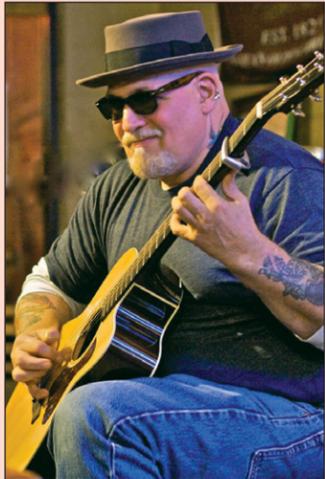




# THE OBSERVER NEWS



**FIREHOUSE CULTURAL CENTER**  
George Worthmore's shows are interlaced with humorous comments and anecdotes about the songs, his life and his music.

## Firehouse Blues & Bar-B-Que

at Firehouse Cultural Center

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

Famed blues artist George Worthmore will headline a barbecue and blues concert this weekend at the Firehouse Cultural Center, 101 1st Avenue NE, Ruskin.

Organizers are hoping to draw more than 150 concertgoers for the Saturday, May 3, event, which will also feature a silent auction.

"We would like to see a few hundred people here for just the barbecue and at least 100 for the concert," said Frances Hereford-Griffin of the Cultural Center. "We have had several jazz groups here and they have proved to be a big draw."

The event kicks off at 5 p.m. with a barbecue. Craft beer and wine accompany the main dish. Country band Victoria Hawkes, featuring Victoria Ginty and Mike Ivey, will provide the music until 7 p.m., when Worthmore takes the stage.

Known for his quick wit and musical dexterity, Worthmore was a regular in the New York City music scene for more than 20 years. He has shared the stage with many elite blues, folk and rock artists such as Kinky Friedman, Bo Diddley, Ben E.

► Continued on page 28

## With big grant, Bayou Pass Village greens up for Earth Day



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

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

A quote passed widely around Facebook in the weeks leading up to Earth Day and Arbor Day said, "Imagine if trees gave off WiFi signals, we would be planting so many trees and we'd probably save the planet, too. Too bad they only produce the oxygen we breathe."

On Earth Day, April 22, a dozen volunteers working with Florida Home Partnership and assisted by a grant from Wells Fargo actually did plant trees (sorry, there were no reports the trees included WiFi signals) as part of the 14th Avenue Beautification Project at FHP's Bayou Pass Village Phase 4 development. The group planted several Washingtonia Palms along 14th Avenue SE and 6th Street SE.

While another widely distributed quote on Facebook attributes President Abraham Lincoln as saying, "You can't believe everything you read on the Internet," the first quote is, indeed, based on fact. Trees produce

oxygen we breathe. For Bayou Pass Village and the surrounding community, there are other benefits in addition to oxygen and neighborhood beautification. The palm trees as planted will help to reduce noise pollution from the nearby roads and work to not only clean soil but also reduce carbon dioxide in the air.

The Earth Day tree planting was made possible by a grant from Wells Fargo. The event was attended by Steve Schultz, Wells Fargo area president, who delivered remarks after the tree planting and presented FHP with a check for \$219,000, part of the corporation's UrbanLIFTSM program, a program that distributed \$11.4 million in grants to organizations in just 25 cities across the nation. UrbanLIFTSM was established by the national financial firm to help advance community stabilization in communities significantly impacted by the housing crisis. It is the most recent commitment in Wells

► Continued on page 28

## American Victory 'Greatest Generation' cruise to honor late congressman, veterans



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The SS *American Victory* will take to sea on May 3 for one of its semiannual fundraiser cruises. Saturday's five-hour cruise is set to honor World War II veteran and late Congressman Sam Gibbons as well as all veterans.

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

The historic *American Victory* ship, one of only four operational World War II merchant steamships in the U.S., will set sail on Saturday, May 3, to honor the life of Sam M. Gibbons, distinguished war hero and accomplished congressman for 34 years, as well as to honor the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country.

This semiannual fundraiser cruise helps support the maintenance and preservation of the SS *American Victory*. Built in 1945, the ship served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Built in California and serving primarily in the Pacific during the war, *American Victory* became a museum ship docked in Tampa's Channelside District in 1999. Before arriving in Tampa, the ship last saw active duty in Vietnam before being deactivated in 1969. *American Victory* remained in the James River Reserve Fleet in Virginia until 1985, when she was temporarily activated again

after a \$2.5 million investment to bring the ship back to operational condition. She steamed only 26 hours before returning to the reserve fleet. *American Victory* arrived in Tampa under tow in 1999. The ship is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Now as a museum, the ship has again been restored to seaworthy status and, while the historical elements remain intact, she has been upgraded with modern electronics for navigation. Although guns

► Continued on page 2

### Sam M. Gibbons

Gibbons, a Democrat, represented Florida in the U.S. House from 1962 to 1996. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions in Normandy as a U.S. Army captain in the 101st Airborne Division during World War II. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, he parachuted into Carélan, France. He served in the European campaign until the end of the war.

Shortly before German forces surrendered, Gibbons was promoted to Major, but a communications delay kept him from finding that out until after he was honorably discharged.

He was awarded the French Medal of Valor in 2004 at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial during the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

Gibbons died Oct. 10, 2012, in Tampa. He was 92.

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The SS American Victory.

## American Victory

► Continued from page 1  
are still mounted on deck, they have been demilitarized. Of 534 Victory Class ships built, *American Victory* is one of only four that remain fully operational.

*SS American Victory* Mariners Memorial and Museum Ship is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to honor the dedicated men and women who serve our country during times of peace and war. The ship provides daily educational tours and serves as a training facility for active and reserve military, firefighters and law enforcement officers.

The *SS American Victory* Mariners Memorial and Museum Ship is located at 705 Channelside Drive in Tampa, behind the Florida Aquarium.

Tickets for the May 3 cruise are available for \$99 for adults, \$69 for active duty military members and veterans and \$49 for children ages 4 to 12. Space is limited. Tickets available at [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com), by calling 866-468-7630 or 813-228-8766. Tickets will also be available aboard the ship.

For the cruise, registration begins at 10 a.m. on May 3 with a departure at 11 a.m. The ship is expected to return to port at 4 p.m.

For more information about the cruise or the ship, visit [www.americanyictory.org](http://www.americanyictory.org).

## Hillsborough Choice Options accepting applications

The Hillsborough Choice Options application period for elementary magnet and School Choice programs for the 2014-2015 school year is open now through May 14 at noon.

Under Hillsborough Choice Options, students can apply for a magnet school or another public school with available space within Hillsborough County. Students who wish to remain at their current magnet or choice school, or prefer to go to their attendance area school, do not need to complete an application.

School choice and magnet programs are available for students entering kindergarten through 11th grade. Students currently enrolled in a Hillsborough County public elementary school should apply directly online. Students new to Hillsborough County Public Schools can download an application from the Choice Options website, complete it and mail it to the address listed on the application.

Applications are available online at [choice.mysdhc.org](http://choice.mysdhc.org). Parents can call the Choice Information Line at 813-272-4692 for answers to their questions. For more information, call Terrie Dodson-Caldevilla at 813-272-4048.



## Women's center holds ribbon cutting

Choices Women's Center held a ribbon-cutting at their new location in the Sun Point Shopping Center, 3018 E. College Ave., Ruskin, last week.

Members of the SouthShore Chamber of Commerce were on hand for the ceremony (above). The expanded resource center can now offer more services for those facing an unplanned pregnancy, including counseling, ultrasounds, pregnancy testing, baby care items, mentoring, parenting classes and more. All services are confidential and free of charge. For more information, visit [www.ChoicesWomensCenter.com](http://www.ChoicesWomensCenter.com) or call 813-938-6024.



CHERE SIMMONS PHOTOS

Volunteers and staff at the Choices Women's Center are, left to right, Lorena Clark, executive director Karen Brooks, Heather Eddy, Ida Klinger, center director Lucinda Hodges, Sylvia Guerra, Christy Bowman, Liz Collazo and Karen Burns. Volunteers not pictured are Vanessa Suarez and Christine Hoyt.



### BLOW OUT Yard Sale

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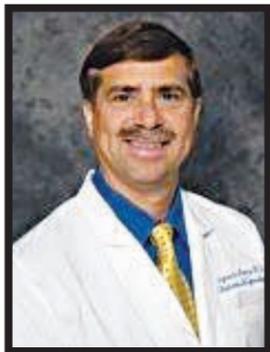
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Area churches donate items and other resources to Choices Women's Center on a monthly basis. At right, diapers and baby wipes were collecting during April at South Bay Church in Riverview. Heading the project was Dee Frazier, with help from Amanda Joplin, Nancy Sanders, Faith Moeller and Laura Moore.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## Freedom From Life's Unexpected Moments

*Ignacio Armas, MD*

May 22nd • 4:30 - 5:30 pm

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### Healthy Heart Nutrition

May 7th • 2:30 pm  
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### Vascular Victories Cardiac and Stroke Support

May 8th • 12:00 pm  
Oakfield Medical Plaza  
Classroom A • Suite 262

### Nutrition for Cancer Prevention and Treatment Class

May 14th • 2:30 pm  
Oakfield Medical Plaza  
Classroom B • Suite 260

### Outpatient Diabetes Self-Management

May 21st • 8:30 am  
Oakfield Medical Plaza  
Classroom B • Suite 260

### Surgical Solutions for Weight Loss

*Alfredo Fernandez, MD*  
May 29th • 6:30 pm  
Oakfield Medical Plaza  
Classroom B • Suite 260

### Surgical Weight Loss Support Group

May 29th • 6:30 pm  
Oakfield Medical Plaza  
Classroom A • Suite 262

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# Serving through the years

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

Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

It is possible that serving others can also keep you young, if Phyllis Elsberry and Wilma Wood are examples. They are still curious, love to travel and have been living a life of service for quite a few years.

Between them, Elsberry and Wood have 172 years of living to talk about.

Both are past president of the Ruskin Woman’s Club and attribute their steady attendance at women’s clubs through the years to wanting to help others.

Their lives, though they took different paths, parallel each other in their zest for life, their happiness with not only serving but also in living.

“I wanted to volunteer and make a difference,” Elsberry said, a member of more than one woman’s organization in her life.

Though both women have served in women’s clubs before moving to Florida, Elsberry, who lives in Apollo Beach, joined the Ruskin Junior Woman’s Club in 1960, while Wood, a Sun City Center resident, began attending the Ruskin Woman’s Club in 1996.

Thinking of when she was a young woman and about women’s changing roles, Elsberry said that the primary reason that women join a woman’s club is to serve others outside their family circle. She said that in West Virginia, when she was raising her children, the woman’s club she belonged to was called a “progressive woman’s club.” Very few women worked at that time. And the women

## Brick by brick

**The Ruskin Woman’s Club has a new fundraising endeavor. Personalized bricks that will hold special messages for a loved one, special event, business, or as a memorial to someone are available for purchase. The bricks will line the walkway to the front of the clubhouse. The standard size 4-by-8-inch brick with three lines of 20 characters will be \$125; a signature 4-by-8-inch brick with two lines of 20 characters plus a signature will be \$225; a standard 8-by-8-inch brick with six lines of 20 characters will be \$175; and a signature 8-by-8-inch brick with four lines of 20 characters plus a signature will be \$275. You may order the bricks by making a check payable to the Ruskin Woman’s Club and mailing the check and order form to Ruskin Woman’s Club, P.O. Box 547, Ruskin, FL 33770. The order form is found online at [www.theruskinwomansclub.org](http://www.theruskinwomansclub.org). For information, call Carolyn Jones at 813-645-3488.**

who worked tended to help their husbands, mostly farmers, tend their farm produce stands on the weekends. So, they were available to meet in the day. Later on, when women began working outside the home during the day, they met in the evening rather than the day.

Wood worked as a medical secretary at a children’s hospital in Pittsburgh before and after she married her husband in 1951. She still works part-time as a secretary.

Those were exciting days, she said. The hospital where she worked was among the pioneers in

organ transplants, making history. Wood later moved to Virginia Beach, then attended a junior woman’s club in 1949 in Pennsylvania.

