Busch Gardens camp
YOUR SEARCH FOR SUMMER PLANS IS OVER
REGISTER NOW!
BuschGardens.com/camps • (813)884-4FUN (4386)
See Our Ad On Page 25

SouthShore
Apollo Beach/Ruskin/Wimauma
Osprey OBSERVER
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
March 2026
Volume 1, Issue 3
24 YEARS Osprey Observer Your Community Newspaper POSITIVE NEWS
Ph: 813-657-2418

EXPRESS OIL CHANGE 10 MINUTE SERVICE
TIRE ENGINEERS FULL SERVICE AUTO CARE
NOW OPEN IN SOUTHSHORE
SEE OUR AD ON PAGE 13

CELEBRATING 24 YEARS OF PUBLISHING POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS

SPURLINO FAMILY YMCA TO HOST COLOR RUN AND SENIOR FASHION SHOW TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS

By Olivia Clark



Participants celebrate during a previous Color Run event at the Spurlino Family YMCA at Big Bend Road.

The Spurlino Family YMCA at Big Bend Road is preparing to host two upcoming community events designed to bring people together while raising funds to support programs that benefit local families. The Senior Fashion Show and the annual Color Run both serve as fundraisers for the YMCA's annual giving campaign, which helps ensure access to programs for individuals and families regardless of their ability to pay.



The Color Run will offer a morning filled with fitness, music and community celebration. The event begins at 8 a.m. on Sunday, April 19, with a Zumba warmup before participants begin the walk or run. Throughout the course, runners and walkers will be showered with colorful powder, creating a vibrant and festive experience for all participants.

Registrants will receive a T-shirt and medal for participating. After the run concludes, attendees can enjoy an after-party featuring local vendors, food trucks, music and dancing.

"The Color Run is one of our fundraising events for our annual giving campaign," said Athena Reed, wellness director for the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA at the Spurlino Family YMCA at Big Bend Road. "We provide financial assistance to families that cannot afford membership fees, summer camp, swim lessons and other programs that we offer at our center."

Both YMCA members and nonmembers are invited to participate in the run by registering through the RunSignup website.

The other highlight on the YMCA's event calendar, the Senior Fashion Show, is organized by the center's active older adult members. Now in its fourth year, the event has grown into a fun and meaningful tradition for participants and spectators alike.

The show, to be held on Saturday, April 25, features a committee of members who help organize the event as well as volunteer models from the YMCA community who take to the runway.

"This event brings fun, community and helps raise funds for our annual giving campaign," said Reed.

Funds raised through both events help ensure that YMCA programs remain accessible to everyone in the community.

"Our fundraising ensures that everyone in our community — regardless of their ability to pay — has access to programs that strengthen youth, improve health and build a stronger, more connected community," said Reed.

Community members interested in participating in the Color Run or attending the Senior Fashion Show can contact Reed at athena.reed@tampaymca.org for additional information.

16TH ANNUAL CRAWFISH FESTIVAL PROMISES FLAVORFUL FUN FOR A CAUSE

By Marie Gilmore



The 16th annual Crawfish Festival is set to bring a taste of Louisiana to Riverview in April, inviting the community to enjoy a lively day of food, music and family-friendly fun — all for a good cause.

Hosted by the FishHawk-Riverview Rotary Club, the popular event will take place on Saturday, April 25, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Winthrop Town Centre in the Winthrop Commons field behind Donovan's. Admission and parking are free, making it an accessible outing for families, friends and even four-legged companions, as the festival is dog-friendly.



Festivalgoers can look forward to fresh crawfish delivered straight from Louisiana on the morning of the event, served Cajun-style with corn and potatoes. In addition to the signature dish, attendees will find a variety of Louisiana favorites, including gumbo, crawfish étouffée, red beans, rice and dirty rice. Other menu options, such as pulled pork sandwiches, hamburgers, hot dogs and smoked fish dip, ensure there is something for every palate, along with sweet treats offered by local vendors.

Live entertainment will be provided by Mike Imbasciani & His BluezRockerz, setting the tone for a festive atmosphere, while more than 30 vendors will offer local goods, crafts and festival merchandise. A dedicated children's area will provide activities for younger attendees, making the event a well-rounded experience for all ages.

Food and beverages at the festival are purchased using 'Crawfish Cash' or prepurchased meal tickets, available online and at the event. A standard crawfish dinner, featuring approximately 2 pounds of crawfish, is priced at $25, with additional food items ranging from $2-$8.

Beyond the food and entertainment, the Crawfish Festival serves a meaningful purpose. Proceeds benefit the FishHawk-Riverview Rotary Club Foundation, which supports initiatives aimed at alleviating hunger, poverty, illiteracy and disease both locally and internationally. Notably, 90 percent of proceeds remain in the local community, funding charitable organizations, youth scholarships and leadership development programs. With the support of attendees and volunteers, the foundation contributed $40,000 to community organizations in the past year alone.

"This event is about more than great food — it's about bringing people together to make a difference," organizers said.

To purchase tickets in advance, visit www.luvcrawfish.com.

IN THIS ISSUE:

REALTY SEEKS NEW AGENTS.....PG 3
BIG BOY SOAP HOCKEY.....PG 6
GIFT CARD SCAMS.....PG 15
SUMMER CAMP GUIDE.....PGS 19-28
EYE ON BUSINESS.....PG 30

PRSTD STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MANASOTA, FL
PERMIT #1456

ECRWSS EDDM
Postal Customer

Osprey Observer
2109 Lithia Pinecrest Rd.
Valrico, FL 33596





PAYANT
Wealth Management Group
osaic Advisors
SERVING THE SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITY FOR 40 YEARS
Professionals For Every Financial Need In Your Life.
CALL TODAY! 813-633-7333 | suncitycenter.osaicadvisors.com
1653 Sun City Center Plaza, Sun City Center, Florida 33573
Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through **Osaic Wealth, Inc. (Osaic Wealth)**, Member FINRA/SIPC doing business as **Osaic Advisors**. Any other entities, products, or services referenced here are independent of **Osaic Wealth**, subsidiary of **Osaic Holdings, Inc.**



YOU'RE INVITED!

IMAGELIFT Facial Beauty Seminar

Wednesday, April 22nd @ 2pm I Kings Point, Sun City Center
2020 Clubhouse – North & South Forum
2020 Clubhouse Dr, 2nd Floor, Sun City Center 33573

Enjoy Complimentary...

Beauty Plan & Access Exclusive Specials
Lunch After the Presentation

IMAGELIFT®

BYE-BYE TURKEY NECK!

Local Anesthesia FaceLifts

- ✓ Gentle Numbing & Oral Sedation
- ✓ Board Certified Facial Plastic Surgeons
- ✓ Luxury, In-Office Treatment
- ✓ No General Anesthesia or Hospitalization
  Safer, Less Downtime!

REQUEST YOUR FREE CONSULT

813.305.7715

IMAGELIFT.COM TAMPA & THE VILLAGES, FL

Patient and any other person responsible for payment has a right to pay, cancel payment, or be reimbursed for payment for any other service, examination, or treatment that is performed as a result of and within 72 hours of responding to ad for the free, discounted fee, or reduced fee service, examination, or treatment.

Happy *St. Patrick's* Day!

REED & REED
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

813.438.5960
NEEDREED.COM
101 E. Lumsden Road
Brandon, FL 33511

Personal Injury Cases
FREE CONSULTATIONS
Auto Accidents * Slip and Fall
Boating Accidents * Dog Bites
Wrongful Death * Motorcycles

LIKE

Having a Lawyer in the

FAMILY

Proud Supporters of ECHO
***Board of Directors**



ALIGN RIGHT REALTY RIVERVIEW AND SUNCOAST SEEKING NEW AGENTS

By Madeline Gardner



In the market to grow your Tampa Bay real estate career with the help of a professional and dedicated brokerage? Align Right Realty is currently looking for both newly licensed and seasoned agents to join its team, and prospective candidates are invited to apply for work on a part-time or full-time basis. All applicants will be interviewed by Align Right Realty's Riverview and Suncoast broker, Lisa Tackus.

"As the broker owner, I like to meet with everybody, which is also a unique thing, [as] a lot of brokerages may just have a trainer or a recruiter do the interviews and [the applicants] mostly don't ever get to meet the broker," said Tackus. "I pride myself that that's something for the last almost seven years that I've continued to do."

Once welcomed to the team, Align Right Realty offers training sessions, available both in-person at the Riverview and Suncoast offices as well as over Zoom. The program first begins with core training, which breaks down how to run a real estate business, and then a prospecting tier, which explains how to earn a business. The third tier concentrates on the social media and technology necessary to innovate and manage a real estate business. Roughly every month, Tackus also hosts a development series, which includes visits from business brokers and commercial real estate experts.

"We're here to provide primarily their training, their technology, their marketing, their branding and, most important, the culture to help them run their business and meet the highest potential that they want to go," said Tackus.

Realtors affiliated with Align Right Realty have access to partnerships with local chamber members, plumbers, roofers, home inspection companies and tax attorneys. Agents are also granted 24/7 access to the brokerage's resources, from copiers to open-house signs and balloons. And the brokerage fosters camaraderie between agents by hosting potlucks, bowling outings and monthly coffee meetups. Tackus ensures her agents receive all the attention and assistance they require to manage successful businesses.

"They have the opportunity to earn 100 percent of their commission here but also get all the support they need," said Tackus. "... We've created an environment where you can get the most resources and earn the most money, and that's something that we're going to continue to do and grow this year."

If interested, prospective applicants should call the Riverview office at 813-563-5995 or email admin@alignrightriverview.com. The Align Right Realty Riverview office is located at 11962 Balm Riverview Rd. in Riverview, and the Suncoast office is located at 410 S. Ware Blvd., Ste. 310, in Tampa.

FROM HOME SALES TO SCAVENGER HUNTS, CLARKIN CREATES FUN

By Makenzie Atkins Noel



In a community that continues to grow and evolve, Kerin Clarkin has made it his mission to ensure Riverview grows with heart, connection and a whole lot of fun.

Clarkin is a local realtor serving Riverview and surrounding areas including Tampa, Seminole Heights and St. Petersburg. Since entering the Tampa Bay real estate market in 2015, he has built his business on a simple philosophy: Put clients first and focus on relationships. His team does not charge cancellation fees or other hidden fees, keeping the process transparent for clients. This approach reflects his commitment to transparency and long-term trust.



Originally from Long Island, New York, Clarkin moved to the Tampa area in 2009 to work in apparel design and marketing. What began as a short-term move quickly turned into something permanent as he became immersed in the community and saw the area's growth and potential. When he stepped back into real estate, he did so with a desire to serve the place he now calls home.

Clarkin describes his style as hands-on and highly personal. He prides himself on being known for trust, respect, honesty and strong customer service.

"Our clients come first, always," Clarkin said. "By the end of the process, they're not just clients anymore. They're friends."

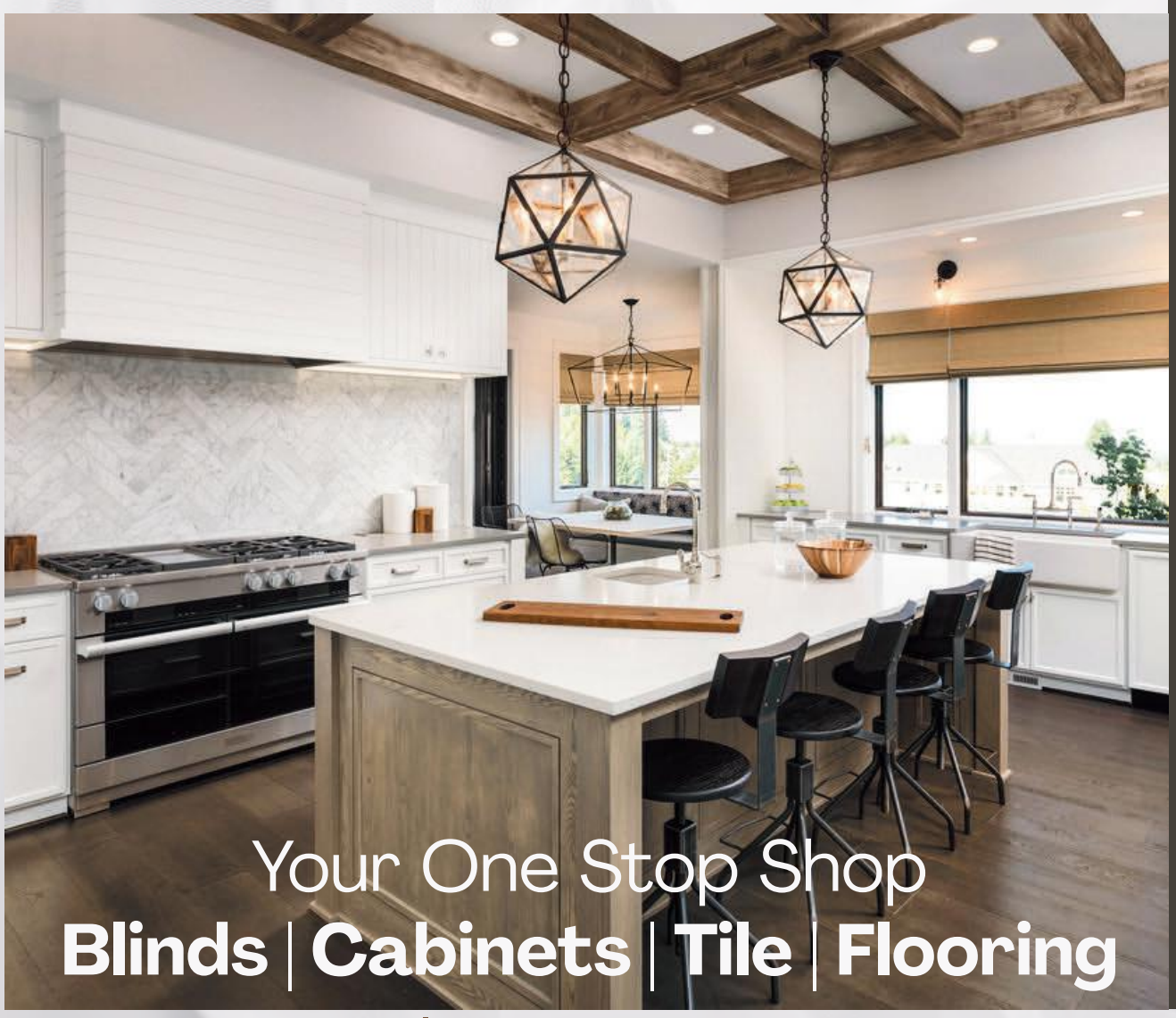
His involvement in the community naturally expanded beyond real estate. Through his Riverview Fun and Events Facebook group, Clarkin began organizing giveaways, scavenger hunts and free events designed to support local businesses and bring neighbors together. His Riverview-only scavenger hunts have become especially popular. In an effort to support small businesses in the community, he purchases gift cards from local businesses and hides them throughout Riverview, posting clues for residents to follow.

Over the years, he has given away more than $3,000 in gift cards and cash, hosted a 350-person bingo event with $1,000 in winnings and even gave away a car during a sports watch party. He regularly supports local schools and celebrations, helping make events more memorable and giving back to the students and families who call Riverview home.

Most recently, Clarkin expanded into the entertainment space with Cory Casino, a party casino business featuring professional dealers and travel-ready casino games. His goal is twofold. He wants to host free community events that bring people together in a new way, and he also offers the casino experience for businesses and organizations looking to elevate their own events.

Visit www.thekerin.com/ or find Clarkin on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/riverviewevents/.

OUR DESIGNERS WILL MAKE YOUR DREAM A REALITY
FROM INSPIRATION TO INSTALLATION.



Dove Interiors
Floors • Blinds • Kitchen & Bath

- WINDOW TREATMENTS
- AUTOMATED SHADES
- TILE -VINYL - HARDWOOD
- KITCHEN & BATH CABINETS

Your Home Interior Experts
Over 34 Years Strong
Family Owned & Operated

Google 4.9★★★★★

0% Financing Available*
*WAC

813-645-8660 | www.doveinteriorscarpetone.com
2305 E. College Ave, Ruskin (1 mile west of 1-75 Exit 240 B)

LOCAL SHELTERS GIVE PETS A SECOND CHANCE AT A FUREVER HOME

By Emily Harper







Howling Hounds Sanctuary Rescue founders Mike and Cyndi Bland.

