



# The News of Sun City Center

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
SUN CITY CENTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

April 2026

## CA SCHEDULE

April, 2026

- 8 Board Meeting**  
Rollins Theater – 9 a.m.  
Zoom: 857 9535 1458  
Passcode: 219034
- 21 Club Leaders Meeting**  
Florida Room – 10 a.m.  
Zoom: 863 1075 2268  
Passcode: 089463
- 23 Supplemental Board Meeting**  
Board Room – 1 p.m.

Agendas for the monthly Board Meetings will be posted on the Official Bulletin Board in the Atrium the Friday before and on the CA website [www.suncitycenter.org](http://www.suncitycenter.org) – under “Residents” – Upcoming Meeting Agendas). They will also be sent via “What’s New in the CA” email.

## CA Contact Information

Administration Office  
1009 N. Pebble Beach Blvd, SCC  
813.633.3500  
Hours 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., M-F  
[sccboard@suncitycenter.org](mailto:sccboard@suncitycenter.org)  
Website: [suncitycenter.org](http://suncitycenter.org)  
Information Center: 813.633.4670

## FunFest Showcases SCC



Vendors and Clubs Set Up in Crafts Building Parking Lot

By Mike Lee

Blue skies, moderate temperatures and a nice breeze brought a large crowd of residents and visitors to this year’s annual FunFest, sponsored by the SCC Community Association.

Those in attendance were able to browse a large variety of food options, used by clubs as fundraisers, club rooms and tents in the Central Campus area, and local vendors ranging from golf cart dealers to insurers to service clubs in the area. The community gathering allowed residents to become more familiar with opportunities for enriching their lives, as well as providing exposure to non-residents to what Sun City Center has to offer.



Bunko and Needlepoint Club

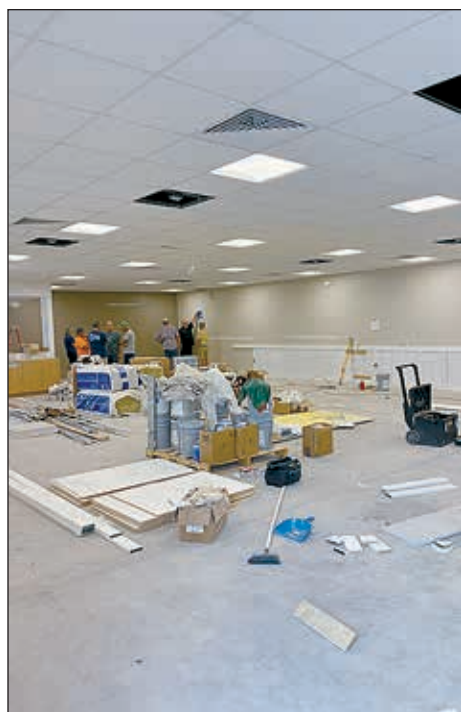
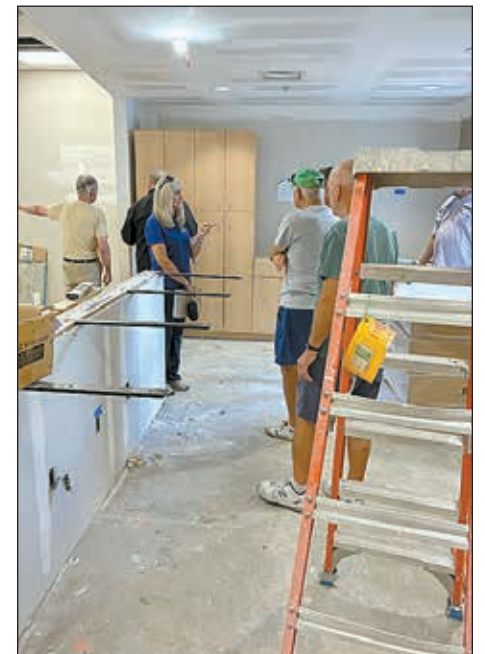


Vendors and Clubs Near Gazebo

## New Applied Arts Building Nears Completion

By Bob Sanchez

Workers are putting the finishing touches on the Applied Arts Building, with an expected opening of late April or early May, according to Community Manager Lyn Reitz. The exact date depends on final County approval. In March, she led members of the five occupant clubs on another tour. These photos show the billiards area.



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**VETERANS PHOTO SHOOT FOR SCCA MEMBERS**

**April 18, 2026**

The next photo shoot for the Veterans Wall of Honor Project as shown in the Atrium will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Photo Lab located in the multi-purpose building at the corner of North Course Lane and N. Pebble Beach Blvd. The address for the Photo Lab is 1203 North Pebble Beach Blvd. This is available for all Community Association members who served honorably in any branch of the U.S. Military. Men should wear a shirt with a collar and women should not wear dangling earrings.

Please call Alisha Marshall at the CA office (813-633-3500) to register, along with your CA membership number, by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026 and you will be assigned a specific time.

**Board of Directors Meeting Review**

By Bob Sanchez

On March 11, the Community Association Board of Directors held its monthly meeting in the Rollins Theater. Corporate Secretary Carrie Blaylock acknowledged donations of \$531. She reported an action without a meeting to approve an engineering contract with Pi Architects for \$133,850 as an expense to the Capital account. President Ron Clark noted that these are funds previously approved by the membership for Phase 1B construction. Clark's report appears separately in this issue.

**Treasurer Jim Collins reported the following balances as of February 28, 2026:**

**Capital Fund** \$4,997,461 less pending expense for Phase 1A \$1,216,484.

This leaves an available balance of \$3,780,977.

**Replacement Fund** \$1,051,967

**Operations Fund** \$3,626,222

**Fundraising Account** (formerly the Renovations Fund) \$51,491

There were 34 home transfers in February, adding \$102,000 to the Capital Fund. Community Manager Lyn Reitz reminded everyone that dues are past due. A hardship fund exists, and a panel will review applications for relief from dues payment. The fund comes from donations, not from membership dues. She spoke in detail about the March 14 FunFest preparations. Membership count is 11,192 with total paid of 11,317.

Director Julie Porto reported that plans exist for new apartment construction at the corner of Upper Creek and Cortaro Drive, which could worsen local traffic. She encouraged residents to voice their opinions to the county commissioners.

The Board approved: A \$35 fee for dues checks returned for insufficient funds. The fee had been \$25. Several contracts totaling \$65,700 Hardship relief totaling \$3,460.

**President's Report**



By Ron Clark, CA President

The construction of the new Applied Arts Building continues to move ahead smoothly and is on track to be completed under budget and on time in April. The Leadership of the five Clubs that will move into the building were given a second tour to review their club room facilities. In May they should be able to start moving into their new club rooms assuming no delay in receiving the certificate of occupancy from the county.

The Board is working with Pi Architects to complete the final design of the Phase 1B building and resort style pool. The goal is to have Phase 1B construction start as soon as the clubs are moved out of the Pottery Building and Rollins into their new location in the Applied Arts Building. Once the Clubs are moved, then the Pottery and Rollins buildings will be demolished and construction started on the Phase 1B facilities.

The Board has selected a preferred vendor to negotiate a contract with to operate the new restaurant in Phase 1B. Once a contract is signed, the final interior design of the restaurant and bar can take place with the vendor's input. The selected vendor will be providing approximately \$500,000 worth of equipment to outfit the facility.

The final accounting has been completed for the CA sponsored Wednesday Night Live fundraising event held on February 11th. Approximately \$60,000 was raised and the SCC Emergency Squad, SCC Security Patrol, and SCC Samaritan Services each received a check for approximately \$20,000. Congratulations to Renee Bray (Event Chairperson), Jeff Marshall (Stage Director/Choreographer), and all the many volunteers who made this a fun event and a huge success.

The annual FunFest on March 14 was a huge success and kudos to Co-Chairs Director Blaylock & Director DeAngelis, Community Manager Lyn Reitz and her staff, and all the many Club volunteers who made the event so much fun and rewarding. Please consider volunteering to be on a CA Committee to help manage and organize our CA activities and direction. Volunteer forms can be found at <https://www.suncitycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Hug-Form-011526.pdf>.

The County plan for paving 16 roads in the CA area in 2026 and 2027 can be found at [https://www.suncitycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Sun\\_City\\_North.pdf](https://www.suncitycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Sun_City_North.pdf). In summary, Spring is here, the CA is in excellent financial health with very affordable dues, and our Central Campus Upgrade project is moving forward in a professional and efficient manner. Please step back and enjoy the moment of living in this great community and as always, let's all remember to be respectful, positive, and kind while having fun in our senior years.



**Who's Ready to Celebrate Our Country's 250th Birthday?**

We are and hope you are too! The Annual 4th of July Breakfast is fast approaching and we are gearing up for another fun-filled morning of good food and conversation in our Community Hall from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Same great menu: 2 scrambled eggs, 2 sausages, 2 pancakes, yogurt, coffee and orange juice served by the smiling faces of our volunteers! Only \$8 per person.

50/50 tickets will also be available for purchase. We pick 3 winners and divide the pot three ways and all 3 lucky winners last year were both surprised and pleased with their shares!

We are always looking for volunteers to help with this event and 4th of July forms are available at the front office or you can email: [julybreakfast@suncitycenter.org](mailto:julybreakfast@suncitycenter.org) and we will send you one. Positions fill up fast so get your form in early if you have a special spot you want to work.

As always, wear your patriotic clothing (not political, please) and come enjoy a beautiful morning with your community! We look forward to seeing you there!

Afterwards be sure to head to our pool at noon to continue your day of fun. Enjoy some games, music and free ice cream. There will also be a food vendor available too. Make it a no-need-to-cook-kinda-day!



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

CLUB/ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL(S)	AMOUNT	APPLIED TO
CC's Grill, LLC	\$431	Wednesday Night Live Donation
Kathleen A. O'Connor	\$75	Library Donation
Kathleen A. O'Connor	\$25	Library Donation
	\$531	

**Newcomers**

List prepared from CA staff data. Report corrections, additions to CA at 633-3500. 2/13/2026 thru 3/17/2026

Local Address	Name	Hometown	Phone
1503 Arrowhead Dr	Stephen & Cindy Spurling	Indianapolis	IN (352) 424-8007
1821 Atrium Dr	Susan Agabian	Boston	MA (617) 299-9215
1633 Bentwood Dr	Brian & Marsha Snyder	Dayton	OH (937) 581-7491
204 Cactusflower Ln	Linda Dealaman & Eckhard Boesel	Ruskin	FL (908) 647-6389
635 Chipper Dr	Martin & Carol Malone	St Clair Shores	MI (586) 596-6284
1503 Council Dr	Miguel Olan	Ponce	PR (787) 546-0435
1576 Council Dr	Annette Artini	Solvay	NY (850) 363-4954
1602 Council Dr	Alithia Harig	Massillon	OH (234) 277-4850
241 Courtyards Blvd Apt 104	Cecelia Fisher	Charleston	SC (841) 830-3785
235 Courtyards Blvd Apt 107	Dennis Donnelly	Rock Point	NY (813) 528-0601
1308 Crystal Greens Dr	Philip & Cynthia Ritter	Perrysburg	OH (419) 376-7982
2002 Del Webb Blvd E	Marcia Jones	Winchester	TN (517) 581-5858
1730 Del Webb Blvd W	Terri Maurer & Kenneth Glosenger	Clarksboro	NJ (570) 423-7920
2007 East View Dr	Glenn & Sandra Thompson	Stillwater	MN (651) 260-8612
1015 Emerald Dunes Dr	Jeffrey Vaske & Stacey Pearl	Minneapolis	MN (651) 295-8418
1031 Emerald Dunes Dr	Judy Edge & Irene Hobbs	(Blank)	(blank) (blank)
1354 Emerald Dunes Dr	Robert & Tracy Helt	Mentor	OH (440) 478-2977
1417 Emerald Dunes Dr	William & Susan Henderson	O Fallon	IL (618) 304-6280
609 Lively Ct - Apt B	Darinka Dolton	Gary	IN (219) 455-2539
2227 North Creek Ct	Carol Flynn	Queens	NY (407) 687-8472
202 Pebble Beach Blvd S	Jim & Debby Nolan	Pensacola	FL (423) 440-1245
1824 Wolf Laurel Dr	Carisa Boyes	Cookeville	TN (727) 215-9949

**Statement of Purpose**

The Sun City Center Community Association serves the residents of Sun City Center by providing assistance for the elderly, assistance and essential services to tax exempt entities, and operates in lieu of a municipal government, thereby lessening the burdens of government (Hillsborough County, Florida).

# FunFest Showcases SCC



Men's Club Pork Chop Sales



Shuffleboard Club



New England Club



Volleyball Club



Security Patrol



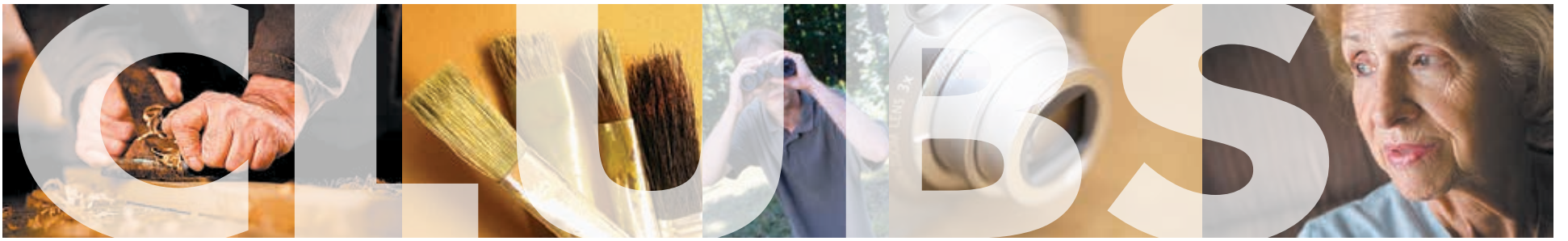
China Painting Club



Residents Enjoying Lunch



Pickleball Club Naked Burritos



**NOTICE:** Each community and club in Sun City Center and Kings Point has specific rules about membership and attendance. Unless specifically stated or posted, most venues, meetings and events hosted on the Community Association campus and in Kings Point require attendees to bring their SCC CA or KP ID or come with a resident member. When in doubt, contact the club in question - not the venue or association - prior to arrival. Thanks.

**Wood Carving Club**

David Brown is one of four master instructors recognized in state competitions that belong to the club. Instructions are free and carving is a good way for people who have limited mobility to create a variety of carvings that will become keepsakes. To find out more about the club contact President Punky Fedora at 417-299-3131.

**Computer Club Meetings**

Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, at 6 p.m. in the Florida Room. Leo from AskLeo, will present some options if you can't or just don't want to upgrade to Windows 11.

**Computer Club Classes**

The Computer Club Lab is open from 12:30 to 4:30, every day except Sunday. Come into the Lab to register for a class. Students must be a member in good standing at Sun City Center or Kings Point. Tuition is payable, by cash or check, upon registration. For additional information email Debra Vance Shimerda, Education Director at "education@scccomputerclub.org".



**Cut the Cord & Stream Entertainment** • Wednesday, April 8, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Buying a Computer** • Thursday, April 9, from 9 to 11 a.m.

