



THE TR TIMES



Serving Travelers Rest, Dade City, Florida

Vol. 41, No. 11

The TR Times is also available in color at www.travelersrestresort.com

Friday, February 20, 2026

Hi Lites

LIVE with Doc and Donna

Today, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. in The Grove. See Page 2.



Friday Night Dance

Tonight, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in Busch Hall. See Page 2.

Busch Hall Sunday Night

Soul and Inspiration, Sunday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in Busch Hall. See Page 2.



Scavenger Hunt and More

Tomorrow, Feb. 21 beginning at 12:45 p.m. Meet at the stage in The Grove. See Page 6.

Tuesday Night Movies

See "Nickel Boys" Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 6:55 p.m. in Citrus East. See Page 2.



Coffee Seminars

Fall prevention will be the topic at both seminars this week. Tuesday, Feb. 24 and Thursday, Feb. 26 at 8 a.m. in Busch Hall. See Page 2.

Activity Reminders

Travelaires Orchestra

Friday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in Busch Hall. See Page 2.

Blood Drive

Monday, March 2 at 8 a.m. beside the Fire Station. See Page 5.



**Monday, March 2
1 p.m. in Busch Hall**

Quilt-A-Rama

Tuesday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Busch Hall. See Page 6.

Wednesday Night Concert Series

One Hit Wonders and More Wednesday, March 4, 7 p.m. in Busch Hall. See Page 2.

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People and Places . . . Chapter 8 The Panama Canal

by Margaret Emmetts

The opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, after a decade of intense construction, was considered one of the world's major engineering and construction projects. It would prove to have a world-wide impact on shipping.

Before the canal, if a ship had to travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, or vice versa, it was necessary to circumnavigate the entire South American continent, a distance of some 15,800 miles. The trip would take about 20 days. Imagine the cost for fuel and man-power to operate a large ship for that time.

In addition to the time and cost, the trip around the Horn of South America was treacherous. This area, known as Drake's Passage, is the area where the Antarctic Circumpolar Current squeezes between South America and Antarctica. It is an area of intensely turbulent water, fierce winds and waves that may reach 40 to 80 feet. It is estimated that over 10,000 seamen have perished making this passage. The opening of the canal would eliminate the necessity to take this risk.

The canal is designed to cross the hilly Isthmus of Panama. To do so a ship must first be raised and then lowered 85 feet in a distance of about 50 miles. The way to do this was by the construction of a series of locks, each of which would raise or lower the ship a portion of this distance.

The original locks were built to accommodate ships 1,200 feet and 9 inches long, 160 feet and 9 inches wide by 50 feet deep. A



Photos submitted by Carole Young
The "Mule" seen on the left helps keep ships centered while traversing the canal.

new set of locks completed in 2016 enabled larger ships to pass.

There are small but powerful railroad engines that travel on rails which are parallel to the canal. These engines, called mules, are connected to the ships fore and aft with strong cables. Most people think these mules tow the ships through the canal but this is a misconception. Ships traverse the canal under their own power. The mules keep the ships centered in the waterway and help to slow the ships when necessary. The engines are called mules because this function was originally performed by real mules.

A pilot is aboard the ship to guide it through the canal. If you have been on any cruises, you may have noticed a Pilot boat that approaches your cruise ship as it is about to enter any large harbor. The pilot aboard this boat is a captain that is intimately familiar with that particular harbor. He or

she takes control of the vessel to safely get it to its mooring.

What procedure is used to attach the guiding cables to the vessel? When the canal opened this was a problem. A variety of procedures were tested, including using cannons to fire the cables to the ship. If you are an engineer you are probably familiar with the acronym "KISS." (Keep it simple stupid.)

Surprisingly the best technique to get the cables to the ships turned out to be two men in a rowboat!

Part of the construction of the canal involved making a freshwater lake at the crest of the isthmus. Gatun Lake is the source of the water that operates the locks. Surprisingly there are no pumps involved in changing the water level in the locks. The entire system works on water moving under the force of gravity. Gatun Lake is fed by rivers and streams, so the water in the canal is fresh water. Yes, fish swim the canal between oceans.

The cost to use the canal is significant. Yachts pay \$2,000 to \$10,000. Container ships pay \$300,000 to \$450,000 and Cruise Ships pay \$150,000 to \$300,000. Wow!

Two bits of trivia:

1. The water in the Pacific Ocean is actually about 8 inches higher than that in the Atlantic. This is caused by prevailing winds pushing the water against the shore.

2. When you travel the canal from the Pacific to the Atlantic you are actually traveling west! Look

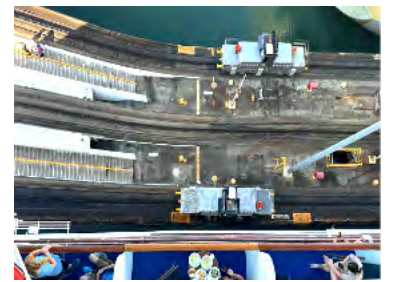
at the map. The Isthmus makes somewhat of an "s" curve in the area of the canal that accounts for this oddity.

Cruises through the Panama Canal have become major destinations, something that was probably not foreseen when the canal was proposed. If you have the opportunity visit the canal and experience the locks in operation. It is an unforgettable experience.

Footnote:

Each passage through the canal requires thousands of gallons of fresh water. This water is supplied by rainfall in the area. However, with the global climate changes due to geothermal warming, the amount of rainfall in the area is fluctuating. There is some concern as to whether or not there will be sufficient rainfall in the region to allow continued unrestricted use of the canal.

Scientists are currently considering the construction of a railway across the narrowest section of the isthmus. This would provide a way to transfer cargo between the oceans without worrying about rainfall. Stay tuned for further developments.



An aerial view of the Panama Canal and the Mules.

The TR Times to host an open house

by Margaret Emmetts

Have you ever wondered just how our "weekly miracle" called *The TR Times* is produced? As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we are inviting everyone to join us on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at *The TR Times* Office behind the Fire Station. Guided tours will be conducted at 9, 9:30, 10 and 10:30 a.m.

You may not realize that it takes a staff of about 40 volunteers to produce each week's paper.

The process begins with our Advertising Department that obtains and creates the ads that appear in the paper. The income from these ads supports the costs of producing the paper.

We have writers who produce our weekly columns such as Birding, Activity Affairs and Garden News and contributors who periodical write to promote an event, activity or interest.

Every article is entered into our computer system, indexed and assigned to an editor to polish the text. Proofreaders check the copy for errors and then pagemakers place the articles on the pages. We also have an obituary editor on staff.

Our photographers cover various events and process the images for printing.

Our production staff organizes the paper with respect to what goes into each issue and where in the paper the items appear. Our computer director ensures that our computers and software are well-maintained and up-to-date.

The TR Operating Committee sets policies and oversees the business aspect of producing the paper. We also have couriers who receive and distribute the paper and a librarian in charge of organizing and filing our finished product.

We also have a secretary, bookkeeper and auditor and even a recycling person who turns our scrap paper into the handy pads.

If you will join us at our open house, you will learn how all of these volunteers work together to produce our "weekly miracle."



**EXTRA! EXTRA!
You are invited.**

**You are invited to an open house
at *The TR Times***

We hope you will join us as we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of *The TR Times*. We are holding an open house on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at the *TR Times* office behind the Fire Station. Guided tours will be conducted at 9, 9:30, 10 and 10:30 a.m. This is an opportunity to learn just how the newspaper, what we call the "weekly miracle," is put together.



Full tables and big sound at the Golden Anniversary Dance



Photos by Pam Watkins

Alex Adair calls each step in this fun line dance.

by Pam Watkins

The Golden Anniversary Dance is easily the most popular dance on the Travelaires' dance card each season.

Many come out to celebrate their friends who are being honored, while others take their favorite valentine out for the evening. Many, many more, though, attend to simply enjoy the live music and atmosphere at these dances.

Dancing, too, is growing in popularity on Friday nights. Couples who have been attending Jeffrey Duquette's Ballroom Dance classes can be seen practicing the steps that they have learned with their instructor. Duquette and Line Dancing Instructor Alex Adair can be seen on the floor with different partners and groups for the majority of the dances, and the tables empty quickly as couples and singles join in the fun.

The Travelaires Orchestra members enjoy bringing their brand of music to TR. The 16-piece orchestra features brass, woodwinds and percussion instruments and is rounded out by a selection of talented vocalists. They certainly sound great and many atten-

dees can be heard complimenting the orchestra as they leave at the end of the evening.

The Travelaires play every other Friday, January to March each season. Come out and enjoy the live music with your friends at the next dance on Friday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in Busch Hall.



Pat Gallagher and Jeffrey Duquette looked splendid in their dancing attire at the Golden Anniversary Dance.

Mardi Gras



Dig out the beads and sequins: it's time for Mardi Gras.

by Pat Daubenmier

The Travelaires Orchestra invites you to a belated Mardi Gras celebration on Friday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in Busch Hall. Enjoy your paczkis or beignets on the real Fat Tuesday, then come dance the calories off with all of your friends. You have a week to dig out your vibrant colors and find your favorite mask and beads. We'll send you another reminder next week.

Put on your dancing shoes



by Diana Hill

On Friday, Feb. 20, our TR Dance Night is very excited to host Jesse Derringer. Jesse is a well known local entertainer. He will be here to play a wide range of music genres for our listening and dancing pleasure. Please support this activity with your attendance. The show begins at 7 p.m. in Busch Hall and will continue to 10 p.m. (an extra hour!) Cash donations will be welcome as we hope to have more paid entertainment in the future.

Please see our flyers in the TR Post Office, Busch Hall Dance bulletin board and throughout the park. It is also posted on our Residents & Friends FL Facebook page. As usual, bring your own snacks and beverages, set up your own table (please leave room for dance areas) and clean up afterwards. If you have questions, please call Diana Hill at 352-760-1420.

Please plan to join us and dance the night away!



by Nancy McDowell

Our next movie on Tuesday, Feb. 24 is "Nickel Boys" starring Ethan Herisse. This movie is based on the book of the same title about life in a reform school in Tallahassee, Fla. during the Jim Crow era. I read the book and was rapt by this historic fictional account of this notorious place. I am not prone to reading books that are "soon to be a major motion picture." However, I am glad I read this one and am looking forward to the film. The book is at the TR Library as well.

