiler. It will eliminate 30,000 barrels of oil annually."

Also of significant importance, according to Jacobs, is that this change will reduce emissions and help the environment.

Increasingly, the Environmental Protection Agency is driven to write new carbon-emissions rules because of the potential threat of climate change. Recently, President Barack Obama has been making a push for a transition to renewable energy sources, so it is thought by some that coal-fired

► Continued on page 31



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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PHOTOS

The bull was eventually freed from the pond and apparently none the worse for wear.



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Deputy Christina Ammons held the bull's head above water for 45 minutes.

Deputy rescues drowning Riverview bull

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

Have you heard the one about the cop and the bull? Only in this case, it's true.

File it under "Only in Florida," but a Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputy waded into a chest-deep retention pond in Riverview last week and helped rescue a 1,000-pound bull from drowning, guarded all the while by a colleague armed with a rifle to protect her from alligators.

The incident started March 28, when a man mowing grass at 6031 Madison Avenue in Riverview noticed what he thought was a cow struggling in a small retention pond.

Responding to a call, Deputy Christina Ammons, a 19-year veteran of the sheriff's office, found a 1,000-pound bull in the water about six feet from land. Ammons, who could see the animal was struggling to avoid drowning, immediately stripped off her gun-belt and uniform shirt and lifted the bull's head above water.

Another deputy stood by at

the edge of the pond with a rifle to safeguard Ammons from any potential alligators that may have been in the water.

Ammons remained in the water, supporting the bull's head, for 45 minutes while Hillsborough County Fire Rescue sent a crew with equipment to pull the bull out.

With the combined efforts of everyone involved, the bull was successfully removed from the pond and, after approximately 30 minutes, the bull was up and walking and apparently determined he was not injured.

Watch the video of the rescue on YouTube by searching for "Bovine Rescue" or following this link <http://tinyurl.com/observer-bull>.

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Observations: Leaving home (Part 2)

■ By **MITCH TRAPHAGEN**
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We were welcomed to the city by rain, two young guys I only hoped were the people we hired to help us move, along with a nice police officer and a handful of emergency medical technicians, straight out of an ambulance with lights flashing.



Observations

"I'm sorry about the mirror," the EMT supervisor said as he reached out to shake my hand. "And welcome home."

At that moment, and in many moments since, I wanted nothing more than to flee back to our quiet lives in Florida. The EMT might have sensed that, too, as the first thing he asked was if I was okay. I'm sure I didn't look okay.

The entire trip was timed to the

minute to avoid hitting the rush hours in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Newark and Jersey City. Unfortunately, we left Florida six hours late. To make up the lost time, we decided to forgo the comfort of a hotel room and spent a few hours sleeping in a North Carolina rest area — Michelle in our new-to-us minivan with the dogs and cats, and me scrunched into a somewhat leaning position in the cab of the U-Haul truck.

Our new apartment is on a city street, and parking is at a premium. Driving a U-Haul truck into that situation was not something I was excited about. The Jersey City Police Department was nice enough to put up two "No Parking" signs directly in front of our apartment to accommodate

the truck. Unfortunately, the two cars we found parked there upon arrival didn't seem to notice the signs. We found one driver, a woman who moved her car, giving us just enough space to park and get the ramp down. Still, the truck was huge parallel-parked on the relatively narrow street. I wasn't "city-aware" enough to know that most people fold in their driver's side mirror. The U-Haul had two mirrors sticking out into the street like elephant ears. At least it did until a passing ambulance smacked into it.

From that point, very little seemed to go right. The previous tenants had left us a filthy

apartment, complete with some furniture they had chosen not to move. That was a really bad thing, considering we moved from a nice, two-bedroom suburban home into a city apartment. We had way too much stuff as it was. We had no choice about the filthy apartment — the movers were there ready to work hard; it was raining and getting dark out. We filled the place up with boxes and furniture, and greatly added to the filth with what we tracked in from the wet sidewalk. We also found out that our beautiful living room furniture from Florida would not fit in through the apartment door. Oh, and it was then we found out that

the apartment did not come with a refrigerator.

In previous moves we've made, we set records in getting our lives arranged and settled. That was not the case with this move. A full week disappeared in a blur of boxes and chaos, with herculean efforts at cramming stuff into every possible nook and cranny.

My desire to flee back to Florida only increased during that time.

And then one day, the living room was reasonably clear of boxes and other random detritus, and new, smaller furniture was there. Sammy, the big old dog, was snoozing happily on our tiny

▶ Continued on page 22



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The sun rises over Lower Manhattan as seen from a marina in downtown Jersey City, N.J. The new World Trade Center dominates the skyline.

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The Studio@620 welcomes Wordier Than Thou at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8.

This unique monthly open mic series continues with its focus on storytelling — no poetry or music.

So go to share your finest prose, or if you're just in the mood for listening, catch some tales from our area's wordsmiths. Pay what you can; suggested donation \$5 at the door.

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MOWW sponsors benefit golf tournament

The Military Order of the World Wars will sponsor a Benefit Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 12, at Freedom Plaza's Freedom Fairways, Sun City Center.

Proceeds will help support the Hillsborough County high school MOWW Youth Leadership Program.

Registration will take place at 7:30 a.m. The entry fee is \$55 a player. There will be a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

There are numerous sponsorship opportunities available, ranging from \$50 to \$1000, each providing a different level of sponsor recognition. For more information on the sponsorships, call 813-220-8758 or 813-470-0208.

There will be a continental breakfast, luncheon, awards ceremony and door prizes.

For further information: 813-470-0208.

Positive Talk: Allergies can be an Achilles' heel (Part 1)

It is hard to be positive, upbeat and productive when you don't feel well, and spring is the time that makes many of us feel our worst. The very things that should buoy our spirits — green leaves emerging on trees, flowers bursting into bud and warm winds that draw us outside — are the things that work against us if you, like me, have allergies. Like the Greek Achilles, we can be wounded gravely.



By William Hodges

Allergies generally cause our bodies to react in a negative manner. They can cause symptoms ranging from a simple runny nose to a heart attack. No matter what the allergy, it should not be treated lightly. For severe symptoms, I suggest getting competent medical care to alleviate the headaches, runny nose and post-nasal drip associated with many allergies.

The most common of the non-food allergies are tree, grass and flower pollens; cats, particularly, and other animals in general; house dust and dust mites of all kinds.

If you do have allergies, here are a few things that you can do to limit the effect on your system.

- Stay inside on windy days. It is then that the pollens are being

carried far and wide. Run your central heating and air conditioning system on fan and draw the house air through your filters even when neither heating nor cooling is needed. Be sure to clean your filters and try to use filters that take out small particles.

- Be careful of the types of plants you grow on your property, and be sure that weeds such as goldenrod or ragweed are not allowed to flourish. Someone with severe allergies to plant pollens should not be involved in lawn care. If they do maintenance chores, such as digging weeds or cutting grass, a mask should be worn similar to the ones used by painters. These masks are available at local hardware stores.

- Since pollens are highest between sunrise and 10 a.m., try to limit your outside activities to other times. If you get your exercise by walking and must do it during those times, a mask will help here, too. It may feel strange wearing a mask, but being able to breathe may well be worth any embarrassment you feel.

- The effects of allergies are cumulative. During the high periods of pollen activity, you may want to keep pets, to which you also may be allergic, outside as

much as possible. However, remember that when you bring them inside, they will be covered with pollens picked up outside, and you should keep your distance.

- House plants have pollen, too, so be careful about inside plants. A few potted plants that have not bothered you all winter just may produce the grains of pollen that shove you over when everything else is in bloom.

- Wash your face and hands every time you have the chance. That is good advice during the cold and flu season, but also applies when trying to avoid pollen.

NEXT WEEK — A few more suggestions on how to defeat or allay springtime's allergies and improve your attitude.

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

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www.ObserverNews.net

Published Every Thursday

by M&M Printing Co., Inc. 645-4048

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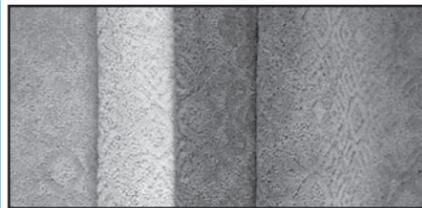
PRODUCTION:

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CLASSIFIED / CIRCULATION:

Beverly Kay..... Classified / Circulation
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The views expressed by our writers are not necessarily shared by The Observer News, SCC Observer, The Riverview Current or M&M Printing Co., Inc.

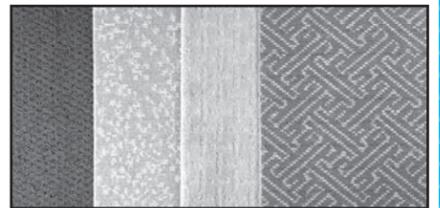


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'Healthy Living' educational seminars Colorectal cancer prevention

By **LIA MARTIN**
lia@observernews.net

The American Cancer Society estimates that 136,830 people will be diagnosed with colon cancer in 2014, and that 50,310 will die from it in the United States. That means that we have a one in 20 chance of developing colon cancer in our lifetime. It is the second-leading cause of cancer death in men and women.

Because there are so few reliable symptoms, early detection is important. Educating yourself about your health is one reason why South Bay Hospital provides free health seminars for residents.

Richard and Julie Hochfelder regularly attend health seminars in Sun City Center, especially

those sponsored by South Bay Hospital.

"We don't miss any, if we can help it," Richard Hochfelder said last week, after he and his wife Julie attended the seminar on colorectal cancer prevention given by gastroenterologist Dr. Ashok Dhaduvai.

The Hochfelders are doing what many say they want to do but never seem to find the time or inclination. They get screened for colon cancer.

Dhaduvai says that the bottom line on who gets and who does not get colon cancer is often found in their family medical history. A person's genetic makeup is a strong indicator of whether someone will get colon cancer. It is a gene defect, and once you have a family history of

colon cancer, you have a higher risk, according to Dhaduvai. That is why making an appointment to get a colonoscopy can make a big difference in the outcome when fighting this particular cancer.

"The incident of colon cancer has come down because of screening," says Dhaduvai.

It is the high incidence of polyps in the colon that puts someone at risk for colon cancer. Colon polyps are growths on the inner lining of the colon and are very common. They are important because they may become malignant, or cancerous.

It is thought that, based on their size, number and histology, a prediction can be made on which patients are more likely to develop further polyps and colon cancer.

It is all about the polyps. Dhaduvai's comment is always: "Take out the polyps!"

According to Dhaduvai, no one knows what causes polyps to form inside the colon. And, he says, lifestyle or food choices do not seem to be a reason people get or don't get polyps or colon cancer.

So when should you get a colonoscopy?

If there is no risk factor of

colon cancer in a person's family history, he or she can have a colonoscopy every 10 years starting at age 50.

With a risk factor, a person should have a colonoscopy every five years, unless that person has had colon cancer.

"In that case, first get one every other year and then every three years," Dhaduvai said, "to be safe."



LIA MARTIN PHOTO

Richard and Julie Hochfelder in attendance at the Healthy Living Series, sponsored by South Bay Hospital.

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JSA Medical Group
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EVENTS CALENDAR

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APRIL 2014 EVENTS *REGISTER NOW! (813) 419-5020

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
Tue 15:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	11 am to Noon 1 to 3 pm
Wed 16:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm
Thu 17:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* WII BOWLING	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm
Fri 18:	HAPPY EASTER!	JSA CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY
Mon 21:	MONDAY MORNING MOVIES SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 am to Noon 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm
Tue 22:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* DIABETES WORKSHOP *REGISTER	11 am to Noon 1 to 3 pm →

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

Visit us online to view the monthly calendar and upcoming events:
JSAMedicalGroup.com
click the events tab

Please check your insurance coverage for **SILVERSNEAKERS** class participation eligibility.

NEXT DIABETES WORKSHOP:
Tuesday, April 22
1 to 3 pm
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Chill on the beach, bang on the drum

A free beach sunset drum circle to begin on Sunday at Little Harbor

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

Perhaps a day should not end in silence; particularly a day that marks the end of a weekend. Imagine sitting on a white sand beach watching the sun sink into Tampa Bay and hearing a drum, beating slowly at first, followed by another and then another. And then you join in, matching the rhythm of friends and strangers alike in heralding the end of a beautiful Sunday in paradise. It could inspire a feeling of connectedness, to the day, to the others around you. It could also be much more than that. It could make a difference in your life.