**Backup your Data with FreeFileSync** • Wednesday, April 15, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

For all the details, go to the Computer Club website "www.scccomputerclub.org". Detailed information is also available in the computer lab.

**Metaphysical Society Meetings**

The Metaphysical Society presentations start at 10 a.m. in the SCCCA Heritage Room, 951 North Course Lane.

**April 1** • "Dowsing Rods For Spiritual Practice" presented by Louis Gates, Cassadaga Metaphysician. This meeting is open to the public so bring your friends-\$5 entry fee for non-members.

**April 8** • "Drums-History, Types And Benefits", will be presented by Sultania Spirit.

**April 15** • "Magical Properties Of Crystals" will be covered today by Rod Pettit, Gemstone Specialist from Sarasota The Metaphysical Society.

**April 22** • "Your Healthcare Decisions" Clinical oversight for Peace of Mind" presented by Patrick Alonso, PharmD.

**April 29** • "Sound Wave Healing Concert" by Christine Manning.

Membership costs \$10 annually. SCCCA residents are permitted one visit before joining. Kings Point residents may join after obtaining an active Club Card at the SCCCA office. Others may attend with approved guest passes obtained at the SCCCA office. The mission of the Metaphysical Society is to inspire and empower others to explore and discover their highest expression of spiritual self-awareness and universal oneness. Contact the club office at 813 438-6136 for more information.



**Potters Wheel Wins Best of Show**

Members of the Sun City Center Potters Wheel Club took home high level prizes in the competitive arts and crafts competitions at the 2026 Florida State Fair, including winning Best of Show in the Functional Ceramics Field.

Judi Jardine is pictured with her Best of Show teapot and mugs, created using hand-building techniques and glazed to represent the sand and sea. Judi also won first and second places for Non-Functional Ceramics. Potters Wheel members winning additional ribbons are Nancy Landry and Becky Wagner first in Sculpture, Terrie McNamara, first in Functional Wheel Thrown and Nancy Landry an Honorable Mention in Sculpture.

The Potters Wheel Club offers lessons and space for both wheel-thrown and hand-built pottery to members of the SCC Community Association. Stop by weekday mornings to find out more and learn about membership.



**Monday Movies**  
**Rollins Theater**  
**Second and Fourth Monday, 1 p.m.**

Movie attendees must present a current SCCCA ID Badge, a SCCCA Guest Card or a Kings

Point Usage Card to attend. Dates and time may be changed if necessary. Theater capacity is limited to 145 attendees per the Hillsborough County Fire Code.

**April 13 \*\*Retro Movie Monday\*\***

**Lilies of the Field (from 1963)**

1 hour, 34 minutes

A free-spirited ex-GI stumbles upon five German refugee nuns in Arizona and helps them build a chapel.

**Stars:** Sidney Poitier, Lilia Skala, Lisa Mann, Pamela Branch, Isa Crino

**Genre:** Comedy, Drama

**Rating:** PG



**April 27 • The Penguin Lessons**

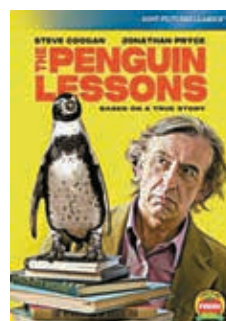
1 hour, 50 minutes

Inspired by the true story of a disillusioned Englishman who went to work in a school in Argentina in 1976. Expecting an easy ride, he instead discovers a divided nation and a class of unteachable students. However, after he rescues a penguin from an oil-slicked beach, his life is turned upside-down.

**Stars:** Steve Coogan, Jonathan Pryce, Vivian El Jaber, Björn Gustafsson

**Genre:** Comedy, Drama

**Rating:** PG-13



**FunFest**  
**Showcases 2026**  
**Overhead Drone Shot**

*(Credit John Wakeman)*

# The News

of Sun City Center & South County

News Line: 813.938.7441 • Ad Line: 813.938.8721 • www.soco.news • April 2026

## 2026 Spring Business Expo

By Bob Sanchez

Over 50 local small businesses displayed their offerings at the well-attended 2026 Spring Business Expo, organized by the South Shore Chamber of Commerce. The annual event took place at the Methodist Church on February 27.



## Vesta Follies is Pure Fun

By Mike Lee

Large crowds were entertained in the Veteran's Theater in Kings Point with several performances of the 41st annual Vesta Follies. The theme this year was "Movie Musical Night at the Follies," a wide variety of music made popular in movies, old and new. In addition to the Follies Chorus 2026, performers included the Step Sisters, Jazzmatazz, Cloggersizers and the Perfect Fourth Quartet.

There was a special performance by the East Bay High School Sounds of Time, which included the chuckle inducing "You Make Me Feel So Young." The choir members

almost certainly felt pretty young, considering the average age of their audience!

The Follies always donates proceeds from the production to local service organizations. This year's recipients included KP Cares, the Sun City Center Emergency Squad, Samaritan Services, Meals On Wheels, and the East Bay High School Music Department.

Diane LeFrancois thanked the community for their support. "Your support gives us the chance to create something joyful together. It's a process I deeply appreciate, and one I truly enjoy."



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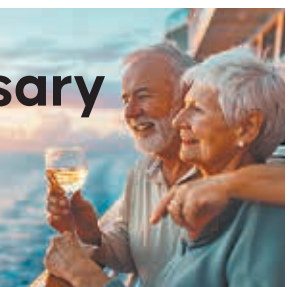
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## The Editor's Corner

### Paths and Possibilities

By E. Adam Porter  
Editor, News of SCC & South County

I peeked through my office window and saw someone walking in the yard. The figure emerged from beneath the boughs of a hickory tree, and I recognized my bride.

Curious, I watched her, walking mostly along the edge of the property line, but sometimes cutting in around one tree or behind another. Occasionally, she paused—turning to look around or kneeling in what was left of our grass after a colder than average winter. She continued moving out of range for that window, so I moved too, pulling up the blinds on the driveway side of the house, and waiting for her to come into sight.

She continued through the gate past the driveway and the basketball hoop into the front yard. Her circuitous, apparently meandering, route took her behind another tree, through a hedge, and in a curving “S” through the front yard to a route along the privacy fence between our house and the neighbors’.

Now I was fully invested. What was she doing? From my perspective from my loft office on the third floor, I could see precious little difference between where she walked and the rest of the yard. The entire landscape was a result

of numerous sub-freezing days followed by precipitation levels more commensurate with the southwestern desert than March in subtropical Florida. Everything—from my perspective—was dry, brown, brittle, or dead. What passed for grass was little more than a hardy groundcover with the constitution of Rocky Balboa—this stuff refuses to die.

So... what did she see that I didn't?

This is a question that has come up more times than I can count in our nearly 30 years together. One of the qualities that attracted me to my bride is her unique perspective on the world and the people and things in it. She—literally and figuratively—sees things differently. It makes her an incredible artist and a fun person to ask stuff. Which is convenient for me, because one of my favorite things is asking people stuff.

Which is precisely what I did next. I threw on my yard shoes—the gray ones that must live only on the porch, because they are perpetually infested with dirt, stickers, and little green hitchhikers—and clopped down the stairs to follow her around the yard.

By the time I caught up, she was back in the side yard again, peering at the firepit like it owed her money. “Chairs...” I heard her suggest to herself. “Or maybe just logs?”

“Whacha up to?” I asked.  
“Planning my path,” she said.  
“Your path?”

She nodded, gesturing around the yard. “I’m going to make a walking path through the garden.”

I glanced around the space encompassed by her gesture, noting that the “garden” in question was so dead it could

have been a victim on an episode of SVU or CSI. “Uh huh?” I managed.

“Walk it with me?” She invited, and we did. As we strolled through the yard, she stopped at all the places she had before—as well as some others—explaining what she saw that I didn't. She wanted to build spaces for sitting and listening to the river, places for stopping and, literally, smelling the roses, places to gather and places to get away by yourself. A spot for a kitchen garden and pops of color here and there... A small deck for entertaining and a sunny spot for yoga. Places to picnic, to read, and to hide away.

We made the circle another time and she stopped more or less where we had begun, turning to me, face alight with excitement at the possibilities. “What do you think?” I talked about how these were amazing ideas and that I would be happy to help bring them to life. She smiled—the grin that always gets me—and said, “I just don't know where or how to begin.”

So, we chatted about first steps and the best way to

lay out the path through the garden that once existed and would someday bloom again. Prep work, carpentry, and the Carrying of Heavy Things are my specialty. Hers would be to continue dreaming the dream until it was entirely real in her mind—then we would make a shopping list and hit up the home and garden center.

She's out there now, walking the path again, thinking and planning and bringing what could be into closer focus. And I'm up here tapping away, pondering about how focus and intention can lead you down a path full of unintentional experiences.

I'm tempted to tug on that thread a bit, to let that musing stand as a metaphor for life—but I suspect you beat me to it. We all understand that what we do creates opportunities. And what we intend to do often leads us in directions we did not expect.

Either way, I think the living is in the dreaming and the doing of it. Happiness is less about the end result and more about whatever happens as you meander along the path.

## The News of SCC & South County

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Mailed submissions should be sent to:  
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## Security Patrol Trivia Contest



By Mike Lee

Who was the original voice of Mickey Mouse? What artist recorded the hit song “Easier Said Than Done” in 1963? What famous toy was introduced to the world by Mattel in 1959?

Those attending a recent trivia contest that was sponsored by the Sun City Center Security Patrol in the South Campus Community Hall learned the answers to these questions and many more. Numbnuts, a well-known local trivia team, won the event, which was attended by several competitors. The top three teams received gift cards from local merchants. The event was a fundraiser sponsored by the Patrol, which is continuing its core mission to help make the

Sun City Center area the safest in Hillsborough County.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Patrol is encouraged to come into the base at 1225 N. Pebble Beach Boulevard from 9:00-3:00 Monday through Friday, or to call (813) 643-2020 during the same hours. There are a variety of positions available, and volunteers are only asked to work a minimum of three hours per month.

**The answers to the questions above are as follows:**

Walt Disney himself was the original voice of Mickey Mouse “Easier Said Than Done” was recorded by Essex.

Barbie was introduced to the world in 1959.



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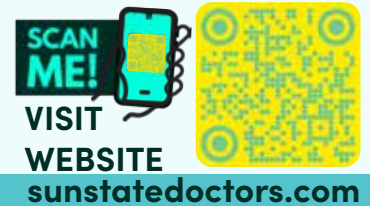
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**Where is sunstate Located?**

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### AAUW April Meeting-Women of Distinction

Join the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for their April meeting on Saturday, April 11, at 9:30 a.m., in the Florida Room. Members will be honoring Connie Lesko and Melanie Davis as their Women of Distinction. Woman of Distinction is an award given to women who have made significant contributions to their community, particularly in advocating for education, equity, and the empowerment of women and girls.

Both Connie and Melanie have made exemplary contributions to Sun City Center and the Southshore area. They have made a positive impact on this community, and their actions mirror the AAUW values. Come meet and learn about these two very accomplished women. There is no cost for the meeting, but reservations are suggested. Coffee, fruit, and pastries will be available at 9:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Margie Castiglia at 813-633-8253. We are part of the AAUW National organization, and are exempt from SCCCA guest fees (Kings Point Gold Card is not needed).

### Audubon Club

#### University of Florida American alligator expert to speak Saturday, April 4

Kent A. Vliet has been studying the peculiarities and normal habits of the American Alligator in Florida for more than 45 years. The University of Florida Professor of Biology will be the guest speaker at the Sun City Center Audubon Club at its meeting Saturday, April 4th, in the Florida Room at the Atrium Building off of North Pebble Beach Blvd. Dr. Vliet's presentation is expected to cover everything you ever wanted to know about our state's pervasive and prolific freshwater reptilian predator.

Dr. Vliet is one of the world's leading authorities on the American Alligator's biology, courtship and conservation efforts. He is the Coordinator of Laboratories for USF's Department of Biology and oversees the Introductory Biology Lab Program.

His lecture will begin about 10:15, after club business and a brief social with coffee and pastries starting at 9:15. Club members are advised to bring their own coffee and tea containers and their Community Association Identification Cards.

### South Shore Democrats Club

Thursday, April 9, at 1 p.m.

All like-minded people are welcome. Hear representatives from local, regional, state and national government and organizations speak on issues that affect our lives in Florida. In April, our speaker is Yvette Lewis, head of the Hillsborough County Branch of the NAACP. She recently won a national NAACP award.

Our club is also participating in a food drive to help our Wimauma community. Many in the community have lost their jobs and are fearful to drive to the stores or food banks. With the help of a new group that has formed, Friends of Wimauma, the donated items will be brought directly into the community. Please bring your donated items (soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and brushes, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes and sprays, detergent, dish soap, trash bags, sponges) to our meeting.

Petitions and help with voter registration and Vote By Mail renewals will be available. VBM registrants vote at 94%. It is a great insurance policy against bad weather or illness. Those without VBM vote under 50%.

Social time and light refreshments before the meeting. Info: [www.southshoredemocrats.org](http://www.southshoredemocrats.org) or "SSCDems.info@gmail.com".

### Left Center Right Club

1st and 3rd Saturday every month – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., East Social Room, Kings Point. Join this lively dice game on the first and third Saturday of each month. Play the traditional version or try "LCR Extreme!"—a twist created by Rick Miles. Guests from outside Kings Point should let the gate know they are here for LCR. Snacks are always welcome. Contact: Michelle Mason 813-492-8920 or "mmason@seniorsinservice.org".

### Galaxy Bridge

Congratulations to our March Galaxy Bridge Winners: Mary Schroeder, Carolyn Wilkinson, Ginger Smith, Annetta Pucci, and Claire Hadley. Our next Galaxy Bridge Luncheon is Thursday, April 2, in the Atrium Building Caper Room beginning at 11 a.m., catered by CC's Grill.

For reservations or cancellations, call Alice Bunn at 813-944-9622 or Mary Ellen Orvis at 813-997-8191. If you leave a voicemail, we will get back to you. The cancellation and reservation deadline is Sunday, March 29. Questions: Mary Ellen Orvis, President, 813-997-8191, "orvmar52@gmail.com".

### Craft Beer & Wine Club – "Fermenting Fanatics"

Thursday, April 9, at 1:30 p.m.

Waterside Room, Kings Point North Clubhouse

This month in honor of April Fool's Day we are celebrating all the crazy names, can or bottle designs. Disco sasquatch? Unicorn Sweat – Magical and rare? Brewbacca – A chewy, malty ale? Dali wine? Have no idea how it tastes, even better. The club meets on the second Thursday of each month to share tastings, learn about the fermenting process, and enjoy field trips to local establishments. For more details, visit [facebook.com/groups/craftbeerandwineclub](https://facebook.com/groups/craftbeerandwineclub). Contact: Michelle Mason 813-492-8920 or "mmason@seniorsinservice.org".

### South Shore SAR to Host Luncheon

Saturday, April 11

The Plaza Club, 3932 Upper Creek Drive

The South Shore Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will host a luncheon. Social time will begin at 11:30 with luncheon at noon. All members, spouses, and guests are welcome to attend. For reservations, email "sarsouthshore@gmail.com" or text 813-340-1860.

