By KEVIN BRADY
kevin@observernews.net

The sheer dimensions of The Mosaic Company’s newest warehouse in Gibsonton are enough to make a math whiz reach for his calculator. If the tallest building in Tampa, 100 North Tampa, were laid on its side, it would fit twice inside the warehouse with plenty of space to spare. With a 5.4-acre footprint and occupying 23,339,800 cubic feet — almost enough to accommodate Kanye West’s ego — the warehouse could hold three football fields or more than 53,000 average-sized cars stacked on top of each other.

“In America and Tampa Bay, we dream big, and here at Mosaic, they dream big, too,” said Della Curry, an aide to Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandra Murman, who represents the area. The warehouse is an important project for South County and Mosaic, Curry said. “It will also strengthen the Port of Tampa’s role as one of the leading fertilizer ports in America.” The port generates an annual income of $15.1 billion, supporting 80,000 jobs, more than half of which are phosphate related, Curry said. “This warehouse symbolizes Mosaic’s deep commitment to the port and the South County region. As Mosaic grows, the port grows with it.”

Shipping across the globe, the new warehouse will move between 1.2 and 1.5 million tons of fertilizer per year.

One of the largest agrochemical companies in the world, with mines in Central Florida and North Carolina, Mosaic provides fertilizer to farmers in 40 countries.

The warehouse is expected to ship between 1.2 and 1.5 million tons of fertilizer per year.

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A Riverview animal rescue group, RVR Horse Rescue, is a nonprofit organization with more than 150 volunteers. The group for abused horses stands accused of not taking care of two horses placed in its care by the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office.

The two horses, given to RVR Horse Rescue on Hayes Clan Road in January after the Sheriff’s Office said they were abused by their previous owners, were seized by detectives last week.

RVR vehemently denies the charges and claims it followed a veterinarian’s instructions in caring for the horses. “This is a big misunderstanding,” said Robert Herce, RVR’s attorney. “The Sheriff’s Office should never have seized those horses.”

Herce said a Sheriff’s Office report said a Sheriff’s Office facility. “The detective was alarmed to find that the horses, an Arabian mare and a Tennessee Pinto mare, were grossly underweight and apparently malnourished.”

The report continued: “The detective consulted with a supervisor, and against the objections of RVR Horse Rescue personnel, the horses were taken from the rescue and transported to a Sheriff’s Office facility.”

Both horses were examined by a veterinarian, who confirmed that they were malnourished and had gained little or no weight in the period of time, just like a human that has been starved, you can’t put a big steak in front of them,” Herce, RVR’s attorney. “When you get a horse that has been malnourished for a long period of time, just like a human that has been starved, you can’t a day, and as time goes on you increase the amounts and decrease the frequency.”

RVR will contest any neglect charges when the case goes before a judge April 30, Herce said. “We are very disturbed by these allegations,” Herce said. “It’s been a shock to everyone and something we just don’t understand.”

A court awarded custody of the two horses to the Sheriff’s Office.

RVR Horse Rescue is a nonprofit group with more than 150 volunteers. Earlier this year following an animal-neglect hearing sparked by an investigation by HCOSO agriculture detectives, the horses were donated to RVR Jan. 26. “On April 2, a detective from the Sheriff’s Office agriculture unit went to RVR Horse Rescue to see the progress of the horses,” said a Sheriff’s Office report. “The detective was alarmed to find that the horses, an Arabian mare and a Tennessee Pinto mare, were grossly underweight and apparently malnourished.”

The report continued: “The detective consulted with a supervisor, and against the objections of RVR Horse Rescue personnel, the horses were taken from the rescue and transported to a Sheriff’s Office facility.” Both horses were examined by a veterinarian, who confirmed that they were malnourished and had gained little or no weight in the time they were cared for by RVR Horse Rescue.

A second veterinarian, from the University of Florida, confirmed the original diagnosis and the veterinarians informed detectives that the horses should have gained a pound or more a day if fed and cared for properly, according to the Sheriff’s Office. RVR contends the animals were on a feeding program to slowly build up their weight.

“When you get a horse that has been malnourished for a long period of time, just like a human that has been starved, you can’t put a big steak in front of them,” Herce, RVR’s attorney. “You have to feed them very small amounts of food several times a day, and as time goes on you increase the amounts and decrease the frequency.”

RVR will contest any neglect charges when the case goes before a judge April 30, Herce said. “We are very disturbed by these allegations,” Herce said. “It’s been a shock to everyone and something we just don’t understand.”
Observations

Life on thin ice

In New York City, beautiful people fluidly, elegantly step from surprisingly litter-free curbs to hail cabs. In Jersey, beautiful or not, but mostly, like me, not, people step from litter-strewn sidewalks to hail buses. If you don’t, the buses probably won’t stop — something I found out the hard way. I am flying to Minnesota for what could probably be the second-to-last time. The next time, I may be carrying a suit and a heavy heart. My Mom is leaving this life. My Mom is leaving this life.

But I’m afraid that opportunity to share a few words one last time. I can only hope that we’ll be able to spend together one last time.

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April 17, 2014

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I start many of my seminars with the classic story of a particular point.miting that everything begins with our attitude toward life. For this column, the “A” will be for appearance—not just our clothing or hair, but everything that can be d e d u c e d about us from the outside. Well, so much for starting with attitude. However, we cannot separate the two; it is your attitude that will largely determine the appearance you present to others.

First, most of us like to deal with people who project a positive sense of well-being. We can do this by putting a smile on our face and in our voice. One of the specialists in telephone sales tells his students to put a mirror on their desk and, when they call a customer, smile at the mirror. This smile changes the tenor of your voice and projects a friendly, warm presence to the other person. In difficult situations, try thinking happy thoughts to get that smile. For example, my daughter is one of those people who hate to have their picture taken because they perceive themselves as “not photogenic.” I told her many years ago to look at the camera as if it were an old friend she was happy to see. She saw the effect of her posture and presence and recorded it.

Second, exude confidence in the way you stand and the way that you carry yourself. People who slouch through life are not thought of as particularly open and positive people. Stand tall and project confidence in yourself. An interesting phenomenon has been noted is that many short people stand tall, and many tall people stand short. Many tall women have a tendency to slouch down. Most of this is learned behavior. If you are in the habit of not standing straight, begin changing your habit. As a special note to parents, posture is something we learn at home. What types of messages about posture are you sending your children? Whether or not they stand straight and proud may be the result of the lessons you teach them. One last thing about standing tall. Studies have shown that the taller you are, the more money you will make in your lifetime. Can you afford to stand short?

Third, enhance your appearance and presence by making appropriate eye contact. That does not mean you must learn to stare people down but rather to look at them when you are talking to them and not look down or off into the distance. We have all met people or have been taught that you cannot trust a person who has not looked you in the eye, so we react to lack of eye contact in a negative way. Practice looking people in the eye, for when you listen to them and then as you speak. The person looking at you will perceive this ability to look at them as an act of confidence and honesty.

Fourth, whether you are wearing a suit or not, your bearing counts in how people perceive you. Yes, you have the right to wear anything you choose, but you must understand that other people have the right to exclude you from their circle of friends, clients and acquaintances. Dress should always be appropriate to the occasion. If you must err in dress, always err to be overdressed rather than underdressed. Another rule of thumb is to dress equal to or better than the people with whom you wish to associate.

Pay attention to what your body is saying. Remember that whether or not you are listening to other people are other people are—and making judgments about you.

Hodges is a nationally recognized speaker, trainer and syndicated columnist. He also hosts an interview format television program, Spotlight on Government, on the Tampa Bay Community Network, that airs Mondays at 8 p.m. (Bright House channel 950, Verizon channel 30) and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (BH channel 949, Verizon channel 16). The show can also be viewed at www.hodgesvision.com. Phone: 513-641-0516. Email: bill@hodgesblog.com. Website: www.hodgesblog.com

Lorena Lopez: Positive Talk: What is your body saying?