Beginning on Sunday, April 6, just before sunset, Jurgen Wochnik, manager of the Sunset Grill at Little Harbor in Ruskin, will hold a weekly drum circle on the beach at the resort. The drum circle is free of charge and is open to everyone, regardless of whether you have a drum (or even something that could be used as a drum). That means people of all ages, families

and even dancers are welcome to attend. There is no skill level required to be a drum circle drummer; beginners are welcome.

Mickey Hart spent nearly 30 years as a drummer for the legendary rock band the Grateful Dead. To Hart, drumming and rhythm has long been more than a vocation or a paycheck. According to him, rhythm is life.

In 1991, Hart provided testimony before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, saying: "People gather to drum in drum 'circles' with others from the surrounding community. The drum circle offers equality because there is no head or tail. It includes people of all ages. The main objective is to share rhythm and get in tune with each other and themselves. To form a group consciousness. To entrain and resonate. By entrainment, I mean that a new voice, a collective voice, emerges from the group as they drum together."

Hart is now 69 years old, and his belief in the physical and psychological value of drumming and

rhythm appears to have only increased.

"It all comes down to vibration and rhythm," Hart writes on his website. Hart has partnered with neuroscientist Dr. Adam Gazzaley of the University of California, San Francisco, to bring science to the art of drumming.

"This is about breaking the rhythm code," Hart wrote of the collaboration with Dr. Gazzaley. "Once we know what rhythm truly does, then we'll be able to control it, and use it medicinally for diagnostics, for health reasons. To be able to reconnect the synapses, the connections that are broken in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, that's where we are heading."

For Jurgen Wochnik at the Sunset Grill, the drum circle is about bringing people together in a beautiful place to have some fun, as individuals and as a community.

"The drum circle will take place just before sunset on Sunday," Wochnik said. "Everyone is welcome to come out. People can bring their own drum, but if you



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The pier at sunset at Little Harbor in Ruskin.

don't have a drum, come out anyway. This should be a fun thing."

Drum circles have made their way into national parks, elementary schools, churches and even the South County senior centers. There appears to be something therapeutic, even soothing, in making music and rhythm with others, still holding the individuality of your own drum, your own sound, while joining the collective sounds of others, creating, as Mickey Hart told U.S. Senators 23 years ago, "a collective voice."

And the experience of seeing the sun set into the bay on a white sand beach only adds to it. Perhaps such a vivid sight shouldn't end in silence but rather in celebration, the sound merging with the artistry in the sky and on the horizon; each person their own drummer but also

creating a common sound, sending off another day in paradise.

Wochnik is excited about the upcoming Sunday drum circles. He is excited to offer people something to enjoy, or perhaps an escape, in a beautiful setting. His own drum is ready; Wochnik is also a professional musician willing to help others learn.

"This will be cool, man," he said with a warm smile. Former Grateful Dead drummer and Grammy-winning musician Mickey Hart couldn't have said it better.

Information about Hart's Rhythm and the Brain Project is available at www.gazzaleylab.ucsf.edu/gazzaley-hart-collaboration.html.

The Sunset Grill is available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SunsetGrillTikiBar.

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Coins Against Cancer

Wednesday, April 9th • 1:30 - 5:00 P.M.
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1651 Sun City Plaza Blvd. • Sun City Center, FL.

A fundraiser by the Aqua Viva Diva Relay for Life Team

What is a Quarter Auction? A fun, exciting event to bid on great products from *Miche Interchangeable Handbags* and beautiful *Park Lane Jewelry*

Buy a Bid Paddle for \$1 (as many as you want!). Bring your quarters — bid by throwing quarters in a bucket. If your number is pulled, you WIN the item.

Paddles Go On Sale Mon., April 6th, at the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce!

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Thursday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.
Several visiting priests will be available

Saturday, April 5, 2:30 p.m.
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

FISH FRY
Fri., April 4, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Saint Joachim Hall

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TGH Medical Group holds ribbon cutting in Sun City Center

On March 31, Tampa General Medical Group and the Sun City Center Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting to welcome new internal medicine physician Dr. Babette Pachence. Dr. Pachence will take patients 18 and older. She is located at 1647 Sun City Center Plaza.

You, me and business:
Coins for a good cause

When was the last time you got a really great prize for a quarter? And by great, I mean Park Lane Jewelry. Or maybe a Miche interchangeable handbag? Well, go to your favorite bank and buy a roll of the big coins, because next Wednesday is your opportunity to participate in Coins Against Cancer — a fundraiser for Relay for Life.

can come by and purchase your paddle early.

What is Relay for Life? It's an annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Most of the other local events are held at a high school where teams walk around the track for hours to symbolize that cancer never sleeps. But here in Sun City Center, we'll hold a mini-Relay on Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It'll be



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

Our local chapter of the Blue Thong Society, known as the Aqua Viva Divas, is hosting a "quarter auction" on Wednesday, April 9, from 1:30 to 5 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. Actually, it isn't really an auction at all, but it's loads of fun!

right here at the Chamber and will include opening ceremonies, some laps around the Payant Financial parking lot, some fun events, an honoring of some of our local cancer survivors, a luminaria service and closing ceremonies.

For \$1, you purchase a paddle with a number on it. You can buy as many paddles as you want, because the more you have, the more you increase the odds of winning. Let's say a gorgeous Park Lane necklace and matching earrings come up for bid. You toss a quarter (it may go up to four quarters for large-ticket items). Only those who bid will have a chance to win those items. If the number that matches your paddle number comes up, you win the item!

If you're interested in having a team at this event, call us at the Chamber and we'll fill you in on the details. Our theme this year is songs. The Aqua Viva Divas have chosen "Tiptoe Through the Tulips (and weed out cancer!)" as our song. I'm guessing our team space will look a lot like a spring garden!

Coordinators for the event say they have lots of great items. And all that bidding is sure to get you thirsty. So there will be refreshments, too. And they will be served by the great-looking guys at Morgan Exteriors! (Just to make sure you feel really pampered...)

Or, if you're a survivor and would like to be acknowledged and lead off the Survivors' Lap, come register with us. You'll be treated like a king or queen and honor us with your presence.

The paddles will go on sale Monday, April 7, and there's limited seating for this event. You can call and reserve your spot or you

We welcome interested vendors this year as well! Only \$25 to have a table at our events and show all the attendees your products and services.

So grab those quarters, and we'll see you on Wednesday! I hope I win the Miche bag...



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DINNER: Wed. - Sat. 4 to 8 p.m.
BRUNCH: Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Carnival wine tasting and dinner gala is this Saturday in Riverview

On Saturday, April 5, the Riverview Woman's Club holds its 2nd annual gala Carnival wine tasting and dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn.

The wine tasting, which highlights wines of South America, starts at 6 p.m.; dinner is at 7 p.m. There will also be entertainment and a wine pull.

The cost is \$75 per person, with proceeds going to benefit the club's scholarship program for graduating seniors living in Riverview. Last year the event enabled the organization to provide four \$1,000 scholarships.

The Hilton Garden Inn is at 4328 Garden Vista Drive, just off U.S. 301. For more information, call Kitty Cunningham at 813-394-0301 or Donna Fore at 813-528-0902.



RUSKIN VFW POST #6287

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

Thursday, April 3 — Bar Bingo 6 p.m.

Friday, April 4 — Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m. Cash grab 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 5 — Crew games 6 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.

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

Monday, April 7 — Crew Games 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 8 — Lounge Games 1-4 p.m. Bingo: doors open 3 p.m., Bingo 6 p.m. Kitchen opens 4:30 p.m.

Ruskin Eagles Aerie 4351

1205 1st St. S.W.

Ruskin Eagles Aerie 4351 hosts meetings on Thursdays: Aerie at 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month; Auxiliary at 6 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th; Eagle Riders at 6 p.m. on the 3rd.

Upcoming Events

- Friday** 6 p.m. Feather Your Nest.
Kitchen will reopen from 5:30-7:20 p.m. on April 11
- Saturday, April 5** 5 p.m. Dinner by the Auxiliary.
6:30 p.m. Music by Eddie Shannon
- Sunday** \$1 draft beer all day and evening.
- Monday** 6 p.m. Bingo.
- Tuesday** \$1 draft beer all day and evening.
- Wednesday** Come on down and socialize.

For more information, call 813-645-2922.

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Adult Computer Classes for the Technologically Challenged

Excel I: Introduction — Thursday, April 3, 3 p.m.

Layout, entering data, inserting rows and columns, and other techniques. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Limit 18. Register in person no earlier than one hour before the start of the program.

Excel II: Formatting — Thursday, April 3, 3:45 p.m.

Learn different formats for expressing numbers in a spreadsheet. Excel I is recommended. Limit 18. Register in person no earlier than one hour before the start of the program.

Excel III: Performing Calculations — Friday, April 4, 3 p.m.

Learn about functions and formulas and how to use them in calculations. Excel II is recommended. Limit 18. Register in person no earlier than one hour before the start of the program.

Excel: Charts and Graphs — Tuesday, April 8, 3 p.m.

Create and format charts from data for visual emphasis. Previous experience with Microsoft Excel is recommended. Limit 18. Register in person no earlier than one hour before the start of the program.

Excel: Data Entry & Printing Options — Tuesday, April 8, 3:45 p.m.

AutoFill, freeze titles, sorting, and Excel printing options. Previous experience with Microsoft Excel is recommended. Limit 18. Register in person no earlier than one hour before the start of the program.

Computer Tutor — Wednesday, April 9, 5:30 p.m.

Tutoring in Microsoft software, email, and the Internet. Limit 18. Register in person no earlier than one hour before the start of the program.

Kim Levesque joins All Bay Insurance

Kim Levesque has joined the team at All Bay Insurance Group. Levesque grew up in Florida, graduated from Bloomingdale High School and entered the insurance industry within a few years of graduation. Having been an insurance agent since 2000, she has a great amount of expertise and operates like an insurance doctor who can help diagnose and prescribe the best protection for your situation.

All Bay Insurance Group opened in 2006 in Riverview, and moved its main office to Apollo Beach in 2009. The agency has received numerous Customer Service awards, including the Premier Service Agency designation each year of the award's existence. The agency is an active member of the Greater Riverview and SouthShore Chambers of Commerce, and firm principal Joel Meek was 2012 president of the SouthShore Chamber of Commerce.

All Bay Insurance can be reached by calling 813-677-1121, online at www.allbayins.com, or by stopping by the office at 101 Flamingo Drive, Apollo Beach.



KIM LEVESQUE

Susan Moreland inducted into honor society

Susan Moreland of Riverview was recently initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Moreland was initiated at the University of Tampa.

Moreland is among approximately 32,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors, having at least 72 semester hours, are eligible for membership.

HOLE-IN-ONE

Joe Maclean of Apollo Beach shot a hole-in-one Feb. 19 at the Apollo Beach Golf Club. The 145-yard ace was shot on the 12th hole with a 4 hybrid, and was witnessed by Paul Mays and Ed Shapiro.

HOLE-IN-ONE

Chuck Schaibley of Apollo Beach shot a hole-in-one March 27 at the Apollo Beach Golf Club. The 130-yard ace was shot on the 12th hole with an 8 iron. In his 50 years of playing golf, Chuck has achieved two holes-in-one, both on the same hole. The feat was witnessed by Ed Plotts and Herb McGuire.



371-yard drive wins qualifying event at Riverview's Summerfield Crossings

On a beautiful day at Riverview's Summerfield Crossings Golf Club, 71 registrants showed up to see if they would qualify for the first stage of the 2014 RE/MAX World Long Drive Championship. "This was a great turnout," said Ed Pichette, broker/owner RE/MAX South Shore Realty and host of the event.

In the Open division, Tyler Beasley took top honors with a 371-yard drive. Other qualifiers were: Justin Robinson, 370-yard drive; Rob Tietmeyer, 365-yard drive; Trevor Consav, 364-yard drive; Sam Sheffield, 358-yard drive; and Chris Lamkin with a 357-yard drive.