The Ruskin Woman’s Club has paralleled others. It began as the Woman’s Twentieth Century Club, established in 1912. The name was changed to the Ruskin Woman’s Club in 1940.

That was the year the Miller Family decided their family home to the club.

Dr. George McAnelley Miller, a prosecuting attorney in Chicago, also was a professor and president of two Ruskin colleges in Chicago.

After moving to Florida in 1906, he established a Ruskin College in Ruskin in 1910. His wife, Adaline Dickman Miller, founded the first Ruskin Post Office on Aug. 7, 1908, which is also known as the official founding day of Ruskin, Fla.

The General Federation of Women’s Clubs is an international women’s organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Since it was founded in 1890, the Federation has brought local women’s clubs from around the country and throughout the world into membership.

It is evident that both women live in the present. They are excited about the help the club can give to students hoping to go to college.



LIA MARTIN PHOTO

From left, Wilma Wood and Phyllis Elsberry look at some older scrapbooks compiled of Ruskin Woman’s Club members and events.

The Ruskin Woman’s Club usually offers \$10,000 in scholarships every year to East Bay High School students. Thirty students applied for the scholarship this year. Eight received the scholarship. The interviewing process is extensive.

The students who apply for scholarships always impress Elsberry and Wood. They said that the students mostly work and help others outside their school curriculum. They are busy and still get good grades.

Besides giving scholarships, Ruskin Woman’s Club is able to help other organizations from money the club receives in donations and in fundraising. They preserve pickles and strawberry jam, hold an annual Christmas tea and also design holiday cards for veterans. The club also rents its space every week to a church

and rents two upstairs apartments. And, it allows its premises to be used for weddings and other social events.

Their list of service projects and donations includes the Special Olympics, Hacienda Girl’s Ranch, Rock Camp, the Mary & Martha House, Keep Hillsborough Beautiful and Canine Companions, to name a few.

The GFWC Ruskin Woman’s Club meets monthly at 503 U.S. 41 N., Ruskin, FL 33570. General membership meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. A second meeting or recap of the general membership meeting is also held the second Tuesday of each month. Members create and implement community service programs in the arts, conservation, education, home life, international outreach and public issues.

## ACUPUNCTURE



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## Positive Talk: Are you a keeper if they "right-size"?

Almost every day, we read of corporations reducing workforces to remain competitive. If that happens in your organization, would you be one of the people valuable enough to stay or would you be headed out the door? In troubled times, it behooves us all to look at ourselves carefully and be sure that we are living up to our true potential.



By William Hodges

We cannot wait until trouble comes to our door; that may be too late to make any life adjustments we deem necessary. But by what standard should we judge ourselves? Well, there may not be one definitive standard, but in our survey of employers, we found they prized some specific traits. Would your employer see these traits in you?

**Honesty** is the most prized trait. Companies point out that their losses from the inside are much higher than those from thieves in the night. How honest are you? Are you the type that wastes company resources and uses supplies for unauthorized purposes? I know one man who routinely outfits his three children with school supplies out of the company supply cabinet. He calls it a fringe benefit; the company would call it theft.

**Enthusiasm and cheerfulness** are also very valuable traits and highly prized by most employers. It is said that God loves a cheerful giver, and it appears that employers love a cheerful worker. Do you light up your workplace with a smile? In bad times, smiles become valuable commodities.

**Vitality and energy** are a must. Energetic people are a joy to be around; they are the cheerleaders who create the excitement that keeps everyone else involved. They are the ones who set a quick pace for getting things done. Are you setting a pace that will energize your organization?

Are you known for **perseverance**? Having an employee who can be trusted to complete an assignment with bulldog tenacity is a valuable asset in any company. How good are you at following up and staying with a project until it is completed? Can you be counted on to get things done?

**Reliability** is a prime factor in retention. Managers want people on their team who are steady and dependable. These are the people

they can count on to be where they say they will be when they say they will be there. Would you describe yourself in that way?

In this "bottom line" world, companies need loyalty from their employees and will take loyalty into consideration when they have choices as to who will stay when layoffs occur. The best rule to follow is not to speak badly of the company paying your salary. If you cannot speak well of your employer, it is time for you to leave while it is still your choice.

So there you have it — several suggestions to save your job should the terrible words "right sizing" be heard around your organization. Even if they do not save your job, just developing these traits will put you in a better position to get another one. Remember that there is always another day, and it is up to you to make it great.

*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*

## Attention, all women of the Military Sea Service

Tampa Bay WAVES Unit #55 will meet at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, at the Assisted Living Facility of Hawthorne Village, a retirement community located on W. Lumsden Road in Brandon, just west of Kings Avenue on the south side of Lumsden. The Assisted Living building is the first one on the right of the entrance road into the Hawthorne compound.

The mission of WAVES Unit #55 is to participate in various events assisting American veterans, especially female veterans, including support of programs at James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa.

The unit is actively seeking new members and welcomes all women who served honorably (including those currently serving) in the U. S. Navy, Navy Nurse Corps, Coast Guard, Marine Corps or Maritime Service, or related reserve components.

Attend and get acquainted with other Sea Services women veterans and retirees. You're sure to enjoy the fellowship and activities that will rekindle memories of your military service days.

For more information, call Jeanette Green at 813-657-9164.

## Opening reception at SouthShore Regional Library

There will be an opening reception from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, for the artists who will display their painting and mixed-media artwork in the Crawford Gallery and Community Gallery at the SouthShore Regional Library.

The artists are Margit Redlawsk, Anna Schermerhorn, Dolores Phelps, Art Sarlin and Cynthia Wortmann. The exhibit runs through June 26.

SouthShore Regional Library is at 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin. For more information, call Laurie Burhop at 813-273-3652.

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

### SCC Chamber Cup Classic is May 9

The 4th annual Sun City Center Chamber Cup Classic is Friday, May 9, at the Apollo Beach Golf Club.

Tee-off is at 8 a.m. There will be a \$15,000 hole-in-one-prize on the 8th hole, sponsored by Ed Morse Cadillac. And on the 17th hole, a celebrity shot will be available for only \$10, courtesy of Canadian pro-golfer and PGA player Jim Nelford.

The cost is \$200 for a four-some, which includes an omelet station breakfast, lunch, lots of prizes and a best-ball scramble.

Fax your team names to 813-634-8438 or stop by the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce to register. For more information, call 813-634-5111.

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CHERE SIMMONS PHOTOS

It was like old times for many of those in attendance. Pictured above are Al Rimes; Major Ron Hartley, Commander of District 4, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office; Stacy R. White, candidate for Hillsborough County Commission, District 4; and Dr. Earl Lennard, former Hillsborough County supervisor of elections and former superintendent of the Hillsborough County School District. These Hillsborough County natives had plenty to reminisce about and stories to tell.

### HCSO District IV annual appreciation fish fry

There was a huge turnout at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office District 4 fish fry last Saturday. The community is invited to bring their families to this free event, which is held to show appreciation for the officers who protect our communities 24 hours a day. The event featured two bounce houses, cotton candy, candy apples, and other carnival-type foods, as well as the main course of fried fish and softshell turtle, with all the fixings, including Major Ron Hartley's famous hushpuppies (top left).



Dr. Earl Lennard and Steve Simmons share a laugh while preparing fish for the fryer. The Simmons family has a long history of cooking for sheriff's department outings.

### Arbor Day Foundation tree-care booklet \$3

The Arbor Day Foundation is offering a handy tree-care booklet designed to help people plant and care for trees.

Anyone can receive *Conservation Trees*, a user-friendly booklet featuring illustrations, colorful photos and easily understood descriptions, by making a \$3 donation to the Foundation.

The booklet provides details about the right way to plant and prune trees. It also includes tips on using shade trees and windbreaks to save on energy costs, attract songbirds and create a living snow fence.

To receive the *Conservation Trees* booklet, send a \$3 check along with your name and address to: Conservation Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, or order online at [arborday.org/conservationtrees](http://arborday.org/conservationtrees).

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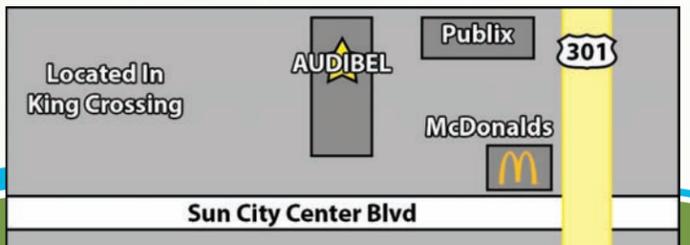
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## Ruskin Christian School receives accreditation

Since 1971, Ruskin Christian School has been committed to providing the South Shore community with affordable, quality, Christ-centered education.

On April 10, the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, or FACCS, awarded Ruskin Christian School “full accreditation.” RCS is one of only two schools in Hillsborough County now holding this stamp of approval. According to Dr. Howard Burke, the chairman of the accreditation committee, it is very rare for a school to receive this level of accreditation the first time through this process. Most schools receive a conditional or probationary status for the first two years.

In order to thrive, schools need to constantly look for areas to improve and to strive for excellence. Ruskin Christian School voluntarily chose to seek external validation of its performance as a school when it submitted the application for accreditation in 2011. RCS went through a rigorous, impartial evaluation by FACCS, and met or exceeded their standards.

According to Tim Vanderveer, Ruskin Christian School administrator, “This process of self-study caused Ruskin Christian School to look at every aspect of our school from a critical perspective to determine the effectiveness of the overall program and create a school improvement plan to address areas of concern,” he said. “The FACCS accreditation validates our educational program, and we are excited to have received full accreditation.”



From left are Tim Vanderveer, Ruskin Christian School administrator; Dr. Barry Rumsey, pastor of First Baptist Church; and Steve Weer, high school principal.

Assisting with this self-study was Dara Alexander, high-school history teacher and athletic director.

“For me, it’s a validation of the school doing what they should be doing,” Alexander said. “It should validate for this community that Ruskin Christian School has a phenomenal program. Students [who] graduate from RCS go on to very respectable universities and graduate with multiple degrees. Accreditation will challenge us to continue to improve ourselves in academic excellence.”

In addition to being accredited, RCS strives to excel in technology. RCS has introduced an iPad lab in the elementary school this year. Steve Weer, high-school principal, said, “This next year, middle-school and high-school teachers

who want to, can start introducing it. The FACCS accreditation team said our technology plan, if carried out, is very aggressive for a school our size. In the next couple of years [all] student[s] will have their own iPad, eBooks and research-based learning. Technology is our niche. There aren’t a lot of schools, even public schools, using this technology on a daily basis. I think we’re ahead of the game.”

RCS is now enrolling students from age two through 12th grade for the 2014-2015 school year. Interested parents should call 813-645-6441 to schedule an appointment for a tour of the school.

RCS will also host “Treasure Island Summer Camp” in June and July for children age 2 through grade 5.

## The homeschooling conundrum

Parents are faced with myriad decisions while raising children. One subject that has made a powerful presence in recent years is education. Public or private school? Secular? Parochial? Then there is homeschooling.

Choosing a private or public school can be influenced by location, cost, ratings, etc. But homeschooling? There are a lot more decisions to be made.

Guest columnist Barbara Baker of Riverview has attempted to take some of the guesswork out of the decision by writing a series of articles that will answer many of the questions parents have about the ins and outs of homeschooling.

Barbara was inspired by a family friend with 11 years’ experience teaching at home. She put Barbara on the path to finding the answers needed for this series, and in turn, to enlighten you, our readers, on this important topic.

So, join us for the next few weeks on a journey down the path of home-based education.

— Editor

### ■ By BARBARA BAKER

According to Dr. Brian Ray of the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI), “Homeschooling — that is, parent-led, home-based education — is an age-old traditional educational practice that a decade ago appeared to be cutting edge and ‘alternative,’ but is now bordering on ‘mainstream’ in the United States.”

He says there are about 2.2 million home-educated students in the U.S.

A degree in education is not required to homeschool your child. However, strong organizational skills are a plus.

There are some websites that tout free, accredited online classes. “There are resources to help your kids, even without a curriculum,” says Sarah Puebla, a homeschool veteran of 11 years. “As you go, you figure out what is best for your child.”