Howling Hounds Sanctuary

Howling Hounds Sanctuary Rescue, located at 12901 Lovers Lane in Riverview, is a private, home-based rescue in Riverview serving Hillsborough County along with surrounding counties. Its mission, as stated on its website, is to "protect the well-being and security of as many dogs as possible."

Founders Mike and Cyndi Bland have decades of experience advocating for dogs through volunteering. In 2019, they made the decision to start a nonprofit rescue, and in 2020 they officially started their work.

At their rescue, the Blands take in dogs who were abandoned in the wild, were surrendered by their owners or, when possible, are from shelters where they are on the euthanasia list or from shelters that are overburdened. In their care, these dogs are rehabilitated to their specific needs and rehomed to forever homes.

Mike Bland, as the director of operations, focuses on facility maintenance along with social media, such as graphics, web design and event displays. Meanwhile, Cyndi Bland, the executive director, is the face of the rescue to the public. She concentrates on adoption applications, event planning, working with volunteers and fosters and developing relationships with other businesses. Together, their passion and devotion for rescue dogs shows through their success in the community.

Specifically, recently, Howling Hounds was informed about a mother, named Sky, and her puppies along the Manatee River living under a local's house for shelter. Because the local individual knew about the rescue, the dogs were saved and all found their forever homes through the work of Howling Hounds Sanctuary Rescue. More information regarding this rescue can be found on its website, www.dogsrgr8.com.

Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.)

Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort, located at 1528 27th St. SE in Ruskin, is a no-kill animal shelter for cats and dogs founded in 2000 by local veterinarians and others concerned about the high number of healthy animals being euthanized. This rescue welcomes animals that have been neglected, abused, abandoned or surrendered. All animals are medically treated according to their needs, thanks to C.A.R.E. partnership with Boyette Animal Hospital.

"We are small, but each animal is treated with love by our volunteers and employees as if they were their own pet. We get to know their habits, likes and dislikes and share this information with potential adopters," said board secretary and volunteer Joyce Maggio.

At its facility, animals have the ability to explore. The dogs are outside during the daytime, where they can roam and exercise in the fresh air. The cats are separated into rooms, based on age, with attached screened lanais, where they, too, can roam freely.

C.A.R.E. has rehabilitated many animals through its efforts and believes all have the right to thrive. For example, Archie was a young dog that came into its care with a severe injury to his eye, which had to be removed. As explained, Archie, who had been through a lot, enjoyed splashing in the pool and chasing sticks, which warmed the hearts of everyone. Through the work of this organization Archie's life was saved and he is now in his forever home, with his own TikTok account.

In celebration of 25 years in the community, C.A.R.E. is looking forward to breaking ground on its new location, which is a few blocks from its original facility. It is always accepting donations to help the lives of its animals, along with volunteers eager to make a difference in the cause. Visit its website, www.careshelter.org/.

Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center

Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center serves as the county's animal shelter. Located at 440 N. Falkenburg Rd. in Tampa, this shelter holds cats and dogs of all types seeking their forever home.

"Pets can't speak. We can give them a voice. Whether it's us responding to reports of cruelty and neglect or you volunteering and fostering, when we advocate for animals together, we can improve their lives," as stated on its website.

If you feel inclined, this center also runs a foster care program to help with its population of animals. Through fostering, animals are able to flourish in an interactive environment with more individualized attention.

Additionally, the center has resources for lost or found pets in the Hillsborough area. Through its website, individuals can request and report missing animals, with the hope of finding their families. Visit www.hcfl.gov/residents/animals-and-pets.

If this was your childhood...



It's time for a colonoscopy.

Colorectal cancer is now a leading cause of cancer death in adults under 50, but when caught early, it's more than 90% curable. AdventHealth makes it easier to protect your future through whole-person care and preventive screenings. We've made appointments more convenient, while AI-assisted technology is helping us catch cancer earlier — so you can keep feeling whole.

Schedule your screening today.
YourColorectalExperts.com

AdventHealth
Riverview

ZION VILLAGE OPENS DOORS FOR LOW-INCOME SENIORS IN RIVERVIEW

By Olivia Clark



Pastor Karen Jackson Sims, Commissioner Gwen Myers and community partners cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Zion Village Apartments.

Community leaders, housing advocates and faith partners gathered on February 24 to celebrate the ribbon cutting of Zion Village Apartments, a new 75-unit affordable housing community for low-income seniors in Riverview.

Located at 5836 Zion Village St. in Riverview, the 4-story development sits on approximately 2 acres owned by Mt. Zion AME Church of Riverview. The complex offers 650-square-foot, one-bedroom apartments for residents ages 55 and older earning 70 percent or less of the area median income.

The development spans more than 69,000 square feet and was designed to provide safe, accessible housing that allows seniors to age in place. Several units are reserved for residents earning between 30-60 percent of the area median income.

The project represents a partnership between Hillsborough County, the Tampa Housing Authority, Smith & Henzy Affordable Group, Mt. Zion AME Church of Riverview and Adonai's Second Chances Inc. Hillsborough County contributed $6.8 million toward the development.

"Fourteen months ago, we gathered in this place to celebrate the groundbreaking of Zion Village," said Pastor Karen Jackson Sims of Mt. Zion AME Church of Riverview. "And 14 months later, we are celebrating that we have residents living in the building."

Pastor Sims shared that one new resident had previously been homeless and sleeping in her car.

"From sleeping in her car to having a roof over her head," Pastor Sims said. "They have a home now because of you."

Commissioner Gwen Myers, who chairs the county's Affordable Housing Committee, emphasized the county's commitment to housing initiatives.

"When someone has a vision and they come to us with a project, we say, 'Let's find a way to make it happen,'" Myers said.

The Rev. Alicia Scott-Ford, field office director for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in Jacksonville, highlighted the growing need for senior housing.

"By 2030, one in five Americans will be over the age of 65," the Rev. Scott-Ford said. "Developments like Zion Village ensure seniors can remain active and supported in the communities they helped build."

FK Architecture, the architect of record for the project, has helped set a new benchmark in Florida with the design of more than 5,000 affordable housing units across the state.

With the ribbon cut, Zion Village officially opened its doors, adding 75 much-needed affordable units for seniors in Riverview.

COUPLE HELP PLAN TAILORED TRAVEL EXPERIENCES WITH CRUISE PLANNERS

By Olivia Clark



For Matthew Gordon and Marji Beam, travel has always been more than a hobby. It's a passion that inspired the couple to turn their love of exploring the world into a full-service travel planning business.

As independent franchise owners with Cruise Planners, Gordon and Beam help clients plan customized vacations ranging from cruises and destination weddings to group trips and luxury, land-based travel experiences. The couple launched their business in June 2024 and now work with travelers seeking a more personalized approach to vacation planning.

Before entering the travel industry, both brought extensive professional experience from other fields. Beam previously owned an independent property and casualty brokerage, while Gordon spent years working in executive management within the corporate sector. Together, the pair combine business experience with firsthand travel knowledge to guide clients through the planning process.

The business operates as a full-service travel agency helping clients coordinate cruises, resort stays, excursions, travel insurance and more. Gordon primarily focuses on cruise itineraries, while Beam often leads planning for land-based vacations, although both collaborate on all aspects of the business.

"As Cruise Planners, we have the most buying power in the world," said Gordon. "You don't come to us because you're getting the best price. You come to us because you're getting us, along with the best prices and incentives."

Because of the company's network of more than 800 preferred travel partners, it can often provide special promotions, incentives and bundled packages that travelers may not find when booking on their own.

Group travel is a growing segment of the business. Gordon and Beam frequently help organize trips for families, friend groups and special-interest gatherings. One of the largest group trips they planned included approximately 350 travelers.

Destination weddings also remain a popular option for couples looking for a unique experience. Many ceremonies take place at all-inclusive resorts in destinations such as Mexico, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

"We're not looking for people to just book a trip," said Gordon. "We're looking for clients for a lifetime."

Through their growing team and hands-on service approach, the couple hopes to continue building lasting relationships with travelers while helping them plan vacations around the world.

For more information, visit www.ventureoutvacation.com.

TESSERA BRANDON

Assisted Living Facility #AL13150

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Hybrid Dementia and Alzheimer's Support Groups for Care Partners of those with any type of Memory Loss

Third Tuesday of Every Month at 6:30 pm Meeting in Person & Via Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 993 4701 6039
Passcode: 459148
Join by phone: 833.928.4608

Fourth Wednesday of Every Month at 2:00 pm Meeting in Person & Via Zoom



813-607-6880
Come a little early for refreshments!
TesseraBrandon.com | 1320 Oakfield Dr. Brandon, FL 33511

Spring Ahead of Plumbing Problems!
Tackle Those Big Projects Now With Spring Savings!



FREE PLUMBING INSPECTION WITH ANY SERVICE (A $99 Value!)
POPULAR SPRING SERVICES:
Water heater replacement: $200 OFF
House re-pipe: $350 OFF
Sewer line repair: $250 OFF
Gas line installation: $150 OFF
Financing available
Offer Ends May 31, 2026
CALL NOW — LIMITED TIME OFFER!
Restrictions apply. One system per home.

Call today for a FREE ESTIMATE!
(813) 436-3994
bluefrogplumbing.com/brandon

APOLLO BEACH MOTORS
HOME OF THE CAR DEAL!!



INSTANT APPROVAL
Drive your dream car home today!
APPLY NOW
5301 N U.S. Hwy 41
Apollo Beach
(813) 645-2227
apollobeachmotors.com

ESPN2 TO AIR BIG BOY SOAP HOCKEY'S RIVERVIEW TOURNAMENT

By Nick Nahas



The Big Boy Soap Hockey League returns for its second tournament in two years in the Tampa area. The tournament takes place at the Showmen's Club, located at 6915 Riverview Dr. in Riverview, on Saturday, May 16, from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and will air on ESPN2 in August.

The first tournament was held in Brandon last year at the J.C. Handly Sports Complex and made its TV debut on ESPN2 in August 2025. Reruns on ESPNews are shown frequently throughout the year.

Bloomingdale High School graduate Nick Pletcher, who runs production company Glass Eye Creative out of Atlanta, Georgia, wanted to bring soap hockey to his hometown because of the potential interest he thought the game would garner. Over 100 people attended the filming of the event last year. The popularity of the contest made ESPN want to air another tournament this summer. Spectators are encouraged to attend the free event, which will have food trucks, a drum line and a live DJ to accompany the festivities. A new mascot called Duck Duck Dude will attend. The giant rubber duck with a water gun will harass the players throughout the afternoon.

The Big Boy Soap Hockey League, which was created by Pletcher and his friends, is back with new players, new uniforms and brand-new logos, along with some new concepts. Soap hockey is played on a giant 30-foot-by-40-foot, soap-drenched tarp and is usually three versus three.

Unlike regular hockey, soap hockey doesn't have very many rules but is also very rough and tumble. Players are allowed to grab other players sticks.

"I'm really looking forward to kind of trying to perfect this format and this tournament some more," said Pletcher.

"Year one was really about just getting together and physically making it when kind of figuring it out as we're going. I think we really figured it out and I think that we are going to catch lightning in a bottle, and we have some really cool stuff in store."

The event will consist of eight teams in a single-elimination format with 10-minute games and live commentators.

Popular Instagram hockey influencers from *On The Bench* will be the two power players that are allowed to sub in once a game for two minutes to help out a team.

Pletcher wants wants the league to grow in popularity like the Savannah Bananas, where they can tour and do more tournaments.

"If anybody is reading this and wants to be on TV and watch a really fun sport, they should come out and support," said Pletcher. "We'll have food, we'll have drinks and all kinds of fun stuff, so they should come out."

For more information, visit www.bigboysoaphockey.com. The league can also be followed on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube @BigBoySoapHockey.

BRANDON COIN CLUB CELEBRATES 20 YEARS WITH SPRING COIN SHOW

By Brian Bokor



The Brandon Coin Club will host its Spring Coin Show on Saturday, April 11, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 3315 S. Bryan Rd. in Brandon. Admission and parking are free.

The club has hosted regular coin shows in the Brandon area for years, helping keep the local collecting community active and engaged in the hobby.



"The Brandon Coin Club has been hosting regular coin shows for almost 20 years, with a brief two-year break during COVID," said Derek Spalding, bourse chairman of the Brandon Coin Club.

"We are grateful for the hospitality of St Andrew's United Methodist Church letting us use their facilities two years in a row for our shows," Spalding said.

The event will feature more than 40 dealer tables offering coins and collectibles for collectors of all experience levels. Professional coin grader ICG will be in attendance, and attendees can participate in free door prizes.

A highlight of the show is the raffle of a GSA Carson City Morgan silver dollar, a highly sought-after 19th-century coin prized by collectors.

"The Morgan being raffled has a special place in our hearts," Spalding said. "Its significance comes from the remarkable condition of the coins and the coveted Carson City mint mark, which together make it one of the most desirable and story-rich Morgan dollars a collector can own."

Beyond the raffle, Spalding said the hobby itself is seeing renewed growth, particularly among younger collectors.

"We are seeing growth in coin collecting as a whole primarily driven by digital mediums," he said, noting that private marketplace apps are drawing younger collectors and families into the hobby.

For those who have inherited coins, he recommends organizing them by denomination and year before bringing them to the show.

"Organize the collection if it's not already. By denomination and years are a good start," he said, adding that while valuable coins do surface, many inherited pieces are common and worth modest amounts.

As discussions occasionally surface about eliminating the penny, Spalding said such headlines can temporarily influence the market.

"At some point, that will die down, and the cents that have always been collected will continue to shine, such as the 1909-S VDB Lincoln cent," he said, noting that billions of pennies remain in circulation and will continue to do so for decades.

"It's really a fun day to meet new people and see some interesting coins," he said.

The doors open at 9 a.m., and the event runs until 3 p.m. Contact Spalding at dspalding2015@gmail.com.

Eye Exam
$35
with rebate
Must bring in coupon at time of service. Expires 4-30-2026



$100 OFF
a Complete Pair of Eyeglasses
Some restrictions apply. Most Prescriptions.
Not valid with any other offers. Expires 4-30-2026

Contacts
7 month supply starter kit with exam $149
Some restrictions apply.
Not valid with any other offers. Expires 4-30-2026

Progressive No-Line Bifocals
$99
Some restrictions apply. Clear.
Not valid with any other offers. Expires 4-30-2026

SUN HILL OPTICAL

VALRICO
(813) 653-2244
LA FITNESS | SUN HILL OPTICAL | DOLLAR GENERAL | Valrico Rd
CRACKER BARREL
HWY 60

RIVERVIEW
(813) 672-8100
McMullen Rd | PEP BOYS | PUBLIX | SUN HILL OPTICAL
Boyette Rd

SUN CITY CENTER
(813) 634-6344
New Location
1601 Rickenbacker Dr. Suite 8
POST OFFICE | SCC Plaza | EMERGENCY SQUAD | SAV-A-LOT | SUN HILL OPTICAL
Rickenbacker Dr

Our office accepts many Insurance Plans so we ask that you contact our staff who will research and verify your insurance coverage.

Se habla español

The patient and any other person responsible for payment has a right to refuse to pay, cancel payment or be reimbursed for payment for any other service, examination or treatment which is performed as a result within 72 hours of responding to the ad for the free, discounted fee, or reduced fee, exam or treatment.