The program will feature a presentation by Bob Smith, Chief of the SCC Security Patrol who will discuss the Patrol's history and role in the community. Smith's career included service as a command officer in the military, faculty positions at several Universities including the Citadel, and commercial roles including positions as Chief Marketing Officer and CFO of a number of firms. Bob has also served the SCC Community as MOWW Senior Commander and President of his HOA.

The South Shore Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution ([www.sssar.org](http://www.sssar.org)) -- a patriotic organization of descendants of Revolutionary War Patriots -- welcomes visitors from southeastern Hillsborough and northern Manatee counties.



Community continued on page 5.

## We Welcome Selina J. Lin, M.D.



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Coastal Eye Institute is pleased to welcome Dr. Selina Lin to our Sun City Center office. Dr. Lin is a Board-Certified Ophthalmologist and Fellowship-Trained Retina Specialist with expertise in:

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- Diabetic Eye Care
- Flashes & Floaters
- Laser Surgery of the Retina



DR. LIN IS NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

**Community** continued from page 4.

**Kindred Spirits Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 1, from 3 – 4:30 p.m.**  
**Waterside Room, Kings Point**

Power packed presenters this month! Patrick Alonso Pharmacist and Health Advocate from Tampa Healthcare Advocate talking about all things medication related. What works better or doesn't work at all with common medications.

Come prepared if you have questions about your health. Finally, we are giving a presentation and will be giving Narcan supplies to all attendees on how you can save a life when there is an opioid overdose. We will also provide tools to safely dispose of medications. This club meets the 1st Wednesday of every month and offers a space for women to connect, share activities, and build friendships. Let the gate know you are attending Kindred Spirits. Questions; Contact: Michelle Mason- 813-492-8920 or mmason@seniorsinservice.org.



**Winners L to R: Fran Beeson, Bruce Crain, Sherry Kalczynski, Wayne Adams, and Dale Hughes. Missing from the photo is Nick Fader.**

**SCC Photo Club Awards Luncheon**

The first Annual Awards Luncheon was held on February 19, 2026. The luncheon was a wonderful social occasion. President James Corwin Johnson welcomed the members and family and friends and honored the winners of 2025 Best of the Best Competition with Olympic style metals. The Photo club meets the first Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Caper room. Anyone interested in photography, regardless of skill level is welcome to attend and possibly join the club. Speakers and educational classes are available, as well as a well-equipped lab and studio set up.

**Low Vision Support Group**  
**Friday, April 10, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.**  
**Waterside Room, Kings Point**

Jill Mask will be presenting important safety information around falling, getting up, and what to do. Jill is a fitness professional with over 10 years of experience in contributing to Support groups and will have helpful hints for the topics discussed at each meeting. Her dedication to assisting group members shines through. The Low Vision Support Group meets on the second Friday of each month to provide information, resources, and encouragement for the low vision and blind community. Contact: Michelle Mason 813-492-8920 or "mmason@seniorsinservice.org".

**German American Club Spring Dinner Dance**

The Club's last event of the season will be our Spring Dinner/Dance on Thursday, April 30, 2026 at the Community Hall on South Pebble Beach Drive. Club favorite Eva Adams will provide the musical stylings to help us close out the season in festive fashion. Our community's own licensed dance instructor will provide a Club appropriate dance lesson. The doors will open at 4:30, and the dance will conclude at 9:00pm. A hearty buffet features beef bourguignon, spinach and mushroom lasagna, and bourbon glazed salmon filet.

Tickets are \$30 for members, and \$40.00 for non-members. For information, or to drop off or mail in your registration, contact Wolfgang Kesselring, 2042 Grantham Greens Drive in King's Point, 860 307-3342; or Bob Stubing, 1214 Peridot Lane in Sun City Center, 973 670-2317.

**Karaoke Fundraiser in SCC**

**Friday, April 3, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd.**

The Sun City Center Metaphysical Society, in partnership with the SCC Karaoke Club, invites the entire community to a lively Karaoke Fundraiser. This fun-filled event will feature raffles, themed baskets, door prizes, and food for sale. Whether you love to sing or simply enjoy great music and good company, everyone is welcome. Enjoy the fun performance from our Elton John celebrity look-alike. A \$10 donation ticket is available at the door, from any Metaphysical Society member, or by credit card through Ken Webb at 727-656-7922.

For additional information, please contact Mary Williams at 941-376-0563. Come out, support your community, and enjoy an evening of music and fun connection.

**Community** continued on page 6.



**Travel Club**

**Join US for an afternoon of travel inspiration, friendship, and fun!**  
**Learn about our upcoming journeys, meet fellow travelers.**  
**Get your questions answered by a Professional Travel Advisor.**

**Date: Tuesday, April 7, 1:00 PM**

**Location: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Room 3/4**

**Refreshments: Pizza & Drinks Provided**

**Call Gayle to RSVP: (813) 434-4222**

**Travel Club Features Adventures**

Radiance of the Seas  
**SCC 10th Anniversary Cruise, 09/2026**

Collette  
**Spotlight on Tuscany Land Tour, 05/2026**

Avalon Vista  
**Romantic Rhine River Cruise, 06/2026**

Crystal Symphony  
**Luxury Alaska Voyage, 07/2026**

Norwegian Joy  
**Alaska Roundtrip Seattle, 07/2026**

Celebrity Edge  
**Alaska Inside Passage Cruise, 07/2026**

Oceania Insignia  
**Mediterranean Masterpiece, 10/2026**

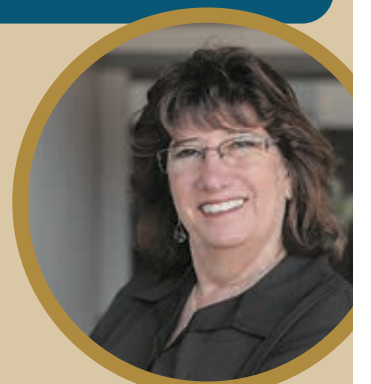
Norwegian Sun  
**Africa / Atlantic Grand Voyage, 05/2026**

Princess Grand Princess  
**Australia & New Zealand Grand Voyage, 10/2027**

Viking Neptune  
**Italy & Adriatic Ocean Cruise, 07/2027**

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Community continued from page 5.



Surprise! Tie Vote!

After the Kings Point Art Show, all participating artists cast their votes for the "Peer Award." For the first time ever, there was a tie vote: Judge Stephen Cooper's mixed media homage to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, highlighting many of her most important cases, Opinions and Dissents and "Nostalgia," a beautiful oil painting of an inviting pathway by Lillian Foncellino. Both can be viewed during March in the Display Case outside the Kings Point Art Room. Inside the Art Room are displayed the major winners in each category.

Meta Glass User Group

Thursday, April 23, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Waterside Room, Kings Point

We do this group to make sure the users of meta glasses share the best practices and uses. Technology can be complicated and we are here to make sure you are getting the most out of our resources. We meet on the 4th Thursday of every month so please add to your calendars! Contact: Michelle Mason 813-492-8920 or "mmason@seniorsinservice.org".

DAR Meeting

Wednesday, noon, April 15 Atrium Building

The Colonel George Mercer Brooke Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) next regular meeting. At 12:30 we have light refreshments and socializing. At precisely 1:00 we begin our meeting and our program.

Our speaker for this meeting will be Eileen Eacker who will bring us along to a conversation with Martha Washington. Looking forward to June, our Chapter will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in the fashion of a Garden Party on June 11. Mark your calendar and save that date for a fun party.

All members and their guests are welcome to attend our DAR meetings. Are you interested in learning more about DAR and our charity work? Or would you like to delve into your Family Tree to search for a Patriot? Come join us and we will help you with your search.

For more information email Kay Adkins, Regent, at "DAR@cgmb.aol".



SCC Rotary and Sportsman's Club Peanut Butter and Cereal Collection

The SCC Rotary Club and the Sportsman's Club held their spring peanut butter and cereal collection. These items are key food products in providing support to families in need. They are especially desirable due to both their nutritional value and ease of storage. During the February Sportsman Club meeting, over 400 pounds of food items were collected. The resulting horde was delivered to the Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO) to assist local families. ECHO assists families in crisis with emergency food, as well as clothing and access to life-stabilizing programs, all at no charge. Rotary also has an ongoing project to collect clothing in support of ECHO's retail store. The SCC Rotary Club meets each Tuesday for lunch with a topical speaker at Freedom Fairways. For more information visit its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RotarySCC or call Bill (membership) at 813-634-3936.

Community continued on page 7.

**Anna Maria OYSTER BAR**

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Get "social" in Sun City Center. Share your favorite SCC pictures and news and view pictures from fun SCC events. "LIKE" the News of Sun City Center Facebook page at "www.facebook.com/NewsOfSCC".

**Community** continued from page 6.

**Parkinson's Support Group**  
**Monday, April 20, from 1:30 to 3 p.m.**  
**Chapel, Sun Towers, 101 Trinity Lakes Dr.**

Jill Mask is a fitness professional with over 10 years of experience in contributing to Parkinson's Support groups and will have helpful hints for the topics discussed at each meeting. Her dedication to assisting group members in managing PD shines through. This month she is talking about traveling with Parkinson's. Traveling requires careful planning, but with the right preparation and strategies it is entirely possible to enjoy safe and rewarding trips. Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month and offer information, resources, and encouragement for those living with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Meetings start with light exercises followed by group discussion.

Contact: Michelle Mason 813-492-8920 or "mmason@seniorsinservice.org" or Jill Mask 612-554-2559 and "jmmask59@gmail.com".

**SCC Republican Club**  
**Tuesday, April 28, at 2 p.m.**

**St. Andrew Presbyterian, 1239 W. Del Webb**

The Sun City Center Republican Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, in Fellowship Hall, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 West Del Webb Blvd., in Sun City Center. Entrance is at the rear of the building, away from the street. Meetings start at 2:00 p.m. and conclude about 3:00 p.m. Social time, with light refreshments, precedes the meeting. We feature a speaker, sometimes two, of interest to local voters.

Our goal is to get Republican candidates elected and to get Conservative amendments and referendums passed. We believe in the Constitution, in legal immigration, in lower taxes, in smaller government, in right to life, in two genders, and in no males in female sports. If you have any questions, please contact us at "magictrot@aol.com".

**Titanic Remembrance Ladies Luncheon**

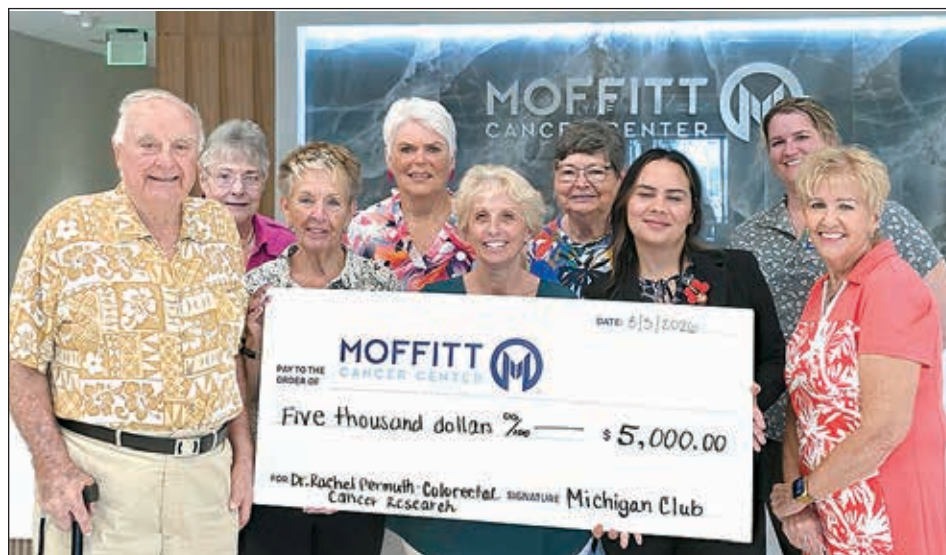
The April General Meeting of the GFWC Sun City Center Woman's Club will be held in person on Thursday, April 16, 2026, in the Florida Room.

The doors open at 11 a.m. for sign in and meet and greet time. Buffet lunch and program will follow. Optional attire for this meeting is early 1900's apparel.

The program for April will feature our own Jeanne Naish who will perform a one act play from the perspective of a survivor of the Titanic disaster. Memorabilia from the era and The Titanic will be on display. Enjoy your catered lunch listening to music from that era as well. The Health and Wellness Committee is supporting our local Food Pantries. They will be collecting nonperishable food to be distributed to local food pantries. Please donate cereal, oatmeal, grits, breakfast bars, pasta, mac n cheese, etc.

Members attending the meeting need to make a reservation in advance by 11 AM on Sunday, April 12. Please RSVP by email to suncitywomensclub@gmail.com if you will be attending and if you are planning to eat lunch. A catered buffet for \$20 is to be paid at check-in. More information will be provided to the club members in the April newsletter.

The club welcomes new members from Sun City Center and surrounding communities, and applications can be found on our website "sccwomensclub.org". Carina Faneuf, membership chair, can be reached at sccwcmembership@gmail.com or by phone at 727-510-0123, if you have any questions. We are part of GFWC, a national organization, and are exempt from SCCCA guest fees (Kings Point Gold Card is not needed).



Michigan Club members and Moffitt employees. Front: Paul Hunt, Valerie Whipkey, Renee Childs, Stephanie Rodriguez (Moffitt Operations Manager), Marilyn Enge. Back: Karen Hardy, Carol Konik, Norma Ebner, Meghan Adrian (Moffitt Assistant Patient Care Manager).

**Kings Point Michigan Club Donates to Moffitt**

Members were pleased to present a \$5,000 donation to Moffitt Cancer Center Rachel Permuth Colorectal Cancer Research. The generous donations from the Lip Sync event enabled the club to make this donation.

**Kings Point Michigan Club Spring Party**

Hot Diggity Dog – It's spring!!! Join your fellow friends for our annual which will include hot dogs, chips and cookies! Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, in the KP Veterans Theater. The band, Mad With Power, will begin playing at 6 p.m. April's 50/50 charity event will be Breakaway Respite Care at United Methodist Church. Tickets will be sold on Tuesday, April 7 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the KP North Club Lobby. Members \$10; Non-members \$12.

**South Bay Genealogical Society**  
**Tuesday, April 21, at 10:30 a.m.**

**South Hillsborough Elks Lodge 2672 S, U.S. Hwy 41, Ruskin**

There is a round table discussion, followed by a sit-down luncheon at noon. Following the luncheon at 1 p.m., our guest speaker will be Karen Fortin. Karen's presentation is "Bringing Your Ancestors to Life: Going Beyond the Facts." The cost is \$18 per person, which includes the meal and presentation. For reservations and meal choice please call Vicki at 360-608-1647. Make your check payable to SBGS, and mail to: South Bay Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5202, Sun City Center, FL 33571. Your check must be received by April 12th. Please allow 4-5 days for the mail to arrive. You may also pay ahead at the March meeting. Follow us on Facebook.

**Stroke Support Group**  
**Tuesday, April 28, from 3 to 4 p.m.**  
**Ripple Room, Kings Point**

We are excited to bring this support group to our local residents. There was one at Kings Point that is no longer in existence, but we are here to fix that! Debra Battistella, Kings Point resident and Occupational therapist will be our facilitator. This group is for stroke survivors and their care partners to share experiences, learn from each other, and receive emotional support while adjusting to life after a stroke. Gain practical strategies, discuss recovery and prevention, and build both confidence and community in daily life. All Sun City Center residents are welcome. Let the gate know you are there for the stroke group.