Puebla homeschools her special-needs children, and has learned that one of her children can concentrate better when weights are placed across her shoulders. “It calms her down,” she says. That kind of personalized attention is a real perk of homeschooling.

Ray reports that “home-educated students typically score 15 to 20 percentile points above public

school students on standardized academic tests, and home-educated students are increasingly being actively recruited by colleges.”

In an article titled *Benefits of Home-schooling: Dealing With Conflict*, Jeanne Faulconer writes, “I have found that kids tend to be emotionally honest with their parents in the intimate relationship of homeschooling.

“The ability to console or guide a child who is angry, anxious, frustrated or sad, right when she needs it,” writes Faulconer, “is a remarkable opportunity that is simply woven into the home-school days.”

There are multiple opportunities for socialization. Puebla points out that homeschooled kids can take advantage of field trips organized by the co-ops or sometimes even a couple of moms will get together and organize something.

A homeschool co-op is typically formed by individual families who share their academic goals, morals, religious beliefs and social behaviors. The children learn similar belief and social structures from observation and interaction with the different members of the co-op. There are opportunities for education in music, art and physical education through the co-ops, taught by professional teachers and/or experienced moms. Home-educated students of high-school age may sign up for any sports teams offered by the public high schools.

A good website to start with is [www.NewBeeHomeSchooler.com](http://www.NewBeeHomeSchooler.com). The owners have created a boot camp for those new to homeschooling. The NHERI also directs parents to pertinent resources and offers a peer-reviewed research journal. There are many magazines on the subject as well.

Statistics from data collected by NHERI show that a diverse group of people embrace homeschooling regardless of their socioeconomic, religious or political standing. Data continue to be collected on the success of adults who were home-educated. In general, they are doing as well as, if not better than, their public school counterparts with regard to participation in local community services, success at college and in internalizing the values and beliefs of their parents.

Next week: Laws regarding homeschooling. What you need to know to get started.



## Students of the Month at Apollo Beach Elementary School

Apollo Beach Elementary School acknowledged the following as Students of the Month: Kylie Auciello, Morgan Ayan, Bailee Barnette, Vedhan Basnet, Lila Boyd, Micah Brandon, Holly Brophy, Caroline Chase, Lacy Comer, Becky Council, Dillon Edgar, Tyler Fields, Lauren Gonzalez, Linda Granados, Max Granados, Caroline Halsema, Henry Hanlon, Adam Maysles, Myles McColl, Madilyn McMillan, Ryan Mercer, Willow Morgan, Bailey Palmer, Julianna Perez, Halle Razick, Noah Rodrigues, Ethan Self, Logan Simon, Amberleigh Smith, Cameron Smith, Morgan Steel, Sam Summerlin, Diego Vergara, Kathryn Warren and Lleyton Wijbrandi.

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## SouthShore Regional Library

### Kids program/event highlights

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#### Teen Game Zone — Thursday, May 1, 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, May 1, 7 p.m.

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

#### Teen Advisory Board Meeting — Thursday, May 1, 7 p.m.

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

#### Magic is For Everyone & Bookmark Awards — Saturday, May 3, 10:30 a.m.

Join us as we announce the winners of our SouthShore Library Bookmark Contest. After the awards, watch as Magician Cesar Domico amazes with magic tricks, using everything from handkerchiefs and sponge balls to cards and balloons. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

#### Pee Wee Artists: Let's Create! — Monday, May 5, 10:30 a.m.

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

#### Baby Time — Monday, May 5, 1:35 p.m.

Tuesday, May 6, 11:35 a.m.

Wednesday, May 7, 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, May 5, 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 chemical concoctions. This is a school early-release Monday. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

#### Puppet Show: The Gingerbread Boy — Tuesday, May 6, 10:15 a.m.

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

#### Adult/Teen: How Do You Make Art Anyways? — Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m.

Phyllis Alexandroff will be teaching this popular class. Participants take a walk back into their own personal history to create a work of art based on experiences. This will be a fun, rewarding activity and available to any level of ability. Limit 22. Registration required; do so at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652. Funding for this program provided by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center.

#### Toddler Time — Wednesday, May 7, 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 — Wednesday, May 7, 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](http://www.southshorefriends.com).

## Apollo Beach Woman's Club to award \$10k in scholarships

At the Apollo Beach Woman's Club luncheon meeting on Wednesday, May 14, \$10,000 in scholarships will be awarded to high-school students living in Apollo Beach. The luncheon meeting at Little Harbor, 611 Destiny Drive in Ruskin, will also include the installation of officers for 2014-2015.

Luncheon tickets are \$16; the reservation deadline is May 9. To make a reservation, call Deanna Anest at 813-938-3641 or email [hookr06@hotmail.com](mailto:hookr06@hotmail.com).

The Club is open to all women in Apollo Beach and surrounding communities. Dues (\$20 annually) are payable in May. In addition to raising monies for college scholarships and participating in community service projects, club members participate in a variety of enrichment groups, including the bridge, book, culture and garden clubs.

Judy Motta and Lynn Lucido, organizers of events for the Culture Club, arranged a visit to Tampa Electric Company, or TECO, in Apollo Beach for a tour of the "stacks" and the view of Apollo

Beach from the top. The group learned how electricity is produced and the uses for byproducts.

In April a visit to Weeki Wachee Springs State Park gave members a taste of Old Florida; they watched the mermaid shows in the submerged theater, lunched in the park and had a narrated river ride.

The May Book Club will meet May 22 to review *All the Flowers in Shanghai* by Duncan Jepson. Marcia Ward will be the hostess; Beverly Fletchall is co-hostess. For more information, call Seel Lundy at 813-645 2313.

An Easter Hat contest, organized by Sonya Davidson, was held at the Club's April meeting. Judged by the Sunset Grill wait staff, prizes were awarded to Connie Craig (funniest), Lessie Deane (most attractive), "Yollie" McBrayer (queen hat), Beverly Brooks, (most interesting) and Nancy Grubb (most original).

For more information, call Judy Peck, vice president of membership, at 813-746-1072. To learn more, visit [www.apollobeachwomansclub.com](http://www.apollobeachwomansclub.com).



## Terrific Kids at Cypress Creek Elementary

Cypress Creek Elementary School in Ruskin has awarded Terrific Kids certificates to the following students: Selena Perez-Chavez, Schedna Gay, Malory Ibarra-Ochoa, Dulce Garcia-Vasquez, Jordon Lezcano, Pedro DeJesus, Danny Martinez, Karen Parra Carranza, Jadah Flores, Andrew Nguyen, Avah Green, Ramon Galan, Malayla Soto, Sienna Greene, Sophia Ford, Jaiden Smith, Ayla Alcin, Luis Zertuche, Alana Lira, Adolfo Santiago, Shantal Gomez, Jessica Fuentes-Lozoya, Eduardo Yanez Perez, Alejandro Montero, Vellenia Pena, Jesus Amador, Zykeria White, Julio Lopez, Jessica Martinez, Joseph Francisco Villalba, Madison Mathis, Brayan Flores-Perez, Makenzee Ewing, James Woodcock, Judith Perez, Mariana Martinez, Anabelle Gilmore, Alina Bailey, Thanh Tran, Jesse Flores, Sherlyn Bermudez, Mari Vasquez, Jeremiah Martinez, Tristan Smith, Kaitlin Huffman, Neva'eh Daniel, Keyanna Joseph, Christopher Brown, Fediana Edward, Jonathan Raso, Toluwanimi Ajani, Malysiana Lee, Janet Zeferino, Marleni Perez-Vasquez, Alicia Perez-Vasquez, Jeanette Hilerio, Jimmy Perez, Sydney LaRue, Janessa Ortiz, Ke'Yana Browne, Princess Gabin, Mariana Cruz, Katherine Hughes and Dyani Guerra. The Terrific Kids program is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Sun City Center.



## Terrific Kids at Ruskin Elementary School

In March, trustworthiness was the character trait that earned Terrific Kid status at Ruskin Elementary School, in a program sponsored by Kiwanis of Sun City Center. Present for the photo were: Jacklyn Galicia-Miron, Allizon Monterrosas Ramirez, Diego Santiago, Jazlyn Aparicio, Mareli Leal-Adame, Marvin Solorzano, Bailey Belcher, Oscar Dong, Daisy Perez Ramirez, Adrian Rosales, Alan Calixtro, Maria Linares, Kameron McNeill, Elizabeth Reyes-Gaspar, Pablo Martinez-Huerta, Brianna Hudson, Chance Grace, Briseida Mejia-Mejia, Demian Espindola, Faith Ponce, John Monterrosas, Oscar Ramirez-Porras, Juliana Lizardo, Ricky Rivera, Arianna Breault, Nicholas Scott, Liliana Urraya, Jillian Giles, Eliseo Arias, Rolando Grimaldo, Vicky Mullins, Daisy Ramirez, Samantha Ziff, Haylie Sylvis, Adrianna Ibarra, Nephtalie Sainitdor, Liana Campisciano, Jocelyn Romero-Cruz, Reychele Grogan, Rachel Sherman, Nancy Maya, Justin Roque, Daniel Hernandez, Alejandra Lopez Perez, Abigail Numerick, Nailea Portillo, Lisa Soto, Jhamare Jones, Juan Lumberras, Elaine Vergara, Mariajose Claudio, Miguel Aguilera, Ana Casarubias, Rachel Beasley, Paris Newton, Angelina Brannon, Yareli Aguilera, Destiny Spady and Davon Martin. Also pictured are Ruskin Elementary Principal Lisa Amos and Kiwanis members Donna and Tom Braden. Not present for the photo were children Christopher Mondragon, Savannah Butler and Jessica Sanchez.

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# Salsa Festival draws 1,000 to Good Samaritan Mission

■ By **KEVIN BRADY**

kevin@observernews.net

The weather held out, at least for half of the day, but rain couldn't quench the thirst of visitors for "All Things Salsa" March 29 in Wimauma.

A fundraiser for Good Samaritan Mission, 14920 Balm Wimauma Road, the event drew some 1,000 visitors from all over the Bay area for games, food and music.

"Our goals were to bring different people and organizations together to rub shoulders and get to know each other and provide families with a fun day, so I would say it was a success," said Theresa Cruz, who runs the Mission with her husband, William.

The Mission hopes to make the event a must-go-to soiree on the South County entertainment calendar. The first festival was

two years ago.

"We hope to make this a major fundraiser," said Anne Madden, a Mission volunteer. "The idea is to bring people here who have never been to the Mission before."

Founded in 1984, the Good Samaritan Mission emphasizes education and opportunity to break the cycle of poverty, offering classes in everything from domestic violence to diabetes, and from HIV/AIDS to gang violence — issues that have riven the local community for years, according to research by Mission leaders.

Wayne Kindt, president of the Mission's board of directors, has been driving from Sarasota for a decade to support Good Samaritan.

"People who come here and take classes, get a little chit for the food pantry, and they can shop themselves," Kindt said. "That helps preserve people's dignity because they feel they are earning it."

"You can't break the cycle of poverty if you don't help people help themselves. It's about a hand up, not a hand out," he said.

For more information, visit the Mission website, [www.gsmision.org](http://www.gsmision.org), email [gsmision1984@gmail.com](mailto:gsmision1984@gmail.com) or call 813-634-7136.



ANNE MADDEN PHOTO

## Agape Christian School wins salsa contest

Students from Agape Christian School of Sarasota proved to be the salsa champions at the recent Good Samaritan Mission Family Salsa Festival in Wimauma. The team, Agape Christian Team I, included student Kyle Nilles and school principal Cindy Showalter, who won the Judges' Choice and the People's Choice awards. Other recipes in the competition included an entry from S&S Tacos of Ruskin and Ana's Restaurant of Wimauma. Judges for the contest were Lynn Kessel, a local food writer and author of the *Table Scraps* column; Amy Polinsky of Got Moxy Personal Training; and Bill Cruz of Good Samaritan Mission. For more information on the Family Salsa Festival or Good Samaritan Mission, see the Mission website at [www.gsmision.org](http://www.gsmision.org). For more information on ACS, see its website at [agapesarasota.org](http://agapesarasota.org). Pictured above, from left: Agape Christian School Students Alexis Harbert, Christine Havens and Kyle Nilles; School Principal Cindy Showalter; and Good Samaritan Mission executive director, Bill Cruz.