Osprey OBSERVER
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

PUBLISHING POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS THROUGHOUT:
Bloomingdale/FishHawk • Riverview • Brandon/Winthrop • Valrico and NEW SouthShore (Apollo Beach/Ruskin/Wimauma)


MANAGING EDITOR
Marie Gilmore
813-657-2418
editor@ospreyobserver.com


BILLING MANAGER
Terry Vassalotti
813-657-2418
terry@ospreyobserver.com


NEWS REPORTER
Taylor Wells
813-657-2418
twells@ospreyobserver.com


DELIVERY MANAGER
Bill Andrew
813-657-2418
bandrew@ospreyobserver.com


ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Libby Hopkins
813-657-2418
libby@ospreyobserver.com


BUSINESS EDITOR
Jenny Bennett
813-657-2418
jbennett@ospreyobserver.com

GRAPHICS MANAGER - **Kathi Hayes** - *khayes@ospreyobserver.com*

www.OspreyObserver.com

FOLLOW US:

BRCC BRANDON RIVERVIEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GREATER SOUTHSHORE Chamber of Commerce
Riverview WOMAN'S Club
100 Women Who Care Riverview/Fishhawk
VALRICO / FISHHAWK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ADVERTISING SALES TEAM


FISHHAWK ADVERTISING
Melody Gershkoff
813-300-5152
mgershkoff@ospreyobserver.com


HOUSE ACCOUNTS & VALRICO ADVERTISING
Kerrie Hoening
813-625-1527
kerrie@ospreyobserver.com


BRANDON ADVERTISING
Jane Owen
541-405-5574
jowen@ospreyobserver.com


RIVERVIEW ADVERTISING
Olivia Clark
330-416-0771
oclark@ospreyobserver.com


SOUTHSHORE ADVERTISING
Melissa Hartmann
813-833-7470
mhartmann@ospreyobserver.com

Publishing Positive News Since 2001

2109 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Valrico 33596 • (office) 813-657-2418

SARA BOGUE NAMED FIRST FEMALE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY'S HISTORY

By Nick Nahas


Photo Courtesy Of Hillsborough County
Sara Bogue

On February 26, Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) announced that Sara Bogue was named director of athletics, making her the first woman to serve in that role in district history.

"It is an extraordinary honor and responsibility," said Bogue. "I am proud to represent women in athletic leadership and hopeful that this milestone reflects the continued progress and opportunities available to women in sports. As the mother of a 10-year-old daughter, this role carries even greater meaning. If she — and other young girls across our district — grow up knowing they belong in any space they choose to pursue, including athletics, that's something I'm proud of."

Bogue, who has served in Hillsborough County for the past 20 years as a teacher, coach and assistant principal, replaces Lanness Robinson, who was named executive director of the Tampa Bay Sports Commission in December 2025.

She began her career with the district as a P.E. teacher at Newsome High School, where she was also the varsity girls basketball coach and was named Western Conference Coach of the Year. She later became an assistant principal for student affairs at Lennard High School and Bloomingdale High School. She will oversee athletics at both the high school and middle school levels for the county.

"I am incredibly excited to expand my impact and serve more students, coaches and schools across the district," said Bogue. "Athletics has the power to shape character, build leadership and open doors of opportunity for young people. Being in a position to help strengthen and elevate athletic programs on a broader scale is both energizing and meaningful. I look forward to collaborating with school leaders and coaches to continue creating positive, life-changing experiences for our student athletes."

Most recently, she served as assistant principal for administration at Bloomingdale High School, overseeing athletic programs, facility operations and campus safety and security. She led Bloomingdale to its first-ever Vernon Korhn Athletic Program of the Year award.

"Bloomingdale has always been more than a workplace — it is truly a family," said Bogue. "The culture of support, unity and shared purpose is something I will always treasure. I will deeply miss our coaching staff. They lead with heart and selflessness every single day. Most of all, I will miss the students. Their energy and spirit have been a daily reminder of why this work matters."

"I am deeply thankful to everyone who has supported, mentored and encouraged me throughout my 20 years with HCPS," said Bogue. "This journey has been built on relationships, teamwork and shared commitment to students. I look forward to honoring that foundation as we continue moving athletics forward together."

2 Chr 29:3
MASTER GARAGE DOOR CO.
DOORS • OPENERS • SPRINGS
(813) 684-7744
steve@mastergaragedoor.com
mastergaragedoor.com
28 years serving the community with only the highest quality parts and service.

Garage Door Service, Repair & Installation
- Residential Garage Doors
- Garage Door Openers
- Broken Springs
- Cables
- Rollers
- Doors off Track

FREE Estimates on New Garage Door Installs

Celebrating 28 Years of Serving Our Community

DAMON C. GLISSON, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
Probate and Estate Planning
Home Visits • Wills • Medicaid Planning



5908 FORTUNE PLACE
APOLLO BEACH, FL 33572
www.Glisson1.com

(813) 645-6796

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely on advertisement. Before you decide, ask us to send you FREE written information about our qualifications and experience.

RETIRED or RETIRING SOON?

Let's make sure you're prepared for whatever comes next.

SOUTHSHORE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

REQUEST A RETIREMENT READINESS REVIEW TO HELP YOU:
Create dependable income, avoid tax surprises and stay confident in uncertain markets.

CONCIERGE SERVICE MODEL
> Live person 24-hr response turnaround (1 business day)
> Quarterly reviews
> Proactive outreach



Call or email to schedule your complimentary pre-retirement or retirement review today!

(813) 499-9247
www.southshorewlth.com

1601 Rickenbacker Dr, Suite #1,
Sun City Center, FL 33573

Securities offered through Cetera Wealth Services, LLC (doing insurance business in CA as CFGAN Insurance Agency LLC), member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory Services offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC, a registered investment adviser. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity.

Mike McCormick
Founder | Wealth Manager

Soul Food Fest, Bingo & Beats, Holocaust Memorial & More

Compiled by Jenny Bennett
jbennett@ospreyobserver.com

Mt. Zion AME Church Riverview Soul Food Festival

Join Mt. Zion AME Church Riverview, on Saturday, March 28, for its annual Soul Food Festival, a joyful celebration featuring delicious cuisine, fellowship and community connection. This family-friendly event brings together residents from across the area to honor tradition and support impactful ministry efforts.

Secure your spot at one of Riverview's most anticipated community events. Ticket purchases help make this celebration possible and support Mt. Zion AME Church's outreach initiatives. Purchase tickets online at https://shorturl.at/mr8xV. Mt. Zion AME Church is located at 5920 Robert Tolle Dr. in Riverview.

Prescription And Over-the-counter Medicine Amnesty

Expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications from households should never be disposed of by flushing them down the toilet or drain. Bring your unwanted medications to HCA Florida South Shore Hospital, located at 4016 Sun City Center Blvd. in Sun City Center, on Friday, March 27, from 8 a.m.-12 Noon.

Community Holocaust Memorial Service



On Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m., a communitywide interfaith Yom HaShoah service to remember the victims of the Holocaust will take place at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center at 1971 Haverford Ave. in 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 church.

Dominion Sanctuary

Dominion Sanctuary of Tampa Bay Inc., a beacon of light, is here to bring restoration of hope back into the lives of individuals. It is a family-oriented church focused on oIIt builds family, it builds community and it restores hope. It is presently searching for a new place to worship, but for now it meets on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the meeting room of the Denny's at 3747 Sun City Blvd. in Ruskin. A monthly Healing and Deliverance program takes place on the last Saturday of every month (March 28 is the next one) at 2 p.m. in the meeting room for those who need God's powerful intervention. For more information, call 813-774-2773 or email dsanctuary222@gmail.com.

Lennard High School Bingo And Beats Fundraiser

Lennard High School Music Boosters are hosting a 'Bingo and Beats' Fundraiser on Monday, March 30, at Salty Shamrock, starting at 7 p.m. Be sure to visit https://saltyshamrock.net/ to reserve your table. Prizes will include gift baskets, gift certificates and lottery tickets, and there will be a cash 50/50 drawing. Salty Shamrock is located at 6186 U.S. 41 in Apollo Beach.

Beth Israel Sisterhood's Women's Seder

Beth Israel Sisterhood is having a Women's Passover Seder Luncheon on Tuesday, March 24, at 12 Noon in Beth Israel's social hall, located at 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City Center. The Women's Seder has become immensely popular, offering women the opportunity to infuse the Passover narrative with women's voices and experiences. Come join them in this beautiful, spiritual, and delicious event. Sisterhood is a great way to meet other women and share fun times while watching and participating in interesting programs. To RSVP for the Seder or to join Sisterhood, contact Donna at sisterhood@jcscc.org.

South Bay Genealogical Society Meeting

On Tuesday, April 21, a South Bay Genealogical Society meeting will be held at the South Hillsborough Elks Lodge No. 2672, located at 1630 S. U.S. 41 in Ruskin. Beginning at 10:30 a.m., there is a roundtable discussion, followed by a sit-down luncheon at 12 Noon. Following the luncheon at 1 p.m. will be guest speaker Carol Weidlich's presentation, 'Virtual Cemeteries: What Are They and How Do I Use Them?' The cost is $18 per person, which includes the meal and presentation.

For reservations and meal choice, please call Vicki at 360-608-1647.

BRANDON ROTARY OPENS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL SENIORS, AWARDS NEARLY $25,000

Staff Report



Photo Credit Linda Chion
Rotary Club members recognize 2025 scholarship recipients.

High school seniors across the Greater Brandon area are encouraged to apply for the Brandon Rotary Club Charity Fund Annual Scholarship, with applications due by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 10.

The scholarship program, established by the Rotary Club of Brandon, supports students who live in Brandon or attend high school within the Brandon area. In 2025, the charity fund awarded approximately $25,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors, continuing a long-standing commitment to education, leadership and community service.

Multiple scholarships are available to students who meet eligibility requirements, including residency within the defined Brandon-area boundaries, graduation as a current high school senior, a minimum 3.0 unweighted GPA, documented community service hours and acceptance into an accredited two or four-year college or university.

True to Rotary's mission, service is at the heart of the selection process. Applications are scored primarily on service to school and community, along with a student statement, a recommendation from a community service organization and academic achievement. An optional section allows applicants to be considered for the Sharon S. Sellers Memorial Scholarship, which emphasizes giving back to both community and country.

"All of our scholarship recipients demonstrate a strong commitment to service and leadership," said Chuck Burgess, CEO of High 5 Inc. "These students are already making a difference locally, and we're proud to help support their next steps."

Applications are reviewed by a committee of at least five individuals, which may include Rotarians, educators and charity fund board members. Final selections are made by the committee, and scholarship recipients will be notified directly.

Applicants must submit a single PDF document that includes the completed application, a verified community service time sheet, an official transcript and discipline record, proof of college acceptance and a letter of recommendation from a community service organization. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Paper submissions are not accepted.

All applications must be emailed to brccf.scholarship@gmail.com by the deadline.

Scholarship awards will be presented at a future ceremony at the Rivard-Simmons Rotary Event Center, with funds paid directly to recipients' college or university financial aid departments.

Looking For a Local Insurance Agent?
Look no further than
IRON ROCK INSURANCE!

IRON ROCK INSURANCE is a team of LOCAL AGENTS specializing in providing quality protection for you and yours. We insure homes, autos, boats and much more!



Katie, Licensed Agent
Lisa Hast
Managing Partner
Torie, Licensed Agent
Kate, Licensed Agent
Scan code Now for a quote!
Amanda, Licensed Agent

IRON ROCK INSURANCE
813-213-9600

400 Frandorson Circle, Apollo Beach
813-213-9600 | IronRockIns.com

PRESERVATION 1ST FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC
FINANCIAL PLANNING & INSURANCE SERVICES



Let us help take the burden of retirement and estate planning off your mind.

Call Today for your Free Consultation.
813-627-0872

912 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Brandon, FL 33511
www.Preservation1st.com

Securities offered through J.W. Cole Financial, Inc. (JWC), Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through J.W. Cole Advisors, Inc. (JWCA). Preservation 1st Financial Group, LLC and JWC & JWCA are unaffiliated entities. Non-security products are not offered by J.W. Cole.

KIWANIS CLUB OF BRANDON TEES UP IN SUPPORT LOCAL YOUTH

By Kelly Wise Valdes



The Kiwanis Club of Brandon is gearing up for a high-energy day on the greens as it hosts its annual Terrific Kids Golf Tournament on Thursday, April 16, beginning at 11 a.m. at Buckhorn Springs Golf and Country Club, located at 2721 S. Miller Rd. in Valrico. The much-anticipated event is the club's largest and most essential fundraiser of the year, fueling the youth-focused programs that define its mission. Proceeds from the tournament power initiatives across Eastern Hillsborough County, including Terrific Kids, K-Kids, Builders Clubs and Key Clubs — programs designed to inspire leadership, character and community service among local students.

Club President Dustie Amatangelo said the fundraiser is essential to maintaining the group's long tradition of community service.

"Our Kiwanis Club is a unique organization in that 99 percent of funds raised is reinvested back into the community," said Amatangelo. "We are run by volunteers who give the hearts and working hands to make us strong."

The tournament, described by organizers as the backbone of the club's charitable work, is the only major fundraising event the club holds each year.

The club hopes the community will rally behind this year's event by fielding teams, sponsoring holes or donating goods for raffle baskets. There are many ways the community can support this effort.

"Come out and bring a sponsorship and a team, make a donation, create a beautiful basket that represents your business and donate it. And lastly, become a Kiwanian. We are always looking for good people to join us," said Amatangelo.

This year, the club has set a goal for the golf tournament to support its growing initiatives.

"Our goal this year is to net $20,000 dollars," said Amatangelo. "We had a huge increase for our Project Smile program at Gibsonton Elementary and we will need to cover that cost."

"Our Brandon Kiwanis Club [is a] great organization of wonderful people who share a heart for our children in our local community," said Amatangelo. "Our Terrific Kids Golf Tournament raises the funds we need to help our community build better leaders."

Amatangelo encourages anyone interested to support the cause in any way they can.

"If I had a big ask, it would be twofold: Come help us reach our goal — but even more important, consider becoming a member of our extended family. There is a ton of love to share."

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon, Florida, was established in May 1960 and continues to serve the community, especially its children. The club has served over 100,000 residents and provided more than $2 million to support local charities through its many programs and volunteer efforts.

Register for the tournament and get more info at www.brandonkiwanis.org/events/.

TESSERA BRANDON
Assisted Living Facility #AL13150
Independent Living
With Complimentary Services
Assisted Living
"Tessera Brandon...living your lifestyle."
Memory Care
"Living the present...cherishing the past."
feels like Home to me

Call for details and pricing!
813-607-6880
TesseraBrandon.com | 1320 Oakfield Dr. Brandon, FL 33511





There's never been a better time to quit with Group Quit

*Tobacco Free Florida's Group Quit Sessions (in-person or virtual) now offer participants $25 - $125 in gift cards for their attendance.**

Group Quit offers free, expert-led in-person or virtual sessions for all Florida residents regardless of insurance status. Upon class completion, participants are eligible for nicotine replacement therapy such as patches, gum, or lozenges.**

Pre-registration required

Call USF AHEC Program today at:
813-974-7889

*while supplies last
**if medically appropriate for those 18 years of age or older

Learn more about all of Tobacco Free Florida's tools and services at TobaccoFreeFlorida.com/QuitYourWay.

AHEC USF AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER PROGRAM
Florida HEALTH | Tobacco Free Florida .com

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

GREATER SOUTHSHORE Chamber of Commerce



Healthy Skin, Naturally Radiant, Beautifully You!

Facials | Back Facials | LED Light Therapy | Dermaplane | Microdermabrasion
Peels | Enzymes | High Frequency | Professional Skin Care For Retail Purchase

MEMBER Associated Skin Care Professionals

813-922-9327
223 Flamingo Dr. Apollo Beach
nbsesthetics.com

The Esthetics Association Florida

Not ready for assisted living? Perfect.

We're not like everyone else. Come see the difference.



- Family Owned
- Homelike Peer Neighborhoods
- Progressive Care For Peace Of Mind As Needs Change
- Three Separate Memory Care Neighborhoods Because Not One Size Fits All
- Convenient Location
- Easy Parking
- Pet Friendly
- Golf Cart Accessible

People's Choice 2025 Best of the Best

Cypress Creek
Assisted Living & Memory Care

813.633.7777 | www.cypresscreekalf.com
970 Cypress Village Blvd. Sun City Center, FL 33573
ALF LICENSE #9553

Tailored Travel, Where Every Trip Is A Treasure!

CRUISE PLANNERS®
YOUR LAND AND CRUISE EXPERTS



Book your Mediterranean Cruises, River Cruises, and Land Tours through us in 2026!

We're your travel experts!

Call Today for More Info!