Contact: Michelle Mason 813-492-8920 or "mmason@seniorsinservice.org" or Debra Battistella 813-308-9511 or "debrabattistella@creativeconceptsoft.com".



L to R: Gloria Lavin, Asst VP; John Spenser, Treasurer; Misty Taylor, VP; front row: Susanne Hicks, President; Barry Tollenger, Outreach, CAHT.

**SCC Dance Club Donates to CAHT**

Campaign Against Human Trafficking thanks the SCC Dance Club for its donation of \$200. Support from our local organizations makes a meaningful difference in our work for CAHT. We deeply appreciate these partnerships from our Sun City Center friends and associations.

**AREA OUTREACH EVENT**

We are looking for participants for a special promotion being conducted as part of a local hearing health outreach program in your area. **Participants should be over the age of 55** because they best represent the segment of the population which is most likely to experience hearing loss and ringing in the ears.

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\*One per household. Must complete a hearing test and have a loss. Not valid with prior test/purchase in last 6 months. While supplies last. \*\*If you are not completely satisfied, the aids may be returned to the office of trial within trial period in satisfactory condition. See store for details. Offer expires 6/30/2026.



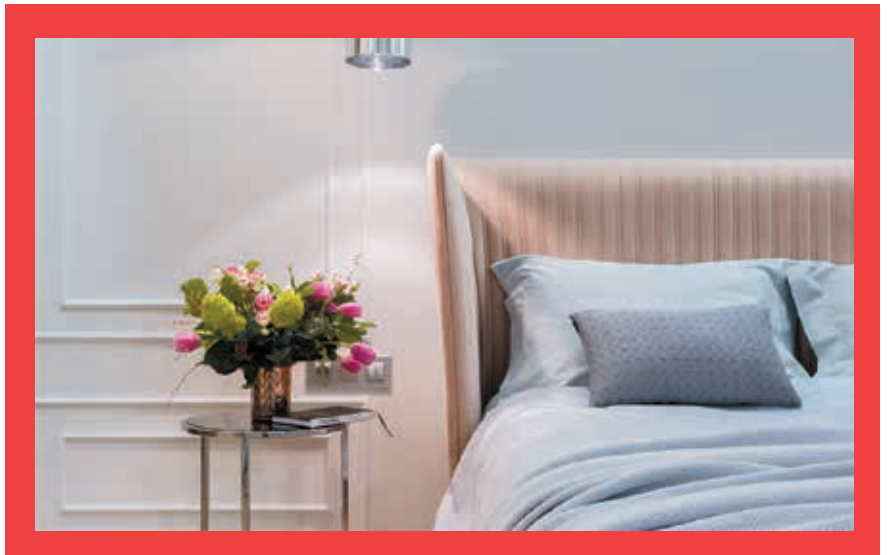
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# BOOK REVIEW



## Can the Actions of One Person Really Change a Town or Its People?

By **Andrea L.T. Peterson**

The quiet little town of Golden, Georgia, will never be the same again. Of course, no one knows that, yet. Not even the elderly Portuguese gentleman—a stranger—who shows up in town one ordinary afternoon. Taking time to relax in the quaint coffee shop, The Chalice, in town, he can't help but notice the walls are lined with pencil portraits. Fascinated with the artistic skill and the life-likeness of the portraits (92 of them) he studies each, closely.

He discovers that the artist, Asher Glissen, is local and the portraits, which are for sale, are of locals. "Shouldn't these portraits be in the possession of their subjects?" he wonders. He assigns himself a mission: he will buy them all and at the right time he will give each to its subject—who he believes to be its rightful owner.

He wants to keep his mission secret, so he has letters—one at a time—delivered to the soon-to-be recipients of his generosity. As each receives his or her letter there is a time to meet at the fountain, known as The Fedder, on Golden's Main Street. Each is leery of accepting a strange invitation from an unknown person, but one by one they show up. The stranger, Theo, sits

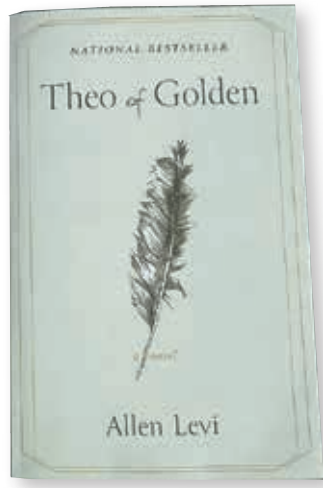
with each and after they chat and as he shares with them what he sees in the portrait and how their portraits capture their essence, he extracts from each a promise to not reveal anything about their meeting with him or anything about their portraits now in their possession.

In turn, Theo reveals bits about his own life—never taking away from the experiences of those he speaks with. He is kind, he is generous. And he has given himself just one year in Golden to complete his mission.

As he gets to know each 'subject', he plans to anonymously deliver life-changing gifts to them to help them achieve their own goals or make their lives more manageable. For one, it is the medical care his daughter needs, as well as her tutoring so her education doesn't suffer. For another, it is the artist supplies needed for her to liberate her own artistic talents.

But is a year enough time? And will Theo's graciousness really make a lasting difference? Will that difference be for the better?

Unbeknownst to Theo, his observations are both revelatory and inspiring. Soon connections between him and the people upon whom he bestows these amazing works of art develop. People who never really knew each other before, people from different walks of life, from different classes and social status become friends!



He is so successful that he and a handful of locals spend the winter holidays sharing dinner at the house of the artist, Asher, and his wife who runs The Chalice. In their home, Theo studies Asher's artwork gracing the walls, becoming impressed with the artist and intrigued by one work in particular.

Of course, Golden is not all Paradise. There is discord within families, there is certainly an "undesirable" element in town. And, as readers will discover, not everyone is as gracious as Theo.

A year after Theo is gone, one of the locals, Tony, has a plaque embedded in the bench at The Fedder. All who read it are told "this was a place where heaven

and earth met in the form of an old Portuguese man. They are told that all, who chose to be, are capable of saintliness. They are also told that faith, hope, and love endure, but the greatest of these is love."

Theo of Golden is an outstanding debut novel (with a sequel to follow) whose popularity soared largely by word of mouth! Understandably so! The good news is that the author, Allen Levi, is already working on the sequel, Ellen of Golden, based on one of the townspeople who receives her portrait from Theo. Almost four decades earlier, Ellen had been deemed an unfit mother and her infant daughter, Francesca, was taken from her. Theo discovers that she is living a most unusual life and she has never recovered from the loss of her baby girl. She is a fascinating subject who forms a special bond with Theo and anyone who reads Theo of Golden will anxiously await the revelation of her backstory in the soon-to-come sequel.

Meanwhile, sign up [[www.allenlivi.com/connect](http://www.allenlivi.com/connect)] for the mailing list and get a free download of Theo's River Bench "to stay connected, to keep the story going," and to be among the first to know what's new and what's next.

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# Starlite Sapphire Dining Yacht



Disembarking

**By Marian Stockwell**

The Center4Life, located in the campus of the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, offers the Starlite luncheon and dinner cruises several times a year. My husband and I have been on both.

This trip was with my friend Renu Ames, her first trip with Center4Life. We went on the luncheon cruise around the Pinellas County Beach Islands. She is already looking forward to the next Starlite Sapphire Dining Yacht cruise. We both enjoyed our lunch. The Starlite offers quality meals, such as:

beef burgundy, shrimp creole, vegetarian harvest, salmon, chicken cordon bleu and more. You are able to purchase appetizers and alcoholic drinks for an additional cost, since lunch is included in the trip. Their dipping sauce for bread and the dressing for their salad is some of the best. We were all pleased with our food and drink choices.

When not eating or drinking, you may go out on the bow, or upper deck to enjoy the sunset or to watch for dolphins. There were many dolphins, who were not shy about coming close, keep your eye out. The



Looking out over Pinellas County Waterway



Renu Ames



Dolphins in the fog

view of the beautiful houses on the water, especially when all lit up on the sunset cruise is magnificent.

The staff are all great, assisting entry and exit of the yacht, when needed and managing salads, bread, trays all while out on the water. They were quick to refill coffee, water and drinks.

Check out Center4Life trips

and classes often, they do fill up, I have been lucky to get called from a waiting list several times. They have summer, fall and winter classes and day trips. I always appreciate traveling by comfortable buses, where I can actually look out the windows and enjoy the sites. Search their website at: [lovethelight.org/4lifelearning](http://lovethelight.org/4lifelearning).

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**Community Holocaust Memorial Service**  
**Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m.**

Community wide interfaith Yom Hashoah service to remember the victims of the Holocaust will take place at the United Methodist Church at 1971 Haverford Ave., Sun City Center. The service will include prayers, memorial candle lighting, and readings. Songs representing the faith at the time of the Holocaust will be sung by a community choir, led by Jeff Jordon, musical director at the Methodist Church. As a community we will come together to remember what happened to the victims of the Holocaust, and to remember the heroes who did not live to tell their stories. The community is encouraged to attend.

**A Fiddlin' Purim SpooF**

Beth Israel congregation presented a traditional Purim spiel (play) taken from the musical Fiddler on the Roof, which was itself based on Sholom Aleichem's Tevya stories. The original Tevya stories took place at a time of pogroms (persecution of the Jewish people), in Eastern Europe. Purim is a Jewish holiday celebrating the Book of Esther in the Hebrew Bible, where Queen Esther saved her fellow Jews from genocide.



**Pam Fisher as The Fiddler.**

The public was welcome, so my friend Linda Falkner and I attended. I knew we were in for some fun when, at the entrance, we were encouraged to choose from a box of noise makers. We barely found a seat towards the back. It was a full crowd of about 170.



**Ahasuerus is played by Barry Ross. Queen Esther is played by Cyd Charrow.**

Their version of Fiddler on the Roof, which mixed the story of Queen Esther and Mordecai, was hilarious, beginning with their first song, "Religion". The words were changed, as were those for all of the songs. The actors, as well as the songs, made it a very entertaining comedy/spooF. The involvement of the spectators wildly banging on tambourines and making use of their noisemakers, all while booing every time Haman, the bad guy, made his entrance, just added to the hilarity.

There were fourteen actors and a tech team, a few too many names to include here. After the presentation, refreshments hamantashen, which are pastries filled with apricot, raspberry, and cherry, as well as alcoholic beverages, were offered. It was a very enjoyable evening.

**Beth Israel Celebrates 50 Years**

Over 140 people attended Beth Israel's 50th anniversary gala on January 31 at The Veterans Theater in Kings Point. Guests enjoyed a sumptuous catered dinner, danced to music provided by The Riverside Jukebox Band, and bid on items at a silent auction.



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**HEY THERE! Do You Like to Tell Stories or Take Photos?**

A few brave folks have expressed interest in joining our volunteer crew of newshounds, photographers and feature writers. If you're interested in getting closer look at the community we all love and you enjoy writing or taking photos, I would love to hear from you. Drop me a line at "[editor@soco.news](mailto:editor@soco.news)" and let me know what you love to write about.



### Swing Into Spring With The South Shore Concert Band

Two shows available

**April 13, at 3 p.m.**

**St. Andrew Presbyterian, 1239 W. Del Webb**

**April 14, at 7 p.m.**

**Redeemer Lutheran Church, 701 Valley Forge Blvd.**

Come and listen as the South Shore Concert Band, a 50-piece ensemble presents an entertaining and impressive performance including "The Genius of Ray Charles", "Jazz it Up!" and several band pieces that are sure to lift your spirit and make you smile.

All the concerts are open to the public, and a free will offering will be taken to help cover the band's expenses. For more information, check out their website: "southshoreconcertband.org".

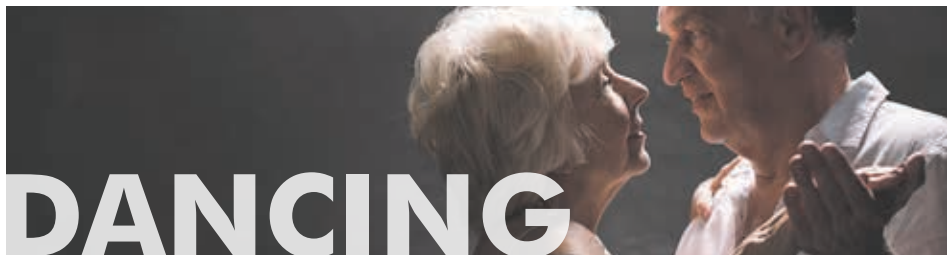
### Goldtones Benefit Concert

**Sunday, April 19, at 7 p.m.**

The Goldtones presented a Kiwanis International benefit concert at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1971 Haverford Avenue. The Goldtones are considered "Florida's Hottest Vocal Harmony Group" singing songs ranging from the traditional doo-wop tunes of the 50s and 60s to those melodies sung by later groups of the 70s and 80s.



Tickets are \$20 advance \$25 at the door and are available at the Pages of Life Book Store Sun 9:30-12:30 and M-Th-10:00-2:00, Church Office M-Th 8:30-4:00 and online at [www.sccumc.com/events](http://www.sccumc.com/events). For additional information about this and other concerts and recitals at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, please contact Larry Hirchak, Concert Series Coordinator, at 646-831-4008. To learn more about the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, please visit our website at [www.sccumc.com](http://www.sccumc.com).



### New York Club Dance Party

**Monday, April 6**

**Kings Point Veterans Theater**

The New York Club will be having a special dance party. The Southshore Cruisers will be getting the party started. Dinner by Banquet Masters which consists of Tuscan Chicken, Salmon with Lemon Butter Sauce, Stuffed Shells with Marinara Sauce, salad bar, dessert table, iced tea and coffee. BYOB. Paid up members for 2026 is \$5, guests \$30. Singles table and all are welcome. For further information, please call Joan at (516) 313-4158.

### Kings Point Dance Club Presents

**"Tropical Paradise" Dance**

**Wednesday April 8, from 7 to 9 p.m.**

**Kings Point Veteran's Theater**

**1900 Clubhouse Drive**

Doors open 6:30 p.m. Dancing to ballroom music by DJs Mike and Peg. All KP, SCC singles and guests are welcome. Dress code, dressy casual, no shorts. BYOB. Members free, guests \$5 per person. Info: Eileen 813-296-4038.

### Let's Dance Ballroom Dance Club of SCC

**Group Dance Lessons**

**Tuesdays: April 7, 14, 21, 28**

**• 4 p.m. • Beginning Tango**

This class is for beginners

**• 5 p.m. • Intermediate Tango**

Must have beginner level training

**• 6 p.m. • Advanced Tango**

For experienced dancers

**• 7 p.m. • Beginner – Intermediate West Coast Swing**

Different from East Coast Swing

It is recommended to have had a basic knowledge of the East Coast Swing but not required.

Location: Atrium Dance Studio, North Campus, 1009 North Pebble Beach Blvd. Sun City Center, FL 33573. Contact: Bernice DuBro-Clark ([dancewithbernice@gmail.com](mailto:dancewithbernice@gmail.com)) Cell: 813-482-6784. Cost: \$34 per person for a 4-week course. Or \$9 per class. Open to SCCCA. Members and Kings Point Residents with a \$30 Access Card. Bring cash or checks payable to: Let's Dance Ballroom Dance Club.