Brian Collar of Riverview with his strawberry shortcake was a popular draw at the festival.



KEVIN BRADY PHOTOS

Volunteers turned out en masse to ensure the festival was a success.

Chantal Jacques of Sun City Center tries some of the salsa.



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# Ruskin Land Code amendment clears a key hurdle

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

A new land code amendment that sets guidelines for development in large parts of Ruskin passed its legislative test last week.

The public hearing on the amendment was lauded by commissioners, who praised county staff for listening to the concerns of Ruskin residents. "You guys reached out. You did a great job," Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandra Murman told staff at the April 24 public hearing. A second public hearing on the amendment is set for May 29. With no dissenting voices heard, for now, it appears the amendment is well on its way to becoming part of the Comprehensive Plan, the county's development bible.

The bonhomie of the meeting was a stark contrast to a March 24 public hearing on the proposed amendment in Ruskin. Residents criticized the language of the amendment, saying it did not reflect the intent or spirit of the Ruskin Community Plan.

The Plan, the result of two years and more than 40 public meetings, was adopted by the county commission in 2005. The 16-page, 3,200-word Plan would guide future development in Ruskin. Or so it was thought, until a challenge by a developer last April found the Plan's recommendations were never actually incorporated into the county's Comprehensive Plan; hence, the need for an amendment.

The county's first draft of that amendment, however, was "worse than useless" according to some Ruskin residents, who demanded a rewrite and called on the community to let their voices be heard on the issue.

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

"We reviewed the input we received from the board [of county commissioners] and the community and we've made some edits to that language," Moreda told commissioners. "The edits are primarily in the area of how we will review projects that are not consistent with the guidelines, so if it's inconsistent with the guidelines, then we've established criteria that we will apply to projects."

"I think the county finally has something that will work for the community," said Mariella Smith, one of the leaders of an effort to rewrite the amendment. "It's really important now that citizens show their support for this by contacting county

commissioners."

If passed, the amendment will give developers two choices: abide by the guidelines of the Community Plan and sail through the approval process, or provide detailed reasons why they need to opt out of the Plan's guidelines.

At issue are specific guidelines

► Continued on page 19



PHOTO COURTESY OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Joe Moreda, the county's director of planning and zoning, said the new Ruskin Land Code amendment reflects the concerns of residents.

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| Mon 05: | MONDAY MORNING MOVIES<br><b>SLOW FLOW YOGA</b><br>GENTLE CHAIR YOGA<br><i>(Last yoga classes of the season)</i> | 10 am to Noon<br><b>1 to 2 pm</b><br>2:15 to 3:30 pm |
| Tue 06: | SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*  | 11 am to Noon  |
| Wed 07: | LINE DANCING*: Beginners or<br>Advanced <i>(Classes Limited to 30 ppl)</i>                                      | 11 am to Noon;<br>12:15 to 1:15 pm                   |
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| Fri 09: | SALSA DANCING<br><b>SIT AND BE FIT (NEW! As seen on PBS - via our big screen TV)</b>                            | 10 to 11 am<br><b>1:30 to 2:30 pm</b>                |
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| Fri 16: | SALSA DANCING<br><b>SIT AND BE FIT (NEW! As seen on PBS - via our big screen TV)</b>                            | 10 to 11 am<br><b>1:30 to 2:30 pm</b>                |
| Mon 19: | MONDAY MORNING MOVIES<br><b>SIT AND BE FIT (NEW! As seen on PBS - via our big screen TV)</b>                    | 10 am to Noon<br><b>1:30 to 2:30 pm</b>              |

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### South Shore Dems meet May 8

South Shore Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 8, at SouthShore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin. The program begins at 1:30 p.m., with refreshments and socializing at 1 p.m.

Countywide Commissioner Kevin Beckner, who was first elected to the County Commission in November 2008, will discuss some of the current critical issues and challenges facing Hillsborough county residents.

All Democrats and like-minded individuals are invited to attend.

Visit [www.southshoredemocraticclub.org](http://www.southshoredemocraticclub.org) as well as Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SSEDEMCLUB](http://www.facebook.com/SSEDEMCLUB) for more information.

### Moms get in free at MOSI May 10-11

Mothers will receive free general admission to MOSI and an IMAX documentary film with the purchase of a child's admission on Mother's Day weekend, Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11.

Have a fun-filled adventure by exploring Kids in Charge!, relaxing in the butterfly garden and catching an IMAX film.

The Mother's Day promotion cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Limit one per household, and mother and child(ren) must be present at time of purchase.

The free admission does not include special-engagement exhibitions, films, events and Sky Trail Ropes Course & Zip Line.

MOSI, the Museum of Science & Industry, is at 4801 East Fowler Ave., Tampa.

# THE SAVVY SENIOR

## How Medicare covers your eyes

Dear Savvy Senior,

What does Medicare cover when it comes to eye care? I currently have good vision insurance through my employer but will lose it when I retire.

Looking Ahead



By Jim Miller

Dear Looking, Many retirees are unclear with what Medicare does and doesn't cover when it comes to eye care. The good

news is that Medicare covers most medical issues like cataract surgery, treatment of eye diseases and medical emergencies. But unfortunately, routine care like eye exams and eyeglasses are usually the beneficiary's responsibility.

Here's a breakdown of how original Medicare covers your eyes, along with some tips that can help you reduce your out-of-pocket costs.

**Exams:** Routine eye exams (sometimes called "eye refractions") that test for eyeglasses or contact lenses are usually not covered under Medicare, but you are entitled to a yearly medical eye exam if you have diabetes or are at high risk for glaucoma. People at high risk include diabetics, those with a family history of glaucoma, and older Hispanics and African-Americans.

Medicare will also pay for exams to test and treat medical eye diseases and other problems like macular degeneration, dry eye syndrome, eye infections or if you get something in your eye.

**Eyeglasses and contact lenses:** Medicare does not pay for eyeglasses or contact lenses, with one exception: If you have had a conventional intraocular lens inserted during cataract surgery, Medicare will pay for eyeglasses or contact lenses following the operation. Otherwise, you are on your own.

To find affordable eye exams or eyeglasses, many retailers provide discounts — between 10 and 30 percent — if you belong to a membership group like AARP or AAA.

Also consider Costco Optical, which is considered by *Consumer Reports* as the best discount store for good eyewear and low prices — it requires a \$55 membership fee. Walmart Vision Centers and For Eyes Optical offer low prices, too, with no required membership.

You can also save big by buying your glasses online. Some online

stores like [zennioptical.com](http://zennioptical.com), [goggles4u.com](http://goggles4u.com) and [eyebuydirect.com](http://eyebuydirect.com) sell prescription eyeglasses for as little as \$7. To purchase glasses online, you'll need your prescription and pupillary distance from an exam, and your frame size.

**Eye surgeries:** Medicare covers most eye surgeries, including cataract surgery to remove cataracts and insert standard intraocular lenses to replace your own. Medicare will not, however, pick up the extra cost if you choose a specialized lens that restores full range of vision, thereby reducing your need for glasses after cataract surgery. The extra cost for a specialized lens can run up to \$2,500 per eye.

Eye surgeries that are not covered by Medicare include refractive surgery and cosmetic eye surgery (such as eyelid surgery) that are not considered medically necessary.

#### Supplemental insurance

Keep in mind that of the medical eye-care services that are covered by Medicare, you're still responsible for 20 percent of the cost; Medicare pays the other 80 percent. To help with this out-of-pocket expense, you may want to consider getting a Medigap supplemental policy.

If you can't afford Medigap insurance, check into EyeCare America at [eyecareamerica.org](http://eyecareamerica.org). This is a national program that provides medical eye examinations to seniors, age 65 and older, and up to one year of treatment at no cost.

#### Advantage option

Another way you can get extra vision coverage when you join Medicare is to choose a Medicare Advantage plan instead of original Medicare. Many of these plans — which are sold through private insurance companies (see [medicare.gov/find-a-plan](http://medicare.gov/find-a-plan)) — cover routine eye care and eyeglasses along with dental, hearing and prescription drugs, in addition to all of your hospital and medical insurance.

Or, if you choose original Medicare, consider purchasing an individual vision insurance policy (see [ehealthinsurance.com](http://ehealthinsurance.com)). These policies cover routine eye care and eyeglasses and typically run between \$12 and \$15 per month.

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

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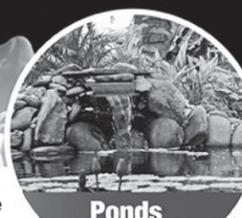
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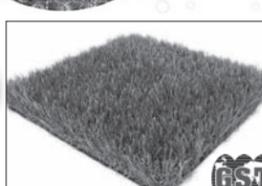


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## Fish Tales: Sardines make great backup bait

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

There was a lot of choppy water last week, but most days were warm and fish were looking for food. Some anglers said more redfish were caught than any other species. Schools of them were reported in several parts of the bay. The legal limit on redfish is one per person.

Those who depend on greenbacks for bait might have a hard time finding them. They seem to be slow showing up in the bay this season. Other bait fish are out there in schools, but those who have not mastered their cast nets are having a difficult time getting them. A castnetter must read the water and know when a school of bait fish is passing by. Be ready to throw the net in a complete circle over the school. It takes practice, keep trying.

Local bait shops always have live shrimp and a variety of frozen bait on hand. In case you run out of bait, always have a couple of cans of sardines in your boat; use them for bait instead of going ashore. And, if you're hungry — sardines and crackers are really tasty.

Many have mastered the art of catching sheephead, as witnessed by the many catches last week. This fish has a hard, bony mouth, and an angler must master the art of setting

## 'America's Boating Class' is May 10

The Manatee Sail and Power Squadron invites area boaters to attend "America's Boating Class" from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, at the Elks Lodge in Palmetto, 4611 4th St. E. (behind Peggy's Corral).

This class satisfies Florida Boating and Safety Education regulations requiring those born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, to complete a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators-approved boater education course or competency exam before operating a vessel powered by a motor of 10 hp or more. Additionally, some insurers offer discounts for completing this course.

Topics covered include: boat-handling techniques; navigation aids; required equipment; rules of the road; emergency procedures; radio procedures; local water knowledge; and optional on-the-water demonstration.

The class fee is \$25, which includes course material, morning coffee and doughnuts, and a light lunch. Advance registration is required.

For more information or to register, call Marty Spencer at 941-761-9444 or email him at mwsspencer25@gmail.com.



**FISH TALES**

a hook to make the catch. Sheephead has a lean, white meat, and is very good table fare. Since the ban on snook fishing has ended, its stock has rebounded to about normal. The catch is still restricted to one per person, per day.

Pier fishing was outstanding last week, boasting great catches of snook, sheephead, trout and redfish. If you don't have a boat, find a pier, bridge, park or some landside area where you can legally drop a line.

Flounder love the warm weather and are no longer lazing on the sandy bottom. You will find them in schools looking for food. Many are out at high and low tide feasting on bait fish.

Freshwater catfish are in our upper rivers, both the Alafia and the Little Manatee. I saw many large catches last week.

Bass catches were great in local fresh waters, private lakes, phosphate pits and upper fresh water rivers.

*Happy boating, fishing, and stay safe.*

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## Fire Rescue Foundation

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The foundation also provides funding to HCFR "to educate, inform and involve the county's residents in protecting life and property in the event of an emergency."

For more information, visit the foundation's official website: [www.hcfrfoundation.org](http://www.hcfrfoundation.org).

## 'Concerts for a Cause' return for fun and philanthropy

Newland Communities' award-winning, free summer "Concerts for a Cause" series is back at FishHawk Ranch and Waterset.

Sponsored by American Newland Communities and their joint-venture partner North America Sekisui House LLC, the concerts feature live music ranging from rock 'n' roll to Top 40.

The Friday-night concert series also offers concertgoers the opportunity to help the 700,000 hungry people in Tampa Bay by bringing nonperishable items for Feeding America Tampa Bay in lieu of admission cost.

Last year, Concerts for a Cause collected more than three tons of food, which equaled more than 5,000 meals.

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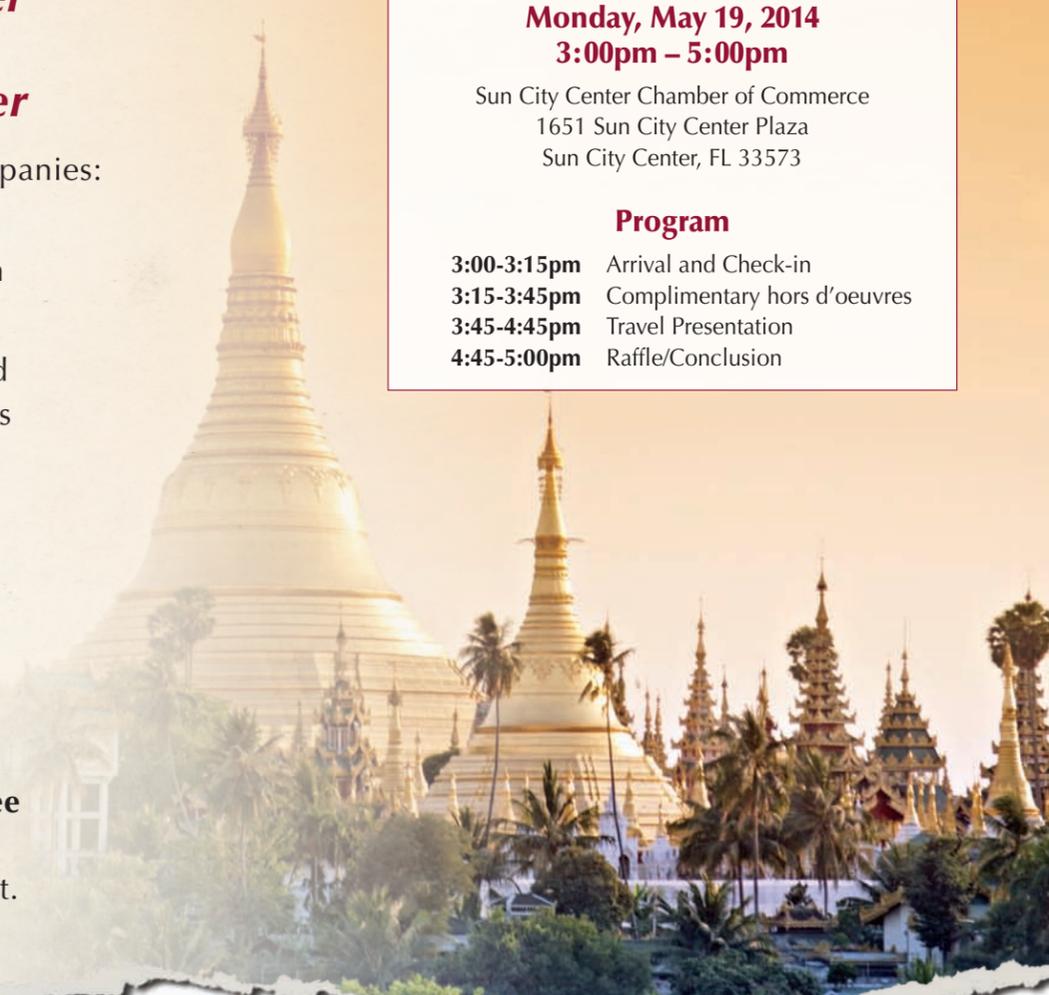
**Dates & Locations**

**Monday, May 19, 2014  
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**Program**

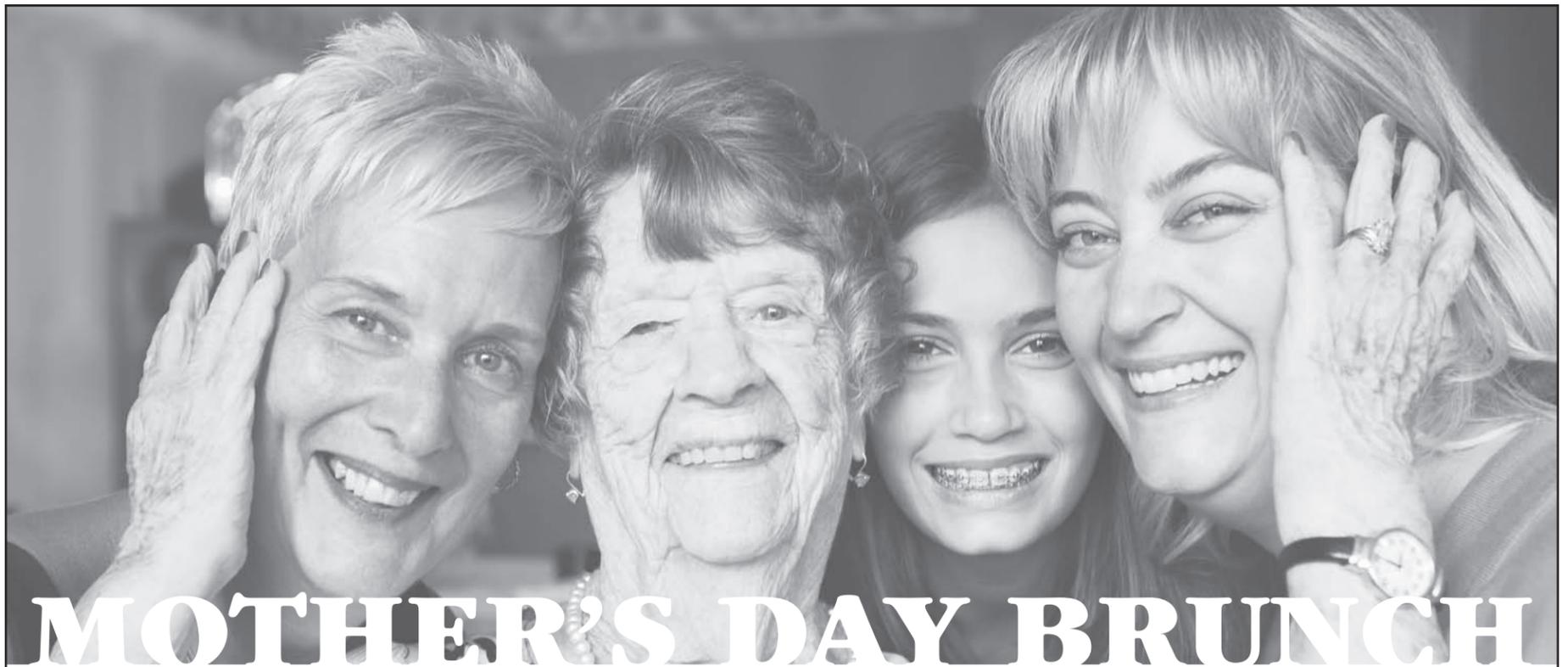
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# On the road again ... *The Biltmore Estate*

By **WARREN RESEN**  
North American Travel Journalists Assn.

When George Washington Vanderbilt began planning and building his home, which today is still the largest private residence ever built in America, he was a 28-year-old bachelor. It took six years to complete this 175,000-square-foot French Renaissance chateau with 250 rooms,

35 bedrooms, 43 bathrooms, 66 servants' bedrooms, 65 fireplaces and many more features under roof. When it officially opened 120 years ago on Christmas Eve 1895, Vanderbilt was 35.

At a time in history when most homes did not have indoor plumbing and electricity was a novelty, Vanderbilt's house in Asheville, N.C., was considered one of the most technologically advanced structures ever built. It is still admired today for its beauty and innovative engineering.

The house was fully electrified,

and used some of Thomas Edison's first light bulbs. There was a fire-alarm system, an electrical call-box system for servants, two elevators, elaborate indoor plumbing for all 35 bedrooms, that new novelty called a telephone, walk-in refrigerators, under-cabinet chilling systems in the kitchen to hold prepared food, a 70,000-gallon indoor swimming pool, a two-lane bowling alley and many more innovative features.

The true cost of building the estate seems to be lost in the mists of time. No one I questioned could



The Biltmore Estate, Asheville, N.C.

even venture a guess. There were so many additions and changes to the original plans that a dollar figure wasn't available. Today this would be called a "time and material job." An old saying about yacht ownership is that, "If you have to ask how much it costs, you probably cannot afford it." This would apply to an undertaking like the Biltmore Estate.

Three years after completion of the main building, George Vanderbilt married Edith Stuyvesant Dresser. After a prolonged European honeymoon, Vanderbilt brought his bride to her new home. She had never seen it until, after a slow ride over the three-mile approach road from the main gate, the final bend in the road was negotiated, and there it was.

The estate's landscaping was designed so that the house was hidden from view to anyone entering from the main gate. It can be seen only after rounding the final bend on the approach road.

There were many reported stories as to what Mrs. Vanderbilt said on seeing her new home for the first time. My favorite is, "George, I don't do windows."

I first became aware of the Biltmore Estate when watching the wonderful 1979 award-winning movie *Being There*, with Peter Sellers and Shirley MacLaine. Much of this highly recommended picture was filmed at the Biltmore Estate, both in the house and on the grounds.

Originally comprising 125,000 acres or 228 square miles, the Biltmore Estate today is a "manageable" 8,000 acres of forests, streams, lakes, buildings and gardens.

Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, known as the dean of American landscape design, Biltmore's formal garden is considered to be one of America's finest. It was one of Olmsted's many grand projects, which included New York's Central Park. At 125,000 acres, the Biltmore Estate was to be his last and greatest accomplishment.

Visiting here is a four-season experience. Approximately 5,000 acres of gardens and woodlands are maintained. Eighty or so varieties of roses and 50,000 tulips and many other types of plantings delight visitors at different times of

▶ Continued on page 15

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# The Biltmore Estate

Continued from page 14

the year. When in bloom, rhododendrons show bursts of color among the green of the woods.

Because there is so much to see and do on the property, confusion can be the order of the day for first-time visitors who wonder how best to see and experience everything in the time available.

The admission fee gives visitors access to the House, Gardens and Grounds, Antler Hill Village and Winery, optional outdoor adventures and much more. There are numerous choices, both in the House and throughout the 8,000 acres.

The Biltmore Estate opens to visitors at 9 a.m. The House is least crowded then, and again around noon when people break for lunch, and also in early afternoon when many visitors have gone on to visit other parts of the estate. I highly recommend taking advantage of the optional audio tour as you

wander through the House.

The one-hour Butler's Tour took us up and down back staircases, and through kitchens, prep rooms, the staff dining room and staff bedrooms. We learned that in the grand mansions during this country's Golden Age (1880s - early 1900s), it was the head housekeeper, not the head butler, who ruled the roost. Check the brochures to see which tour(s) would be of interest to you.

The available active outdoor activities would include river trips, fly fishing, equestrian center, trail rides, hiking, archery, sporting clays, Segway tours, Range Rover off-road driving, bicycle riding on 22 miles of trails, and much more. For those interested in less strenuous outdoor activities, there is the new Antler Hill Village.

Opened in 2010, the Village is the center for information about Vanderbilt family history, and

features live entertainment, dining and shopping. There are coffee, ice cream, pastry and sandwich shops, and restaurants. It is also the location of the famous Biltmore Winery.

The most visited winery in the United States is not in California's Napa Valley but right here in the mountains of North Carolina at the Biltmore Estate. The Biltmore Winery hosts approximately 600,000 visitors a year who stop by for a free tour and samples of the Biltmore vineyard's offerings.

George and Edith Vanderbilt had one child, Cornelia, born in 1900. The Vanderbilts were married for only 16 years when George died from complications of surgery in 1914. He was 52 years old. Edith remained at Biltmore House and ran the estate.

In 1930, during the Great Depression, the Biltmore Estate was opened to the public for the



George Vanderbilt's bedroom in the Biltmore Estate, Asheville, N.C.

first time. It was hoped this would increase tourism in the Asheville area and that visitor admissions would help defray costs of running the estate. Both things came to pass. Today, more than a million visitors pass through the Biltmore Estate gates every year. The Biltmore Estate is privately owned and supported entirely by admission fees. There is neither government funding nor grants.

A question frequently asked is: Why is the property called Biltmore?

The Vanderbilt family originally came from Holland. George Vanderbilt called his estate Biltmore, from "Bildt," the Dutch town where his ancestors originated, and

"more" an Old English word for open, rolling land.

If you have only one day to spend at the Biltmore Estate, do your homework. Go to their website ([www.biltmore.com](http://www.biltmore.com)) and check out what you want to do there. The Biltmore House itself will, of course, be first on the list, but then go to the other venues and make a list, in order of interest, of the other things you would like to experience.

If you can't do everything during a one-day visit, you might want to plan on coming back during another season and continue the tour. We plan on doing so when the gardens are in bloom.

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## 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](http://www.CareShelter.org) or call 813-645-2273.

### Dory

Dory is a beautiful black-and-white young cat. Dory loves to play with the other kittens at the shelter and chases cat toys for hours. She is a vocal cat and always has something to say. She is cute and adorable and craves attention at every turn. She would really like to come to live at a forever home of her own. Stop by the shelter to see this little girl and give her that home. Dory has been spayed and is current on her shots. As part of her adoption, Dory will be microchipped. DOB: April 25, 2013.



PHOTOS MARLENE GREENBERG

### Wylie

Wylie is a very sweet, cream-colored, medium-sized wire hair terrier mix. A very friendly guy, he dances when you approach his kennel — standing upright, paws together, batting up and down! Wylie was relinquished to C.A.R.E. because his caregiver's health and change in living arrangements made it impossible for Wylie to remain with her. He is a joyful dog who seems to be adjusting well under the circumstances. Perhaps he's the dog you've been waiting on! Wylie has been neutered and microchipped. As part of his adoption, he is up to date on routine vaccinations. DOB: May 14, 2008.



C.A.R.E. is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization (59-3678003) registered with the Fla. 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](http://careshelter.org)) or call us at 813-645-2273. We are very grateful for your support.

## Ruskin woman left dog with no food or water for week, deputies say

A Ruskin woman is facing a charge of aggravated cruelty to animals after her dog was found emaciated.

Maria Del Rodriguez Alvarado was arrested after Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office deputies were called to a house in the 300 block of 1st Street NW in Ruskin, April 24, after a report of animal abuse.



HCSO PHOTO  
Maria Del Rodriguez Alvarado

Deputies say that when they arrived, they noticed a pit bull chained to a tree. They said the dog was malnourished with its shoulder blades, spine, rib cage and pelvic bones showing.

Rodriguez Alvarado, 38, the dog's owner, was questioned by deputies, who said they learned she had gone up to one week without providing the dog any food, water or shelter.

Hillsborough County Animal Control responded and took custody of the dog.

Rodriguez Alvarado was arrested and transported to the Orient Road Jail.

She was arrested and booked into the Hillsborough County Jail on \$2,000 bond.



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Tom Pospichal, Manager  
Mosaic Agricultural Operations, Florida



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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

I liked Chuck the moment I met him at his Kings Point home. Living in the moment, listening to his stories, had an impact on me. I drove away feeling great.

## Observations:

# Good people and gratitude

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN  
mitch@observernews.net

The moment I met Chuck and Sandy at their Kings Point home, I knew that I would like them very much. I arrived a few minutes early for my 1 p.m. appointment, and Chuck answered the door with a big smile and a firm handshake. A few moments later, Sandy appeared, saying, "We were sitting at the table just yakking away and before we knew it, it was 12:45," she said. "I told Chuck that we had better get dressed for the day because Mitch would be here soon."

hand out to shake his and said, "I was just trying to tell you how much I appreciate you being here keeping an eye on things." I'd seen him several times over the past week and he was always hard at work, taking his job seriously, and giving me a good feeling about that.

Upon my words, he softened considerably and smiled. We shook hands and he thanked me for saying that. I wonder if enough people tell him that what he does is valuable and is truly appreciated. For him, the best results of his work is that nothing at all happens. Thus, perhaps some people don't realize that the "nothing" is largely thanks to him doing his job with dedication.



## Observations

They have been married for decades and yet they can still lose hours yakking away at the table. To me, that is so cool, so admirable. The happiness they share was palpable and, indeed, time slipped by for me, too — before I knew it two hours had passed listening to their stories. Such lovely, warm and interesting people, they are a couple that is so full of life. Perhaps another incredible point: through the entire conversation, Chuck never mentioned that he was a highly decorated war hero. He never mentioned the medals he received or any other accolades. His modesty, his attitude toward life and his happiness were all inspiring to me. I was fortunate to meet them and am looking forward to seeing them again. I left their home feeling very happy.

Point being ... how friendly and seemingly happy he was to hear that his work was appreciated; and how open he became as a result of the sincerity (I suspect he would quickly see through anything insincere). As a note to some of less than noble intent, I wouldn't want to be on his wrong side — the wrong side due to the job he takes seriously — but am happy to have met him. I thanked him and he thanked me for that.

We chatted for a moment until he needed to check in on his radio. We shook hands again and I said, "It's good to meet you, Richard."

"It's good to meet you, Mitch. I hope you have a nice evening," he said warmly.

That he remembered my name after a mere chance and very quick introduction was also telling. Every extremely successful person I've ever known has had that talent — instantly remembering names and confidently using them. I'm quite certain he'll remember it when I see him again on my next trip to Florida that is quickly approaching.

It really was good to meet Richard. It was wonderful to meet Chuck and Sandy. Good people are everywhere. What a blessing that is. But the reality is that meeting wonderful people is a two-way street. The best way to find them is to try to be a good and thankful person yourself. If you can do that, you'll be amazed what you will find: people who can change your day or even your life. Barring that, you may never know just how cool the nurses are at your clinic, or how generous and helpful the guy who bags your groceries is. Without that, you could miss out on so much in life.

Live in the moment. And with that, enjoy and be grateful for that precious moment. It will never return, and it's really all that any of us have. Enjoying it brings on the wonderful feeling of gratitude, as does a smile, a handshake, some warm words and the human connection you make. It doesn't get much better than that.

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As I drove away, I also heard Chuck's voice saying, "You make your own luck." Indeed you do. And Chuck has been extremely successful at making it. How he looked at Sandy was proof of that.

I have much more to say but can't give anything away — I will be writing about Chuck, Sandy and some amazing stuff that has happened in their lives in the coming few weeks. Please check the newspaper — I'll do my best to tell their story. I've always said that you could randomly knock on doors in Sun City Center and find incredible stories. Chuck and Sandy are certainly proof of that.

Richard is a big man, an imposing man. I could see that under the right circumstances, he could even be a threatening man. Richard keeps an eye on things around the marinas at Little Harbor Resort.

I was walking to the marina office the other evening when I saw him. I waved and shouted my thanks to him for being there. The wind blew my words away and also his reply in asking what I had said, thus forcing us to walk up to each other. He had no idea what to expect — perhaps I was some lunatic at night wandering around shouting at people. I saw the imposing yet professional and polite Richard right then. He was very much doing his job, and he clearly does it very, very well. I reached my

# You, me and business: Fearsome Fore!somes

It's that time of year again when seeing that guy win a green blazer reminds us that we can win the coveted navy blue blazer right here! That's right! It's time for the fourth annual SCC Chamber Cup four-person scramble on Friday, May 9, at the Apollo Beach Golf Club. The tournament is open to anyone and will benefit the Chamber.



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

Actually, the entire foursome will win jackets and will have ownership of the Chamber Cup for one year and individual trophies to keep. There are lots of gifts in the goodie bags and plenty of prizes to win. If you're a business owner, now is when you get three of your best customers and reward them for their patronage by giving them a day of golf. If you've got great employees, let them put on their company shirts and show off to all the other players!

My days of playing golf are long over. My college coach saw to that when he told me I just really wasn't any good. His motto was: "How far the drive it matters not, if you screw up the second shot!" He saved me years of grief and lots of money.

But I'll be one of the Beer and Beverage Bunnies on the front nine with First Light Home Care, and Palm Garden skilled-nursing facility will make sure those on the back nine are given their choice of

libations. Any and all tips will go to Wounded Warriors.

Manatee Healthcare Systems will be providing a scrumptious omelet station so you can custom-create your breakfast. Lunch will be provided courtesy of the Ruskin Methodist Church Youth Group. The putting contest is sponsored by Service-Master 24 Hour. Many other businesses will sponsor the holes.

We'll have all sorts of prizes, including \$15,000 cash if you make a hole-in-one on the 8th hole, sponsored by Ed Morse Cadillac Brandon. Other closest-to-the-hole, closest-to-the-alligator and longest-drive prizes include a trip, TVs, gift cards and much more. If putting is your specialty, we'll have a contest just for that! I might have to enter that one — I'm pretty good at getting the ball through the clown's mouth.

Entry is only \$60 per person or \$200 for a foursome, and that includes breakfast and lunch, goodie bags and chances to win door prizes.

If you would like to play in the tournament, please come by the Chamber or call us at 813-634-5111 to register. Come on out and have fun! You just might be riding home \$15,000 richer, wearing The Jacket, and showing off your trophy to the neighbors!

## East Bay High School hosts its annual Mother's Day plant sale

East Bay High School FFA alumni will host their annual Mother's Day Plant Sale from Wednesday, May 7, until Friday, May 9. The plant sale will be at the East Bay High School Agriculture Shop, 7710 Old Big Bend Road, Gibsonton. The sale is open to the public from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The sale will feature outdoor landscape plants, hanging baskets, indoor foliage plants and great Mother's Day gifts.

Money raised from the plant sale will sponsor FFA members to attend leadership and career development events through the National FFA Organization (formerly known as the Future Farmers of America) and support FFA Chapter projects and activities.

The Agriculture Shop is in between East Bay High School and Eisenhower Middle School, off Old Big Bend Road. Customers are encouraged to drive down the service road between the two schools and turn right on the second road. The road will dead-end into the agriculture shop.

The Florida FFA Association is a premier youth leadership organization with nearly 17,000 middle- and high-school student members — as part of more than 300 local FFA chapters across the state.

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

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| <p><b>Sunshine Café</b><br/>                 3808 Sun City Center Blvd<br/>                 Ruskin, FL 33573<br/>                 Tuesday, May 6th<br/>                 Tuesday, May 13th<br/>                 10:30AM</p> | <p><b>Sandpiper Grille</b><br/>                 1702 S Pebble Beach Blvd<br/>                 Sun City Center, FL 33573<br/>                 Thursday, May 8th<br/>                 Thursday, May 15th<br/>                 10:30AM</p> |
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# Ruskin Land Code

► Continued from page 10

in the Community Plan for land use, density and lot sizes in four areas of Ruskin:

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

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

**Area 3:** This area south

of College Avenue will accommodate a more suburban style and type of residential development with safeguards for the redevelopment of property along the Manatee River.

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

Next for the Ruskin Land Code amendment:

The Planning Commission will review the amendment for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan May 12.

Commissioners will vote on the amendment at their 6 p.m., May 29 meeting after the second and final public hearing.

Both public hearings will take place on the second floor of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in Tampa.

View the draft amendment schedule at: <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/index.aspx?nid=906>.

# In the mind of Micah

## If I were a rich man

■ By MICAH BREWER  
bmicah25@yahoo.com

I was talking to my good friend Ty the other day, and we were discussing our financial situations. It is so easy to get down about how much money we have, and how broke we feel. It doesn't even matter how much money you make, or how much you have in the bank. It seems like everyone feels like they don't have enough. Especially as Americans, many of us have no concept of what real need is. A large number of the world's population live on less than one dollar per day, and yet I'll talk about how poor I am as I'm sitting in my recliner watching TV with the air conditioner cranked down to 72 degrees. If I am hungry, I can easily hop in my car and get food at one of five grocery stores within two miles of my house, or hit any number of restaurants within my general vicinity. And if that isn't enough, I live within just a few minutes of the ocean. I was talking to someone the other day, and they said they had seen food there, too. Apparently it's a big hangout for fish.