The concert is a fundraising event to send Lopez to a summer study year from the University of South Florida. Donations are tax-deductible, and positive presence and recorded it.

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Hundreds turn out for Apollo Beach Kite Fest

By KEVIN BRADY
kevin@observernews.net

Perfect weather drew more than 200 people to the Apollo Beach Kite Festival, more than double last year’s attendance and the largest crowd ever for the six-year-old event.

The free event, where children and the young at heart are supplied with free kites as well as free watermelon, cookies, chips and water, took place April 12 at the Apollo Beach Nature Center. Began as part of the beachfront community’s 50th anniversary celebration, the festival has become a community staple.

“It was a great turnout,” said Mary Lou Luce of the Apollo Beach Beautification Committee, the all-volunteer community group behind the festival. “All the donations mean we will be able to buy more kites and hot dogs.”

The nonprofit group also holds an annual plant sale and installs Christmas decorations and patriotic and holiday banners along Apollo Beach Boulevard.

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

A light breeze and sunshine provided perfect conditions for Elise, 8, to try out her kite.

PET TIP: Diabetes is one of the most common health conditions in cats, especially those who are overweight. Cats who are eating more but losing weight may be at risk for diabetes and should be examined by a veterinarian.

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• What if I have no plan?
• Why do I need to review my plan?
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Gary Cotter is a financial advisor with securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment Advisor, member FINRA/SIPC. David M. Rieth is an independent attorney who offers estate planning services.

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**HOLY WEEK**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**
7:00 p.m. Worship Service

**SATURDAY**
11:00 a.m.
Stations of the Cross

**EASTER SUNDAY**
7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
8:30 a.m. Breakfast. For reservations call 813-634-1252
9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship with Chancel, Handbells, Brass Choirs and Message
12:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Praise Band, Brass, Songs and Message

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Holy Thursday
7:00 p.m. ................. Mass of the Lord's Supper. Adoration following Mass till 9:00 p.m.

Good Friday
9:00 a.m. ...................... Divine Mercy Chaplet
12:00 noon ................... Stations of the Cross
3:00 p.m. ...................... Passion of the Lord
Holy Saturday
9:00 a.m. ...................... Divine Mercy Chaplet
12:00 noon ................... Blessing of Easter Food
8:00 p.m. ...................... Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday
8:00 & 10:00 a.m. ..... Conesa Center
8:00, 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon .... Church

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Holy Week Confessions - schedule is available at www.popcc.org/lent

**Holy Thursday**
7:00 p.m. ................ Bilingual Service

**Good Friday**
3:00 p.m. ................ English Service
6:30 p.m. ................. Spanish dramatization of the Lord's Passion followed by Veneration of the Cross

**EASTER SUNDAY**
6:30 a.m. ................. Easter Vigil (mostly in Spanish)
8:00 a.m. ................. Misa en Español
10:00 a.m. ............... English Mass
12:00 Noon ............. Misas en Español

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Rev. Dr. Timothy Shirley warmly extends an invitation to all members and friends to attend the following services during this Holy Season.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**, April 17th at 6:00 p.m.
Agape Feast in Great Hall
Move to Sanctuary for Sacrament of Holy Communion
Foot Washing and Tenebrae

**GOOD FRIDAY**, April 18th
Sanctuary will be open from 12 noon to 3 p.m.
For Reflection, Meditation and Prayer

**EASTER**, April 20th
8:00 a.m. Early Dawn Service in Great Hall (Catered Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. - Cost is $10.00 - Call the church office 634-1304)
10:00 a.m. Easter Worship in Sanctuary with Chancel Choir and Brass Fellowship Time in Great Hall after Worship

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**EASTER SUNDAY**, April 20th
6:20 a.m. (sunsrise) bring a lawn chair
8:00 a.m. • 9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. • 12:30 p.m.

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!**
In the mind of Micah

What Easter means to me

I have a holiday soon, I’m not sure I could make it all the way to the Fourth of July without pigging out on a holiday. Although I love Easter, it has a much different feel to it than most other holidays, in my opinion. In some ways, it is almost somber, almost like Memorial Day. It’s a day special in our hearts when we spend time with loved ones remembering that great sacrifice that was made for us to live in freedom.

As a Christian, I am so thankful that Jesus chose to go to the cross and give his life for my sins. One of the most touching parts of the Easter story, for me, is when Christ went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray before His arrest. He told the disciples multiple times that He had come to give His life, and they still didn’t understand what He was talking about. He asks them to stay in the garden and pray with Him, and they all fell asleep. How lonely that must have felt. After a night of agonizing prayer, Jesus lifts up one of the simplest, most profound prayers that have ever been uttered, “Not mine, but your will be done.”

For every believer all over the world throughout history, Jesus gives us the ultimate example of how we are to live. Long before He was kneeling in that garden saying that prayer, He told his disciples that if you are a believer, you must “take up your cross” and follow Him. To them it wasn’t a religious symbol, it was the Roman equivalent of an electric chair.

There was no confusion. He was saying, you must give your whole life to follow me. And then he displayed the love of God to the whole world in the most shocking way possible. A man who had no sin, took the sin of the world on himself to restore a relationship that was broken when man sinned in another garden.

It doesn’t matter what you’ve done or who you are, God loves you. Without the Easter story, we could say those words, but we really wouldn’t understand how deep that love is. The crucifixion is not pretty, it’s not clean or cute. We use bunions and eggs to soften the gravity of the day. But personally, I want to feel it. I want to remember what Jesus did for me, and what He has saved me from. It’s important for those of us who believe in Jesus to remember that our freedom from sin did not come cheap, but it is free for all who ask for it. From my family to yours, have a happy Easter.

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Dear Savvy Senior,

How reverse mortgages work in 2014

THE SAVVY SENIOR

8

April 17, 2014

Dear Savvy Senior,

What can you tell me about reverse mortgages? I was considering one last year, but now I hear they are more difficult to get.

Ready to Reverse

by Jim Miller

Tight rules on reverse mortgage have made them harder to get, especially for seniors with heavy debt problems.

The reason the Federal Housing Administration made these changes was to strengthen the product, which has suffered from a struggling housing market and a growing number of defaults by borrowers. Here’s a rundown of how reverse mortgages now work in 2014.

Overview:
The basics are still the same. A reverse mortgage is a loan that allows senior homeowners to borrow money against the equity in their house. The loan doesn’t have to be repaid until the homeowner dies, sells the house or moves out for at least 12 months. It’s also important to know that with a reverse mortgage, you, not the bank, own the house, so you’re still responsible for property taxes, insurance and repairs.

Eligibility:
To be eligible for a reverse mortgage you must be at least 62 years old, own your own home (or owe only a small balance) and currently be living there. You will also need to undergo a financial assessment to determine whether you can afford to make all the necessary tax and insurance payments over the projected life of the loan.

Lenders will look at your sources of income, assets and credit history. Depending on your financial situation, you may be required to put part of your loan into an escrow account to pay future bills.

If the financial assessment finds that you cannot pay your insurance and taxes and have enough cash left to live on, you will be denied.

Loans:
Nearly all reverse mortgages offered today are Home Equity Conversion Mortgages, which are FHA-insured and offered through private mortgage lenders and banks. HECMs also have home-value limits that vary by county, but cannot exceed $625,500. See hud.gov/fi code/fi/index.cfm for a list of HUD approved lenders.

Loan amounts: The amount you get through a reverse mortgage depends on your age, your home’s value and the prevailing interest rates. Generally, the older you are, the more your house is worth, and the lower the interest rates are, the more you can borrow. A 70-year-old, for example, with a home worth $300,000 could borrow around $170,000 with a fixed-rate HECM.