Top finishers at Summerfield Crossings Golf Club will advance to the regional qualifier of the 2014 RE/MAX World Long Drive Championship. The ultimate goal is to earn a spot at the RE/MAX world finals in October 2014 in Mesquite, Nev.

"This event was beyond expectations," said Jason Blanchard, president and chief operating officer of Summerfield Crossings Golf Club. "We had more than 50 folks come watch these competitors, and when you see balls going over 300 yards routinely, it's easy to see why."

For information call 813-671-3311 or visit www.summerfieldgc.com.

SouthShore Regional Library

Kids program/event highlights

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

Bedtime Stories

— Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m.

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

Teen Advisory Board Meeting

— Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m.

Join the Teen Advisory Board to get involved with the library's teen programs or earn community service hours for graduation, scholarships and more.

Mariposa Martinez and More Tales from Latin America

— Saturday, April 5, 10:30 a.m.

For ages 5-12. Lights! Color! Action! Storyteller and puppeteer Katie Adams performs Hispanic stories with a dash of Spanish words and a splash of colorful shadow puppets. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Pee Wee Artists: Let's Create!

— Monday, April 7, 10:30 a.m.

Pee Wee Artists aged 3-5, with an adult present, will join our art instructor and have fun creating an art project to take home. Limit 18. Register at the SouthShore Regional Library Information Desk or call 813-273-3652.

Baby Time

— Monday, April 7, 1:35 p.m.

Tuesday, April 8, 11:35 a.m.

Wednesday, April 9, 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.

Puzzlemania

— Monday, April 7, 3 p.m.

For ages 5 and up. Celebrate the Library's Centennial by piecing together puzzles made from historical library photos. See the library's history unfold, piece by piece. This is a school early-release day. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Toddler Time

— Tuesday, April 8, 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 8, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, April 9, 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.

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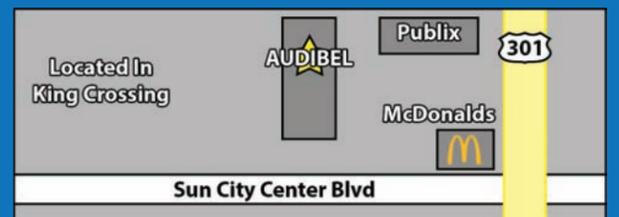
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Technology collides with grandma's pastime

Continued from page 1

she had sold — or even carried. She says she can fix just about any make or model as long as the parts are still available.

Huffman does all repairs on site, behind a showroom full of modern equipment, some of which looks almost futuristic.

Take the PR 1000 E Entrepreneur Pro Embroidery machine, for example. This baby comes complete with a computer on the side that tells operators which color embroidery threads to insert into which embroidery needle, and doesn't make them do it by themselves.

"It's a 10-needle machine," said store manager Frieda Durrance, demonstrating it. "It has 10 needles, all of which embroider at once."

The computer screen attached on the right-hand side of it has many patterns built in, but any store-bought pattern may be added. The machine reads the pattern and tells the sewer exactly what to do.

"You can do things as small as designs on shirt pockets or emblems for teams on ball caps," Durrance said. "There are a gazillion patterns available you can use with it, and hoops that range in size from a very small pocket hoop to one the size of the back of a jacket."

Team emblems and hats are some of the popular uses, she said. "The Quattro sewing-embroidery machine operates with a computer screen, too, the same as the 10-needle," she continued. It also has a computer screen on the side. She said, "It takes a picture of your material and shows up on the screen so you can place your lettering or design just so. Picture perfect."

There are many less technologi-

cal machines available as well, for those who don't want to take a big leap, but one-on-one instruction and beginner classes make it easy, she explained.

Huffman is especially proud that her new store is big enough to not only allow for instructional classes but also to display the rows and rows of fabric she sells, along with many items made by hand, from purses to pillows.

There's a "foot of the month" demonstration that teaches about how to use each one of the many (base) attachments that can go on the bottom of the needles of the machines, Durrance said. "There's a foot for any kind of sewing someone would need to do."

A children's sewing class, given by Billie Avery, starts at 10 a.m. Saturdays. From safety to planning to patterns and the correct way to place a hot iron when not in use, Avery instructs in a child-friendly manner.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

Store manager Frieda Durrance from Sundance demonstrates how computers have made changes in the way sewing and pattern-making are done.

"I love it," said Shelby Woolbright of Apollo Beach. At 11, she already knows she loves to sew.

Her mother, Debbie Nimocks, stopped to order a pattern, noticed the class information, and now the class is an every-Saturday morning event for her daughter.

"Shelby started sewing at summer camp in Apollo Beach, and when I saw this class, I knew she'd love it," Nimocks said.

Huffman said she always knew she would end up owning some kind of sewing business.

"I made my first dress at 12," she said, never stopping her

intricate vacuum repair. "I made all my own school clothes. I had to, I was tall and skinny and hard to fit, and my mom couldn't find anything I could wear."

Huffman grew up in Ohio and moved to South County in 1999. She bought the store in 2001. Now that it has moved and been enlarged, she says she has accomplished her goal.

There are embroidery classes at 1 p.m. on Thursdays and quilting classes beginning at 10 a.m. on Mondays. A beginner's adult sewing class is also planned.

To find out more about the

store, machines or any of the classes, call 813-634-8793.



This box of "footers" for the sewing machines comes with many models, and most people who buy the machines have to be shown what footers do.



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Long-time Realtors change location
Five local Realtors with more than 100 years' cumulative experience with one company have moved. The new location is with People's Choice Realty Services LLC, 302 U.S. 41 North, Ruskin, FL 33570. The quality service provided by the Realtors remains the same. They are, from left: Claire Tort, 363-7250; Roxanne Westbrook, 748-2201; Judy Erickson, 468-0288; Margot Ward, 486-9480; and Kay Pye 361-3672.

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Magnum

Magnum PI is mostly white in front. An American short-hair youngster who was recently brought to C.A.R.E. with his three siblings, Allie, Rascal and Silver, Magnum PI is a bit of a loner as his detective name would indicate. And as such, he absolutely loves to explore the cat towers, but he would like to come to live at a forever home of his own. Why not visit this beautiful guy and give him that home? Magnum has been spayed, microchipped and brought current on his shots.
DOB: July 2, 2012.

Lou

Lou is a male, tricolored Chihuahua with a spunky personality. Lou is a C.A.R.E. alumnus (adopted three years ago) but his caretaker relinquished him to the shelter in February. The caretaker noted Lou is a wonderful dog who is great with kids, cats and other dogs. Lou's return was not his fault, and he's still trying to figure out why he's at the shelter. He's a sharp-looking fellow who simply wants to settle in a forever home. Lou has been microchipped, neutered and is current on routine vaccinations..
DOB: Nov. 2, 2006.

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Back row, standing, from left: Teacher Stefanie Zummo, teacher Judy Perrella, parent Brook Johnson, Jourdyn Collins, Sarah Elliott, Cassidy Gourley, Kimberly Huber, Miranda Lopez, Alana Adams, Carly King, Bryanna LaRussa, Eva Prendergast and Alessandra Nies. Middle row, from left: Carmelle Kuizon, Bailey Piboolnuruk, Mary DesRosiers, Sophia Guerra, Taylor Klinge, Amelia Llerena and Ellanie Petrarca. Front row, from left: Teacher Sister Lisa Perkowski, Sydney Sultenfuss, Gabrielle Tremonti, Allison Ronnie Fair, Madeline Bales, Marjorie Markines, Taylor Shaw and Gracie Minton.

Academy of the Holy Names students spent spring break volunteering at local RCMA centers

During their spring break, 24 students from Tampa's Academy of the Holy Names helped the Redlands Christian Migrant Association with numerous projects in the organization's nine centers in the Ruskin and Wimauma area. Students spent mornings entertaining the 818 children at various sites, with puppet shows, reading

books, dramatizing stories, painting and more. Afternoons were spent working with different projects at RCMA, with the materials needed purchased by the group's chaperons. In addition, the students fulfilled the centers' wish-lists, which included educational items, sand water toys and digital cameras,

as well as big-ticket items like a refrigerator, washer and dryer, microwave and a stove. RCMA volunteer coordinators are grateful and hope this collaboration with the Academy of the Holy Names continues forever. For more information, call Salma Haidermota, RCMA volunteer coordinator, at 813-253-5331.

Florida economy, voter-rights suppression on the agenda with South Shore Dems

The South Shore Democratic Club hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 10, at SouthShore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin. Refreshments and socializing start at 1 p.m.; the program will start at 1:30 p.m. The changing Florida economy and voter-rights suppression are among the subjects to be presented by scheduled speaker Atty. Alma Gonzalez, chief of employment relations for the Hillsborough County Civil Service Board. She brings extensive practical background in immigration, voter rights and other civil rights subjects. All Democrats and like-minded individuals are invited to attend. Visit www.southshoredemocraticclub.org as well as Facebook at www.facebook.com/SSDEMCLUB for more information.

2nd annual Red Shield Classic is May 5

On Monday, May 5, the 2nd Annual Red Shield Classic Golf Tournament will be held at Hunter's Green Country Club, Tampa. Foursomes will enjoy an afternoon of sportsmanship, fellowship and "Doing the Most Good," since the Red Shield Classic raises funds to support Salvation Army programs and services to Hillsborough residents in need, 365 days a year. The Red Shield Classic is a project of the Salvation Army Advisory Board of Tampa/Hillsborough County, a group of local business people and community leaders who volunteer their time to help advise on local programs and services as well as raise awareness, support and funds for the Salvation Army. The format is four-person scrambles; registration begins at 11 a.m., lunch is at noon, and play starts at 1 p.m. The cost is \$150 per golfer; sponsorships are available for \$2,000 to \$6,000. Hunter's Green is at 18101 Longwater Run Drive, Tampa. For more information, go to www.salvationarmytampabay.org.

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Tour de Force charity bike ride

The 17th annual Tour de Force charity bike ride, which is raising funds to benefit the families of four fallen Florida law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty last year, kicks off April 7 in Sunny Isles. Ahead of the five day, 270-mile ride up Florida's eastern coast, Denny's Restaurant, 1301 W. Brandon Blvd., Brandon, will host a benefit night from 4 to 10 p.m. Thursday, April 3, to jumpstart local fundraising efforts.

The Brandon Denny's will donate 20 percent of benefit night sales to Tour de Force. Local law enforcement will also be on hand to meet and greet with guests and sell commemorative 2014 Tour De Force patches for \$5. All proceeds from the sale of the patches will be donated directly to the families of fallen heroes.

Approximately 500 participants will ride their bicycles up U.S. 1 April 7 through 11. In addition to stopping by Denny's during the benefit night, guests are also invited to make donations online at www.floridatourdeforce.org.

"We're honored to help Tour de Force cyclists gear up for another successful ride," said John Metz, Brandon Denny's franchisee. "We hope this benefit night will provide an additional opportunity for our community to show its support for this worthwhile cause."

In the mind of Micah

The unheard health benefits of laziness

■ By **MICAH BREWER**
micah@southbay.cc

I have recently discovered a new technique that has helped me get in better shape. A skill I have honed for years without realizing its true power. After years of practice and focus, I have developed the ability to lower my caloric intake, and lose weight naturally. With a little dedication and patience, you, too, could be on the road to a slimmer, happier

you. What is this ancient secret lost for centuries, buried under a mountain of diets and exercise plans aimed at making you a better you?

Laziness.

That's right, every time I think about wanting to eat a sandwich, I simply dwell on what a hassle it will be to get up, get out the bread, find the meat and cheese....

Thanks to my dedication to this new paradigm, I'm too lazy to even list the rest of the things required to make a sandwich.

Ice cream? At first thought, it may seem like a good idea. I like ice cream; I can feel my feet getting ready to head to the kitchen. And just at the moment I'm about to get up, Triumph!

I remember that after I eat that ice cream, my wife will want me to wash the bowl and put it away. Undoubtedly there will be a child looking up at me with longing eyes that agrees with my hypothesis that ice cream is good, and will inevitably ask for their own bowl of delicate ambrosia. And, of course, I will be cleaning up the aftermath of that as well.