### Do You Wanna Dance Club

**Friday, April 10, from 7 to 10 p.m.**

**SCC Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach.**

**Open to Surrounding Communities.**

Returning to our stage, Florida Hit Machine, a club favorite! Tickets on sale at the Atrium Kiosk from 10 to 12, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, March 14th through April 10 & at the door April 10. Tables available for singles. Tickets \$10 members, \$20 non-members. Doors open at 6 p.m. Ticket sales will end promptly at 7 p.m. BYOB and Share the Wealth Raffle. Please bring non-perishable food items for Our Ladies Pantry. 2026 Memberships for \$35 are available to purchase. For ticket information, contact Barbara "bgocek1@gmail.com" or Kathy "jfkfunnsun@yahoo.com".

### Celebrate Spring with SCC Dance Club

**Goodbye Snowbirds Dance • Fundraiser: Open to the Public**

**April 11, from 7-9 p.m.**

**SCC Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd.**

**Win the door prize of a spring plant to jump start your garden!**

DJ couple Mike & Peg will be playing all kinds of great dance music, so you can do all your favorite dances including ballroom, country and swing, as well as a few fun line dances that everyone enjoys. And requests are taken.

Dance Club members attend free--all others pay only \$6 at the door. We always welcome singles, so come make new friends. BYOB to celebrate. Wear a colorful spring outfit--dressy or casual. Perhaps win the door prize of a Spring plant! For any questions or additional information, call Sue Hicks at 813-633-6682 or email at "suesgeorge2@gmail.com".

### Come Dance With Us

**April 12, doors open at 5:30 p.m. • Kings Point Veterans Theater**

Dance to the music of LB and Chloe from 6:30 to 9 p.m. All genres of music. All are welcome. Casual dress, no shorts. BYOB. Info: Ken 513-582-8449 at or Rosemary 513-258-8238.

### Kool Karaoke Party

Don't Be Fooled, it's Kool Karaoke! Join the Kings Point Music Makers for an evening of karaoke fun and dancing. April 17 in the KP North Clubhouse, Banquet Room from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. BYO Everything. Free for KPMM members, \$5 for non-members. All KP and CA residents are welcome, space is limited. All proceeds help support local school music programs. For more information check us out at "[www.kpmmusicmakers.org](http://www.kpmmusicmakers.org)".

### Do You Wanna Dance Club

**Saturday, April 25, from 7 to 10 p.m.**

**SCC Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach.**

**Open to Surrounding Communities.**

Recently back from a Nationwide tour, Nightbreakers. Tickets on sale at the Atrium Kiosk from 10 to 12, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, March 30 through April 24 & at the door April 25. Tables available for singles. Tickets \$10 members, \$20 non-members. Doors open at 6 p.m. Ticket sales will end promptly at 7 p.m. BYOB and Share the Wealth Raffle. Please bring non-perishable food items for Our Ladies Pantry. 2026 Memberships for \$35 are available to purchase. For ticket information, contact Barbara "bgocek1@gmail.com" or Kathy "jfkfunnsun@yahoo.com".



**By Judy Cesarski, SCCCA Activities Director**

Now that the 2025-2026 Season has come to a close, I would like to thank you for your support. We had a great season with a variety of performers. I hope that you will enjoy the upcoming season of 2026-2027 with an Encore Performance line up Presentation, which runs from November thru March.

Stay tuned for the announcement of the new schedule of shows that will be released soon.

Once again, this year the CA will host the Summer Bandstand Concerts at the Gazebo, 958 Cherry Hills Drive. Bandstand Concerts are FREE to SCCCA members, guest passes can be purchased at the SCCCA Office at 1009 N. Pebble Beach Blvd. from 8-3 pm, Monday thru Friday. The first concert will be held on April 8th with the Cahoots Band performing at 6 p.m.

Keep an eye out for upcoming show announcements as well as Music at the Pool Events. For any questions about our Entertainment please call or email Judy Cesarski, Activities Director at "[Activities@suncitycenter.org](mailto:Activities@suncitycenter.org)" or 813-642-2001.

# News of Freedom Plaza



**Freedom Plaza's Rocking Chair-ettes: (left-right) Brown, Turner, Moseley-Sapia, Stahl, Rodman, Tauber, Huntington, Heinen.**

**By Peggy Burgess**

If "March came in like a lion" at Freedom Plaza, it was the same lion that roared on the MGM movie icon heralding "Entertainment!" The auditorium walls are still "roaring" with echoes of entertaining events that started even before the month began when our Entertainers Club, on February 27, presented "A Motown Tribute". More than merely a Detroit recording company, Motown, from 1959-1979, epitomized catchy melodies; tunes that Freedom Plaza residents enjoyed recalling in this combined dance and sing-along event.

Circulating through the audience, encouraging participation, were The Rocking Chair-ettes (apologies to the N.Y.C. Rockettes), female members of the Entertainers Club, assuring that everyone had fun. Entrance donations benefitted the Freedom Plaza Scholarship Fund.

Then, just like that MGM lion introduces various kinds of movie entertainment, the "

inform & entertain" type took center stage with the History Club's two-fold offering of maritime adventures. The prestigious presenter was Robert Macomber, internationally acclaimed author and lecturer. On March 13, his topic was "Grog, the Most Famous Drink Afloat", a light-hearted look at sailors' drinking habits; on March 14 it was "A Matter of Honor", an arresting review of a decisive naval battle in Cuba.

March certainly did not "go out like a lamb" as the adage indicates (that lamb must have been off somewhere gathering wool). Instead, on the 27th, March departed on resounding waves of vocal harmony. These were created by "The Flashback Four", a quartet of former lead-singers who have captivated audiences around the world—and did the same here! Their live stage show, composed of familiar, popular songs with a liberal sprinkle of comedy, was a fitting Grand Finale to an entertaining month of March at Freedom Plaza.

# A Sure Way to Know It's Real

**By Andrea L. T. Peterson**

I wonder if I'm the only one who has no idea anymore if something I see or hear on TV or social media is real. I have to Google everything and try to verify it before sharing the info. Well, here's one way to GUARANTEE what you see is real: Take the picture yourself!

Below is a creature I photographed about 10 or 12 years ago farther down south near Nokomis, Florida. At the time I asked everyone I knew what it was. The consensus was it was some kind of sea slug. Never having seen anything like it before, I explored online, as well. That was before cool apps like Seek, Identify, or Insect Identify. Finally, these years later, I can confirm: It is, in fact, "some kind of sea slug." And I can assure you: It is real!

Thanks to several sources on the internet, I discovered that it is a Sooty (or Mottled) Sea Hare. A large (it can grow to be nearly 16 inches long) herbivore (feeding on algae and seaweed), the Sooty Sea Hare is found in the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean (from New Jersey to Brazil). It is an agile, graceful swimmer, using what is an "extension of the foot as an undulating fin" to accomplish the task.

They are hermaphroditic, which means they have within the male and female apparatus necessary to reproduce. It has a pair of tentacles and a pair



of nose-like sensors on its head. These sensors detect chemicals in the water which enable them to find/smell food, find mates, and avoid predators. They secrete a purple ink (that is harmless to humans but does stain) when threatened.

The Sooty Sea Hare does not bite or sting and, if you dare, it seems you can gently hold one. Be advised, they are soft and slimy and their mucus remaining on your skin can cause irritation or stains.

To see this creature is a thrill. As it undulates with grace and determination, it can cover distances quickly. You can Google Sooty Sea Hare and see images identical to mine, as well as others, information not included here, and videos if you'd like to see them "in action."

# Fraud Prevention Workshop

**By Bob Sanchez**

Residents packed Community Hall on March 5 to hear a panel of experts explain how seniors can protect themselves from fraud. Topics included the rapid growth of artificial intelligence, identity theft, elder abuse, crypto investment scams, and ways to avoid becoming victimized. Speaking about

Artificial Intelligence, tech expert Drew Vaughn stressed that AI is not truly intelligence, and that fraudsters are using it to trick us. "The power to prevent abuse is in your hands," according to Florida's Department of Elder Affairs. The Elder Abuse Hotline is 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873). Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Merry organized the annual event.



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Answers to Puzzles on Pages 22 and 23

**CryptoQuote**  
answer

Love grows more tremendously full, swift, poignant, as the years multiply. — Zane Grey

**CryptoQuip**  
answer

When I stretched my arms toward the church singers, you might say I was reaching to the choir.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

7	5	4	9	3	2	6	1	8
1	9	6	5	7	8	2	4	3
2	3	8	6	1	4	9	7	5
8	4	3	2	6	7	5	9	1
9	1	5	4	8	3	7	6	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	8	4
4	6	9	3	5	1	8	2	7
5	8	1	7	2	6	4	3	9
3	2	7	8	4	9	1	5	6

**SCRAMBLERS**

solution

- 1. Worsen; 2. Tier
- 3. Erase; 4. Exile

Today's Word

**SIXES**

Catch The NEWS on the web at [www.soco.news](http://www.soco.news)

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Super Crossword

Answers

A	L	E	C	S	F	I	R	S	A	P	P	O	F	L	A	T	E	
M	U	C	H	O	A	N	E	W	S	H	O	W	P	I	E	C	E	S
A	B	O	I	L	D	O	N	E	H	Y	P	H	E	N	A	T	E	S
P	E	N	C	A	P	N	E	A	P	S	T	A	R	S	H	I	N	E
O	K	R	A	E	R	R	O	L	A	T	A	I	A	N				
M	A	M	A	T	O	F	U	L	I	P	B	I	T	E	R			
A	M	I	D	R	Y	E	S	A	S	S	F	I	R	E	H	A	T	
R	I	C	E	M	I	L	L	S	R	A	H	S	O	R	I	E	L	S
D	E	A	L	L	O	E	B	A	T	T	N	N	A	P	E			
C	H	E	T	I	N	S	R	E	D	W	O	O	D	E	D	I	T	
C	O	C	A	N	O	W	M	A	O	C	R	U	D	I	N	S		
L	O	L	S	E	D	O	U	A	R	D	K	E	M	P	N	E	E	
A	V	I	S	A	E	O	N	P	O	E	M	B	A	N	G			
M	E	N	I	A	L	P	I	L	L	C	A	L	O	R	I	F	I	C
P	R	E	S	I	D	E	T	A	U	O	R	A	D	C	O	R	D	
T	R	E	E	F	E	R	N	S	K	O	R	E	R	A	S			
Y	A	M	S	L	O	A	G	A	P	E	O	O	N	A				
E	X	O	T	I	C	I	S	M	E	C	H	T	P	R	E	F	A	B
R	E	G	I	M	E	N	T	E	D	M	E	D	S	B	L	A	S	E
B	L	U	E	A	N	G	E	L	S	E	R	I	E	E	L	L	I	E
A	S	L	A	N	T	R	O	T	S	E	P	T	D	Y	L	A	N	



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This emergency department is part of HCA Florida South Shore Hospital. This is not an urgent care center. Services and care are billed at hospital emergency rates.



## You Can Order Only Thighs Fridays Have a Rhythm

I'm usually in Publix on a Friday for hot dog buns. At my house, grilled hot dog night is nonnegotiable. I buy Snake River Farms hot dogs from Mazza's because they keep their snap. I crosshatch them so the grill catches the edges. More char. More snap. I buy twenty at a time so hot dog night lasts us a few weeks. I head for the brioche or potato buns, weaving past the deals table, through the cheese section, and toward the bread endcap. To get there, you have to pass the deli. And the hot food counter.

### The Witching Hour

One Friday around six o'clock the place was packed. I'd been there the week before around five and it was busy, sure. Deli counters are always busy. But six o'clock felt different. This was the witching hour. The place had that end-of-week energy. People weren't browsing. They were on a mission. There was a line at the

hot foods counter that didn't make sense. Not the usual grab-and-go crowd pulling boxes off the heat table. People were waiting.

### If You Know, You Know

So I asked someone waiting in the line. The woman I spoke to was wearing an "I Love America" T-shirt and sunglasses, even though we were indoors. She had two deli containers in her cart — macaroni salad and New York-style potato salad — and a small bottle of honey. She told me she orders ahead every Friday. Three boxes. Only drums and thighs, plus two breasts. "The two breasts are for me and my husband," she said proudly. The rest was for her daughter and grandkids. Then she leaned in a little, like she was letting me in on a secret. "You don't grab the box off the heat table," she said. "You order it fresh."

Her tone said everything. If you know, you know.

### The Order With My Name On It

Turns out you can order exactly what you want. Only thighs. Only breasts. Drums and thighs with no wings. People know their pieces. They order them like regulars. There's a warmer behind the counter where they hold the pre-orders. You give your name. You wait. That's the part I didn't expect. Not the ordering. The name. In a place where everyone is rushing, being called out like you belong there is its own little comfort. And when I finally tried it myself, I ordered two drums, two breasts, and two thighs. No wings. When they called out, "Pickup for Alexis," the woman behind the counter smiled and said, "We just made it." She reached into the tall warmer, pulled out the box, and handed it to me because it was mine. For a moment, it did. Not because it's fancy. Because it's specific. Because someone made it with your order in mind, not the generic box that's been sitting under the heat lamps, waiting for whoever gets there next. It felt like my own box of fried chicken.

### The Ride Home

When I got into the car,

the whole thing smelled like fried chicken — that deep, unmistakable scent of hot oil and spice. I had the windows open. The sun was showing off one last time, turning everything gold. George Michael was playing on my 80's playlist — Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me — as I drove down El Rancho Drive. For a few minutes, everything felt simple. A warm box of fried chicken on the passenger seat. My dog Misa was in the back seat, nose working overtime. I turned onto my street and realized something. Dinner was already ready.

### A Small Ritual

I lived in Atlanta for more than ten years. Publix was practically in my neighborhood. And somehow, I never knew this little Friday system. People ordering their pieces. Waiting their turn. Walking out with a warm box that has their name attached to it. I still go in for hot dog buns. But now when I see that line at the deli around six o'clock, I understand what's happening. It's not just dinner. It's Friday. Sometimes Friday comes in a cardboard box with your name on it.

## The Men's Club of SCC Offers Peace of Mind!



## Lifeline At Affordable Prices!

A ConnectAmerica Company

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you lived alone and there was an emergency? Or do you like to take your dog for a walk but are concerned about falling and no one being there to assist you? For Greater SCC residents who think they need a medical alert button and don't believe they can afford it, the Men's Club of Sun City Center would like for you to contact our office.

Because the Men's Club is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit club, we offer the Lifeline Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) at a more competitive rate than what Lifeline charges at the national level. Our pricing is comparable to other systems in the market as well — just compare systems with similar capabilities. Installation and all service calls are completed by Men's Club volunteers at no charge to the Subscriber.

The Men's Club was formed in the early 1960's. In 1991, the Men's Club decided to offer the Lifeline Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) to residents of Sun City Center and Kings Point with no annual contract.

The PERS offering began with the purchase of four units with installation provided by Men's Club volunteers. This offering continues today with multiple systems from which to choose — including one that will work anywhere in the U.S., a dedicated office staff, and over 25 trained Men's Club volunteers who provide personable and knowledgeable service for our Subscribers.