To calculate how much you can borrow, visit hud.gov/offices/bgs/ihc/hecmhec mite/cfm or call 800-569-4287.

Send your senior questions to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5434, Norman, OK 73070, or visit Savvysenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of ‘The Savvy Senior.’

In addition, you’ll also have to pay an annual mortgage-insurance premium of 1.25 percent of the loan amount.

Payment options: You can receive the money in a lump sum, a line of credit, regular monthly checks or a combination of these. But in most cases, you cannot withdraw more than 60 percent of the loan during the first year. If you do, you’ll pay a 2.5 percent upfront insurance premium fee.

Counseling: All borrowers are required to get face-to-face or telephone counseling through a HUD-approved independent counseling agency before taking out a reverse mortgage. Some agencies are awarded grants that enable them to offer counseling for free, but most charge around $125 to $250. To locate a counseling agency near you, visit hud.gov/offices/bgs/ihc/hecmhecmite/cfm or call 800-569-4287.

The Savvy Senior

by Jim Miller

Hillsborough County, FL

by Jim Miller

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Dusted with seasoning and sautéed in a creamy lemon caper sauce Served with Rice Pilaf and Spring Vegetable Medley

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Aging Studies students tour Homewood Residence Alzheimer’s community

Ten students in the Spring 2014 Alzheimer’s Disease Management class at the University of South Florida, headed by Jill Smith, assistant director for clinical research at the USF Health Byrd Alzheimer’s Institute, toured Homewood Residence at Freedom Plaza, the Assisted Living and Memory Care community in Sun City Center. Bev Hurley (second from the right) guided the group through the community. Students had the opportunity to learn about the experiences of an Alzheimer’s resident living in a memory-care community, from the program's origin and philosophy to the day-to-day activities provided to the residents. Many of these students are pre-med and nursing-bound students who gained valuable insight into a Brookdale Senior Living community.

Dr. Hal Ott receives ‘Making a Difference’ award from Matthew A. Knight Foundation

Ron and Sandy Knight of the Matthew A. Knight Foundation recently presented Dr. Hal Ott its “Making a Difference” award in appreciation for his years of service on its board of directors. Dr. Ott’s passion to help others is well known in the community through the Ruskin Animal Clinic, his off-leash Dog Park, C.A.R.E. and being one of the original board members of the Mary & Martha House.

He has also made a great number of trips to Haiti (even before the earthquake) and, with financial support from the Matthew A. Knight Foundation, the South Shore Rotary Club and his own generosity, established two “feeding stations” that provided a hot meal a day to Haitian children.

Hal Ott is one of the original board members of the Matthew A. Knight Foundation, which provides assistance to others in the form of scholarships, grants and macro financing and mentoring.

The foundation is always looking for individuals who help others without trying to promote themselves. Dr. Ott is certainly one of these people and it is truly “Making a Difference.” For more information on the Matthew A. Knight Foundation, visit MatthewAKnightFoundation.org.
Terrific Kids at Corr Elementary School


State’s minorities studying accounting urged to apply for Clay Ford Scholarship

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation’s Division of Certified Public Accounting is encouraging minority accounting students to apply for this year’s Clay Ford scholarship. The scholarship is awarded each year to minority students studying to become certified public accountants, or CPAs. More than $1 million has been awarded by the CPA Education Minority Assistance Program since the program’s implementation in 1999.

The CPA Education Minority Assistance Program was established to encourage fifth-year accounting students to stay and do business in Florida.”

Robinson will graduate on May 10, with a bachelor’s degree in communications. He has been accepted into the Teach for America program, and will be teaching in Detroit.

Help someone dress for success

The South Shore Young Professionals Association would like your lightly used business attire for its Professional Clothing Drive. Why not go through your closet and find those items that you will never wear again and donate them for SSYPA to distribute within the community? Your old professional apparel could furnish another person with the confidence to return to the workplace, make a great first impression and land a job that could change their life.

Donations are preferred on clothes hangers and can be dropped off at the following locations:

• The next Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce event
• Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce office at 10012 Water Works Lane, Riverview
• Fulka & Associates, 213 Providence Road, Brandon
• Railroad & Industrial Federal Credit Union – Winthrop Branch, 96106 Delaney Station St., Riverview
• Railroad & Industrial Federal Credit Union – Winthrop Branch, 96106 Delaney Station St., Riverton

The drop-off deadline is Tuesday, April 22, at the GRCC Monthly Membership Luncheon. For more information on the Professional Clothing Distribution event, visit tinyurl.com/observer-clothingdrive.

Palm’s to be planted for Earth Day

From 8 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, April 22, the Florida Home Partnership will hold a tree-planting event to commemorate Earth Day.

The Apollo Beach Woman’s Club, in cooperation with the Riverview and Ruskin Woman’s Clubs, will hold a Movie Night scholarship fundraiser at the AMC Regency, Brandon. The show starts at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, May 8.

The cost of $20 includes the movie, The Other Woman with Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann and Kate Upton; a Chick Fil A® sandwich, popcorn, beverage and a raffle. In addition, there will be women’s fashions and jewelry for sale, a 50/50 drawing and a raffle. For information and tickets, call Sharon Vasquez at 813-641-7856 or email sharonvasquez@ymail.com.
Volunteers planted grasses on six different occasions since 2012. Mangroves have taken root on their own, and are beginning to line the west side of the salt marsh.

The property is sandwiched between the backyard of the Mira Lago subdivision and Little Harbor marina, off Shell Point Road West. A large retention pond constructed for the Mira Lago community was incorporated into the overall design of the project. The 65 acres of newly created wetlands include both freshwater and estuarine marshes that provide additional treatment to stormwater runoff from the area. The retention pond overflows into the freshwater area that is embedded with thousands of filtering plants able to uptake excess nutrients.

A slightly elevated berm divides the freshwater area from the salt marsh. Two low-lying tidal connections allow water to funnel from one area to the next in a natural flow toward the bay. The salt marsh side contains grasses and mangroves that continue to filter the water and provide food and shelter for its inhabitants. “Think of them as giant filters,” said Dalvis. “They form a treatment train for the water before it enters Tampa Bay.”

As an example of the difference between the two created bodies of water, Dalvis explained that the freshwater area has zero parts per thousand, or ppt, salinity; across the berm, it measures 5 ppt salinity. Tampa Bay is 20 ppt and the Gulf is 30 ppt. “This area is invaluable for breeding,” Dalvis said. “Since we have been involved here, we’ve documented three sets of bald eagles nesting, as well as great horned owls.”

According to Susanna Martinez Tarokh, public information officer for Swiftmud, 63 different species of birds have been documented on the site. Many are on the federal and state lists of threatened or endangered species.

Open to the public since December, the Bahia Beach project offers passive recreation such as walking and hiking. No motorized vehicles are allowed beyond the parking area. Upon completion, the area will be owned and managed by the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department. It will soon have a paved parking lot and information kiosk.

Funding for the $1.8 million restoration was provided by the Florida Department of Transportation as a mitigation project to offset wetland impacts associated with several road-improvement projects in the area.

Visitors are guaranteed to spot dozens of species of waterfowl and will probably catch a glimpse of a family of bald eagles on the 120-acre area known as, what else, Eagle Tract.

Public entrance to the project is at 2421 Shell Point Road West in Ruskin, just east of the entrance to Little Harbor.

The bald eagle family can be seen in the nesting area of a dead pine tree. An adult parent is on the left side limb next to one of its eaglets. The baby birds seem huge, but are still not proficient hunters.

“The salinity in this area [of salt marsh] is perfect for a fisheries habitat,” said Dalvis. “The fry [or small fish] thrive here, but predator fish can’t survive the low salinity. In return, the water fowl feed on the fish, and the cycle of life continues.”

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- Bradenton: 5206 E. 73rd Lane; 4573 W. 14th St.