This is the moment when I stand, or sit, strong! Yes, sir, I

simply use my Jedi mind tricks to sit right there on the couch and just keep watching that cooking show that has hypnotized me for the last hour and a half. I wait in rapt anticipation of what my televised companions will say when they taste the culinary masterpiece that has been crafted before my very eyes. The strength of my laziness has defeated the black knight of my gluttony.

Now you might think that at some point I will eventually go into the kitchen and gorge myself on everything in the house, but not so fast. Thanks to my newly acquired skill, I have been too lazy to go to the grocery store and replenish my home with food. I finish off a small box of croutons and some birdseed, and head back to the living room a pillar of strength.

This goes to show that we only have room for so many vices in life. In fact, laziness has stopped me from more than just gluttony. It also keeps me from murder, pillaging of small villages, and vanity. Yes, this little virtue we call laziness has almost assuredly saved me from a life in prison, or peril on the high seas.

You might say that the quickest way to a clean life is developing a strong slothful ethic. You know what they say: "Busy hands are the devil's playground." As you embark on your own journey toward a healthy lifestyle, don't get discouraged if you still get pangs of motivation from time to time. We all do. Just remember that the most important part of standing up is loudly moaning as you lower yourself back into a comfy chair.

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Ruskin Community Plan

► Continued from page 1

Adam Gormley ruled the community plan's guidelines would have to be incorporated into the Land Development Code to have any legal standing.

While the community plan guidelines are referenced in the county's Comprehensive Plan, a touchstone document that identifies goals for future development, the guidelines are not specifically laid out in the Comprehensive Plan.

"The fact that these guidelines are not specifically written into the [county's] Comprehensive Plan or the Land Development Code is not new," said Mariella Smith. "Everybody knew this from the beginning, including staff, the public, county commissioners and the county attorney, and we were all assured that this was no mistake, and it would not stop the enforcement of our plan's guidelines."

Smith, a Ruskin resident, was one of about 30 community activists who helped draw up the community plan, attending almost every meeting over two years between 2003 and 2005. Hundreds of others attended at least some of the meetings, giving their input on future growth.

Now the county is proposing a new amendment to the Land Development Code to fix the oversight.

"The intent of the Land Development Code amendment is to give those guidelines the ability to be recognized," attorney Gormley said. "The amendment will introduce those guidelines into a regulatory format people can find, give the guidelines status while also recognizing they are not hard and fast rules."

The draft amendment identifies the four areas as:

Area 1: The Old Ruskin neighborhood west of downtown will feature lower density single-family housing in keeping with the traditional character of the area.

Area 2: This area east of downtown and west of the Interstate 75 employment center will accommodate a variety of housing types, including multifamily and entry-level.

Area 3: This area south of College Avenue will accommodate a

more suburban style of residential development with safeguards for the redevelopment of property along the Manatee River.

Area 4: This area southeast of I-75 will retain its rural and agricultural character and provide for enhanced interaction and access to the publicly owned lands adjacent to the Little Manatee River.

The amendment, as written, does not reflect the spirit of the community plan, say opponents, many of whom turned out March 24 at a standing-room-only public meeting on the issue at the South-Shore Regional Library. They would like the proposed amendment to be specific, identifying lot sizes, for example.

The draft "does not reflect the original intent of the community plan, but even worse, it makes this whole land development code amendment pointless," Smith said in a March 22 letter to county officials. "It lets an applicant choose not to comply with the guidelines as long as they comply with the small bit of the [plan's] vision statement."

"My sense was that the county representatives at the meeting were not committed to the Ruskin Community Plan," said John Keith, who, with his wife Glenda, helped draft the community plan. He wants the Hillsborough County Commission to vote the entire plan "into law" immediately.

Keith fears county officials want to reopen the community plan, which would be a disaster for Ruskin, he says. "It took us two years to come up with the existing plan," he said, "and by the time we would put another plan together, the development in Ruskin would be a fait accompli."

Ron Wolfe, who also helped draft the original plan, is cautiously optimistic.

He said his understanding is that the failure to include the original Ruskin Community Plan guidelines in the county code "was simply a staff oversight and that the county commissioners are sympathetic to what has gone on and have agreed to help correct the error. I plan to stay in touch with the issue, but I am hopeful," Wolfe said.

Joe Moreda, director of the county's planning and zoning division, said he heard the concerns

of residents at the meeting and that the language of the amendment will be changed.

"Our objective is to work with the language [of the amendment] to make sure it's very clear," he said. "We want a process where the guidelines are evaluated for the spirit and intent of what the [community] plan articulated."

Any changes to the amendment can be found at hillsboroughcounty.org/lcamendments under "Land Development Code 14-0474."

"The small lots are something the community agreed that we wanted for a certain scale and type of development," said Smith, who wants a moratorium on Ruskin rezonings until the amendment issue is concluded.

"The county should fix its own mistakes, while continuing to uphold our plan, without making the citizens grind through an unnecessary, wasteful do-over of all the workshops and meetings we did eight years ago," said Smith, who called the guidelines for lot size, land use and density a "small but integral part of the plan."

The guidelines were "a grand bargain between developer and citizens when the Community Plan was drawn up," Smith said. "We were negotiated down to this on our side. We all agreed to this."

Smith has proposed additional language for the Land Development Code amendment, calling it "an easy fix."

"If you are not going to meet the letter of the guidelines, then you need to show you are meeting the spirit of the guidelines," Smith said.

With the process on the fast track, "we have been asked to expedite this," Moreda said. Smith said she and others will be keeping a close eye on how the proposed draft amendment language evolves.

"They will be hearing from lots of people, including those who want to throw the guidelines out, so will I be watching closely? You betcha," Smith said.

Have your say at public meetings, by email

Next up for the proposed amendment, is a Board of County Commissioners workshop on the issue, April 8, at the County



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

Ruskin's Mariella Smith discusses the new Land Development Code with county attorney Adam Gormley and Joe Moreda, director of the county's planning and zoning division.

Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. A Planning Commission workshop follows on April 14. Then the first public hearing before county commissioners on the amendment will be held April 24. The Planning Commission will review the issue again May 12 and make its recommendation before a final public hearing prior to the county commission on May 29, when a vote is expected to be

taken on the amendment. A video of the March 24 public meeting on the issue is available on YouTube. Search for "Ruskin land development code."

Call or email, respectively, your suggestions on the proposed amendment to John E. Healey, executive planner, community development section, 813-276-8393 or healeyj@hillsboroughcounty.org.

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Vietnam Veterans welcomed home at memorial park

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

What a difference four decades make. Vietnam veterans received an indifferent and sometimes hostile reception 40 years ago when they returned from a war some Americans wanted to forget. But just last weekend the veterans were welcomed home with speeches and salutes.

The "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" at Veterans Memorial Park on U.S. Highway 301 drew more than 300 veterans and their supporters from all over the Bay area.

"It was about trying to give our Vietnam veterans a well-deserved welcome home," said Riverview's Mike Odell, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, who was master of ceremonies for the event. "We had an awesome group of people there," he said. "I couldn't have been more pleased with the turnout."

Ending in 1973, the Vietnam War took the lives of more than 3

million people, including 58,000 Americans, and introduced the United States to terms like Agent Orange and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, which scar the lives of thousands of veterans to this day.

James Bradley, who lost friends

in the war, said the welcome home is well deserved.

"Most of the guys in the Vietnam era were told not to wear their uniforms because [of] the abuse they got from the people who were against the war," said the Apollo Beach resident, a

former reservist and a member of Rolling Thunder, a national veterans support motorcycle group founded by two Vietnam veterans.

The war changed America, said Bradley, whose children have all served in the military.

"I think it made us a little more isolationist and a little less tolerant of action overseas," he said. "Our country doesn't have the tolerance for any kind of a long-term military involvement."

Veterans are still suffering, Bradley said. "They have flashbacks and PTSD. I know a Korean War vet [who] was a POW for 38 months, and he tells me he still wakes up with nightmares."

Dr. Richard Swier, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel who served in Vietnam, and retired Air Force Maj. Gen. David Scott both paid tribute to vets at the event with Rolling Thunder providing a moving POW/MIA ceremony. Members of the Vietnamese Professionals of Tampa Bay also thanked vets for their service.

Not properly welcoming home Vietnam vets was "the only time the nation has ever failed those who served in 350 years of fighting battles," said Scott, a former deputy director of the Center for Special Operations at MacDill Air Force Base.

He said, "Today is not a celebration but an observance and a recognition that there was a time that, when exercising our freedom of speech, we as a nation took our anger at the government and frustration with our social issues out on those who were serving the nation [who] did not have a choice," Scott said.

"The irony is, their service

and sacrifice, their pain that still endures, was done to protect that very freedom of speech and thought."

The military has never enjoyed so much respect as they do today "and the veterans of the Vietnam War paid for that," Scott said.

Welcoming home Vietnam vets is an honor for Kelly Kowall, president of My Warrior's Place, a retreat center for veterans, families of the fallen and military service members in Ruskin.

"Vietnam veterans were instrumental in helping us getting the center ready," said Kowall, who opened My Warrior's Place after her son, U.S. Army Specialist Corey Kowall, died in Afghanistan on Sept. 20, 2009, while serving with the 82nd Airborne.

"My son was an avid Vietnam history buff, and he was inspired by the Vietnam veterans to become the soldier he became, so it's my honor that I am able to give back to them," Kowall said.

While he was pleased with the attendance, Odell was not happy with the absences of local politicians.

"They were all invited, from the state level on down," Odell said. "We've been kicked around and kicked around and our government has this 50th Vietnam commemorative that we are part of, and we had no government officials at any level who were there," said Odell, who is also president of the Hillsborough County Veterans Council.

Odell also works with homeless veteran support groups and collects furniture, household goods and clothing for vets. To donate or for more information, call Odell at 603-234-3363.



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

James Bradley of Apollo Beach leads members of Rolling Thunder Chapter 11 in the POW/MIA ceremony.

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Members of the Marine Corps League fired three volleys and played "Taps" during the ceremony.



Members of the Brandon Kiwanis Club saluted vets at the event, after which the group began its poker run to raise funds to buy socks and shoes for children of area schools.



The event drew more than 300 people to Veterans Park on U.S. Highway 301.

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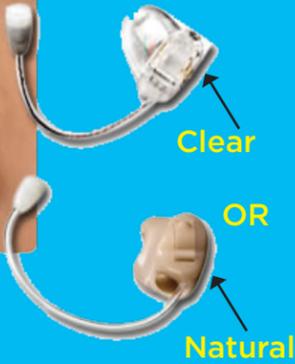
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THE SAVVY SENIOR

How to get help with Medicare decisions

Dear Savvy Senior,

Where can I get help with my Medicare decisions? I'm approaching 65, and could use some help sorting through the different Medicare plan options that are available to me.

Almost Eligible



By Jim Miller

Dear Almost,
The options and choices available to Medicare beneficiaries today can be overwhelming. In addition to original Medicare (parts A and B) that has been around for 49 years, you also have the option of enrolling in a Part D prescription drug plan and a supplemental (Medi-gap) policy — both of which are sold by private insurance companies. Or, a Medicare Advantage plan, which covers health care, prescription drugs and extra services all in one. These plans, which are also sold by private insurers, are generally available through HMOs and PPOs.

To help you figure out the Medicare plans for you, there are a variety of services and tools available today, depending on how much help you need. Here are several to get you started.

Free resources

A good starting point to get familiar with Medicare is the *Medicare & You* 2014 handbook that gives an overview of the program and your options. You can read it online at medicare.gov/pubs/pdf/10050.pdf, or you should receive a free copy in the mail one month before your 65th birthday.

The Medicare website also offers a free "Plan Finder" tool at medicare.gov/find-a-plan that can help you find and compare health plans, supplemental policies and prescription drug plans in your area. Or, if you don't have Internet access, or don't feel confident in working through the information on your own, you can also call Medicare at 800-633-4227 and a customer service representative will do the work for you over the phone.

Other free resources that can help include planprescriber.com or ehealth-medicare.com, two websites developed by eHealth Insurance that will compare Part D, Advantage and supplemental plans in your area and connect you to a licensed insurance agent.

