



■ The kite festival has grown from a one-time event to mark Apollo Beach's 50th anniversary to a popular annual event. Free kites for the kids to decorate, free hot dogs, watermelon, cookies, chips and water. See **page 13**



■ Artists Celso Gonzalez and Roberto Biaggi, known as CERO, led groups of volunteers in the creation of a mosaic mural on an exterior wall of the Firehouse Cultural Center building in Ruskin. See more photos on **page 17**

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beginning on
page 30

April 10, 2014
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Brian McNeely with his sons, Tayton and Dillon.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MINDY LAING-MCNEELY

Brian McNeely:

A teacher who touched many lives

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

A father, a husband, a son, a teacher and a friend, Brian McNeely was known by many names, but those who were closest to him all agree on one thing: He excelled at them all.

The Eisenhower Middle School teacher died Jan. 5 after a year-long battle with cancer. He was 28 and married with two young children, Tayton, 9, and Dillon, 1. Brian and his wife, Mindy Laing-McNeely, had exchanged wedding rings barely three months earlier.

"At first he was asking 'Why me? What did I do to deserve this?' But he always thought he could beat it," said Mindy, who met Brian when she was teaching special-needs children at Eisenhower Middle School in Gibsonton.

"I would see him every day at work and see how he was with the kids, and it just blossomed

from there," she recalled.

A physical education teacher, Brian was remembered last week by family, friends and colleagues at the Brian McNeely Turn Around Student Award Breakfast at Eisenhower, where he taught for six years.

The award celebrates students for improvement in academics, behavior or attendance. The Waterset Community catered the breakfast and donated three iPads to students who were chosen by random drawing from the list of those nominated. The second-largest middle school in the county, Eisenhower serves 1,600 students from Riverview, Gibsonton and Apollo Beach.

McNeely would be the first to congratulate the young scholars on the award, said Matt Bellia, an Eisenhower teacher.

"He was great with kids," Bellia said. "Every single kid loved him. A lot of them would come and talk to him the way they wouldn't be able to with other teachers. He was just able to relate to the students. I miss him, and I know the students miss him."

That rapport with children was critical for Mindy when she first met her future husband. With a 4-year-old boy, she had to make sure the man she gave her heart to would also open his heart to her son.

"Brian coached my son's baseball team while we were dating," Mindy said, "and another parent was watching him coach Tayton. 'You mean to tell me that's not his kid he's coaching?' they said. It didn't matter to Brian. He treated Tayton like he was his own child," Mindy said.

Ricky Krause, a nursing teacher at Fortis College in Largo, was a fixture during McNeely's hospital stays.

"Brian was one of those people you could turn to," Krause said, "and it didn't matter what it was, he would be there. He cared about everyone." Krause said he and Brian were roommates at the University of Tampa.

Despite the ravages of his disease, Brian was still there at the end, Krause said. "We would sit by his bedside and tell stories about things he did in college,

and he would look at me as if to say 'How dare you tell Mindy that, she didn't know that.'"

"He was like a brother and best friend to me," said Greg Pepitone, who shared a dorm, and later a house, with Brian. "He would do anything for you at any time, no questions asked."

John Young, an Eisenhower colleague, counted McNeely as one of his closest friends.

"There's a saying that your true friends are those you can call at midnight and they will be there. Brian was one of those," Young said.

A gentle giant of a man with an infectious personality, Brian commanded the respect of his young charges. One admonishing look from McNeely and a student who was not lining up properly for lunch would get in line.

"Brian could do that look from 50 feet across the room," said Paul Burke, a dropout-prevention specialist at Eisenhower. "It was incredible. I don't know how he did it."

Teachers at Eisenhower, on hearing of Brian's disease, pooled all their vacation time, giving Brian an extra 14 weeks of paid time off during his treatment.

McNeely is missed by his students and colleagues, said Danielle Shotwell, Eisenhower's principal.

"Brian was a very dedicated teacher, focused on student achievement, and was very much loved here," Shotwell said.

McNeely's passing was also marked with a tribute during a Tampa Bay Lightning broadcast, a video Brian's son still watches.

Lightning announcer, Rick Peckham, who expressed the team's condolences to the McNeely family on air, also stopped by the breakfast awards breakfast.

"Brian took time out from his cancer treatment to attend a Lightning game, returning to the hospital soon after," Peckham said. "That really touched a lot of people at the Lightning, so we are happy to do anything to honor his memory."

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers

► Continued on page 18

Making a difference:

For newspapers, the bottom line is the readers

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

Times have been tough for many newspapers, including some in the Tampa Bay area. What appears to be afflicting printed news is the same that afflicts most every medium today. No one has to wait for hard news to be delivered to their doorstep anymore. A nation that would pore over an evening newspaper or tune in to Walter Cronkite and later, Tom Brokaw, for the up-to-the-minute news of the day, now only has to click on their "Favorites" in a web browser to find out what is happening almost anywhere in the world at any time of the day or night. For those who didn't care for hard news, just over two decades ago, millions of Americans would stay up late to hear Johnny Carson's humorous take on the news of the day during his nightly monologue.

Cronkite and Carson are gone. Those days are gone. News is available in real time, and night

show monologues are available the next morning on YouTube. The

► Continued on page 33



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Readers of this newspaper stepped up to help when the story of an increasingly unsightly Disabled American Veterans van came out. The newspaper was merely the conveyance, it was the readers who made a difference.

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

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

I can’t Sleep at Night!

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

I had to help This Man!

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

-Milton Brown, Valrico, FL

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

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

-Brenda Hill, (Retired) Sarasota, FL

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Sarah Baker takes part in a demonstration where she allows herself to be hypnotized by Rena Greenberg to show how weight loss can be achieved through placing suggestions in a person's subconscious.

Downsizing through hypnotizing?

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

Rena Greenberg, who has been featured in the national media for her success in bringing remarkable results to the overweight, is bringing her weight-loss seminar to Sun City Center.

Her Wellness Seminar for Weight Control will be held at and sponsored by Sun City Center Integrative Medicine on Thursday, April 17. She uses her training in biopsychology and biofeedback techniques with hypnosis to bypass the conscious state and plant more positive suggestions in the subconscious.

Greenberg earned her first degree in biopsychology, but took certifications as a biofeedback therapist. Biofeedback helps you harness the power of your mind so you can gain control over your health. Though researchers can't tell you how biofeedback works, they do know that it promotes relaxation and eases stress, so that this kind of therapy can prevent or treat conditions like migraines,

chronic pain, high blood pressure or weight loss.

Using hypnosis, these positive changes can override our conscious behavior, according to Greenberg, change obstacles to weight control, including bad habits and childhood responses to eating, and change our inner voices to more positive ones.

"We want to change our value system and feel better about not eating," Greenberg explains. "We are actually taking our power back."

As Greenberg demonstrated how she uses hypnosis, she explained what a natural state it is.

"We naturally pass through the state of hypnosis during the course of a day," Greenberg says. "Hypnosis is a very natural state."

She suggested to those taking part in a demonstration last week that they get comfortable. They would go into a heightened state of consciousness, she said, and would not lose consciousness. Everyone was asked to close their eyes and relax, while she counted to three slowly.

"You will go into a state of peacefulness," Greenberg told everyone. "Imagine every time you breathe, you are in a wave of peace. The ocean of peace is to the right and the left of you, connecting you to a life force that is all around you."

Her success stories are reported to be in the thousands, and many of these stories have been featured on ABC-TV *Nightline*, CBS-TV, FOX-TV, NBC-TV, *The Tampa Tribune*, *The Tampa Bay Times* and *Woman's World*.

Using hypnosis, Greenberg has been conducting weight-loss

seminars that have been reviewed and sponsored in more than 75 hospitals since 1990.

According to Greenberg, a woman approached her years after taking Greenberg's seminar to quit smoking. Something Greenberg implanted in her session changed her whole life. This woman not only quit smoking but also improved her marriage relationship and other aspects of her life.

Dr. Chaker Dahan is the internist at SCC Integrative Medicine, supported by nurse practitioner Jami Lewis, says owner Jim Dazet. Barry Greenberg and Anne Dazet are the acupuncture physicians at the clinic. Barry Greenberg was the first acupuncturist to practice in Florida. He was a 1989 graduate of New York's Tri-State Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Lemuel Shattuck Hospital Pain Clinic in Boston, and moved to Florida in 1990.

SCC Integrative Medicine is located at 3040 E. College Avenue in the Big Lots Plaza. They are sponsoring the Wellness Seminar for Weight Control from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17. The first 45 minutes is a free orientation. If participants feel comfortable with the program, they pay a one-time fee of \$79.99.

This fee includes two hypnosis sessions plus an upgraded behavior-modification booklet, home-reinforcement hypnosis CD, an eight-week online course: "Transform Your Life With Self-Hypnosis," and unlimited phone and email support for one full year, if needed. For more information and reservations call: 1-800-848-2822 or visit www.easywillpower.com.

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Positive Talk: Making an allergy — and attitude — adjustment

Second of two articles on springtime allergies

In last week's column, I suggested that spring was a very hard time for many people to maintain a positive attitude because they are affected by



By William Hodges

runny noses, sore throats and red and itchy eyes. Like the Greek tale of Achilles who was slain because he had one small weak point, so it is with many of us. For some of us, our weakness is allergies to common objects, many of which are most prevalent in the spring.

Here are some additional ideas that can help to reduce the effects of allergies on your system.

- Do not be tempted to hang your wet clothes outside to dry in those beautiful spring winds. Imagine how much pollen one wet blouse or shirt can attract and hold once dry. Put your clothes in the dryer and be safe. But be careful of the little softener strips many people use in the dryer; they can also cause allergic reactions for some people.

- Resist the urge to open the windows and doors to feel the breeze flow through the house. An hour's worth of spring breeze can dump enough pollen to give you several days of misery.

- Use your car's air conditioning, even if it is tempting to just open the windows. It will be easier on your system and have the side benefit of keeping your car in better shape.

If your allergy is to little microscopic critters called dust mites, there are some additional things you can do.

- Avoid buying heavily upholstered furniture. If you do have upholstered furniture, you must vacuum it on a regular basis. Dust mites just love a comfy chair to call home. Smooth-surfaced furniture, such as leather or simulated leather, are better bets for those afflicted with dust-mite allergies.

- Bedding should be changed regularly, and both mattress and pillows should be covered in a mite-proof covering available from medical-supply houses. Don't forget to wash those fluffy blankets on a regular basis; they are right up against your face and can carry much of the dust-mite dander.

- Look for a vacuum cleaner that is specifically made to take out the microscopic particles created by the dust mites. Don't just rely on the salesperson. Ask to see laboratory reports on effectiveness. Use that vacuum on a regular basis to clean the whole house. If you are the one

who is allergic to the mites, wear a mask while cleaning, for it is then that the dust is most stirred up.

- It is hard to be positive and upbeat when you don't feel well due to allergies. If your allergies are severe or you do not know what is causing you to feel poorly, I urge you to go to a qualified medical professional for testing. It could be one of the best investments you can make in your well-being.

With the proper treatment, you may have the occasional runny nose and scratchy throat, but it will not be nearly as often or severe. While you used to dread seeing the trees turn green and the flowers blossom, now with your allergies under control, you can enjoy this season of rebirth.

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



Hi, my name is Buttercup

My mom passed away in early March after an illness, so I am an orphan now and need a new home. I think I am very cute with my long orange fur. My mom used to take me out on my leash to chase lizards, but I am mostly an indoor cat and am happy amusing myself inside.

I am 11, my most recent checkup was Dec. 23, and I am up to date on all shots and vaccinations. I am spayed and use a litter box.

I am extremely friendly: I may hide for the first two weeks until I get to know you, but I will love to sit on your lap.

I would prefer to be the only cat. I am okay with older children but am cautious with dogs. I am probably best without dogs; I'm currently staying with many dogs and cats, but I try to keep to myself.

You can reach me at 941-275-6187 or murphy.daisy.watson@gmail.com. I come with my own litter box, toys, collar and leash, and a month's supply of food and litter.

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No store closings planned for South County under Winn-Dixie/Sweetbay buyout

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

Sweetbay Supermarkets that had been closed since March 29 were reopened April 4 as Winn-Dixie stores. And none of the former or renamed Winn-Dixie stores in South County will be closed.

Last fall Mayra Hernandez, spokeswoman for Bi-Lo Holdings, had told *The Observer*, *The SCC Observer* and *The Current* that 17 Sweetbay stores in the Tampa-St. Petersburg and Bradenton areas would be converted to Winn-Dixie stores. Jacksonville, Fla.-based Bi-Lo Holdings is the parent company of Winn-Dixie.

Hernandez's announcement, with no further details at the time, left South County residents

wondering whether the current Winn-Dixie stores would be closed since there are Sweetbays nearby.

"There are no plans to close any Winn-Dixie stores in that area," said Hernandez.

Residents were concerned because there were two Sweetbay stores and one Winn-Dixie in Riverview, a Sweetbay and a Winn-Dixie in Apollo Beach and another Sweetbay nearby in Ruskin.

"There is no rule how close our stores can be to each other," Hernandez said. "If the stores are needed, they will be kept."

No word has yet been given on renovations to the Ruskin Sweetbay, which operated many years as a Kash 'n' Karry and was

one of Sweetbay's oldest stores.