The short clip is at 6:55 p.m. with the feature presentation following. Please remember to silence your phones prior to the movie.

Donations for movies and popcorn are always appreciated; they help keep this activity vital in our community, don't forget to bring a comfy chair.

LIVE with Doc and Donna



DONNA AND DOC PROBES

by Donna Probes

The Grove will time travel back to the '60s and '70s today as Doc and I bring some of the best music of that era to you. Here's a taste: "Leavin' on a Jet Plane," "Peaceful Easy Feeling," "Heart of Gold" and so many more.

We love to keep the memory of some of the best music alive. We try to deliver it with as much authenticity as we can. We hope you will meet us under the live oak trees for a nostalgic trip.

We want to thank the residents who make donations to support our concerts for the TR community. We hope we will have the opportunity to do so again next season.

See you on Friday, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. in The Grove.

Busch Hall Sunday Night



JOHN WILSON



ANDY SCHLOSBERG

by Katherine Shawver

Please join us for Busch Hall Sunday Night on Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. when we welcome John Wilson and Andy Schlosberg to the Doug Pedersen Stage for their "Soul and Inspiration" program.

Ice Cream 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. followed by announcements.

Funny story

by Sandy Sasuta

Bob goes to the doctor worried about his wife's temper always flaring up for no reason and he didn't know what to do. The doctor said he had a cure for that. He said, when it seems that your wife is getting angry, just take a glass of water and start swishing it in your mouth. Just swish and swish but don't swallow it until she either leaves the room or calms down. Two weeks later Bob comes back to the doctor looking refreshed and happy. He told the doctor that it was a brilliant idea. Every time my wife started losing it, I swished and swished, and she calmed right down. Bob asked, how does a glass of water do that? The doctor said the water itself does nothing. It's keeping your mouth shut that does the trick.

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FOOD MENU

2026 OPERATING HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 11:30 - 1:30

MAINS

HAMBURGER	4.75
CHEESEBURGER	5.00
DBL HAMBURGER	6.00
DBL CHEESEBURGER	6.75
HOT DOG	2.50
ADD GRILLED ONIONS @ NO CHARGE	
ITALIAN SAUSAGE	4.50
WITH GRILLED PEPPER BLEND	
HAM & CHEESE SAND	4.50
TURKEY SAND	4.50
CHICKEN BREAST SAND	4.50
HAM SALAD	6.00
TURKEY SALAD	6.00
GRILLED CHICKEN SALAD	6.00
VEGGIE SALAD	4.50
EXTRAS	.50 EA
COLE SLAW	
CHEESE	
ADDITIONAL CHEESE	
BEANS	
SAUERKRAUT	
POTATO CHIPS	.75
ICE CREAM	1.50

DAILY SPECIALS

MONDAY	CHILI	3.50
TUESDAY	SOUP	3.50
WEDNESDAY	CHILI DOG	2.75
	PULLED PORK	4.50
THURSDAY	CHOWDER	4.00
FRIDAY	TUNA SALAD	6.00
	TUNA SAND	4.50

BEVERAGES

SODA POP	1.00
ICED TEA	1.00
BOTTLED WATER	1.00
TEA & COFFEE	1.00



Briefings from the Board

by Deborah May, President

According to Merriam-Webster the definition and meaning of the word RESORT is "a place designed to provide recreation, entertainment and accommodation especially to vacationers; a community or establishment whose purpose or main industry is catering to vacationers." The first known use of the word resort was in the 15th Century. The idea of having an area devoted to vacationers and offering them a wide variety of amenities is certainly not new.

When the founders of Travelers Rest decided to add Resort to the name, I am sure it was with the idea of what we had to offer seasonal vacationers in terms of recreation and entertainment. To them, at that time, they never conceived of the idea that this park would be anything other than an Airstream Park. I don't believe they even thought that very many people would actually live here year around and call it home. Time and changes in the economic situation of the people in the U.S. has changed drastically in the last 25 years. With the baby boomers hitting retirement, the idea of being away from the cold in the wintertime was a truly appealing idea. Since they are still the largest sector of the population, their actions have profound economic effects on the areas they chose to live or visit.



DEBORAH MAY

A good resort is characterized by its location, top-level services, hospitality and sustainable practices. For many years, TR residents have enjoyed a location away from traffic, towns and outside people taking advantage of our peaceful, secure and hospitable attitudes. One of the first things new people talk about is how friendly and willing to help everyone is. Residents wave to each other as they pass as a token of friendship. Residents feel comfortable leaving their homes and sheds unlocked, knowing their property is safe. Our Golf Course when you come down Johnston Road is a WOW FACTOR. It doesn't matter if you golf or not, it is always a welcome sight for returning residents. Our entertainment has been outstanding this year. Everyone seems to be adjusting to the new General Manager and he is getting great

reviews from the residents who have met and dealt with him. He brings a new and fresh perspective about how TR can move forward in competing with other RV resorts. This will require changes, but changes to help control costs and make us more competitive is now what Travelers Rest Resort must do to move forward in our changing economy.

In the last 10 years, TR has added two new activity buildings as well as doubling the number of activities available for the residents and guests to participate in. Each year the residents come up with new and different ideas for entertaining the people who are here. Some sports have lost their appeal and others are growing in participation members. Is Travelers Rest a resort? Certainly, not based on the RV's that belong here but for the amenities TR has to offer its residents and guests.

What will the next 10 years bring? A new resort at the end of Johnston Road and new developments getting closer and closer to our location. Will these change our dynamics? I'm sure they will. I'm old enough to be resistant to change but accepting enough to embrace change that will make my life easier. What I would really like is a Rosey the robot, who was the maid and housekeeper for the Jetson family.

TR mourns the loss of long-time general manager



RAY ALLEN HILL 1967-2026

Ray Allen Hill was born on May 27, 1967 in Kalamazoo, Mich. to John and Catherine (Romanello) Hill. He grew up in Parchment, Mich. walking the halls of the schools where he built friendships so deep and true that they remained by his side until his final days.

In 1981 his life changed forever when he met Dawn. It was the beginning of a beautiful love story that led them to the altar on Sept. 1, 1984. From that day on they built a life rooted in devotion. Their first son, Michael Allen Hill, arrived on Dec. 13, 1984, followed by Eric Lee Hill on Christmas Eve of 1985. Life wasn't always perfect, but it was a great life because they loved each other unconditionally. Whether they were camping, tubing or just enjoying the outdoors, Ray was the steady hand and the heart of every memory made.

In 1994 the Hill family moved to Brooksville, Fla. where Ray began a 30-year legacy at Travelers

Rest Resort. He started in the grass and dirt of the landscaping crew, worked his way through maintenance, became the Golf Course Superintendent and eventually served as General Manager. Ray didn't just work at TR he poured his soul into it. To the volunteers and the community he wasn't just a boss — he was family.

On Jan. 15, 1997 Kimberlee Dawn Hill was born, completing their family. Ray's love for his children was beyond what words could ever express. They were his whole life, his pride and his reason for everything. He was a man who would do anything for the people he loved and he leaves behind a plethora of friends who felt that love every day.

Ray fought a brave and tireless battle with cancer for nearly four years. He worked until he simply couldn't anymore, driven by the passion he had for his work and his people. He is now finally at peace, loving and hugging his wonderful

parents, John and Catherine, and reuniting with the loved ones he had missed so dearly.

Ray shared a very special, unbreakable bond with his siblings Roy (Jean), Rick (Wendy), Debbie (Randy) and Tami (Scott). In a growing and changing family Ray was the main bond, the glue that brought them all together as one.

When his granddaughter Zarah Renee Hill was born on July 28, 2013, Ray found a new kind of joy. Zarah was his sunshine, giving him a new purpose and so much laughter as his own children began their journeys.

We are so incredibly grateful and blessed to have walked through life with him. Ray was a great man, a hero, a devoted son a cherished husband, a proud father and the best papa.

We love you, Ray and will never forget all you have done for us and the light you gave to this earth. Love always and forever, Your Family.

From the Manager's desk



CHAD BARBER

by Chad Barber with Pam Watkins

A new gathering space, season finale party and share buybacks are ahead for TR.



Photos by Pam Watkins

Starter Shack 2025

If you've walked by the Starter Shack within the past few weeks, you may have noticed that several changes are occurring to the Shack and what used to be green space at its front door.

The Shack is enjoying a modernizing facelift that includes siding, roofing and a new front entrance. The original green space is undergoing renovation, as well. While full details are still under wraps, the goal is to transform an underused area into a welcoming spot for everyone to enjoy.



Front green removed in preparation for new design.

The project will combine a touch of golf, a place to rest and a space to gather with friends. "I don't want to let the cat completely out of the bag," Chad says, "but the golf course crew has a wonderful area in store for everyone."



The design is taking shape as gravel and edging are added.



Behind the Starter Shack is a new building ready for use.



Celebratory plans are also underway. Chad and friends are planning an end-of-season party set for Saturday, March 14 from noon to 5 p.m. in The Grove. Yes, there will be live entertainment, food, and plenty of time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. The event is designed to be a relaxed afternoon to celebrate the end of another great season at TR. We will see more information on this event soon.



If you keep up with TR Board meetings, you may have noticed in the Jan. 20 minutes that the Board voted to allow Chad to buy back TR shares from the state at \$1,790 per share for the corporation. I asked him about how the process worked and how it would benefit TR.

In the past several weeks, TR's President May has urged shareholders to ensure that their mailing address is current through Intouch-Link and with the TR Office. This is especially important for shareholders who live elsewhere part of the year and receive mail outside the resort. If TR cannot locate a shareholder to verify information about their stock, that individual may be classified as missing or unable to be found. In some cases, the shareholder may be listed as deceased by postal records.

TR staff will attempt to locate missing shareholders for up to three years. If those efforts are unsuccessful, the stock is turned over to the State of Florida through a regulated process. Once that process is completed, TR is able to reclaim those shares at a favorable price and redistribute them to new stockholders and residents. This helps keep shares active within the corporation and supports the long-term health of the resort.

That's the news for this week. Next week we are going to look at how data drives TR's marketing efforts.

Let your voice be heard



Monday, March 2, 1 p.m. in Busch Hall

Annual Meeting



Tuesday, March 10, 2 p.m. in Busch Hall.