In addition, the Medicare Rights Center (medicarerights.org) staffs a hotline at 800-333-4114 to help answer your Medicare questions.

And your State Health Insurance Assistance Program, or SHIP, provides free Medicare counseling in person or over the phone. To find a local SHIP counselor, visit shiptalk.org, or call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116.

For tips on choosing a top Medicare Advantage plan, see the Health-Matrix Research Cost Share Report at medicarenewswatch.com. This resource lists the best Advantage plans by area based on your health status.

Fee-based services

If the free services don't cut the mustard, and you need some additional help in making your Medicare decisions, there are a handful of fee-based companies that are very helpful.

One of the best is Allsup Inc. (ama.allsup.com, 866-521-7655), which offers a Medicare Advisor service that takes your personal information online or over the phone, such as the prescription drugs you take and the doctors you use, and provides you customized advice on the best Medicare plans that match your needs and budget. They'll even help you enroll in the plan(s) you select. Fees for their services range between \$200 and \$495, depending on how much help you need.

Another option is Healthcare Navigation (healthcarenavigation.com, 877-811-8211), which charges \$750 for a 90-minute comprehensive Medicare consultation.

Commission-based

Another way to get help with your Medicare enrollment is to consult an independent insurance agent. Agents typically get paid a commission to sell you a policy, although they offer plans from a number of providers.

The Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America have a directory on their website ([see independentagent.com/contactus](http://seeindependentagent.com/contactus)) that lets you search for agents in your area. But keep in mind that agents typically specialize in the Medicare plans they represent, rather than all the plans in your market.

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



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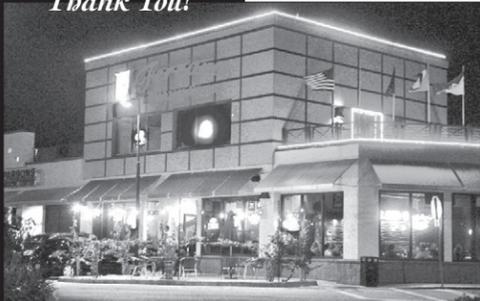
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Field of Honor ceremony set for April 12

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 12, the Hillsborough County Veterans Council will conduct its quarterly Field of Honor ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park, 3602 U.S. 301 North, Tampa, to honor all Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard servicemen and servicewomen who have made the supreme sacrifice during the last three months, January through March, while engaged in this country's War on Terror in Operation Enduring Freedom.

This quarter's event will be hosted by the American Legion Riders, Alafia Post 148, Riverview, and the Rolling Thunder, Florida Chapter 11 Color Guard.

The invocation will be said by retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Larry Westcott, Veterans Council chaplain. There will be a flyover with the missing man formation by Ye Mystic Air Krewe, followed by "Taps" and a rifle salute by the Riverview Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

This event is open to the public, and all are encouraged to attend to show support for America's service members. For more information, call Walt Raysick, president of the Hillsborough County Veterans Council, at 813-653-4924 or email wraysick@verizon.net.



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The course will be presented from 7 to 10 p.m. on three consecutive Thursday evenings: April

24, May 1 and May 8. The location is the Tampa Sailing Squadron, 1250 Apollo Beach Blvd., Apollo Beach.

The cost is \$40, which includes the textbook, but seating is limited.

To pre-register, send a check or money order for \$40 made out to USCG Auxiliary 65 to: Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 75, P.O. Box 692, Ruskin, FL 33575-0692.

For more information, call Guy Mandigo at 813-641-2488.

Big Band Jamboree jazz show this Sunday

From 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. this Sunday, April 6, the Sarasota Jazz Project presents Big Band Jamboree at Sun City Center's Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd.

The program will include tunes such as: Duke Ellington's "C Jam Blues," "Sophisticated Lady" and "Take the 'A' Train"; Count Basie's "The Blues Machine," and "L'il Darlin'"; Woody Herman's "Theme from Mr. Lucky" and "My Favorite Things"; Buddy Rich's "Love for Sale"; Frank Sinatra by decades — "I've Got the World On a String" (1940s), "The Lady Is a Tramp" (1950s) and "Fly Me to the Moon" (1960s); Wayne Shorter's "Black Nile"; Thad Jones' "Kids Are Pretty People"; Doc Severinsen's version of Glenn Miller's "In the Mood"; and more.

Tickets are \$12, available at the Atrium kiosk Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon, or at the door the day of the show.

Reserved theater seating, and open to the public. For more information, call 813-642-2001.



FCC schedules Brenda Knowles 'Inside Journalism' series

At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, the Firehouse Cultural Center will present "The Word in Print," the first in its Brenda Knowles 'Inside Journalism' series.

Distinguished guest columnists at this inaugural panel conversation are Ernest Hooper and Daniel Ruth from *The Tampa Bay Times*, and Steve Otto of *The Tampa Tribune*.

Hooper, East Hillsborough Bureau chief and columnist, joined the *Times* in 1992 and has worked as a prep sports writer and editor, TV/radio sports columnist, NFL writer, news columnist and unofficial ambassador for the newspaper. His commentaries about family, community issues and political perspectives have helped Hooper connect with readers over the years, but he's probably best known for his signature tagline, "That's all I'm saying."

Ruth has worked for four decades as a reporter, film critic and columnist for *The Tampa Tribune*, *The Chicago Sun-Times* and *The Tampa Bay Times*. He also has worked as a radio talk-show host and as an adjunct professor at several universities. In 2013, *Times* editor of editorials Tim Nickens and columnist Ruth won the Pulitzer Prize award for a series of editorials that encouraged Pinellas

County to resume adding fluoride to the drinking water.

Steve Otto has been a columnist for *The Tampa Tribune* for nearly four decades. He is noted for his often hilarious and sometimes poignant view of life. He has been a sportswriter; food, movie and television critic; political writer; editor; and columnist. His second book, *Spirit of the Bay*, is a history of the Tampa Bay region, and a copy is in the city's time capsule downtown. He is the winner of numerous awards in journalism.

The Inside Journalism series has been established to honor the impact Brenda Knowles made as the publisher and editor of *The Observer*, South Hillsborough's award-winning community newspaper. She worked at the paper from 1988 until her death in January 2014. Her passion was to create a newspaper that was relevant to the community and a "relentless focus on sharing good news."

Subsequent Inside Journalism panel discussions will focus on Print, Photo Journalism, Broadcast and online media.

Inside Journalism is free and open to the public. However, seating is limited. To reserve a seat, go to www.firehouseculturalcenter.org or call 813-645-7651.

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Spirits not dampened by rain-out



The 2014 Riverview Relay for Life Committee that put the whole day's events together was working hard at the registration desk, but four of the group leaders agreed to sit, for just a minute, for this photograph. From left are Connie Bishop, Alyssa Uptegraff, Amanda Williams and Linda Williams. Co-chairwomen of the event Jennifer Petit and Jennifer Caskey were busy preparing the field while these women manned the tent.

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

It was the first time South County's Relay for Life, held at Riverview High School this year, didn't last 18 hours.

Severe rain and thunderstorms caused the teams and spectators gathered on the football field to go into the gymnasium shortly after the opening ceremonies this past Saturday, March 29.

There wasn't a hint of a cloud during the setup as 49 teams with 791 participants gathered in the carnival-like atmosphere prepared by the International Independent Showmen's Association.

"This is our third year participating," said Teresa Rimes, who led the Showmen's team. "This puts us over the \$100,000

mark," for donations to fight cancer by helping with the relays.

Rimes said Showmen's also had the volunteer job of carrying out the theme of this year's event, which they aptly named "Carnival." They set up everything from a ticket booth to a tall Fun Slide and booths selling food and hawk-ing games.

Caramel apples, lemonade and hot dogs helped fuel the participants from the start.

Opening ceremonies went off without a hitch, with keynote speaker Karen Lewendowski leading the fight of the cancer survivors with an inspiring talk about the years since her first diagnosis in 2006.

"I was initially diagnosed with breast

cancer in the spring of 2006," she said. "Then in September of 2010, cancer was back. I was admitted to LifePath Hospice, but I continued to go to Hillsborough Community College while on hospice care. In November 2011 I was discharged from hospice and enrolled into their Hospice Support Program, but I was discharged in December of 2012."

Then in February, she found that the cancer had moved to a lung. A hospitalization and a bout with pneumonia followed, but by April, Lewendowski began chemotherapy, and in May she graduated with honors with a purple Mohawk-style haircut before losing all her hair.

"Living with cancer is like driving in the fog," she said. "We plan our days and our goals by the feet instead of by the mile. We squeeze out just a little bit more every day, knowing that next month is not promised."

Knowing that she expects to remain on chemotherapy for the rest of her life, Lewendowski says she emphasizes living life to the fullest — not just every day, but every moment.

Many on the track during the Survivors Lap are in remission. Others are not. It is always the first lap of the relay, followed by the Caregivers Lap.

The rain held off in the beginning but soon began in torrents. Finally the teams, who had prepared to stay for the entire 18 hours of the event, had to leave the field.

The high school opened its



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS
Karen Lewendowski shows how she high-fived a 5-year-old girl she met at chemotherapy recently. Having had cancer since 2006, Lewendowski took herself off hospice care, recently graduated college with honors, and lives each day to the fullest, inspiring others to do the same.

gymnasium to them, where the Luminaria was held at 4:30 p.m. instead of at dusk, and the closing ceremonies with glow sticks came shortly afterward.

It was reported that South County's effort had brought in more than \$97,689.72, with some money still uncounted.

The annual Relay for Life is a benefit for the 100-year-old American Cancer Society to help in prevention, education, treatment and research in an attempt to wipe out cancer.

Its motto is "Every birthday celebrated."

This year's Florida Relay motto was "Finish the Fight."

The American Cancer Society also has various programs to assist those at just about every stage of treatment and recovery.

Reach to Recovery is a program where specially trained survivors encourage those just diagnosed. The Look Good Feel Good program has cosmetologists, barbers and other beauty specialists who offer free advice and sometimes even hands-on help to make those who have lost hair or have other visible symptoms find ways to dress to make themselves feel more confident. Transportation services to treatments also are included in the Road to Recovery program.

Nationwide, approximately 5,200 community relays take place annually on the same day in March.

To find out more about the American Cancer Society or its programs, visit www.cancer.org or call 800-227-2345.



JAY KLINE PHOTO
Teams were honored with Gold, Silver and Bronze awards, each of which brought in \$2,500 or more before the event through sponsorships of the runners. Individuals who brought in more than \$1,000 each were also honored.

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Observations

► Continued from page 3

new sofa. Despite being in our new place for a week and despite being only 20 minutes from Manhattan, we had yet to make a trip over to the city that we had come to love after numerous visits over the past few years. That morning I hopped a train and stepped out in Midtown and made a short walk to what is arguably the world's best photography store. I stopped for a quiet, leisurely lunch and then rode the train back home. It was a good day. It reminded me, a little at least, of why we were here.

My genetic history with New York and New Jersey goes back more than 350 years, with my direct ancestor, Willem Traphagen, arriving in the area in 1660. Over the past years, Michelle and I visited the city often, and we've always felt at home. As much as people love to hate New York, it truly is the world's greatest city, in my opinion. Yes, it is crammed with people, but they are surprisingly kind, and there is litter (although less than you would imagine), and on garbage days in the summer the smell is... well, unique. But it is something that all Americans can hold up with pride. Our heritage is that of a rural independence, strong of heart and will and with the ability to accomplish the impossible. All of that happened in New York, and Americans should be proud of the metropolis this country has built.

Several years ago we briefly moved to a small town in Iowa. I don't think that was as far away from Ruskin as is our new home. There are at least a half-dozen small grocery stores within a few blocks' walk of our apartment.

At anytime of the day or evening, I can step out our door and see people walking along the sidewalks — from young families to the elderly, going about their lives. On that first, horrible day here, we met nearly as many neighbors as we knew in Ruskin, and many of them offered to help. The neighborhood liquor store gave us a cooler to help until a new refrigerator was delivered and, the next day, while Michelle and I were struggling to get an old motorcycle down the ramp of the U-Haul truck, a young mother pushing her child in a stroller stopped and offered assistance. Almost without exception, we've encountered kindness over big-city callousness. And, we've discovered that we've had to restrain our Midwestern-ingrained predilection for saying "Thank you," because every single time we say it, people respond politely with "You're welcome." Even when we've said it three times in a single sentence.