This store is essential to Ruskin residents, many of whom ride bicycles to buy food, because it is the only large chain in the community since Thriftway closed after a fire spread through its plaza more than 15 years ago.

Gibson residents, many of whom do not own cars, also suffered when the grocery store in the U.S. 41 plaza in the heart of that town closed several years ago.

Apollo Beach residents, almost all of whom drive to buy their grocery items, have several choices of stores. They have had a Sweetbay at 252 Harbor Village Lane in the new MiraBay Plaza, a Publix about a mile north of there, and a Winn-Dixie as well.



CHERE SIMMONS PHOTOS

Winn-Dixie signage goes up at the Ruskin store on U.S. 41.

When asked if Bi-Lo planned to close the Winn-Dixie on U.S. 41 just off Apollo Beach Boulevard, Hernandez said they did not.

"This will give our customers more locations at which to shop," Hernandez said.

Riverview also currently has two Sweetbay stores, but they are on opposite ends of town, about eight miles apart. One is at 10579 Big Bend Road in the southeast

plaza (near Panera Bread) and the other on Lake St. Charles at 6929 U.S. 301.

Directly between those two former Sweetbays there is a Winn-Dixie at the northeast corner of Gibson Drive where it turns into Boyette Road.

At this time, none of these locations are due to be closed, and no jobs are said to be affected.

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Residents in Apollo Beach and MiraBay now have two Winn-Dixies to choose from. This former Sweetbay Supermarket is only a few years old and was an easy conversion.

Great American Cleanup

Thousands of volunteers are needed to improve the Tampa Bay area during Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup. The event will be held Saturday, April 12, at more than 70 locations throughout Hillsborough County. Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful is currently recruiting volunteers, site captains, area managers and local sponsors.

Locally, cleanups will take place at:

Apollo Beach Nature Preserve, 6767 Surfside Blvd.

Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center, 4140 24th St., Ruskin.

Gulf City Little Manatee Canal, 1019 Gulf City Road, Ruskin.

The theme, "Green Starts Here,"

is a call to action to create more sustainable communities by focusing volunteer efforts on activities surrounding litter removal, beautification and community greening.

Projects on April 12 will include: helping disabled individuals with lawn maintenance, improving community gardens, habitat restoration, invasive-plant removal, litter cleanups (along rivers, roadways, parks and underwater), landscape maintenance and planting, recycling drives, storm drain marking and community tree plantings.

For information on how you can be a part of the 2014 Great American Cleanup, visit KeepTampaBayBeautiful.org or call 813-221-8733.

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Teapot Garden Luncheon is Saturday

The Ruskin Woman's Club will host a Teapot Garden Luncheon on Saturday, April 12, at its historic clubhouse, 503 U.S. 41 South.

Put on your bonnet, grab your friends and your camera and head over at noon. There will be some fun photo ops in the garden, a plant and boutique item sale.

Tickets are available by calling Debbie Bonebrake at 813-892-7235. Proceeds benefit local scholarships and charities.

Rob West joins TD Bank as store manager in Apollo Beach

TD Bank has named Robert R. West Jr. as assistant vice president, store manager of the branch at 6176 N. U.S. 41 in Apollo Beach.

He is responsible for new business development, consumer and business lending, managing personnel and overseeing the day-to-day operations at the store serving customers throughout the area.

West has 13 years of retail banking experience. Before joining TD Bank, he served as a branch manager at BMO Harris Bank in Brandon.

A resident of Mulberry, Fla., West is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society and the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. He received a bachelor's of science degree in 1992 from Liberty University and a master's of education



degree in 2006 from the University of Virginia. In addition, West has completed the required coursework for a Doctorate in education in organizational leadership from Northcentral University, Ariz.

Author appears at Riverview Library

In anticipation of National Library Week, April 13-19, *Tampa Bay Times* reporter Jeff Klinkenberg will be on hand at 3 p.m. to discuss his work and answer questions at the Riverview Branch Library on Saturday, April 12.

Klinkenberg writes about Florida culture and the people who make the state unique. Copies of his latest book, *Alligators in B-Flat*, along with other works, will be available for sale.

This program, for adults only, is part of Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library's Centennial celebration. A Centennial birthday cake will be provided.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREATER RIVERVIEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

KB Home holds ribbon cutting for Mirabella in Riverview

KB Home has officially opened its new Mirabella subdivision in south Riverview.

On March 26, the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the occasion. Several Chamber members were on hand to meet the KB staff and to tour the two beautiful model homes.

Each KB Home offers products and features that contribute to sustainability and help conserve valuable resources. According to the company, the price of a KB Home is comparable to the price of a resale home, and because KB homes are designed for energy efficiency, you'll actually save money in the long run.

At Mirabella you will live in

close proximity to Gulf Coast beaches, major employment centers, shopping, dining, recreation and entertainment.

Go have a look at this brand-new, built-to-order community. You can find it at 10501 Balm Road in Riverview (south of Big Bend off US 301). You can also visit their website at www.kbhome.com/new-homes-tampa/mirabella.

St. Joseph's Hospital South sponsors Riverview Chamber luncheon

The Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce's monthly membership luncheon was sponsored by the new St. Joseph's Hospital South.

Scott Smith, president of St. Joseph's Hospital South, shared a slideshow presentation with the group, outlining the progress of the new hospital. He also talked about the expansion capabilities of the building and touched on the hiring process and timeline.

Also in attendance at the luncheon were other members of the St. Joseph leadership team, including Judy Martin, Michael Hance, Michele Landy, Rita Templeton and Beth Tancredo.

Jeffrey Ziegler, director of community services for the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections, shared with the large crowd the many available ways to get your vote in trouble-free and without waiting in long lines.

Dixie Brady of Pilka and Associates encouraged everyone to participate in the South Shore



HUTH & BOOTH PHOTO

Seated are Gayle Cook, left, of Airman and Family Readiness Center, and Eileen Eletto of Century 21 Beggins. Standing are Patty Coppola, left, of First Step Organizing, and Charita Calloway of PNC Bank.

Young Professionals Association's upcoming professional clothing drive.

Also at the podium was Mary Owens of Black Diamond Associates. Mary reminded everyone that the next EDGE Seminar will be focused on How to be an Effective Leader and Get the Most Out of Your Employees.

The 2015 Honorary Mayor of Riverview race will have its kickoff event on Saturday, May 31, during the Crawfish Festival to be held at Winthrop Town Centre. This information was presented by Elijah Heath of Edward Jones. It is during this event that all interested candidates will be called forward to throw their hat into the ring and announce the charity or charities for which they will be raising funds.

During the luncheon, Jim Johnson of The Mosaic Company welcomed six new GRCC members,

who were awarded a 2014 Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce membership plaque to proudly display. Michelle Mosher of South-Shore Insurance Professionals provided recognition to all recent renewing members.

New members are:

- Airman & Family Readiness Center
- Century 21 Beggins Enterprises, Eileen Eletto
- First Step Organizing
- MyWay Subs
- PNC Bank (Bloomingdale)
- Pulmonary Associates of Brandon

The next GRCC membership meeting and luncheon is set for Tuesday, April 22, and will be sponsored by Thatcher Properties. The GRCC luncheons are held the fourth Tuesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The public is welcome to attend; \$20 charge for nonmembers.

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THE SAVVY SENIOR

Personal sound-amplification products can help seniors hear better

Dear Savvy Senior,

What types of amplification products can you recommend to help people with hearing impairment? My 62-year-old husband has some hearing issues, but doesn't think he needs a hearing aid, so I'm looking for some alternative devices that can help.



By Jim Miller

Shouting Spouse

Dear Shouting,

If your husband is reluctant to get a hearing aid, there are dozens of "personal sound-amplification products" that can help him hear better at a lower cost than most hearing aids, which can run up to \$3,000 each.

PSAPs are over-the-counter electronic products (they are not FDA-approved medical devices like hearing aids) that come in many different shapes and sizes that will give your husband the

ability to adjust the volume and tone so he can hear better in different situations.

It's also important to know that PSAPs work best for people with mild to moderate hearing impairment, you don't need a prescription to buy them, and they usually aren't covered by insurance or Medicare.

Before you look into PSAPs, your husband should probably get tested by an audiologist who can rule out any medical issues that could be affecting his hearing, like excessive ear wax, an infection, abnormal bone growth or inner-ear tumor. Audiologists are also familiar with the different PSAPs and can help your husband choose the best products to meet his needs, or let him know if a hearing aid would be a better option.

Here's a breakdown of some of the different PSAPs that can help.

TV and Telephone Amplifiers: To hear the television better, there are a number of TV listening de-

vices on the market that will let your husband increase the volume and adjust the tone to meet his needs, without blasting out you or the rest of the family.

The best options available today are wireless infrared or radio frequency systems that come with standard or stethoset headphones. Sennheiser (sennheiser.com, 877-736-6434) makes some of the best TV listening products sold today, with prices running between \$250 and \$350.

If hearing over the telephone is a problem, a handset or in-line amplifier can be added to your phone for a few dollars, or you can purchase an amplified telephone. Most amplified phones allow you to adjust the volume and tone for better clarity, and they usually come with extra-loud ringers and flashing ring indicators to alert you when a call is coming in.

Some top makers of these products are Clarity (clarity-products.com, 800-426-3738),

ClearSounds (clearsounds.com, 800-965-9043) and Serene Innovations (sereneinnovations.com, 866-376-9271), with prices ranging anywhere from \$30 up to around \$300. Or, see if your state has a specialized telecommunications equipment program (see tedpa.org), which provides amplified telephones for free.

Personal Sound Amplifiers: For better hearing in noisy environments, your husband should get a personal sound amplifier that's designed to amplify hard-to-hear sounds (like voices), while reducing background noise. Able Planet (ableplanet.com, 877-266-1979) offers two excellent products that fit the bill that are worn either in-ear or behind the ear, and run \$475 or \$500 for one, or \$850 or \$900 a pair.

To help improve hearing at home or in quieter settings, or if your husband has high-frequency hearing loss, check out the Bean Quiet Sound Amplifier by Ety-moyic (qsabean.com, 888-389-6684). This product, which is

worn in the ear, provides amplification to high frequencies more than low ones, making speech easier to hear and understand. Cost: \$700 a pair or \$375 for one.

If these are too pricey, there are also a number of small hand-held amplifiers that come with a small microphone and ear buds that can increase volume without all the other features. These products typically run around \$100 or less, and are available through companies like Sonic Technology Products (sonictechnology.com, 800-247-5548), Sonic Alert (sonicalert.com, 800-566-3210) and Harris Communications (harriscomm.com, 800-825-6758).

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

Little Manatee River State Park
Spring Fling

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

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

Some activities include guided horseback rides, guided nature tours, face painting, a fish-printing workshop, and live animals.

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

The park is located at 215 Lightfoot Road, Wimauma. For information, call 813-671-5005.

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

I pulled into a drive-through restaurant the other day, and it seems I've acquired a new friend. After I placed my order, the voice on the other side of the speaker asked me for my name.

My name? Is that really necessary? Isn't there enough shame involved in this whole greasy transaction without you knowing my name? I'm using the drive-through to conceal my activities. I don't want anyone to see me inside and get the right idea about me.

Yes, I have surrendered this day to be a walking zombie. I'll try again tomorrow to be a healthy, vibrant member of society.

In the mind of Micah

Let's get personal

Ideally, I would rather use a cloaking device on my car to go through the line undetected with a mask on my face, receiving my food in an organ donor cooler. That way everyone knows what a humanitarian I am. I don't even want my co-workers to see the logo on my cup when I get to the office.

Maybe I sound a little jaded, but I don't believe that my new best friend the Burger Master really cares what my name is. Some pinhead in a corporate office somewhere decided that people would feel more cared for if they

made this poor guy ask every customer what their name is.

That aggravates me, for some reason.

It's just like when someone asks how you are doing, and you know that they don't genuinely want to know. And if I actually told them how my day was going, they wouldn't even be listening.

Besides, I have noticed that my inquisitors never tell me their name. Seems a little suspicious to me.

Most of the time if you are talking to someone and they ask who you are, but they won't divulge their own identity, they are probably going to steal something from you, or beat you up. Now, in all honesty, I have not been assaulted by any fast-food employees yet, but I can see them plotting day by day.

I am resolute. I will never give them my name.

After checking in at the speaker, as I pull up to the window, my new buddy calls out, "Mr. Jetson?" Yep, that's me, I say with a straight face. Or Flintstone, Mr. T, perhaps, or Jahabsha the Magnificent. You never know. I'm a man of mystery.

Sometimes I can see them trying to hold back a smile, or show their co-workers the ridiculous

name I have picked out today. Good, now that feels like a real human connection.

If you really want me to feel cared for, just give me some fresh-tasting food in a timely manner. We all know that French fries turn into Lincoln Logs in a matter of seconds. Even if you give me the wrong food, I probably won't care as long as it tastes good.

Now after saying all this, I must confess my own hypocrisy.

While I hate being asked to give my name, I love going out to eat and being called Sugar, or Dear, or anything else in that category.

When people ask for my name, they are being superficial and invasive. But when I am out and someone calls me Sweetie, it is obvious that this person has a real sense of the person right away, because I am a sweetie. I checked.

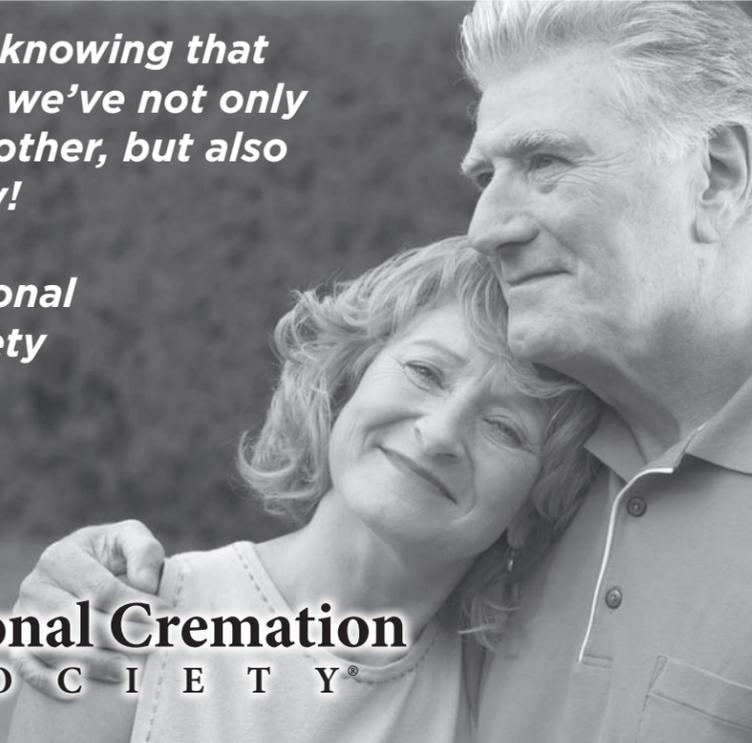
How observant this angel must be to see into my inner man in such a brief moment of interaction! I will certainly tip them all of my money for noticing how special I am. Another wonderful night out for Jahabsha the Magnificent.

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Tampa VA opens new Polytrauma and Rehabilitation Center

The James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa will host a ribbon cutting for its new Polytrauma and Rehabilitation Center facility at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 12. The new facility is state of the art, and will provide comprehensive, interdisciplinary care to veteran and active-duty patients and their families.

The Polytrauma and Rehabilitation Center features 56 private inpatient rooms, a therapeutic climbing wall, an aquatic center including a treadmill therapy pool, a virtual-reality simulation center and an outdoor recreational therapeutic activity space, including a multisurface mobility training area, basketball court, putting green and horseshoe pit.

SouthShore Regional Library

Adult program/event highlights

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Introduction to iPad — Thursday, April 10, 12:30 p.m.

An introduction to the iPad including AppleIDs, WiFi, the App Store and more. Limit: 20.

Adult/Teen Collage — Saturday, April 12, 1:30 p.m.

Join art instructor Susan Hess for this popular collage class. Learn different techniques layering various papers and paint. All materials supplied. All levels welcome. Limit 22. Register at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652. Funding for this program provided by the Friends of SouthShore Regional Library.

Adult Writing Workshop — Monday, April 14, 1 p.m.

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

Adult Watercolor — Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.

Join art instructor Art Sarlin and explore some of the techniques of watercolors. He will demonstrate various techniques. All levels welcome. Materials are provided. Limit 20. Register at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652. Funding for this program provided by the Friends of SouthShore Regional Library.

eBooks for Kindle and Kindle Apps — Wednesday, April 16, 10:30 a.m.

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

Elder Law Seminar — Wednesday, April 16, 2 p.m.

This program will provide information and education regarding legal issues for seniors, including planning for incapacities and long-term care, with emphasis on public benefits. Medicaid, Medicare and VA programs will be discussed.

SouthShore Needle People — Wednesday, April 16, 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 16, 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.

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.
- Saturday, April 12 Noon Bake Sale. 5 p.m. Steak Dinner. 6:30 p.m. Music by Rod Little.
- 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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Brandon Causeway - 813-651-4640
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OB2 - EXP. 4/30/14



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DAV gets assistance with van; group thanks supporters

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

On Feb. 20, *The Observer News* and *The Current* ran a story by Mitch Traphagen saying the van that disabled veterans use to carry passengers to medical appointments needed some work, and the response from all over South County was overwhelming. So much so that the veterans held a special thank-you chip, dip, soda and sandwich party in the Sun City Center Caper Room on March 27.

Being a weekday, not all the donors — nor even the volun-

teers who drive the van — could attend, but those who did said they were only too glad to have had a hand in helping those who do things to help our country's veterans.

"The story brought in about \$3,450 already, and we also have more than \$600 pledged and more still coming in," said John McQuaid of the Disabled American Veterans. A large part of that amount was donated by the local American Legion.

The Department of Veterans Affairs provided the van and money to run it, but the local chapter

must come up with money on its own in order to ask for help in refurbishing or replacing the existing van.

"We especially need a hand-held assist of some kind, a bar or handle, people can use to help get into the van," McQuaid said. "But the outside of it needs fixing up, too."

Because of the way the government does its budget, McQuaid said, applications must be made in September to get money (or a new van) from Veterans Affairs. The money is dispensed the following September, he said.

Commander of the local DAV, Mary Ann Keckler, wants everyone to know the van is not just for Sun City Center residents.

Anyone in any area of South County may call to reserve it, she said.

"We stop at the lawn bowling greens in Sun City Center, the bus stop at the North Clubhouse (the large one in front) in Kings Point, at Sun Towers, at the bus stop near the Ruskin post office (in the downtown plaza), and at the



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

Four of the drivers of the van came to be thanked for their service and to thank donors who gave toward a recent project to raise money to fix up the van. From left are Herb Silbert, John Fiore, Dave Weber and John McQuaid.

Gibson Walmart (also at the bus stop)," said Herb Silbert, who volunteers as a driver and one of three dispatchers.

He said a lot of people are under the misconception that the van takes vets only to the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa. But they also go to any of the clinics, which are spread over a wide area, especially around the University of South Florida medical complex, he said.

Silbert was one of 10 volunteer drivers, and four more have signed on since the Feb. 20 story, but they can still use more.

The drivers said the van is kept in good mechanical shape, but the paint on the hood is peeling, and the DAV logo and wording is peeling off.

"It just looks bad, and our veterans deserve to look and feel good about it," said McQuaid.

Silbert, originally from Philadelphia and a Navy veteran of the Korean War, is not disabled but has spent three years driving the van.

"If you think you're having a bad day, just ride with me and go into the lobby at the hospital," Silbert said. "You can watch the veterans come in and out, and I know you'll feel better. I know I stop moaning when the weather's bad, that's for sure, when I see what they go through."

He said he sees veterans with all kinds of disabilities from serving the country, from amputees to those who have mental disorders. "So many don't even know that the van is available to them," he said. "We really appreciate getting the word out."

The van is six years old and has a total of 92,000 miles on it. That's not a whole lot, but considering the amount of use it gets and the fact that they must request money from Veterans Affairs and then wait a year, McQuaid isn't sure if any money raised wouldn't be better used by buying a new van.

"You should see some of the vans in the parking lots," said Silbert. "Brand-spanking new." People considering driving must have a valid Florida license and be willing to take a TB test, a physical, be fingerprinted and have a background check, and take a driver safety course online and by watching a DVD.

All medical appointments for which the van is used must be in the morning, Silbert said. "We start picking up at 6:15 a.m. and only stop at the stops where we know people will be waiting. That means they need to make their appointments between 8 and 11 a.m."

For more information, to use the van, volunteer or donate, call 813-642-0302.

Someone to install a hand-hold to help people into the van, or to repaint the van would also be appreciated.

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Students of the Month at Apollo Beach Elementary School

Students of the Month for March 2014 at Apollo Beach Elementary School are: Esteban Alfaro-Martinez, Sarah Arnone, Grace Benigni, Brock Blackwell, Oliver Bonta, Kate Botwinski, Andrew Cocco, Isabella Cosky, Gabrielle Davis, Kasen Davis, Randi Davis, Joshua Edgar, Tyler Fields, Devin Freeman, Lizbeth Gonzalez, Destini Green, Renato Gugliotti, Andrew Heyliger-Boulton, Anthony Hookham, Matthew Janeczek, Alyssa Jones, Shelby Lake, Eliina Lick, Jackson Licursi, Abel Martinez, Angelina Mirabella, Grace Noland, Lucia Orozco-Hernandez, Antonio Poletto, Morgan Rees, Brock Scoccia, Elyse Shareck, Olivia Smoak, Olivia Sparacino, Jeremy Stroh, Brianna Taylor, Gracie Truta, Kathryn Warren and Ashleigh Wykes. Patrol: Tyler Pietrowicz. The Students of the Month program is sponsored by the South Shore Kiwanis Club.



From left: Madeline Hornacek, Quiana Jean-Baptiste, Michelle Rodriguez and Valorie Gutierrez.

East Bay Flag Football season openers

by Michael Cooper

The East Bay High School Girls' Flag Football team traveled to Palm Coast during spring break to play in the Coast to Coast Battle tournament.

The team played two games and both were defensive struggles. In the first game, the Indians defeated host school Matanzas Pirates 6-0. QB Madeline Hornacek scored the game's

only touchdown on a three-yard scamper in the second quarter. The defense was led by Quiana Jean-Baptiste, who pulled 11 flags. Hornacek had one interception defensively.

In its second game, East Bay held on for a 2-0 win after a safety against Flagler Palm Coast.

In Hillsborough County, the team opened at Armwood. The

Indians had several opportunities to win but ultimately fell to the Hawks 13-6. Hornacek had 80 rushing yards and 86 passing yards with one touchdown pass to Michelle Rodriguez. She threw three interceptions. Rodriguez led the defense with seven flag pulls and an interception. Valorie Gutierrez also had an interception.



Ivelissa Rivera's first-graders at Ruskin Elementary proudly display the guinea-pig maze project that earned them an award ribbon.

Ruskin Elementary first-grade class earns award at STEM Fair

In February, Ivelissa Rivera's first-grade class at Ruskin Elementary School earned a ribbon as an award for its entry in the Hillsborough Regional Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or STEM, Fair, held at the Tampa Convention Center.

Rivera embraces the concepts associated with teaching to Florida's science standards while also having fun with her class. The standards, adopted in 2008, focus on teaching children how to find answers, rather than having answers provided to them.

For their entry in the STEM Fair, Rivera's students analyzed the im-

pact of various senses on their class guinea pigs' ability to work their way through a maze. They built the maze, developed a hypothesis, used a stopwatch to determine the time it took each guinea pig to make its way through the maze under varying conditions, documented their findings and then drew a conclusion based on those findings. The steps in this project were documented on a poster board.

The ribbon is proudly displayed in Rivera's classroom. When questioned, several of her students said they want to be scientists when they grow up.

SouthShore Regional Library

Kids program/event highlights

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

Acting Out Yoga — Thursday, April 10, 4:30 p.m.

For ages 5-12 ~ Join us for this basic children's yoga class offered by Shore Bliss Yoga. This program uses creative ways to engage young yoga students in stretching, exercising and learning to relax through yoga. Please bring a yoga mat or towel. There are limited spots for this program. Preregistration is required. Register at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Teen Game Zone — Thursday, April 10, 5:30 p.m.

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

Bedtime Stories — Thursday, April 10, 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.

Motion Commotion — Friday, April 11, 10:05 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

For children ages 2-5 with their caregivers ~ Move to the rhythm, dance to the beat! Shake and shimmy, tap those feet! Join us for this fun and very interactive preschool music and movement program as we shake some sillies out.

You, Baby & Yoga — Friday, April 11, 11:30 a.m.

For ages up to 24 months and their caregivers ~ Bring baby along for a calm, relaxing yoga practice with Lucky Cat Yoga. This class includes baby massage, interactive song and dance and sharing a story with baby. Bring a towel or yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Pee Wee Artists: Let's Create! — Saturday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.

Pee Wee Artists ages 3-6, with an adult present, will join art instructor Tim Gibbons and have fun creating an art project to take home. Limit 18. Register at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652. Funded by Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Creative Artists: Let's Create! — Saturday, April 12, 11:30 a.m.

Pee Wee Artists ages 7-11, with an adult present, will join art instructor Tim Gibbons and have fun creating an art project to take home. Limit 22. Register at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652. Funded by Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Baby Time — Monday, April 14, 1:35 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15, 11:35 a.m.

Wednesday, April 16, 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.

Super Science Monday — Monday, April 14, 3 p.m.

For children ages 5-12 ~ Join us for an interactive, hands-on afternoon and experiment as we turn the library into a science lab! The special science workshop features High Touch High Tech presenting experiments about bugs. This is a school early-release Monday. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Toddler Time - Tuesday, April 15, 10:05 and 10:35 a.m.

Wednesday, April 16, 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 15, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, April 16, 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.

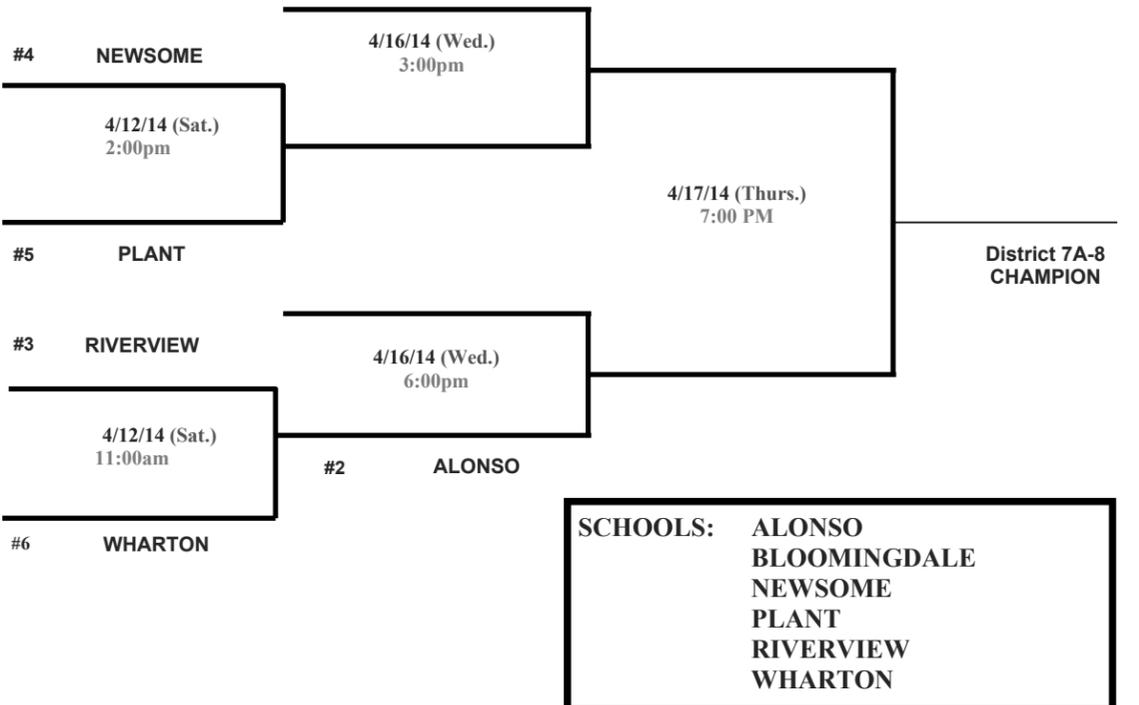
Membership with the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library helps provide the funding for free programs offered at the Library. If you are interested in becoming a Member of the Friends of the Library, call Jim Duffy at 813-634-1396. www.southshorefriends.com.



SOFTBALL DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Class 8A District 7

APRIL 12TH, 15TH, 17TH 2014



Free Apollo Beach Kite Fest gives young and old a taste of flight



MITCH TRAPHAGEN FILE PHOTO

The kite festival has grown from a one-time event to mark Apollo Beach's 50th anniversary to a popular annual event.

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

Children, young and old, are expected to turn out this weekend for the annual Apollo Beach Kite Fest. The price can't be beat; it's free.

Sponsored by the Apollo Beach Beautification Committee, or ABBC, more than 100 children and adults are expected to take part in the Kite Fest from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, at the Apollo Beach Nature Center as long as Mother Nature cooperates. The rain date for the event is the following day at the same time.

There will be free kites for the kids that they can decorate, free

hot dogs, watermelon, cookies, chips and water.

The Apollo Nature Preserve is at the end of Surfside Boulevard in Apollo Beach; from U.S. 41, head west on Apollo Beach Boulevard. Turn right onto Surfside when the road ends.

"We want to give something back to the people of the community and have a fun family-day affair," said Mary Lou Luce of the ABBC. While children make up the majority of the participants, "we also get a lot of adults who come along and bring their own kites, too, which makes it even more fun."

While the kites, food and drinks

are free, donations are accepted.

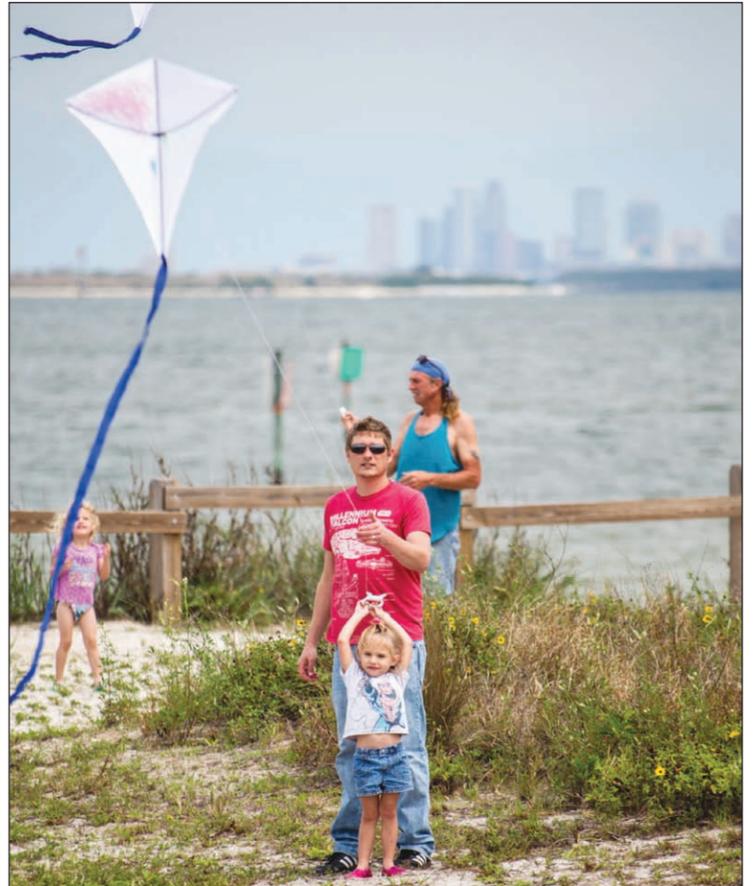
Also helping to organize the event are Larry Underwood, Pat Williams, Joan Anderson and Coach Luce.

In addition to the kite sale, the nonprofit, all-volunteer Beautification Committee also holds an annual plant sale and installs Christmas decorations and patriotic and holiday banners

along Apollo Beach Boulevard.

The group is also responsible for planters and additional palm trees on Apollo Beach Boulevard, the "Welcome to Apollo Beach Sign" on U.S. 41, the installation of benches and other landscaping projects.

For more information about the ABBC, email Mary Lou Luce at coachandml@aol.com.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN FILE PHOTO

Up to 100 children and adults are expected for the sixth annual Apollo Beach Kite Fest.

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APRIL EVENTS

TUES., April 15 2:00pm - 3:30 pm Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group. Bring Your Loved One For a Well Deserved Break. Facilitated by Aging Care Advocates. You will receive information while your loved one is cared for in our Secured Memory Care. This month, our special guest will be Dr. Meredith Rowe, professor at the USF College of Nursing. Rowe's research examines quality of life of dementia caregivers. She will share unique tools to assist caregivers in their daily routines. Please RSVP no less than 3 days before to 813-246-4120.

WED., April 16 10:00 - 11:00 am "Your Money Matters "Prudent Investment Strategies for Retirees" Presented by: Chris Redhead, CFP®, ChFC®, CFS®, Executive VP of Sequoia Financial Group. Join us as we share prudent strategies to achieve successful results through uncertain markets.

WED., April 16 1:30 - 2:30 pm Low Vision Support Group - Macular Degeneration, Visual Function/Low Vision - Facilitated by Ana Maria Oliva, M.D. and sponsored by the Sun City Center Men's Club. Our speaker this month will be Lissa Rivero, OD with Sarasota Retina Institute and the Eye Center South. Complimentary Valet Parking Available at Entrance.

THUR., April 17 10:00 - 11:00 am Interested in Your Ancestry? If you would like to learn how to research your genealogy, don't miss this opportunity. Tollie J Banker, M.A. and M.I.S., Faculty Librarian at Hillsborough Community College Southshore Campus takes you through the steps to discover your past using free research tools!

MON., April 21 1:30 - 3:30 pm Parkinson's Support Group of Sun City Center Sponsored by The Men's Club of SCC. Facilitated by the USF Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorders Center. Our topic: Managing my PD, Understanding Current Treatments by Dr Gonzalez, MD, DDS, Neurology Residency - Georgetown University Fellowship in Movement Disorders - Georgetown University. Currently: Watson Clinic - Lakeland, Florida Movement Disorder Specialist. Also presenting: Emily Wilson, Regional Assistant with FAAST (Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology). Complimentary valet Parking available at Entrance.

THUR., April 24 10:00 - 11:00 am Intimacy Should Be Fun - What's Age Got to Do with It? Presented by Dr. Samuel Smith, MD who is a sex therapist and educator certified by the American Assoc. of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT). Topics include: sexuality, cancer and aging along with normal aging changes, drugs and medical conditions that affect us. We will also discuss some thoughts on maintaining intimacy.

FRI., April 25 1:30 - 3:30 pm FREE Memory Screenings provided by Dr. Mary Stedman from Stedman Clinical Trials and Wendy Burkhard, LCSW from Wyndbeach Counseling. How much of my memory have I really lost? Are you interested in Clinical Trials designed to cure Alzheimer's? Call to reserve your space today at 813-634-3347.

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

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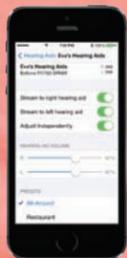
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Port Tampa Bay environmental project recognized with award

One of Port Tampa Bay's major environmental projects, the McKay Bay Restoration project, was awarded an Honorable Mention recently by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council in its 22nd annual Future of the Region Awards.

The Future of the Region Awards event highlights projects and programs that exemplify regionalism, and recognizes outstanding achievements and contributions that benefit the regional community.

The port, with assistance from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, embarked upon and completed a combination of wetland restoration projects within the McKay Bay Ecosystem in Tampa Bay. The net impact of this work has resulted in the restoration of estuarine wetlands and adjacent shallow intertidal bay bottom within this historically impaired water body.

Representatives from the project partners accepted the award, including Port Tampa Bay; Tampa Contracting Services; Orion Marine Construction; Southwest Florida Water Management District; and CH2M Hill, the engineering firm.

You, me and business: **Create an emergency plan**

Yes, it's only April. However, we have to plan things in advance, so we're already working on summer events such as hurricane preparedness. Just like other small businesses, we need to have an emergency plan in place. If it's a storm, how do we protect the electronics? What important, irreplaceable things do we put up into the hayloft? If it's a long-term illness of one of the staff, how do we accommodate that?



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

Business owners often become so concerned with day-to-day operations that they don't always pay attention to the minor details. There's a saying: When you're up to your a** in alligators it's hard to remember your initial objective was to drain the swamp! But if someone has been in business long enough, they've probably suffered some type of business interruption. If they're like 62 percent of business owners nationwide, they don't have a plan in place to handle emergencies or disasters. Not

having an emergency plan in place can lead to some pretty dire consequences.

In developing an emergency plan, there are a few things you might want to consider. The most important is to decide that you are committed to developing one. Without the conviction of the owner, the plan will be weak — at best.

Next, identify and evaluate critical business functions necessary to keeping your doors open. What are the threats, vulnerabilities and risks? If you own a restaurant and there is a long-term power outage, do you have backup generators and outdoor grills? Have you had a pre-emergency walk-through of your building with a company like Service Master 24 Hour, so they know what resources they need to bring after a disaster? Is your important data stored in a cloud?

This is when you assess the impact and "time to recover" should you incur a business interruption. Is there a secondary person fully trained who could take over if the primary person or owner is out of

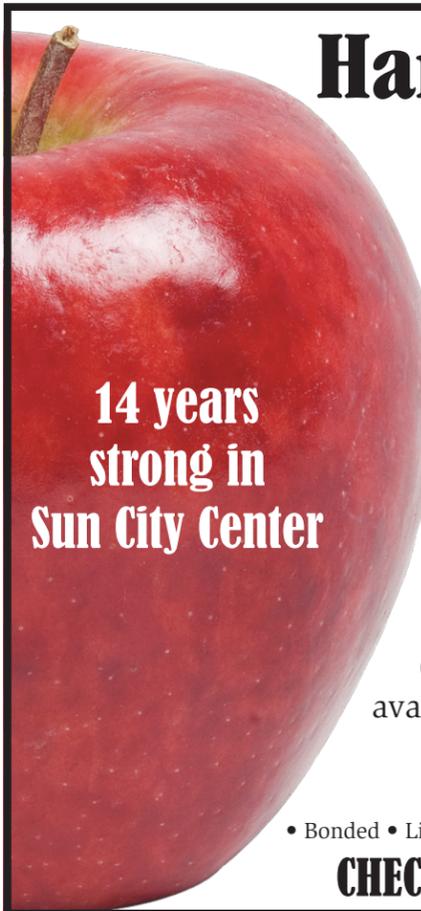
commission? How long would it take to get that individual in place?

Now develop a continuity strategy that will aid in your recovery. Make sure it addresses each of the essential business functions. The best way to do this is to involve your employees. Here at the Chamber, we took a couple of hours late one afternoon and had a "campfire talk" to make sure we had all of our issues covered.

It's important to me to make sure Dexter and the volunteers know our first priority is to keep them safe. Not only are we all great friends, but let's be practical: The knowledge and investment made in training them is valuable.

If you have a larger company, and your plan calls for each employee to have a distinct role in the emergency plan, you may want to train your employees with simulated exercises and audits. Now, just because you have a plan and it's in a notebook somewhere, you aren't done. Update the business continuity plan every year or when major changes occur.

I can't overstate the importance of having this plan. Because stuff does happen. Make sure if it happens to you, you're prepared!



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Money 4 Mercury event is April 12

Hillsborough County residents can exchange hazardous mercury-containing devices for a \$5 grocery store gift card at the Household Chemicals and Electronics Collection event on Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the South County Collection Site, 13000 U.S. Highway 41 in Gibsonton.

Examples of mercury-containing devices that are eligible for a Money 4 Mercury gift card include thermometers, thermostats and switches. No commercial or business-related waste will be accepted. Gift cards are limited to one per eligible vehicle, while supplies last.

When a mercury-containing device is disposed of in a solid waste landfill or incinerator, the mercury can contaminate the air, surface water and groundwater. Residents are encouraged to always properly recycle mercury-containing devices at a hazardous materials collection site.

For more information about the mercury collection event, visit www.HillsboroughCounty.org/Money4Mercury, call Hillsborough County Solid Waste at 813-209-3042, or email PUD-SpecialWaste@HillsboroughCounty.org.

Residents may also bring other household chemicals and hazardous wastes to the collection event for proper disposal, including compact fluorescent bulbs, other light bulbs and batteries; however, these items are not eligible for a gift card.

The goal of the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Division's Money 4 Mercury program is to educate and safely manage mercury-containing items. Funding for the program is provided in partnership with Covanta Hillsborough Inc. and through a \$5,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County Pollution Recovery Fund.

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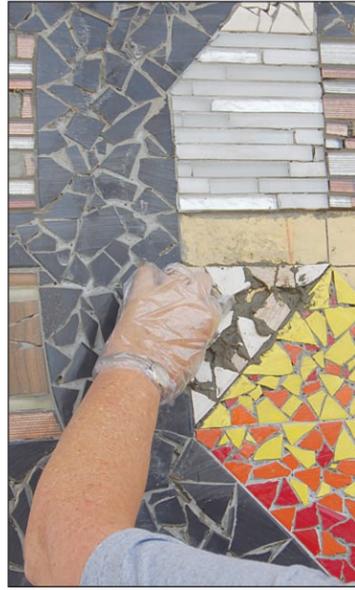
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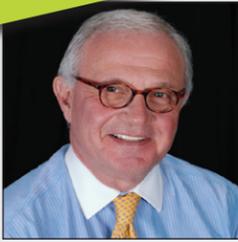
The dangling feet of volunteers who were on scaffolding constructing the higher areas of the mosaic mural.



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FCC mosaic is complete

Artists Celso Gonzalez and Roberto Biaggi, pictured above at far left, led groups of volunteers in the creation of a mosaic mural on an exterior wall of the Firehouse Cultural Center building in Ruskin. Gonzalez and Biaggi are known for their extraordinary public art projects in North America and Puerto Rico. The three-day construction workshop began April 1, and the unveiling of the finished project was last Saturday. The mural project involved residents of all ages in the making of the community mosaic. To learn more about projects, classes and events held at FCC, visit www.FirehouseCulturalCenter.org or call 813-645-7651. The center is located at 101 1st Ave. NE in Ruskin, just behind Ybor Grill on Shell Point Road.



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Cindy Arnold
813-642-1165

A teacher who touched many lives

► Continued from page 1

also donated game tickets, sports bags, a remembrance letter and team hats for the family, and the Tampa Bay Rays contributed a tour of their stadium for 25 Eisenhower students, four tickets to a home game and other gifts.

“The partnerships and community approach to supporting these 16 Turn Around students as well as to help us pay tribute to one of our fallen is incredible,” Burke said.

The woman who opened her heart to McNeely said the support of her family and colleagues has been “amazing. It’s been hard, but I guess you just take it a day at a time.”

Friends recall Brian McNeely

An avid sports fan, Brian McNeely coached his son’s Little League team in the Bloomingdale Youth Sports Association. He also coached Eisenhower’s track and football team. The school’s football field was renamed “McNeely Field” last month.

An online campaign by his wife asking for donations to buy sports equipment for the teams in lieu of funeral flowers raised \$2,795. The goal was only \$1,500.

Following are comments made by some of those who donated to the campaign.

“We will never forget the memories that were made up at Bloomingdale Little League and the lives Brian touched with coaching and teaching. It was an honor to have coached with him and Reece has made it a point to let us know that we now truly have an angel in the outfield.”

— Chris, Charlene, Reece and Rhyan Yetman

“Brian, you are a true example of a wonderful teacher, coach, father, son and husband.”

— Melissa Faasse



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO
Brian McNeely’s parents, Frank and Colette, attended the Brian McNeely Turn Around Student Award Breakfast with McNeely’s widow, Mindy, and her son, Tayton. “I never realized how much the school loved him,” Frank McNeely said.



Brian McNeely died Jan. 5, 14 months after the birth of his son, Dillon, above.

“Your influence on the lives of students here at Eisenhower will be felt for many years to come.”

— Rita Simmons

“Rest in peace, Brian. You are still making a difference, and this lasting impression will be felt and remembered by those who will benefit from it.”

— Abdul Hemani

“It was an honor coaching with Brian, and I will always remember his passion and his devotion to the kids on our teams. Amanda and I, along with our children, are devastated by the loss, yet grateful for having known him.”

— Joe and Amanda Magadan



Brian McNeely always thought he could beat his disease, said his wife Mindy, above.



KEVIN BRADY PHOTO
Students nominated for the Turn Around award were: Sixth grade: Kimberly Lazano, Ulises Paretas, Michael Radke (won iPad), Brandon Paulsen, Jakil Powell. Seventh grade: Isaiah Ershery, Hunter Gaviglia, Cameron Gaviglia, Kaiya Gritzinger, Ana Reyes, Detrone Jones, Faith Archie, Richard Arce (won iPad). Eighth grade: Briana Arthur (won iPad), Joshua Mendez, Jared Duckstein. The Waterset Community is donating iPads every school quarter honoring student achievement.

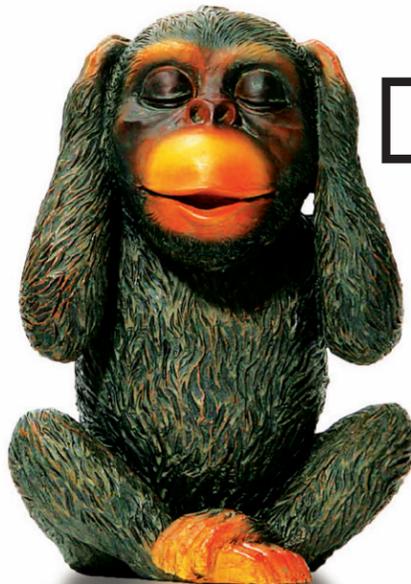
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SouthShore Library has a new friend

■ By **JIM DUFFY**

SouthShore Friends of the Library Pres.

Earlier this year, I was collecting money from our safe in the Friends Book Store. To my pleasant surprise, there was a \$500 check in the safe. It was from a Barbara Compton of Apollo Beach. There was no telephone number or email. A Google search was unsuccessful, but after a few telephone calls, I got an email.

The email started: "are you the person that donated \$500 to the Friends?" It was a strange email, but I did get an answer: "yes that was us." Happily, a telephone number was included, so I called Barb, thanked her, and asked, "What motivated you to make such a wonder-

ful donation?"

Barb said: "I have been active in the Apollo Beach Civic Association for a long time and was attending a SouthShore Roundtable meeting. One topic on the agenda was a presentation on the SouthShore Regional Library. It included future plans.

"I was very impressed with the presentation, but just as importantly, the enthusiasm of the library employees. When I got home, I said to my husband that we need to do something for the library.

"We decided to make a \$500 donation to the SouthShore Friends. So, I just dropped the check into the safe at the bookstore."

Wow! I knew the library man-

agement was giving the presentation, but was unable to attend. Renelda Sells, who is a chief librarian, gave most of the presentation. With Renelda was Lorri Robinson, supervising librarian at the SouthShore Regional Library, and Bill Harris, supervising librarian at Ruskin Community Library.

The following is the "short version" of what Renelda presented about 2014 improvements at the SouthShore Regional Library:

- A new Media Center will be installed. Library customers and small businesses will be able to make and modify digital music and video to create professional results. The new Media Center is funded by the Greater Sun City Center Community Foundation, the SouthShore Friends of the Library and Hillsborough County. The media center will be the first in the county.

- The existing Computer Teaching Lab will be relocated to the center of the library. The new lab will have updated function and use "stand-alone partitions" that will retain the current "open and flexible" architecture of the library.

- A new walk-up Digital Work Station will be installed in front of



Renelda Sells, chief librarian; Jim Duffy, president of Friends of the SouthShore Library; and Barbara Compton, donor, discuss improvements for the library in 2014.

the reference desk. The station will include a large panel display and a variety of data access points. An example of this "concept" can be seen at the Apple store in Brandon. The library users can do "short duration" downloads, either unassisted or with support from the library staff. This new workstation is one more step in the evolution of our library.

- Last year, the county installed a new Library Management System called Polaris. It is modern in every way. The next step is installing a new scanning system that is designed to work with Polaris. These changes are not too visible to library

customers, but they will allow us to better manage current and future needs in a cost-effective way.

Barbara Compton's donation was an endorsement of both our current and future library system. We will read paper books for a very long time, but the library is implementing new ways to deliver content digitally. We can access information at the library from our homes and using our mobile devices. Libraries will also continue to be places where we can meet "face to face" to discuss ideas and opportunities, and places for kids, teens, adults and seniors to learn and have fun. Thanks, Barb!

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Holy Week — Remembrance of Christ's Passion

April 13-19

Palm Sunday - Blessing and Procession of Palms at all Masses
 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass 10:00 a.m. Mass
 6:00 p.m. Misa de Vigilia 12:30 p.m. Misa
 8:00 a.m. Mass 5:00 p.m. Mass

Monday of Holy Week
 8:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. Masses
 7:00 p.m. Bible Study with Father John

Tuesday of Holy Week - (no noon Mass)
 8:00 a.m. Mass
 11:30 a.m. Chrism Mass/Blessing of Oils at St. Jude Cathedral with Bishop R. Lynch and Priests of the Diocese; all are welcome.

Wednesday of Holy Week
 8:00 a.m. Mass followed by Adoration
 12:00 p.m. Mass

EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday
 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer of the Liturgical Hours
 7:00 p.m. Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:00 p.m.

Good Friday - (Fast and Abstinence)
 12:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
 3:00 p.m. Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion
 6:00 p.m. La Pasión del Señor

Holy Saturday
 9:00 a.m. Rehearsal for Vigil (R.C.I.A./Liturgical Ministers)
 10:00 a.m. Reconciliation
 12:00 p.m. Blessing of Easter Food

EASTER - THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD April 20
 Saturday 8:15 p.m., Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter
Easter Sunday Masses:
 6:30 a.m. (Sunrise) 12:30 p.m. (Español)
 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
 10:00 a.m.

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PASSOVER SEDER
 Wed., April 16 at 6:30 p.m.
 Rabbi Steve Weiler of Shores David Messianic Synagogue will present a traditional Seder giving the Messianic message of Passover.



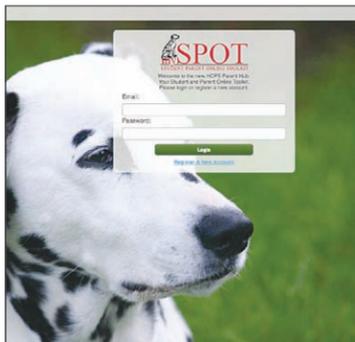
The Power of His Touch presentation
 Simmons Loop Baptist Church will present the gospel story of Jesus in a musical drama on Sunday, April 13, at 6 p.m.; Friday, April 18, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 20, at 10:45 a.m. The presentation, *The Power of His Touch*, is free and open to the public. The church 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.

School district launches academic planning tool *Guidmii*

Hillsborough County Public Schools has taken another step to engage students, parents, teachers and school counselors in ensuring student success.

Guidmii (pronounced Guide Me) is a web-based academic planning tool available for middle- and high-school students. The Guidmii platform enables secondary-school students and parents to develop a roadmap to college and career readiness by enabling parents to view their student's academic options.

Parents are encouraged to log on to myspot.sdhc.k12.fl.us, click on your student's profile and select Guidmii under the student information tab. Once logged



on to Guidmii, you can view the student's profile and academic planning options.

School counselors will work with students to discuss their academic plan, review options and develop a pathway to success.

BUSINESS NEWS

Permanent makeup appears to turn back the clock



For women who have thinning eyebrows, challenges applying eyeliner, or who would just prefer a more natural look, then permanent makeup may be the answer.

Kelly Greene is a licensed esthetician in Apollo Beach with more than nine years' experience with permanent makeup, esthetics and facials. She has served more than 3,000 customers in Hillsborough County.

In addition to performing permanent makeup, Kelly also does facials, microdermabrasion, Obagi radiant peels, teeth whitening, lash extensions and waxing services. She has completed two additional training courses beyond her certification and is a member of the American Society of Permanent Cosmetics.

Permanent makeup is not the same as traditional tattoos. It is the implanting of color into the skin to help makeup look more natural. Permanent makeup is not necessarily intended to replace cosmetics completely.

"People ask me all the time why permanent makeup does not last forever like tattoos on your body," said Kelly. "The reason is that the pigments used for cosmetics are different than the inks used in body tattoos. The colors are formulated to look soft and natural, not like the bold, bright colors on body tattoos."

Applied correctly, permanent makeup is designed to enhance natural features. It may appear very mild to moderately dark. It will never look like conventional makeup because, once healed, it is under a veil of skin.

"I try to err on the side of natural," said Kelly. "It is easier to darken pigments than to lighten them."

Though permanent makeup lasts a long time, it is not forever. Clients may want to freshen up their permanent makeup every 12 to 18 months, depending on their skin tone, texture, amount of time in the sun and overall lifestyle.

During the process, creams and gels are applied to numb the area receiving the permanent makeup. Most people feel little to no discomfort from the procedure.

"The benefits are not only for seniors," said Kelly, "but also for athletic women or those allergic to cosmetics, providing they are 18 years or older."

Kelly's location is Platinum Skin Spa & Massage Therapy, 1313 Apollo Beach Blvd., Suite 1, Apollo Beach.

Anyone interested can schedule a free consultation by calling 813-410-3137.

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Alzheimer's Disease caregiver's program offered at USF

"Alzheimer's Disease: What Family Caregivers Need to Know" is a free community program offered on Friday, May 5, by the University of South Florida Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute and Arden Courts Memory Care Community.

The program is from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute, 4001 E. Fletcher Ave., Tampa. Lunch will be provided.

The program is designed for individuals caring for a family member or friend with Alzheimer's Disease. Topics will include understanding Alzheimer's Disease; progress in treatment; communication strategies, managing troublesome behaviors; information on safety issues: home and driving; benefits of participating in clinical trials; and more. Whether you have just received the diagnosis or have been a caregiver for many years, this will be a day well spent.

There is no charge, but advanced registration is requested to reserve a seat. For more information or to register, call 813-974-4357.



South Shore Symphony Orchestra to perform American concert

The South Shore Symphony Orchestra returns to the United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 13, for the third and final concert of their 2014 concert season. The concert starts at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church, 1210 W. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center.

For this concert, the orchestra will perform an "American Composers" program. The first half of the program is dedicated to the orchestral compositions of Aaron Copland, with *Fanfare for the Common Man*, *An Outdoor Overture*, variations on the Shaker tune *Simple Gifts* from *Appalachian Spring* and selections from the ballet *Rodeo*, including the popular *Hoe-Down*.

The second portion of the program includes a new piece by New Jersey composer Helmuth Fuchs entitled *Chicago Fantasia Overture*, selections from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*, selections from George Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and Morton Gould's exciting *American Salute*, based on the American folk tune *When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again*.

Principal conductor is Jeff Jordan. The final two pieces will be conducted by Dr. June Hammond.

Tickets are on sale at the church office for \$15 each, and may also be purchased at the door on the afternoon of the concert.

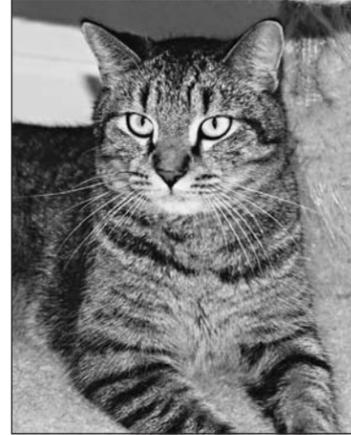
For additional information about this and other events and activities at the church, call Jeff Jordan, director of worship arts, at 813-634-2539.

Pets of the Week



C.A.R.E. is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For directions, visit www.CareShelter.org or call 813-645-2273.



Leo

Pause to consider Leo, a handsome, shy guy with a heart murmur. He enjoys play time and his life in general. Leo knows his limitations and rests often, but most cats sleep a lot. Leo needs a quiet home, and thus he must go to a single-cat family. He has lots of love to share with someone that has lots of love to give him. And he's very playful, to boot. Leo has been spayed, brought up to date on his shots and microchipped.

Estimated DOB: April 2007.



Star

Star is a lovely and affectionate puppy who has a zest for life. This sweet pup was abandoned at the shelter. Star appears to be a cattle mix breed with a white coat and black markings. Like most puppies, she loves attention and playing, but also has a calmness that is endearing. Star has cute upright ears; the right ear is darker than the left, which is adorable. As part of Star's adoption, she will be spayed and microchipped. Star is current on vaccinations.

DOB: November 2, 2013.

C.A.R.E. is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization (59-3678003) registered with the FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, No. CH-14526. The shelter is funded solely through donations, adoptions, spay/neuter fees, fundraisers and small grants. For more information, volunteer opportunities or donations, please visit our website (careshelter.org) or give us a call at 813-645-2273.

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Funding site clicks for Community Stepping Stones - Power2give celebrates first month, \$23K raised for the arts

Power2give.org, the new crowd-funding site for Tampa Bay's non-profit arts groups, recently celebrated its first month online and has raised more than \$23,000 for cultural projects. Among those is the most recent fully funded project, "I Am River," created by Community Stepping Stones.

The funds will finance a feature-length video of personal tales from the CSS students about Hillsborough River. Led by video professionals, the Community Stepping Stones teenagers will blend their stories into a final product — scripting, filming, editing and even creating the music. The film will premier as part of an audio-visu-

al exhibition and theater performance at Hillsborough Community College in August.

The Arts Council of Hillsborough County launched power2give.org/TampaBay in February, with help from the Arts & Science Council of Charlotte, N.C., and financial support from the Bank of America.

Since the site went live, arts supporters have clicked their way to raising money for projects happening from Dunedin to St. Petersburg across the Bay to north Hillsborough down to Ruskin.

Those donations are helping to fund festivals, furniture, murals, stage sets and scholarships to bring the arts to

underserved populations. The Florida Museum of Photographic Arts' project, a site installation for the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, was the first project funded.

Local arts nonprofits can seek up to \$10,000 per project in 90 days on-

line. If the full amount is not raised in that time, any donations still go to the nonprofit. The Arts Council of Hillsborough County runs the site.

The Tampa Bay site has generated \$23,450 through 193 donations since its launch last month. To view proj-

ects in need of support, visit power2give.org/TampaBay.

For more information, email Terri Simons, director of program services, Arts Council of Hillsborough County at simonst@tampaarts.org or call 813-276-8250 or 813-989-0991.



Improvements made at Mary & Martha House by Bay Area Arbor

Many people are aware of the local shelter in our community that provides short-term emergency accommodations for abused and homeless women and their children. Since 1982, Ruskin's Mary & Martha House has worked to stabilize their lives in an environment of dignity and respect. It provides many support services and works to ensure the women are trained with the necessary experience to find employment and have adequate resources to eventually obtain permanent housing.

During a tour of one of the facilities, members of the Bay Area Arbor noted that many of the rooms in the house had not been updated, painted or improved upon for years. The flooring had dangerous nailheads sticking up from the base, closet doors and moldings were missing, and the rooms were sometimes crowded with multiple beds to accommodate mothers and children.

Budget cuts from the state and a shortage of donations have left very few funds available for necessary upgrades and enhancements in the houses. While the house was very clean and tidy, it needed a major renovation.

Upon reviewing the needs of the center and with a limited budget, the Bay Area Arbor decided to adopt a bedroom and turn it into a very dignified space. The women quickly went to work and began putting together an action plan.

The room was finished April 1, and was turned back over to the staff at the Mary & Martha House. Thanks to the talents of the members from the Bay Area Arbor, the room has been upgraded with new flooring, paint, curtains, trundle

beds, closet doors, bedding, new quilts and artwork.

Many thanks go to the staff at the Mary & Martha House, including Laurie Herring, program manager; Jan Falcione, retail and marketing manager; Maria Salazar, Shelter support; and intern Theresa Benitez, who put up with so many interruptions and assisted in so many ways.

Further, Bay Area Arbor sends a huge thank-you to John Moore from John Moore Flooring in Sun City Center. He was the only person from a local retail establishment who would work with the group and donated flooring for the room.

In addition, local handyman George Hanna worked tirelessly to get the room up to par. Many more thanks go to the women of the Arbor and the husbands who missed golf games or other fun activities to do some handiwork.

The Bay Area Arbor is governed by the Gleaner Life Insurance Society, which provides its clubs with funds to be used in the communities to make them a better place to live and work. The Gleaner Life Insurance Society is a nonprofit company that returns excess revenues to the communities it serves through its Arbor system.

The Arbor and the Gleaner Life Insurance Society also want the public to be aware of the needs of the Mary & Martha House and ask that other local businesses will work to bring the Mary & Martha houses up to standard.

People interested in finding out more about the Bay Area Arbor and their works in the community may send an email to Hillerbev@aol.com.

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Local Art Teacher of the Year nominees

Hillsborough Art Education Association announced the nominees for its annual Teacher of the Year awards. The awards will be presented at a celebration at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, at the Creative Loafing Event Space in Ybor City.

The purpose of these awards is to recognize and honor Hillsborough County art education teachers for distinguished service, professional accomplishments, effective teaching of content and outstanding contributions to art education.

Teacher of the Year award categories include: Elementary, Middle

and High School Teacher of the Year; Newbie (new) Teacher of the Year and Adapted Art Teacher of the Year. The organization will also present two additional awards to non-teachers: Principal of the Year and a Distinguished Service Award. All nominations were solicited and collected by the supervisor for art education, Dana Warner.

Locally, among the nominees for Elementary Art Teacher of the Year is Margit Relawsk at Apollo Beach Elementary.

Among the nominees for Middle School Art Teacher of the Year are Terrena Conson, Shields Middle;

and Emily McQuaig, Eisenhower Middle.

Amy Lee of Boyette Springs is one of two nominees for Newbie Art Teacher of the Year.

Principal of the Year nominees are those who have shown the utmost respect and active inclusion for the visual arts in their schools. Nominated from local schools are Kelly McMillan, Boyette Springs Elementary; and Lisa Tierney-Jackson, Alafia Elementary.

Tickets to the awards reception are \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members, and may be purchased at haea.brownpapertickets.com.

Friends of the Ruskin Branch Library to hold book sale

The Friends of the Ruskin Branch Library located at 26 Dickman Drive SE, Ruskin, will host a book sale Saturday, April 12, and Monday, April 14. The library will supply the bags, and buyers can fill them with books for \$1 each.

The Friends fundraising efforts assist and support library services and staff at the Ruskin Branch Library. These services include providing support for adult programming such as Book Discussions and Digital Literacy Programs. The Friends also support Children's Programming in the library, including Early Literacy and Summer Programming.

Anyone interested in joining the Friends can do so at the library. For more information, call the library at 813-273-3652.

10 tips to save water for Water Conservation Month

While the Southwest Water Management District encourages water conservation year-round, there is extra emphasis each April for Water Conservation Month. April is traditionally one of the driest months of the year and typically marks the peak-demand season for public water suppliers.

You can lower your monthly water bill and do your part to save hundreds of gallons of water:

INDOOR

- Only run your washing machine and dishwasher when they are full.
- Use the shortest clothes-washing cycle for lightly soiled loads; normal and permanent-press wash cycles use more water.
- Thaw frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave, not under running water.
- Scrape, don't rinse, your dishes before loading in the dishwasher.
- Install high-efficiency showerheads, faucets and toilets.

OUTDOOR

- Check your home's irrigation system for leaks to save up to 6,300 gallons of water per month.
- Turn off your home's irrigation system and only water as needed;

save up to 2,000 gallons each time a watering day is skipped.

- Don't leave sprinklers unattended. Use a kitchen timer to remind yourself to turn sprinklers off.
 - Use a hose with a shutoff nozzle when washing the car to save about 40 gallons per wash.
 - Consider installing a rain barrel with a drip-irrigation system for watering your landscaping. Rainwater is free and better for your plants because it doesn't contain hard minerals.
- Leaks are the biggest water waster, both inside and outside. You can use your water meter to check for leaks. Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances. Wait for the hot-water heater and ice cube makers to refill. Go to your water meter and record the current reading. Wait 30 minutes. (Remember: No water should be used during this period.) Read the meter again. If the reading has changed, you have a leak.

To learn more about saving water outdoors and to download or order the district's free six-page *Saving Water Outdoors* brochure, go to WaterMatters.org/SaveWaterOutdoors.

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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 →
Wed 23:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm
Thu 24:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* WII BOWLING	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm
Fri 25:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm
Mon 28:	MONDAY MORNING MOVIES SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 am to Noon 1 to 2 pm 2:15 to 3:30 pm
Tue 29:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	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

DIABETES WORKSHOP: Tuesday, April 22 1 to 3 pm
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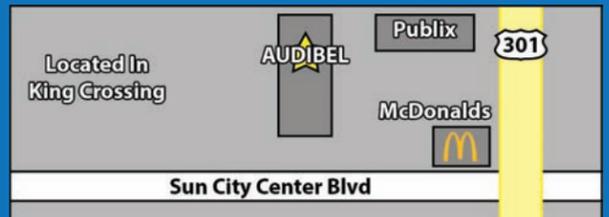
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**eBay: Introduction — Friday,
April 11, 3 p.m.**

How to become a member, finding what to buy, price research, bidding, proxy bidding and My eBay. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Limit 18. Register in person no earlier than one hour before the start of the program.

**eBay: Selling Tips — Friday,
April 11, 3:45 p.m.**

Topics include selling, fees, listing types, pricing and research. eBay account required and basic mouse/keyboarding skills are recommended. Limit 18. Register in person no earlier than one hour before the start of the program.

**Computer Tutor — Wednesday,
April 16, 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.



**Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation donates gear
for Hillsborough fishing camps**

Hillsborough County's summer nature camps teach local children a winning combination of conservation and sportsmanship. The successful program even hooked one of the biggest names in fishing — Guy Harvey.

The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation is donating \$10,000 worth of fishing equipment and supplies to the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department for use during a series of two-week camps scheduled between June 16 and Aug. 8. The Guy Harvey Saltwater Fishing Camps will take place at E.G. Simmons Park in Ruskin and the Upper Tampa Bay Park in Tampa.

More than 300 kids will have the opportunity to start on their way to becoming world-class anglers. The Guy Harvey Saltwater Fishing Camps in Hillsborough County are open to boys and girls ages 9 to 15. Camps provide daily fishing instruction, educational seminars, plus outings and excursions. The camp cost is \$120 per child, with some income-based scholarships available. Online camp registration begins Wednesday, May 7, and space is limited.

The goal of the Guy Harvey Saltwater Fishing Camp donation is to expand fishing opportunities and provide outdoor conservation education and stewardship opportunities to Florida youth. The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation and the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, on behalf of the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network, have recognized Hillsborough County's youth summer fishing camp programs for offering superior conservation education.

To register for Hillsborough County's summer Guy Harvey Saltwater Fishing Camps, visit HillsboroughCounty.org/Parks. For more information, call the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department at 813-635-3500.

Fish Tales: Consider kayaking/canoeing next time

■ By **JONIE MASCHEK**

Member: Florida Outdoor Writers Assn.

There is a scattered run of kingfish out there, but not many are being caught. The main reason is bait. The usual threadfin herring, cigar minnows and sardines that are typically used for bait are not plentiful right now in local waters. Now that it's April, I'm sure there will be a full kingfish run soon.

This is a great time to practice cast-netting skills. Throw your net on the lawn, trying to open it into a full circle. Keep trying until mission is accomplished, and you believe you can encircle a school of bait.

Florida weather is the envy of the nation; we can fish most every day of the year. Consequently, our waterways are teeming with boats. Use the same skills handling your boat as you would a car on a crowded highway. There are many boaters out there who are unfamiliar with our waterways. Be kind, be patient and be courteous when they approach you and ask questions. Some may want directions, others may ask about a catch they just made.

I have seen many kayaks in our waters recently. Because of the high price of gas, I can see why more people are using kayaks. Once you have paid for your kayak, that is it: No gas, no trailer, and you can put it on top of your car or in the back of your truck. You can fish in spots where bigger craft cannot go. Some anglers tell me they would never fish in a boat again.

The canoe people are still out there, but kayaks outnumber them. Each are equal in upkeep, gas savings and fishing ability.

Anglers from all over the world have tried to outsmart fish for ages. Hundreds of fishermen were out last week trying to do just that. Many



FISH TALES

were probably looking for that big catch to take a "selfie" with and send it back North.

Blue crabs used to be more than plentiful in our waterways.

It seemed that the Little Manatee River was full of crab traps. I remember on many occasions seeing men and women stealing the crabs from these traps. I wonder if the change in the water conditions or the robbers have demolished our blue crab population.

Those with private docks could have as many as five traps around their dock, as I recall, but today where have they gone? Just a thought, maybe some of you have an answer for this. Email me at aletamaschek@yahoo.com.

Many are enjoying the wonders of our freshwater fishing in private lakes and rivers. Some bragging rights go to those who caught giant freshwater catfish this past week. Nothing tastes sweeter than freshwater catfish lightly battered and fried with cheese grits and hush-puppies.

Pier and land fishing yielded sheephead, whiting and trout last week.

Those fishing the grassy flats had the time of their life, catching one trout after another.

Redfish were the main catch of boaters returning to Williams Park at the mouth of the Alafia River. The parking lot was jammed with trailers last weekend.

Some had great fun catching black drum. As I have said many times, the large ones are full of worms.

Give a hoot and don't pollute. Our waterways belong to you.

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Area Obituaries



Judith Ann Ayotte

Judith Ann (Heather) Ayotte passed away on March 31, 2014. She was born April 9, 1938, in Racine, Wis.

After raising their three children in Racine, and Ewen, Mich., Judy and her husband James (Jim) moved from Iron Mountain, Mich., to Sun City Center in 2002. She enjoyed crafting, gardening and bird-watching. She adored spending time playing cards with her friends. Judy doted on her pet cat Sneaks. She spent many hours volunteering for her local community, most recently at the Sun City Center Emergency Squad.

Judy was preceded in death by James, her loving husband of 55 years; her parents Andrew and Margaret Heather; and brother Lauren.

Judy is survived by sister Ruth (Tony) of Racine; brother James of Scottsdale, Ariz.; daughter Tracy (Greg) of Ocoee Fla.; sons James (Tammy) of Belleair Bluffs, Fla., and Benjamin (Laura) of Colorado Springs, Colo.; grandsons Jacob (Amy), Christopher (Kari), Jed (Brittany), Blaine, Carter, Griffin and Hayden; great-granddaughters Quinn, Kinley and Tinsley; and great-grandsons Nicholas and Kyle. She will be greatly missed by family and friends. A private family memorial is planned.

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

Yvette (Dutilly) Gagnon

Yvette D. Gagnon died March 29, 2014, in Sun City Center, Fla., after a long illness. Born September 10, 1917, in Springfield, Mass., Yvette was the fourth born of six sisters. A childhood illness left her with a serious hearing loss in both ears that persisted throughout her life. With a combination of personal effort, family support and improvements in technology, she learned to cope with her hearing deficit and lived a long and varied life.

Yvette married Henry C. Gagnon in 1940. They were married for 65 years, until Henry's death in 2006. Yvette traveled throughout this country and to Japan to be with her husband during his military duty in World War II and Korea.

She focused her attention on being a homemaker, raising her family and supporting her husband's career that culminated with his appointment as Assistant Postmaster in Springfield, Mass.

In their retirement, Yvette and Henry moved to Kings Point in Sun City Center, traveled widely and played a great deal of golf. It was said by many that "Yvette's putter must have eyes!" because of her unerring putting accuracy.

Tended by LifePath Hospice personnel and her sons for the last days of her life, Yvette died quietly at the Homewood Residence Assisted Living Facility in Sun City Center. She is survived by sons Thomas (Janet) and Douglas (Denise); grandchildren Eric (Melissa), Robert (Eugina), Thomas (Sheila), Christopher (Chelsea) Gagnon and Catherine (Owen) Gagnon Osborn; and great-grandchildren Justin, Nathan, Anna, Jake, Ryleigh, Carter, Foster Gagnon and Charlotte Osborn.

Services will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be determined.



Marjorie Hershberger

Marjorie Jean Hershberger, 85, of Sun City Center, Fla., passed away on March 31, 2014. She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, to Scottish immigrants, Arthur and Jane (Adams) Steele. She was preceded in death by Ronald Wayne, her husband of 50 years, and her brother Arthur Steele.

Survivors include son William Edward Hershberger (Sherry); daughters Ronelle Stone (Thomas) and Sandra Young (Kenneth); granddaughters Renee Marie Hershberger, Jennifer Sue McEnany (Thomas), Heather Jean Sciantelli (Nicholas), Bonnie Louise Griffis (David) and Kendra Ann Young; and great-grandchildren Kristin, Nicholas, Luke, Finn, Ryan and Leiryn.

A Celebration of Marge's life was held at Aston Gardens at Sun City Center on April 5. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Faces of Courage (Breast Cancer Support Organization), 10006 Cross Creek Blvd. #519, Tampa FL 33647 or the American Heart Association.

She will join her husband at the Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell.



Levon Mixon Watson

Levon Watson, longtime employee of *The Observer News* and M&M Printing, passed away April 6, 2014, in Bradenton. She was born November 7, 1933.

She was preceded in death by husband Armand Watson, one daughter; and her parents, Clarence and Bessie Mixon.

Levon was well known for her piano skills. She began playing at Maranatha Church of God, Ruskin, in 1986 and continued until 2013.

She is survived by sister-in-law Iris Mixon; seven nieces and nephews; 12 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 12, at Maranatha Church of God, Ruskin. Visitation will be from 10 to 11 a.m., funeral service at 11 a.m. and interment following at Ruskin Memorial Park.

Funeral arrangements were made by National Cremation and Burial Society.

Savoring the flavors of middle age

Judy Kramer will lead a discussion at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sun City Center on Thursday, April 10, focused on the feelings many of us experience as we journey through middle age into senior life. We are more alike than we may realize.

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.



Kenneth Glen White

Kenneth Glen White, 57, passed away in Connecticut on March 21, with his family by his side. He is survived by parents Glen and Lesly White of Diamondhead, Miss.; brother and sister-in-law Bill and Kim White, and nephew Thomas Campbell of Stafford Springs, Conn.; daughters Katie White of Glastonbury, Conn., and Kerri White of New Britain, Conn.; and grandchildren Venecia Rose Thomas and Isabella Grace Thomas of Windsor, Conn.; and many other friends and relatives.

Ken was a longtime resident of Vernon and Hebron, Conn., before retiring as an executive from Pfizer Inc. Ken's most recent home was in Sun City Center, Fla., where he enjoyed the constant sunshine, warm weather and was a dedicated dispatcher for Team Five with the Sun City Center Emergency Squad. He was a very talented musician and a wonderful father to his children. Ken will be truly missed by all. There will be no calling hours and a private burial service will be held for close friends and family.

Good Friday service at Southside Baptist

Ruskin's Southside Baptist Church will hold Good Friday service at 7 p.m. on April 18.

The church is at 4208 U.S. 41, approximately four miles south of College Ave. (S.R. 674).

For more information, call 813-645-4085.

Holy Week and Easter at UMC

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 W. Del Webb Blvd. has announced its Holy Week and Easter 2014 activities.

At 7 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, April 17, there will be a symbolic Seder meal followed by Holy Communion. The Seder is a Jewish ritual feast that marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover, and the celebration of Holy Communion on this day commemorates the Christian Last Supper of Christ and his Apostles.

On Friday, April 18, at 7 p.m. the church will present a service of darkness, or Tenebrae, with drama, music, narration and imagery. This special service commemorates the crucifixion of Christ at Calvary.

On Easter Sunday at 7 p.m., a Sunrise service will be held jointly by the UMC and the neighboring St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. This will be held in the St. Andrew sanctuary, 1239 W. Del Webb Blvd. At 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., the chancel choir, orchestra, children's choir and praise team will lead two Easter Services of the Resurrection. After a set of worship music by the church's praise team, the chancel choir will present Benjamin Harlan's *Resurrection Alleluias: A Cantata in Three Suites with Orchestra*.

The church is also offering a free breakfast from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. for those attending services that morning.

To learn more about the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, visit www.umccsc.com.

Area Places of Worship

Ruskin United Methodist Church

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

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US:

SUNDAY MORNINGS: Nov. - April..... 8:30 a.m. **Day Care Available**
 Rev. Richard Nussel and All Year..... 10:45 a.m. Mon. - Fri.
 Phone: 645-1241 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 call 645-6198

Friendship Baptist Church

Rance Goad, Pastor (Southern Baptist)

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

TRADITIONAL WEEKLY SERVICES:

Sunday
 9 a.m. Bible Study
 11 a.m. Bible Study
 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Worship
Wednesday
 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
FriendshipBaptistChurchSCC.com

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

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

Reverend David Allman, Pastor

Telephone: 813-634-1292 • Website: sccredeemer.org

Worship Services on Sunday 10 a.m.

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

Unity COMMUNITY OF JOY
 Spirituality Rather Than "Religion"

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

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

www.unitycommunityofjoy.com

813-481-9060

First Baptist Church of Gibsonton

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

Traditional Worship Service	*Sunday School	9:30 A.M.
Old-Time Gospel Hymns	*Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Nursery Available	Sunday Evening	6:00 P.M.
* Interpreter for the Deaf	Mid-Week (Wed.)	7:00 P.M.

9912 Indiana St. • Hwy 41 & Estelle Avenue
 Gibsonton, FL 33534

Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor
 813-677-1301

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

702 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC, FL 33573

Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670

www.popcc.org

Masses:

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

Daily 8:00 a.m.

Confessions:

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

NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

"Loving God, Loving Others,
 Serving Beyond Borders"

Sunday School (all ages)..... 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday (all ages) 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor

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

UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH - United Church of Christ

1501 La Jolla Ave., Sun City Center, FL 33573-5329

A Caring Church United in God's Love Serving Our Community

Rev. Dr. Timothy Shirley

Worship Services ~ 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

(813) 634-1304 ~ www.uccsuncity.org

Welcome to the: South Hillsborough Church of Christ

EVERETT TATE, MINISTER

1611 First St. SW • Ruskin, FL • 645-7607

—NON-INSTRUMENTAL—

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

Wimauma Church of God

Loving God Loving Others
 Serving All

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

Pastor
 Tom Durrance

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

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC

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

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

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— George Santayana

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The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539

<http://www.sccumc.com>

Come Grow & Belong
 The United Methodist Church
 Serving South Hillsborough County

**WORSHIP SERVICES:
 SUNDAY**

8:30 a.m.....	Contemporary Service
9:30 a.m.....	Traditional Service
10:00 a.m.....	Contemporary Service
11:00 a.m.....	Traditional Service
4:00 p.m.....	Hispanic Worship

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 Assistant Pastor: **Rev. Samuel Rorer**

Area Places of Worship



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 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Evening Service..... 7:00 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:55 a.m. Thursday Morning Prayer..... 10:00 a.m.



Worship Service @10:30 am
 Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 am

1707 55rd Street Southeast
 Ruskin, Florida 33570

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

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

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ST. JOHN THE DIVINE



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SUNDAY SERVICES

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 9:15 AM-Contemporary
 11:00 AM-Rite II & Choir

Fr. Lee Miller
 Priest

Morning Prayer & Healing Service
 10 AM every Wednesday

Fellowship Hour after all services

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

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

All Are Welcome



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.

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



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark E. Salmon

Meet friends in Fellowship Hall between Services.
 Refreshments served.

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

Saint Anne Catholic Church

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



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

MASSES

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

Prince of Peace expands confession schedules

Throughout Holy Week, Prince of Peace Catholic Church will expand its usual schedule for the Sacrament of Confession to help Catholics prepare for the celebration of Easter.

On Saturday, April 12, priests will be available to hear confessions from 3 to 3:50 p.m.

Confessions will also be offered on Sunday, April 13, from 9 to 9:50 a.m., and 11 to 11:50 a.m.

Expanded times for confessions will also be offered throughout the week. More information can be found at www.popcc.org/lent.

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

Holy Week services at UCC

All are invited to attend Holy Week services at the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave., Sun City Center. Rev. Dr. Tim Shirley will lead the congregation for these services.

► **Sunday, April 13** • Palm/Passion Sunday, 10 a.m. in sanctuary. Chancel choir with guest musicians.

► **Wednesday, April 16** • 6 p.m. Living dramatization of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper." Soup and Bread in the Great Hall. Free will offering will be taken.

► **Thursday, April 17** • 7 p.m. With Cancel Choir. Sacrament of Holy Communion Service and Tenebrae.

► **Friday, April 18** • Good Friday. Sanctuary will be open from noon until 3 p.m. for meditation and prayer.

► **Sunday, April 20** • Easter Sunday. 8 a.m., Early Morning Service in the Great Hall. 8:30 a.m., Catered breakfast in the Great Hall. Reservations required. 10 a.m., Easter Morning Service – Sanctuary. Chancel Choir with Brass.

► **Sunday, April 27** • Second Sunday of Easter. 10 a.m. in Sanctuary.

Christian Women's Connection meets April 20

The South Shore Christian Women's Connection meets Thursday, April 10, at Club Renaissance, to hear inspirational speaker Judy Parker present "Change? What Again!?" Also, enjoy the beautiful voice of Cindy Churchill.

Seating begins at 11 a.m.; the program is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu is Lido Salad, plus beverage and dessert. An alternate meal of tossed salad with grilled chicken is available. Cost is \$17, inclusive.

To reserve, call Pat Butler at 813-938-4320 or Gail Green at 813-634-2159 or email aunt.butler@gmail.com.

Women's Retreat offered

South Bay Sisters Women's Ministry is hosting a Beth Moore's "Sacred Secrets" mini retreat, Fri., May 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. and Sat., May 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 which includes breakfast and lunch. Goodie bags are available the day of the event for those who register in advance. Register online at www.southbay.cc or in the lobby. No childcare will be available for this event.

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



UMC welcomes Mike Markaverich Trio

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 W. Del Webb Blvd., welcomes back the popular Mike Markaverich Jazz Trio on Friday, April 11, at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

A native of Nashua, N.H., Markaverich was a premature baby whose experience in the incubator resulted in his blindness. Markaverich began playing a toy piano at age three and took lessons at Perkins School for the Blind, where he attended grammar school. He graduated second in his class from Bishop Guertin High School and studied at Dartmouth College, where he became interested in jazz and decided to make music his career. After attaining a graduate degree at the University of New Hampshire, he began his professional career on Cape Cod, where he worked as a solo performer and in various combo settings in major area nightspots for

more than 10 years. In November 1988, he and his wife Debbie moved to Sarasota, where he has been a regular member of the local jazz scene. Markaverich has also appeared in concert in various venues, appeared on television and radio, given workshops in schools and colleges, teaches jazz piano, and has produced eight of his own recordings. Markaverich will perform a variety of jazz classics as well as several original arrangements of popular and Broadway songs.

He will be accompanied by Ernie Williford on bass and vocals, and Dr. Henry Ettman on drums.

Concertgoers are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat. A donation of just \$5 is requested at the door. For additional information about this and other concerts and recitals at the UMC, call Jeff Jordan, director of worship arts, at 813-634-2539.



Bible study held weekly at St. Anne

Very Rev. John F. McEvoy, V.F., pastor of Saint Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin, is conducting weekly Bible study classes during Lent.

On a very rainy March 17, more than 40 parishioners assembled in Saint Joachim Hall to discuss Saint John's gospel story of the "Woman at the Well." Father John guided the participants through a thoughtful reading of the scripture passage, and then encouraged a prayerful, relevant discussion of this well-known gospel story.

Saint Anne Catholic Church is at 106 11th Avenue NE. For more information regarding the parish, visit saintanneruskin.org.



Redeemer Lutheran Church celebrates 35th anniversary

Redeemer Lutheran Church celebrated the 35th anniversary of its organization as a congregation on Sunday, March 30. Connie Schmucker, assistant to the Bishop for the Florida Bahamas Synod of ELCA, was guest pastor for the morning service.

Following the service, members enjoyed a catered meal in the church hall. Pictures and a slide presentation focused on the history of the congregation. Roses were presented to Enid Clouse for having been a member of Redeemer's congregation the longest, having joined in 1980, and to Sandy Gundacker for serving 20 years as organist.

Rev. David Allman is pastor of Redeemer. The church is at 701 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center, and the phone number is 813-634-1292.

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870 GENERAL

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Making a difference

► Continued from page 1

world has changed — nowhere more demonstrably than in printed news. In response, many newspapers have cut their budgets and their staffs, providing less while often expecting more.

Arguably, that strategy is a fallacy. Arguably, that potentially underestimates and undervalues the readers of newspapers. While the content and outlook of printed newspapers must change in order for the institution to survive, the fact remains that people still read; people still care about what is happening in their neighborhoods, their communities and in the world. *The Associated Press* can provide the news, but it isn't capable of providing the local view and impact of that news. Only local newspapers and other local media are capable of delivering information and even entertainment in a way that is most relevant to you.

And, often forgotten in the cutbacks and layoffs is that it is you, the reader, that matters most. The word "medium" is just that — newspapers are nothing more than a conveyance; in and of themselves, the writers, the editors, the printed pages don't make a difference — it is always the readers that make things happen.

The economy is on a rebound, or so it is said. But if that is a fact, the rebound is uneven at best, and there are those in our communities and neighborhoods who are still going hungry in the world's wealthiest nation. "The demand for food is greater than the supply," said one director of an area food bank recently.

The Observer News journalist Kevin Brady wrote a series of six articles, providing in-depth coverage of the Have A Heart Caring Castle community food drive, and readers responded, having an enormous impact on those who would otherwise go hungry. The Beth-El Farmworker Ministry food bank alone serves nearly 8,000 people every month. The need for help is staggering.

"I'd love to offer up the Have a Heart Caring Castle for a journalism award, if the opportunity would present itself," said Rosie Korfant of the JSA Medical Group, the primary sponsor of the food drive.

"Random acts of kindness were kindled from the goodwill efforts of your readers," Korfant said. "For instance, a reader was in the grocery store checking out a large bag of groceries, explaining to the cashier that the goods were for the Have a Heart Caring Castle cam-

aign. A customer in line directly behind your reader asked if she could pay for the groceries."

And there was more...

"One of the readers who had been following the weekly stories showed up at JSA right at the deadline hour — at 3:55 — with over 300 pounds of groceries to add to the already significant amount of goods collected," Korfant said. "She was so overjoyed at not being left out that she almost wept right in my office. Further, two ladies brought several bags of groceries even after the drive had concluded, which we promptly dispatched."

And with the much-needed food came a need to store it. Readers also answered that call.

"Beth-El Mission told me that due to the publicity in the newspaper, they were given a new, much-needed freezer," Korfant exclaimed.

Korfant went on to tell of a young man who had read the articles and was then moved to help an elderly blind man walk to a nearby food pantry.

Conveying the story — telling of the hard work of others — is something that will hopefully help to inspire a lasting impact among readers and the community.

"The Pastor of Creative Arts at Life Church food pantry in Riverview told me, while picking up their share of the food, that this was such a blessing because they can hardly keep up with the demand at their site," Korfant said. "And all the newspaper publicity really helped draw attention to the need."

On February 19, 2014, this newspaper ran a story about a van used to shuttle disabled and elderly veterans to the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa. The van, several years old, ran well but had become unsightly. Once resplendent with the American colors, the Florida sun had caused those colors to fade and peel away. The van was also in need of minor modifications to allow elderly veterans, men and women still strong of mind and will, the ability to enter the van with dignity and without requiring assistance.

There were no YouTube videos of cute kittens or unusual dog tricks associated with the story. There were no photos of scantily clad women attached to the article. Despite that, people in South Hillsborough read the article and stood up to help. As a result of the story, \$4,500 was donated to refurbish the van, and four people



DANIELLE HURT PHOTO

The final "Have a Heart Caring Castle" generated 2,600 pounds of food for local food banks.

volunteered to become much-needed new drivers. Businesses and individuals offered to help both to either paint the van or to help purchase a new one. The response was so significant that the Disabled American Veterans, the nonprofit organization that owns the van, is hoping there is enough momentum to purchase a new van next year.

John McQuaid of the DAV was stunned by and grateful for the response from the readers. "We are here for service," he said quietly, perhaps not quite knowing how to respond to those who stepped up to serve his organization.

The DAV serves those who were willing to give all for the nation, and the readers of the newspaper went far beyond the mere words "We support our troops." The newspaper simply relayed the story; it was you, the readers, who made the difference.

McQuaid, while immensely grateful, is hoping the printed word will remain in sight for a while longer yet.

"If we can get another driver or two, that would really help," he said hopefully.

Headlines and news stories often imply the United States is falling behind in academic pursuits such as engineering and the sciences. If that is indeed the case, it doesn't appear to be the result of a lack of interest — at least not at Lennard High School in Ruskin.

Science teacher Jim Reve, who became a teacher after retiring from Lockheed Martin, where, among other things, he worked on the Cassini space project, began a robotics club at the school. Since the club was an extracurricular activity, there was no money for it in the Hillsborough County Schools budget.

The club began with odd bits of PVC pipe, a handful of tools and some castoff wire and small motors. Before long, however, Reve found that he had to turn students away — more students were interested in joining the after-school club than there were materials for them to use. Despite their lack of resources, the club quickly showed its promise by winning two awards at an academic competition.

And then, after a February article, newspaper readers stepped in to help. The club received financial

assistance as well as much needed supplies — enough to allow more students to join. The generosity of those who read the story likely had an impact that went even beyond the material donations — readers almost certainly inspired confidence. The club, despite being relatively new and still underfunded compared to those at some high schools and colleges, has continued to win awards. For the 2014 school year, the club now has two first-place wins, three second-place wins and a fourth-place win in four events.

"I would have to say that, without your readers, none of what we have been able to do this year with the robotics club would have been possible," Reve said. "We needed raw material as much as we needed money, and your readers came through with both. I would like to give a very heartfelt 'Thank you' from all of us here at Dr. Lennard High School Robotics Club!"

Someday it is possible, perhaps likely, that the young people in the club will find answers to immense questions and problems — from safe, cost-effective and efficient bridges to searching the solar system, galaxy and the universe for ideas to enhance life on Earth — and it will be a community that helped them in their first steps to find those answers.

The club's next event, a NASA Egglander competition, will be held in Melbourne, Fla., on May 4. It will also be the last event of the school year.

The above is merely from the past two months. There is so much more, from a historic cemetery in need of attention to the plight of homeless veterans to a local production attempting to bring family-friendly programming back to television, in which the newspaper conveyed the story and the readers stepped up to make a difference, to help those in need or simply to invest in a more promising future.

Newspapers as they are generally known today have been published for more than four centuries. The first American newspaper was published in 1690. Newspapers were not then and are not today irrelevant — the need for curated information is greater than ever. But in the news of newspaper layoffs and poor finances seeking a cratered bottom line, what is too often unsaid is that the true bottom line is with those who read the papers — and then act upon what they have learned from them. Newspapers don't change lives, people do. For a newspaper, it is a matter of trust, integrity and faith, but it is always the readers who matter the most.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

"I would have to say that, without your readers, none of what we have been able to do this year with the robotics club would have been possible," said Lennard science teacher Jim Reve. Above, Robotics Club students design a high-efficiency bridge.

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