Monday, March 16, 3 p.m., Busch Hall Front Porch

Travelers Rest Resort

The TR Times
Dade City, Florida

TR Times
2025-26
Publication
Calendar

Publication	Deadline
Only 3 More Issues	
February 27	February 20
March 6	February 27
March 13	March 6

Email: thetrtimes@gmail.com



Be part of the solution, not the problem

Be a part of the solution, not the problem is an old adage. For those of you who have spent your winters in Florida for many years, you know that winter is the “dry” season here with little rainfall. The summer is the rainy season.

Ironically, the greatest demand for water occurs during the winter, which is the dry season. The reason for this is because of the influx of snowbirds who gravitate here for the warmth. This presents the problem. There is maximum demand during a time of less supply.

Florida is currently under a severe drought warning. Which poses the question: Are you part of the problem or part of the solution?

We tend to take the availability of water for granted and use it freely. We cannot continue to take this blasé attitude. Consider what you could do with one gallon of water. You could make 16 cups of coffee or glasses of iced tea. A gallon of water could mean a shower, or perhaps enough water to prepare dinner and do the dishes. We must begin to think in terms of water being a valuable asset, not one that can be wasted on activities like watering lawns or washing cars. The local car wash recycles their water, and you can have a clean car for a nominal cost.

If you were wondering about the watering of our golf course, recycled water is used for this purpose.

Don't be part of the problem. Think of ways that YOU can conserve water. If we all work together we can be a real part of the solution. mre



The TR Times

Vision Statement

To be a trusted source of information for the TR Community.

Mission Statement

To promote activities and events, recognize achievements, encourage resident support of our advertisers and report topics of interest in a manner that positively supports the TR Community.

The TR Times

TRAVELERS REST RESORT, INC.
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To view *TR Times* newspapers in color online go to www.travelersrestresort.com and click on *The TR Times*.

Some *TR Times* content may have been generated with the assistance of artificial intelligence tools, alongside staff reporting and editorial oversight.

40 years and counting – part 7

by Margaret Emmetts

All through its 40 years, *The TR Times* has served the TR community in many ways. Its Meet the Candidates program helps shareholders make informed decisions when they vote for members of the Board of Directors at the AGM.

TR Times articles and photos promote and support activities and events. It recognizes and acknowl-

edges honors and achievements of our residents. Its Bulletin Board keeps residents informed about when and where various activities take place, as well as who to contact for information about a specific activity. *The TR Times* is truly the voice of the community and its Board of Directors.

A room, 28 feet by 20 feet, attached to the Fire Station is the

location where our Weekly Miracle is produced. During the course of a week this is the work station where our volunteer writers, editors, proofers, page makers and photo processors spend a few hours. However, a few core workers spend 30 to 35 hours each week there to ensure the TR community is positively represented in its weekly newspaper.

As well as the printed edition, the newspaper appears on the TR InTouch website where it is available nationwide. Many people have come to TR as a result of reading about the many activities that take place here each week.



The Servant's Plow

The prelude to Lent

by Chaplain Anthony Shipe

Every meaningful journey has a beginning. Before the first step is taken, there is a pause. Before the race starts, there is the stretch. Before the music swells, there is a prelude.

The season of Lent is no different. Lent began Wednesday Feb. 18.

For many in our community, Lent is associated with ashes on foreheads, fasting, quiet reflection and the long road to Easter morning. However, what often gets overlooked is the season before Lent, the spiritual prelude that prepares our hearts for what is coming. Just as musicians tune their instruments before the concert begins, the soul needs tuning before entering a season of repentance and renewal.

The weeks leading up to Lent are not accidental. They serve as an invitation. They gently nudge us to slow down, take inventory and ask a simple but searching question: Where am I with God right now?

That question can make us uncomfortable. We live in a world that encourages distraction. There is always another game to watch, another notification to answer, another errand to run. Constant noise keeps us from having to look inward. But the prelude to Lent calls us to quiet the noise. It invites honesty.

Honesty is not always easy.

It is far simpler to talk about what is wrong with the world than to confront what is unsettled in our own hearts. Yet spiritual growth never begins with someone else's shortcomings. It begins when we look in the mirror and tell the truth.

The prelude to Lent reminds us that faith is not a performance. It is not about looking polished on Sunday while neglecting the soul the rest of the week. It is about alignment—bringing our thoughts, habits, priorities and relationships back under the gentle



CHAPLAIN
ANTHONY SHIPE

but firm authority of Christ.

In many churches, the Gospel readings just before Lent often highlight turning points, moments of revelation, clarity and calling. They remind us who Jesus is and what He came to do. Before we walk with Him toward the cross, we are reminded of His glory, His authority and His compassion. We are grounded in who He is so that when we face the weight of the cross, we do so with hope, not despair.

This matters because Lent is not about spiritual gloom. It is about transformation. However, transformation requires preparation.

Think of a garden. No one walks outside in early spring, throws seeds randomly on frozen ground and expects a harvest. The soil must be turned. The weeds must be pulled. The rocks must be removed. That work is not glamorous, but it is necessary. Without preparation, there will be no growth.

The prelude to Lent is that soil-turning season.

It is the time to ask: What habits are choking out my spiritual life? Where have I grown complacent? What relationships need repair? What priorities need rearranging?

Sometimes the answers are obvious. Other times they surface slowly, like stones just beneath the surface.

I once spoke with a man who told me he didn't think he had anything to “give up” for Lent because, in his words, he was “doing fine.” A week later, after a little reflection, he admitted that his temper had become sharper, his prayer life had become thinner and his patience at home had nearly vanished. He wasn't a bad man. He was simply drifting and drifting happens quietly.

The prelude to Lent is God's mercy in interrupting the drift.

It is a wake-up call before the alarm blares. It is a whisper before the storm. It is an opportunity to correct the course before habits harden into patterns.

Here is the encouraging truth: preparation is not punishment. It is grace.

God does not call us into reflection to shame us. He calls us to free us. When we name what is broken, He begins to mend it. When we confess what is crooked, He straightens it. When we surrender what controls us, He restores what truly matters.

This is why the prelude to Lent should not be rushed through or ignored. It is a gift from the loving heart of God.

In practical terms, this season can be marked by small but intentional steps. Spend a few extra minutes each day in Scripture. Pray with honesty rather than formality. Reach out to someone you have avoided. Evaluate how you spend your time and your attention. None of this is dramatic, but spiritual health is rarely built on dramatic gestures. It is built on steady faithfulness.

Perhaps most importantly, remember that the goal is not self-improvement for its own sake. The goal is deeper communion with Christ.

Lent ultimately leads us to the cross and beyond it to the empty tomb. We do not arrive there by accident. We arrive there prepared, aware of our need and grateful for grace.

As we approach this sacred season, resist the urge to treat it as routine. Let the prelude do its work. Allow the Spirit to search gently, but thoroughly. Be honest. Be open. Be willing.

Because when Easter morning finally arrives, its joy will ring clearer in a heart that has been prepared.

Every great symphony begins with a prelude. It may be quieter than what follows, but it sets the tone for everything to come.

Lent is coming. Let the people of God prepare well.



Travelers Rest
CHURCH ASSOCIATION

Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

Bernie Gutridge

Sunday Service

Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Hymn Sing 10:15 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Anthony Shipe

Holy Communion



The Siren



by Donna Neer, EMT, RN (retired)

Blood pressure - what do those numbers mean, etc., etc.?

Every one of us here has had his/her blood pressure taken at one time or another. Some of us actually monitor our blood pressure routinely. What exactly is blood pressure and what does it mean?

Simply stated, blood pressure is a measurement that tells us how hard your blood is pushing against your blood vessel (artery) walls as the blood leaves your heart and moves throughout your body. Another definition of blood pressure readings states that it measures the force with which the blood is pumped out into our arteries with every beat of our heart.

Generally, your blood pressure is obtained by the old-fashioned manual method where a healthcare professional puts a cuff on your left or right arm and places a tubular structure at the inside of your elbow. This cuff will be pumped up and sometimes this can be uncomfortable. The healthcare professional will place a stethoscope under the cuff at the area where the tubular is located and he/she will slowly let out the air that was pumped into the cuff

Blood pressure category	Systolic number		Diastolic number
Normal	Less than 120	AND	Less than 80
Elevated	120-129	AND	Less than 80
Stage 1-high blood pressure hypertension	130-139	OR	80-89
Stage 2-high blood pressure hypertension	140 or higher	OR	90 or higher
Hypertensive crisis ***	Higher than 180	AND/OR	Higher than 120

*** Contact your health care professional immediately!

while listening for two distinct and important readings.

Many of us have electronic blood pressure cuffs. My husband was given his first class/top-of-the-line blood pressure cuff by his VA doctor. This wonderful piece of equipment also tells us what his heart rate and pulse is as well.

Let's get back to those two distinct readings. For example you may be told that your blood pressure reading is 120/80. The first reading of 120 is called the systolic number and it relates to the amount of pressure that is put on the artery walls as your heart beats. The second reading of 80 is called the diastolic and shows the pressure placed on your artery walls in between beats while your heart is resting. Although much emphasis is put on the first systolic number as a measure of heart health, both numbers are very important.

Different resources have indicated different numbers as to what is a normal or abnormal blood pressure reading according to the American Heart Association. See chart above that may be helpful to you.

Why is knowing your blood pressure so important? First of all

there are often no warning signs of high blood pressure. Many people may not have any idea that they have this condition. Known as the silent killer, high blood pressure can exhibit symptoms such as a severe headache, blurred vision, chest pain, shortness of breath, dizziness and/or nosebleeds. Any or all of these symptoms are suggestive of a call to your local EMS and a trip to the ER.

Untreated high blood pressure can harm your body in several ways including heart attack, heart failure, stroke, atherosclerosis (blood vessel damage), kidney failure and eye damage. Okay, so now what happens if you are diagnosed with high blood pressure (hypertension)? Your healthcare professional may recommend lifestyle changes such as exercise, dietary changes, medications (blood pressure medications and/or diuretics). Monitoring your blood pressure is so very important. I have Ken take his blood pressure in both arms to compare and he keeps a chart for his doctor's review (and mine also).

Always, always, listen to your body. Take care of yourself!