Here there is every race, every religion and every kind of personality, and it all seems to work to form a functioning neighborhood, small communities that make up a huge metropolitan area. It turns out that there are good people everywhere. Either that or we have just gotten lucky in life.

I don't think I've made a secret of the fact that I love Florida. There is so much to love, yet, like every place, it has its share of problems. But that doesn't change the sunsets, the warm ocean breezes and some of the most wonderful people I've ever encountered. I've spent most of my life in Florida, and that is not

something that is easy to leave behind. Over the decades, I've twice suggested leaving Florida, and the one time we did, we soon returned. My wife, however, drove this adventure.

So much has changed for us over the years, but I know we are walking on a well-trod path. Even Willem Traphagen had similar problems and life questions all those centuries ago. Parents and friends age and eventually die.

Nothing that we can see will last forever, and even the Universe itself will eventually grow old and die. Michelle, perhaps quite wisely, felt that we needed a change that was within our control, rather than simply reacting to change that was well beyond it.

From this side of the Hudson River, I watched the sun rise over Manhattan, the new World Trade Center dominating the stunning skyline. It stands symbolically

1,776 feet tall and is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere, as is befitting the world's greatest city, an American city. Finally, I pulled my eyes away from the surreal view of the island of skyscrapers and walked to the subway to go home.

P.S. Thank you sincerely for the emails and the many kind words. I am grateful to you in ways that words can't begin to express.

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EarthTalk: E – The Environmental Magazine: Are K-Cups Green?

Dear EarthTalk:

What is the environmental impact of those “K-Cups” everyone seems to be using nowadays to make coffee at both home and office?

-- Chris B., Stamford, CT

K-Cups — those little one-serving coffee containers that allow people to brew one cup at a time in a specially designed Keurig brewing machine — are all the rage these days.

Each K-Cup is made up of a plastic outer container with one cup’s worth of ground coffee and a small filter inside, capped off with a foil lid. They go into Keurig brewing machines, which pierce the bottom of the K-Cup with a nozzle that then forces hot water through the coffee grounds and filter, and then out into the drinker’s cup.

K-Cups and the Keurig brewers are convenient and require little to no clean-up while producing gourmet quality coffee for a fraction of the price that a retail coffee shop would charge.

Environmentalists’ beef with the Keurig system is in the single-use, non-recyclable nature of the packaging, given the implications for our waste stream. The individual parts of a K-Cup (plastic, paper and foil) could theoretically be recycled on their own, but the combination is too small and messy for recycling facilities to be able to sort. So our only choice is to throw the whole K-Cup pack, lock stock and barrel, into the garbage. Each pound of coffee consumed sends 50 K-Cups to the landfill. And with upward of 17 million U.S. households and offices possessing Keurig brewers these days, billions of K-Cups are already ending up in landfills every year.

Keurig Green Mountain, the company behind the K-Cup revolution, is on the case about the bad environmental reputation it is developing over the issue. As a first step, it launched its Grounds to Grow On program in 2011, whereby office customers can purchase K-Cup recovery bins and fill them up with spent K-Cups. When the boxes are full, they are shipped to Keurig’s disposal partner, which



turns the used coffee grounds into compost and sends the rest out to be incinerated in a “waste-to-energy” power plant. Critics point out, though, that waste-to-energy is hardly green, given the airborne pollutants released from incinerator smokestacks and the fact that, in the words of Julie Craves of the Coffee & Conservation blog, recycling is the enemy of the never-ending stream of garbage needed to feed waste-to-energy facilities.

In 2012, Keurig Green Mountain, realizing it still had a lot of work to do on sustainability matters, undertook a life cycle assessment across its product lines — and set ambitious sustainability targets to achieve by 2020. Chief among them is to make all K-Cups 100 percent recyclable. Other goals include ensuring responsible sourcing for all its primary agricultural and manufactured products, reducing life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions of its brewed beverages by 25 percent compared with the 2012 baseline, and achieving zero waste-to-landfills by its manufacturing and distribution facilities.

Those who love the Keurig system but are ready to forgo the environmental guilt sooner than 2020 do have some options. Julie Craves reports that used K-Cups can actually be refilled with ground coffee and reused. An easier option might be buying a reusable K-Cup — most of them are made out of plastic with a stainless-steel mesh

filter. Still the best choice for the environment, however, might be getting the old traditional coffee pot out of storage and brewing up several cups at once — just like the old days.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.



Jazz Straight Up at the Firehouse Cultural Center this Saturday

At 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, the Firehouse Cultural Center in Ruskin presents Jazz Straight Up, featuring the TBone Hamilton Quartet: Tom Hamilton, bassist/leader; Dan Harris, guitar; Tom Becker, piano; Fred Edinborgh, drum.

Jazz Straight Up is part of the entertainment available at the Firehouse Pub, which brings a variety of talented performers to the South Shore. The Pub serves drinks at a cash bar, and snacks. Seating is communal; other guests may be at your table.

Hamilton, well known in the Tampa Bay area as one of the leading jazz and blues bassists, is also a producer and studio musician. Recently, he recorded on bluesman Roy Book Binder’s new album *The Good Book*, which reached No. 3 on the Americana charts last year.

For this concert, Hamilton has assembled the best jazz musicians in town. The show will be dedicated to the late jazz promoter, Rick Gee. Hamilton and Gee were close friends and put on many successful concerts together.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$14 for FCC members, \$18 for non-members. At the door, tickets are \$16 and \$20, respectively. Doors open a half hour ahead of show time. The FCC is at 101 First Avenue NE, Ruskin.

For more information, call 813-645-7651.

Manatee Agricultural Service offers fun classes in Palmetto

The Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service offers a variety of educational classes in March. Unless otherwise noted, all classes are free and are held at 1303 W. 17th St., Palmetto. Minimum workshop size is required; workshop size is limited. You can register in advance online via manatee.ifas.ufl.edu or call 941-722-4524.

►Lowdown on Lawn Irrigation, Thursday, April 10, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

This class satisfies the irrigation education portion of the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program and the Braden River/Lakewood Ranch Soil Moisture Sensor Rebate Program. Tune up your sprinkler system, learn how to adjust the timer and sprinklers, improve uniformity, eliminate water waste and cut costs.

►It’s Fun to Grow Roses in Florida, Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m.-Noon

Meet Philip Paul, vice district director, American Rose Society, Deep South District, and learn the basics of growing roses, including pruning, pest problems, watering and fertilizing.

►Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour, Saturday, April 12, 9-11 a.m., Riverview Pointe Preserve

Stroll through DeSoto National Memorial and Riverview Pointe Preserve to learn more about Florida’s native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. The hike begins in the parking area of the DeSoto National Memorial Park and enters into the Riverview Preserve at 8250 DeSoto Memorial Highway, Bradenton.

►Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour, Saturday, April 12, 9-11 a.m., Emerson Pointe Preserve

Stroll through Emerson Point Preserve to learn more about Florida’s native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. Tour begins in tower parking area at 5801 17th St. W., Palmetto.

►Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour, Sunday, April 13, 9-11 a.m., Robinson Preserve

Stroll through the Robinson Preserve’s salt marshes to learn more about Florida’s native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. Tour begins in parking area by main entrance at 1704 99th St. NW, Bradenton.

►Propagation Class, Wednesday, April 16, 9:30-Noon.

Learn several ways to propagate plant material, proper timing of propagation (is there such a thing?) and materials that are needed to have successful propagation. Techniques demonstrated include seeding, cuttings and air layering. Attendees will receive one cutting that will be potted by you to take home to propagate. Presented by Barbara Davis, Master Gardener.

►Dazzling Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Designs, Thursday, April 17, 9 a.m.-Noon

This interactive, hands-on class demonstrates how to implement the nine principles of a Florida-Friendly Landscape. We will highlight dazzling landscape designs by Manatee County homeowners.

►Two-Part Palm Series, Wednesday, April 23, 9-11 a.m.

Come join us as we discuss topics on palm diseases and pests. May 8 will be Part 2 of the Palm Series in which we will cover palm nutrition, fertilizer and maintenance of the palms.

►Worm Composting – Vermicomposting, Tuesday, April 29, 10 a.m. -Noon

Find out how to use worms to turn food scraps and other waste into compost. Now you can compost in an apartment, condo or mobile home. Worms can be maintained indoors or out. Workshop is free; however, there is a \$60 fee for worms and worm bin. Register online or call the Extension Master Gardeners. Workshop to be held in the Horticulture Learning Center at the Extension Office.

Manatee County Master Gardeners open educational gardens

Located on the Extension Service grounds at 1303 W. 17th St. in Palmetto, the educational gardens are designed to showcase the various ways Manatee County residents can be more successful gardeners and make their yards more Florida-friendly. The gardens feature: growing vegetables in small spaces and salad tables; recycling fountains for herbs, bird and butterfly attractors; backyard fruit trees; conserving water with native plants, low-volume irrigation and rain barrels; and various composting bins displaying how to recycle yard waste.

The Master Gardeners invite you for a tour. To ensure that a Master Gardener can walk you through the gardens, make an appointment by calling 941-722-4524. Staff may not be available for impromptu visits.

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Area Obituaries



Hazel Marie Martin

Hazel Marie Martin, 81, of Sun City Center, Fla., peacefully passed away March 27, 2014. She was a retired registered nurse and director of nursing.

A vital part of Hazel's life was her dedication to the church, and she held many leadership positions over the years at SCC's United Community Church/United Church of Christ, including church moderator, photography and publicity. Her interests were many; she was a member of the SSC Bridge Club, RN Club and Garden Club, just to name a few.

Volunteer work was important to Hazel, and she was highly committed to the American Cancer Society, led Women with Cancer Concerns classes, and was a leading fundraiser of Relay for Life. Hazel was honored with numerous awards such as Volunteer of the Year 2004, Florida UCC Lay Woman of the Year 2005, and Hope Award 2007.

Most of all, Hazel's heart was committed to her late husband Thomas Ray Martin (who passed away in 2009) and her four children, Laura Martin, Lisa Martin, William (Susan) Martin, and Timm (Theresa) Martin. Survivors also include nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a sister, Sylvia (Arthur) Menz.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 2, at Sun City Center Funeral Home, 1851 Rickenbacker Drive, Sun City Center. Funeral services will be at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at the United Community Church/United Church of Christ, 1501 La Jolla Ave., Sun City Center. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, Attn: Yari Payne, 1601 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32804. Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home.

Redeemer women to meet

The women's organization of Redeemer Lutheran Church (Women of the ELCA) will meet on Wednesday, April 16, beginning with refreshments at 9:30 a.m.

The program, beginning at 10 a.m., will be about a Lutheran Disaster Response Ministry, and everyone is invited to attend.

The program will be followed by a business meeting and luncheon. For more information, call 813-634-1292.



The Power of His Touch

Simmons Loop Baptist Church will present the gospel story of Jesus in a musical drama on Sunday, April 13, at 6 p.m.; Friday, April 18, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 20, at 10:45 a.m. The presentation, *The Power of His Touch*, is free and open to the public. The church is at 6610 Simmons Loop, Riverview, 1/4 mile south of Big Bend Road off U.S. 301. For more information call 813-677-9310 or visit www.SimmonsLoop.org.



Rev. Ruth M. Richardson

Rev. Ruth M. Richardson, 77, of Sun City Center, Fla., passed away March 9, 2014. She was a minister at United Community Church in Sun City Center, and was preceded in death by her husband Arthur and by brother Robert Neighbors.

Survivors include daughters Susan Koestler and her husband Ronald, and Laurie Shank and her husband David; grandchildren Ben Koestler and his wife Sarah, Mike Koestler and his wife Erin, Lizz Koestler, Steve Marinkov and Christina Ellis and her husband Steve; and great-grandchildren Erin Mihalko and Noah Presley.