Matthew Gordon & Marji Beam
Cruise Planners® Independent Franchise Owners

717-856-2646 | ventureoutvacation.com

We Encourage You to Support Our Chamber Members!

GREATER SOUTHSHORE Chamber of Commerce

The next time you need a service, search our Member Directory.
Our members are reputable, community-oriented, and dedicated to providing excellent service.
We are confident you won't be disappointed!

southshorechamberofcommerce.org

CROFTON'S PLUMBING & Drain Solutions, Inc.

Generations of Quality Plumbing

Full line of plumbing services including...

- Repipes
- Sewer Line Repair & Replacements
- Water Heaters
- Toilet Repair & Replacements
- Drain Cleaning & Hydro Jetting
- Camera Inspections
- Fixture Upgrades & More!

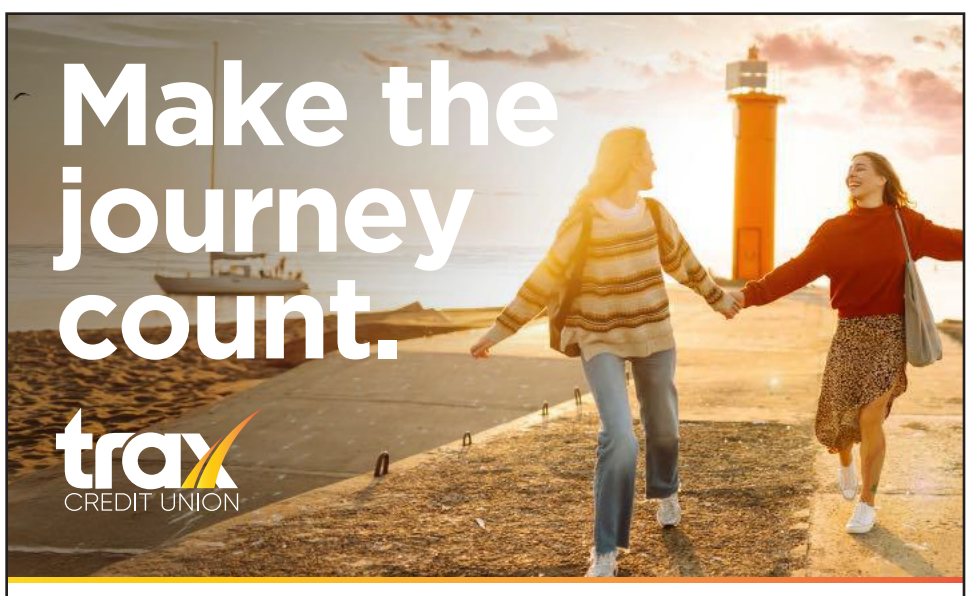
EMERGENCY SERVICES AVAILABLE

Call Today
813-633-8923

COUPON
Mention this ad & receive
10% off a service call
(Cannot be combined with other discounts.)

Formerly... Howie's

CFC1429356
Licensed, Insured, & Bonded



6106 Delancey Station Street
Riverview, FL 33578

619 30th Street NE
Ruskin, FL 33570

ASP AMERICA'S SWIMMING POOL CO.

Less To-Do's, More Pool Time.

- ~~Pool cleaning~~
- ~~Pool maintenance~~
- ~~Pool repairs~~
- Splash!

Remodeling
Cleaning
Repairs
Construction



Call 813-641-4968 | Visit ASPSouthShoreFL.com

GREATER SOUTHSHORE Chamber of Commerce

SHOP LOCAL



SOUTHSHORE CHARTER ACADEMY

Florida PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS 2025-2028

OPEN ENROLLMENT
Is Now Available!

Learn about our school and how to be a part of our Southshore family!

11667 Big Bend Road
Riverview, FL 33579
(813) 769-1209

Where Students Strive for Scholarship and Success.

INFO SESSIONS
March 11 @ 6:00pm
March 24 @ 9:00am
April 7 @ 6:00pm
April 22 @ 9:00am

www.southshorecharter.org



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
Sun City Center Funeral Home & Cremation

Your Goodbye, Your Way
Share your story by planning the final chapter.

At Sun City Center Funeral Home, our experienced team of preplanning advisors will help you craft plans for a vibrant celebration of life, memorial, funeral, or other event in seamless coordination with local cemeteries and houses of worship.

Sun City Center Funeral Home
Give us a call or stop by today.
(813) 634-9900
1851 Rickenbacker Drive
Sun City Center, FL 33573
suncitycenterfuneralhome.com



Two Great Locations to STRETCH You!

6150 Paseo Al Mar Blvd Suite 102, Apollo Beach
stretchzone.com/locations/apollo-beach-fl
Main: (813) 404-0694

3830 Sun City Center Blvd #103, Sun City Center
stretchzone.com/locations/sun-city-fl
Main: (813) 634-6399



QUALITY PRODUCE AND MORE AT A PRICE YOU WILL LOVE!

(813)751-7757
2619 14th Ave SE, Ruskin, FL 33570
(Big grey & red warehouse located two doors down from weather station)

Monday: Closed
Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday: 9:00am-5:00pm
Thursday & Friday: 9:00am-6:30pm
Sunday 11:00am - 6:00pm

smileLYNN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
CASEY LYNN, DMD. MS.
Home of the TAMPA Tongue-Tie Center

Maximize Your Yearly Benefits By Scheduling Today!

2026 In Network Plans!

Anthem | GEHA | UMR
United Healthcare
Humana | Ameritas
Guardian | UNUM

smileLYNNdental.com



Dr. Stewart, DMD



Dr. Lynn, DMD, MS

(813) 591-3052 | 122 Harbor Village Lane, Apollo Beach



LUCKY LAUREN CHARTERS
813-924-9250



What makes your life feel rich? Whether it's planning everyday moments or life's next big adventure, we're here to help you build a life you love.

Contact me today.

edwardjones.com/findyourrich
Member SIPC



Sean Andrews
Financial Advisor
16545 S US Hwy 301
Wimauma, FL 33598
813-649-8021

EJB-16762A-A-E-AD-1 © 2026 EDWARD D. JONES CO. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AECSPAD 27929136

FROM MANATEES TO SEA TURTLES, PLASTICS TAKE A DEADLY TOLL

Staff Report



A small piece of plastic — no larger than a baseball — can be enough to kill an adult Florida manatee, according to new findings from Ocean Conservancy. The organization is sounding the alarm as plastic pollution continues to harm and kill marine wildlife across Florida's waterways.

Ocean Conservancy reports that manatees, sea turtles, seabirds, dolphins and whales are ingesting plastic at alarming rates, often with fatal consequences. Nearly one in six Florida manatees examined after death were found to have plastic in their digestive systems, and one in 25 died directly because of it.

Sea turtles are especially vulnerable. According to the organization's research, nearly 70 percent of loggerhead sea turtles ingest plastic during their lifetimes. Even more concerning, just a teaspoon of plastic can be fatal to a newly hatched green sea turtle, whose digestive system can easily become blocked.

"These animals aren't just encountering plastic — they're mistaking it for food," said Jon Paul 'JP' Brooker, Ocean Conservancy's director of Florida conservation. "Once ingested, it can cause starvation, internal injuries or death."

Dr. Erin Murphy, Ocean Conservancy's manager of ocean plastics research and lead author of the study, emphasized that plastic pollution remains a preventable threat.

"The science is clear," Dr. Murphy said. "Plastic pollution is killing wildlife, but proven solutions exist to stop it at the source."

Ocean Conservancy released the full findings of its research on February 12, along with recommendations for state and local leaders to reduce plastic pollution and protect Florida's most vulnerable marine species. The organization said policy changes, improved waste management and community action can significantly reduce plastic entering waterways.

Local waterways, including areas such as Apollo Beach Preserve, are critical habitats for manatees and other marine life and are directly impacted by plastic debris from land-based sources.

For more than 50 years, Ocean Conservancy has worked to deliver science-based solutions to protect the ocean and the people and wildlife that depend on it. Through research, policy advocacy and public engagement, the organization continues to address plastic pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss.

Experts warn that without immediate action, plastic pollution will continue to take a deadly toll on Florida's iconic marine animals — a loss that is both tragic and avoidable.

Apollo Beach Preserve is located at 6760 Surfside Blvd. in Apollo Beach.

FAMILY RETURNS NICU TO HONOR NURSES WHO CARED FOR DAUGHTER

Staff Report



The March of Dimes has selected Andrew and Amber Vassell as this year's Ambassador Family for Tampa Bay. The Vassells, parents of three children, including two born premature, are using their story to raise awareness of the March of Dimes mission and to support other families facing the challenges of premature birth.

Their youngest daughter, Aliyah, was born on September 4 at just 26 weeks old and weighed a little more than 1 pound. She was small enough to fit in the palm of a hand and required immediate and extensive care. Her condition was so fragile that her parents were unable to hold her when she was born. After 153 days in the HCA Florida Brandon Hospital neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), Aliyah graduated and went home in February 2025.

To honor the team that cared for their daughter like family, the Vassells hosted a special appreciation dinner from Amici's Catered Cuisine owned by Phillip Lin. They treated the nurses to dinner, as well as a custom T-shirt created to mark the occasion, nearly one year after Aliyah made her journey home.

"I want the NICU nurses to know how thankful we are for how they cared for our daughter. This is just a small way we can thank you. I feel like we can never say thank you enough," said Andrew Vassell.

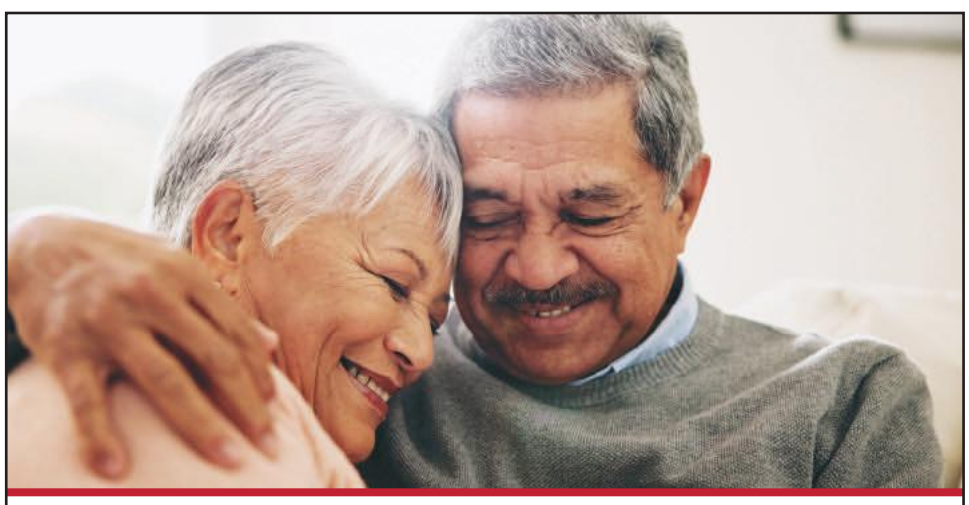
"Caring for babies like Aliyah is both a responsibility and a privilege. Families place enormous trust in us during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives, and we carry that trust with great respect. Seeing Aliyah thrive and having the Vassell family return to share their gratitude means more to our team than words can express," said Dr. Kiran Dwara-kanath, NICU medical director. "Their strength and dedication to helping other families remind us why we do this work every day."

As the Ambassador Family of Tampa Bay, the Vassells will share their story throughout the Tampa Bay region and across the country to help other families feel seen and supported through their own NICU experiences. Their advocacy extends beyond Florida. They recently partnered with the San Antonio Spurs for a March of Dimes event supported by Andrew Vassell's brother, Spurs guard Devin Vassell. They also have a Harlem Globetrotters March of Dimes event on the horizon.

"The Vassell family is an inspiring example of strength and hope," said Carly Johnson, manager of March of Dimes donor development. "Their desire to give back to the nurses who cared for Aliyah is a meaningful reminder of how deeply the NICU touches families. We are honored to have them as our ambassadors this year."

The Vassells hope that by telling their story, more families will feel empowered to share their own NICU journeys.





MEALS ON WHEELS OF TAMPA
nourish • enrich • strengthen

NOW SERVING APOLLO BEACH

Meals On Wheels of Tampa is expanding & we're inviting local partners to help us deliver more than a meal.

Partner with us to support neighbors in Apollo Beach through:

- **Adopt-A-Route** (businesses, teams, civic groups)
- **Volunteer to Deliver** (flexible options available)
- **Connect Us With New Recipients**

CONTACT US

813-238-MEAL

MOWTampa.org

5320 North Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33603

PAMELLA LEE PHOTOGRAPHY CAPTURES MORE THAN JUST MEMORIES FOR HER CLIENTS

By Libby Hopkins

PamElla Winslow, a local photographer and the owner of PamElla Lee Photography, has the ability to catch some of the most amazing moments in people's lives.



PamElla Winslow loves being able to capture the fun and core memories of her clients. She is a photographer and the owner of PamElla Lee Photography.



"My journey began as an amateur photographer just wanting to take better pictures for my growing church," Winslow said. "As I supplied more photographs of events and staff for slideshows and marketing material, people began to ask if I would also make family portraits as well. From there, my photography business began."

As she learned more about photography, she realized she wanted to learn more to further her photography career, so she returned to school to complete her Bachelor of Fine Arts in digital photography.

"I finished my BFA at the age of 52 from The Art Institute of Tampa and launched in 2016," Winslow said. "Attaining my degree was actually the beginning of lifelong learning and growth to continue bringing technical excellence to my work. I've not stopped running and I've never looked back; maybe glanced in the 'rear-view mirror,' but no regrets."

Winslow has received awards for her photography from the American Advertising Federation of Tampa Bay and is a member of Professional Photographers of America, the American Advertising Federation, the Society for Photographic Education and the American Society of Media Photographers. Her photos have also appeared in Tampa Bay Business & Wealth magazine.

What Winslow loves most about being a photographer is working with her clients and catching the fun or core memories in the photos she takes of them.

"I have always been a people person and love to capture genuine expressions, whether formally posed or candid, editorial images," Winslow said. "The most important thing to me is the experience my clients have when working with me to produce their pictorial story. Most are not comfortable in front of the camera, so it is important to me to put everyone at ease while participating in a session."

Keeping things local is important to Winslow as well.

"Being a local business owner in our community it extremely important to me," Winslow said. "My clients are part of this community, and they allow me to be part of their most precious moments. They allow me capture more than just memories."

If you would like to learn more about PamElla Lee Photography or hire her for your next event, you can visit her website at www.pamellalee.net or call 813-372-7916.











LIVE WITH PEACE OF MIND

For our brave veterans and every senior who deserves the very best! At Freedom Plaza, located on 140 acres in the heart of beautiful
Sun City Center, Florida; we believe in more than just retirement –
we believe in living worry-free!





STAY INDEPENDENT.STAY ACTIVE. STAY FREE.

- Maintenance-Free Living
- A Full Continuum of Healthcare
- A Strong Community of Patriots
- Top-Rated in Sun City Center, Florida

READY TO EXPERIENCE THE FREEDOM YOU DESERVE?

A community of seniors who are living their best lives. Visit us today at Freedom Plaza – where your future is secure and your lifestyle is full of possibilities!



Peace of mind starts here!

SCHEDULE A TOUR & LEARN MORE ABOUT LIFE CARE

(813) 634-1824

1010 American Eagle Blvd,
Sun City Center, FL 33573

FreedomPlazaFL.com

Sponsored by the Retired Officers Corporation

ROC

Freedom Plaza



APRIL: A MONTH TO SEE AND SUPPORT THE AUTISM COMMUNITY

April is recognized as Autism Awareness Month, but for many families like mine, autism awareness isn't limited to one month on the calendar. It's part of our daily lives, the routines, the challenges, the victories and the growth that happens along the way.

As a mom of an adult son with autism and the founder of Experienced Autism Alliance, I have had the privilege of connecting with countless families throughout our community. One thing I have learned is that every autism journey looks different. Each individual brings their own strengths, personality and perspective to the world.

Awareness is important, but true progress happens when awareness turns into understanding and support.

For parents of newly diagnosed children, take things one step at a time and know that you don't have to have all the answers today. The early days can feel overwhelming with appointments, therapies and new information. Give yourself grace. Growth happens gradually, and there is a supportive community ready to walk alongside you.