Reference: American Heart Association; Web MD, Cleveland Clinic, MedLine.

Blood Drive coming to TR

by Ken Neer

If you are a regular blood donor, or are otherwise interested in giving the "Gift of Life" to an anonymous person in need, mark your calendar for March 2. Two Big Red OneBlood bloodmobile buses will be parked next to the TR Fire Station ready to take blood donations on Monday, March 2 from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Although "walk-ins" are always welcome, normally those scheduled are given priority. To make an appointment, simply go to www.oneblood.org/donate-now and follow the prompts. Where it asks for zip code or sponsor code, choose the sponsor code option and enter 20438. I am not necessarily computer savvy, but easily managed to book myself an appointment. Another simple way to book an appointment is to call 888-936-6283, and follow the prompts which lead to a OneBlood representative.

The process of giving blood is simple, relatively painless and normally completed in less than an hour. Blood is always in high demand and can only be reproduced by the human body. There are no synthetics or other options. Your donation, after lab testing, is separated into components, red blood cells, plasma and platelets, and can be used to help up to three patients. Real people, possibly friends and/or relatives, who may need surgery, be burn victims, have newborns with complications, or be cancer or anemia patients to name a few, who need some form of a blood transfusion to heal and, in many cases, even survive. It is estimated that one in three people will need a blood transfusion in their lifetime.



A question I am frequently asked is are Canadians eligible to give here in the states and is there an age restriction? Yes, Canadians are eligible, and no, there are no age restrictions. Additionally, those on high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart, anti-depressant or pain medications are normally eligible. In fact, 98% of medications are eligible to give. If you were rejected in the past, or are in doubt, please go aboard a bus and check with the OneBlood staff.

Twice a season in December and March we here at TR are given the opportunity to "Give the Gift of Life" to the community many of us call home in the winter months. Think of it as giving back for the times the locals waited in line at their favorite grocery store or restaurant, or in traffic because of our winter invasion. Prior to giving, you will receive a wellness check which includes your pulse, blood pressure, iron count (hemoglobin) and cholesterol screening (phone-in). You will also receive a OneBlood St. Patrick's Day t-shirt and a \$20 e-gift card.

Sign up, mark your calendar, and I hope to see you on a Big Red Bus Monday, March 2. After giving, remember, physically we are not who we were when we were 40 or 50. Take a few minutes at the TR Fire Station to hydrate, have a snack, converse with the First Responders and fellow blood donors, but most of all give your senior body a few minutes to recuperate. Please remember to bring a picture I.D.

TR Amateur Radio Club



by Dan Zile

The TR Amateur Radio Club participated in a simulated emergency exercise on Saturday morning, Feb. 7. The simulation was a substation fire close to the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant causing major damage to the substation. Had this been a real-life emergency, this loss of power would have affected us here at TR. There would likely be no power to the nearby cell tower, although they may have an emergency generator and possibly no Spectrum service. If that were the case, how would you function here at TR?

The TR Communications Center was part of the simulation. We were monitoring all traffic messages up and down the west coast of Florida. The communications network runs from south of Ft. Myers to north to Crystal River

and is referred to as West Central Florida. We, along with ham operators around Pasco County, reported the required information from TR to the Pasco County Emergency Operation Center in New Port Richie. Pasco County then summarized all reporting stations around the county and then reported that on to West Central Florida group.

The required information was 1) How many operators are in attendance? 2) How many people could be deployed for communication assistance? 3) Are you operating on emergency power? Due to the TR Communications Center being able to operate from our battery and solar panels, we were operating on emergency power for the simulation.

We had very good communications to the Emergency Operations Center and were able to communicate with them via voice and radio email, that is, email without using the Internet. The TR Communications Center is also the

back-up location for the TR Fire Rescue communications should there ever be an issue with their communications. This was good practice for the TR Amateur Radio group so we will be ready when an actual emergency occurs.

If you are interested in learning more about your TR Amateur Radio Club's capabilities, contact any of our members or Dan Zile at 618-954-8550.



Photo by Dan Zile

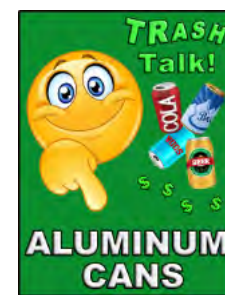
An interior view of the TR Communications Center.



by Ted Towl

As a community we have come a long way in our Recycling Program. Speaking for the committee, we are grateful for your help; however, there is still a need for improvement. Plastic bags and garbage, such as food waste, cigarette butts and used

hygienic products are **not** to go into the green bin. Pop cans and other aluminum cans of any size are sold for scrap and should be placed in the wire cribs located behind the white fence area at both collection sites. We collectively thank you for your help resolving these issues.



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Activity Affairs

by Lora Davis

The warm weather has returned, reminding all of us why we love spending the winter down here. Outdoor activities are just that much more enjoyable while also soaking in the Florida sunshine. Don't miss out on the great golf course we have here at TR. If you've thought about trying golf but aren't sure where to begin, golf lessons are offered on Tuesday mornings.

Bocce has long been one of our most popular outdoor activities, cornhole is another and, of course, there is pickleball! If you've been wanting to try pickleball or simply to learn more about it, the introduction to pickleball sessions will be on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

While not an outdoor activity, table tennis continues to increase in popularity as well. If you enjoy being active in non-competitive ways, don't forget there are opportunities for dancing, clogging and a variety of exercise classes.

TR also has a broad variety of interesting hobby activities. Did you know that TR has its own woodshop? Whether you have a project or simply enjoy wood-working, consider checking out the TR Woodshop. You may have seen some incredible wood sculptures around the park. We have a woodcarving activity where you too can begin learning how to create something unique of your own.

The New York Day Luncheon is on Sunday, Feb. 22 in Citrus East. This week's Friday Night Dance will be an orchestra dance. Don't forget the TR Golf Association Tuscan Italian Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 28 in Busch Hall.

Finally, remember that InTouch will always have the most up-to-date event information. If you are unfamiliar with InTouch, it is a mobile app that you can download and keep up with what is happening at TR. Please contact the office if you need assistance.

TR Quilt Guild announces Quilt-A-Rama



Photo by Joan Ledbetter

PEGGY SANDER AND DIANA KRUPICKA

by Joan Ledbetter

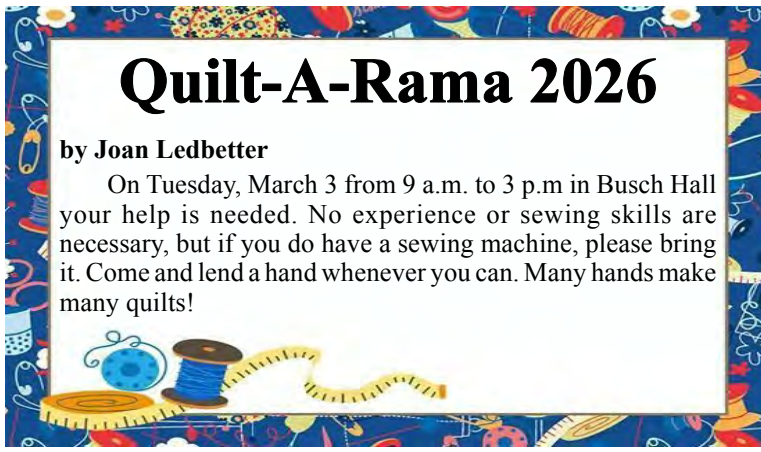
The TR Quilt Guild is excited to announce the upcoming Quilt-A-Rama 2026. This annual event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Busch Hall. We are pleased to have Peggy Sander and Diana Krupicka returning as co-chairs for this season's event. As accomplished quilters and longtime members of the TR community, they have developed an excellent floor plan to accommodate the many volunteers who make this day of service possible. You are welcome to drop into Busch Hall at any time during the event and a task will be found for you to help. To keep everyone fueled, the Snack Shack will be taking orders and delivering lunches to Busch Hall this day.

Quilt-A-Rama is a park-wide event dedicated to completing quilts for local organizations in need. It is a wonderful opportunity for service, fellowship and FUN. Sander and Krupicka want to emphasize that there is a role for everyone. You do not need to be an expert or even know how to sew to participate, as there are many essential non-sewing tasks to complete. However, if you do own a sewing machine, please bring it along, as your assistance would be greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, March 3 in Busch Hall for a productive and enjoyable day of community giving the TR way.

Quilt-A-Rama 2026

by Joan Ledbetter

On Tuesday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Busch Hall your help is needed. No experience or sewing skills are necessary, but if you do have a sewing machine, please bring it. Come and lend a hand whenever you can. Many hands make many quilts!



TR Model Railroad Club

by Brian Krupicka

I hope you were able to see our layout display last week. We had a great deal of interest and several people wanted to attend our next meeting. All skill levels are welcome to come and see what we are doing and creating.



Photo submitted by Brian Krupicka
Ice skating anyone?

Scavenger Hunt and more



by Laurie Lasure and Chris Marsh

The Hunt begins tomorrow Saturday, Feb. 21, at 12:45 p.m. Join your neighbors and friends at The Grove for instructions and clues to discovering little gems in and about this special park we call home.

At the finish of the Hunt, starting at 2 p.m., a variety of yard games will begin followed by the TRGA Barbecue at 3 p.m. Whether you are part of the Hunt or not, these are park-wide activities and everyone is welcome.

Hope to see you there.

On food, cooking and baking

by Jeffrey J. Duquette

Jeff Duquette will present a round-table discussion on various techniques, secrets and insights provided by Harold McGee's landmark book, "On Food and Cooking." Topics will jump around and be on various subjects. A demonstration will be presented. There will be a lot to interest a new or experienced cook. Prior presentations were well-attended, and many people had asked for another talk.

Your participation is encouraged, so we can learn from each other. This presentation will be on Monday, Feb. 23 from 1 to 2:20 p.m. in Citrus East.



Annual Airstream community gathering



by Bard Fuller

It's not too late to sign up for our Airstream gathering scheduled on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 5 p.m. in Busch Hall. All current and former Airstream owners are welcome to share your past and future travel adventures.

Dinners will cost between \$16 and \$20 and paid reservations are required by Sunday, Feb. 22. Check the details in the flyer and look for reservation forms posted on the easel board in the Post Office.