A celebration of Ruth's life will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, at the United Community Church of Sun City Center, 1510 LaJolla Avenue, Sun City Center. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to LifePath Hospice, 3725 Upper Creek Drive, Ruskin, FL 33573. Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home.

Henry J. Schone

Henry J. Schone, 87, passed away March 30, 2014. He is survived by Dorothy, his wife of 59 years; daughters Debra Begner (Karl) and Karen Arnold (Mark); and grandchildren Andrew Begner, Nicholas Begner, Zachary Begner, Mitchell Arnold and Kimberly Arnold.

He was preceded in death by his parents Henry and Martha Schone, brothers Aaron Schone, Lloyd Schone and Floyd Schone. He served in the U.S. Army and later retired from Caterpillar after 32 years. He retired to Florida in 1983. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Brandon.

A Memorial Service was held April 1 at Sun City Center Funeral Home. A Committal service will be held at a

later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sun City Center Emergency Squad, 720 Ray Watson Drive, Sun City Center, FL 33573.



Edward Then

Edward Then, 83, was called home to heaven on March 24, 2013. He leaves behind his beautiful wife Maggie, whom he deeply loved. They were married for more than 60 wonderful years. They were residents of Sun City Center, Fla. for the last 30 years, cherishing and loving friends and family.

His smiling face and wonderful sense of humor will be missed by many. May the road rise to meet him and the wind be always at his back, the sun shine warmly on his face. Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Prince of Peace hosts Fellowship Sunday

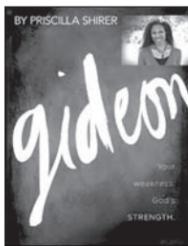
If you are a new resident of Sun City Center, or a Catholic looking for a new parish, the parishioners of Prince of Peace invite you to join them for Mass on Sunday, April 6. Masses will be offered at 8 and 10 a.m. and at noon.

Following Mass, all are invited for a time of fellowship in the Conesa Center, where coffee and doughnuts will be available. A member of the parish stewardship committee will be present to answer any questions you might have about Prince of Peace. The church welcomes you to the community and hopes you will join it for worship.

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

Women's Bible study features "Gideon" by Priscilla Shirer

Have you ever felt insufficient? Could it be that your weaknesses are the keys that unlock God's strength?



Through a look at the life of Gideon, you can discover that instead of ignoring, neglecting or trying to escape your weaknesses, you can see them as the gifts given specifically and strategically by God to unlock the door of His strength.

Beginning Monday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m., the women of South Bay Church, and surrounding communities, will embark on a seven-week study of Priscilla Shirer's *Gideon*. This study is open to all women in the area; you do not need to be a member of South Bay Church. Register online at www.SouthBay.cc under the events tab. The cost is \$15 and includes a workbook. Childcare, with advanced registration, is \$5 per family, per class. For more information, email faith@southbay.cc or call (813) 677-0721.

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Wednesday
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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC

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Worship Service @ 10:30 am
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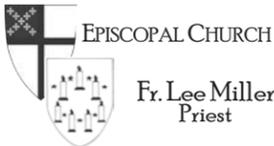
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8:00 AM-Rite I

9:00 AM-Contemporary

11:00 AM-Rite II & Choir

Fellowship Hour after all services

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 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.



A Stephen Ministry Church

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.

From Marches to Mozart at UCC

The South Shore Concert Band presents its annual Spring Concert in the Great Room of United Community Church in Sun City Center at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 7.

Director Ken Easton has themed this year's program "From Marches to Mozart." Among the evening's selections are Sousa's *Semper Fidelis* and Mozart's *Symphony No. 40, 1st Movement*.

Also in the evening's presentation are: *Concerto for Drum Set and Band*, featuring percussionist Jerry Cheesbro and *I Dreamed a Dream* from *Les Miserables*, featuring Annette Stanton on French horn. Another highlight of the evening will be Morton Gould's *American Salute*.

The United Community Church is at the corner of North Pebble Beach Boulevard and La Jolla Avenue, Sun City Center.

Admission is free, but a free-will offering will be taken.

Two choirs, two congregations, one concert

The next concert in the Prince of Peace Celebrate Music series will take place on Sunday, April 6, at 4 p.m. in the church.

The concert will feature the joint choirs of Prince of Peace Catholic Church and the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center. The choirs will sing Fauré's *Requiem*.

Gabriel Fauré was a composer, organist, pianist and teacher. His best known works include the *Pavane*, *Requiem* and *Nocturnes*.

Fauré composed his *Requiem* between 1887 and 1900, and it became his best-known choral work. It is a short work and is written for orchestra, organ, mixed chorus and two soloists. It contains seven movements with great color and variety.

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

New Bible study group forming

Aglow, a spirit-filled Christian women's group, is forming a new Bible study group, with the subject matter and time to be chosen by the participants.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Carol at 813-633-7799.

BETH ISRAEL The Jewish Congregation of Sun City Center,
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 TORAH STUDY SATURDAY AT 12 NOON
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USF Chamber Singers in concert April 6

The University of South Florida Chamber Singers will perform a concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Sun City Center.

Students nationwide attend USF to earn advanced degrees in vocal and choral studies. Dr. James K. Bass is the music and artistic director of the USF Music School, conductor of the Chamber Singers, Collegium and the Collegiate Singers. He is also the artistic director of the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, the Symphonic Choir

of the Florida Orchestra.

Tickets may be purchased at the church reception desk, at the door or by calling Judy Voorhees at 813-642-8125. Tickets at the door are \$10.

This will be the final concert of the season in St. Andrew's Fine Arts Concerts series. Tickets for the 2014-2015 season are now on sale at the church reception desk. Season tickets are \$40 for seven concerts.

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



Redeemer Lutheran donates handmade quilts to Mary & Martha House

Irene Brenner, left, and Dorothy Peterson, second from left, from Redeemer Lutheran Church, present quilts to staff from Mary & Martha House, the local shelter for abused and homeless women and their dependent children. The quilts were made by the Needle's Circle, a group of women who quilt at Redeemer Lutheran every Friday morning. In the last year, they sent 40 quilts to Lutheran World Relief and donated many others to local charitable organizations.

'Abortion: The Ontological Argument' is topic

Millions of Americans reject a pro choice approach to abortion on the grounds that the procedure is murder.

The Rev. Robert P. Tucker, Ph.D., in his sermon to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sun City Center on Thursday, April 3, will show, from a philosophical and ethical analysis, why early stage abortion is not murder.

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

Note II: Taking a Chance on Love is film at UMC's Friday Night at the Movies

At its next Friday Night at the Movies on April 11, the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will show *The Note II: Taking a Chance on Love*.

The movie starts at 6:30 p.m. The doors to the church's Life Enrichment Center open early for the enjoyment of freshly popped corn, homemade cookies, tea and the reunion of friends and neighbors.

The United Methodist Church is at 1210 W. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center.



IN UNIFORM

AIR FORCE

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

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

Air Force Airman **Alexander J. Reese** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

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

Air Force Airman **Austin K. Mills** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Mills is the son of Amber Mills and Aric Sherman, both of Apollo Beach.

Air Force Airman **Dylan T. Smith** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Smith is the son of Matthew Smith of Appollo Beach.

He is a 2012 graduate of East Bay High School, Gibsonton.

Air Force Airman **Hunter D. Thomas** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Thomas earned distinction as an honor graduate.

He is the son of David Thomas of Terre Haute, Ind., and grandson of David Thomas of Sun City Center, Fla.

He graduated from Riverton Parke High School, Montezuma, Ind.

Air Force Airman **Jose E. Vazquez** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Sutton is the son of Gloria Gardner and Enrique Vazquez of Apollo Beach.

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

Air Force Airman **Reginald L. Sutton** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Sutton is the son of Sherry Shoats of Milledgeville, Ga., and Reginald Sutton of Riverview.

He is a 2013 graduate of East Bay High School, Gibsonton.

ARMY

Army Pvt. Clyde Gadson IV has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

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

Gadson is the son of Clyde and Renee Gadson of Riverview.

He is a 2013 graduate of East Bay High School, Gibsonton.

MARINES

Marine Corps Pvt. Dylan Strickland, son of Patrick and Robin Strickland of Ruskin, grandson of Joyce Strickland, also of Ruskin, earned the title of United States Marine after graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

For 13 weeks, Strickland stayed committed during some of the world's most demanding entry-level military training in order to be transformed from civilian to Marine instilled with pride, discipline and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Training subjects included close-order drill, marksmanship with an M-16A4 rifle, physical fitness, martial arts, swimming, military history, customs and courtesies.

One week prior to graduation, Strickland endured The Crucible, a 54-hour final test of recruits' minds and bodies. Upon completion, recruits are presented the Marine Corps emblem and called Marines for the first time.

Strickland is a 2012 graduate of Lennard High School, Ruskin.

NAVY

Navy Seaman Adam J. Davies, son of William L. and Treva D. Davies of Wimauma, Fla., recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Davies completed a variety of training, which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a sailor.

Davies is a 2009 graduate of Newsome High School, Lithia.

Fish Tales: The art of flats fishing

■ By **JONIE MASCHKE**

Member: Florida Outdoor Writers Assn.

Find a new adventure and fish the grassy flats when it is low tide. It may take more skill, but practice makes perfect. The flats are full of large fish on the prowl for food that have forsaken the safety of deeper waters.

There is a protocol to follow when fishing the grassy flats. It takes a lot of concentration, and the slightest movement can spook the fish.

Many anglers use a push pole to navigate their boat through the flats after turning off and lifting up their motor. Be aware of the water's depth before you start your poling, and always try to have the wind at your back. Fishing this way is by



FISH TALES

clear, you should be able to detect movement by watching ripples in the water. Experienced fishermen call this "nervous water."

I have talked to many anglers who fish every day of the year and say they can tell by the movement of the water if it is a good fish or a bad one — like a big ray or something they don't want to catch.

sight, so be sure to wear polarized sunglasses for clear vision into the water.

If the water is not clear, you should be able to detect movement by watching ripples in the water. Experienced fishermen call this "nervous water."

One advantage to fishing in the flats is your fish cannot dive deeper. It can only zoom off in another direction.

Catches were made in last week's rain. I saw flounder and redfish during the downpour. They were caught on high and low tide.

The majority of flat fishing catches were trout. Some anglers said they had a great day with one catch after another.

It seems rain brings the black drum to our rivers. Those fishing from land and piers were catching huge ones.

Don't be a couch potato, get out on our waterways and enjoy our great weather.

Manatee Village Historical Park gets funds for train-themed playground

Families with children 2 to 12 years old can look forward to a coming attraction at Manatee Village Historical Park in Bradenton. Three organizations — the City of Bradenton, Kiwanis Club of Bradenton Foundation Inc. and Mosaic — have granted financial assistance toward the purchase of train-themed commercial play equipment. This project is an example of what public-private partnerships can accomplish to enrich the community. The groundbreaking ceremony for installation of the colorful, double-decker playground equipment will be announced in coming months.

Local residents know "Old Cabbagehead," the 1913 Baldwin steam locomotive located at Manatee Village, as a beloved local landmark, having welcomed generations of visitors to Bradenton from its former home on the south bank of the Manatee River. The installation of train-themed play equipment will provide an alternative play area and additional family-friendly feature to the park, since many children are drawn to the train. It will also aid in reducing wear and tear on this structure and enhance preservation of this landmark for future generations.

Improvement efforts such as these, like all activities at the Manatee Village Historical Park, are done in partnership between the nonprofit Manatee County Historical Commission Inc. and the Manatee County Clerk of Circuit Court's Historical Resources Department.

The Manatee Village Historical Park, 1404 Manatee Avenue East, is open to all residents and visitors. For more information, call 941-741-4076.

SouthShore Regional Library

Adult program/event highlights

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

Introduction to Android — Thursday, April 3, 12:30 p.m.

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

Paper Crafting for Adults — Thursday, April 3, 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.

No Fuss Foods — Friday, April 4, 11 a.m.

Cooking delicious and nutritious meals does not need to take a lot of time or cost a lot of money. Join Rowena Sjoval of No Fuss Foods as she demonstrates a budget-friendly recipe. Free samples! Limited to 20 participants. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652. Funded by the Friends of SouthShore Regional Library.