For parents of teens and adults with autism, your dedication and advocacy continue to open doors for independence, opportunity and meaningful lives for your children, even when the path forward may look different from what was expected. The transition into adulthood can bring new questions about employment, social opportunities and long-term support, but progress is possible, and every step forward matters.

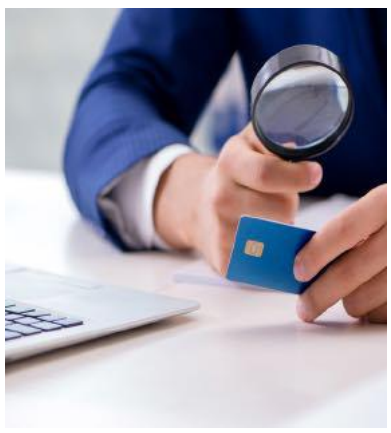
What families often need most from the community is understanding, a little patience, a welcoming smile and inclusive spaces where everyone feels they belong. Small acts of kindness can make a tremendous difference for families navigating autism.

Autism Awareness Month is also an opportunity to deepen understanding of the wide range of experiences within the autism community and the importance of creating spaces where individuals and families feel supported and included.

This April, I encourage our community to move beyond awareness and into action. When we lead with understanding and compassion, we build communities where individuals with autism and their families feel valued, included and supported every day of the year.



PROTECT SENIORS FROM GIFT CARD SCAMS



Across the country — and here in our local communities — scammers are increasingly targeting older adults with a common trick: asking for payment with gift cards.

Many people have reported receiving calls, texts, or emails from someone claiming to represent the Internal Revenue Service, a technology support company or even a relative who urgently needs help. These callers often sound convincing and create a sense of panic or urgency, telling the person that immediate payment is required.

In many cases, the caller instructs the victim to go to a nearby store such as Walmart, Target or CVS Pharmacy and purchase gift cards. The victim is then asked to read the 16-digit code on the back of the card over the phone or send it by text or email. Sometimes the scammer stays on the phone while the person travels to the store and buys the cards.

Once the code is shared, the money is gone almost immediately and is often very difficult to recover.

A Simple Rule to Remember

The most important thing to know is this: Anyone who asks you to pay a bill or fee with a gift card is a scammer.

Gift cards are meant for gifts, not for payments.

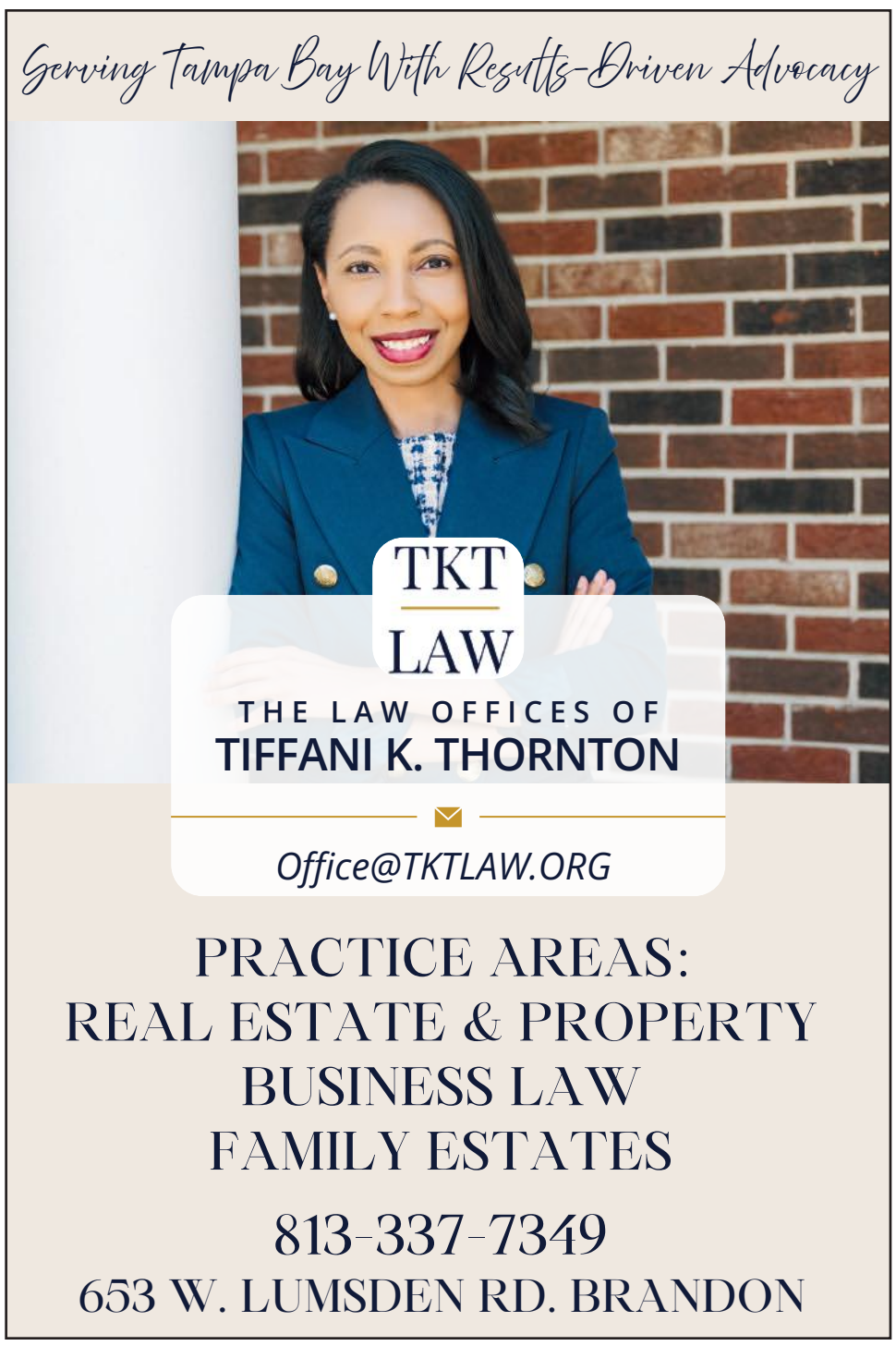
Common Gift Card Scam Stories

Scammers frequently invent believable stories to convince people to send money. Some of the most common include:

- Claims that you owe back taxes and must pay immediately.
- Calls from fake technical support claiming your computer has a virus.
- Someone pretending to be a grandchild or family member in trouble.
- Requests to pay fees to claim lottery or sweepstakes winnings.
- Romance scams where someone you met online asks for financial help.
- Offers to participate in a 'secret shopper' program.

These scams are part of a growing national problem. According to the Federal Trade Commission, imposter scams remain the most frequently reported type of fraud, with nearly 350,000 reports in a single year. Almost one in five victims reported losing money, totaling more than $328 million.

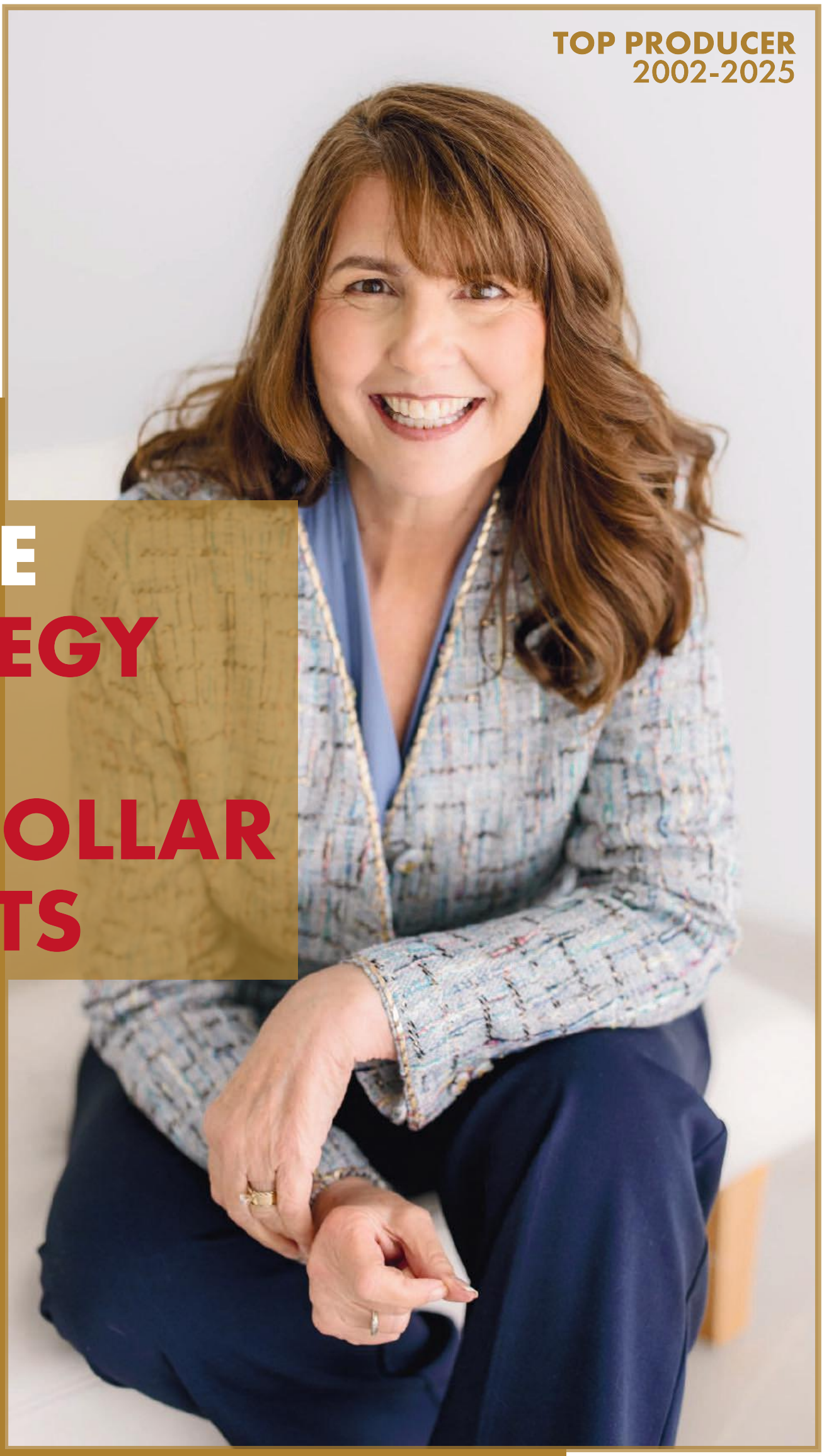
Based on reports per 100,000 residents, Florida, Georgia and Nevada rank among the states with the highest levels of reported fraud.





BRENDA WADE
Signature Realty Associates

TOP PRODUCER
2002-2025



WHERE
STRATEGY
MEETS
TOP-DOLLAR
RESULTS

SCAN

TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT US

THE #1 REAL ESTATE TEAM
IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

BrendaWade.com • Direct: 813-924-8677

SPRING INTO SOMETHING NEW!

Let's be **REMARKABLE** *together!*

BRENDA WADE
Signature Realty Associates



FEATURED LISTING

OFFERED AT
$875,000



685 Boca Ciega Point Blvd S
St Petersburg, FL 33708

EXPERIENCE
YOU CAN TRUST.

RESULTS
YOU CAN SEE.

Office: 813-655-5333 • Brenda@BrendaWade.com

52ND SUN 'N FUN AEROSPACE EXPO PROMISES HIGH-FLYING FUN AND FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Staff Report



Aviation enthusiasts and families alike are gearing up for the 52nd SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Expo, set for April 14–19, 2026, at Lakeland Linder International Airport. Recognized as one of the world's largest aviation events, the week-long expo promises high-flying excitement with daily and nightly airshows, educational forums, on-site camping, and live entertainment.

This year's event features a special extended Night Airshow on Wednesday, April 15, and a milestone 50th-anniversary celebration of the Red, White & Blue aerobatic team. Attendees can also take part in camping options, including early arrival sites starting April 11. Registration for camping opens April 7, 2026.

Adding a special touch to the opening night festivities, eight honorable World War II veterans will be honored during the Opening Night Concert on Tuesday, April 14, at the Warbird Ramp. The evening kicks off at 5 PM with performances by Angie K, Thomas Mac, and headliner Cooper Alan. This patriotic tribute is included with daily admission, ensuring every visitor can join the salute to America's heroes.

The expo continues the Franklin family's legacy of showmanship, led today by Kyle Franklin, a third-generation pilot and professional wingwalker. Franklin's career spans more than 25 years and includes jaw-dropping acts like comedy flying, motorcycle-to-airplane transfers, and thematic performances such as Pirated Skies and Dracula. Together with his wife, Liz, Kyle continues to push the boundaries of airshow entertainment while honoring his family's decades-long tradition.

EarlyBird tickets are $45 for daily general admission and $170 for weekly, rising to $50 and $180 respectively at the gate. Youth tickets (13–17) are $20 daily/$70 weekly, while children 12 and under are free. Parking is $20 onsite and available online in advance for $10. For more information on schedules, performers, and ticketing, visit the official SUN 'n FUN website at www.flysnf.org.

With thrilling performances, educational experiences, and unforgettable night shows, SUN 'n FUN 2026 promises to be an aviation event not to be missed.

Restoration 1 of Tampa Bay
WATER | FIRE | MOLD
Emergency Response to Full Rebuild
Fully Licensed General Contractor
Scan Code For Your FREE Hurricane Prep List
Office 813.576.2293
24 Hour Emergency 888-466-8055

SERENITY MEADOWS
MEMORIAL PARK
Pardon Our Dust
Project developments are moving forward quickly!.
Secure your spot soon to take advantage of Pre-Construction DEALS! (expires March 2026)
6919 Providence Rd, Riverview
813-677-9494 | serenitymeadows.com

Guided Kayak Tours ~ Eco Tours
Sunset Dinner Cruises
Reserve Your Five Star Tour
Latitudes Tours
latitudestours.com or 813-641-1311
Tripadvisor 2024 Travelers' Choice Awards

CARDINAL ROOFING
813-689-ROOF
License# CCC1325939
New Roof • Repair/Maintenance • Roof Inspections
Owens Corning Atticat Blown-In Insulation
Ventilation • Solar Attic Fans • Tubular Skylights
CardinalRoofingFL.com

With a Healthy lawn less water is required!
FREE ESTIMATES!
FOREVER GREEN
Lawn & Pest Control, LLC
"WE MAKE YOU PROUD!"
Commercial & Residential - Fungicide - Fertilizing
Insecticide - Weed Control Tree & Shrub Treatment
$10 OFF ANY TREATMENT DRY OR LIQUID
For Pre Pay Customers Only
Free WEED & CRAB GRASS CONTROL
New Customers Only
Up to 5000 sq ft $57 per month
Now $57 per month
You Get Protection
Ticks, Fleas, Fire Ants, Chinch Bugs, Mole Crickets, Sod Weed Worms, Grubs and much more.
Plus Fungus & Weeds and Premium Fertilizer
813-324-1004 • www.FGLAWN.com
Family Owned & Operated State Certified Licensed & Insured



SUMMER CAMPS 2026

Special Section, More Inside!





Sponsored By: Osprey Observer

SUMMER 2026: DISCOVER THE BEST LOCAL CAMPS FOR LEARNING, ADVENTURE AND FUN



Spring is almost here, and summer is just around the corner — which means now is the perfect time to start planning a season full of discovery, creativity and fun. To help families get a head start, the Osprey Observer team has once again rounded up the best local programs for our annual Summer Camp Guide, a special pullout section designed to connect students with unforgettable summer opportunities across the community.

From performing arts and STEM to sports, outdoor adventures and enrichment programs, this year's guide highlights camps for nearly every interest and age group. Budding performers can take center stage at Music Showcase and the Florida Academy of Performing Arts, where children immerse themselves in acting, singing and dance through themed musical theater camps. Young artists can also explore dance, theater and music through the Patel Conservatory, which offers more than 100 camps and classes taught by working professionals. Music lovers won't want to miss School of Rock, featuring genre-themed camps for ages 7–18, or Center For Dance Arts, known for its wide range of dance instruction and award-winning competition teams.