Kendall Felder, an officer of the Executive Council of the Airstream Club will be our featured speaker. There will also be updates on the newest Airstream Inc. products and initiatives along with several camping door prizes.

We keep painting and you keep finding



Photo by Marcia Hatfield

Look for these around the park.

by Marcia Hatfield

Our group paints rocks and we have a blast. Each week at Rock Painting we see new faces who catch the spirit of sharing our hobby and our friendship. This week we offered 19 Valentine rocks for your delight; look for them around the park.

Our next projects will focus on St. Patrick's Day, think green. We will then follow with all things Easter, think Easter eggs to crosses. Join us on Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in JMAB.

No experience or supplies required. Call Marcia for more information, 614-946-4411 or lot 02-05.

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Water shortage and fire potential

by Margaret Emmetts

I have written a number of editorials asking residents to conserve water. This year in particular Florida is under an extreme drought situation. This condition resulted from a dryer-than-usual rainy season during summer months that produced a 13" rainfall deficit this year.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District has declared a Modified Phase II "Severe" Water Shortage due to the dry conditions throughout the region. As a result, lawn watering is reduced to one day per week districtwide. This restriction also applies to residents on PRIVATE WELLS. Watering hours are from 12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m. OR 6 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. You may only use one of these time periods. Residents should check with [Pasco County](#) to determine what days you may water.

Car washing is only allowed on your watering day and you must use a hose with a shutoff nozzle.

Outdoor burning is prohibited.

This water shortage led me to think in terms of fire. Dry conditions increase the probability of fires and a water shortage can seriously impact putting out fires that occur. At TR we are fortunate to have our own Fire Station that greatly reduces response time if a fire should occur in the park. Those of you who have been in the park a number of years will recall that we have had at least three serious fires here. One demolished a trailer, one a home in the Village and the third a fifth-wheel.

Chief Larry Polzin has some words of wisdom for all of us. If a fire should occur in your unit that is not a grease fire on your stove, the first thing you should do is **get out of the unit**. Keep low while exiting as heat and smoke rise. Crawl if necessary. Next, call 911 being sure to give your address using four digits, ie. 01-01 or 2610. The next thing you should do, if possible, is to turn off the power.

Our Fire Department recommends each unit have a fire blanket to be used in the event of a grease fire. Do not store the blanket on a wall near the stove as this might put you in danger while trying to reach the blanket. Rather store the blanket on the inside of a door under your sink.

Did you know that TR policies require that each unit have a 50 ft. garden hose on the outside of the unit. This can be helpful to use until the Fire Department arrives.

It is also useful to have an ABC, dry chemical type, fire extinguisher in your unit.

Our Fire Department no longer supplies smoke detectors. However, they would be happy to install one for you should you need help.

We hope that you will never have the need to call our Fire Department. But rest assured, they are well trained. They even received a commendation for their handling of the Village house fire.

Water shortages in conjunction with fire potential may produce serious results. Please do your part to keep everyone safe.

Will the real Mrs. Roper please stand up?



The Mrs. Roper party was well attended.

Photos by Cathy Stuart

by Cathy Stuart

About 32 ladies entered TR's Regal Beagle Lounge, or Citrus East, on Sunday, Feb. 8. All of the Mrs. Ropers participated in a fashion show followed by Trivia, happy hour and limbo. There were so many laughs as ladies picked prizes from the "Lost and Found." Even the happy hour snacks were '70s inspired. The Mrs. Roper party was so much fun. If you check the group photo, you might see a glimpse of Mr. Roper. A big thank you to all who attended.

Coffee Seminars

by Leslie Ewing

TR First Responders say that the most frequent calls for help involve people falling. Both seminars this week will cover this topic.

Advent Health will be at Busch Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 8 a.m. The topic of discussion will be fall prevention.

On Thursday, Feb. 26, from 8 to 9 a.m. in Busch Hall, TR's own Jane Gorden will follow up with a seminar about what to do when you do fall. Jane has conducted classes about falling in many states other than Florida during her career in adult physical rehabilitation. If people want to practice getting up off the floor, Jane requests that they bring a cushion and a towel as protection against the floor when they come to the seminar.



Souper Bowl tradition lives on at TR

by Bob Curran

TR is rich with tradition and one of them has occurred on Super Bowl Sunday for more than 20 years. It is known as the Souper Bowl Luncheon hosted by and for the members of the Connecticut Airstream Club in Citrus West each Super Bowl Sunday.

The 2026 edition, once again organized by longtime Village residents Sandy and Mike Sasuta and Kathy and Rich Kushman, was

held Sunday, Feb. 8 and attracted about 40 members and affiliate members of the Connecticut Airstream Club.

Not surprisingly, an informal poll held at the start of the festivities revealed that most attendees would be rooting for their beloved New England Patriots later in the day. In fact, one attendee suggested that any Seattle Seahawks fan present should "go to the end of the food line." Actually, there were, as usual, two lines: one for soups and chowders (about 10 choices) and one for desserts (about 20 choices). Tablecloths were red and blue for the Patriots and blue and green for the Seahawks.

The Souper Bowl Luncheon was conceived by the Sasutas and held for the first time on Feb. 4, 2007 in their home. "It started with Mike and I preparing the meals but when it got too large, we changed

New street light to be installed

by John Freed

The Johnston Road and Lake Iola Road intersection is rather dark at night. Last spring, a resident mentioned that it would be helpful to have a street light installed there, especially with the future added traffic at the new RV park. I then contacted the Pasco County Transportation Engineering Department and submitted the request. I followed up last week and received a reply that the request had been submitted to the Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative to have the light installed there, which should increase visibility and safety of that area.



Photo by John Freed

New street light will be located at the intersection of Johnston and Lake Iola Roads improving safety for motorists.

Book Browsers



by Nan Lance

The Book Browsers met this week to discuss "Her Hidden Genius" by Marie Benedict. After discussing the author and the book reviews, members discussed the unfairness of how women were treated in the scientific community years ago, especially in the case of Rosalind Franklin who discovered the double helix design of DNA. Her work was stolen by three men who received the Nobel Prize.

The Book Browsers will meet again on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. in Citrus West to discuss "Anxious People" by Frederik Backman. All are invited.

Be patient and pass the word

by Bob Waldo

The south doors of Busch Hall near the pool have been installed with handicap-accessible, low-energy automatic door mechanisms. These doors open very slowly to allow time for people using wheel chairs or other assistive devices to independently enter and exit buildings. These mechanisms are set to a specific amount of time to open and close to ensure the person's safety.

When accessing these doors, it is important that you remain patient and do not forcefully open or close them leading to unnecessary and potentially expensive repairs.



Photo by Robert Waldo

Misuse of these doors has required Maintenance to make repairs to them for the third time.



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Photo by Bob Curran

Russ and Rhona Fuller enjoying several soups with their unique variety soup tin.



Bulletin Board

Travelers Rest Resort Activities

ACOUSTIC JAM SESSION

PICKIN' & GRINNIN' - Wednesdays, 3:30-5 PM, Hobby House. Nov - Mar
Rob Werner 906-322-2243
Harold Keefer 402-630-3577

BRASS ENSEMBLE

Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4:00 PM
 Jeri Miller Activity Building. Jan - Mar
Bill Watkins 740-3614511

CRIBBAGE

Mondays, 6:30 - 9:00 PM,
 Jeri Miller Activity Building. Jan-Mar
Bob Luther 774-272-1037

FRIDAY NIGHT DJ DANCE

Various available Fridays in Busch Hall. 7-9 PM DJ or recorded music. Check InTouch schedule for updates.
Diana Hill 352-760-1420

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

2nd and 4th Thurs., 6:30-9 PM in the Jeri Miller Activity Building. Nov - Apr. Meetings open to all. Amateurs can check into the 8 AM Two Meter Net on 146.430 Mhz (PL 100.0) Monday thru Saturday.
Dan Zile 618-954-8550

BRIDGE (BEGINNERS)

Tuesdays, 1:00 - 5:00 PM
 Hobby House. Jan - Mar
Jim Weigand 231-947-5649

DIGITAL PHOTO (CAMERA)

Mondays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 Jeri Miller Activity Building. Jan - Mar 16
Carey Box 615-337-4300

GARDEN CLUB

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 - 11:00 AM
 Lake Margaret Nov - Apr
Stacy Grier 816-273-9013

AQUATICS (WATER AEROBICS)

Nov-Dec: Mon, Wed, & Fri 9:00-10:00 AM
 Jan-Apr: Mon, Wed, & Fri 9:30-10:30 AM
 Pool
Linda Smith 517-662-9233

BRIDGE (INTERMEDIATES)

Tuesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 Citrus West. Jan - Mar
Connie Bradley 519-330-1666

DIGITAL PHOTO (POST PROCESS-

Tuesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 Jeri Miller Activity Building. Jan - Mar 17
Carey Box 615-337-4300

GENEALOGY

Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 Citrus East Feb - Mar
Linda Spencer 352-424-9604

BALLROOM DANCING

Mondays, 7:00-8:00 PM in Busch Hall
 Wednesdays (Review) 10:00-11:00 AM Citrus East. Jan - Mar
Jeffrey Duquette 413-564-1386

BRIDGE (PARTY/PARTNERS)

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 PM Citrus West. Partner not required. Singles will be teamed up. Jan - Mar
Jen Furman 616-527-3463

DOMINOES

Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:00 PM
 Busch Hall. Jan - Mar
Linda Gough 615-400-3332

GOLF - LADIES LEAGUE

Wednesdays 9:00 AM
 Starter Shack.
Kathy Reimann 816-390-6674

BEADAHOLICS

Mondays, 10:15 AM to 12:15 PM
 Citrus East. Jan - Mar
Kathy Kushman 860-608-8668
Kathy Lemke 847-456-5824

BULLETIN BOARD IN BUSCH HALL

For information or help with a notice or ad contact: Betsy Behler or Lora Davis
Betsy Behler 302-730-8333
Lora Davis 352-584-6377

DULCIMER JAM

Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:00 PM
 Citrus East. Jan - Mar
Lois Showers 570-939-2077

GOLF - MENS LEAGUE

Thursdays 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
 Starter Shack.
Barry English 519-753-2349

BIBLE STUDY (EVERYONE)