Get prompt caring assistance at the push of a button, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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## Pelican Players Community Theater Presents "Farce of Nature" May 14 – 16

The non-stop hilarity of "Farce of Nature," penned by the noted playwriting team of Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten, focuses on one chaotic day in the life of the Wilburns, owners of a struggling fishing lodge in the Ozarks.

As in every farce, there are wild and unusual happenings, mistaken identity, frenzied confrontations, ridiculous disguises, and secrets exposed as the family deals with a Witness Protection snitch, a cop dressed as a maid, a discontented wife and outrageous unexpected guests.

"This play is a laugh riot, and we can't wait to bring it to you," says Director Paul Ansell. "We have a terrific cast that will keep you laughing from beginning to end as they introduce you to a long-suffering wife, a scatterbrained policewoman, mobsters, a struggling actor, a ruthless businessperson ... and even a visit from some unwelcome wildlife." The assistant director is Michele Whelan, and Laurie Failing is the stage manager.

The part of Wannelle is

played by Carol MacAlister; D. Gene Wilburn by Wayne Keyes; Jenna by Diane Keyes; Maxie by Nina Rago; Carmine by Guy Bailey; Ty by Bob Horvath; Lola by Alesia Bischoff; Sonny by Ron Banaszak; and Roxanne by Michelle Horvath.

Audiences from Sun City Center and all surrounding communities will have four opportunities to see the play, starting Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m.; Friday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, May 16, at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes before curtain. Tickets are on sale March 16 at the Kings Point Box Office from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Evening performances are \$18; \$15 for the matinee. Tickets will also be sold at the door for each show; no credit cards accepted at the door and correct change is appreciated. Reserved, cabaret-style seating plus open bleacher seating is available. BYO drinks and snacks!

All performances are at the Kings Point Veterans Theater in the North Clubhouse, 1900 Clubhouse Drive, in Sun City Center.

# MILITARY NEWS

## Attention all Military Veterans and Spouses

The next meeting of the Sun City Center American Legion Post 246 will be held on Friday, April 17th, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 3, CA Community Hall, 1910 South Pebble Beach Blvd., SCC.

Interviewers representing the Veterans History Project will be available for personal interviews. This is a great opportunity for any veteran to have his/her story recorded for review by future generations.

Coffee and donuts will be available at 9:00 a.m. All veterans, spouses and veteran caregivers are welcome. For more information call Paul Wheat at 813-391-7309 or email at pawheatjr@aol.com.

## Military Order of the World Wars News

*Serving Youth, Community, and Nation!*

On February 21, 2026, Sun City Center Chapter 226 successfully conducted its 2026 Youth Leadership Seminar (YLS) in Sun City. It has scheduled its Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) for September 2026. Our point of contact for these major youth development events is Companion Tom Hart. You might ask, what is an MOWW Youth Leadership event?

Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) is (Veterans led, multi-day conference designed to equip high school students with leadership skills, responsible citizenship, ethics, an understanding of the free enterprise system, patriotic education, effective communication, skills, and more.

Youth Leadership Seminar (YLS) is Veterans led, one-day educational seminar; however, it is like the YLC. The major difference is its shorter duration. YLSs are focused on specialized topics such as leadership, civics, the free enterprise system and law & order. The top students can attend MOWW's annual National Youth Civics Summit (NYCS) in Washington, D.C. for firsthand experiences in and around D.C. with a focus on government, history, and the responsibilities of citizenship. The attached YLS photo presents a graphical representation of this year's students and facilitators. It was an awesome representation of our community youths making a difference.

In celebration of MOWW Chapter 226 (thirty-third), 33rd year since its founding, Chapter 226 hosted an anniversary at the Club Renaissance, 2121 S Pebble Beach Blvd, Sun City Center, FL 33573 on February 19th, 2026. Its Guest Speaker was Col Adolfo Menéndez, USAF, (Retired). Col Adolfo Menéndez is a native of Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Since 2019, Col Menéndez has provided support and

**Military Order** continued on page 18.



**Guest Speaker Receiving An Award From Chapter 226 Commander**

# Thrilling Rescue at Sea Recounted by US Coast Guard Commander

## Story and photo provided by The Silver Osprey Squadron

The Silver Ospreys Squadron #64 of the Association of Naval Aviation had CAPT Dave McCown, Commanding Officer of the US Coast Guard Air Station, Clearwater, Florida as our speaker in February.

Captain McCown is originally from Estes Park, CO and graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2002, earning a Bachelor of Science in Management. He earned designation as a Flight Examiner in both the MH-60J and MH-60T helicopters and has logged over 3000 flight hours. His previous aviation assignments include Aviation Training Center Mobile, AL, Sector Columbia River, OR Air Station Kodiak, AK and Air Station Cape Cod, MA. He is a two-time recipient of the Vertical Flight Society CAPT William J. Kossler Award for achievement in operation of vertical lift aircraft. Additionally, he received both the 2022 Naval Helicopter Association Aircrew of the Year Award and the 2022 Leonardo Cormorant Trophy. He earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Nebraska and a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

CAPT McCown spoke on the Rescue of the Atlantic Destiny, a ship out of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The incident took place in the Georges Bank area of the North Atlantic Ocean off Halifax, Nova Scotia. CAPT McCown was one of four US Coast Guard pilots on board MH-60T helicopters who responded to a May-Day call at the request of the Canadian Coast Guard, so was able to provide a "first-person" account of the incident. The narrative below describes the unfolding of the event.

On 02 March 2021 a mayday Call was received by the Canadian Coast Guard Station at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Fishing vessels in the area of the Georges Bank noticed



**A view from the Canadian Coast Guard patrol vessel Cape Roger as the Atlantic Destiny sunk at Georges Bank in the North Atlantic Ocean. CAPT Dave McCown presented this picture.**

a ship adrift and in obvious distress. While pulling near, but not alongside because of hazardous conditions, the crew of the Canadian fishing vessel La Have noticed that the ship in distress was experiencing a fire and was taking on water. Continuous contact by the LaHave with the Canadian Coast Guard revealed there were reports of fire extinguished, power restored, then lost, then fire restarted, and the ship taking on water. The distressed ship had lost all power and could not communicate, so the LaHave gave almost continuous updates to the Canadian Coast Guard.

The Canadian Coast Guard immediately sent a CH-149 Cormorant helicopter followed by a Canadian Coast Guard C-130 Hercules. Also dispatched was the Canadian Coast Guard vessel Cape Roger. Upon arriving in proximity to the distressed ship it was determined by the crew of the CH-149 that support from the US Coast Guard would be necessary. At approximately 0016Z on 03 March 2021 the US Coast Guard received a call from their Canadian counterparts indicating that the distressed vessel was on fire with 31 people on board. This vessel was the Atlantic Destiny, a "scallop-dragger" with a length of 39 meters. At 0122Z the USCG received notification that the fire on board Atlantic Destiny was extinguished but the fishing vessel was taking on water. With this update both the USCG MH-64T Jayhawk "ready" helicopter (CG6032) and backup MH-64T

(CG6039) would be launched, along with the "ready" HC-144 Ocean Sentry aircraft. Freezing temperatures and moderate icing were forecasted enroute for the planned altitude with icing threat in the vicinity of the stricken vessel.

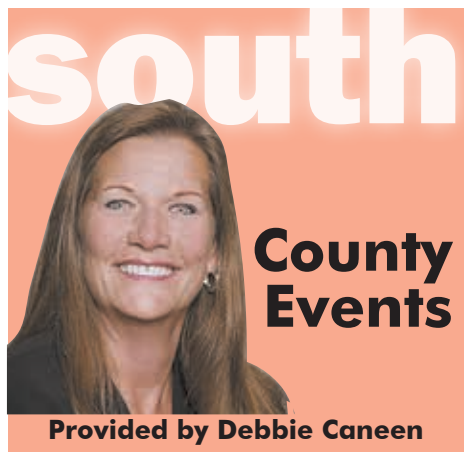
At 0310Z (1 hour after CG6032 was launched ) the backup CG6039 crew launched with the information that a Canadian C-130 and Canadian CH-149 helicopter were on scene near the fishing vessel. About 100 NM from the fishing vessel the CG6032 crew picked up radio chatter from the US Coast Guard HC-144 that the Canadian helicopter was preparing to deploy a pump and begin hoisting 16 crewmembers. The CANFOR C-130 crew was also on scene preparing to drop parachute flares for the CANFOR CH-149. Originally the plan was for the CANFOR CH-149 to hoist 16 people and the CG6032 another 10 people, leaving 5 crewmembers on board to fight the flooding.

Plans have a way of being changed, and this became a necessity. At approximately 50 NM from the scene (approximately 0400Z) a distress radio transmission was heard from the CANFOR CH-149 indicating they needed to depart "immediately" due to a hydraulic malfunction and that they would be leaving two search and rescue techs (SAR TECH) on board Atlantic Destiny. They requested that their SAR Techs be recovered by one of the USCG helicopters. They also reported that they had hoisted 6

persons from Atlantic Destiny. The CANFOR C-130 also departed the scene to escort the CANFOR CH-149 to Yarmouth. At 0430Z CG6039 arrived on scene but then diverted to follow the CH-149 to the shoreline in order to have a hoist capable asset on scene in the event the CH-149 needed to ditch the aircraft. After 23 minutes CG6039 then diverted back to the scene of the sinking fishing vessel. At 0550Z CG6032 arrived on scene and readied the helicopter for hoisting operations while waiting for CG6032 to finish up hoisting. After hoisting up 8 survivors, CG6032 departed for the nearest airport, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. The crew of CG6039 decided not to deploy their Rescue Swimmer (RS) because the two SAR Techs on deck were facilitating the hoists of the crewmembers, no injuries were reported, and once the skipper of the fishing vessel decided to evacuate his crew the priority was to get the crew off the vessel - not to dewater the vessel and/or ensure the dewatering pumps were operating properly.

At 0600Z the backup CG6039 jettisoned the mass rescue operations raft to make room in the cabin for survivors and conducted a very short "vessel brief" with the SAR Techs communicating the desire to deliver the pump and then begin hoisting crewmembers. At 0606Z the dewatering pump was delivered using a single trail line from approximately 70 feet to the Atlantic Destiny. The spot selected for the pump/basket delivery was a 4'x8' section of the starboard stern. Some of the most challenging evolutions of the sortie were delivering trail lines due to the positioning of the vessel relative to the 30-foot seas in combination with the extremely strong winds sustained at 40 knots with gusts up to 60 knots, which caused the trail line to sail aft. To get the trail lines on deck the helicopter needed to be positioned so far

**Rescue** continued on page 17.



Provided by Debbie Caneen

**SAT. APR 4 - LEFT CENTER RIGHT CLUB** 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., East Social Room, Kings Point. Join this lively dice game on the first and third Saturday of each month. Play the traditional version or try "LCR Extreme!"—a twist created by Rick Miles. Guests from outside Kings Point should let the gate know they are here for LCR. Snacks are always welcome. Questions; Contact: Michelle Mason— 813-492-8920 or "mmason@seniorsinservice.org".

**THU. APR 9 - CRAFT BEER & WINE CLUB OF SUN CITY CENTER - "FERMENTING FANATICS"** 1:30 p.m., Waterside Room, Kings Point North Clubhouse. This month in honor of April Fools Day we are celebrating all the crazy names, can or bottle designs. For more details, visit facebook.com/groups/craftbeerandwineclub. Questions; Contact: Michelle Mason— 813-492-8920 or mmason@seniorsinservice.org.

**FRI. APR 10 - LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP** 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., Waterside Room, Kings Point. Jill Mask will be presenting important safety information around falling, getting up, and what to do. Jill is a fitness professional with over 10 years of experience in contributing to Support groups and will have helpful hints for the topics discussed at each meeting. Questions; Contact: Michelle Mason - 813-492-8920 or "mmason@seniorsinservice.org".

**THU. APR 16 - 19 - SUN CITY CENTER CAMPERS RALLY - Terra Ceia Village** 9370 Carnation Circle, Palmetto, FL 23 miles. 877-392-7608 Reservations 941-729-4422 office. \$45 per night,

book by May 15th Club House is available for us. Wagon Masters: TBD

Looking for new members for our Sun City Center Campers. Upcoming rally sites include Terra Ceia RV Resort, Winter Quarters in Bradenton, and River Vista in Ruskin. Interested, contact: Greg Carmean at 813-294-4517, "gcarmean7@gmail.com". Visit us on our Facebook Group Site Sun City Center Campers.

**SAT. APR 18 - LEFT CENTER RIGHT CLUB** 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., East Social Room, Kings Point. Join this lively dice game on the first and third Saturday of each month. Play the traditional version or try "LCR Extreme!"—a twist created by Rick Miles. Guests from outside Kings Point should let the gate know they are here for LCR. Snacks are always welcome. Questions; Contact: Michelle Mason— 813-492-8920 or "mmason@seniorsinservice.org".

**MON. APR 20 - PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP - "Traveling Tips for Parkinson's individuals"** 1:30 p.m. at Sun Towers in the chapel, 101 Trinity Lakes Dr. SCC. Trip preparation and strategies will be discussed. Bring stories of your travels to share with others. "It is entirely possible to enjoy a safe & rewarding vacation!" Facilitator: Jill Mask is a fitness professional with over 10 years of experience in contributing to Parkinson's Support groups and will have helpful hints for the topics discussed at each meeting. Meetings start with light exercises followed by group discussion. Questions; Contact: Michelle Mason - 813-492-8920 or mmason@seniorsinservice.org OR Jill Mask - 612-554-2559 and "jmmask59@gmail.com".

**TUE. APR 21 - ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL CARE COORDINATION TEAM PRESENTATION** 11:30 a.m. In the Great Hall at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 701 Valley Forge Blvd. Sun City Center. Presentation by Sarah Ryan, MSW, St. Joseph's Hospital South, Supervisor, Care Coordination. Sarah Ryan is the Supervisor of the St. Joseph's Hospital South Care Coordination

team. Also Presenting: Samia Medina-Rogers, MSN, RN, ACM, St. Joseph's Hospital South, Manager of Hospital Care Coordination. For more info about the Coalition, call us at 813-419-4902.

**TUE. APR 28 - NEW CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT!!! STROKE SUPPORT GROUP** 3:00 - 4:00 pm., Ripple Room, Kings Point. We are excited to bring this support group to our local residents. There was one at Kings Point that is no longer in

existence, but we are here to fix that! Debra Battistella, Kings Point resident and Occupational therapist will be our facilitator. This group is for stroke survivors and their care partners to share experiences, learn from each other, and receive emotional support while adjusting to life after a stroke. Contact: Michelle Mason— 813-492-8920 or mmason@seniorsinservice.org or Debra Battistella 813-308-9511 or "debrabattistella@creativeconceptsot.com".

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**Rescue** continued from page 16.

forward of the port side of the vessel (perpendicular to the vessel to keep the nose into the wind line) that the right seat pilot was on the verge of going "lost target."