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Take control of your finances with one-on-one free financial guidance.
Hillsborough County residents can receive free one-on-one financial guidance on basic personal financial management from the University of Florida/Hillsborough County Florida Master Money Mentors program.

Individuals and families who need guidance on how to develop a spending and savings plan, build a good credit history and achieve financial goals can meet with a mentor at community locations. The mentor will provide continued guidance for as long as needed to help an individual master the basics of personal financial management.

For more information on how to receive basic financial guidance, residents can call Lisa Leslie in Extension Services at 813-744-5919, ext. 54143, to set up an appointment. The University of Florida/ Extension Services at 813-744-3701.

So, if you want 10 percent off a garment because there is a sm ear of makeup on the collar (which you know will come out), say so. The store sells a damaged item that would have been a charge off, and you go home with what you want at a reasonable price.

It’s also smart to think about what you bring to the table as well. Ask your lawyer if he’ll give you $25 for every referral you give him that lands him a contract. He gets new business, and you get a commission. It’s the easiest way he could ever dream of expanding his business, and you get rewarded for your efforts in helping him.

Make sure you are both getting what was originally agreed to. If you have someone working off what they would otherwise owe you, have them give you an itemized invoice of what they did and how much it would have cost you. Then double-check to make sure all the work was done to your satisfaction at the agreed upon price. Even if this is family, remember this is business, not personal.

If they aren’t, don’t settle. Ask to speak to someone in authority. Have an idea of what you want before you just go in and ask “What kind of deal can you give me?” You don’t want to come off as a “what’s in it for me” type. You want to go into the discussion with the attitude of finding a mutually beneficial trade. So, if you want 10 percent off a garment because there is a sm ear of makeup on the collar (which you know will come out), say so. The store sells a damaged item that would have been a charge off, and you go home with what you want at a reasonable price.

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The Moonglow holds monthly dances year-round, always with live music. The attire at Moonglow dances is dressy casual. Members are free; visitors/guests pay $5 at the door. Singles tables are always available.

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

For more information, call Martin at 813-872-2691, ext. 121 or 813-610-7867 or email gmartin@boyscouting.com.
**STROKE SUPPORT GROUP**

**‘Tomorrow might be better’**

By LIA MARTIN
lia@observernews.net

Bruce Smith is a quiet guy, with a special kind of glow that has you wondering about his life. He is sitting in a room waiting for the program that was designed for him and others, who come to share their experiences so they can have the heart and courage to go on. It is the monthly meeting of the stroke support group. Smith had a cerebral hemorrhage when he was only 51 years old. It put him in a coma for a month, and he didn’t even see it coming. According to Smith, his kind of stroke is very rare. Cerebral hemorrhage impacts only 50 percent of people that have a stroke. Smith had an arteriovenous malformation, or AVM, which made his cerebral hemorrhage even more rare, by 10 percent. “There was absolutely no warning. It came out of the blue,” Smith said. “I was getting ready to go to work in the morning. The next minute, I was in a coma.”

Smith said it was a gradual process to wake up from a coma and very, very difficult to start his long, slow climb back to a normal life. For three months, he was in the hospital, where he started his rehabilitation. It has now been 14 years since his stroke. Before his stroke, he was living in Sacramento, Calif., and worked as an economist with the California Department of Finance. Smith loved his job and his life. Though he was single, he was active and in good health, renovating his house. He played softball and worked 10 to 11 hours at his job every day.

After the stroke, he said, there was a question he asked himself over and over. “I couldn’t get an answer to the ‘Why me?’ question,” Smith said, remembering back to the early days toward recovery. “It happened, so deal with it,” he told himself. “The only alternative was to curl up and die.”

For a while, he admitted, that is what he wanted to do. He wanted to die. It was a hard time, but when he made his decision to fight back and live, he called the next morning his “Rebirth Day.”

Eight months after the stroke, he went back to his job and found he couldn’t continue the project he had started before his stroke. He just couldn’t understand the complexity of the economic model he had been working on because, he said, he lost a lot mentally. It had impacted him in much the same way as a traumatic brain injury, he said. So he retired.

California was too expensive, so he researched other places to live and bought a little trailer in Sarasota. Later, he found Sun City Center, where he could own his own house and drive a golf cart to get around. Shopping and services were nearby. Smith had finally found the typical lifestyle of a Floridian that he could handle! Smith says he owes his recovery to his body, which was strong and resilient enough to heal itself. He considers himself lucky. Looking back, he is appreciative of the life he had but still wishes he could have finished his career and retired as a healthy man with more options.

He attends the support group every month and anything else where he can learn how to help himself. Smith is still working hard to come back from the hard life dealt him. Twelve other people joined him at the stroke support group that day. They are of every age, from every walk of life, and their stroke is unique to them. Strokes are scary. Learning to live again and face the challenges...
Spring Fling was a hit for state park

Organizers of the inaugural Spring Fling at Little Manatee River State Park chose the perfect date for blue skies, no rain and a nice breeze last Saturday. The turnout was good for a first-year event, with 582 entering the park for the festivities.

There was a wide range of vendors and booths, though most were nature-related. There were enough activities for the kids to keep them busy the entire day. From face painting to horseback riding and canoeing, there was something of interest for all ages.

For more information on this hidden gem, visit www.FloridaStateParks.org/littlemanateeRiver. The 2,000-acre park is located at 215 Lightfood Road in Wimauma (Sundance), 813-671-5005.

Rick Foley holds “Flinn,” a Finnish Gosh Hawk. Foley is a falconer working with Save All Birds, a Wimauma-based rehabilitation organization. He specializes in raptors.

Gary Moss of Bee Blessed Honey gave away samples of its sweet nectar. Hannah Simmons and Emma Hartzog were willing tasters.

Rhonda Long, a Riverview artist, had a beautiful display of her work. She specializes in portraits and has been painting since she was four years old. She can be emailed at frontstreetart@yahoo.com.

Wolfe’s Born to Ride offered guided horseback rides on one of the park’s trails. Later that evening, they sponsored a moonlight trail ride. www.bormtonired99.com.

Meet “Garfield” the screech owl. Garfield was rehabilitated by Wildlife Inc., after a wing injury that deemed him unable to return to the wild.

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Mosaic unveils massive warehouse

“‘If we are going to meet our mission to help the world grow the food it needs, we have to be excellent in all facets, and that includes our supply chain, and this is a real step toward that.’” Mosaic also recently put the finishing touches on a $4.5 million wetlands restoration project at two plots along U.S. 41 in Gibsonton.

Work on 10 acres of mangroves restoration and new oyster reefs, part one of the project, started last July at Giant’s Camp, a stone’s throw from the Alafia River Bridge on U.S. 41. Part two, a similar project just north of the Giant’s Camp on U.S. 41, began last fall.

“With an existing warehouse on six of which can handle 10,000 tons of fertilizer. The other two represent a rebirth, said Rich Krakowski, vice president of the company’s supply chain.”

“A little over two years ago, due to some mine challenges, this facility went through a tough period,” Krakowski said. “We had to curtail operations because we couldn’t move rock across the Gulf, but the confidence in this facility never wavered.”

The new warehouse makes the Gibsonton site a worldclass termi- nal, he said. “There are many people to thank, but it’s really a testimonial to all the employees here who got through that period. As the warehouse was being built it created a lot of temporary jobs in the area, and now we are back to a facility that employs 25 people.”

The warehouse will allow Mosaic to consolidate receiving, warehousing and shipping facilities for raw materials, improve control of the quality of that product, improve and diversify shipping and receiving, and re- duce costs.

“The unveiling of the warehouse is “a culmination of the strategy and persistence to get this facility up and running,” Krakowski said. The 110,000-ton Gibsonton warehouse contains eight bays, six of which can handle 10,000 tons of fertilizer. The other two can store up to 25,000 tons each.