Mondays, 5:30-7:00 PM
 Busch Hall Stage. Jan 12 - Mar 16.
Anthony Shipe 239-233-0988

CALLIGRAPHY

Tuesdays, 3:00 - 4:30 PM
 Jeri Miller Activity Building. Jan - Mar
Rick Peebles 716-410-5386

DULCIMER LESSONS

Mondays, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
 Citrus West. Jan - Mar
Lois Showers 570-939-2077

GOLF - SCRAMBLES

2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturday mornings 9:00 AM
 Starter Shack.
Dave & Dawn Pulleyn 705-821-2164

BIBLE STUDY (WOMEN'S)

Tuesdays, 3:00 - 4:30 PM
 Citrus West. Jan - Mar
Christy Trotter 503-504-0083

CHOIR PRACTICE

Fridays 9:30 - 11:00 AM
 Sundays 8:45 - 9:30 AM
 Busch Hall. Join us
Bernie Guttridge 740-453-5623

ENTERTAINMENT SUNDAYS

Announcements begin at 6:45 PM with program following. Performances will be in Busch Hall.
Kathy Shawver 419-610-7335
Lacy Shawver 419-545-2988

GOLF ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Monthly meeting 2nd Thursday, 1 to 4 PM in Hobby House. All members/golfers are welcome. December-March.
Gene Lockhart 216-990-8005

BICYCLING

Tuesdays & Fridays, meet at 9:00 AM at parking lot behind Busch Hall. Watch Cycling Bulletin Board in Busch Hall for rides.
Rick & Carol Yoder 260-820-2525

CHURCH ASSOCIATION

Sunday Activities: All events in Busch Hall,
 8:45am: Choir Practice
 9:30am: Bible Study
 10:15am: Hymn Sing
Anthony Shipe, Pastor 239-233-0988

EUCHRE

Fridays, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
 Citrus East. Nov - Mar
Mary De Weerd 519-589-3341

GOLF LESSONS

Tuesdays, Practice Range with all levels of expertise from 9 to 11 AM
Lynn Meyers 519-344-5473

BINGO

Nov - Dec: 1st & 3rd Weds 7:00 - 9:00 PM
 Jan - Mar: Sats 7:00 - 9:00 PM
 Citrus East.
Linda Smith 517-662-9233
Jim Walsh 732-208-6208

CHURCH ASSOCIATION - ADDI-

10:30am: Worship service (non-denominational)
 Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month.
Anthony Shipe, Pastor 239-233-0988

FIRE/RESCUE 33

First Responders Training -Tue, 11am - 1pm in Jeri Miller Activity Building
 Business Meeting - 3rd Tue, 9 am in Paul Rife Room. Nov - Apr
Larry Polzin 810-247-2361

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Volunteer to help build homes in Pasco County. Projects January thru March TBA.
Barbara Colson 352-206-3210

BIRDING

Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
 Busch Hall Front Porch.
 Bring binoculars and cameras. Jan - Mar
Tom Butler 863-651-7526

CLOGGERS

Tuesdays 9:00 - 11:30 AM
 Saturdays 9:00 - 10:30 AM
 Citrus East Nov - Mar
Donna Neer 419-366-0471
Donna Smith 315-408-1805

FIVE CROWNS

Wednesdays (non-concert nights only),
 6:30 - 9:00 PM
 Citrus West. Nov - Apr
Jackie Thackery 812-371-7243

HAND AND FOOT

Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:00 PM
 Busch Hall. Jan - Mar
Diane & Brian Krupicka 630-961-1243

BLOOD DRIVE AT TR

Blood drives are held the 1st Monday in December and March. The Blood Mobile will be parked next to the TR Fire Station from 8 AM to 2:30 PM unless announced otherwise.
Ken Neer 419-366-0203

COFFEE & DONUTS

1st Saturday (during Flea Markets)
 3rd Saturdays during Yard Sales.
 8:30 to 11:30 AM or until sold out.
 Donuts & coffee in Busch Hall. Nov.-Mar.
Dan Zile 618-954-8550
Dee Manos 908-581-1693

FIVE HUNDRED CARDS

Saturdays, 6:30 - 9:00 PM
 Citrus West. Dec - Mar
Deborah May 304-888-8207
Connie Bradley 519-383-1522

HAPPY HOURS

Thursdays, 4-5:30 PM Backup venues (weather): Cabana: Jeri Miller Activities Building; RV South: Citrus West; Village: Hobby House.
Sandra Langell (Cabana) 270-782-6554
Ken Neer (RVS) 419-366-0203

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11:00 AM
 Paul Rife Room.
Larry Polzin 810-247-2361

COFFEE SEMINARS

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 - 9:00 AM
 Busch Hall. Watch The TR Times and InTouch for updates.
Leslie Ewing 812-701-5352

FLEA MARKET

1st Saturdays 8:30 - 10:30 AM
 Busch Hall Nov - Mar
 Setup at 7:00 AM Coffee & Donuts for sale.
Rick and Amy Peebles 716-679-5588

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sundays, 6:15 - 6:45 PM
 Busch Hall, Nov - Mar
Kathy Shawver 419-610-7335

BOCCE

Scheduled games and competitions,
 Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri & Sun at 1:30 PM
 Tue at 7:00 PM
 Jan - Mar
Rob Sunde 240-441-5054

COFFEE SOCIAL

Monday - Friday, 7:30 - 9:00 AM
 Busch Hall. Jan - Mar
Jan Rubino 860-604-0239

FOODIES

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays
 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
 Busch Hall, Nov - Dec 18
Linda Smith 517-662-9233

IPHONE - LEARNING YOUR IPHONE

Thursdays, 12:30 - 2:00 PM
 Jeri Miller Activity Building. Jan - Mar 19
Susan Stahley 518-598-6823

BOOK BROWSERS

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 2:00 - 3:00 PM
 Citrus West Book discussions.
 Jan - Mar
Nan Feeney Lance 518-813-7873

CONCERT SERIES (WEDNESDAY)

First Wednesdays of the month, Jan - Mar. Busch Hall. Doors open at 6:30 PM, shows start at 7:00 PM Check InTouch and TR Times for program details. Season tickets or pay at the door.
Kathy Shawver 419-610-7335
Lacy Shawver 419-545-2988

FOODIES PREP TIME

Mondays 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM
 Busch Hall Kitchen Nov - Dec 15
Linda Smith 517-662-9233

JOKER

Mondays 6:30 - 9:00 PM, Jan - Mar
 Fridays 6:30 - 9:00 PM Nov - Mar
 Citrus West
Bob & Deb Englert (Mon.) 419-503-1285
Deborah May (Fri.) 304-888-8207

BOWLING (OUT OF PARK)

Fridays at 1:30 PM
 Pin Chasers Bowling Lanes, Zephyrhills.
 Dec - Mar
Leslie Price 913-940-1348

CORNHOLE

Wednesdays 7:00 PM
 Cornhole/Shuffleboard Courts, Jan - Mar
Dan Varner 989-615-2107

FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE (ORCHES-

Fridays from 7 to 9 PM in Busch Hall, starting January 17. The dance schedule and themes are listed in the TR Booklet and on the InTouch app.
Pat Daubenmier 734-646-1296

JUBELLATION

Mondays 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
 Busch Hall. Nov - Mar
Bernie Guttridge 740-453-5623