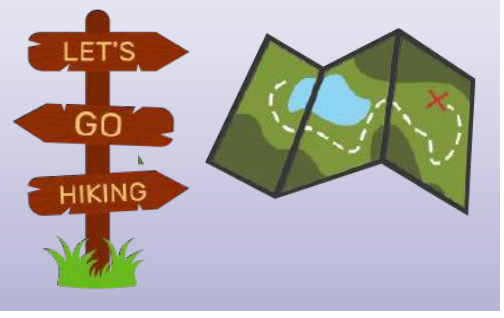
For hands-on creativity, AR Workshop provides engaging DIY camps that build confidence and imagination, while Camp Mirage keeps kids moving with action-packed mornings full of creativity and play.

Families looking for outdoor or traditional camp experiences will find plenty of options, including Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center, Circle F Dude Ranch and Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, which blends thrilling rides with animal encounters and education. Horse lovers can saddle up at TLC's Gypsy Haven, while sports-minded campers can stay active through Fellowship Church sports camps or daily adventures at High 5 Inc..

Academic and STEM-focused families will appreciate enrichment options from Mathnasium, Skill Samurai and Code Wiz, while Kids 'R' Kids Circa FishHawk delivers themed camps that blend learning with fun. With more than 25 locations, YMCA of Tampa Bay also offers something for every camper, from arts and gymnastics to zip-lining and pool time.

Be sure to explore the full Summer Camp Guide for dates, pricing and registration details — and don't forget to enter our Summer Camp Sweepstakes, where one lucky family will win a free week of camp. With so many outstanding options, Summer 2026 is shaping up to be one to remember.

Families are encouraged to register early, as many camps fill quickly and offer early-bird discounts, scholarships or flexible scheduling options. Summer camps provide more than entertainment — they help children build confidence, friendships and lifelong skills while giving parents peace of mind. Whether your child wants to explore a new passion or deepen an existing one, this guide is your go-to resource for planning a summer filled with growth, joy and memorable experiences close to home.



Music & Theater Summer Camps

The Florida Academy of Performing Arts



faopa.org
the florida academy of performing arts

(813) 490-ARTS (2787)

CAMPS FILL FAST!

Register online at FAOPA.org

Located in Music Showcase
Musical instruments, lessons, repairs, and more

402 Oakfield Drive,
Brandon FL 33511

FAOPA Day Camp

Full and half-day week-long camps, plus daily drop-ins

- Free early drop off and late pick up
- Activities to explore instruments, acting, singing, and art
- Themed weeks like: Wicked, Harry Potter, Superheroes, and more!
- Scholarships and sibling discounts

Musical Theatre Camp

- Productions for all ages and skill levels
- Elementary, Middle School, and High School productions
- Broadway Boot Camp - Broadway Artists To Attend
- Visit FAOPA.org for shows, schedules, and performances

Past Summer Shows



Florida Academy of Performing Arts | Located in Music Showcase (813) 490-ARTS FAOPA.org



SUMMER CAMPS 2026







Sponsored By:
Osprey Observer
Your Community Newspaper

PAGE 20

DANCE, THEATER AND MUSIC PROGRAMS OFFERED AT STRAZ CENTER THIS SUMMER

By Olivia Clark



Registration for the 2026 Summer Camps and Classes is now open at the Patel Conservatory, the accredited performing arts school at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Tampa. The Summer session runs Monday, June 1 through Friday, July 31, and the programs in dance, theater and music are carried out for students aged 3 through adult.

Each summer, the conservatory opens its doors to those who want a first experience in the arts and to those who desire more advanced, preprofessional training. Families from across the Tampa Bay area enroll in the programs, which offer both creative enrichment and more formalized skill development during the summer months. Classes are conducted by working artists and experienced instructors in a professional performing arts environment.

They can take dance courses in the Next Generation Ballet Summer Intensive, which has five, three-, and two-week sessions for ages 11 through college, and dorm housing is provided for older students. Younger dancers can join the Junior Intensive and other camps appropriate for their age, designed to enhance their technique, strength, and performance quality.

These students will get the chance to rehearse and perform in fully staged productions like Seussical, Jr. and Aladdin KIDS in which they will get acting, singing and stage movement experience. There are other specialty camps for fundamental acting skills and Shakespeare, and older students have the chance to audition for the Broadway Intensive production of Catch Me If You Can.

Music offerings include jazz, choral and chamber intensives, a singer-songwriter camp, and a number of workshops focusing on particular instruments. Younger students also learn about composition, rhythm and collaboration through weekly camps like The Science of Music and World Drumming and Storytelling.

Tuition rates differ for each program, with most week-long camps costing $475 and multiweek intensive programs charged at higher rates depending on the length of the program. There are scholarships with the financial aid priority deadline being Friday, February 28. Auditions or placements are required for some programs before registration, and early enrollment is recommended since enrollment is limited.

For a complete schedule or to register, go to www.patelconservatory.asapconnected.com or www.patelconservatory.org. For more information, call 222-1040 or email admissions@strazcenter.org.

CEDARKIRK BLENDS FAITH, ADVENTURE AND LEADERSHIP FOR SUMMER 2026

By Olivia Clark



Tucked away on 170 wooded acres along the Alafia River, Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center continues its longstanding tradition of offering a place apart for children and teens to grow in faith and community. Owned by the Presbyteries of Tampa Bay and Peace River, Cedarkirk has served the region since 1971 and welcomes more than 1,000 campers each summer.

While its residential camps remain a cornerstone of the ministry, Cedarkirk is placing added emphasis on its growing day camp program. Mandy Goff, Program Director, said the camp launched day camp two years ago and saw participation more than double in its second year. In response to family needs, Cedarkirk has added early drop-off from 8-8:30 a.m. and late pick-up from 5-5:30 p.m. for an additional fee.

"We are really trying to focus on our day camp program and make it affordable for families in this area," said Goff.

Day camp serves students who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade. Cedarkirk is also piloting a small middle school day camp during the final week of summer, Monday, July 27 to Friday, July 31, with limited space available. Residential camps continue to run Sunday to Friday for students who have completed third through 12th grade, while Explorer Camp provides a two-night introduction to overnight camp for children who have completed first through third grade.

Goff explained that a typical day camp day begins at 9 a.m., with drop-off beginning at 8:30 a.m. Campers join residential campers for morning songs before rotating through scheduled activity blocks that include zip lining, canoeing on the river, climbing the rock wall, arts and crafts and hiking. Campers swim daily, weather permitting, and share family-style lunches together. Each afternoon concludes with Bible study, worship and snack before pickup from 4:30-5 p.m.

Goff said creating community is central to the experience. Technology is not permitted, encouraging campers to build friendships, engage with nature and participate in shared traditions such as group songs and family-style meals. With approximately 30 summer staff members and small day camp groups of 12-14 campers per session, Cedarkirk continues to prioritize connection, outdoor adventure and spiritual growth.

Llearn more or register at www.cedarkirk.campbrainregistration.com.





& ACTIVITY GUIDE





Sponsored By: Osprey Observer — Your Community Newspaper

A LOOK INTO HIGH 5'S SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM FOR AGES 5-12

By Emily Harper



High 5 Inc. is a multipurpose facility committed to positively impacting the community. Located in Brandon, High 5's programs are divided into five pillars: learn to swim, special needs education, after-school care, sports and recreation and community partnerships.

From Monday, June 1, through Friday, August 7, High 5 offers summer camp for ages 5-12. This weekly program is Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., for the main campus, and Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., for the off-site campus at Bevis Elementary School.



A typical day at the main summer camp consists of a wide variety of engaging activities. During the day, campers rotate through swimming, outdoor sports, gym games, playground time, arts and crafts, hands-on STEM experiences and Gamers Grotto (a supervised and age-appropriate video game room). The off-site location's camp is similar in structure, minus the pool. However, it does offer water activities on some days of the camp.

"What truly sets our camp apart is the experience we're able to provide on our beautiful, expansive campus and the wide range of activities we offer. Our programming is thoughtfully designed to balance fun with learning, physical activity with creativity and structure with exploration," said Jada Spano, vice president of operations.

Families can expect a safe and fun environment where children play and learn while making lifelong summer memories. High 5's experienced staff creates a welcoming atmosphere, keeping safety as their top priority.

"We focus on creating a safe, inclusive and supportive environment where every child feels valued and encouraged to grow," said Spano.

One of the most anticipated moments of camp is the 'World's Largest Swim Lesson'. Happening on Thursday, June 25, this global event promotes water safety and drowning prevention.

Spano stated, "Our campers love being part of something so meaningful and memorable, and families appreciate the important life-saving skills it reinforces."

Registration for the summer camp is now open on the website at www.high-5inc.org/camp. The main campus camp costs $175 per week, with a one-time $40 registration fee for the summer, while the off-site camp is $90 per week.

MATHNASIUM CAMPS KEEP MATH SKILLS SHARP DURING SUMMER BREAK

By Libby Hopkins



Summer is a season full of possibilities, longer days, new experiences and the perfect opportunity for kids to grow in confidence. It's also a powerful time to strengthen math skills in a way that feels positive, engaging and stress-free. At Mathnasium, summer learning doesn't pause; it accelerates, giving students the chance to build skills, explore new ideas and feel proud of their progress.



"Learning loss happens when students are not consistently engaged with content," said Mathnasium owner Nicole Pestano. "Therefore, summer is a pivotal time due to the long break. Research shows that during those few short months, students forget what they have learned and lose essential skills. Staying engaged helps students build skills and confidence so they don't have to play catch-up in the new school year."

While some students use summer to reinforce essential skills, others are ready to push ahead, and younger learners are just beginning to form the foundations that will support future success. Mathnasium supports students at every stage of learning, from building foundations to tackling advanced challenges.

At Mathnasium, summer learning is never one-size-fits-all. Every student begins with a personalized assessment that identifies strengths, gaps and learning styles. From there, Pestano and her team create an individualized learning plan tailored specifically to each child. Students who need extra support receive targeted instruction to rebuild confidence and close learning gaps. Students who are on track keep their skills sharp and steady. Advanced learners are challenged with deeper concepts that keep them engaged and motivated. And its youngest 'Great Foundations' students develop number sense, problem-solving skills and a love of math that sets them up for long-term success.

Summer is also the ideal time to get ahead without pressure. Mathnasium sessions are engaging, encouraging and flexible, making it easy to balance learning with vacations, camps and family time.

"We're proud to be a Step Up for Students provider, making personalized math learning accessible for more families," added Pestano.

Learn more about summer camps at www.mathnasium.com/ruskin or call 813-819-MATH (6284). Mathnasium of Ruskin is located at 3062 19th Ave. NE in Ruskin. You can also contact Mathnasium of Riverview, located at 13388 S. U.S. 301 in Riverview, by calling 813-565-1102 or visiting www.mathnasium.com/riverview.

DANCE • THEATER • MUSIC

SUMMER CAMPS

FOR ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



Scan to find out more about Patel Conservatory and to view the summer brochure!

STRAZ CENTER PATEL CONSERVATORY

Presented By: AdventHealth

patelconservatory.org • 813.222.1040



SUMMER CAMPS 2026







Sponsored By:
Osprey Observer
Your Community Newspaper

PAGE 22

FLORIDA ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS OFFERS FUN MUSICAL SUMMER CAMPS

By Libby Hopkins

The Florida Academy of Performing Arts (FAOPA) is a local nonprofit organization that was established to support the performing arts through programs at the academy and in the Brandon community.



FAOPA is committed to providing extraordinary theater experiences that educate, challenge and inspire students and their surrounding communities. FAOPA fosters self-discovery, creativity, confidence, group responsibility and pride in accomplishment.

"FAOPA celebrates the professional artistic disciplines of music, dance and the visual arts," said Danielle Sanchez, academy director of FAOPA. "We strive to be a model of excellence in theatre for all our audiences."

FAOPA and Music Showcase have offered summer camps, day camps and musical theater camps for many years.

"The day camps consist of singing, dancing, arts and crafts, intro into theater through improv," Sanchez said. "Our musical theater camps are for all ages and skill levels. We offer a variety of shows throughout the summer. Students work on choreography, blocking, stage direction and character development. Throughout the process, we watch students grow in confidence and self-esteem as they become blooming actors on the stage."

FAOPA is currently working on the camps they will be offering this summer to the community.

"We will offer musical theater camps and day camps," Sanchez said. "Our musical theater camps are two weeks long. Day camps are one week long. We have our middle school/high school groups that meet in the afternoon/evening."

The cost for musical theater camp is $295 plus a service fee. Day camps are from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. for half day and from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for whole day. Day camp is for kindergartners through age 10, and the cost is $230 plus service fee.

"Parents love our musical theater camps," Sanchez said. "They love watching where their student starts and end up as well as seeing the difference. They love to watch their children grow in self-esteem and find the confidence to stand on the stage with their peers in the show. ."

If you would like to learn more about FAOPA and the camps it will be offering this summer, you can visit its website at www.faopa.org/ or call 813-490-ARTS (2787). FAOPA is located at 402 Oakfield Dr. in Brandon.

TEN WEEKS OF FUN AWAIT FAMILIES AT TAMPA YMCA SUMMER CAMPS

By Olivia Clark



Summer will arrive soon, and the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is getting ready for another season of adventure, learning, and friendship. Registration is now open for Summer Camp at Campo Family YMCA, Spurlino Family YMCA, and North Brandon Family YMCA. Campers ages 6-15 can enjoy 10 weeks of fun activities in a safe and organized setting.

Each location offers a unique mix of Signature Camp and specialty options. Signature Camp allows kids to rotate through activities such as swimming, STEM projects, arts and crafts, outdoor education, and team-building games. Counselors support campers throughout daily activities designed to build confidence, promote friendships, and keep campers active during the summer.

Campo Family YMCA in Valrico features specialty camps that include sports, creative arts, and teen leadership programs. Spurlino Family YMCA in Riverview offers many athletic and enrichment camps, along with popular options for teens. North Brandon Family YMCA in Seffner provides sports, drama, gymnastics, and adaptive camps, ensuring families can find a program that fits their child's interests and abilities.

Teens have new opportunities this year, with three unique experiences tailored for ages 13-15. Programs focused on leadership, such as Junior Lifeguard Camp and Counselor in Training, help participants build responsibility, communication skills, and hands-on experience that lasts beyond summer. The Junior Teen Camp program introduces participants to outdoor exploration, basic archery, scenic trails, and lake adventures while fostering confidence and creativity.

Families can enhance the regular 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. camp day with optional add-ons, which vary by location. These may include swim lessons, open swim, sports, high ropes, horseback riding, and gymnastics. During registration, families can choose available add-ons specific to their YMCA. A nonrefundable deposit of $10 per week, per camper is due at registration, with separate deposits for specific teen leadership programs.

Tampa YMCA camps are ACA-accredited, which means they have gone through a thorough review by the American Camp Association focusing on health, safety, and program quality standards. This distinction places Tampa YMCA camps among a select group of accredited day camps in Florida.

Registration is available online at the website www.tampaymca.org, where families can view session weeks and age group details. Sessions fill up quickly.



At Circle F Dude Ranch Camp, we foster grit, growth, and a love for the outdoors. With the perfect blend of Western flair and classic camp fun, we give kids the kind of summer they'll never forget. Located in Lake Wales, campers 6 to 16 enjoy our overnight experiences for one, two and three-weeks sessions.

DATES & RATES

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE

May 9th, 2026 – 10:00AM to 4:00PM

Meet our leadership team, try our activities, take a tour, and learn more about summers on the ranch.

RSVP REQUIRED

www.circlefduderanchcamp.com 863-676-4113 info@circlefduderanch.com



& ACTIVITY GUIDE



Sponsored By: Osprey Observer — Your Community Newspaper



CIRCLE F DUDE RANCH CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF ADVENTURE AND TRADITION

By Kelly Wise Valdes



Circle F Dude Ranch Camp is excited to celebrate its 75th year, marking a milestone for the Lake Wales camp that has welcomed generations of young people. Camp Director Benjamin Moss said the camp's longevity comes from staying true to its mission while adapting to the needs of each new generation.