After the pump was deployed the heavy weather trail line was used to deliver the basket to the starboard quarter of the Atlantic Destiny. The plan was to do all basket hoists in one evolution. During the second basket hoist one of the SAR Techs lost control of the hoist hook and it became apparent that the SAR Techs were disconnecting the hook from the basket. For some reason the trail line also became detached from the hook. It was unclear as to whether one of the SAR Techs disconnected the trail line (unlikely) or if the weak link on the trail line parted (more likely). The SAR Techs were briefed by CG6039 on their desire to keep the hook connected to the basket for all future hoists. In any

event, a trail line delivery of the bare hook was conducted to recover the basket and survivor. After the second time of losing the trail line the helicopter was kept closer to the vessel during the basket recoveries.

During the last two hoists the basket was sent down and remained on deck for quite some time with no survivor in sight. Both times the Flight Mechanic and the pilot hoisting voiced their concern about leaving the basket on deck for a prolonged period of time with the unpredictable seas and erratic vessel movements. Both times the basket was recovered with no survivor and sent back down after acquiring the next survivor visually. After recovering 13 survivors the CG6039 was approaching BINGO but had room for probably 2 more people. The SAR Techs were asked if they wanted to go to the MH-60T and leave the scene. The SAR Techs

then declined to leave with the helicopter, stating their desire to stay with the remaining crew to ensure they got into a raft in the event the vessel sank. At 0657Z CG6039 departed the scene having conducted 17 hoists, rescued 13 people and reached BINGO. It headed for the airport in Yarmouth Nova Scotia, a 135 NM transit. At 08925Z the MH-60T CG6039 arrived at Yarmouth.

The four people remaining on the Atlantic Destiny were the Ship's Master and his second in command, both insisting that they would stay on board until losing all hope of survival of the ship would force them to leave, plus the two Canadian Coast Guard SAR Techs who dutifully would not leave without insuring that safe transfer to the CANFOR Cape Roger for all would take place. As the conditions on board Atlantic Destiny rapidly deteriorated, this transfer of the last four people on board to

Cape George was completed. Shortly thereafter, the Atlantic Destiny sank to the bottom of the sea.

As a short footnote: all survivors who reached Yarmouth that morning were met, as is the custom in Canada, by the Canadian Red Cross. They were taken to a hotel near the airport, which promptly refused to accept any of them. The reason for this was enforcement of the COVID restrictions that were in place at that time. With some diplomacy involved this little situation was resolved satisfactorily.

Through cooperation between the Canadian Coast Guard and US Coast Guard, and much bravery and commitment to the rescue, all 31 people on board the Atlantic Destiny were saved. While the loss of the ship was tragic, the rescue of lives was the important end to this disaster at sea.

# Generations Partnering in Sun City Center

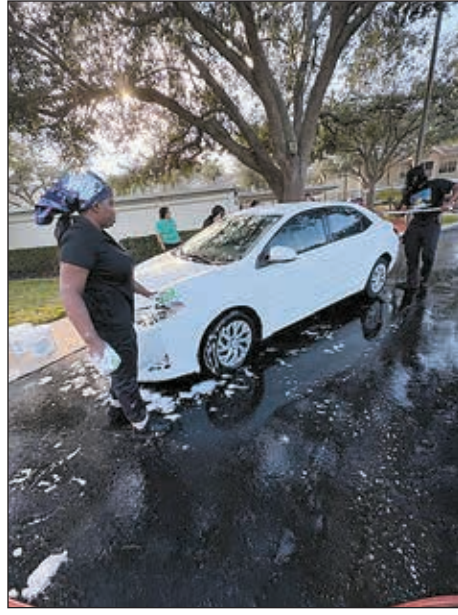


## By Gezil Andrews

I often ride my bicycle about 10 miles a day, 3 to 4 times a week. I blend this in with my water aerobics and fit class. One of the best parts of this commitment to fitness is my tremendous joy in meeting and chatting with people in our community. The exercise of my body is second to expanding my thinking!

I recently made my regular turn into the Aston Gardens complex, 1311 Aston Gardens Ct, Sun City Center, FL – this is part of my regular bike rides.

I came across 2 recent developments in Aston Gardens: I was stopped by a maintenance worker and told “non-residents,



do not ride through the complex anymore!”

When I asked why, it was explained to me “because if someone falls and gets hurt, we open ourselves up to possible litigation.”

I then spoke to a resident who told me that bikes had “cut off cars when turning.” They had bumped and knocked over a resident, a resident may be crossing to another part of the complex, and a bicycle cut them short. I shared with the resident that I had been cruising through the complex for quite some time, without a single incident, but I will honor the rules. We all should!



While I was “trespassing,” I came across a busy hub of folks washing and drying residents’ cars! The group was made up of senior residents, some in costume, and employees from the facility.

The wind was light and the sun bright! Water hoses were on, getting a drip or two on the residents and workers as well as the cars! Memories ran through my mind of many car washes, to raise money in my school years. I recall friends, both boys and girls, who soaked me with water and “back at them from me.”

Another plus from the school car wash activity was a great summer tan, but we get plenty



of sun all year long in Sun City Center, so I give it a 5 rating for sun rays! For older citizens, excessive sun can create more than a tan – age spots etc., - a little extra suntan lotion is called for.

I heard many squeals and call outs of “Hey, you missed a spot -hit it again!” bringing a lot of laughter from the group. It was contagious!

When I got home to my writing table, I reminded myself of all the generations we meet every Sun City Center day, recognizing there were at least three generations involved in the car wash – all showing awareness and respect!

# Competitive Tennis Grows in Sun City Center

Tennis is a sport that can be enjoyed by all ages. Providing exercise and social engagement, tennis is shown to increase the life span of those who play. It can be played recreationally or in a more competitive manner. In 1976, a Sun City Center Tennis Association was established for recreational play. The club currently has over 135 participating members.

Competitive play was initiated in 2001 by a group of persistent

ladies who wanted a more organized, competitive game. This change from recreational to competitive play did not come without some challenges. Initially, those who wanted to play a more competitive game had to travel for all matches, as hosting outside teams was not allowed on Sun City Center courts.

With Community Association (CA) guidance, these women athletes formed a separate club, and the Competitive

Tennis Club (CTC) was approved by the CA in 2007. Over the next few years, the CTC continued to evolve. A CA ratified Tennis Association/CTC court usage agreement in 2009 not only allowed outside teams to play on the Sun City Center tennis courts, but ensured that the CTC was fully compliant with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and A League of our Own Tennis (ALOT) requirements. Today, the Tennis Association and CTC boards work together to offer great competitive and recreational tennis opportunities in Sun City Center for both residents, as well as teams from surrounding communities. CTC membership has grown to now over 50 members, consisting of both women and men. The women currently participate in two ALOT team divisions, A and B. The A team took 1st place in the 2022 Fall and 2024 Spring seasons. One of its members, Nancy Williams, made it to the National Senior Games ten times as a singles player, including her last in the 80-84 age category, an amazing feat! The B team started as an ALOT C team that won their division in 2023, thus elevating them to the higher B division. In addition, many of the ALOT members, who participate in 55+ and 65+ age teams with advanced skill levels, have made it to the Sectional (regional) round, and at least once to the National competition. The men’s competitive spirit was awakened by our former tennis pro, Michael Irving, in 2022. Although Michael left the

community in 2024, the seeds he planted have blossomed into a thriving USTA presence. The men just concluded the 2025 season, and it is the first time Sun City Center has had a competitive men’s team all year-round. While yet to replicate the success of the women’s ALOT teams, this group’s efforts increased the interest level throughout the local tennis community. The 2026 Winter season not only has the core 55+ men’s team, but also teams in the men’s age 65+ and Mixed (men and women) age 40+ divisions competing for the first time! Competitive tennis in Sun City Center would not be where it is today without the pioneers and their supporters who persisted in the pursuit of competitive play. With world-class facilities and an established ALOT and USTA presence, competitive tennis is thriving in Sun City Center. The CTC is committed to not only providing opportunities for local players to compete and connect with others, but also to raising the profile of Sun City Center within the greater Tampa Bay tennis community. All USTA and ALOT teams host home matches at the courts behind Community Hall, while traveling to regional opponents’ locations throughout Hillsborough County. Enthusiasm is high, and the upcoming matches promise spirited competition, teamwork, and a continued celebration of tennis by our local players. All are welcome to attend and cheer on your friends and neighbors as they represent Sun City Center.

## Military Order continued from page 16.

guidance to the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW), Puerto Rico Chapter as its Veterans Affairs Coordinator, and Chapter Commander. He is currently the MOWW Region VI Commander and Chair, Council of Area Commanders. He served in the Federal Government Service with the Puerto Rico National Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the US Forest Service. He served as a Navigator, Air Weapons Controller and Maintenance Officer in the United States Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserves, from where he retired with 30 years of service. He is a graduate of the US Air Force Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College. He has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal among others. In MOWW, his awards include the Gold Patrick Henry Medal, the Silver Patrick Henry Medal, the Outstanding Service Medal and the Outreach Service Medal.

We were honored to have a distinguished retiree of World War II to cut the chapter’s 33rd birthday cake at the dinner. This veteran was CPT, USA Lloyd Grable and our youngest ROTC cadet in attendance.



Chapter 226 Celebration



Vet & ROTC Cadet Cutting Cake



## Meet Janet Singer

By Paula Lickfeldt

Janet Singer came to Sun City Center from New Jersey in 2017. She was a Learning Disabilities/Teacher Consultant for 35 years. When she retired, she could have stayed in New Jersey to be near her daughter or she could have moved to SCC to be near her son who lives in Riverview. She said that when she thought about the weather and the varied activities offered in SCC, it was a “no brainer.” She moved to Florida.

Janet is in the Lapidary and the China Painting Clubs. She plays bridge and Mah Jongg and is on the Emergency Squad. In her spare time she reads and cooks for her family most Sunday nights.

Janet has entered many of her Lapidary and China Painting projects in the Florida State Fair and, over the years, has won many ribbons. Entering something in the fair, she says, is quite easy. The cost is \$5 for each entry and the entry forms are on-line by the beginning of December. This year, she won four ribbons, one being first place in the jewelry category, fine arts division. Janet took a Peruvian Pink Opal, shaped it, and then wire wrapped it and added beads. The finished piece is a pendant. Janet finds shaping stones to be relaxing. She encourages people to try new things: it's just plain fun.



## Security Patrol Fundraising Concert

By Mike Lee

“Flower children” were treated to a trip down memory lane at Community Hall with a concert by “Peace of Woodstock.”

The band performed hits that were originally done by artists such as Jefferson Airplane, The Who, The Beatles, Janis Joplin and many more. Many of the concert goers dressed the part, in clothes reminiscent of the sixties.

The show was presented by the Sun City Center Security Patrol, in a fundraising event. The Patrol holds events such as this one, to help entertain

local residents, while raising funds to continue their primary mission, which is to help the Sun City Center area remain one of the safest areas in Hillsborough County.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Security Patrol, please come by their office at 1225 N. Pebble Beach Boulevard between the hours of 9:00 and 3:00, Monday through Friday, or by calling them at (813) 642-2020. A variety of positions are available, and volunteers are only asked to work a minimum of three hours per month.



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**SCCLBC Leads Only Tournament Winner**

By Pete Kindzierski

The 2026 Leads Only tournament goes to the winner, Andy Jardine defeating runner up Lee Marion in the championship game. This year's Leads Only Tournament brought out a good number of new bowlers bringing their competitive skills to the greens as they competed for this annual tournament.



Lawn bowling is a sport that men and women of all ages can play together on an equal basis. Physical strength plays a small part in this game; skill and strategy and having fun are the real factors. For more information visit [www.suncitycenterlbc.com](http://www.suncitycenterlbc.com).

**Free Tennis Lessons**

Free tennis lessons are available to beginners and returning players. The Sun City Center Tennis Association is holding three complimentary skill-based classes and time on the court to help individuals learn basic tennis skills or get back into the game and onto the courts. The sessions are on Fridays, April 3, 10, and 17, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Feel free to attend one, two, or all three sessions. The classes will be held at the SCC tennis court facilities. Tennis is a social sport that promotes movement, flexibility, and balance. We encourage you to put on some court shoes and come on out. Equipment will be provided if needed. You must have a CA number to attend. For additional information and to RSVP, please contact Diane Keyes, 407-366-7799, "dkeyes60@gmail.com".

**2026 Pebble Beach Pairs Championship**

By Peter Kindzierski

The 2026 Pebble Beach Pairs Championship round. Both teams were tied after 16-ends, forcing a 17th extra end to determine the winners. Paddy Lennon & Rich Cleary, are 2026 Pebble Beach Pairs Champions, defeating Russ Clewley & Larry Johnson 10 teams started this single-knock-out event.



Besides various championship title games, Sun City Center Lawn Bowling Club members enjoy out-of-club tournaments, league play, less competitive "Morning Bowls" and the very popular and the very social, "Night Bowls". For more information or to sign up for free lessons, visit [www.suncitycenterlbc.com](http://www.suncitycenterlbc.com).



**Tennis for Fun**

The Sun City Center Tennis Association has joined with Tennis For Fun to provide free tennis clinics for athletes of all ages who are intellectually handicapped, especially those with Down Syndrome. But other special needs athletes who qualify for Special Olympics are also welcome to join the program. Tennis for Fun is a volunteer organization that provides athletes with an opportunity to have fun playing tennis, to learn basic skills, and to socialize.

The Tennis for Fun instructors are certified by the Special Olympics, and the athletes follow the Special Olympics Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct holds all Special Olympic athletes to the highest standards of competition. As part of the Code of Conduct, our athletes have taken the following oath: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

The Tennis for Fun clinics at Sun City Center are every Thursday from 1pm-2pm and will run through mid-April. There are plans for the program to continue yearly from fall to spring. It is located at the SCC Tennis courts at 1910 South Pebble Beach Boulevard. If you would like more information, please contact Karen Johnson at 817-703-4479 or Diane Keyes at "dkeyes60@gmail.com". Also, check out the Tennis for Fun website at "tennisforfun.org" or email "tffusa01@yahoo.com".

**2026 CWGA-18 Member-Member Tournament**

By Aileen Engel

The Caloosa Women's Golf Association 18-hole league (CWGA18) played their Member-Member Tournament on Monday, February 16, and Wednesday, February 18. Thirteen teams in three flights teed off for the 36-hole tournament. The format was similar to the Ryder Cup: 6 holes Better Ball of Two. Both partners play their own ball, then 6 holes Alternating Shots and 6 holes scramble. We repeated the same format for the second day. We enjoyed two beautiful days of golf followed by a lovely reception. Prizes were awarded to the low gross and first low net scores in each flight.



**Low Gross winners of the 2026 CWGA-18 Member-Member Golf Tournament - Kim Roush and Fe Rowe won Low Gross with a score of 148 for the 36-hole tournament.**

The winners for Flight 1: Kim Roush and Fe Rowe won Low Gross with a score of 148; Denise Berry and Kim Moore won 1st Net with a score of 140. The winners for Flight 2: Jill Wright and Judy Walters won Low Gross with a score of 164; Lynn Noyes and Becky Hall won 1st Net with a score of 145.

The winners for Flight 3: Barb Stebler and Dianne Blackwell won Low Gross with a score of 178; Aileen Engel and Joyce Stafford won 1st Net with a score of 143; Lynda Davies and Karla Pia tied with Rose Bryan and Linda Suh for 2nd Net with a score of 145.

A big thank you to Deb McCanna, CWGA18 Tournament Chair, Lynda Davies and Barb Struble for Golf Genius set up and scoring, and Kim Roush and Denise Berry, Co-chairwomen of the tournament.

**Southshore Basketball Club Wins Third Consecutive State Championship**

By Bob Monahan, Club President

On December 6, the last game of the state senior basketball championship was played by the eventual 75 and age 70 champions in Holiday, Florida. At the end of the games both teams went to be awarded their gold medals. Unfortunately, the teams were told they ran out of gold medals and would mail the medals to the players when they became available. December came and went and so did January. Letters were sent by team captains to no avail. March rolled around and then the medals arrived along with free shirts as a makeup gift for the delay.



**L to R: Bob Monahan, Claude Monce, Gary Kaukonen, Jim Rogers, Lee Saucier and Wayne Dersch**



**SCC Tennis Association Donates \$2200 to Squad**

On February 13, the Tennis Association hosted a fundraiser to benefit the SCC Emergency Squad. Two hundred people enjoyed a wonderful evening that began with a train ride on trains from the 1940s and 1950s. The Florida Railroad Museum offers diesel-powered train rides that take passengers on excursions using a variety of open-air, open-window, and air-conditioned cars. After the thirty-minute ride from the Parrish station to the Willow station, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal by Sugar Shakers, and danced to the lively music of Acoustic Trends. The Tennis Association is grateful for the vendor discounts and everyone in attendance for their generosity, which benefited the SCC Emergency Squad.

**Polk County Basketball Shooting Champion**

By Bob Monahan, Sports Writer

Lee Saucier, of Sun City Center won all the gold medals in his age division at the recently concluded Polk County Games in Lake Wales. The medals were for three sets of 10 in foul shooting, three sets of 10 five spot shooting and three sets of 10 in one minute spot shooting .

Lee also is an excellent overall basketball player, recently winning a gold medal in the state championship 3-on-3 competition in his age division of 75 .

Lee competes out of the Ruskin Recreation Center with the Southshore Basketball Club formerly the Sun City Basketball Club . Players are aged 50 to 80 plus and compete on two courts inside and air conditioned. Call Joy Robinson Director if you would like to play. The \$10.75 monthly fee also includes indoor pickleball lessons and play on Wednesday, Thursday and some Saturdays.



**SCC Softball Club Winter Playoffs**

Nine teams competed with the top 4 reaching the final day. Top seeded team was the Bucs, managed by Steve Sole, versus 4th place team the Huskies, managed by Tom Ulrich. The Bucs won by a score of 13 to 9. The second game was the Breeze, managed by Gerald Nelson versus the Indians, managed by Dennis McPhail. Indian outfielder Clay Groce had 2 multi run home runs to keep the game close, but in the end the Breeze prevailed 13 to 12. In the championship game the Breeze were leading 9 to 5 until the bottom of the sixth, when the Bucs rallied for 5 runs to take the lead. In the top of the 7th, the Breeze had a rally ended by the Bucs 2nd baseman Jerry Buysee, who made the game -ending catch to seal the win.

Congratulations to the Bucs, and all of the SCC Softball Club members for another exciting season. Special thanks to the SCCCA maintenance team who always have our field looking great, Club board members, training guru specialist Tom Mackar, umpire crew, scorekeepers, grill masters, field set up volunteers, and photographers. And to those members called up to play on God's Team, Kenny Johnson, Russ Doerr and Wade Powers, you'll always be missed but never forgotten. Our energetic and hardworking president is Marti Devries who welcomes anyone interested in joining our club, or answering any inquiries at (616) 250 -5726



**West Coast Grass League Winners**

By Pete Kindzierski

Congratulations to our 2026 West Coast Grass League Winners, Team CanAm, Cindy Higgins, Bob Fladung, Cassandra Furlong, Garry Higgins, Ken Martucci. The recent improvement in weather brought a great turnout to watch the finals between the teams of CanAm and runners up, The Misfits, Barb Turney, Karen Turman, Matt Harthcock, CJ Meier, Cricket Meixner.

Besides various championship title games, Sun City Center Lawn Bowling Club members enjoy out-of-club tournaments, league play, less competitive "Morning Bowls" and the very popular and the very social, "Night Bowls." For more information or to sign up for free lessons, visit [www.suncitycenterlbc.com](http://www.suncitycenterlbc.com).

**Lawn Bowling News**

By Pete Kindzierski

The American Triples Tournament brought out some great competitors from the region to compete in this tournament designed to ensure all team members have a chance to contribute to their team's success. This year's winners are Rich Cleary, Eric Porr, Nancy Latimer. Taking 2nd Place: Terry Keen, Deb Keen, Connie Gilpin, 3rd Place: Luke Hammond, Bob Rehn, Marina Rehn (Clearwater Lawn Bowling) and 4th Place: Donna Blaine, Jim Munro, Dave Barrett.



The SCC LBC welcomes and offers free lessons to the members of the Sun City Center Community Association. For more information about the Club and the sport of lawn bowls, visit [www.suncitycenterlbc.com](http://www.suncitycenterlbc.com)

**Ruskin Rec Tournament Winners**

The tradition of this 3-on-3 tournament is to pick teams the morning of the tournament with one player from each age category starting at age 50 then 60 then 70 and age 80. Can you guess which player is in which age category?



By the way the tournament MVP was Ishmell McKithen who dazzled the competition with deadly 3 pointers and stifling defense. The former University of Maine player was asked to play over 50 basketball after being discovered on the pickleball courts and was unaware that the Ruskin Recreation Center was the home of state champions Southshore Basketball Club.

L to R: Rus Rusbosin, Darrell J Furman, Ishmell McKithen , and Gary Kaukonen.

Area residents age 50 plus are welcome to play Mondays and Fridays at 9:15 . The facility is rated as one of the top in the area , air conditioned, cushioned hardwood floors and easy on the knees. Two games are played half court for older 70-plus players or 50-plus age players. Monthly costs are \$10.75 per month and includes senior indoor pickleball, weekly volleyball and a fitness center. Call Bob Monahan 401-527-1718 or contact Joy Robinson Director at 813-672-7881.



1st Place Women's Singles: Susan Finn



2nd Place Men's Singles: Ron Ridley



1st Place Men's Pairs: Ken Martucci and Bob Fladung



1st Place Women's Pairs: Jan Conley and Karen Cooper



1st Place Women's Fours: Jan Conley, Karen Cooper, Ava Casper, Donna Blaine

**Lawn Bowling News**

By Pete Kindzierski

Sun City Center Lawn Bowling Club affiliated with the "Southeast Division." The Southeast Open is a prestigious annual event, welcoming both Bowls USA members and international players associated with World Bowls.

This six-day tournament features distinct men's and women's competitions in Fours, Pairs, and Singles disciplines. In 2026, the Men's Tournament was hosted by the Mount Dora Lawn Bowling Club, while the Sun City Center club hosted the Women's Tournament. The field included competitors from Oregon, California, and Ontario, Canada, adding to the event's competitive spirit and diversity.

The Sun City Center club members performed admirably in the tournament, showcasing strong skills and sportsmanship throughout the various competitions. Here are the results.

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# CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

KNWP IBNGF HNBP  
EBPHPUYNXFKC DXKK, FGTDE,  
ZNTIUQUE, QF EVP CPQBF  
HXKETZKC. — RQUP IBPC

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# SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES ON PAGE 14

# CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: C equals E

JDCE G LUPCUADCK OW IPOL  
USJIPK UDC ADZPAD LGEHCPL,  
WSZ OGHDU LIW G JIL  
PCIADGEH US UDC ADSGP.

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# SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Decay

SNOWER

Layer

RITE

Remove

SEARE

Banish

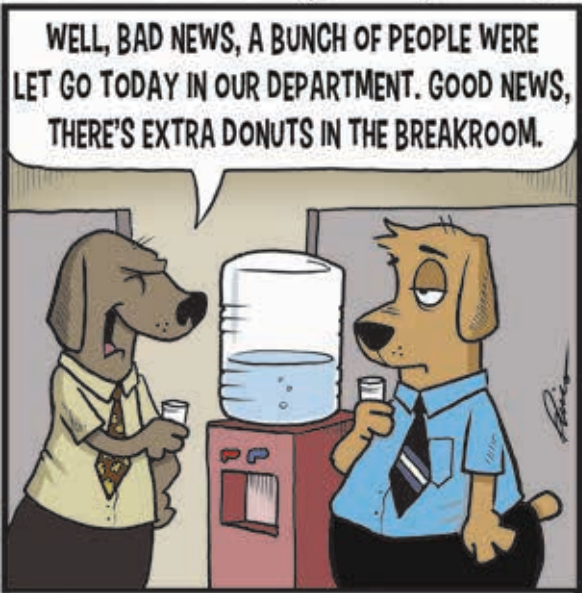
LEXIE

**TODAY'S WORD**



"Can anybody beat a pair of \_\_\_\_\_?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



# Weekly SUDOKU

			9	2		1		
	9	6		7			4	
		8			4			5
8			2	6	7	5		
			4	8		7		
6		2	1				8	4
						8	2	7
5		1						9
3			8	9		5		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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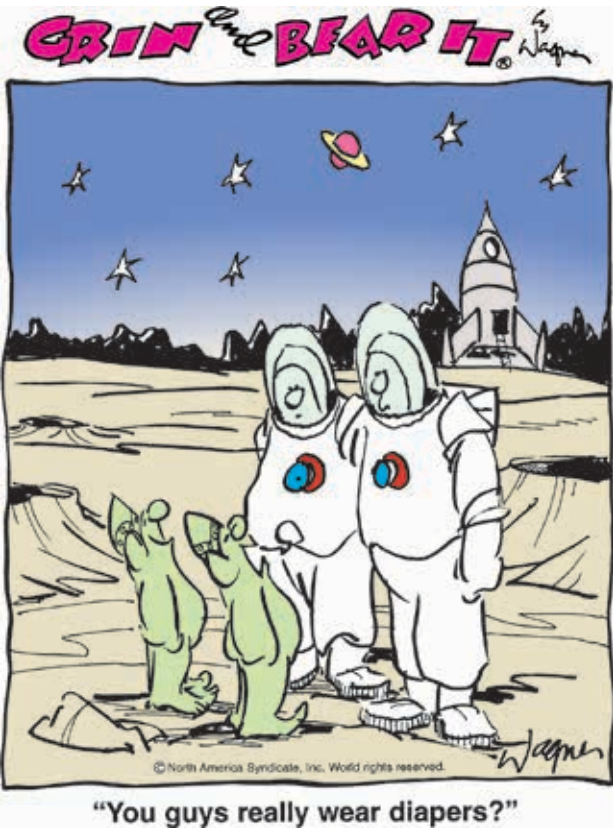
# Super Crossword

**DOWNWARD TREND**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Baldwin and Guinness
  - 6 Pines' cousins
  - 10 Google Play buy
  - 13 In recent times
  - 19 A ton of, in Tijuana
  - 20 All over
  - 21 Outstanding examples on display
  - 23 Hot and bubbling
  - 24 All over
  - 25 Adds a little dash to?
  - 26 Ballpoint topper
  - 28 Kind of tide
  - 30 Nighttime light from a clear sky
  - 31 Creole cooking pod
  - 32 Actor Flynn
  - 34 — standstill
  - 35 Writer Fleming
  - 36 Doll's call
  - 38 Bean curd
  - 40 Person with a mouth-related nervous habit
  - 44 In a crowd of
  - 45 Some breads and whiskeys
  - 46 Equine beast
  - 47 Blaze
  - 51 Facilities for processing a paddy product
  - 53 Pep rally yells
  - 55 Big bay windows
  - 56 Cope (with)
  - 57 See 33-Down
  - 59 Env. directive
  - 61 Back of the neck
  - 62 Revolutionary Guevara
  - 64 Baking pans
  - 66 Tall conifer of California
  - 68 Revise copy
  - 69 — -Cola
  - 71 This instant
  - 72 — Zedong
  - 73 Grand — wine
  - 74 Clamors
  - 75 Cyber-chuckles
  - 76 French painter Manet
  - 78 1996 running mate Jack
  - 80 Once named
  - 81 Rival of Hertz
  - 82 Long period
  - 83 Haiku, e.g.
  - 85 Gavel noise
  - 87 Low-status, as labor
  - 89 Treatment tablet
  - 91 Like fattening food
  - 95 Be the chairperson
  - 97 Plato's "T"
  - 98 Toward the mouth, to an anatomist
  - 99 Bungee, e.g.
  - 100 Large plant with fronds
  - 102 Hershey's toffee bar
  - 103 Long periods
  - 104 Turkey Day tuber
  - 107 — -mo
  - 108 Slack-jawed
  - 110 Actress Chaplin
  - 112 Strangely beautiful quality
  - 116 German for "genuine"
  - 117 Quick-to-build house
  - 120 Very strictly organized
  - 122 Rx orders
  - 124 World-weary
  - 125 Navy aerobic team
  - 126 A Great Lake
  - 127 Singer Goulding
  - 128 Sloping
  - 129 Decompose
  - 130 Oct. preceder
  - 131 Bob of folk
  - 22 "Suppose ..."
  - 27 Ancestry via the father's side
  - 29 Event at which people enter frigid water
  - 33 With
  - 57-Across, singer with the 1994 #1 hit "Stay"
  - 36 Tarnish
  - 37 Pal, in Paris
  - 39 Olive of comics
  - 41 "Baloney!"
  - 42 Goof up
  - 43 Held in check
  - 48 Likely to run into adversity
  - 49 Of Swiss peaks
  - 50 African fly
  - 52 Wrestling pad
  - 54 Wall Street fluctuation
  - 58 Witty
  - 60 Lacerated
  - 62 Letter-shaped vise
  - 63 Vacuum cleaner brand
  - 65 Lymph —
  - 67 Dingbat
  - 70 Help
  - 77 Form a group
  - 79 Golf norm
  - 84 Planet's livable zone
  - 86 Overly modest type
  - 88 Smog soils it
  - 90 Actress — Flynn Boyle
  - 92 Philosopher — -tzu
  - 93 Investment option, in brief
  - 94 Investment options, in brief
  - 96 Trapping morays, say
  - 101 Promote
  - 104 California's — Buena Island
  - 105 Skating leaps
  - 106 Media bigwig
  - 109 Peaks
  - 111 Formed into a ball
  - 113 "— yellow ribbon ..."
  - 114 Somali supermodel
  - 115 Prefix with drama
  - 118 Laos' home
  - 119 "It's — real!"
  - 121 June hrs.
  - 123 Stage design

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19					20				21		22							
23					24				25									
26				27		28			29		30							
		31				32			33		34				35			
36	37				38	39			40		41			42	43			
44					45				46			47				48	49	50
51				52					53		54		55					
		56				57		58			59		60			61		
62	63			64		65		66		67					68			
69			70		71			72			73			74				
75					76			77			78			79		80		
81					82				83		84			85		86		
87				88		89		90			91		92				93	94
95						96		97			98				99			
			100					101			102					103		
104	105	106			107			108		109				110	111			
112			113	114				115		116				117			118	119
120									121		122		123		124			
125											126				127			
128								129			130					131		

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