The Funny Bone in Poetry, or Probing for the Humerus — Saturday, April 5, 2:30 p.m.

In honor of National Poetry Month, local poet John Foster will present a program featuring a variety of humorous poems, including limericks, double dactyls, senryu, tanka, tetractys and McWhirtles. Come for an hour of smiles and chuckles presented audiovisually.

A Call to All Fiber Artists — Monday, April 7, all day

The John Crawford Art Advisory Board is looking for interested fiber artists to display in our Crawford Gallery during November and December 2014. This Fiber Art Group Show will include quilting, weaving, stitching, felting and paper-making. All work must be original. Applications will be available through April 28 at the Information Desk at SouthShore Regional Library. Questions? Call Laurie Burhop at 813-273-3652.

Windows 7: Introduction and Intro to Computers — Tuesday, April 8, 12:30 p.m.

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

eBooks for Tablets and Smartphones — Wednesday, April 9, 10:30 a.m.

Learn how to check out and download free library eBooks to read on Android, Blackberry, iPad, iPhone or Windows 7 devices using a free app. Learn how to register for a free Adobe ID to wirelessly check out and download library eBooks to an electronic tablet.

SouthShore Needle People — Wednesday, April 9, 6 p.m.

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

Mah Jongg Club — Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of the popular table game, mahjong. Beginners are welcome-free instruction will be provided. Participants are asked to bring their own mahjong card. Limited to 32 players.

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.

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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

Daybed, kitchen table, china hutch, Longaberger, queen bed & other items. April 4, 8am-1pm. 1214 Eastlock Ct., SCC. Rain or shine

Caloosa neighborhood spring rummage sale. April 3 & 4, 8am-2pm. 2.6 miles north off of Del Webb West, Emerald Lake Dr.

April 4 & 5, 8am-? Clothes, shoes, fabric, household items. 1308 Lenox Greens, SCC. (off S. Pebble Beach off Platinum)

Household items, some furniture, several pieces of exercise equipment & more. 8am-noon 3623 Gaviota Drive, Ruskin. Saturday only

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Saturday 8am-? April 5. 2003 Del Webb East, SCC. 72" tan leather couch, Rattan coffee table, butcher block small table, Numerous household items, box pleat rose drapes (20x63) Men's white tuxedo 48", Patten shoes 10w, suite 36, Ladies 2x large jackets & beaded evening wear. Designer 4 petite clothes, 6 1/2 shoes. Australian crystal western belts, new Harley shirts, new (2) twin size magnetic mattress pads.

Rain out yard sale 408 Edwin Dr., Ruskin. Friday & Saturday, 9am-2pm. 813-645-5850

Down Sizing Sale

364 Club Manor Drive. SCC. Friday & Saturday, 8am-noon. Clothing, household goods, collectibles, antiques & furniture: Punched tin pie safe, computer/TV cupboard, bookcase w/ glass doors, wash stand w/ rack. Too many other items to list.

Garage sale. Village of Cypress Creek (La Paloma). Computers & parts, HP laser jet 3500 printer, A/V electronics, 15" flat screen TV, kitchen items, clothing, misc. Follow signs off Hwy 674. 3710 Gaviota Dr., SCC. Saturday, April 5, 8am-noon. Rain or shine.

Summerfield Community SPRING YARD SALE

Saturday, April 5

8 am - 2 pm

Don't miss this one!
Many homes participating
with lots of treasures
at bargain prices!

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Ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Large Yard Sale

Household items, clothes, furniture, etc. April 4 & 5, Friday & Saturday. 11001 Hackney Dr., Riverview

Yard ale. Saturday, 4/5 8:30am-? 202 5th Ave., NW Ruskin. Everything has to go. Come & see.

First ever garage sale: Three families. Many antiques and collectibles, pottery, clocks, silver, artwork, large collection of exotic shells from around the planet, bronzes, Jefferson reverse painted lamp, some ivory, bric-a-brac, household goods, old radios, old advertising spittoon, new Blue Ridge camping hammock. Friday & Saturday, 8:30am-1:00pm. 1012 Cherry Hills Dr., SCC. Early birds shot on sight.

Do to remodeling. Garage sale. 10012 Peninsula Dr., Gibsonton. Furniture, household, toys, clothing & much more. Friday & Saturday, 9am-3pm.

Moving sale. Saturday, April 5th, 9am-3pm. 2622 Yukon Cliff Dr., Ruskin (Riverbend) Furniture, clothes, grill, electronics. Too much to list.

Moving from three bedroom to one. Many items are vintage or collectibles. All items are priced to sell. Saturday & Sunday. April 5 & 6, 8:30am-2:30pm. 12207 Shelby Drive Riverview (Tropical Acres)

Spring yard sale. 102 8th St., NE, Ruskin. Saturday only 9am-6pm. Misc. fishing equipment, hunting, tools, a little bit of something for everyone. Clothes, whatnots, copier, bicycle, lots of household items.

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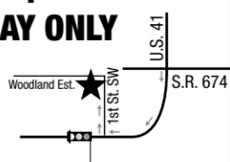
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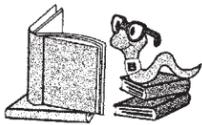
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TECO compliance standards

► Continued from page 1

generating stations may become a thing of the past.

It was projected that by 2020, some 90 percent of proposed power plants would be shut down because the newer standards set by the EPA would be too stringent and costly. Coal-fired plants would have to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to make the necessary changes, such as adding "scrubbers."

In 2009, *Mother Earth News* reported that 95 proposed coal-fired power plants had been canceled or postponed in the U.S.: 59 in 2007, 24 in 2008 and at least 12 by early 2009.

Instead, new coal-energy plants are being built worldwide as emission controls and clean coal technologies keep coal-plant construction costs low enough for the operations to still make money after they come online. Owners of coal plants are working to bring their stations into compliance, instead of closing them.

Last month, Gina McCarthy, EPA administrator, was at the IHS (formerly Information Handling Services) CERAWEEK (Cambridge Energy Research Associates) energy industry conference in Houston. McCarthy said the agency's latest carbon-emission regulations will not disadvantage coal-fired plants, in spite of the new standards. The rules, in draft form, will be released in June and will undergo a 12-month review before they become law.

"Let me be clear about one thing," McCarthy said. "Conventional fuels like coal and natural gas are going to play a critical role in a diverse energy mix for years to come."

It is estimated that owners of coal-fired plants have invested more than \$30 billion in flue-gas desulfurization systems between 2007 and 2011 to update their operations, according to a 2013 report from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

In an effort to stay in compliance, Tampa Electric has continually met these requirements at its four power stations, including Big Bend. At Big Bend, they installed flue-gas desulfurization systems or "scrubbers" to all four units by the end of 1999, which means that the system has removed 95 percent of sulfur dioxide from all units, and met the standards set by the 1990 U.S. Clean Air Act Amendment.

In 2004, they minimized emissions of particulate matter by approximately 71 percent from their stacks. Other changes they have made are the combustion modifications made by the end of 2010, which reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides by nearly 80 percent. Later, they said, they invested \$23 million in scrubber upgrades, which reduced sulfur dioxide emission by 88 percent from the 1998 levels.

Tampa Electric is waiting for approval from the Florida Public

Service Commission before starting on the \$21 million project that will replace the ignition fuel with natural gas at Big Bend. They expect to receive a decision by June 5. Construction will begin in spring 2015.

"This project would benefit Tampa Electric customers in multiple ways — by reducing fuel costs and improving environmental performance," said Gordon Gillette, president of Tampa Electric. "This is yet another example of our environmental leadership."

How much that savings would mean to every household is not yet known, according to Jacobs. However, Jacobs said that what this means in dollars and cents to replace oil with natural gas will save customers \$76 million in fuel costs over the life of the units and reduce dependence on foreign oil.

Florida PSC needs to see that certain criteria would be met before they approve a project of this size, said Jacobs. She said that before the commission will consider approval it will be looking at how prudent the expense and investment will prove to be, as well as the cost benefit to the customer, and finally, whether it will help the environment.

If approved, coal-fired Big Bend units will be replaced as each unit goes into scheduled maintenance outage. The time frame for this project to finish is between March and November 2015.

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FLOORPLAN	HOMESITE	BD/BA/GAR	SQ. FT.	WAS	NOW
Berkshire	2304	2/2.5	1,178	\$143,090	\$127,990
St. Lucia	1202	2/Flex Room/2/1	1,400	\$160,990	\$139,990
Canterbury	2302	3/2.5	1,559	\$159,340	\$148,990
Nottingham	2301	4/3	1,612	\$163,190	\$151,990
St. Vincent	1003	2/2/1	1,400	\$159,990	\$154,990
St. Marten	1001	3/2/1	1,517	\$165,790	\$161,990
Sagemoor	0111	4/2/2	1,596	\$198,790	\$184,990
Hamilton	0007	4/3/2	2,032	\$227,040	\$210,990
Freedom	0112	3/3/Study/2	1,956	\$220,040	\$216,990
Monaco	0115	3/Game Rm/2.5/2	2,441	\$248,890	\$229,990
Catalina	0110	6/3/2	3,009	\$275,040	\$254,990
Maple	0138	5/Den/Loft/2.5/3	2,858	\$275,790	\$254,990
Monte Carlo	0009	4/Study/Bonus/3/3	3,210	\$288,290	\$278,990

RIVER BEND

SouthShore • Community Code: 57

FLOORPLAN	HOMESITE	BD/BA/GAR	SQ. FT.	WAS	NOW
Corsica	2607	4/2/3	1,752	\$190,790	\$179,990
Corsica	2312	4/2/3	1,752	\$194,290	\$181,990
Hamilton	2361	4/3/2	2,032	\$208,540	\$203,990
Doral	1314	4/3/3	2,563	\$280,040	\$257,990
Riviera Grande	1427	4/3/3	2,709	\$269,940	\$259,990
Wolcott	1426	6/3/3	3,127	\$274,290	\$267,990
Sawgrass	1424	4/Den/3/3	2,935	\$301,940	\$279,990
Himalayan	1425	7/Playroom/Loft/4/3	4,054	\$300,290	\$289,990
Gr Chatham	1310	4/Den/Bonus/4/3	3,890	\$336,940	\$325,990
Gr Lancaster	1431	4/Den/Bonus/4/3	4,396	\$363,940	\$337,990

TRIPLE CREEK

SouthShore • Community Code: 31

FLOORPLAN	HOMESITE	BD/BA/GAR	SQ. FT.	WAS	NOW
Hamilton	C016	4/3/2	2,032	\$236,390	\$225,990
Monaco	D070	3/Game Rm/2.5/2	2,441	\$256,790	\$251,990
Mayflower	D058	4/Bonus/3/2	2,529	\$268,290	\$264,990
Celador	D071	6/Bonus/3.5/2	2,696	\$274,040	\$268,990
Maple	D059	5/Den/Loft/2.5/3	2,858	\$279,790	\$271,990
Monte Carlo	C068	4/Study/Bonus/3/3	3,210	\$301,040	\$294,990
Sequoia	C014	6/Den/Bonus/3/3	3,889	\$315,340	\$299,990

WILSON PRESERVE

SouthShore • Community Code: 62

FLOORPLAN	HOMESITE	BD/BA/GAR	SQ. FT.	WAS	NOW
Normandy	0203	4/3/2	1,909	\$237,040	\$221,990
Harrington	0104	3/Study/2/2	2,051	\$241,790	\$226,990
Columbus	0527	3/2/2	1,677	\$240,240	\$228,990
Monaco	0430	3/Game Rm/2.5/2	2,441	\$261,990	\$249,990
Mayflower	0435	4/Bonus/3/2	2,529	\$280,590	\$271,990
Simmitano	0105	4/Bonus/4/2	2,562	\$281,290	\$274,990
Monte Carlo	0204	4/Study/Bonus/3/3	3,210	\$309,290	\$303,990
St. Moritz	0508	3/2/2	1,353	\$186,990	\$169,990
Madrid	0502	4/2.5/2	1,763	\$214,290	\$208,990
St. Regis	0509	3/2.5/2	1,810	\$224,290	\$209,990
Marseilles	0507	4/2.5/2	2,072	\$232,290	\$219,990

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