"Circle F has remained special because it has always stayed true to its purpose — helping young people grow in confidence, character, and independence — while thoughtfully evolving with each generation," Moss said. "Since 1952, families have trusted us to provide a place where kids can unplug, build real friendships and discover who they are beyond screens and schedules."

During the summer, Circle F welcomes about 200 campers per session, evenly split between boys and girls. Campers spend their days immersed in activities such as horseback riding, waterfront programs, arts, team and individual sports, ax throwing, paintball, boating and climbing towers.

The camp sits on 500 acres of southern live oak forest surrounding a spring-fed private lake, creating a scenic backdrop for exploration and adventure.

Many of Circle F's traditions have remained unchanged, Moss said, including opening and closing campfires, cabin living, horseback riding and more. "Those moments connect today's campers with generations who sat around the same fire before them," he said.

Moss said climbing, adventure sports, leadership pathways and more intentional skill development have helped shape the modern Circle F. "The balance between tradition and innovation is what defines modern Circle F, honoring our roots while preparing campers for the world ahead," he said.

Circle F will host an open house in May to give families a firsthand look at camp life. Moss said visitors can expect tours, staff introductions and opportunities to explore activity areas. "Visitors will tour cabins and activity areas, meet our leadership team and staff, see programs in action, and get a real sense of daily life at Circle F."

For more information, visit the website at www.CircleFDudeRanchCamp.com or call 863-676-4113.







SUMMER CAMPS 2026







Sponsored By:
Osprey Observer
Your Community Newspaper



PAGE 24

CAMP CRISTINA OFFERS ADVENTURE & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ALL SUMMER

By Olivia Clark





At Camp Cristina in Riverview, the summer is set for exploration, skill enhancement and outdoor fun. Registrations are now open for the camp's 10-week summer program designed to offer hands-on and natural confidence-inspiring experience.

Signature Camp at Camp Cristina features a rotating line-up of activities for children that take place all day long and include swimming, STEM projects, arts and crafts, outdoor education and team-building games. Campers are closely monitored and grouped according to age, with counselors providing guidance in a structured environment where children can remain physically active and mentally stimulated.

Camp Cristina has a variety of specialty camps for older campers with particular interests. In Horse Camp, participants learn the basics of grooming, go on trail rides, and gain confidence working with horses. Swim Camp focuses on water safety and swim instruction with certified staff to help campers build skills in and around the water. Lifeguard Camp offers aquatics leadership skills, teamwork, and hands-on training that generates responsibility and prepares young adults for future certification opportunities.

Campers can also take part in Adventure Camp, which includes activities like archery, exploring the lake, and team challenges that promote cooperation and problem-solving. The Counselors in Training and Junior Lifeguards programs offer leadership skills, communication skills, and hands-on training in a nurturing environment focusing on growth and responsibility.

Thus, families can add on to the traditional camp day, which runs from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with weekly add-ons such as swim lessons, gymnastics and extended care. Add-ons vary according to the age group and availability and can be chosen during registration. There is a nonrefundable deposit at registration and a separate deposit for select teen leadership programs.

Camp Cristina is one of the Tampa YMCA's ACA-accredited camps, which is reflected in the national standards for safety, staff training, and program quality. This places the camp among the few day camps in Florida, meeting the standards set by the American Camp Association.

For further information or to register, go online to https://www.tampaymca.org/letscamp or the Tampa YMCA registration portal. Families are advised to register their children at the earliest opportunity to avoid missing out on available sessions.

ULTIMATE SUMMER WITH BUSCH GARDENS TAMPA BAY CAMPS

Staff Report



Your search for summer plans is over. Families looking ahead to summer camp 2026 will find a wide range of engaging, educational and adventure-filled options at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, where camps are designed for animal lovers, thrill seekers and curious minds of all ages.

Busch Gardens summer camps offer children and teens the chance to unplug and connect with animals, nature and one another in a dynamic, hands-on environment. Campers explore wildlife, learn about conservation and animal care, enjoy thrilling rides and shows, and build friendships that often last long after summer ends. These experiences are not only fun, but also meaningful, helping campers grow in confidence, curiosity and teamwork.

Busch Gardens' summer programs are led by carefully selected, highly trained professionals who know how to balance education with excitement. The park offers a variety of educational summer day camps for students from kindergarten through 12th grade, with sessions tailored to different age groups and interests. Campers enjoy close-up animal encounters, behind-the-scenes experiences, themed games and crafts, age-appropriate rides, live shows, and interactive learning activities. Each camper also receives souvenir keepsakes, including a camp T-shirt and water bottle, along with opportunities to return to the park after camp hours.

For older students seeking a deeper adventure, overnight resident camps provide a one-of-a-kind sleepaway experience. Based in a secure on-site lodge, these all-inclusive camps immerse rising seventh through 12th graders in a blend of wildlife education and adrenaline-pumping attractions. Campers gain exclusive access to animal care areas, interact with park professionals, and experience the park in ways not available to regular guests.

Busch Gardens camps are accredited by the American Camping Association, offering parents added confidence in program quality, safety and staff training. Priority access to attractions, enriching educational content and unforgettable behind-the-scenes moments consistently place these camps among the top summer programs in the region.

With options ranging from early elementary students to teens—and even specialized programs for those exploring future careers—Busch Gardens Tampa Bay continues to be a standout destination for summer camp 2026 registration opportunities. Register at www. buschgardens.com.









& ACTIVITY GUIDE



Sponsored By: Osprey Observer — Your Community Newspaper



IMPACT TEEN SUMMER STAFF PROGRAM INSPIRES HEALTHY CHOICES

Staff Report



This summer, teens across Hillsborough County will have the chance to make a real difference through Teen Impact Summer Staff.

Teen Impact Summer Staff is made up of 20–35 students who travel to middle and high school youth-based organizations to perform a powerful, skit-based presentation. Their message focuses on avoiding high-risk behaviors and choosing a healthy lifestyle. What makes this program unique is that it is student-led. Teens speak to other teens in a way that feels honest and relatable. When students see people their own age choosing positive paths, it helps them understand that risk avoidance is possible. The goal is to inspire young people to build healthy relationships and make smart choices that lead to a strong and positive future.

Angie Kagey, Executive Director of IMPACT, explained, "We are the prevention arm, encouraging teens to make healthy choices, before other intervention may be required." Since 1998, the organization has served the Hillsborough County community with the mission to educate, equip, empower and support students, parents and teachers in the area of sexual risk avoidance and healthy relationships. Over the years, IMPACT has reached thousands of families through school programs, summer staff presentations and community events.

Teen Impact Summer Staff is also a great opportunity for students who need community service hours for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Students entering ninth grade in the fall or older are invited to apply. During the eight-week summer program, each participant earns approximately 100 community service hours while building leadership skills, confidence and public speaking experience.

The program begins June 1 and runs through July 24. The first week students train to prepare them to present the skits and speak in front of audiences. After training, presentation days are Monday through Thursday, with every other Friday offering an optional fun activity. The application deadline is Friday, March 27. Applications can be found at www.whatisimpact.com/students. Completed applications should be emailed to Joy Miller at jmiller@whatisimpact.com.

CENTER FOR DANCE ARTS PLANS TO STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT THIS SEASON

By Mylena C. Ferman



This March, the Center For Dance Arts' VIP Team gets to showcase their skills at the first mandatory competition of the season! Located in Brandon, the dance studio provides students with a safe place to grow as both dancers and people.

"I think it's important that we teach them not just the importance of dance," Christi Furgason, assistant director and studio manager of the Center For Dance Arts, said, "but how dance can shape you as a person in the outside world."

The VIP Team is the Center For Dance Arts' competitive dance team. Each season, the VIP Team learns new routines to compete against other studios. There are four regional competitions and a national competition, with various optional competitions that the dancers are not required to attend.

"We want to go for first [place], but it's also about the experience," Furgason said, "and making sure they grow not just in dance but also in life."

Once a week, the VIP Team has a class focused on team building and social skills. Activities can include team scavenger hunts, where everyone must be included or risk losing all earned clues and restarting, or obstacle courses guided by a peer on the sidelines.

"Afterwards, we come together, and we're like, 'OK, so what worked and what didn't?'" Furgason said.

Those who want a taste of the spotlight can join the Center For Dance Arts on Thursday, March 12, for a bingo night at Bullfrog Creek Brewing Co. The fundraiser is open to anyone looking to support the dancers. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., with bingo beginning at 7 p.m.

This season, the VIP Team boasts about 15 dancers, primarily between ages 9-14 years old.

While auditions for this season's competition team have passed, auditions for next season's VIP competition team are currently set for Friday, May 15. The audition schedule for ages 4-11 is 5:30-7 p.m., and those ages 12-18 audition from 7-8:30 p.m.

For more information about the Center for Dance Arts, please visit www.mycfda.com, call 813-657-1500, follow its social media pages on Instagram @cfdaofficial or Facebook at www.facebook.com/center-4dancearts/.

Busch Gardens® camp

YOUR SEARCH FOR SUMMER PLANS IS OVER



Home to more than 12,000 animals and world-class coasters, Busch Gardens® Tampa Bay has camps for both animal lovers and thrill seekers alike.

Kids in Kindergarten through 12th grade can enroll in one-of-a-kind camps.

Day Camp: K-12th • Resident Camp: 7th-12th

Book today and start counting down to the best summer ever.

REGISTER NOW!

BuschGardens.com/camps • (813)884-4FUN (4386)

Busch Gardens® camp · Adventure Island® · American Camp Association ACCREDITED · Association of Zoos & Aquariums

Program component, pricing and availability subject to change. © 2026 United Parks & Resorts, Inc. All rights reserved.



SUMMER CAMPS 2026







Sponsored By: Osprey Observer — Your Community Newspaper



CEDARKIRK, CIRCLE F DUDE, PATEL, MATHNASIUM AND MORE....

Compiled By Jenny Bennett

Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center

Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center, located on 170 acres of woodlands, wetlands and uplands near the Alafia River, will have summer overnight and day camps starting on Sunday, June 7, and finishing on Friday, July 31. Campers can sign up for a week or the whole summer. Day camp is available for campers who have completed kindergarten up to those who have completed fifth grade and is priced at $230 per week. Day campers must bring their own lunch. Overnight camp is available for campers who have completed first through 12th grade and starts at $555. Cedarkirk is located at 1920 Streetman Dr. in Lithia and can be reached at 813-685-4224. For more information and to register, visit www.cedarkirk.org.

Circle F Dude Ranch

Circle F Dude Ranch, located in Lake Wales, welcomes boys and girls from all over the United States and the world for one to three-week sleep-away camp sessions. Kids range in age from 6-16. Circle F fosters grit, growth and a love for the outdoors. With the perfect blend of Western flair and classic camp fun, it gives kids the kind of summer they'll never forget. Visit Circle F Dude Ranch for an open house on May 9, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. meet the leadership team, try activities and learn about summers on the ranch, RSVP at admin.gazeboevents.com. For more and to sign up, visit www.circlefduderanchcamp.com.

Mathnasium

Summer is the perfect time for kids to grow in confidence and strengthen math skills without pressure. At Mathnasium, summer learning accelerates with personalized plans designed for every stage — from building foundations to tackling advanced challenges. Students receive targeted support, stay sharp or move ahead while enjoying engaging, flexible sessions that fit busy summer schedules. Parents often see gains not just in skills but also in confidence and attitude. This summer, help your child return to school prepared, motivated and excited about math. To find a location near you, please visit www.mathnasium.com.

The Patel Conservatory

The Straz Center's Patel Conservatory offers arts education courses and programs in dance, theater and music, with 100-plus camps and classes available. Students are instructed by passionate, working artists with a taste array of professional performance experience and exemplary curriculum vitae. Running from Monday, June 1, to Friday, July 31, full and half-day camps are available weekly for ages 4-18. The cost varies depending on the camp; financial aid and scholarships are available. Visit the website at www.patelconservatory.org or call 813-222-1040. Open House scheduled for Thurs,, May 14, from 5-6 p.m.

Busch Gardens

For more than 25 years, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay has provided children with inspiring, exciting and educational experiences through some of the best Tampa summer camp options. There are a wide variety of summer day camp options to fit your child's grade level and interests. One of the reasons to choose Busch Gardens as your summer camp include it being accredited by the American Camping Association, meaning parents can trust that the camp meets high standards for safety, staff training and program quality. Also, campers get to enjoy the adrenaline rush of rides as well as the unique opportunity to meet animals up close. Beyond the fun, campers experience activities that are both enriching and educational, providing a well-rounded experience.

For information, visit the park website at www.buschgardens.com.

Jam Room Music

Jam Room Music is a new concept in music stores, combining retail and lounge areas with space to jam. It knows the unique joy that occurs when musicians create music together and believes everyone should have that experience. Its goal is to build up the local music community by providing everything musicians of all skill levels need and creating a welcoming environment to spend time around music. Jam Room Music is offering half-day summer camps from Monday, June 8, through Friday, July 10, at its Valrico location at 1040 Bloomingdale Ave. Visit www.jamroommusic.com or call 813-709-7822 for information.

Make Mathnasium Part of Your Summer Plans



Your child can avoid the math learning loss that typically happens over the break by attending summer sessions at Mathnasium. And the benefits don't stop there!

- Faster progress is possible without the distraction of other academic commitments
- We're vacation-friendly, with live face-to-face instruction, both in-center and online
- Kids can start the new school year with confidence

Beat the Summer Slide With Mathnasium

$100
*Pre-Enroll by May 15 and SAVE $100 on enrollment
*Osprey Observer

Mathnasium of Riverview
813-565-1102
mathnasium.com/riverview
13388 S US Highway 301
Riverview

Mathnasium of Ruskin
813-819-MATH (6284)
mathnasium.com/ruskin
3062 19th Avenue NE
Ruskin, FL 33570

MATHNASIUM
The Math Learning Center



& ACTIVITY GUIDE





Sponsored By: Observer — Your Community Newspaper

ROCK SCHOOL, HORSE CAMP, BUSCH GARDENS, SKILLS & MORE...

Compiled By Jenny Bennett

Camp Mirage

Camp Mirage is an activity-based summer camp built around movement, creativity and hands-on fun. Its promise is simple — campers will go home tired, a little dirty, smiling and excited to come back the next day. It offers half-day camps for grades K and up, running from 9 a.m.-12 Noon, with before and after-care available from 7:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Weekly tuition ranges from $125-$185 depending on age group, a membership discount program is available which provides 10 percent off tuition and a reduced rate for before and after care. Camp Mirage is located at 2913 John Moore Rd. in Brandon. Visit www.campmiragebrandon.com or call 813-825-2234.

Fellowship Church

Fellowship Church, located at 15326 FishHawk Blvd., in Lithia will be holding a weekly sports summer camp from Monday, June 1, through Thursday, July 23. Camp will be Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and will cost $150, with a sibling discount available. Campers must bring drinks and a snack, as well as wear sports attire; a camp shirt will be provided. Visit its website at www.fellowship.church or call 813-655-7431.

Music Showcase And The Florida Academy Of Performing Arts

Music Showcase and the Florida Academy of Performing Arts (FAOPA) will host their annual summer camp this summer starting on Monday, June 1. Campers will be immersed in acting, singing, dancing and more throughout the summer. In Musical Theater Camp, campers will learn about working collaboratively, the art of stage character, voice projection, props and working with a set, with productions for all ages and skill levels. FAOPA's day camp will include activities to explore instruments, acting, singing and art, with themed weeks like Harry Potter, Wicked, superheroes and more. Free early drop-off, free late pickup, scholarships and sibling discounts. Music Showcase is located at 402 Oakfield Dr. in Brandon. Visit www.faopa.org.

Skill Samurai

Skill Samurai's STEM Camps give students hands-on experience with today's most exciting technologies. Campers explore Minecraft and Roblox through creative game design, learn responsible content creation in YouTube Studio and discover the fundamentals of artificial intelligence. Designed for curious minds, these camps build problem-solving, creativity and confidence in a fun, supportive environment. Perfect for beginners and experienced students alike, Skill Samurai helps children turn interest in technology into real-world skills that last a lifetime locally. Visit www.skillsamurai.com/fl-brandon/camps or call 813-761-2832

TLC's Gypsy Haven Riding Camps

Come and learn about horse riding and grooming at TLC's Gypsy Haven's summer camp, which offers hands-on experience and education. Camps run from Tuesday-Thursday from 9a.m. - 2p.m. from Tuesday, June 2, through Thursday, June 25, and Tuesday, July 7, through Thursday, July 30. Group lessons are also available on Fridays and Saturdays. Visit the website at www.tlcsfarms.com or call Tammi on 813-842-4236 for information. TLC's Gypsy Haven is located at 4325 Keysville Rd. in Lithia.