Bulletin Board

Travelers Rest Resort Activities

<p>KARAOKE</p> <p>Check InTouch schedule for selected Wednesdays 7 - 9pm in Busch Hall. Jan - Mar Dave Kat 519-909-0017</p>	<p>NEWCOMERS RED DOT SOCIAL</p> <p>Happy Hour Newcomers: 4 - 5:30pm, Golf View Pavilion. Jan - Feb If you're a newcomer, stop by for a TR goody bag & important info about the park! Diana Hill 352-760-1420</p>	<p>RUG HOOKING</p> <p>Tuesdays, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Green Room, Busch Hall. Jan - Mar Tawnya Rowden 231-271-3325</p>	<p>WALKING AEROBICS (WINTER)</p> <p>Weekdays, 7:15 - 7:45 AM Citrus East. Nov- Apr 10 Gloria Polzin 810-252-0999</p>
<p>KNOTTY KNITTERS</p> <p>Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:30 AM Citrus West. Nov - Apr Diane Fisher 215-801-4075</p>	<p>OPEN ART STUDIO</p> <p>Mondays, 2:00 - 5:00 PM in Citrus West. Bring your own project and supplies (Any medium, not a class). Jan - Mar Delia Box 615-975-3855</p>	<p>SEWING</p> <p>Mondays, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Busch Hall Nov - Dec Barbara Olm 334-657-5722</p>	<p>WEIGHTS & STRETCHING</p> <p>Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:50 - 9am in Citrus East. Year-round. Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:50 - 9am in Citrus West also, Jan - Apr Sheila Schencke</p>
<p>LEFT, CENTER, RIGHT GAME</p> <p>Mondays, 7:00 - 9:00 PM Citrus East Jan - Mar 16 Gary Dietz 419-268-1001</p>	<p>ORCHESTRA/TRAVELAIRES</p> <p>Tuesdays, 12:30 - 3:00 PM Busch Hall. Jan - Mar 17 Pat Daubenmier 734-646-1296</p>	<p>SEWING THERAPY</p> <p>Mondays, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM Busch Hall. Jan - Mar Laura Lilawski 631-678-3316</p>	<p>WELCOMING COMMITTEE</p> <p>1st Thursdays, 11:30am - 1pm, Citrus West. Nov - Mar 1st Thursdays: Welcoming Committee organizational meetings Diana Hill 352-760-1420 Joan Ledbetter 505-400-8235</p>
<p>LIBRARY</p> <p>Located in northwest corner of Busch Hall. Open 24/7. Honor system sign-out. Please reshelve your own books if you can. If not place in cart behind desk. Meetings: 1st Tuesdays, 1 - 2pm Citrus East Mary Kosbab 585-261-8206 Kay Blunda 301-802-7470</p>	<p>PAINTING (OIL & ACRYLIC)</p> <p>Fridays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Citrus West. Jan - Mar. Pat Gallagher 352-424-1052</p>	<p>SHOOTING CLUB (SPORTING CLAY)</p> <p>2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM Jeri Miller Activity Building, Jan - Mar Ray LoPresti 518-817-2958</p>	<p>WIZARD</p> <p>Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 PM Busch Hall. Jan - Mar Kevin and Denise Weik 860-306-1109</p>
<p>LINE DANCING (BEGINNERS)</p> <p>Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:00 AM Busch Hall Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:00 PM Busch Hall. Jan - Mar Alex Adair 864-477-9666</p>	<p>PAINTING (WATERCOLOR)</p> <p>Wednesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 PM Citrus East. Jan - Mar Amy Grier 816-752-7076</p>	<p>SNACK SHACK</p> <p>Currently weekdays, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM January 6-March 21. Jim Walsh 732-208-6208</p>	<p>WOOD SHOP</p> <p>Weekdays, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Wood Shop Oct-May. Membership \$20. Larry Kurkowski 248-421-5315</p>
<p>LINE DANCING (IMPROVERS)</p> <p>Mondays & Thursdays, 1:00 - 2:30 PM Citrus East. Jan - Mar Alex Adair 864-477-9666</p>	<p>PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP</p> <p>Thursdays, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Hobby House, Nov - Mar 19 Cyndi Brodeur 860-983-3532</p>	<p>STAINED GLASS</p> <p>Wednesdays, 4:00 - 6:00 PM Mondays (Beginners), 12:45 - 2:45 PM Jeri Miller Activity Building Jan - Mar Betty Teichert 613-255-3066</p>	<p>WOODCARVING</p> <p>Wednesdays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Citrus West. Jan - Mar Linda Murphy 717-968-9306</p>
<p>MAH JONG (CHINESE)</p> <p>Mondays & Fridays, 12:00 - 2:00 PM Citrus West. Dec - Mar Rose Taggart 443-350-0527</p>	<p>PENNY POKER</p> <p>Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 PM Hobby House. Jan - Apr Bruce Anderson 248-767-8469</p>	<p>TABLE TENNIS/PING PONG</p> <p>Mondays and Thursdays, set up at 2:30 PM, Play from 3 - 5pm in Citrus East. Extra paddles available. Jan - Mar Charles Mason 317-525-7897</p>	<p>YARD SALES</p> <p>3rd Saturdays, 8:30 - 11:30 AM Nov - Mar Lora Davis 352-584-6377</p>
<p>MAH JONGG (NATIONAL LEAGUE)</p> <p>Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1 - 3pm at Hobby House. Lessons on Mondays. Nov.18 - Mar. Not on Forum Mondays Bette Gorman 608-547-5529</p>	<p>PET LOVERS CLUB</p> <p>2nd Mondays, 3:00 - 4:30 PM Jeri Miller Activity Building. Jan - Mar Judy Leister 419-894-6331</p>	<p>TAI CHI</p> <p>Mondays (except 2nd Mondays) & Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM, Hobby House. Jan - Mar Janet & Harold Baal 705-652-9590</p>	<p>YOGA</p> <p>Restorative Yoga (Improves flexibility): Tuesdays, 7:15 - 8:15 AM Yoga for Athletes: Thursdays, 7:15 - 8:15 AM Citrus West, Jan- Mar Renee DeTar 352-467-3321</p>
<p>MATS FOR THE HOMELESS</p> <p>Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:30 AM Busch Hall. Dec - Mar Lorraine Gould 902-497-3836</p>	<p>PICKLEBALL</p> <p>Daily sessions available for all level of play. See InTouch calendar for schedule. Jan-Mar Nancy McDowell 610-551-4482 Shirley-Ann Appleby (705) 471-6774</p>	<p>TENNIS</p> <p>Open play, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9:00 - 11:00 AM Nov - Mar Betty Teichert 613-255-3066</p>	<p>ZUMBA</p> <p>Thursdays, 8:30 - 9:30 AM Citrus West. Cardio dance. Jan - Mar Bev Weissinger 914-443-2820</p>
<p>MIRROR LAKE YACHT CLUB</p> <p>Wednesdays & Saturdays 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM at Mirror Lake Jan - Mar 18 Chris Farler 740-656-1988</p>	<p>PINOCHLE</p> <p>Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:00 PM Busch Hall. Jan - Mar John Delaney 907-351-5659</p>	<p>TONE & TIGHTEN</p> <p>Mon & Wed, 9:00-10:00AM, Sep - Dec Mond, Wed, & Fri, 9:00-10:0 AM, Jan - Mar Citrus East Strengthen your muscles. Bring mat and weights. Bev Weissinger 914-443-2820 Louise McRoberts 317-258-4618</p>	<p>TRAVEL</p> <p>Day trips by bus begin and end at TR. Watch for new trips in TR Times, BH Bulletin Board and InTouch. Sharon Gilbert Zile 740-360-3819</p>
<p>MODEL RAILROAD CLUB</p> <p>Fridays, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM Jeri Miller Activity Building Jan 30 - Apr Brian Krupicka 630-961-1243</p>	<p>POKER TEXAS HOLD 'EM</p> <p>Tuesdays & Saturdays, 7:00 - 9:00 PM Hobby House Tom Thompson 727-612-1657</p>	<p>TRAVELOGUE</p> <p>2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 3:00 - 4:30 PM Citrus East. Jan - Mar Bert Contractor 980-334-5050</p>	<p>UKULELE CLUB</p> <p>Tuesdays, 3:00 - 4:00 PM in Citrus East. Players share tips and tunes without weekly instruction. Jan - Mar Susan Keefer 402-339-1632</p>
<p>MOTORCYCLE CLUB (ROADRIDERS)</p> <p>1st Mondays, 7 - 8pm in Hobby House to plan rides. Tuesday rides: Meet at 8am, Busch Hall parking lot Thursday rides: Meet at 9:30am Busch Hall parking lot Jan - Mar Bruce Richmond 959-444-5182</p>	<p>POPS CHORUS</p> <p>Wednesdays, 12:30 - 2:30 PM Jeri Miller Activity Building. Jan - Mar Mary Beth Coldren 570-351-2497 Ron Reeve 519-359-5237</p>	<p>QUILLING ON A BUDGET</p> <p>Thursdays, 1:15 - 3:30 PM Citrus West. Jan - Mar. Call or text to reserve spot. Pat Daubenmier 734-646-1296</p>	<p>VETERANS MEETING</p> <p>2nd Mondays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM Hobby House. All year. Marty Schencke 425-590-7905</p>
<p>MOTORSPORTS RC CLUB</p> <p>Mondays 5:30pm; Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30am at our track by the Snack Shack. Practice precedes race schedule. Jan - Mar Sean Neer 419-541-0684 Tom Stuart 519-365-0664</p>	<p>QUILTING</p> <p>Thursdays 9:30 AM - 3 PM Busch Hall. 2nd Thursday Guild Meeting/Show and Tell. Nov - Mar Cloie Morgan 501-690-7428</p>	<p>ROCK PAINTING</p> <p>Thursdays, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Jeri Miller Activity Building. Dec - Mar Marcia Hatfield 614-946-4411</p>	<p>WAIST WATCHERS</p> <p>Thursdays, 8:30 - 9:15 AM Hobby House. Nov- Mar Jackie Thackery 812-371-7243</p>
<p>MOVIE NIGHT (TUESDAYS)</p> <p>Tuesdays in Citrus East, Movie shorts at 6:45pm, feature movies start at 7pm. Movie Night runs Jan - Mar Nancy McDowell 610-551-4482</p>	<p>NEWCOMERS RED DOT SOCIAL</p> <p>Red Dot Social: Table will be set up along the Northeast wall prior to Bush Hall entertainment nights and during other special events. Jan - Mar Diana Hill 352-760-1420</p>	<p>ROCK PAINTING</p> <p>Thursdays, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Jeri Miller Activity Building. Dec - Mar Marcia Hatfield 614-946-4411</p>	<p>WAIST WATCHERS</p> <p>Thursdays, 8:30 - 9:15 AM Hobby House. Nov- Mar Jackie Thackery 812-371-7243</p>

Activities

please note

All changes, additions or corrections to any Activity, or to join our team.
Contact Lora Davis
activities@travelersrestresort.com
 352-584-6377



“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”
 ~ Sherry Anderson



Travel News



DAN AND SHARON ZILE

by Sharon Gilbert Zile
TR Tour Director

Gadabout is a rather archaic word that simply refers to a wanderer in search of pleasure or a time of wandering as an act of pleasure. Shopping days are occasionally my Gadabout as I drift about in my favorite stores without a specific purchase in mind, and it is then that I experience the most wonderful discoveries. Have you ever wandered about until you found a place that felt just right? Sometimes Dan and I are gadabouts in our travel trailer, roaming until we find a place to camp that offers the tranquility we desire and the hiking opportunities that match our abilities. Gadabouts travel alone or with fellow souls who also seek a similar adventure with potential discovery that gives such pleasure to our previously purpose-driven lives.

On March 6 TR Travel will head for the rolling hills of Central Florida in a Gadabout. We will enjoy a few discoveries at the Russell Stover Distribution Center. Perhaps there will be some post-Valentine specials or other

finds. Then we experience lunch at a new-to-us La Hacienda Restaurant. This Mission Inn Restaurant offers us a gastronomical adventure with its varied buffet. The Grand Christmas Buffet and the Easter Buffet get wonderful reviews and one reviewer noted that among the many selections were vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options. The beautiful Mission Inn grounds offer a feast for the eyes, and perhaps a bit of wandering.

Our Small World Tours bus will then take us to Yalaha Bakery and Restaurant, a popular family-owned bakery, known for its handmade, organic breads, pastries and sandwiches. They offer a variety of traditional European baked goods, including gluten-free and sugar-free options. As Small World Tours passengers, we will each take home a loaf of homemade bread! Another Gadabout discovery, Yalaha Bakery also hosts daytime outdoor live music on Saturdays and Sundays.

Our final TR Gadabout stop will be Lakeridge Winery for a short tour, some tastings and some personal shopping time in the large gift shop. Lakeridge Winery is located in the beautiful rolling hills of Clermont and is known for its sweet Muscadine wine and weekend festivals.

Given the TR U.S. mail schedule, I will be able to extend our reservation deadline through Saturday, Feb. 21. Lunch and gratuities for servers and bus driver are included in the \$99 Gadabout cost.