Many people are legitimately in need these days, and we should do everything we can to help them get back on their feet, but many of us are fine, and yet we are ungrateful for what we already have. How can we be so blessed, and feel so poor at the same time? Is it fear? Often my wife and I are in perfect comfort, and we find ourselves worrying about what *could* happen. It hasn't even happened yet, probably won't, and yet we can fill times that

should be full of contentment with anxiety over something that may or may not happen in the future.

This week tornadoes destroyed homes and businesses throughout the Midwest. They are still working through the wreckage, but the damage is tremendous. My cousin's home in Arkansas was blown away in the storm. Everything they had was gone except the closet that they were huddled in. As they clung to each other in prayer, they did not ask God to protect all of their "stuff."

Neither would you. In those moments, possessions just aren't important anymore. It's the people we love that we truly care about. As I look back at the greatest tragedies in my life, none of them had anything to do with losing "things." The truth is, it's the ones we love that can bring real tragedy and true joy.

As Floridians, we watch and wait through hurricane season every year, mindful that at some point we could be hit with devastation. But as I watch the newscast whenever a storm hits, the greatest tragedy is always loss of life. I have gone to help with cleanup after some of these storms, and most of the people I have met are so grateful that they are alive. Many times they seem to have a new perspective on what is important to them. It's not more "stuff."

Count your blessings. It sounds childish, doesn't it? Although it may seem trite or insignificant, taking time for gratitude can change the way you look at life.

Yesterday I did not thank God that my house had not blown away, but today I will.

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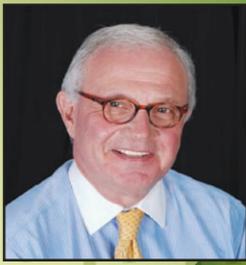
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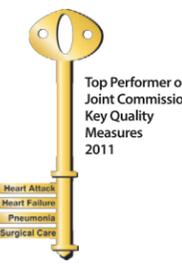
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Area Obituaries

**Dorothy Kroll Bender**

Dorothy Kroll Bender, 94, wife of the late Paul V. Bender, entered into rest Wednesday, April 23, 2014, in Evans, Ga.

Dorothy was born to Edward and Harriet Kroll on October 28, 1919, in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. Dorothy graduated from Freeport High School. She married Paul Bender in 1941, and they lived in Freeport, Ill., before retiring to Sun City Center, Fla., in 1978.

Dorothy worked as a paralegal until her retirement. In Augusta, Ga., she was a member of First Baptist Church of Augusta and the CSRA Bridge Center of Augusta. She loved to play bridge and was made an honorary lifelong Masters member.

Dorothy is survived by children Doug Bender (Marianne) of Scottsdale, Ariz., and Susan Kious (Dr. Andrew Kious) of Evans, Ga.; grandchildren Allison Zimmerman of Scottsdale, Ariz., Randy Bender of San Diego, and Christina Kious of Atlanta; and great-grandchildren Stella and Rachel Zimmerman of Scottsdale.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, April 29, in the Story Chapel at First Baptist Church of Augusta, with Dr. Greg DeLoach officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to either First Baptist Church of Augusta, 3500 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30909 or to The Independence Fund Inc., 32379 Collection Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693.

Thomas Poteet & Son Funeral Directors is assisting the family. Please sign the guestbook at [www.thomaspoteet.com](http://www.thomaspoteet.com).

**Orrell M. Clark**

Orrell M. Clark, 88, of Sun City Center, Fla., passed away on Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 68 years, Carl H. Clark of Sun City Center; daughters Janet Clark Smith and Nancy Clark Veazey of Berkeley Heights, N.J., and East Greenwich R.I., respectively; their husbands Gregory Smith and Ted Veazey; grandchildren Carl and Claire Smith and Scott and Barrett Veazey; sister Marsha Mitchell, her husband Wiley F. Mitchell and their family of Virginia Beach, Va.; and brother Jack Moody, his wife Mary Helen Moody and their family of Siler City, N.C.

A memorial service will be held for Orrell on Saturday, June 14, at the United Community Church, Sun City Center, at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Orrell's name to the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave., Sun City Center, FL 33573, to LifePath Hospice, 12470 Telecom Drive, Suite 300, Temple Terrace, FL 33637, or to Moffitt Cancer Center, 12902 Magnolia Drive, Tampa, FL 33612.

Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home.

**Marion Green**

Marion (née Wale) Green, 86, died peacefully at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, on Sunday, March 16, 2014. Loving wife of the late Eldon Green (deceased 2009), mother and grandmother, she is survived by her children Cynthia (Dr. Brian Mercer), Sandra (Dr. Bruce Fisher) and Scott (Alice Bruechert); and her grandchildren Caelin, Brandon, Sarah, Bryson, Ian, Ben, Arielle and Adaire.

Marion was born and grew up in Ottawa, Canada. At a young age, her beautiful soprano voice led her to join a church choir, where she met Eldon. She often sang solo and, in later years, sang at Bromley Baptist church in Ottawa. In addition, Marion was an excellent tennis, lawn bowling, and bridge player.

In 1992, she moved with Eldon to Sun City Center where she volunteered at the local library. She loved people, books and was always willing to lend her kind support. She will be greatly missed by family and the people whose lives she touched. Her children and grandchildren will miss the warm and welcoming Sun City Center community where so many happy Christmases were spent with Eldon and Marion.



**Hazel Lorraine Drake Williams**

Hazel Lorraine Drake Williams, 88, of Sun City Center passed away on April 21, 2014. Hazel was born August 5, 1925, in San Antonio, Texas, to Samuel Otis Drake and Annie Jane Bell. She was married to Lieutenant Edward James Williams on March 4, 1950, in the Base Chapel at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. Her loving husband predeceased her in October 2009. She was a proud Air Force wife and enjoyed living all over the United States and especially overseas in Germany and Spain.

She is survived by daughter retired U.S. Air Force Col. Karen W. Currie and her husband Wayne Daniel Currie of San Antonio; son Richard Edward Williams and his wife Sandra Heysinger of Houston; son Stuart Alan Williams and his wife Cynthia of Williamsburg, Va.; grandsons Conrad Edward Williams of New Orleans, La., and Colin Patrick Williams of Houston; and several nieces and nephews.

Hazel was a member of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, the Colonel George Mercer Brooke Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution in Sun City Center, the North Carolina Genealogy Society and the Wilson County N.C. Genealogy Society.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donation to Moffitt Cancer Center, 12902 Magnolia Drive, Tampa, FL 33612 or Hillsborough County Animal Services, 440 N. Falkenburg Road, Tampa, FL 33619.

Funeral services were held on Friday, April 25, at Sun City Center Funeral Home.



**Jehovah's Witnesses have open house this weekend at new place of worship**

After months of hard work by hundreds of tradesmen and volunteers, the 10,000-square-foot, double-auditorium place of worship for local Jehovah's Witnesses has been completed. They will hold Open House from 1 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4.

The new building, called Kingdom Hall, is at 11725 East Symmes Road in Riverview. All in the area are invited to take a tour; light refreshments also will be available. Explanations will be available in English and Spanish.

Kingdom Hall will be used by the Sun City Center, Ruskin and Riverview congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses as well as by three Spanish-language congregations.

Needed because of the increase in the number of Jehovah's Witnesses, the new hall will accommodate the six current congregations and will have room for more as the need arises.

The Sun City Center congregation was formed in the early 1970s with about 70 witnesses. At the

**Christian Women's Connection plans May 8 meeting**

The May luncheon and program for the South Shore Christian Women's Connection is on Thursday, May 8, at Club Renaissance, 2121 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., Sun City Center.

Inspirational speaker Diane Green will share her story entitled "How withered relationships blossomed into a fragrant bouquet when I found true forgiveness."

Seating begins at 11 a.m.; the program runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The menu is curry chicken salad plus beverage and dessert. An alternate meal of tossed salad with grilled chicken is available if you order it when you make your reservation. Cost is \$17 inclusive. For reservations, call Pat Butler at 813-938-4320 or Gail Green at 813-634-2159 or e-mail [aunt.butler@gmail.com](mailto:aunt.butler@gmail.com). Reservations or cancellations must be made before noon on Monday, May 5.

**'Five Wishes' program at UMC**

At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 7, the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will host a program on "Five Wishes," the first living will that addresses your personal, emotional and spiritual needs, as well as your medical wishes.

This program is designed to guide you in talks with family, friends and doctors about how you want to be treated if you become seriously ill. Five Wishes focuses on maintaining your human dignity and getting your needs met.

Call the church office at 813-634-2539 to reserve a seat and an informational booklet.

For additional information about this and other events and activities at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, call Jeff Jordan, director of worship arts, at 813-634-2539. To learn more about the church, visit [www.umccsc.org](http://www.umccsc.org).

**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 Good, 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](http://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](http://sccredeemer.org)  
 Worship Services on Sunday 10 a.m.  
 Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m.

**Prince of Peace Catholic Church**

702 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC, FL 33573  
 Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670  
[www.popcc.org](http://www.popcc.org)



**Masses:**  
 Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon  
 Saturday Vigil..... 4:00 p.m.  
 Daily ..... 8:00 a.m.  
**Confessions:**  
 Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. and Sat. 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.



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

Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor

**First Baptist Church of Gibsonton**

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.  
 Children & Youth Ministry Mid-Week (Wed.) ..... 7:00 P.M.  
 9912 Indiana St. • Hwy. 41 & Estelle Ave. • Gibsonton, FL 33534  
 813-677-1301

**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](http://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](http://www.uccsuncity.org)

**Welcome to the: South Hillsborough Church of Christ**

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

—NON-INSTRUMENTAL—

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

EVERETT TATE, MINISTER



**Wimauma Church of God**



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](http://www.sccuu.org)

Never let your sense of morals prevent you from doing what's right. — Isaac Asimov

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

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

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

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539

<http://www.sccumc.com>

**Come Grow & Serve**

**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

**Pages of Life**  
 Bookstore 633-8595  
 FREE Nursery Provided

Senior Pastor: **Dr. Warren Langer**  
 Assistant Pastor: **Rev. Samuel Rorer**

## Area Places of Worship

**Southside Baptist Church**  
*"A Warm, Loving & Friendly Church"*  
 4208 U.S. Hwy. 41 S • Sun City, FL 33586 • 813-645-4085

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

**First Christian Church**  
 Worship Service @10:30 am  
 Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 am  
 1707 53rd Street Southeast  
 Ruskin, Florida 33570  
 www.firstchristiansuncitycenter.com  
 Phone: 813-419-4930  
 Minister Mike Grant

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

**CELEBRATING our 75th ANNIVERSARY**  
**First Baptist Church of Ruskin**  
 820 College Ave. W. • Ruskin, FL 33570  
 645-6439  
 www.fbcruskin.org • A Resource for Families  
 Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
 Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday Night Service ..... 7:00 p.m.  
 Awana ..... 7:00 p.m.

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

**ST. JOHN THE DIVINE** EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 SUNDAY SERVICES  
 8:00 AM-Rite I  
 9:15 AM-Contemporary  
 11:00 AM-Rite II & Choir  
 Fellowship Hour after all services  
 Morning Prayer & Healing Service  
 10 AM every Wednesday

**Fr. Lee Miller**  
 Priest

SUN CITY CENTER 1015 Del Webb Blvd. E  
 813-633-3970 - stjohrus@aol.com  
 A CARING CHRISTIAN FAMILY—WIGGLY CHILDREN WELCOME

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
 204 2nd St. N.W. • Ruskin, FL 33570  
 (813) 645-6102

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

**All Are Welcome**

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church**  
 Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.  
 Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.  
 Prayers with anointing for healing and wholeness during worship the second Sunday of every month.  
**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark E. Salmon**  
 Meet friends in Fellowship Hall between Services.  
 Refreshments served.

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

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

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

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

## Rev. Langer to retire from UMC this Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Warren Langer will preach his last sermon at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center on Sunday, May 4, at the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services.

Langer has the longest tenure of any of the full-time pastors serving churches in Sun City Center, having served the church from 2003 to the present.

Under his leadership, the church has grown from 450 attendees to a current attendance of 1200 during winter months. The church has been twice recognized as the fastest-growing United Methodist Church in the Florida peninsula of more than 740 churches. During this period, the church has completed three major capital-improvement programs valued at \$4.5 million.

During Rev. Langer's term, the church opened the Community Wellness Center, offering services supported by a psychologist, psychiatrist, counselors and social workers.

Pages of Life Bookstore, which opened in 2007, was a hallmark of Pastor Langer's leadership. The church also helped to start and sponsor the South Shore Symphony Orchestra, one example of Rev. Langer's community involvement.

The church developed an Emergency Response Team with a fully equipped trailer that has helped communities in four states and Jamaica to recover from natural disasters. The ministries have also partnered with three elementary



**United Methodist Church has thrived under the Rev. Dr. Warren Langer's guidance.**

schools in the Ruskin and Wimauma area to support their requested needs.

Children/Youth and Family Ministries grew through Langer's vision. From three children in 2008, the church currently ministers to 75-plus children and youth weekly. The church has been the number one nonprofit supporter of the Salvation Army Kettle Drive each Christmas season in the Tampa Bay area.

In the last few years, the church has sent three mission teams to Uganda, Africa, and sponsored a sister church in Cuba. There is a mission team going this summer to Peru to build a church and provide medical assistance. Offerings from the church have built homes and helped to rescue street children in Vietnam.

In 2009, Langer provided leadership as the church initiated its Hispanic Ministry. Bridges have been built through this ministry in South Hillsborough County.

The Rev. Warren Langer's vision and dedication will long be honored and remembered at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center.

## The Peytons return to United Methodist

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center welcomes the Peytons, Southern Gospel singers, at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2.

A local favorite, they grew up in Appalachia, raised on gospel music. After hearing them sing, a friend declared that they had a message they needed to share. The Peytons took that advice and had their opening concert in North Carolina in 2009. They travel mostly in the Southeast, sharing

their message to the glory of God.

Concertgoers are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat. A donation of \$5 is requested at the door.

For additional information about this and other concerts and recitals at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, call Jeff Jordan, director of worship arts, at 813-634-2539. The United Methodist Church is at 1210 W. Del Webb Blvd.

**BETH ISRAEL The Jewish Congregation**  
 of Sun City Center,  
 1115 Del Webb Blvd. E. Sun City Center (813)634-2590  
 SHABBAT SERVICES FRIDAY EVENING AT 7:30 PM  
 TORAH STUDY SATURDAY AT 12 NOON  
 MORNING SERVICES 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAY 10AM  
 EVERYONE IS WELCOME

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 Periodontal Specialist and Dental Implants

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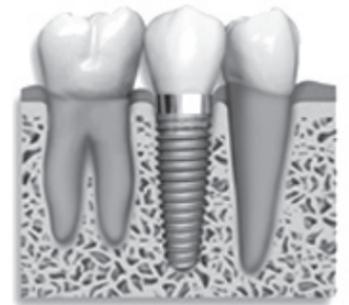
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5460-C 63rd Street East Lakewood Ranch, FL 34203 Phone (941) 755-0029 Fax (941) 792-3778

1906-G 59th Street West Bradenton, FL 34209 Phone (941) 792-0029 Fax (941) 792-3778

Web: www.bradentonperio.com | Email: trubino@bradentonperio.com





**Cypress Creek Vac & Sew holds ribbon cutting**

The Sun City Center Area Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new, larger location of Cypress Creek Vac & Sew. Still located in the Beall's shopping center, the new shop, next to the Sunshine Café, is three times larger than the previous site. In addition to servicing vacuum cleaners and sewing machines, Vac & Sew offers classes in sewing, embroidery and quilting.

# East Bay Watch

Indians on a roll

by Michael Cooper



From left are Briana Brown, Noora Al-qili and Scarleth Rachel Jimenez.

East Bay's girls' flag football team improved to 6-4 on the season after defeating district rival Lennard 40-0. The Longhorns are much improved with new head coach Corries Culpepper, but the Indians jumped to a quick lead that Lennard could not overcome.

QB Madeline Hornacek had her best game of the season throwing for 5 TDs and 232 yards with a 64 percent completion rate. Michelle Rodriguez caught 3 TDs, with

Sydney and Sara Hostelley catching one each. Sydney Hostelley came in as QB and threw a TD to Tabitha Willis.

Defensively, Rodriguez and Kya Matthews led with 7 flag pulls each. Matthews and Sydney Hostelley also intercepted Lennard. Scarleth Jimenez got on the stats board with an offensive reception and defensive flag pull. LB Noora Al-qili added to her season total flag pulls as well.

WR Briana Brown scored her

first career point on a 3-yard pass. Brown held on to the ball in the endzone, being hit hard as the ball hit her hands. Jenna McEaney closed out the game as QB, making her longest run of the season with an 11-yard scamper.

The Indians close the regular season at home against Strawberry Crest and will play as third seed in the district semifinal against Bloomingdale.

Keep up with the team at [www.ebhsgirlsflagfootball.com](http://www.ebhsgirlsflagfootball.com).

**Summer camp for martial arts is in Apollo Beach**

Tampa Bay Martial Arts Academy, at 6038 U.S. 41 N. in Apollo Beach, will offer martial arts summer camp, starting Monday, June 9, the first day of summer break. The camp, for children going into kindergarten next fall through 5th Grade, is available weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can sign up for the summer, by the week, or even just two or three days a week. The last day of camp is Monday, Aug. 18, the last day of summer break.

Besides martial arts classes, the academy has field trips, behind-the-scenes tours of businesses and supervised swimming almost every week. There are also craft times, education game times and just plain play times.

The camp offers family rates and specials. For more information, call Nancy at 813-649-0020 or visit its website at [www.tbmaa.com](http://www.tbmaa.com).

**Community events at Brandon Regional Hospital**

Brandon Regional Hospital will offer the following events in May. All will take place in the Oakfield Medical Campus, 119 Oakfield Drive, Brandon, unless otherwise noted.

- Gestational Diabetes – May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 8:30 a.m., classroom C, Suite 258
- Prenatal Tour – May 4 at 3 p.m. and May 12 and 27 at 7:30 p.m., Brandon Regional Hospital, Women's Center Lobby
- Prepared Childbirth Series – May 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 6:30 p.m., classroom B, Suite 260
- NICU, or Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Family to Family Support Group – May 6 and 20 at 6:45 p.m., Brandon Regional Hospital, Women's Center Lobby
- Healthy Heart Nutrition – May 7 at 2:30 p.m., classroom A, Suite 262
- Vascular Victories Cardiac and Stroke Support – May 8, noon, classroom A, Suite 262
- Prepared Childbirth – May 10, 17 at 9 a.m., classroom B, Suite 260
- Pink petals Support Group – May 12 at 6:30 p.m., classroom A, Suite 262
- Prenatal Breastfeeding – May 13 at 6:30 p.m., classroom B, Suite 260
- Nutrition for Cancer Prevention & Treatment Class – May 14, 2:30 p.m., classroom B, Suite 260
- Weight Loss Options – May 14 at 6 p.m., classroom B, Suite 260
- Freedom From Life's Unexpected Moments – May 22, 4:30 p.m., 1901 Haverford Ave., Suite 106, behind South Bay Hospital, Sun City Center
- Newborn Care Class – May 17 at 9:30 a.m. and May 19 at 6 p.m., classroom A, Suite 262
- Outpatient Diabetes Self-Management – May 21, 8:30 a.m., classroom B, Suite 260
- Surgical Solutions for Weight Loss – May 29, 6:30 p.m., classroom B, Suite 260
- Surgical Weight Loss Support Group – May 29, 6:30 p.m., classroom A, Suite 262

Seating is limited and reservations are advised. For more information and to register, call 813-653-1065 or visit [BrandonRegionalHospital.com](http://BrandonRegionalHospital.com).



**RUSKIN VFW POST #6287**

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

- Thursday, May 1** — Bar Bingo 6 p.m. Jerry's last night.
- Friday, May 2** — Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. Music by D Vespi 7 p.m.
- Saturday, May 3** — Joint installation 4-8 p.m. followed by a dinner. Music by You 2 Kan.
- Sunday, May 4** — Lounge Games 2 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy 6:30 p.m. Queen of Hearts drawing 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 5** — Crew Games 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 6** — Lounge Games 1-4 p.m. Bingo: doors open 3 p.m., Bingo 6 p.m. Kitchen opens 4:30 p.m.

**RUSKIN BRANCH LIBRARY**  
1 Dickman Drive SE • Ruskin 33573

**Adult Computer Classes for the Technologically Challenged**

**Computer Tutor — Wednesday, May 7, 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.

**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.

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- Saturday, May 3** ..... 5 p.m. Auxiliary Dinner. Check at club  
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About a dozen volunteers turned out to help Florida Home Partnership plant several Washingtonia Palm trees at Bayou Pass Village Phase 4 in Ruskin on Earth Day, April 22. The project was made possible with a portion of a \$219,000 grant presented to FHP from Wells Fargo.



Work gloves were stacked up and ready for duty as volunteers listen to safety and tree-planting instructions.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

## Bayou Pass Village

► Continued from page 1

Fargo's "LIFT" family of initiatives that promote sustainable home ownership, homebuyer support and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

The event was also attended by Denise Lawry, who purchased the first home in the Bayou Pass Phase 4 development. She signed up to volunteer for the tree planting.

Florida Home Partnership is a nonprofit homebuilder offering affordable homeownership opportunities to low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Mutual Self-Help

Housing Program. The USDA self-help program allows home buyers to exchange 600 hours of labor, also known as "sweat equity," for a cash down payment, allowing those of stable income but limited financial means to realize the dream of homeownership.

The 40-year-old organization has produced several developments in Hillsborough (notably Ruskin) and Pasco counties. For more information, visit [www.flhome.org](http://www.flhome.org).

For information about the Wells Fargo UrbanLIFT program, visit [www.urbanapplication.org](http://www.urbanapplication.org).

## Firehouse Blues & Bar-B-Que

► Continued from page 1

King, Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Lou Christie and The Platters.

While performing with his own band, The Divebombers, Worthmore was also joined on stage by such stars as Billy Idol and Paul Schaffer, band leader on the *Late Show with David Letterman*.

After three tours to South Africa, Worthmore bought the nightclub where he performed, The Blues Room, turning it into one of the most prestigious live music venues in Africa. In 2007, after an award-winning 10-year

run, he sold the Blues Room and returned to the States and to his first love, performing.

Worthmore's show is interlaced with humorous comments and anecdotes about the songs, his life and his music.

Tickets for the event are: \$60 VIP Ticket — BBQ, ticket to George Worthmore, ticket to the Firehouse Pub with Reserved Seating, and a drink ticket

\$40 Ticket — BBQ and George Worthmore, ticket to the Firehouse Pub

\$20 Ticket — BBQ

\$10 Ticket — Children BBQ

The event includes a cash bar.

In addition to the barbecue concert, the Center will also screen *Pharmboy* as part of its ongoing film series May 8, with *Bella Vita* hitting the screen May 22. A Latin Roots concert is set for May 9.

"We have so many different types of things happening here, I think there is something for everyone," said Hereford-Griffin, who also credits executive director, Georgia Vahue, with building the profile of the Center.

For more information and tickets, call 813-645-7651 or visit [firehouseculturalcenter.org](http://firehouseculturalcenter.org).

## ALS COMMUNITY YARD SALE AND SPRING CLEANING FUNDRAISER

Join us at Freedom Plaza Sun City Center May 9 and 10 for a community yard sale, spring cleaning event, and help put an end to ALS. Browse through hundreds of items — you're sure to find something! Have material to discard? No problem. A shredder will be ready to receive your unwanted "stuff." And that's not all. There will also be a DJ, tasty summer refreshments, and complimentary tours of our exceptional Freedom Plaza community. Partial proceeds will benefit the ALS Foundation. Come out and support this great cause! *We ask that guests not bring any items to sell. CASH ONLY.*

Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10 | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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