School of Rock Valrico

Let your budding musicians join School of Rock this summer for a variety of music-themed camps, including Taylor Swift and Classic Rock Rewind. There are different themes for different age groups, with camps suitable for ages 7-18. Camps are available for full or half days, with the earliest available drop-off being at 8:45 a.m.

School of Rock is located at 3244 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., #104, in Valrico. Visit www.schoolofrock.com/locations/valrico or call 813-397-8828.









SUMMER CAMPS 2026

Sponsored By: Osprey Observer — Your Community Newspaper









YMCA, CODE WIZ, AR WORKSHOP, VIBE CAMP, HIGH 5 INC. & MORE

Compiled By Jenny Bennett

High 5 Inc.

Brandon's High 5 Inc. is inviting students to embark on an exciting and adventurous journey where your child will experience the thrill of summer camp. Daily activities will include pool time, outdoor play, field games, arts and crafts and more, including field trips.

Camp is offered Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. at High 5 Inc., located at 405 Beverly Blvd. in Brandon. Campers can sign up for individual weeks or throughout the entire summer. Visit www.high5inc.org or call 813-689-0908.

YMCA Summer Camp

With over 25 different summer camp options throughout the Tampa YMCA area, there's something for every camper to enjoy. From art and gymnastics to zip-lining and splashing in its pools, the Y is the ultimate summer destination with friends, fun and adventure. Summer camps start on Monday, June 2, and run all summer. Register at www.tampaymca.org/letscamp.

Code Wiz

Code Wiz, located at 16132 Churchview Dr., Ste. 105, in Lithia, teaches coding and robotics to children, its camps are hands-on, student-driven and designed to foster curiosity and independence. Campers are encouraged to explore, problem-solve and create at their own pace, with guidance from coaches to support their individual learning journeys. Camps will run throughout the summer and are available for mornings, afternoons or full days. Visit online at www. codewiz.com/fishhawk-fl.

Kids 'R' Kids

Looking for a summer camp that combines fun, education, and adventure? Look no further! Kids 'R' Kids Learning Academies has created the perfect summer escape for kids to learn, grow and explore in a safe and exciting environment. Camp VIBE involves a new theme designed to empower campers through amusing activities, fascinating field trips, timely lessons in teamwork and so much more. Campers will have their eyes opened to limitless possibilities and their minds focused to ignite their passions. Let them catch the VIBE of summer! Kids 'R' Kids is located at 5815 Kids Crossing Dr. in Lithia.

AR Workshop

AR Workshop is a craft studio offering hands-on classes for campers ages 5-17. The hands-on classes are designed to inspire creativity, confidence and fun in a supportive studio environment. Both full and half-day camps are available at its location in Valrico at 1046 Bloomingdale Ave. Visit its website at www.arworkshop.com/brandon for more information and to register.

Center For Dance Arts

The Center For Dance Arts offers dance instruction in various genres, from beginner to advanced levels, for students ages 2-18. It is also the home of an award-winning competition team. It will be offering summer camp; visit its website at www.mycfda.com or call 813-657-1500 for more information and to register.

For more information, visit its website at www.kidsrkids.com/circa-fishhawk/programs/summer-camp.

The Center For Dance Arts is located at 929 E. Brandon Blvd. in Brandon.

Easterseals School For Limitless Learning — Inclusive Summer Camp For Neurodiverse Learners

Get ready for an exciting and inclusive adventure designed specifically for neurodiverse young learners and those with other disabilities in kindergarten through second grade. Packed with hands-on and interactive STEAM activities, it's a supportive space where every child can explore, grow and thrive. The Easterseals School for Limitless Learning is located at 2460 Bloomingdale Ave., Ste. 170, in Valrico, and the summer camp is available for six weeks from Monday, June 15, to Friday, July 24, with morning, afternoon and all-day sessions available. Visit its website at https://florida.easterseals.com/get-support/areas-of-support/early-childhood-care/easterseals-school-for-limitless-learning.







DAVID WEEKLEY HOMES BREAKS GROUND ON BUNGALOWS IN WATERSET

Staff Report



David Weekley Homes recently broke ground on its newest model homes, The Rosbach and The Hornbeam, in the Waterset Bungalow Series.

David Weekley Homes, one of the largest privately held national home builders, is breaking ground on its newest model homes, The Rosbach and The Hornbeam, in the upcoming Apollo Beach community of Waterset Bungalow Series.

In Waterset Bungalow Series, buyers will be able to select from four 1-story floor plans ranging in size from approximately 1,527-1,707 square feet of living space with three bedrooms, two full baths, one half bath and one to two-car garages. The homes are situated in clusters of four single-family homes that share a common driveway. The Rosbach model home will showcase 1,550 square feet with two bedrooms, two full baths, a study and a two-car garage, while The Hornbeam model home will feature 1,707 square feet of living space with three bedrooms, two full baths and a two-car garage.

Homeowners in Waterset will have access to the Waterset Club, featuring a resort-style swimming pool with slides, a lap pool, a fitness room, a game room and a gathering space; an amenity center with sports courts for sand volleyball, basketball, tennis and pickleball; The Landing Club, which includes a pool and fitness center; multiple community parks, fitness stations, playgrounds, scenic views and a splash zone for kids at Lakeside Picnic Park; and a dog park with dedicated spaces for small and large dogs. Residents will have proximity to the South Coast Greenway, the Waterset Trailhead, Apollo Beach and Tampa Bay, as well as easy access to Brandon, downtown Tampa and Sarasota via I-75. Students within the community will attend Hillsborough County Public School District schools.

For more information about David Weekley Homes in Waterset, contact 813-774-4155.

About David Weekley Homes

David Weekley Homes, founded in 1976, operates in 19 markets across the United States and is headquartered in Houston, Texas. David Weekley Homes was the first builder in the United States to be awarded the Triple Crown of American Home Building, an honor which includes 'America's Best Builder,' 'National Housing Quality Award' and 'National Builder of the Year.' Weekley Homes has been recognized 19 times by Great Place to Work and Fortune magazine as one of the 100 Best Companies to Work For. Since its inception, David Weekley Homes has closed more than 130,000 homes. For more information about David Weekley Homes, visit the company's website at www.davidweekleyhomes.com.

Free
MOM & BABY CLASSES FOR GROWING FAMILIES

- FREE to attend
- Virtual & in-person options available
- Led by trusted healthcare professionals

Scan the QR code to learn more & register

UPCOMING CLASSES
Breastfeeding 101 (Virtual)
Monday, March 30
Childbirth Preparation
Saturday, March 28 | Saturday, April 18
Infant Massage
Tuesday, March 31
Prenatal Yoga
Thursday, May 21
Maternity Tour
Thursday, April 9 | Friday, April 17
NEWBORN CARE & SAFETY
Tuesday, April 28

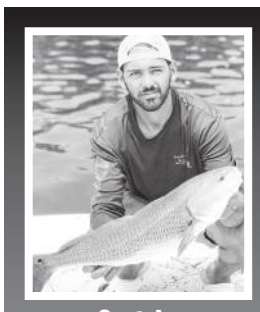
We offer many other free classes and seminars designed to support your overall health and wellness.
844.630.5295



HCA Florida Brandon Hospital
119 Oakfield Drive, Brandon, FL 33511



"If you need insurance Craig is your guy! He is great and gives you exactly what you want and always finds the budget you want to stay in. If you're not satisfied with what you have he's always happy to help so that you're happy!" - S. Farquhar



Captain Brandeån McCorkle

Fishing Charters • Sunset Cruises and ECO Tours
Ask about group, military, law enforcement, fire fighter, and corporate discounts!
Gift Certificates Available.

EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME..
Book Your Charter Today!
(813) 480-5111
www.trueliesfishingcompany.com

TRUE LIES FISHING CHARTERS

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ASPHALT SEALCOATING
Residential & Commercial
Sealer Hand-Applied
Cracks and Pot Holes Filled
Veterans' Discounts
Free Quotes
(813) 394-0915
SULLIVAN ASPHALT SEALERS
30 years of serving customers!

HOME INSPECTOR
Veteran Owned
APEX SIGHT SOLUTIONS
SERVICES:
• Standard Home Inspection
• 4 Point
• Wind Mitigation
• 203k Consulting
Vision with Purpose, Integrity from Above.
(813) 860-8374
ApexSightSolutions.com
admin@apexsightsolutions.com
Florida License #HI18082

BOOKKEEPING
We Got This Bookkeeping
So you can work your business, *not your books*!
• Monthly Bookkeeping
• QuickBooks Online Setup & Support
• Catch-Up & Cleanup Projects
• Financial Reporting
• QuickBooks ProAdvisor
(813)981-9008
grace@wegotthisbookkeeping.com
wegotthisbookkeeping.com

Osprey Observer — Your Community Newspaper

Advertise in this directory for just $50 per ad, or as low as $200 per month ... (INCLUDES ALL 5 EDITIONS)
Call Us Today! (813) 657-2418 or Visit OspreyObserver.com

OSPREY OBSERVER VALRICO EDITION MARCH 2026 Vol. 23, Iss. 3

Sponsored by: Osprey Observer — Your Community Newspaper



Edited by: Jenny Bennett

EYE ON BUSINESS

To Submit Business News & Press Releases Mail Attn: Business Editor, 2109 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Valrico, FL 33596
Fax 657-4469 | Email: jbennett@ospreyobserver.com
Deadline: 15th of each month.

Bridgewater Landing Apartments Ribbon-Cutting



The Brandon Riverview Chamber of Commerce proudly hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 10 to celebrate the grand opening of Sunrise Homes – Bridgewater Landing Apartments, a new 55-plus active adult living community in Riverview. Leasing has officially opened for this community, which offers thoughtfully designed one and two-bedroom residences with modern finishes, in-unit laundry and private patios or balconies.

Residents also enjoy a variety of amenities, including access to the Sweet Water Club community clubhouse, walking trails, outdoor gathering spaces and convenient proximity to shopping and dining at Winthrop Town Centre.

The apartments are part of the larger Bridgewater Landing community, designed to support residents' ability to age in place. The campus includes villas and duplexes, independent living apartments and The Bridges Assisted Living Facility, creating a continuum of care and living options that allow residents to remain within the community as their needs evolve.

Visit its website at https://bridgewaterlandings.com/ for additional information and to schedule a tour.

NBS Esthetics Provides Treatments For Everyone

Whether you want to support your skin naturally or have had aggressive treatments, NBS Esthetics offers non-invasive facial treatments designed for men and women seeking healthy skin. Each facial begins with a thorough consultation and is customized to your skin's needs. NBS Esthetics offers face and body treatments for men and women to target fine lines, wrinkles, irritation, loss of elasticity & hyperpigmentation to help you achieve and maintain healthy, radiant, skin naturally. NBS Esthetics is located at 223 Flamingo Dr., in Apollo Beach. For more information about the services provided visit its website at nbsesthetics.com or call 813 922 9327.

New Retail Manager At Flooring Master

Heather Peterson is honored to serve as the new retail manager at Flooring Master Riverview.

Peterson brings over a decade of retail leadership experience and, more importantly, a genuine passion for people and community. She believes a great store starts with great relationships, and she is committed to creating a warm, welcoming experience every time you walk through its doors. Peterson is proud to call Hillsborough County home; she lives locally with her husband, their two daughters, two dogs and a cat. She is excited to serve the area and looks forward to helping you find the perfect flooring for your space.

Please stop by the Flooring Master Riverview location, at 11531 Balm Riverview Rd., and say hello. It would truly appreciate the opportunity to earn your business. Visit its website at www.flooringmaster.com for more information about the services offered.

Apex Sight Solutions

Apex Sight Solutions is a premier property insight firm that delivers top-tier residential inspection services, enhanced by advanced aerial technology. Its inspection services are for homeowners that are buying, selling, building, maintaining or even refinancing their home. Grounded in Christian principles of truth, integrity and service, it offers unmatched precision and clarity — ensuring that every property, from the foundation to the rooftop, is seen with excellence and purpose.

It recently added 203k consulting to its services for the community. 203k loans are back by HUD and are for those who are purchasing a home that needs renovations or are looking to do improvements on their home and choose to refinance and incorporate the renovation costs into their loan. Apex Sight Solutions is approved by the HUD 203k consultant program and is available to serve all of Florida.

Apex Sight Solutions is located at 11232 Boyette Rd., Unit 2088, in Riverview. Visit https://apexsightsolutions.com/ to find out more.

Apollo Beach Motors

Apollo Beach Motors is the 'Home of the Car Deal' — it understands that finding the perfect combination of quality and affordability can be difficult. So, it has made it its goal to provide Apollo Beach and the surrounding areas with the best buying experience possible. Take a look through its website to see what fits your needs best. Every vehicle has had a 126-point inspection, and Apollo Beach Motors can help with financing for every credit situation. Visit its website at https://apollobeachmotors.com/ to find out more and view current inventory, or call 813-645-2227. Apollo Beach Motors is located at 5301 N. U.S. 41 in Apollo Beach.



BRIDGEWATER LANDING

NOW LEASING

BRAND NEW

PREMIUM RESIDENCES! IN AN ACTIVE 55+ COMMUNITY



813-934-2204 | leasing@bridgewaterlandings.com

ELEVATE LIVING, SIMPLIFY LIFE.

STARTING AT $1630

It's your time to enjoy more. Downsize without compromise in a thoughtfully designed community of high-end, easy-to-maintain apartments-where comfort, convenience, and an active lifestyle come together for adults 55 and better.



MONTHLY FEES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Full size in-home washer and dryer
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Wifi + 60 channels



CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LEASING SPECIALS!

5790 STOCKPORT ST, RIVERVIEW, FL 33578
ON BLOOMINGDALE AVENUE. ACROSS FROM THE WINTHROP TOWNE CENTRE.



COMPLIMENTARY 1-YEAR• MEMBERSHIP TO THE SWEET WATER CLUB CLUBHOUSE FOR OUR FIRST BUILDING OF RESIDENTS!

Discover More About The Clubhouse Amenities & Events

Pool & Fitness Center
Curated Activities
Happy Hours & Themed Events

Thinking of selling or buying? Work with the #1 Brokerage in the area!
At 27North Realty, we don't just sell homes - we guide you home.

27 NORTH REALTY

NAVIGATE HOME



Apollo Beach to All of Tampa Bay: 27North Realty Opens Its Doors. Our new office is now open, ready to help buyers and sellers navigate Tampa Bay.
Gregg Calvert, Broker/Owner &
Shawna Calvert REALTOR®



27NorthRealty.com | 813.645.4663 | 6138 N US HWY 41, Apollo Beach 33572

1025 Seagrape Dr
Ruskin
$579,000
3 Bed / 2.5 Bath
Community marina, boat slip, ramp access



5975 Blakeney Loop
Apollo Beach
$1,050,000
4 Bed / 3 Bath
Community pool, private dock and boat lift



1024 Sonata Ln
Apollo Beach
$1,690,000
4 Bed / 3.5 Bath
Private pool, private dock and boat lift



548 Estuary Shore Ln
Apollo Beach
$1,374,000
4 Bed / 3 Bath
Private pool, spa, private dock and boat lift



370 S Woodlands Dr
Oldsmar
$397,399
2 Bed / 2 Bath
Two 18-hole golf courses, no membership required



1849 Bough Ave Unit D
Clearwater
$165,000
2 Bed / 1 Bath
Beachside living, pool, garage, fishing pier



Scan Now and receive a FREE, no-pressure home value and review.

813.645.4663

Agent Spotlight

Robert McBean, REALTOR®

"After dedicating my career to delivering customer satisfaction, it's those very clients who continue to call my name in rooms where I'm absent. It's proof that the seed always determines the harvest."