If your personal gadabout involves flying the friendly skies, the new 2026 TSA rules will be important to you. Last week, I focused on the revised allowable dimensions for carry-on luggage

with the overhead bin size being the ultimate determining factor on each airline. The new TSA carry-on dimensions must include the handle and wheels.

The rules for transporting liquids in carry-ons remain in 2026 but are expected to be more strictly enforced. The 3-1-1 law instructs us that each passenger may have a single re-closable clear-plastic quart-sized bag with liquid containers no larger than 3.4 ounces. The containers may include liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes and even if each container is only partially full, the container must be 3.4 ounces or less. You may have as many containers as will fit in your one clear-plastic quart-size bag. Many toiletry brands make travel-sized liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes that comply with the 3.4-ounce limit. Purchasing these products for travel not only streamlines your packing process but also makes it easier to fit everything into a single quart-sized Ziploc. Additionally, solid personal care products, such as shampoo bars and powdered toothpaste, are not subject to the 3-1-1 rule and can be packed separately without needing to fit into a clear quart-sized bag. Larger than 3.4 ounces liquid containers such as shampoo, conditioner and hairspray may travel in checked luggage.

Some packing pre-planning and adherence to TSA regulations will be a good start for flying the friendly skies. Travel on!

Travel quote: "Not all who wander are lost. Some are just looking for yard sales." Anonymous gadabout

Gadabout



by Kathy Reimann

I have been waiting for the weather to warm up with no chance of freezing to make my trip to Duncheon's Nursery, my favorite stop for plants and flowers. Sometimes, they say, the best laid plans of men just don't happen and so it is.

As we drove into the nursery, the entrance sign now reads Treemart North. It is located at 10426 Land O Lakes Blvd (Hwy 41), Land O Lakes. The garden center now focuses on plant and flower products as well as landscape design. They offer a large variety of plants, pottery and garden decor. We were still impressed with their customer service. We bought a vehicle full of plants and flowers including a nice purple flower pot for the Alzheimer's Forget-Me-Not Garden at the #6 tee on the Golf



Photos by Kathy Reimann

A wide selection of plants is available.

Course. The majority of our purchases will end up in our yard.

Our overall impression is that the prices seemed slightly higher. The quality of the plants may be worth it as we will see how the plants fare as the season progresses. It was still an enjoyable day to be Out and About at Treemart North.



Treemart North is a favorite stop for plants and flowers.

TRAVELER'S REST PRESENTS:
GADABOUT
MARCH 6TH, 2026

We are headed to the rolling hills of Central Florida. Our first stop is the Russell Stover distribution center, a chocolate lover's paradise. Next it's over to beautiful Howey in the Hills where we will have lunch at La Hacienda Restaurant! After our wonderful meal, we're off to Yalaha to visit an authentic German bakery. The streudel is made fresh, and we'll all go home with a loaf of home-made bread! Last, but not least, we'll stop at the Lakeridge Winery for a tour & wine tasting. How's that for a fun day out? Activity Level 2

COST: \$99.00

Included:

* R/T transportation	* Lunch, tax & gratuity
* Chocolate Outlet	* Winery tour
* Small loaf of bread	* Drivers Gratuity

No Refunds after 02-20-26. Tickets are transferable. Make checks payable to Small World Tours

Motor coach will depart Busch Hall at 9:00am and return at 5:45pm

Contact: Sharon Gilbert Zile
Phone: 740-360-3819 Lot# 2540
Email: sgilbert1081@gmail.com

Small World Tours & Cruises, Inc.
3503 Small World Drive, Haines City, FL 33844. Tel: 863-420-0156
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Library News

by Amy Peebles

Books have vocabularies all their own which become second nature to those who work with them either in publishing, libraries or bookstores. Several of these words you will be familiar with having seen them in our TR Library or mentioned here in the library column, so I thought it might be fun to learn more about them.



Novella is a short fiction novel or a longer short story of between 20,000 and 50,000 words. It focuses on one main character or one theme in a confined setting. "The Uncommon Reader" by Alan Bennett, which we have in our library, is considered a novella. The book is approximately 128 pages and is about the Queen's unexpected love for books.

Genre is a term used to categorize writing into specific types. Some of the genres that we have in our library are Romance, Mystery/Thriller, Nonfiction and Historical Fiction written by Danielle Steel, James Patterson, Kristin Hannah, David Balducci

and Alexander McCall Smith.

Cozy Mysteries are books which contain no graphic violence or offensive language or inappropriate scenes. The plots are lighthearted crime narratives. We have several of these types of books in the library with Agatha Christie considered the most influential mystery writer. Current authors on our shelves include Richard Osman, Joanne Fluke and Louise Penny.

Book Series are a collection of books that share characters, themes and locations from one book to the next and that are meant to be read in sequence beginning

with book one. We have several book series on our shelves including the three of the Warrior's Path Books by Malcolm Archibald and six of the Pelican Cove Mystery books by Leena Clover.

Pen Name or Nom De Plume is a pseudonym authors use either for privacy or if they are writing in more than one genre. Authors who have used pen names are Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens), Agatha Christie (Mary Westmacott) and George Orwell (Eric Arthur Blair). Authors who have used pen names whose books are on our shelves include Stephen King (Richard Bachman), Julia Quinn (Julie Pottinger), Nora Roberts (J.D. Robb) and Emily Jenkins (E. Lockhart).

A copyright is something you see in the front of a book usually on the reverse side of the title page. According to Wikipedia, a copyright is a type of intellectual property that protects the original work once they are fixed in a tangible medium. It grants creators exclusive rights to reproduce, distribute, perform and display their work generally lasting for the author's life plus 70 years.

Technology and the TR Library

by Mary Kosbab

Technology has changed libraries in countless ways. The old card catalog has gone the way of computerized cataloging. The old days of the Readers Guide to Periodical Literature has been replaced by being able to google any question and get the answer immediately on line. Books can be bought from stores and borrowed from libraries to be read on I-phones or I-pads, opening up a whole new world of convenient reading. Print can be made larger and screens brighter if needed and books are always available on one's phone.



Despite all the advances in technology, many readers still want to hold a book in their hands. Our little corner library offers a great selection to meet that need.

In our library we use technology to look up reviews of books to determine their rating when purchasing books. Computers allow us to check prices and get the lowest price to replace popular books that are lost or need replacing.

We use technology to decide in which category questionable books belong on our shelves.

We use technology to help us decorate our library with up-to-date top-rated book lists or general

information which we put on our bulletin boards for all to read and enjoy.

The technology we use helps us be more knowledgeable about our collection and helps us be able to enrich our library with posters, labels and information. At the same time we are also a very low-key library based on the honor system and donations.

We feel we merge the best of all worlds. Technology helps us give our park an up-to-date library. Our great staff gives it the needed humanistic and practical element that is most important. Those who use our library help us with their donations and their appreciation of having such a great library in our very unique and special park.

Happy reading.

For Postmaster Tracy Marston TR residents are the best part of the job

by Bob Curran

Tracy Marston didn't hesitate for one second when someone asked her recently what she enjoyed most about being the postmaster at Travelers Rest. "I just love the residents," she said. "They are so sweet and so kind to me, it makes me love my job." It's a safe bet those feelings are mutual.



Photo by Bob Curran
TRACY MARSTON

Although residents are accustomed to seeing her being the glass window in the Post Office, that's only part of her job. She can also be found in the main office helping out with reservations, shares and miscellaneous accounting tasks, regardless of the time of year. "Quite often, when I finish at the TR Post Office, I head over to the TR Office to help out at the end of the day," she said.

In May, Tracy will celebrate her 12th anniversary at TR. She was well-prepared for this post when she came to TR having spent the previous 23 years at Saddlebrook Resort in Wesley Chapel, Fla. She says, "I kind of grew up there." She bused tables, worked as a waitress and later worked in the accounting department and group reservations.

Her organizational skills, integrity and work ethic serve her

and the rest of the TR staff residents and very well. She takes great pride in providing a full-service mail center even though she feels bad that she can only help Canadian residents with letters and not packages. She knows when it's time to have the U.S. Postal Service Office in Dade City send her more stamps and supplies.

The Ridge Manor, Fla. resident also has great recall when it comes to TR residents and their addresses within the park. Tracy isn't the least bit intimidated by the

changing names and faces who come to Golf View each year. "As long as they let me know if they change sites, I don't have too much trouble finding them." On occasion, she will call to tell them they have mail.

For this season, she has two volunteers helping her out, Pat Butler and Bev Weissinger. "They have been so helpful and so great to have around when I have to do something else or miss a day."

When vacation time comes around, Tracy usually jumps on a flight to Houston, Tex. to visit her son and three grandchildren. "They are the light of my life," she says.

Tracy knows whenever someone in the park is celebrating a birthday or having some health issues. "I'll see an influx in birthday cards or get-well cards being dropped off for distribution in the park." That just reinforces her feelings about being part of the TR community. "Everyone here cares so much for each other," she says.

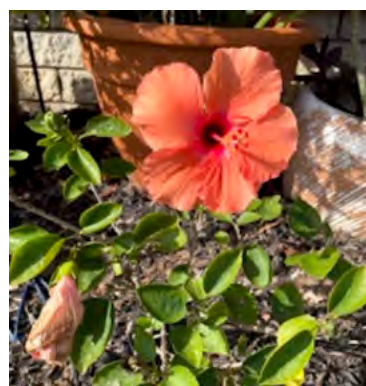
Since *The TR Times* doesn't publish in May when Tracy's 12th anniversary comes around, we will take this opportunity to say "Happy Anniversary, Tracy!"

Garden News



by Nancy McDowell

Beautiful and attractive. Redundant you say? Well what if I mean beautiful visually and attractive to pollinators, then I am not being redundant, which is what I mean when I am talking about hibiscus.



Photos by Nancy McDowell
HIBISCUS

Hibiscus is part of the Malvaceae family; which is the scientific name for the mallow family. This explains, at least to me, why the Turk's Mallow plant in the Lake Margaret Garden so resembles a hibiscus flower.

Hibiscus is native to warmer, tropical regions and ideal for our TR gardens. A perfect choice for the state flower of Hawaii. These plants are definitely not winter-hardy for your northern gardens. Hibiscus are the "hybrids" of flowers as they are bred for ideal sizing and coloring. However, they are beautiful, but tragic. