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The Observer News

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STOCK IMAGE

Criminals are finding new ways to steal your financial information from your credit or debit card when used at a compromised ATM, gas pump or retail card reader. There are ways to protect yourself.

It's getting easier for criminals to skim money from your bank account

■ By **LOIS KINDLE**
lois@observernews.net

Community Resource Deputy Jeff Merry is always looking for ways to help folks keep their money safe. And crafty criminals are continually hard at work trying to do the opposite.

In mid-August, Merry attended a three-day workshop about current trends in crime and economic fraud. It was, to say the least, eye-opening.

One of the seminar's focuses was the proliferation of credit- and debit-card fraud, a subject that hit Merry close to home.

"My wife was recently a victim of ATM skimming, where more that $3,000 was taken from her checking account (in a series of rapid transactions) that left the balance at minus-$1,400," he said. "Although we caught it right away, the account was frozen for

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AMAYA ARINDELL PHOTO

East Bay running back Tre Everett, 9, continues to pile up the rushing yards as the Indians open up the holes inside and outside.

East Bay romps Robinson 35-12

Faces winless Durant in Plant City on Friday

■ By **STEVE JACKSON**
steve@observernews.net

GIBSONTON — Unbeaten East Bay continues to be the class of South Shore high school football, busting its way to a 35-12 win over Robinson last Friday night in front of a large crowd. Durant is next on the victim's list for the 3-0 Indians whose main concern on the road trip is over-confidence. The Cougars of Plant City host East Bay Friday night after losing their third straight game 28-14 to Newsome.

The Indians rolled out to a 22-6 first-half lead over the 1-2 visitors from Tampa and continued to dominate the Knights in the second half with offensive line blocking and a stiff defense. Indians coach Frank LaRosa pulled a few tricks out of his playbook with two

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Larger-than-life showman Ward Hall has passed away at the age of 88.
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GERARDO LUNA PHOTOGRAPHY

The Venue is Riverview's new events place on Boyette Road, which can be set up for classes, birthday parties, workshops and small weddings, among other uses.

Need a place for small business meetings, parties?

The Venue is open in Riverview

■ By **YVETTE C. HAMMETT**
yvette@observernews.net

Tucked in a strip mall of colorful facades is Riverview's newest party and meeting place, simply called The Venue.

Julie and Eros Dahl, who own a mortgage company in the same mall at 11268 Boyette Road, have transformed the previously empty storefront into a spot for small weddings, bridal showers, business meetings and birthday parties.

After opening two months ago, word is getting around, Julie said.

"The space came open, and we were looking at it for a co-working space because we'd been hearing from real estate agents that there are no meeting places or conference rooms anywhere around here," she said.

The couple planned to open it to have space for people to be able to come and work and meet clients. "But when we got in there and started to look at building it, it wasn't working out the way we wanted it to. Something just came about where we decided to make it a place where people could do classes and events."

And in retrospect, she said, that's what it was meant to be. "We wanted a big area for meetings and to have a conference room. I think where we ended up is where we were supposed to be," Julie said. "There is a bigger need for this in the community than for just a

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Some 911 calls may not be getting through to Hillsborough County emergency dispatchers

Hillsborough County is aware that some 911 calls from cell phones may not be getting through to Hillsborough County emergency dispatchers. The extent of the current intermittent issue is unclear, but callers with some cell phone providers are receiving a fast-busy tone. Some are not. Landlines are not affected.

This is a reminder that residents outside the City of Tampa limits who call 911 and get a fast-busy tone should use one of the following options:

- Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office: 813-247-8200
- Hillsborough County Fire Rescue (including medical calls) 813-272-5665

Hillsborough County continues to work with cell phone service providers to resolve the problem. They will provide an update when connectivity is back to normal.

Ruskin Branch Library

The Friends of the Ruskin Library sponsor a used bookstore that is open to the public during regular branch hours. Funds raised by the friends are used to support library programs and special events. Ruskin Branch Library, 26 Dickman Dr. S.E. in Ruskin, 813-273-3652. Visit the website for a complete listing of programs at:

http://www.hcplc.org/hcplc/locations/rus/

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Many candidates are invited. Watch for more details. Extensive question and answer session.

Wet road dangers

STEPHEN JACKSON PHOTO

Hillsborough County Fire & Rescue attend to slight injuries of passenger and driver of an overturned SUV in the median of S.R. 674 between Sun City Center and Wimauma near the intersection with U.S. 301. The vehicle was headed east about 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, when it skidded on wet pavement and rolled over on its side.

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Sudden storm

Ruskin neighbors Jesus Barreto, left, and Bill Clarke live near the corner of 4th Ave. S.W. and 7th St. S.W. in Ruskin where a sudden storm ushered in gusts, or possibly a small tornado, late Thursday afternoon, Sept. 6. The high winds blew down trees, power lines and uprooted a tree that damaged plumbing and electric lines at Barreto's home and crashed onto the roof of Clarke's home next door.

STEPHEN FLANAGAN JACKSON PHOTO

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PROUD MEMBER OF:

Ag education opens doors for Fort Lonesome teen

Jake Fitzpatrick elected Florida FFA Area V State Vice President

■ By **STEPHEN FLANAGAN JACKSON**
steve@observernews.net

"How Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm After They've Seen Paree?"

This was a popular song from about 100 years ago referring to the once-naive American soldiers returning home to the states after a European overseas in World War I.

This also reflects the mood of modern-day culture, which is not so much tantalized by Paris but by the content of social media.

Farming, agriculture, the country life are not seen as a very exciting, romantic lifestyle. Thus, many young people are wooed and swayed by today's bells and whistles from superficial popular culture, if not their own perspectives, on urban versus rural life.

That's where the Future Farmers of America and Jacob "Jake" Fitzpatrick come in.

Fitzpatrick and the FFA both belie the notion of the hayseed hick with dirt under the fingernails and a trowel in the knapsack.

The FFA through its educational programs in schools, and Fitzpatrick through his participation as a FFA member and leader in Hillsborough County, and indeed Florida, embody and exemplify the principles of the FFA, which were articulated in the founding of the organization in the decade following World War I. Symbolized by the iconic corduroy jackets in "national blue and corn gold," the FFA continues its mission of preparing future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population. This mission includes shattering the stereotype of the farm boy, and farm girl, in order to show that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting. Agriculture and agriculture education is a science, a business, an art.

The FFA, over the years, has learned to think and to act out-of-the-box, thus attracting and developing thousands of individuals nationwide similar to Fitzpatrick, a 2017 graduate of Newsome High School in Lithia.

"We are still the FFA, the Future Farmers of America," said Fitzpatrick. "But we are also the future biologists, the future chemists, the future veterinarians, the future engineers and the future entrepreneurs of America."

Fitzpatrick, 18, graduated from Newsome last spring. Instead of immediately heading off to college or to the military or to that first job, Fitzpatrick has taken a different route in what he calls a "gap year," before he begins life as a college student.

Fitzpatrick is deeply engaged in his 12-month work as the Florida FFA Area V State Vice President, an elected post that entails traveling throughout Florida, the U.S. and internationally "fostering advances in leadership and the mission of the FFA."

When Fitzpatrick is not on the road, he lives in a rural area of Fort Lonesome, in southeastern Hillsborough County, with his parents, Scott and Jerri Fitzpatrick, brothers Cade, 16, and Max, 11, where they help tend the cattle and sugar cane. His father, Scott, is a real estate attorney in Sun City Center where Jerri is a paralegal.

Speaking of the iconic corduroy blue jacket associated with the FFA, Jake said, "The blue jacket symbolizes the future of American agriculture. The National FFA organization has defined their mission statement as FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

"I believe the blue jacket embodies that same reverence for personal growth and self-improvement that is

► Continued on page 19

Jake is the son of Jerri and Scott Fitzpatrick. Scott is a well-known attorney in the Ruskin-Sun City Center area and Jerri is a paralegal.

STEPHEN FLANAGAN JACKSON PHOTOS

Jacob "Jake" Fitzpatrick sees agriculture as more than raising livestock or tilling the earth. The possibilities are endless, and this Florida FFA Area V State Vice President aims to explore many aspects of it.

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Lunch and learn events target stroke, diabetes prevention

By LOIS KINDLE
lois@observernews.net

We've all heard about heart attacks and the life-threatening dangers they present. But fewer of us know about "brain attacks," more commonly known as strokes. They can be just as damaging and often fatal.

Likewise, most people are familiar with the term diabetes; however, many aren't aware of its symptoms and the long-term damage they can inflict. Yet there are ways to prevent or manage this silent, deadly disease.

The Sun City Center Emergency Squad, Sun Towers Retirement & Rehabilitation Community, the Men's Club of Sun City Center and Tampa General Hospital have partnered to present two Lunch and Learn events called "Stroke & Diabetes: Are You at Risk?" on Sept. 18 and 25 to help you learn the risk factors and how you can keep from becoming a victim. Experts from Tampa General will speak and answer questions.

"As part of the squad's service to the community, we want to help inform and educate our residents about important health issues," said Mike Bardell, chief of the Sun City Center Emergency Squad. "Preventing stroke and managing diabetes are entirely possible, and helping people understand the basics for maintaining their health is our goal."

All Sun City Center residents are invited to attend. Since seating is limited, preregistration is required. To do so, call 813-660-6101.

Survival from a stroke depends on recognizing the signs and symptoms, knowing what to do and when, and receiving proper care. Two Lunch and Learn events are scheduled for the Sun City Center area on Sept. 18 and 25.

Each person who RSVPs gets a free box lunch provided by Tampa General.

The Sept. 18 Lunch and Learn will be from 1 to 3 p.m. at Sun City Center Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. Registration and lunch are from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

The Sept. 25 event will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Veterans Theatre at the Kings Point North Club, 1900 Clubhouse Drive. Registration and lunch are from 12:30 to 1.

"This will be good information for anyone," said Robin Watt, an emergency medical technician with the squad and a member of its board. "Learning to manage your blood sugar and blood pressure can go a long way toward preventing diabetes or a stroke."

Bardell said he hopes further partnerships can bring future programs on other important topics to the community, as well.

According to the American Stroke Association, someone in the United States has a stroke about every 40 seconds. Anyone of any age can have one, but the risks increase with age. Survival depends on recognizing the signs and symptoms, knowing what to do and when, and receiving proper care.

Likewise, diabetes can strike anyone. According to the Diabetes Research Foundation, the number of people living with the disease has jumped almost 50 percent in the past decade to include more than 30 million Americans. Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, amputations, heart failure and stroke, and many folks aren't even aware they have it. Learning its risk factors and how to prevent the disease can save lives.

"I hate to say it, but people are actually dying in this community for their lack of knowledge," said Debbie Caneen, director of admissions for the Sun Towers Retirement & Rehabilitation Community. "The free education they'll get in these Lunch and Learns can actually mean the difference between life and death."

For more information, visit www.diabetes.org or www.stroke.org.

Marine Corps League looking for new members

The Sgt. Walter P. Ryan Detachment of the Marine Corps League meet the first Tuesday of the month, at Alafia American Legion Post 148, 7240 U.S. 301 in Riverview. Membership is open to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains who have served or are currently serving. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. followed by the meeting 7.

The detachment is always looking for new members who miss the camaraderie that they had while on active duty. For more information on the Marine Corps League and their activities, call Ron (Doc) Essick at 813-503-0390, or email ronessick@aol.com.

Seeking vendors for 6th annual Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

The Ruskin Woman's Club is seeking women with home-based businesses for the 6th annual Holiday Shopping Extravaganza, known as "The Bling." The event is Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will be at the beautiful historical home managed by the Ruskin Woman's Club at 503 S. U.S. 41.

The best sellers are cosmetics and skin care, health products, home décor, photography, sport and pet items, gifts for children and costumes, designer jewelry, everyday bling handcrafted or branded, artsy things, services and trainers, gift card sales, high-end crafts, clothing accessories, holiday items, food packets and canned items, baked goods and more.

Spaces are $40 for inside and $35 for outside. Bring your own table(s), tent, etc. For more information or to reserve your spot, call 813-892-7235 or 757-434-1043.

Accordion players at the Elks Lodge

The second Wednesday of each month the South Hillsborough Elks Lodge 2672 features a group of accordion players. They perform from 5 to 8 p.m. A spaghetti dinner is served from 5 to 7 p.m. The South Hillsborough Elks Lodge is located at 1630 U.S. 41 S., Ruskin, FL 33570. Telephone 813-645-2089.

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Women of heart make heart-shaped pillows for others

By LOIS KINDLE
lois@observernews.net

Members of GFWC Sun City Center Woman's Club arts and crafts program have been sewing their hearts out the past three years. Using fabric, stuffing and thread, they've made thousands of heart-shaped pillows and taken them to folks in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and other healthcare organizations, all with the goal of brightening someone's day.

"We have lots of fun and fellowship. We tell each other crazy grandmother stories and plan for upcoming projects," said Sally Anne Barclay, vice president of the club and chairwoman of the arts and crafts committee. "As a group, we're supposed to do something to benefit the community, and making the pillows is one of our signature projects.