With an existing warehouse on the site, the terminal can store up to 140,000 tons at one time. “This is an important project for Mosaic and something we can be really proud of,” said Joc O’Rourke, executive vice president of operations.

“This is an important project for Mosaic and something we can be really proud of,” said Joc O’Rourke, executive vice president of operations.

Call to action as county changes Ruskin Land Code amendment

“With our 1,000-acre project in Ruskin, we have to take a step toward meeting the goals and vision on the Plan,” Smith said.

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

At issue are specific guidelines in the Community Plan for land use, density and lot sizes in four areas of Ruskin:

Area 1: The Old Ruskin neigh- borhood west of downtown will feature lower-density, single-fam- ily housing in keeping with the traditional character of the area.

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

Area 3: This area south of Col- lege Avenue will accommodate a more suburban style and type of residential development with safeguards for the redevelopment of property along the Manatee River.

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

But while community activ- ists are encouraged by the new language of the proposed Land Code amendment, no one is cracking any bottles of champagne.

“Notice that county commis- sioners to hear from developers who will oppose the amendment, “so it’s really important citizens let their voices be heard,” he said. Have your say by phone, email or at public meetings.

Contact the county commission by calling 813-722-5660 or visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org and click on the “government” tab and follow the link to “contact your commissioner” under the “board of county commissioners” heading.

This link also provides each commissioner’s email contact. At 6 p.m., Thursday, April 14, the first of two public hearings will be held with the Board of County Commissioners.

The Planning Commission will review the amendment for con- sistency with the Comprehensive County Plan on May 12.

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

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

Note: A county email announc- ing public meetings on the new amendment at Southshore Re- gional Library on April 17 and 22 was sent out in error.

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Register to learn even more about Florida’s ecosystems
The Florida Naturalist Program is a University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, or IFAS, Extension adult-education program for people interested in learning more about Florida’s ecosystems or wanting to increase their knowledge for use in educational programs as volunteers, employees and ecotourism guides.

Through classroom instructions, field trips and practical experience, this six-day module will provide instruction about Florida’s natural habitats, the flora and fauna that live within the habitats, how we have an impact on the natural habitats, and conservation issues of Upland Habitats in Florida.

The class will address naturalist interpretation skills, environmental ethics and the role of humankind in shaping our past and determining our future. Classes run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays; they begin May 7 and continue on May 14, 21, 28, June 4, and June 11. At 9 a.m. on June 17, the class will be presented with a University of Florida IFAS certificate of completion, embroidered FMNP patch and an FMNP Upland Habitats lapel pin.

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

More on the use of DNA in genealogy
The Tuesday, May 20, meeting of the South Bay Genealogical Society will feature Drew Smith continuing his discussion on the use of DNA for genealogy.

This meeting will follow a noon lunchout ($13) to be held in the Royal Palm Room at Little Harbor Resort, 611 Destiny Drive, Ruskin. For reservations and information, call Terri Cardora at 813-633-5172 by May 14.

The Genealogical Society provides “Ask a Genealogist” assistance at SouthShore Regional Library on a scheduled basis and holds monthly program meetings, as well as workshops and seminars, to assist those tracing their family history.

Membership is open to all South County residents who have an interest in genealogy.

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

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-14028. The shelter is funded solely through donations, adoptions, spay/neuter fees, fundraisers and small grants. For more information, volunteer opportunities or donations, please visit our website (careshelter.org) or give us a call at 813-645-2273.

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We know that the best flooring products are not just about style; they should also be durable and easy to maintain. That’s why we offer products that are backed by top-of-the-line warranties.

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Spring SALE!

SALE!

SALE!

SALE!

SALE!

Pepper
Pepper is a petite, black-haired Chihuahua mix, with a slender build and longer legs than the typical Chihuahua. Her ears stand straight up, unless she is happy to see you, and then they go down with excitement. Pepper is happy and alert, loves attention and is affectionate. Visit with Pepper to see if she would be a great addition to your home. As part of Pepper’s adoption, she will be spayed and microchipped. She is current on vaccinations.

DOB: March 2, 2013.

Easter Eggs-stravaganza Event!
The Canoe Outpost on the Little Manatee River is holding three fun family events for Easter weekend. All the events are free.

At 8 p.m. on Friday, April 18, there will be a big outdoor screen showing Who Framed Roger Rabbit? There will be movie concessions and fresh popcorn.

At 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, Canoe Outpost hosts a free concert featuring J.D. & Zanthia Lewis Swamp Grass Tunes. Attend and hear original songs about the river and the area from a Florida Cracker whose family has been in the area for more than 100 years. There will be drinks and food concessions, so go out and enjoy a free music concert under the Florida sky.

At 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, there will be a big outdoor screen showing The Lego Movie. There will be movie concessions and fresh popcorn.

COUNTY to hold public meeting to discuss land donation to state for veterans’ nursing home
The Hillsborough County Real Estate & Facilities Services Department has scheduled a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, to discuss a proposal to donate county-owned land to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs for a 120-bed nursing home.

Two existing county parcels, each 20 acres, are being considered. One parcel adjoins a Public Utilities Department maintenance unit at 10707 Rhodian Road in Riverview. The other parcel is located at 1229 Old Morris Bridge Road, southeast of the I-75 and Fletcher Avenue interchange.

County staff will be at the meeting, set for Brandon Regional Service Center, 211 Pauls Drive in Brandon, to review the proposed locations and answer questions from residents.

All meeting facilities are accessible, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Additional necessary accommodations will be provided with a 48-hour notice.

For more information, call Steve Valdez, citizen engagement manager, at 813-272-5275. TTY: 301-7173.

For more information, visit www.Car Shelter.org or call 813-645-2273.
Paddle trips are scheduled at Camp Bayou

Follow Camp Bayou’s naturalist guide in a paddle around the river loop. Canoe rentals are $25 for a canoe that seats three. Or bring your own canoe or kayak, and join the tour for a donation of $5.

All tours leave the dock at 9 a.m., returning by 11 a.m. Reservations required. Call 813-641-8545 or email campbayo@gmail.com.

Tour dates are:
- Saturday, April 19
- Saturday, May 10
- Saturday, June 21

In addition, there will be short canoe trips during the National Trails Day event – Bayou, Boats and BBQ! Activities begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 7 and end with a BBQ fundraiser at 5:30 p.m. There will be lots of family-friendly activities, including critter netting in the river, casting contests and other water-themed fun. The BBQ lunch is sponsored by Walden Lake Car Wash in Plant City and the Plant City Lion’s Club.

Camp Bayou is located three miles south of S.R. 674 at the end of 24th Street SE in Ruskin. The Center is open to the general public Thursday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Camp Bayou is a partnership between the nonprofit Bayou Outdoor Learning and Discovery Inc. and Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

For more information, visit www.campbayo.org.

### Replace Windows & Cut Energy Bills with Special “No Cost Now Program”

Attention Homeowners:

Michael Hollander, owner of WeatherTite Windows, announced a great savings plan. His $0 down program, along with reduced pricing, is great for homeowners who are in need of replacement windows and doors.

All the homeowners who respond within two weeks from the date on this notice and purchase energy-efficient windows or doors are eligible to make this purchase with no money down and have a fixed minimum payment or no interest, no payment program.

Mr. Hollander emphasized the program is effective immediately and he will be able to arrange low monthly payments to suit the budgetary needs of every home. This amazing program allows you to purchase windows now and pay later, while taking advantage of the “no cost now” program. This very special program features the finest vinyl windows and fiberglass doors manufactured in Florida. WeatherTite Windows and Doors come with 7 great warranties, meet stringent codes for hurricanes and provide year round energy savings for your home.

In addition, for the next 2 weeks only, new clients who purchase WeatherTite Windows will get a special offer. Buy 2 windows and get a FREE fiberglass entry door with a $200 gas rebate card.

This is an offer for first-time first-buy new clients, all estimates are free and all specials are available with 100% financing. As always, WeatherTite is proud to offer a special discount to seniors and military.

Call toll free 24 hours a day for a FREE in-home estimate. These offers will expire 5/1/14.

### recreational activities

#### Recreation

**Monday, Monday**

- **Alvin the Superstar**
- **Sandra’s Superstar**
- **Mr. Smith’s Superstar**
- **Missy’s Superstar**
- **Kim’s Superstar**
- **Beth’s Superstar**
- **Tina’s Superstar**

**Tuesday, Tuesday**

- **Joe’s Superstar**
- **Ted’s Superstar**
- **John’s Superstar**
- **Paul’s Superstar**
- **Mike’s Superstar**
- **Steve’s Superstar**
- **Mark’s Superstar**

**Wednesday, Wednesday**

- **Bill’s Superstar**
- **David’s Superstar**
- **Tim’s Superstar**
- **Ross’s Superstar**
- **John’s Superstar**
- **George’s Superstar**
- **Bob’s Superstar**

**Thursday, Thursday**

- **Rick’s Superstar**
- **Eric’s Superstar**
- **Mark’s Superstar**
- **Jim’s Superstar**
- **Steve’s Superstar**
- **Paul’s Superstar**
- **Jack’s Superstar**

**Friday, Friday**

- **Tom’s Superstar**
- **Mike’s Superstar**
- **Bill’s Superstar**
- **John’s Superstar**
- **David’s Superstar**
- **Tim’s Superstar**
- **Ross’s Superstar**

**Saturday, Saturday**

- **Sarah’s Superstar**
- **Linda’s Superstar**
- **Mary’s Superstar**
- **Grace’s Superstar**
- **Sue’s Superstar**
- **Jean’s Superstar**
- **Karen’s Superstar**

**Sunday, Sunday**

- **Alex’s Superstar**
- **Steve’s Superstar**
- **Mike’s Superstar**
- **John’s Superstar**
- **David’s Superstar**
- **Tim’s Superstar**
- **Ross’s Superstar**

**Recreational Activities**

- **Basketball**
- **Soccer**
- **Tennis**
- **Swimming**
- **Cycling**
- **Running**
- **Golf**
- **Hiking**
- **Fishing**
- **Picnics**
- **Dancing**
- **Drama**
- **Music**
- **Art**
- **Crafts**

**Additional Charges May Apply**

**Office Hours**

- **Monday & Wednesday**: 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday & Thursday**: 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- **Friday, Saturday & Sunday**: CLOSED

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**Replace Windows & Cut Energy Bills with Special “No Cost Now Program”**

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Call toll free 24 hours a day for a FREE in-home estimate. These offers will expire 5/1/14.

**Call 24 hours a day!**

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and reviewed by their peer group — Working Group II — who said after studying the data that it was possible that climate change was already causing problems.

“We see impacts from the equator to the poles, and the coast to the mountains,” Christopher Field, a Stanford biologist, said in the article. He is also the co-chairman of Working Group II.

In spite of the ever-increasing fossil fuel industry requirements and standards that the Environmental Protection Agency asks of industry owners — in particular, coal-fired power plants — the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere may have already taken its toll.

EPA scientists have learned that climate changes prior to the Industrial Revolution in the 1700s can be explained by natural causes, such as changes in solar energy, volcanic eruptions and natural changes in greenhouse gas concentrations.

This new research study also implies that human activities, not natural causes, explain why, since the mid-20th century, we have observed a warming of the Earth’s climate. There is a meltdown of the polar ice cap and glaciers, a rise in sea level and drought as early indicators, they say. [However, not all scientists fully agree with this reasoning.]

These scientists are saying the biggest impact from global warming may be the lack of fresh water in our near future.

Though Florida has fewer problems with water than states like California, Arizona and Texas, it behooves us to be aware of their current situation when it comes to water.

The Southwest has already endured 14 years of drought with low snowpack, in the Rockies and the Colorado River’s reduction in water flow over years due to increased population in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Diego and Phoenix.

Texas has been in drought since 2011. The state has assigned a committee headed by Rep. Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) to research whether it will be worth the money and effort to desalinate seawater. It will cost up to $6 a gallon for water to be produced by this method. Water per 1,000 gallons costs about 25 cents now.

To date, Texas has already built more than 40 desalination plants to process brackish water, or inland sea water, to produce fresh water. Now Texas may turn to the Gulf of Mexico to ensure that its citizens have water for domestic, agriculture, municipal and industrial use in the future.

California growers locked horns with environmentalists in March when the state approved a bill that will limit water deliveries from the northern part of the state to southern California. Both sides want to preserve the environment, but water is necessary to produce crops and to warm wine grapes when there is a frost.

Florida is in a similar situation.

Most of our groundwater lies in the northern part of the state, but it is the southern cities of Florida that are gobbling up the water because of increasing population every year. Tampa Bay is also growing by leaps and bounds annually.

Florida’s water reality

At the first Sayfie Review Florida Leaders Summit last September in Orlando, state Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam told those gathered that Florida’s freshwater supply would be a top problem if the state tried to maintain its economic and residential growth.

“The water issues in Florida historically have been viewed as someone else’s problems,” Putnam told a Florida House natural resources committee last year. “There is now not a single corner of the state that is not impacted by this.”

The Sayfie Review is named after Justin Sayfie, a lawyer and...
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<tr>
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**RIVER BEND**
SouthShore • Community Code: 57

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FLOORPLAN</th>
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**TRIPLE CREEK**
SouthShore • Community Code: 31

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**WILSON PRESERVE**
SouthShore • Community Code: 62

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BELMONT**
SouthShore • Community Code: 52

| Single-Family Homes from the $200s |

COMING SOON to the SouthShore Area!

**AYERSWORTH**
Single-Family Homes from the $200s

**CYPRESS CREEK**
Single-Family Homes from the mid $100s

**SUMMERFIELD**
Single-Family Homes from the mid $200s

**WATERLEAF**
Single-Family Homes from the mid $200s

For more information, call, visit the web, or come to a Lennar Welcome Home Center.

**LENNARTAMPAFL.COM**

800-240-9163
ENTER COMMUNITY CODE
Free-trial Internet offers can cost a bundle, says Consumer Protection Agency

Understand the terms and conditions – Before agreeing to anything, find the website’s terms and conditions, and read them. If you don’t fully understand what they mean or can’t locate them to review, don’t sign up.

Never commit to trial offers when asked for your credit or debit card information – Companies may tell you they need your credit card or bank account information for shipping and handling charges. The intent could be to charge you the full product price when the trial period is over and automatically enroll you in a monthly program. If this happens, you could receive the product monthly and your credit card or bank account could be billed monthly.

Beware of pre-checked boxes – Consumers should look for pre-checked website boxes. Pre-checked selections may allow companies to send other products, share your billing information or waive the cancellation period.

Mark your calendar – Free trials always have a time limit that usually commences at the point when the product is received. Consumers may assume the trial period begins when they receive the product, but with these types of offers, the trial often starts the day the order is placed or shipped, giving consumers a reduced time period to determine if they truly like the product before being charged full price for it. If you don’t cancel your order before the time has lapsed, you may have locked yourself into receiving other products, services and charges to your credit card or bank account.

Monitor your account – Check your credit card and bank statements to make sure you’re not being charged for items you didn’t order, or other fraudulent charges.

Don’t click on pop-ups – By clicking on pop-up ads offering free products, you may be downloading malware and viruses onto your computer.


For more information, call 813-645-2922.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge

#2672 Upcoming Activities

Every Tuesday — Jam Session – 3 p.m. - Josh. No charge for Elks and their guests.
Every Wednesday – Best Spaghetti in Town - $7, All You Can Eat, for Elks and their guests from 5 to 7 p.m. Music by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.
Every Friday — Seafood, Sandwiches, and a Chef’s Special for Elks and their guests from 5 to 7 p.m. $8. Music by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.
Monday, April 28 – Blue Plate Special for all Elks and their guests at 5 p.m. $8 per person. Menu: Meat loaf with all the trimmings. No tickets sold after April 25.
The South Hillsborough Elks Lodge is a clean, smoke-free environment that accepts all major credit and debit cards and is at 1630 U.S. Highway 41 S. in Ruskin. Telephone: 813-645-2089.

RUSKIN VFW POST #6287

Ruskin VFW Post #6287, 5120 U.S. 41 N, has listed the following weekly activities. Meetings are: VFW and LA/FW on the 2nd Wednesday each month; and MAVFW, 3rd Thursday each month. Chapel duty at the VA Hospital every Sunday all month, 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 17 — Bar Bingo 6 p.m.
Friday, April 18 — Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m. Cash grab 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 19 — Crew games 6 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 20 — Lounge Games 2 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy 6:30 p.m. Queen of Hearts drawing 7:30 p.m.
Monday, April 21 — Crew Games 6 p.m.
Tuesday, April 22 — Lounge Games 1-4 p.m. Bingo: doors open 3 p.m., Bingo 6 p.m. Kitchen opens 4:30 p.m.

Ruskin Eagles Aerie 4351

1205 1st St. S.W.
Ruskin Eagles Aerie 4351 hosts meetings on Thursdays: Aerie at 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month; Auxiliary at 6 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th; Eagle Riders at 5 p.m. on the 3rd.

Upcoming Events
Friday ……………… 5:30 p.m. kitchen opens.
Saturday, April 19 ………. 5 p.m. Turkey Dinner.
Sunday ……………… 6:30 p.m. Music by Spirit Entertainment.
Monday ……………… 6 p.m. Bingo.
Tuesday ……………… 6:30 p.m. $1 draft beer all day and evening.
Wednesday …………. Come on down and socialize.

For more information, call 813-645-2922.

Free trials Internet offers can cost a bundle, says Consumer Protection Agency.

Complaints received regarding businesses on the Internet touting “free” trial offers are on the rise at the Hillsborough County Consumer Protection Agency.

Consumers searching online for products like herbal supplements, wrinkle-reducing creams, body cleansers, e-cigarettes, diapers, etc., can often be enticed by these offers. It seems practical and financially responsible to sample something new before making a commitment, but, unfortunately, what often begins free can end up with a cost.

Free trials can be nothing more than marketing ploys to sign consumers up for more products and bill them monthly without notice. If you decide to try these “free” offers, you could find yourself faced with the challenge of canceling the monthly charges and trying to get your money back.

Research the business – Consumers can do basic research online to find information about a company and the products or services it sells. Check out online consumer complaints with the Better Business Bureau and local consumer protection agencies. Check online complaint boards, including ripoffreports.com and complaintsboard.com.

Understand the terms and conditions – Before agreeing to anything, find the website’s terms and conditions, and read them. If you don’t fully understand what they mean or can’t locate them to review, don’t sign up.

Never commit to trial offers when asked for your credit or debit card information – Companies may tell you need your credit card or bank account information for shipping and handling charges. The intent could be to charge you the full product price when the trial period is over and automatically enroll you in a monthly program. If this happens, you could receive the product monthly and your credit card or bank account could be billed monthly.

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Don’t click on pop-ups – By clicking on pop-up ads offering free products, you may be downloading malware and viruses onto your computer.


For more information, call 813-645-2922.

Share Your Special Day

• Engagement Announcements
• Wedding Announcements
• Rededication Ceremonies
• and Anniversaries

For a small fee of $20 the Observer News would be delighted to share your special announcement with the community. Please send the announcement, a photo, contact information for you and those celebrating a special occasion and your relationship to the honorees. news@observernews.net.

For more information call 813-645-3111.
Community Holocaust memorial service is April 27

On Sunday, April 27, at 7 p.m, a community-wide Yom Hashoah service will take place at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 1015 E. Del Webb Blvd.

The service to remember the victims of the Holocaust will include prayers, memorial candle-lighting and readings from the Resistance Movement.

Songs representing the faith at the time of the Holocaust will be sung by a community choir, led by Chuck Wirick.

The community will come together to remember what happened to the victims of Hitler, and to remember the heroes who did not live to tell their stories.

The Greater Sun City Center community is encouraged to attend.

Food truck rally and Easter egg hunt set for First United Methodist

On Saturday, April 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the First United Methodist Church of Brandon is holding a food truck rally and Easter egg hunt. Six food trucks are planned, and the egg hunt is designed for various ages.

The church is at 121 North Knights Ave., one block north of Brandon Boulevard, between Kings and Parsons.

For more information, call the church office at 813-689-4161.

‘The Journey Out of Fundamentalism’

At its Thursday, April 17, meeting, Morris Firebaugh, Ph.D., will deliver a service to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sun City Center entitled “The Journey Out of Fundamentalism.” The Fellowship meets at 7 p.m. in the Henry Gibson Social Hall of the Beth Israel Synagogue on E. Del Webb Boulevard. All are welcome.

Trinity Baptist holds ribbon cutting for new church sign

Trinity Baptist church members recently gathered by their new church sign for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Jewell Kitchen, who initiated the sign project, had the honor of cutting the ribbon. The project, which took over a year, involved a significant amount of work by the project group, considerable financial and prayer support from the membership, and much work on the part of the sign company. The new sign will be used by the church from the community of church activities and to spread the Christian message.

The church is located at 702 W. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center.
Generations X and Y are sought to speak out for agriculture

Florida Farm Bureau Federation is seeking young agriculturists between the ages of 18 and 35 to apply for its 2014-2016 State Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Group. The group consists of young men and women who are actively involved in their county Farm Bureaus and are interested in representing production agriculture and the farm families who make it successful.

The Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Group allows members to develop and refine their leadership abilities by focusing on personal growth, public speaking, media training, legislative awareness, issue advocacy, business development, networking and service leadership.

“The program is designed to prepare our next generation of farmers and ranchers with the leadership and confidence to represent agriculture at the local, state and national level,” said Young Farmers & Ranchers coordinator Michael Rogalski.

Farmers and ranchers interested in serving on the Leadership Group should submit an online application by Aug. 1. Applicants will be notified no later than Sept. 1 on their selection. For more information on the Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Group requirements, visit http://www.floridafarmbureau.org/programs/young_farmers_ranchers/leadership or call Michael Rogalski at 352-384-2668.

Pee Wee Artists, ages 3-5 years with an adult present, will join our art program that highlights early literacy skills and encourages reading readiness. Children may wear pajamas and bring a blanket and favorite cuddly toy.

Creative Artists: Let’s Create! — Tuesday, April 22, 4:30 p.m.
Creative Artists, ages 7-11, will join our art instructor and fun creating an art project to take home. Limit 22. Register at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652.

Adult/Teen Drawing — Tuesday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.
Creative artists will learn some techniques for drawing a still life. All levels welcome. Limit 22. Register at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652. Funding for this program provided by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center.

Teen Volunteer Orientation — Tuesday, April 22, 7 p.m.
Prospective teen volunteers are invited to attend this informational session. Topics will include the application process, filling out school forms, shoreline guidelines and volunteer expectations.

Membership with the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library helps provide the funding for free programs offered at the Library. If you are interested in becoming a Member of the Friends of the Library, call Jim Duffy at 813-634-1396. www.southshoefriends.com.
NEW 2014 HYUNDAI ACCENT
- MSRP: $16,595
- Dealer Discount: $829
- Hyundai Factory Rebate: $550
- Valued Owner Coupon: $500
- Cash or Trade-In Value: $3000
- Sale Price: $11,766

NEW 2014 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
- MSRP: $19,135
- Dealer Discount: $943
- Hyundai Factory Rebate: $750
- Valued Owner Coupon: $500
- Cash or Trade-In Value: $3000
- Sale Price: $13,942

NEW 2014 HYUNDAI VELOSTER
- MSRP: $20,075
- Dealer Discount: $1077
- Hyundai Factory Rebate: $750
- Valued Owner Coupon: $500
- Cash or Trade-In Value: $3000
- Sale Price: $14,998

NEW 2014 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SPORT
- MSRP: $26,065
- Dealer Discount: $1585
- Hyundai Factory Rebate: $750
- Valued Owner Coupon: $750
- Cash or Trade-In Value: $3000
- Sale Price: $19,980

NEW 2014 HYUNDAI AZERA
- MSRP: $32,140
- Dealer Discount: $2402
- Hyundai Factory Rebate: $1000
- Valued Owner Coupon: $750
- Cash or Trade-In Value: $3000
- Sale Price: $24,988

Lease for...
$149 Per Month on New 2014 Hyundai Sonatas!

0% APR Financing for up to 72 Months.

Through Sunday only!

All offers with approved credit through Hyundai Motors Financial. Factory rebates available through Hyundai Motors Financial for qualifying consumers. Dealer retains all factory rebates. Offers exclude tax, tags, title, registration and $799 pre-delivery service fee. *0% APR financing for 72 months on select models. †Must be current Hyundai owner to qualify for rebate. ^Cash or Trade-In Value based on dealer inspection, actual value may vary. Offers cannot be combined. Photos for display only. See dealer for complete details. Offers expire end of day 4/20/2014.
310 GARAGE/YARD SALE
Granddaughters’ sale. SCC yard sale. 2027 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., 8am-1pm. Saturday, April 18.

301 ANOUNCEMENTS
105 PERSONAL
Leaving Town For A While? We will take care of your house. Utilities, security, etc. We excel in house management. For an appointment call 813-634-4241. Hillsborough county licensed & bonded.

FARMER’S MKT
200
280 PETS

OLIVER & COMPANY
Full Service Pet Sitting
- Cats
- Dogs
- Birds
- Pet Taxi

310 MERCHANDISE
300

312 GARAGE/YARD SALE
Community yard sale goodies. Sunday and Monday Cove Park on Lightfoot Rd., next to Fire Station. Many items. 8am-1pm. Saturday, April 19

311 AUCTIONS
DON’T HASSELESTATE SALES
Let us get done in one day what takes the other people a week to do. We will pick-up or own one room or the entire house for a QUICK, PROFITABLE, TROUBLE-FREE EXPERIENCE.

312 ESTATE SALE
BEVERLY’S ESTATE SALES
Sun City Center
Your home will be staged for best results. Working in Sun City Center for 26 years. Please feel free to call about the sale or to consign. Bonded • Licensed

313 REAL ESTATE
511 HOUSES FOR SALE

314 ANNOUNCEMENTS
100

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450

316 AUTO SALES
455 AUTOMOBILES

317 FLORIDA SCRAP METAL
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1001 First Street SW • Ruskin
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326 MARINE
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327 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

328 TRANSPORTATION
450

329 455 AUTOMOBILES

330 MARINE
400

331 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

332 TRANSPORTATION
450

333 455 AUTOMOBILES

334 MARINE
400

335 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

336 TRANSPORTATION
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337 455 AUTOMOBILES

338 MARINE
400

339 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

340 TRANSPORTATION
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341 455 AUTOMOBILES

342 MARINE
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343 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

344 TRANSPORTATION
450

345 455 AUTOMOBILES

346 MARINE
400

347 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

348 TRANSPORTATION
450

349 455 AUTOMOBILES

350 MARINE
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351 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

352 TRANSPORTATION
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353 455 AUTOMOBILES

354 MARINE
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355 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

356 TRANSPORTATION
450

357 455 AUTOMOBILES

358 MARINE
400

359 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

360 TRANSPORTATION
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361 455 AUTOMOBILES

362 MARINE
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363 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

364 TRANSPORTATION
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365 455 AUTOMOBILES

366 MARINE
400

367 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

368 TRANSPORTATION
450

369 455 AUTOMOBILES

370 MARINE
400

371 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

372 TRANSPORTATION
450

373 455 AUTOMOBILES

374 MARINE
400

375 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

376 TRANSPORTATION
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377 455 AUTOMOBILES

378 MARINE
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379 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

380 TRANSPORTATION
450

381 455 AUTOMOBILES

382 MARINE
400

383 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

384 TRANSPORTATION
450

385 455 AUTOMOBILES

386 MARINE
400

387 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

388 TRANSPORTATION
450

389 455 AUTOMOBILES

390 MARINE
400

391 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

392 TRANSPORTATION
450

393 455 AUTOMOBILES

394 MARINE
400

395 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

396 TRANSPORTATION
450

397 455 AUTOMOBILES

398 MARINE
400

399 425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

400 TRANSPORTATION
450

401 455 AUTOMOBILES
**Water wars, water shortages**

Continued from page 21

attorney who organized the two-day summit that included a mix of leaders from across the state. The goal of the summit was to try to raise awareness statewide.

We get our water from groundwater, surface water and desalinated seawater from the Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Plant, which is providing 25 million gallons of water a day.

Southwest Florida Water Management District, often referred to as Swiftdump, manages rivers, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota and Sumer counties, and portions of Charlotte, Highlands, Lake, Levy, Marion and Polk counties.

Swiftdump’s area is approximately 10,000 square miles and serves five million people. It and other water management districts administer flood protection programs, perform technical investigations into water resources, direct water management programs for water shortages during droughts, as well as excess water during storms.

Our region in Swiftdump has the responsibility of managing four major watersheds: Hillsborough River, Tampa Bay/Anclote River, Alafia River and Little Manatee River.

As surprising as it seems, with the freshwater resources residents and tourists enjoy in the rivers, lakes and wetland areas found throughout Florida, most of the state’s freshwater lies underground in aquifers.

An aquifer is a layer of underground rock, or sand, that stores water. Rainwater that soaks into the ground serves as the source of most of the ground water within an aquifer. The majority of rainfall returns to the atmosphere through evaporation and transpiration, or runs off across the land into surface water bodies.

An overdraft of water occurs when the amount of ground water withdrawn for our use exceeds the amount of water that naturally recharges the aquifer.

An overdraft also occurs when the population exceeds the demand.

**Demand for water**

Melissa Meeker, former head of Swiftdump, was vice president for CSA Ocean Sciences, an environmental consultant, when she sat on Sayde’s panel last year. She shared the statistics on future water demands for Florida. Meeker said the demand for water will increase by 1.4 billion gallons a day to 7.9 billion gallons by the year 2030.

Meeker has long urged Florida legislators to work toward increased water storage and recovery systems because of the 1.7 billion gallons of freshwater that flow out to the Gulf and ocean daily.

“We have 1.7 billion gallons of water going to die,” Meeker said as part of the Sayde’s panel, “just lost forever.”

She became the new executive director of WaterReuse Association and Research Foundation last month. The Foundation’s mission is to promote research on the reclamation, recycling, reuse and desalination of water.

**Next month, the 2010 Florida water-use calculation will be posted on the United States Geological Survey site (813.887.0400).** In the 53 inches of rainfall that year, the 2010 total freshwater withdrawals for Florida were 4,242 million gallons per day. The 2005 fresh surface water withdrawals were 2,626 million gallons per day.

The permanent Florida population in 2005 was 17.9 million and nearly 86 million tourists visited. In 2013, the population of Florida was 19.5 million total residents, just under New York’s population of 19.6 million.

It is predicted by the U.S. Census Bureau that Florida, with growth showing a 3.75 percent increase annually since 2010, will have more residents than New York sometime this year.

You do the math.
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