Barclay said she once received a heart-shaped pillow from a church when she had breast cancer and was in a hospital years ago in New Hampshire.

"It meant the world to me that someone I didn't know would take the time and do something to show they cared," she continued. "It meant the world to me."

Barclay suggested the SCC Woman's Club take on a similar effort through its arts and crafts committee, and the project took off rapidly. The first year, 500 pillows were made and distributed to Sun Terrace and South Bay Hospital. That number more than tripled the following year, when the ladies in the sewing program produced 1,573.

Word about the pillows spread like wildfire, so much so that St. Joseph's Hospital–South, Freedom Plaza Memory Care, LifePath Hospice, Florida Cancer Specialists and two local cardiology clinics were added by request.

"We were asked to add others outside of the Sun City Center area and we had to say no," Barclay said.

By Dec. 31, the arts & crafts team will have made 3,000 heart-shaped pillows. And that's with only seven to 20 seamstresses.

"These amazing ladies come to our three-hour, monthly sew-ins, and they take fabric with them to cut, stuff and sew at home," Barclay said. "I'm truly blessed."

The club provides a small working budget for the effort, but the sewing team relies greatly on donations of fabric, Poly-Fil and thread from the community. The Nearly New Shop has both discounted and donated fabric to help.

Barclay said a box of Poly-Fil costs $49.99 per box and only supplies stuffing for 30 pillows, so monetary donations are also appreciated.

"I go to garage sales, where I get fabric donated nine times out of 10 after I tell them what we're doing," Barclay said. "We have a wonderful community."

Beginning this month, the arts and crafts committee is taking on another project — making knitted, crocheted or sewn lap blankets for

► Continued on next page

Members of the GFWC Sun City Center Woman's Club arts and crafts program gather for a group photo at one of their recent sew-ins, where they produce heart-shaped pillows to be given to folks in area hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and other healthcare organizations.

LOIS KINDLE PHOTOS

Linda Raymond, membership secretary of the Sun City Center Woman's Club, cuts fabric into heart shapes for the pillows the arts and crafts team are making.

Pillows

► Continued from page 6

hospice.

"They asked, and we're just going to do it," Barclay said. "We may have to meet a few more times each month when the club meets September through May. Those who aren't continue throughout the year."

If you'd like to help by volunteering to sew or by donating cash or fabric, call Barclay at 813-634-2912, 813-334-1839 or email her at saligator22@ymail.com.

For information on joining the GFWC SCC Woman's Club, call Linda Raymond at 813-331-3108 or email her at sumrluv21@aol.com. The membership cost is $35 per year.

Pam Cummings shows some of the heart shapes she has cut that will be used to make pillows.

Virginia Kimball, right and Anne Rankin stitch together the heart-shaped fabric forms, leaving a space open to allow the insertion of stuffing.

LOIS KNOLE PHOTOS

Nancy Derby, left, Faith Houdeck and Rosalie Rochford stuff pillows with Poly-Fil before passing them along to be sewn shut.

SCC Woman's Club President Sharon Alvarez, left, Sally Anne Barclay, vice-president and arts and crafts committee chairwoman and JoAnnie Powers sew pillows shut before sending them to have tags added.

Aino Paik, left, and Marge Hartig-Specht sew the openings of the heart-shaped pillows after they've been stuffed with Poly-Fil.

Volunteer at SCC Emergency Squad

Need something rewarding to occupy your time? Visit the Sun City Center Emergency Squad today. Learn about the different ways you can contribute. Medical background is not a requirement. Like to cook? Enjoy puttering around the house with projects? Knowledgeable about vehicle maintenance? Want to wash an emergency vehicle or greet new faces as a receptionist? Have computer knowledge that you would like to share? These are all opportunities for you to contribute to Neighbors Helping Neighbors. For more information, call 813-633-1411 or visit www.sccems.com.

Church seeking vendors for Holiday Market

Vendors are being sought by Grace Community United Methodist Church at FishHawk for its Holiday Market on Saturday, Nov. 10. The event, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., is being presented by the Women of Grace. The church is at 5708 Lithia Pinecrest Road, Lithia.

Organizers are seeking a variety of products, including arts crafts, jewelry, clothing and children's items. The fee for a 10-foot by 10-foot space is $25, and proceeds help support missions in the community. The market will be outdoors, and vendors are asked to provide their own tent, table and chairs.

For more information and a vendor application, visit www.graceholidaymarket.com, or email event organizer Susan Ferraro at bosefer11@yahoo.com, or call 813-361-1724.

Check out the classified and business directory ads beginning on page 22, and more community news on 27

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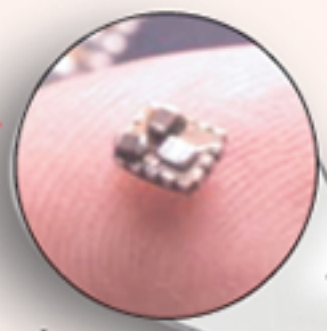

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The Venue

► Continued from page 1

workspace."

The place is already booked weekends in October and a few in November, along with parties and workshops booked for some week nights.

"Right now, we are doing a lot of baby showers and birthday parties for people's 40th, 50th and so on, and we are already booking for graduation parties." The place can host 74 guests.

Tables and chairs are included at The Venue, which has a sound system with surround sound. The cost to rent it is $60 per hour on weekdays and $75 on weeknights. Weekend rentals are $90 per hour.

It is basically an open canvas where people can bring their own decorations and tableware, centerpieces and such. There is a list of preferred caterers and bar service, but guests are welcome to choose whomever they like, Julie said. "We have some table linens in several colors to use for parties or meetings. They are $10 each."

The Venue recently hosted a 40th birthday party with a casino theme that turned out fabulously, Julie said. "The front part of the room was set up as a casino with black jack and roulette, a poker table and slot machines. As you went back, they had tables for eating and a buffet and a DJ. It looked awesome. It was put together really well."

There have also been a number of baby showers. "Those are set up with round tables and a buffet area," Julie explained.

Guests are also permitted to serve alcohol on the premises if their caterer has a permit or if they purchase event insurance.

So far, she's getting only positive reviews, she said. "I haven't heard any negatives."

To learn more about The Venue, visit www.riverviewchamber.com/list/member/the-venue-6980.

The Venue, Riverview's new events spot, can be set up for special birthday parties, a baby shower or a meeting. It has been open now for about two months. It is located at 11268 Boyette Road in Riverview.

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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUES., SEPT. 18 • *2-3:30 p.m.* • ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Bring your loved one for a well-deserved break. Facilitated by Aging Care Advocates. You will receive information while your loved one is cared for in our Secured Memory Care. Please RSVP no less than three days prior to 813-677-1400. alzheimer's association

WED., SEPT. 19 • *1:30-2:30 p.m.* • LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP Sponsored by the Men's Club of SCC. Attend this support group where challenges are met with resources and where members inspire others with their successes. Samantha Miller, RCSWI Social Worker for the Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind will be on hand. Learn what assistance there may be for you.

THURS., SEPT. 20 • *9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.* • FREE COMMUNITY BASED MEMORY SCREENINGS Funded by the Interfaith Council and Provided in partnership with USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute and The SouthShore Coalition for Mental Health and Aging. By appointment only. To schedule, call the Coalition at 813-419-4902

MON., SEPT. 24 • *1:30-2:30 p.m.* • CHRONIC PAIN, ARTHRITIS AND NEUROPATHY GROUP Sponsored by the Men's Club of Sun City Center - NEW DATE! Morgan Clemens, COTA/L, Sun Terrace/Towers Rehabilitation Therapy Program Manager facilitates this group with open discussion encouraged. Clemens graduated from Neosho County Community College as President of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program. She has received numerous specialty training and certifications that focus on pain, neuropathy and arthritis. Members are asked to share treatments, exercises, nutrition, etc. that may have worked for them for all members to benefit. If you have had success with any treatment, please come to share and learn. Supported by Sun Towers Retirement Community Outpatient Therapy. Learn what you can do to reduce your pain today. Free valet parking at Towers entrance. Session located in the theater. Questions? Call 813-892-2990

FRI., SEPT. 28 • *10 a.m.-4 p.m.* • by appointment only. VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT, A PROGRAM OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS The Tampa Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross in partnership with the Veterans History Project is seeking Veterans to participate. Eligible participants for a video interview of their first-hand accounts are Veterans who served in any branch of the U.S. military in any capacity from World War I through the present and who are no longer serving. Civilians who served in support of a U.S. war effort in a professional capacity are also welcome to participate. As Teresa Fazio, an Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran said, "It is important to get every Veteran's story so future generations can learn about military life from first-hand accounts. Our individual experiences may have been different, but when compiled they form a powerful snapshot of history." If you are a Veteran or know Veterans who would like to share their stories, call Sun Towers to schedule an interview time at 813-634-3347.

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Positive Talk:

Feeling down? Change the color of the sky in your world

There are some people who just don't seem to live in the real world, and I must confess that I may very well be one of them. Sometimes I take positive attitudes to an extreme and recently my son Chip took issue with a statement I made by asking, "What color is the sky in your world?" What a great question. It is one we all should ask occasionally. Yes, he is telling me that he felt I was off the wall with my statement, but more than that, he opened my mind to the possibilities of different worlds for different people and, in your world, you choose the color of the sky.

As I think about skies and their color, I cannot help but remember a very cold, rainy November day in the Pittsburgh airport. The terminal was being remodeled, and the temporary waiting lounge was not as warm as it should have been, so several of us were huddled around a heater. Since I cannot walk across an empty room without stopping to talk with someone, I started a conversation with a very pleasant lady. Since we had the weather in common, I opened with, "Isn't it a nasty day?" To which she replied, "I can see how you would feel that way." I took this as agreement and went on lamenting the fact that the day was so miserable.

When it came our turn to board the flight, to my surprise we were seated next to each other. Looking back, I suspect the lady was not thrilled, since my normally positive attitude had been trumped by the foulness of the weather. We buckled up and settled in for the short flight to Newark. Before long, we had left the ground behind, pierced the dark clouds, and emerged into a snowy white wonderland. The sun shone brightly on the cloud tops and I heard myself exclaim. "Isn't it a beautiful day!"

My seat partner replied with a smile, "It's that, too, isn't it?" Her remark rang in my mind and I understood immediately what she was telling me. The day hadn't changed; it was my perspective on the day that had changed.

To her, it had always been a beautiful day, regardless of what the weather was doing because she was determining the color of her sky, and she knew it. It turned out that this lovely lady was a nun, and she was traveling to a new assignment in Pennsylvania after many years of service to her order in Australia. She was a great ambassador for her faith, and wherever she is today, I know she is helping people take charge of the color of their skies.

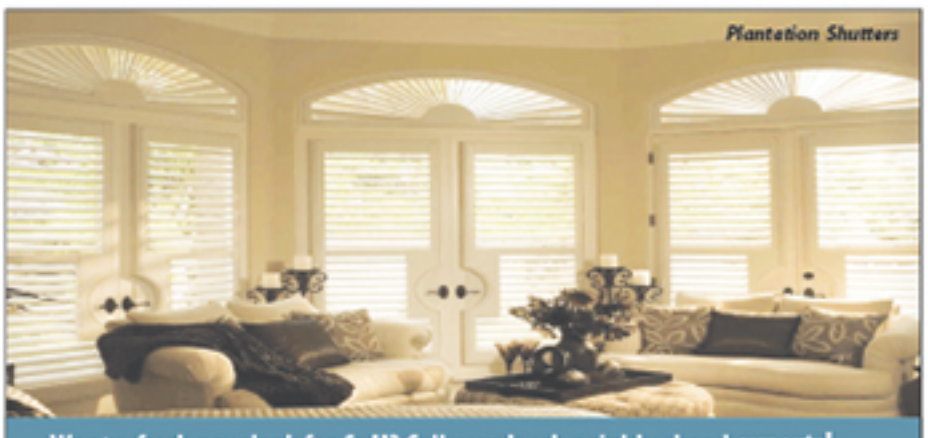
Each of us will have times when the sky in our world seems dark, but it is important to remember that, just as it was with me that day, darkness is a matter of perspective. When I looked at it from one side of the clouds, it was nothing but darkness and rain. When I looked at it from the other side, the sun was shining, and the sky was bright. Keep in mind both were happening at the same time. Now when it is raining and dark, I try to picture that field of sunshine above the clouds. Just thinking about it lights up my world.

Each of us has the option each day of living a life on autopilot or one that gives us choices. There is no doubt you can lead a happier life if you will consciously take charge of the color of the sky in your world.

William 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. (Spectrum channel 639, Verizon channel 30) and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (Spectrum channel 638, 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.

Read Captain Joel's Fishin' Holes column
A new chapter begins in the Florida Keys
Page 26

Read
Oldest Sun City Center resident turns 108
Page 18



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A bit of everyday magic has gone out of this world — legendary showman, Ward Hall, passes away

Legendary showman, Ward Hall, passed away at age 88 on Aug. 29, after a prolonged illness.

Born in Trenton, Neb. on June 21, 1930, Hall moved to Denver as a young teenager where he discovered *The Billboard Magazine*, and was immediately hooked, faithfully reading every week's edition.

In 1946, he joined Daily Bros. Railroad Circus, where he started his show business education. Staying in the circus for three years, he performed in the sideshow, juggled, did wire-walking, worked a lion act, and most importantly, learned to pitch and make a bally, for which he would become most well-known for.

In 1950, he bought his first carnival sideshow with his partner Harry Leonard from Freer's United Shows. Hall's circus sideshow toured with many major carnivals: Cavalcade of Amusements, William T. Collins Shows, Rod Link's World of Pleasure Shows, and many more covering the Midwest through the early 1960s. Hall and his partner then formed a show called the Pygmy Village.

In his career, Hall was connected with over 15 circuses such as Circus Vargas, Kelly Miller Circus, Toby Tyler Circus and many more.

For seven years he was partnered with Nate Eagles, producing the sideshow for the Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus at Madison Square Garden.

Hall moved to Gibsonton in 1966, and partnered with C.M. Christ to form a new company to produce a state fair sideshow for Gooding's Million Dollar Midway, where they stayed for several years. The company continually grew to the point in the late 1970s where they had four state fair sideshows and eight grind shows with 70 employees. These shows played all the major fairs: The Ohio State Fair, the Minnesota State Fair, the Wisconsin State Fair and most of the major fairs east of the Mississippi.

Hall also produced a special show for R.B.B.B. Circus for special engagements and for two years at Circus World in Florida.

Hall wrote three books and wrote and produced three stage musicals. He produced a 2,500-seat tented theater show called Wondercade, appeared in four movies, and was featured on many television shows and documentaries.

Ward was president of the International Independent Showmen's Association (I.I.S.A.) in 1974 and '75 due to the unexpected passing of his predecessor. His President's Banquet and Ball was the most elaborate and exciting of all time and is still talked about today.

He spent 14 years on the board of directors of the Outdoor Amusement Business Association (O.A.B.A.) and was board member emeritus of the I.I.S.A.

Hall was inducted into the Circus Ring of Fame, the I.I.S.A. Hall of Fame and the O.A.B.A. Hall of Fame.

In 1981, Hall produced 12 shows for the Ohio State Fair when they made it a pay-one-price at the gate, and that year it jumped to being the number one attended fair in the nation. Also at this time, Hall operated two permanent wax museums on the seashore at resorts in New Jersey.

Ward Hall, The King of the Sideshow, was a larger-than-life showman.

Hall was a prolific storyteller, but one true story he never told anyone, as he felt they would not believe it, was that on April 22, 1994, he appeared in, was the MC for, and sang in a one-night show at Carnegie Hall called "Circus Blues." He also made an appearance at Lincoln Center, and four trips to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington to produce shows for their spring celebration.

He was a member of the C.H.S., C.F.A., O.A.B.A., S.L.A. and I.I.S.A.

In semi-retirement the last few years, his show company was sold to Thomas Breen, who keeps the tradition alive today.

Ward Hall lived a full and happy life and passed away peacefully in his sleep.

He is survived by his partner of 53 years C.M. Christ.

There will be a Celebration of Life at the Showmen's Club, at 6915 Riverview Dr., Riverview, FL 33578 in mid-November.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the I.I.S.A. Museum of the American Carnival.

► More photos on page 11

The showbiz bug bit Ward Hall hard while still in his teens. He was a ventriloquiet, a magician, and finally a show owner – every step of the way, transforming the mundane into the magical.

Ward Hall ran across town and joined the circus for a part-time gig in 1944 when he was a kid living in Colorado. A year later, as a 15-year-old 10th grade dropout, he ran away for good, joining the Dailey Bros. Circus. He never looked back. By 16 he was performing in a sideshow and by age 21, he owned a sideshow.

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Ward Hall

► Continued from page 6

Ward Hall kept sideshow traditions and the sideshow itself alive.

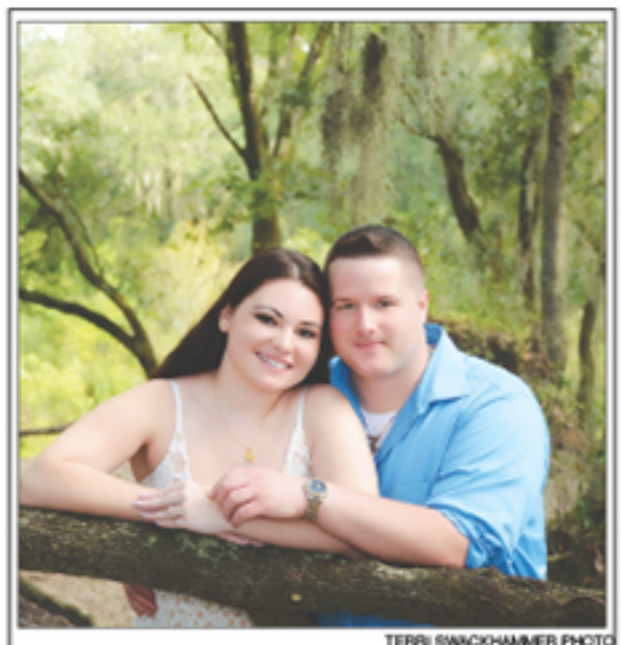
Hillsborough County taking hurricane preparedness message directly to mobile home communities

The sustained power of a tropical storm or hurricane can damage or destroy a mobile home in minutes. That's why it's important for residents to pay close attention to weather warnings, and prepare well in advance of evacuations being ordered.

Hillsborough County has launched an initiative to spread that message to residents of more than 60,000 mobile homes in unincorporated Hillsborough County and the cities of Tampa, Plant City and Temple Terrace. It's timely advice, with National Preparedness Month in September, and the approaching one-year anniversary of Hurricane Irma's memorable sweep through Florida.

Through November, staff from Hillsborough County Fire Rescue/Office of Emergency Management, Code Enforcement, and Community Emergency Response Team volunteers from the University of South Florida and South County are visiting the managers of more than 500 manufactured housing communities and recreational vehicle parks. They'll bring an all-hazards alert weather radio for each community's office and emergency preparedness and safety information in both English and Spanish for residents and visitors.

Emergency officials caution residents and visitors not to ride out a tropical storm or hurricane in a mobile home. Despite stronger land development codes and industry improvements, manufactured homes and RVs generally cannot withstand the same wind speeds as other structures without sustaining damage, creating perilous and sometimes deadly conditions for occupants. In addition, there are many older mobile homes in Hillsborough County that were built and put in place before standards were strengthened. That's why, no matter where the mobile home is located in Hillsborough County, all mobile homes are included in Evacuation Zone A.



TERRI SWACKHAMMER PHOTO

Harter – Wagner Engagement

Roger and Bernadette Harter of Apollo Beach, Fla., announce the engagement of their daughter Charmaine Harter to Mason Wagner, son of Kenneth and Holly Wagner of Gibsonton, Fla.

The bride-to-be graduated from Lennard High School in 2013. She is currently employed at Old Castle Restaurant, a local favorite in Sun City Center, Fla.

The groom-to-be-graduated from East Bay High School in 2010, from Hillsborough Community College in 2013, and from EMT school in 2016. He is currently employed at G4S Secure Solutions.

The couple is planning a wedding on May 4, 2019, at Saint Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin, Fla.

Seniors age 50+ invited to play basketball

The Sun City Center Basketball Club is for seniors age 50 and above. Formed two years ago, the club plays at the Ruskin Recreation Center at 901 6th St. S.E., Ruskin, Monday and Wednesdays from 9:20 to 11 a.m.

The club has two divisions: The Sun City/Kings Point division and The Hillsborough County division. Both divisions are blended in competition and practice. The facility is indoors, air conditioned and has a wood floor, which makes it an ideal place to play. Seniors practice cross court and become well conditioned playing two- to three-times per week.

This December the club has qualified to play in the State Senior Olympic championship, which is a three on three competition based on participants' age level in five-year increments.

For more information, call club president Bob Monahan at 401-527-1718, or email SCCBasketballBob@yahoo.com for more information.

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September is 'Child Safety Awareness Month'

September has been officially declared "Child Safety Awareness Month" in Florida.

The Children's Board provides funding to a large variety of agencies promoting safety for children, in addition to spearheading a Tampa Bay wide campaign to end the three leading causes of 100 percent preventable child death: Drowning, unsafe sleep and abusive head trauma. The children are this community's most precious gift, and each one of us has a responsibility to keep them safe. Parents and caregivers have the ultimate responsibility to protect their children and by also educating and challenging the community on what roles they can all play to save lives.

Practice the ABCs of safe sleep

The safest way for infants to sleep is, Alone on their Backs in a Crib or portable crib. This minimizes the risk of the infant suffocating, especially if they have not yet developed neck muscle control.

Follow crib safety recommendations

A crib mattress should be firm and fit snugly inside the crib's frame, and sheets should fit tightly around the mattress. The sleeping area should be free of blankets, pillows, bumper pads, stuffed animals, sleep positioners and toys.

Designate a water watcher

Lack of adult supervision in and around the water is the main reason children die from drowning. An adult should be assigned to keep their eyes on the child at all times when they are in or near water, and must avoid distractions such as texting. Infants and toddlers should always be accompanied in the water with adults staying within arm's reach of the child.

Be aware of hidden hazards

A child can drown in as little as 1 inch of water. Everything from your toilet to your pet's water bowl can pose a drowning risk. Empty bathtubs when they are no longer in use, and keep bathroom doors closed.

For more information, visit www.preventneedlessdeaths.com, educate yourself and share this information with anyone you know that cares for children.

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YouTube

To rescue a hooked bird, never cut the line — reel, remove, release

Follow these steps to rescue a hooked bird: Reel in the bird. Remove the hook. Release the bird.

1. Enlist others for assistance if possible.

2. **Reel** the bird in slowly and evenly. Don't try to shake the bird loose by jerking the line — it will inflict additional injury to the bird.

3. If fishing from a pier, make sure that the bird remains on the water until a net, such as a hoop net, can be used to lift it onto the pier. Birds reeled up onto piers can be seriously injured, or can potentially damage fishing equipment.

4. Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes. Take extra care to protect yourself when handling long-billed wading birds and hooked-billed cormorants.

5. Firmly grasp the bird's head behind the eyes. Then fold the wings up gently but firmly against the bird's body so that it can't flap its wings, and hold the legs. Hold firmly but don't strangle the bird. If it is a pelican, you can hold the beak but keep the beak slightly open so the bird can breathe.

6. Cover the bird's head with a towel, hat, shirt, or other cloth. This will calm the bird and make it easier for you to remove the line and/or hook.

7. **Remove** the hook by cutting the barb and backing the hook out. If the barb is embedded in the bird's flesh, push the hook through until the barb emerges from the skin and then clip the barb.

8. If the bird is entangled in line, use scissors, clippers or a knife to gently cut the line. Place the cut line in a monofilament recycling bin, or cut the line into small (less than 3-inch pieces) and place in a lidded trash can.

9. Carefully check the bird over for other hooks or line and remove them too.

10. If the bird is feisty, it is likely healthy enough to **release**. Point its head towards the water and step back while you release the bird. Let the bird take off on its own. Sometimes birds shake their feathers out, assess the situation, and then are ready to fly. Other times, they just take off. Either way, this represents a successful release.

If a bird has swallowed a fishing hook or is severely injured, use the app https://ocean.floridamarine.org/SeabirdRehabilitators/ to find the nearest seabird rehabilitator to care for the bird and/or transporter to take the bird to a rehabilitator. Stay with the bird until help arrives. You can also report an injured bird to the FWC using the FWC Reporter app for Apple or Android smartphones or tablets. You can download the free app from the App Store External Website or Google Play External Website.

JEANETTE EDWARDS PHOTO

Use scissors, clippers or a knife to gently cut fishing line and remove hooks.

GEORGE VEAZEY PHOTO

When handling a pelican, keep the beak slightly open so the bird can breathe.

Egypt's wheat production illustrates global security issues

Scientists, including many at the University of Florida, are trying to figure out how to feed 10 billion people worldwide by 2050. As they do, some UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences researchers are studying how arid nations can produce enough crops to feed themselves and to avoid civil protests or even war.

Egypt, for instance, lacks sufficient water to grow enough wheat, forcing the country to import half of that type of grain, UF/IFAS researchers say. A new UF/IFAS-led study shows Egypt's wheat production will likely be insufficient in 20 to 25 years.

Low crop production can grow into a national and global security issue, said Jim Anderson, director of the UF/IFAS Institute for Sustainable Food Systems.

"Breakdowns in the global food system are not only a root cause of hunger, underachievement and obesity, but also have been identified as a key cause of social unrest and, in some cases, civil war," said Anderson, a UF/IFAS professor of food and resource economics.

As an example, increased bread prices were one reason people protested during the Arab Spring of 2010-2011, said Senthold Asseng, a UF/IFAS professor of agricultural and biological engineering.

Asseng led a recent study on Egypt's long-term ability to produce its own wheat.

Egypt faces critical agricultural concerns. At 13.2 million tons per year, the country ranks as the world's leading wheat importer, taking half its grain from other nations, Asseng said.

In the new study, researchers from UF/IFAS and Egypt found the Middle Eastern nation can grow enough wheat to feed itself through 2040, but after that, production looks uncertain.

"To feed its population and become independent from wheat imports, the Egyptian government tries to expand wheat production by doubling the irrigation area through a new national initiative," Asseng said.

"This initiative will make Egypt self-sufficient in the near future, but will be insufficient after (the decade of the) 2040s," he said. "By then, Egypt will have to start importing wheat, again, due to declining yields from climate change and increasing demand with population growth."

Climate change will affect agriculture everywhere in the world; however, climate change will be felt first and hardest where food shortage is an issue already now, Asseng said.

He and other scientists work on the Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project, also known as AgMIP — a global research network.

Scientific knowledge through AgMIP is key to understanding the impact and consequences of climate change on agriculture and food systems, Asseng said. The group enabled this multi-institutional and bi-national research, he said.

Egypt's wheat production gains global importance because many countries export wheat there. Most comes from Russia, the Ukraine and Romania, Asseng said. The U.S. exports relatively little wheat to Egypt — about 100,000 tons in 2017-2018, he said. But the U.S. and Egypt are linked through wheat prices.

"On an economic level, as the largest wheat importer, the role of Egypt in the global grain market is critical to any grain- or food-producing country or region," Asseng said. "The U.S. is the fourth-largest wheat producer and number-one wheat exporter in the world."

Almost every state in the U.S. produces wheat. The leading states are Kansas, North Dakota, Montana and Washington.

Florida produces very little wheat, but through a new breeding program, Md Ali Babar, a UF/IFAS agronomy professor, is developing wheat varieties for the Sunshine State and other parts of the world. Babar is working to breed wheat cultivars that are more tolerant to heat and dry weather for a future predicted to be warmer.

The Egypt wheat study is published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*.

THE PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Scientists, are trying to figure out how to feed 10 billion people worldwide by 2050.

SEPT. 2018 DaVita Medical Group Sun City Center
Community Activity Center Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
17 NEW EVENT HERE SOON!	18 New! CHAIR YOGA 9:30-10:30 a.m. Silver Sneakers 11 a.m. - noon NIA Non Impact Aerobics 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Square Dancing 3 - 4 p.m.	19 Line Dancing Beginner 10 - 11 a.m. Advanced 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Art Simplified 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	20 Silver Sneakers 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. NIA Non Impact Aerobics 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. New! ZUMBA GOLD 2-3 p.m.	21 SALSA DANCING Beginner 10 - 11 a.m. Advanced 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
24 JEWELRY WITH JJ 2-3:30 p.m. RSVP A MUST!	25 New! CHAIR YOGA 9:30-10:30 a.m. Silver Sneakers 11 a.m. - noon NIA CANCELLED Square Dancing 3 - 4 p.m.	26 Line Dancing Beginner 10 - 11 a.m. Advanced 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Art Simplified 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	27 Silver Sneakers 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. NIA CANCELLED New! ZUMBA GOLD 2-3 p.m.	28 SALSA DANCING Beginner 10 - 11 a.m. Advanced 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

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Is your child suffering from back-to-school stress?

Behavior is always a form of communication

■ By Cheryl Albright, OTR/L, RYT-200

Is your child one of the many children experiencing anxiety as the first day of school looms near? Experiencing back-to-school jitters is perfectly normal. But it's important for parents to recognize excessive stress in their child, as children themselves may not recognize that they are stressed.

In small amounts, stress can be good. But, excessive stress can affect the way a child thinks, acts, and feels. This is particularly true of special needs children who are particularly sensitive to stress and the triggers that cause stress.

Children learn how to respond to stress as they grow and develop. Many stressful events that an adult can manage will cause stress in a child. As a result, even small changes can impact a child's feelings of safety and security.

School-Related Stressors For Children May Include:

- Worrying about schoolwork or grades
- Juggling responsibilities, such as school and work or sports
- Problems with friends, bullying, or peer group pressures
- Changing schools, moving, or dealing with housing problems or homelessness
- Having negative thoughts about themselves

Signs Your Child Is Struggling With Stress:

It's important to recognize when your child is stressed and having a difficult time adjusting to change and new situations. Things to look for include both physical and emotional/behavioral symptoms that seem excessive or persist over several weeks:

- Physical:
- Decreased appetite, other changes in eating habits
- Headache
- New or recurrent bed-wetting
- Incontinence of bowel or bladder
- Nightmares
- Sleep disturbances
- Upset stomach or vague stomach pain
- Other physical symptoms with no physical illness
- Emotional or behavioral symptoms:
- Anxiety, worry, inability to relax
- New or recurring fears…of the dark, of being alone, of strangers
- Clinging, unwilling to let you out of sight, inability to sleep alone
- Angry outbursts, crying, whining
- Inability to control emotions
- Aggressive or stubborn behavior
- Unwillingness to participate in family or school activities

These symptoms may be exacerbated in children with special needs.

What You Can Do to Help:

Parents can help children respond to stress in healthy ways. Consider the following tips:

Maintain family routines, such as having family dinners together or a movie night. Be a role model by managing your own stress in healthy ways.

Avoid television programs, books, and games that share violent content as they can produce fears and anxiety.

Build your child's feelings of self-worth. Use encouragement and affection. Use rewards, not punishment. Try to involve your child in activities where they can succeed.

Encourage physical activity that helps your child decompress.

If, despite your best efforts, your child is still exhibiting signs of unmanaged stress, consult a health care provider, counselor, or therapist.

About Cheryl Albright: Cheryl Albright grew up with an older brother with autism and an aunt with Down syndrome. She began working with children with special needs through Rotary Camp Onsewaya at the age of 14. She continued through high school and college teaching adapted swim lessons with children with special needs. Albright has been an occupational therapist for 15 years and teaching Yoga for the Special Child® for nine years. She received her Registered Yoga Teacher training in 2014 and advanced training in adapting Hatha yoga with those diagnosed with scleroderma. Soul to Soul Yoga was created in collaboration with Yoga for the Special Child® to have a home in the Sarasota, Fla. area. To learn more, email her at cheryl@soultosoulyogasrq.org or visit the website at https://www.soultosoulyogasrq.com.

Children may not be able to verbalize things that are bothering them.

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St. Andrew Presbyterian offers grief support group

A spiritual and loving support group for those who are grieving the death of a loved one will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Blvd. W., Sun City Center. They will be incorporating a video from a hospice pioneer, Barbara Karnes RN, as they explore the grieving process. They will also be viewing a video titled *Hope Beyond Today*.

You are invited to join them on the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 10:15 to 11 a.m. in the church library from Sept. 19 through Dec. 5.

This group offers coping strategies, a personal journal, a survival kit and guest speakers who will help you navigate your emotions, share experiences, and questions of grief. It will help you create an authentic and personal way back to fullness of life.

Space is still available. Sign up in the church foyer or call the event phone line at 813-634-1252 and leave a message for Carol or Anne.

SCF fall lecture features professor's interviews with Radiohead musicians Sept. 19

The State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota's (SCF) first lecture of the fall faculty lecture series will feature Assistant Professor Peter Carney, Ph.D., and his research and interviews with the musicians of Radiohead that led to his dissertation on the evolution of "the last great rock band." Faculty, students and the public can join Carney at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 19, in Building 27, Room 105, at SCF Bradenton 5840 26th St. W. and via Skype in Building 400, Room 417 at SCF Venice, 8000 S. Tamiami Tr.

The lecture will include live music and explore how Radiohead, the stadium rock band famous for their riddles, began a metamorphosis under the influence of jazz. Behind their acclaimed breakthrough into "post-rock," Radiohead used the novel approach of jazz structuralism to break out of their frustrations with rock. Carney also will piece together how as Radiohead struggled to escape their one-hit wonder status under their hit, "Creep," jazz artists showed them how to kill their past and start over.

As a jazz musician, Carney enjoys a career as a saxophonist and arranger who has worked with Grammy Award-winners Kirk Franklin, Tito Puente, the Winans and rock legends, The Plain White T's. His greatest experiences have been opening for B.B. King in a Mississippi cotton field, Al Green at The Superdome and Aretha Franklin in Chicago. Blurring the lines between teacher, designer, musician and improviser, Carney also recently gave a TED Talk on "Designing Curiosity" at TEDx Jacksonville.

Carney will open the discussion to questions. For more information, email SCFLectureSeries@SCF.edu or call 941-752-5589.

Ruskin Elementary Terrific Kids

Julien Longoria, Annies Munoz, Kayden Glover, Naomi Kelly, Benjamin Martinez, Migdalia Geronimo, Isabella Ortiz, Diana Gomez, Mia Fernandez, Anetta Watts, Rolando Salinas Lopez, Karla Vera, Javin Singh, Ethan Gutierrez, Janelli Maya Perez, Makayla Church, Vanessa Lorente Moseo, Aracely Guevara Reyes, Mia Ibarra Rivera, Angilene Richie,Christy Joseph, Dallas Diaz, Jacklyn Galicia Miron, Emily Arellano Morgado, Janessa Longoria, Amy Borja Martinez, Daniela Sandoval Moran, Aliza DeLaRosa, Joanna Reyes, Jordin McClain, Maria Linares, Elizabeth Guerrero Salinas, Christopher Lemus, Adam Palacios, and Morgan Miller. Kiwanis members from Sun City Center Tom Braden and Ralph Leon. Ruskin Principal Rebecca Salgado and School Counselor Rosario Suarez. Gabriella Fuentes also received the award, but was not present for the ceremony.

21st annual

Columbia Restaurant Community Harvest during Sept.

The Columbia Restaurant will host its 21st annual Community Harvest that will benefit Meals on Wheels PLUS. It is an easy and delicious way for you to help raise donations and awareness.

Dine at any Columbia Restaurant during the month of September, select Meals on Wheels PLUS as your charity of choice, and Columbia Restaurant will donate 5 percent of your bill to help end hunger in Manatee County. Make your reservations at www.columbiarestaurant.com/Reservations. To learn more about Meals on Wheels PLUS, go to www.mealsonwheelsplus.org.

Volunteer to serve Aging Services meals

Looking to volunteer? Aging Services nutrition sites throughout Hillsborough County are seeking food service assistant volunteers to assist in serving hot, nutritious midday meals to citizens 60 and older. Volunteer benefits include flexible schedule, engagement with seniors in a fun, social environment, and the opportunity to impact the community in a positive way. For more information, call Kimberley Trusty-Doughty at 813-744-5867

Kerin Clarkin for honorary mayor of Riverview hosts 1885 Day Sept. 22

Kerin Clarkin is running for honorary mayor of Riverview. To win, he needs to raise money. The candidate who raises the most money wins. You can help by attending his event, 1885 Day, a celebration of Riverview.

Clarkin has selected the Riverview Woman's Club Foundation as the recipient of 90 percent of the proceeds; the remaining 10 percent goes to the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce. The mission of the foundation is to support the community and improve education for students. The 1885 Day will take place on Saturday, Sept. 22, from noon to 7 p.m. at Summerfield Crossings Golf Club, 13050 Summerfield Blvd. in Riverview. The cost is $5 for a wrist band to enjoy the day's festivities including games and live music, a history tent to learn about Riverview, food, raffles, prizes, hay rides and more.

For more information about 1885 Day, to learn more about the Riverview Woman's Club Foundation or to become a member of the Riverview Woman's Club, visit www.riverviewwomansclub.org

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Skimmers, scammers and scum

► Continued from page 1

10 business days while the bank investigated to determine liability. It took almost a week for her to get provisional credit and six weeks for the bank to fully refund the money and all the fees."

Merry said this can happen to anyone.

He and his wife are now both personally transferring all their transactions to credit cards, which are much easier to deal with in recouping illegal charges. When reported immediately, a customer's liability is generally limited to $50.

Credit card transactions can be stopped and reversed at any time, experts say. Debit card transactions involve an immediate transfer of cash.

These same experts report credit- and debit-card fraud have gone up exponentially over the past three years. According to FICO (Fair Isaac Corp.), the company that calculates credit scores, ATM fraud has already gone up 10 percent this year, Merry said.

"Bad guys use devices called skimmers, shimmers and overlays to steal your credit- or debit-card number and pin number (from the card reader)," Merry said.

Criminals install skimmers, small card readers attached to payment terminals, to steal all the details off a credit or debit card's magnetic stripe. That information is then used to create cloned cards or break directly into accounts.

Shimmers, more insidious criminal tools, are very thin devices inserted inside payment terminals to get your banking information. These target chip-based cards, which, although more secure, can still be read to clone their magnetic strips. Unlike skimmers, they can't be seen from the outside.

There are ways to protect yourself, and Merry will discuss them this month and next at the following locations:

- 11 a.m. Sept. 18, Freedom Auditorium, 1010 American Eagle Blvd., Freedom Plaza
- 10 a.m. Oct. 9, Caper Room, Community Association Atrium, 945 N. Course Lane, Sun City Center
- 1 p.m. Oct. 9, Ripple Room, Kings Point North Club, 1900 Clubhouse Drive, Kings Point

He will cover the different devices identity thieves use on ATM and debit/credit card machines, what you can do to protect yourself and the steps to follow should you become a victim.

The forums are open to all residents of Sun City Center and surrounding communities, and they are free.

For more information, call Merry or Community Service Aide Michelle Mortimer at 813-242-5525.

LOIS KINDLE PHOTO

Community Resource Deputy Jeff Merry wants to help you keep your money safe. He will present three forums this month on devices used by criminals to steal your banking information off credit and debit cards and what you can do to protect your finances.

South Shore Diversity Group meets Sept. 20

The South Shore Diversity Group will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20, at the Sandpiper Grille, 1702 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. in Sun City Center.

All our welcome. For more information, visit www.southshorediversitygroup.org.

Crafters, artists wanted for Art & Craft Fair

Crafters and artists are wanted for the annual Art & Craft Fair to be held at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Blvd. W., Sun City Center on Dec. 8, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For an application and more information, call Nancy Metcalf at 813-459-0871.

Old time country auction to benefit veterans and first responders Sept. 22

The American Ideals Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3, will be hosting an old-time country auction of donated items on Saturday, Sept. 22, at 1414 33rd St. in Ruskin.

The auction will benefit their Assistance Division. All proceeds will directly go to help veterans, first responders and their families.

Check in time is 9 a.m. and the auction is from 10 to 2 p.m.

Y.E.S.! Family Abilities Information Rally F.A.I.R. Oct. 6

The 11th annual YES! Family Abilities Information Rally (F.A.I.R.) hosted by YES! of America United, in partnership with Hillsborough County and sponsored by the *Tampa Bay Times*, 99.1 FM JAMS, M&M Printing, and WellCare, will be held Saturday, Oct. 6, at All People's Life Center 6105 E. Sligh Ave., Tampa, FL 33617 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (doors open at 9:30 a.m.).

The F.A.I.R. is a free family-friendly community event. They want to help all people fully participate in as many activities as they can at the F.A.I.R. and in their community. People of all ages and abilities can visit exhibits with games and giveaways while having fun learning about programs, products and services useful to them. Food will be available for purchase from a diverse variety of food trucks.

Their theme this year is "A Rootin' Tootin' Good Time — Moving our Country into the Future." They hope everyone will enjoy a fun country hoedown. They are encouraging vendors and the public to grab their favorite cowboy hat and boots and go on down for a good time.

Their celebration will include many demonstrations, exhibitors, and showcase a variety of ethnic and cultural performances. They will feature Jeremy Ewbank Entertainment, the Crabgrass Cowboys, the SACA Golden Dragon Dancers, Sign of Da Times, Pyramid Players, the VA Together As One Drummers, Temple Twirlers and many new young talents.

This YES! F.A.I.R. has something for everyone: There will be singing, dancing and music throughout the day. You can visit Santa, see and touch a fire truck, visit Enterprise Village, a special area for micro-enterprise vendors, and stroll along "Safety Street," a special area highlighting resources available to help keep you and your family safe. You can also donate blood, register to vote and get a massage, all while you interact with royalty, superheroes, and many playful mascots. Other favorite activities: Great Clips haircuts, Nails by Summit Salon Academy, arts and crafts, bounce house, demos on sign language and braille and, of course, door prizes and a silent auction with lots of unique items.

For more information, visit www.yesunited.org. Communication accessibility provided throughout the event through ASL interpreters and CART services.

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Oldest Sun City Center resident going strong at 108

1910 – 2018 and beyond

By STEPHEN FLANAGAN JACKSON
steve@observernews.net

As perky and bubbly as a freshly-poured glass of champagne, Mary Bessignano gracefully anticipates the next milestone in her life: Her 108th birthday on Sept. 13, 2018. Reportedly and unofficially, Mary B. is the oldest resident of Sun City Center.

Certainly Mary B. has had her share of birthdays and hopes to have more. Each one is special, and she has a pretty good recollection of most of them. Her memory and her bill of health are crystal clear as are her bright brown eyes.

"I am blessed," acknowledges Mary B., "...that I can communicate well with others and know what's going on in my little world and the world beyond.

"I realize and appreciate that this is my blessing from God."

Mary B. credits faith in God as a key to her longevity. Her deep and abiding faith is not merely a theological attachment to her Catholic religion but a cultural and spiritual one that Mary B. exemplifies and exudes every second, every breath of her life. Her compact "studio apartment" at Belvedere Commons in Sun City Center has everything she needs: Kitchenette, private bathroom and combination living room-bedroom. Her meals are brought to her. "I can pretty much take care of myself, dressing, heating up my meals in the microwave after they bring them to me during the day.

"I like to socialize in the common room down the hall from time to time and, of course, I enjoy visits here in my apartment from my son, Don, and anyone else."

Mary B. likes to spend the day sitting in her comfortable chair, reading, and sometimes watching television, with her favorite EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network), and occasionally as many as three Masses per day. Her Italian heritage and culture is reflected in the many small religious icons in her apartment as well as a color photo of the current Pope, an old-fashioned tintype of her mother, and a color photo of her and her late husband Dominic.

"My favorite food is spaghetti, and I know the cook here will have that prepared for me in a delicious way on my birthday," she said with glee.

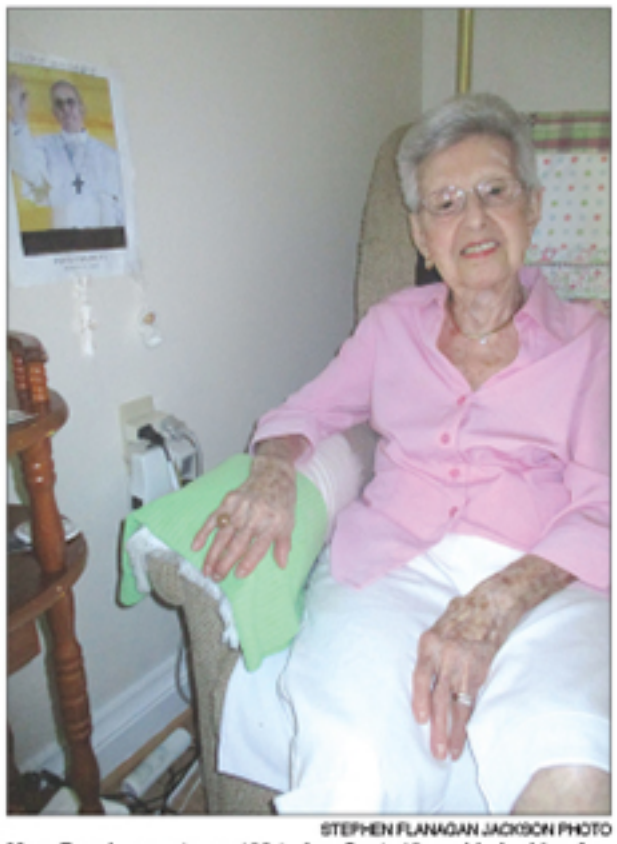
"We lived in Logansport, Ind., and my husband Dominic worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad," said Mary B., telling how she and her son and his wife decided to move to Sun City Center in 2006 after her husband died. All three lived together for awhile. Mary B. then moved into Belvedere in 2009 where she has lived since.

On this day as her 108th year on earth approaches, Mary B. looks like she could take on the world. Dressed impeccably in a bright pink blouse, linen-white pedal pushers with golden house shoes, a diamond pendant on a gold chain around her delicate neck and two gold rings on her hands, she said she enjoys dressing up whether she is "going out" or just spending time inside. She recalls that on the occasion of her 100th birthday her son Don took her to Tampa where she picked out some special clothes for a trip and celebration up in her hometown. Over 175 people showed up when she and Don arrived at the birthday bash where she was born and raised in Indiana.

"I have good memories," said Mary B., the eldest of seven children, all born and raised in Logansport, and all deceased now except for her. She remembers fondly working in her later years as a volunteer in a hospital and a nursing home while living in Logansport.

"I spent time helping to feed and talk with the elderly people," said Mary B.. "If you see an old lady, how can you not go up and give them a hug?" she said ironically, of her previous work and visits to the nursing home.

Now, years later, Mary B. is one of the residents in just such a home for assisted living. She is special among the many elderly residents, whose eyes yearn for even a brief moment of human contact.



STEPHEN FLANAGAN JACKSON PHOTO
Mary Bessignano turns 108 today, Sept. 13, and is looking forward to her favorite meal of spaghetti from the chef at Belvedere Commons in Sun City Center.

S. Hillsborough Elks

Lodge 2672 · 813-645-2089

Every Monday – Bingo 5 p.m.

Every Tuesday — Jam session Oct. - May, 3 p.m.

Every Wednesday – Best Spaghetti in Town - $9, All You Can Eat, for all Elks and their guests.

Every Thursday — Lodge opens 3 p.m. Peggy's special food 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Bar poker members only.

Every Friday – Seafood, either fried or baked, sandwiches and special baskets for all Elks and their guests, 5 to 7 p.m.

Every Sunday - Come and enjoy a Rib Eye Steak right off the grill, $15, with all the trimmings, 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets should be purchased in advance.

The South Hillsborough Elks Lodge is located at 1630 U.S. 41 S., Ruskin, FL 33570. Telephone 813-645-2089. Accepts all major credit and debit cards and has a clean, smoke-free environment.

Retired firefighters breakfast

All retired firefighters are invited to a once-a-week 10 a.m. gathering at Denny's restaurant, 3747 Sun City Center Blvd., Sun City Center, FL 33573.

They meet every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Join the fun, no reservations needed.

Ruskin Eagles Aerie 4351

1205 1st St. S.W.
Ruskin · 813-645-2922

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

Friday — Kitchen open, 5:30-7 p.m.
Feather Your Nest game, 6 p.m.

Saturday — Juke Box Saturday Night 6-10 p.m.

Sunday — $1 drafts all day and evening.
Feather Your Nest game, 6 p.m.

Monday — Bingo, 6 p.m.

Tuesday — $1 drafts all day and evening.
Bar cards 6 p.m.

Wednesday — Go on down and socialize.

For more information, call the club at 813-645-2922.

Church of Hope hosting free Health Fair, activities Sept. 16

A New Hope Health Fair event will be on Sunday, Sept. 16, at 10:30 a.m.

The open-to-the public affair will include live music and special activities for children, youth and adults. Free services at the Health Fair will include blood pressure checks, blood sugar screenings, bicycle safety, car seat safety, LECOM dental personnel, North River fire truck, Manatee County EMS unit, OneBlood Mobile and much more.

The Church of Hope is at 1701 10th St. W. in Palmetto. For more information, call 941-531-3266.

Trinity Baptist Church offering grief support group on Thursdays

Trinity Baptist Church, 702 W. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center is offering a grief support group on Thursdays at 10 a.m. through Nov. 15.

The group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and have successfully rebuilt their lives. They understand how you feel because they been in the same place. They will walk with you on the long path through grief toward healing and hope for the future.

This is a free group and open to the public. No registration is required. For more information, call 813-634-4228.

Elks Lodge craft show Sept. 29

Saturday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Elks Lodge 2672 will host a craft show at 1630 U.S. 41 S. in Ruskin.

Go browse and pick up early holiday gifts. It features over 30 vendors with talents from crocheted items, wreaths (large and small), watercolor paintings, pottery, items for your favorite pet, Christmas stocking stuffers, table runners, lamp ideas, handmade jewelry, and quilted array of specialty items, travel experts, handmade towels and even fresh produce. Hot dogs, chips and soft drinks will be sold.

For more information, call the lodge at 813-645-2089.

GRCC Political Forum Oct. 2

Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce (GRCC) is proud to announce that they will be hosting a Political Forum for the community on Tuesday, Oct. 2. Candidates who are running for offices that affect the Riverview community and surrounding neighbors will be invited to participate in this forum.

The event will take place at The Regent, 6437 Watson Road in Riverview. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the program will begin promptly at 6:30. There is no charge for admission or parking. This is your chance to meet the candidates, hear what they have to say and be able to make an informed decision when you cast your votes.

This evening has been designed to educate and bring awareness to the community and give the candidates an opportunity to speak on issues affecting us on the local and state levels. Moderators Dr. Bryan Thatcher of Thatcher Properties, and Laurie Ohall of Law Offices of Laurie E. Ohall, PA, will devote considerable time to questions and answers and each candidate will have the opportunity to speak.

For more information on the event or registration, visit www.RiverviewChamber.com or stop by the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce office located inside the CenterState Bank building at 10101 Bloomingdale Ave., Suite 102, in Riverview between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or call 813-234-5944 or email info@riverviewchamber.com.

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The fee advertised is the minimum fee charged. The patient and any other person responsible for payment has the right to refuse to pay, cancel payment or be reimbursed for payment for any other service, examination or treatment which is performed as a result of and within 72 hours of responding to the advertisement for the free service, examination or treatment. Senior Citizen discount does not apply.
*Actual Fee May Vary Depending Upon Degree of Complexity in a Given Case
** Time to process denture cases may change due to complexity / type of case

STEPHEN FLANAGAN JACKSON PHOTO
Jake Fitzpatrick with one of his woodworking pieces.

Fitzpatrick

► Continued from page 3

displayed in the mission statement. My time with the FFA has given me in-depth, hands-on experience working on skills that will benefit me for the rest of my life, including public speaking, responsibility, and accountability, and for that I owe FFA a great debt of gratitude," said Jake.

Jake also emphasizes how the FFA, agriculture and ag education go way beyond the normal perception of farming.

"A very common misconception about the agriculture industry is that farming is the only career available. In reality, production-based careers only take up a percentage of the industry. Whether it is through production, marketing, research and development, or public policy, careers match any student's passion. I believe the first step in encouraging a student to become interested in the agricultural industry is to educate them about the vast diversity of career paths available," he said.

Jake notes that he himself became interested by taking an elective course in Agriculture Foundations as a sixth grader at Barrington Middle School.

Projecting from that day as an 11-year-old into the future, Jake says that next year, "I hope to be studying at the University of Florida to major in Ag Communications."

He then takes his proposed life plan another few years down the road.

"In five years I hope to be enrolled in the University of Florida's Law school with the aspiration of becoming an agricultural lawyer. In 20 years I hope to have a successful law practice with the goal of assisting local agriculturists with whatever public policy issues they may have."

In a lesson in life planning, Jake sees a move full circle, back into the classroom, engaging with the next generation. "In 40 years I hope to retire into Ag education and aspire to inspire my students in the way I was inspired by my own agricultural education experience."

Jake considers himself fortunate to be where he is in life — professionally and personally.

"My favorite experiences within the industry have all revolved around meeting and engaging with other agriculturists. There are so many interesting and unique people within the Ag community, and I have been blessed to grow up in the extremely supportive environment that community has created."

Even his interests and activities beyond agriculture are unique and distinct. Chief among these is his small amateur woodworking company, Lone Palm Woodworks, in which Fitzpatrick disdains electric power tools and utilizes chisels, handsaws and other hand tools as well as recycled wood.

"One of my biggest hobbies outside of the agriculture industry is woodworking. A few years ago I built a small bench for the front porch out of boredom," said Jake. "There was something about the satisfaction of seeing the completed project that I had built myself that instantly had me hooked. From then on I started honing my skills in the shop by making pieces for friends and family, and eventually started taking orders for furniture from people around the community. I highly recommend anybody take up some form of craft. There is nothing like the feeling you get when you finally take a step back and view your very own completed project."

Jake concluded on a philosophical note, expressing contentment and satisfaction: "My election (as a state vice president) shows that you are not judged solely by where you are from or who your parents are, but by the weight of your heart. I now have an important outlet to express my ideas and possibly impact younger FFA members in the same way I have been inspired by senior FFA members during my time in the organization."

Fitzpatrick is hoping to be in a position financially to attend an FFA international meeting and seminar in South Africa in January 2019. He said he is raising funds by selling his wordworking and accepting donations for this International Leadership Seminar. Anyone can email him at Jake.Fitzpatrick@flaffa.org, to help in any manner.

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

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, visit www.careshelter.org, or call 813-645-2273.

CHRIS VERGALLITO PHOTOS

Flip

Flip is a 9-month-old pug/beagle mix. He is silly, wiggly and very active. He enjoys playing with his toys and getting love from the volunteers.

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

Luna

Luna is a petite 2-year-old that has the cutest splash of white on her chest. She is overcoming the timidness observed when she first arrived at the shelter. Luna goes right up to the door and now seems to embrace the attention she is getting from the volunteers. All of C.A.R.E.'s adoptables are on www.Petfinder.com, city: Ruskin.

Visit www.CareShelter.org.

Area Obituaries

Daniel W. Hulik

Daniel W. Hulik passed away on August 25, 2018, at the age of 83, bravely battling cancer while staying at Plaza West Nursing Facility in Sun City Center, Fla.

He was born in Bayonne, N.J. on February 21, 1935, to parents William Hulik and Marion Porada. He married Jane Gilman, the absolute love of his life for 61 years, in 1956. They moved to Skillman, N.J. where he was a laboratory supervisor for the New Jersey Neuropsychiatric Institute for 42 years. They retired to Sun City Center, Fla. from Lawrenceville, N.J. in 2000 to avoid the snow and enjoy the sunshine.

His hobbies included crabbing and fishing with his son, miniature boat building, stamp and coin collecting carrying on his father's collection, poker and bingo nights with friends, and garage sale shopping for treasures on his golf cart. But his favorite hobby was telling bad jokes to make everyone laugh or possibly groan. He made the world a better place with his big hugs and his sense of humor.

He is survived by his dear wife Jane; his daughter Diana Drier (Hulik); his grandchildren Nathaniel and Gillian; his great-grandchild Ruthie; his son Daniel W. Hulik Jr.; his daughter-in-law Maureen; his sister-in-law Kather Blewitt and her husband Denis. In addition he leaves behind his wonderful circle of friends who gathered for coffee every morning at the Freedom Plaza Grille.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at Freedom Plaza in Sun City Center, Fla.

Barbara Ann Phillips

Barbara Ann Phillips, 88, of Sun City Center, Fla., passed away on Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

Born in Germantown, N.C., on May 26, 1930, she was the daughter of the late George F. Owen and Creola Stimpson Owen. She was also preceded in death by her loving husband Edsel Phillips, and grandson, Corbin David Bevard. She devoted her life to being a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt.

Barbara is survived by her four children Andy Phillips (Connie), Sheila Phillips Havlan (Joe), Gary Michael Phillips (Joan), and Mary Susan Bevard (Dan); nieces, Elizabeth Hunnicutt and Patricia Byrd; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.lanier.care.

James A. Moody

James A. Moody, 69, of Gibsonton, passed away on Saturday, September 1, 2018. He is survived by his wife Sarah; sons Matthew Moody, Jonathan (Cyndi) Nolan and Joshua Nolan; daughter Meagan (Joshua) Mainwaring and grandsons Carter and Harrison Nolan and Sebastian Mainwaring.

A Celebration of his life will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 15, 2018, at Local Union Hall #88, 8640 U.S. 301 S., Riverview. Interment will be in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Fla. www.SouthernFuneralCare.com.

United Methodist Church of Sun City Center offers free movie Sept. 14

Everyone is invited on Friday, Sept. 14, for popcorn and a movie, *The Case for Christ*. There will be two showings, a matinee at 3 p.m. and an evening showing at 6. This is a free movie for the community provided by The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center at 1210 Del Webb Blvd. W. For more information, call the office at 813-634-2539.

Based upon the Gold-Medallion award-winning best-seller, *The Case for Christ* documents Lee Strobel's journey from atheism to faith through his two-year investigation of the Bible and the life of Jesus Christ. Strobel, the former legal editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, draws upon his investigative skills to examine the historical accuracy of the gospels, the personal claims of Jesus and His resurrection from the dead. Is there evidence to confirm that Jesus of Nazareth was, indeed, the son of God and the savior of the world? This film features interviews with 10 leading Biblical scholars from North America and England, cutting-edge apologetics and a compelling original music score.

St. Andrew pizza and movie night Sept. 27

On Thursday, Sept. 27, at 5 p.m. St. Andrew Presbyterian Church invites you to join them for all the pizza you can eat, some homemade cake, and an assortment of soft drinks. They will be showing the movie *Overboard* — all for $7.

The movie, *Overboard*, stars Eugenio Derbez and Anna Faris. Leonardo hires Kate, a single mother, to clean his yacht, but soon fires her. He falls off his boat and wakes up with amnesia. At that point Kate decides to get payback by pretending to be his wife.

Tickets can be purchased for $7 at the church office Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.) The church is at 1239 Del Webb Blvd. W., Sun City Center.

For more information, call 813-634-1252

'Breaking Open the Word' at Prince of Peace starts Sept. 21

Prince of Peace Catholic Church is pleased to announce that "Breaking Open the Word" will begin on Friday, Sept. 21. Breaking Open The Word is an informal discussion on the readings for the upcoming Sunday. The discussion begins at 9 a.m. and runs for about an hour.

For more information, call Michelle Szczepanski, at 813-634-2328 or email michelle@popcc.org.

Prince of Peace Catholic Church is at 702 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center. For more information on their parish community, visit www.popcc.org.

Wednesday morning ladies Bible study

South Shore United Methodist Church at 11525 Big Bend Road in Riverview started a Wednesday morning Ladies Bible study from 9 to 11:30 a.m. They are using Beth Moore's study titled *Jesus The One and Only*. The classes are open to all denominations.

For more information, call Monica at 813-760-3221.

Free flag disposal

Serenity Meadows Funeral Home has launched its "Stars & Stripes Flag Retirement Program." Those in the community who are looking for proper flag disposal can take their flags to Serenity Meadows Funeral Home at 6919 Providence Road in Riverview. Flags will be stored safely and disposed of in the proper, dignified manner as outlined by the United States Flag Code. Flag donors will have the opportunity to attend an official Flag Retirement Ceremony to be conducted at a future date. The Flag Retirement Ceremony is a special, presentation conducted by the Boy Scouts of America.

For more information, call 813-677-9494.

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9 a.m. ..... Bible Study
11 a.m. ..... Bible Study
10 a.m. & 6 p.m. ..... Worship
WEDNESDAY
6 p.m. ..... Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

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Sunday ..... 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Español ..... 12:30 p.m.
Daily ..... 8 a.m.
Wednesdays ..... 7 p.m.
Jueves ..... 7 p.m.
Healing Masses .....
8 a.m. 1st Wednesday of the month
5 p.m. 1st Sunday of the month
Holy Days ..... Contact Parish Office for Schedule
Confession ..... Thursday 6:15 p.m.
Saturday 3:15 p.m.
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Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m.

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Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Youth Worship ..... 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Service ..... 7:00 p.m.
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Sun City Center, FL 813-634-4228
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Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.
Dr. Ron Churchill, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Kevin Yoakum, Pastor
813-677-1322 • www.ctklcms.org
Worship services with Holy Communion at 10 a.m.
Sunday School 9 a.m. • Bible Study, Wed. 7 p.m.
"Cross Times" Bible Study, Tuesday, 10 a.m. at Sun Towers, SCC

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC
Meets at the SCC Area Chamber of Commerce
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
813-633-0396 • www.sccuu.org
Let us bless ourselves with knowing and each other with words that are true. — Barbara Pescan

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Sunday Evening ..... 6:00 P.M.
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Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Riverview, FL 33578
Tuesday Hebrew Scripture Study
11:30 AM
SCC Chamber of Commerce, 1651 SCC Plaza
813-760-3369* www.shoreshdavid.org
Rabbi Ed Marvin
Messianic Synagogue

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
702 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC, FL 33573
Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670
www.popcc.org
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Saturday Vigil.....4 p.m.
Daily.....8 a.m.
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Wed. 2:30 p.m. • Sat. 3 p.m.

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Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.
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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH Sun City Center
1707 33rd Street SE • Ruskin, Florida 33570
813-419-4930 Minister Mike Grant
LIKE US ON Facebook
For information and calendar, visit: www.FirstChristianSunCityCenter.com
SUNDAY: Adult Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service (Nursery Available).....10:20 a.m.
Children's Sunday School.....10:20 a.m.
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

Riverview Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Pastor Reynold Maxwell
Saturday Service Times:
Sabbath School: 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.
Free Bible Studies by mail
10401 Holland Road • Riverview, FL 33569
813-677-6252 • http://riverviewfl.adventistchurch.org/

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center
1210 Del Webb Blvd. W. • 813-634-2539 • sccumc.com
SUNDAY:
9:00 & 11:00 a.m. .....Traditional Service
10:00 a.m.....Contemporary Service
4:00 p.m.....Hispanic Service
SATURDAY: A light meal will be served between Saturday services
4:00 p.m. .....Traditional Service
5:30 p.m.....Contemporary Service
Pages of Life Bookstore: 813-633-8595
Senior Pastor: Dr. Charles Rentz
Come Belong Grow Serve

Christian Science Society
Ruskin • Sun City Center
204 2nd St. N.W. • Ruskin, FL 33570
(813) 645-6102 • csruskinscc@gmail.com
Sunday Service.....10 a.m.
Sunday School.....10 a.m.
Wednesday Service (1st. Wed. of each month).....5 p.m.
The Reading Room is open before and after the Sunday and Wednesday services.
All Are Welcome www.ChristianScienceRuskin-SunCityCenter.org

Pastor Dave Ungar and his wife Sherre

Friendship Baptist installs new pastor

Sept. 9, Friendship Baptist installed Pastor Dave Ungar as its new pastor. Ungar has been serving as its interim pastor since Pastor Lance Goad resigned in Dec. 2017.

Goad was not only the founder, but the only Pastor Friendship Baptist Church had ever known. Friendship Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist Church, was established Aug. 8, 1999, after the Tampa Bay Association had asked Goad if he would start a Southern Baptist Church in Sun City Center. Space in the SCC Area Chamber of Commerce was rented for Sunday services. In the business meeting on March 8, 2000, it was voted to start a building fund, and the church began looking for a building site. The present site previously owned by Hillsborough County Water became available and Ronda Storms, a county commissioner, helped the church with negotiating the purchase. The first service was held in the new building Feb. 23, 2003.

Ungar was ordained and licensed in 1997. Since that time, he has served as a youth, college, singles, education, missions, outreach associate and senior pastor. Ungar's wife's name is Sherre and their two sons are David and Daniel.

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

Wimauma Community Church of God Revival Sept. 23-26

Wimauma Community Church of God announces their Revival Services with Evangelist Mike Carson Sept. 23 through 26.

Sunday, Sept. 23, services are at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 24, through Wednesday, Sept. 26, services are at 7 p.m.

Wimauma Community Church of God is at 5504 S.R. 674 in Wimauma. For more information, call 813-634-4776.

Two SCC churches offering Alpha study

Both St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 1015 Del Webb Blvd. E., Sun City Center and St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Blvd. W., Sun City Center are offering the program Alpha, a study into the question of "Is there more to life than this." Each church will present 15 video presentations once a week over an 11-week period.

The program will start at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church on Monday, Sept. 10, at 6:15 p.m. Dinner will be provided. St. Andrew Presbyterian Church will start on Sept. 15, at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

Both churches welcome all to attend. There is no charge for the program or materials. To register for the classes at St. John, call 813-633-3992 and for the classes at St. Andrew, call 813-634-1252.

St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church
1239 Del Webb W. • Sun City Center, FL 33573
813-634-1252 • www.standrewatscc.org
• Metropolitan Ministries – Fellowship and FREE hot meal Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.
• Stephen Ministries
• Grief Support Group
• Wonderful Wednesday Evening Bible Studies
- 3rd Sunday of the month -
Donuts/Coffee Fellowship between services
Traditional Service 10:30 a.m.
Pre-Service Announcements 10:20 a.m.
Joy & Praise Service 9 a.m.

Christian vocalist Steve Green in concert at Trinity Baptist Nov. 2

Buy tickets at the church Sept. 14; after that buy them online

Internationally know Christian vocalist Steve Green will be in concert at Trinity Baptist Church, 702 Del Webb W., in Sun City Center on Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.

Tickets will be sold at the church on Friday, Sept. 14, from 9 to 11 a.m. After Sept. 14, tickets will be available online at www.stevegreenministries.org. Tickets are $8, $10 and $15.

Throughout his years of ministry, Green has been honored with four Grammy nominations, 18 number-one songs, seven Dove Awards and has been inducted into the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame. With over 40 recordings to his credit — including children's projects and Spanish-language albums — Green has sold over 3 million albums worldwide.

Christian vocalist Steve Green

Sun City Center Bluegrass in concert Sept. 28

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. W., welcomes back Sun City Center Bluegrass for a concert on Friday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m.

Sun City Center Bluegrass plays a variety of music, with bluegrass, country and gospel all a part of their regular repertoire. Some of the favorites that concert goers may hear include "Dear Old Dixie," which features the five-string banjo, "Blue Moon of Kentucky," by Bill Monroe, the "father of Bluegrass" (and recorded by his group, The Blue Grass Boys, as well as by Elvis Presley, Ricky Skaggs and others), "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," a gospel selection, and what may well be the favorite bluegrass number of all time, the ever-popular "Orange Blossom Special," a fiddle piece written by Irving T. Rouse.

A donation of only $5 is requested at the door on the night of the concert.

For more information, call 813-362-0956. To learn more about the United Methodist Church of Sun City center, visit www.sccumc.com.

Easy Reflections to give Alzheimer's research benefit concert at UMC of SCC

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. W., welcomes Easy Relection back to campus for a concert Friday, Sept. 21, 2018, at 7 p.m. to benefit Alzheimer's research.

Easy Reflections is an area duo consisting of Don Larson and Maureen Fitzgerald. Both Larson and Fitzgerald are guitarists and vocalists, and Fitzgerald plays keyboards, as well. They perform various genres of music, including oldies, country, folk, soft rock, gospel and blues. They will cover artists such as Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, Elvis, Emmy Lou Harris, as well as Arlo Guthrie, Ricky Nelson, John Denver and others. Larson and Fitzgerald are excited to have the opportunity to give back to the community with this benefit concert, and hope to see their loyal fans and friends there.

A free-will offering will be taken during the concert. For more information, call 813-362-0956.

Don Lareon and Maureen Fitzgerald

Temple Beth Israel schedule of High Holy Day services

Temple Beth Israel The Jewish Congregation of Sun City Center schedule of High Holy Day services are:

Yom Kippur

• Kol Nidre – Tuesday, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.

• Yom Kippur Day – Wednesday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.; Yiskor at approximately 1:15 p.m.; Yom Kippur healing afternoon and concluding service 5 p.m.; final Shofar blowing approximately 7 to 7:30 p.m.; breakfast to follow final Shofar blowing

• Sukkot – Monday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.

• Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, Yiskor – Monday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.

For guest tickets call Janet Corin at 401-524-0847 or Sandy Zians at 330-509-0123

Beth Israel is at 1807 Del Webb Blvd. E. in Sun City Center.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS 100

103 GREETINGS

Prayer to St. Jude. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved & preserved throughout the world, now & forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Padre Pio pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day, by the 4th day, then published. Your prayer will be answered, it has never been known to fail. G.D.

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310 GARAGE/ YARD SALE

* * * * Yard Sale * * * *
Sep 13, 14, 15 (Th-Sat) 9-1.
606 Allegheny Drive,
Sun City Center

Neighborhood Garage Sale! Blackfin & Seabird Way in Cobia Cay, Apollo Beach. Saturday, Sept. 15 from 7:30 to 1:00. Many houses participating – lots of kids items, kitchen and home décor, Asian & Italian pottery, art work, furniture and antiques. Many unique int'l items at 6508 Seabird Way!

* * * MOVING SALE * * *
2102 Meadowlark Ln, SCC
Fri. & Sat., Sept. 14th & 15th,
8am-noon. Tools, extension ladder, kitchen items, card table & chairs, Halloween, Christmas, and much more!

* * * * * Moving Sale * * * * *
1802 Pineapple Palm Court, SCC. 9/14-9/15, 8am-1pm. Queen bedroom, shelves, table/4 chairs, Lane cedar chest, 3 files, patio, tools.

205 Strongbow Court, SCC. Fri. & Sat., Sept. 14th & 15th, 8am-2pm. No early birds! Many fine collectibles and better household goods. Something for everyone!

8am-noon, Thursday & Friday, September 13th & 14th. 1003 Regal Manor Way, SCC (Renaissance Area) — A little bit of everything!

* * * * * * SALE * * * * * *
1111 Signature Drive, SCC. September 13th/14th/15th. 8am-? Indoor/outdoor furniture & decor. Dog gate. Life vests. Power washer. Car bike ramp. Fountain. Wine cooler. Tongue jack. RV TV. Waterpump. Storage shed. Storage box. Large baskets. Pictures. And MUCH MORE!

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Every Monday — Kitchen open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dinner, 5 to 7 p.m.

Every Tuesday — Kitchen open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dinner, 5 to 7 p.m.

Every Wednesday — Women of the Moose Chef's Choice dinner, 5 to 7 p.m.

Every Thursday — Kitchen open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. With wings, 5 to 7 p.m.

Every Friday — Fish: fried, beer-battered or baked, 4:30 to 7 p.m. Live music 6 to 10 p.m.

Every Saturday — Dinner specials, 5 to 7 p.m. Karaoke, 7 to 11 p.m.

Veterans free dinner with membership first Saturday of every month.

Nuisance Alligator Hotline

People who believe a specific alligator poses a threat to people, pets or property should call FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286).

VFW Post 8108
7504 Riverview Dr. Riverview
813-671-9845

Every Sunday – All you can eat breakfast $8, 9 a.m. to noon. Public is invited

Second Tuesday of every month - Auxiliary meeting, 7 p.m.

Second Thursday of every month - Post meeting 7 p.m.

VFW Post 8108 opens at 11 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. on Sundays for breakfast.

Bob's Vets

The Ruskin/Sun City area Veterans meet every Thursday morning for breakfast and fellowship at 8:15 a.m. at Bob Evans restaurant at 102 Commercial Center Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573.

Wildlife 24/7 Hotline

Report violations or injured wildlife. If you suspect a crime against Florida's fish, wildlife or natural resources or see an injured animal, be sure to call 888-404-3922 to report it.

VFW Post 6287
5120 U.S. 41 N., Ruskin
Meetings are: VFW and VFW Auxiliary on the 2nd Wednesday each month, 7 p.m.; Breakfast at the VFW every Sunday

Sept. 15 - Music by Clifford T Dave 6 to 10 p.m.

Sept. 16 - Chapel Duty; Breakfast 9 a.m. to noon; Music by Bert & Sassy, 6 to 10 p.m.

Sept. 17 - Lunch with Val noon till sold out $5; Queen of hearts 7 p.m.

Sept. 18 - Lunch with Val noon till sold out $5; Bar Poker 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Sept. 19 - Parade meeting 7 p.m.;

Sept. 20 - Lunch with Val noon till sold out $5; Bar Bingo 6 p.m.

Sept. 21 - No Fish & Chips till Sept. 28; Music by Music by You 2 Kan 7 to 11 p.m.

Are you a Veteran in need of legal assistance, but cannot afford it? Call Haley VA Services Clinic at 813-318-7010 to schedule your appointment today.

American Legion Post 148
7240 U.S. 301, Riverview
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Every Tuesday and Thursday– Happy hour 4 to 7 p.m.

Every Wednesday - Bingo 6:30 p.m.

Every Friday - Fish Fry 5 to 7 p.m. Entertainment 7 p.m.

Every Saturday - Steak Shoot 2 p.m.; Jukebox Night, 7 p.m. til close

Every Sunday- Breakfast 8 to 11 a.m.; Flea Marker 7 a.m. to noon; Happy Hour 4 to 7 p.m.

First Tuesday of every month - Marine Corps Meeting 7 p.m.

Second Monday of every month - Legion Meeting, 7 p.m.

Second Thursday of every month - SAL meeting 7 p.m.

Third Thursday of every month - Auxiliary meeting, 7 p.m.

Florida Veterans Support Line

By calling 2-1-1 or the Florida Veterans Support Line at 1-844-MyFLVet (693-5838), veterans and their loved ones across Florida are able to talk confidentially with someone trained to provide emotional support and connections to community resources.

SouthShore Regional Library Programs

SouthShore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin, has numerous classes and events for all ages. Be sure to stop by the book sale room for a wide variety of books for sale at bargain prices. Visit the website for a complete listing at:

hcplc.org/hcplc/locations/sho/

Suicide Lifeline

To reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, call 1-800-273-8255; for the deaf or hard of hearing, call 1-800-799-4889. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Questions about drinking

Are you drinking too much...maybe?

There is a safe, free place to find answers and help. There are many meetings in the Ruskin, Sun City Center and South Shore area. To find a location near you, call 813-933-9123, or visit www.aatampa-area.org.

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Captain Joel's Fishin' Holes

A new chapter begins in the Florida Keys

Over two decades ago, my wife and I incorporated Ana Banana Fishing Company in North Hutchinson Island, Fla. In 1999 we moved to Apollo Beach and started chartering full time. Our son Joseph was 1 year old and our daughter Brooke was born four years later. We've had our ups and downs. Some of our "downs" were red tide, fish kills, oil spills, record cold snaps, hurricanes, recessions, tornadoes, chemical/toxic spills, several different resort and marina owners changing hands at Little Harbor, EPA area seagrass closures, Homeland Security area restrictions, manatee area restrictions, and several other personal and professional trials and tribulations.

Some "ups" were Ana Banana Kids Fishing Camps and Derbies, being featured on several TV and radio shows, clinics at fishing and boat shows, being displayed in many magazines and newspapers, several tournament wins and placements, and I even became honorary Mayor of Apollo Beach. One thing that stayed constant was chartering, and no matter what we were up against, we overcame adversity as a family. Fishing is our passion, and we live to hunt game fish and lead our clients to them for the memories of a lifetime.

After many years of chartering in Tampa Bay we have decided to expand Ana Banana's operations to the Florida Keys. On Oct. 1, 2018, Ana Banana Fishing Company will offer charters out of Marathon, Fla., too. We will have a fleet of different-sized boats from 21 to 45 feet. We will offer reef, wreck, flats, deep sea, big game, spearfishing, diving, snorkeling, lobstering, bully netting, bow fishing, night fishing, overnight excursions, bar hopping, shelling, eco tours, dolphin/manatee/bird watching, shark/stingray feeding and sunset booze cruises.

We'll target sailfish, wahoo, tuna, swordfish, dolphin, marlin, cobia, tripletail, amber jack, kingfish, tarpon, grouper, snapper, tilefish, shark, snook, redfish, permit, pompano, bonefish, barracuda, sea trout, hogfish, flounder and many more species. It's always been our dream to live and fish in the Florida Keys. I was born near there and fished the keys all of my life. Grandpa John captained the *Flamingo Bell* down there for over 40 years, and we even celebrated our honeymoon in the keys. It's good timing to make our move because I turn 50 in January, our son Master Captain Jojo Brandenburg and his fiancée, Master Captain Quinlyn Haddon, have started their own charter company in Tampa Bay and will also be chartering Ana Banana Fishing Company clients. Hopefully, Jojo and Quin and our grandson Atlas will join us in the keys soon. Jojo and Quin will continue this weekly fishing column in *The Observer News*, and the monthly forecast in *Coastal Angler Magazine*.

We want to thank our loyal readers, fishing clients, local anglers, business owners/workers, friends and family for all your trust and support. We want to recognize some businesses and individuals who have helped us shape Ana Banana Fishing Company over the years: Chuck Atkins from *Coastal Angler Magazine*; Chere Simmons of *The Observer News*; the Dickman family; Captain Brian Lemelin of Optimis Charters; Linda Cook of *Bayside Living Magazine*; Beagle, Meagan and Jesse at Alafia Marine; Clear Channel; 1250 WHNZ; Greg, Steve, Mark and Robert at Bob's Machine Shop; Mike Mahoney of TA Mahoney; John Olivera, Power Pole; Mustad Hooks; Penn rod/reels; Granowicz's Circles Restaurant; Lands End Marina; Hooks Bar and Grill; Rose and Rose, RnD Tackle; JC Bait Shop of Apollo Beach; Maurice, Ruskin Bait & Tackle; Bobby Ramey, All Steel Metal Buildings; Little Harbor Resort; Julie, Village Marina; Robert Newhart, Sunset Grill; Sanchez Brothers; Hanson Boats; Yamaha Outboards; Robby Golden, JP Frog; Tim Salisbury, United We Stand; Captains Bill and Billy Miller of Lucky Strike/ Hooked on Fishing; Stephen Warenchak our webmaster; Don and Rebecca Dingman, *Hook The Future*; Jon and Gina Brunson, *Addicted to the Outdoors*; Bruce at West Marine Apollo Beach; Shawn Haverfield, The Docks; Robin Conely at National Pediatric Cancer Foundation; Mary & Martha House; Col. John McDaniels, WWIA, MacDill Air Force Base; Dave Rigner, Hillsborough County Marine Sheriff's Office; Mike, Hillsborough County Marine Safety Division; Dr. Hueter, Mote Marine Laboratories; Tracy Cannon, Southshore Signs; and the Southshore Chamber of Commerce.

For a charter with Captain Joel Brandenburg in the Florida Keys, call 813-267-4401, or visit www.marathonkeyfishingcharters.com, or visit www.anabananafishing.com.

For a charter in Tampa Bay with Captain Jojo Brandenburg or Captain Quinly Haddon, call 813-458-5758.

It's never too early for

Welcome Back

Each November *The Observer News* publishes the *Welcome Back* supplement. Along with amazing advertising, readers will find a handy list of helpful government listings, frequently called numbers, schools, hospitals, food banks, clubs, organizations and places of worship. There may also be a recap of stories that we published while residents were away.

Clubs, Groups and Places of Worship LISTED FREE:

To get your club, group, organization or place of worship listed in the 2018 edition, or to make changes to last year's listing, send us a brief description of your group along with contact information to ***chere@observernews.net***. Clubs are listed by community, and places of worship are listed by denomination. The listing is free, but is limited to legitimate nonprofit groups and churches. For more information, call **813-645-3111.**

Don't be left out!

Businesses:

Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to advertise your business or service! The *Welcome Back* issue is a magazine-style format with directory listings and ads that will guarantee our readers will keep on hand until next year's issue is printed.

Call your sales representative or **813-645-3111** for rates. The *Welcome Back* issue is distributed inside every issue of *The Observer News* (SouthShore, Sun City Center and Riverview). ***EVERY AD IS IN FULL COLOR!*** Deadline for advertising is 4 p.m., Thurs., October 18.

Call today!

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PHOTO BY ED BOOTH, HUTH AND BOOTH PHOTOGRAPHY

Florida Eye Specialists and Cataract Institute opens in Riverview

Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce (GRCC) members were invited to celebrate the opening of Florida Eye Specialists and Cataract Institute in Riverview. They were joined at the event by patients of the office and staff from the Riverview and Brandon offices. The crowd was treated to food and drink as well as tours of the different types of exams and testing rooms.

Florida Eye Specialists and Cataract Institute considers their patients an extension of their family and treats them the same way. Since 1981, they have been dedicated to being the premiere eye care and surgery center on the west coast of Florida. They've done that by recruiting the best physicians and employees, using the most advanced technologies, provided to you in convenient locations.

To schedule an appointment at this new Riverview office, call 813-392-3311. You will find the office at 13106 Vail Ridge Dr. in Riverview. For more information about Florida Eye Specialists and Cataract Institute, visit www. floridaeye.org.

PHOTO BY ED BOOTH, HUTH AND BOOTH PHOTOGRAPHY

Holiday Builders' new model home at Southshore Bay

Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce (GRCC) members were recently invited to celebrate with valued member, Holiday Builders. Joining in the celebration were members of their team and several of their real estate partners. All who were present were invited to partake in the ribbon-cutting ceremony and enjoy the food and beverages provided. They were also given the opportunity to peruse the decorated model home.

Holiday Builders is excited to have their first home built and open in this lagoon community. Southshore Bay is a new community at the northern edge of Wimauma. The community will surround acres of crystal blue waters and will feature ULTRAFi technology.

If you or someone you know are in the market for a new home, consider talking with Holiday Builders. They can be reached at 813-451-6002, or visit www.holidaybuilders.com/communities/southshore-bay for more information. If you are looking to visit the model home, it is at 16745 Mooner Plank Circle in Wimauma

Salvation Army seeking sites for donation boxes

Drug and alcohol abuse affects everyone in the community. The Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Centers (ARCs) form the largest network of rehabilitation programs in the nation, helping men and women overcome these serious life problems. The Salvation Army ARC in Tampa operates a 163 bed, six- to 12-month program at no cost to participants.

They generate all operating funds through the resale of donated items in their five Salvation Army Tampa Family Stores, including the Brandon Family Store on Adamo Drive. Critical to the ARC's success are neighborhood Donation Boxes. They need locations with good public visibility and convenient access. These serve as spots for people to bring donations of gently used clothing and small household goods. In addition, they help increase local traffic for area businesses and promote their community support to recycle.

The Donation Box is approximately 6 feet, 5-inches tall and 4 feet, 8-inches wide, which would require one outside parking space. If you can establish one of the Donation Boxes at your place of business, be assured there is a no-risk guarantee. Try them out and, if you experience any problems, you can ask them to remove the Donation Box promptly. To order a Donation Box to help repair broken lives, call Richard Hodder at 813-972-0471 x59079.

Caring for those who care

VA Caregiver Support Program values your commitment

Caregivers play an important role in the health and well-being of Veterans, and caring for a wounded, ill, or injured Veteran is not easy work. Without family caregivers, many of these Veterans could not remain close to family and in their communities. The VA knows that family caregivers who care for Veterans in their own homes have been putting Veterans first since the founding of this nation. That's why VA's Caregiver Support Program provides training and education to enhance the caregiver's role.

The program focus is to improve the caregiver's understanding of the impact their work has on the health and well-being of the Veteran they care for and their families as well as how their work affects them, too. Caregivers who participate in VA's Caregiver Support Program say that the program has helped them feel more confident in their roles, that it has made them even more proficient in supporting the Veteran they care for in treatment and rehabilitation.

To learn more about the VA Caregiver Support Program, visit the Caregiver website at www.caregiver.va.gov or call the Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274. You can also contact your local Caregiver Support Coordinator located at every VA medical center across the United States.

East Bay wins

► Continued from page 1

consecutive onside kicks. The first wrinkle was barely unsuccessful to open the game but the second one worked like a charm after the Indians' first score, setting up a two-play 34-yard drive to give East Bay a two touchdown lead. The Indians were in the driver's seat the rest of the way.

East Bay notched its third straight victory of the season using its usual formula: Tough defense, excellent offensive line play and the running of Tre Everett, Joaquin Isidro and Javon Stephens. The senior Everett rushed 9 times for 146 yards and 1 touchdown. Isidro ran 15 times for 49 yards and 2 offensive scores, in addition to dashing to the end zone after returning an attempted Robinson field goal blocked by sophomore Jayden Williams. Stephens added the other TD score for the Indians on a 6-yard carry. East Bay, clicking on the ground, only passed once, and it was complete for 3 yards.

Keeping Robinson under control on defense for East Bay were Jontrell Oliver with 6 tackles, 4 for losses, and 2 sacks. He was supported statistically by Levi Marshall with 6 tackles, 3 of those for losses, and one for a sack. Also coming up big on defense was Jaden Lopez with 5 tackles, 3 for losses and one for a sack.

AMAYA ARUNDELL PHOTOS

East Bay's bulky Jadon Lopez, #59, paves the way for diminutive Zaron Wright, 2, in the Indians win over Robinson of Tampa.

East Bay's Joseph Barr, #19, and Robinson's Quinton Lane, #5, engage in some hand to hand combat in the Indians win over Robinson last Friday.

Chamberlain blasts Riverview 42-7
Spoto upset by Freedom 7-6

Both hit the road Friday

■ By **STEVE JACKSON**
steve@observernews.net

Two Riverview high schools took it on the chin last Friday night in games on their home turf.

The Riverview Sharks suffered a drubbing at the hands of Chamberlain 42-7. Meanwhile, up the road, Spoto was on the short end of an upset by Freedom 7-6.

At Riverview High on a muggy but dry night, the home-standing Sharks were no match for the Chiefs from Tampa. A large crowd had little to cheer about as coach William Mosell's squad fell to 1-2 on the season. The Sharks are looking for better results this Friday as they head to Palm Harbor to face the 1-2 Hurricanes who lost to Largo last week 48-13.

Spoto had plenty of chances but ultimately fell to Freedom 7-6 as the Patriots of Tampa won their first game of the season. The Spartans could not protect their home turf even though senior Kobe Smith ran up and down the field for 144 yards on 24 carries. The lone Spoto score was on a pass from J. Singleton to Eric Lee, but the PAT was no good, and the Spartans held a 6-0 lead, which later evaporated. On defense Darius Gaffney, Marcus Cobbins, and Elijah Jacobs held the Freedom rushing output to minus-5 yards on 18 carries. The Patriots did net 159 passing yards on Mason Edwards' arm with 10 of 23 passes, mainly to Jeremiah Ashe who reeled in 3 catches for 91 yards and the only Freedom TD.

Coach Melvin Jenkins' 1-2 Spoto squad is looking for a better offensive output scoring-wise this Friday night as they head to Robinson High in Tampa.

STEPHEN FLANAGAN JACKSON PHOTOS

Spoto Spartan workhorse running back Kobe Bryant, #9 in purple, churns upfield for yardage in the Spoto loss to Freedom 7-6 Friday night.

Riverview Sharks cheerleaders keep on pumping the spirit despite the loss to Chamberlain last Friday night. Andrea Hendrickson, far left, is the coach of the cheer squad as well as an English teacher and head of the English Department at Riverview.

Unheralded but present at all high school football games every Friday night are the school resource officers from both the county and the school district. Here at a recent Spoto game are Kevin Ponder, left, and Roosevelt Lester shortly before kickoff.

Longhorns hit quick but can't hold on

Lennard confronts Plant City after tough Gaither loss

■ By **STEVE JACKSON**
steve@observernews.net

TAMPA — It's out of the frying pan and into the fire for coach Matt Kitchie's Lennard Longhorns.

The Ruskin-based school dropped its second game of the young season last Friday 35-12 to Gaither in Tampa. Next up the 1-2 'Horns travel to Plant City for Friday night's game against the 3-0 Raiders.

Across the bay last week the Longhorns came out of the gate red hot, stampeding to a 12-0 lead over Gaither. The 2-1 Cowboys then rounded up the Longhorns in a big way, scoring 35 unanswered points, keyed by a late first-half flurry sparked by a long touchdown pass and an interception of a Lennard aerial deep in the red zone. Gaither took the lead at the half 14-12 and continued to pour it on in the second half. The Longhorns are still nursing some wounds, as they shot themselves in the foot with six turnovers, including two Lennard fumbles returned for Cowboy scores.

Lennard's offensive line continued its good work, paving the way for Longhorn running back Tino Hunt, a junior, to pile up a season-high 180 yards on 28 carries. Lennard's Jah'tavis Philpart also had a good night offensively rushing five times for 53 yards, including an 18-yard scoring scamper and a 27-yard TD run. Senior Michael Rigolizzo added 28 yards rushing on 8 carries.

The Longhorns also showed some semblance of a passing attack with the senior Philpart hitting 2 of 5 for 31 yards and sophomore QB Dylan Zervos going 2 for 6 for 30 yards.

Tino Hunt, #21, RB. 180 yards on 28 carries.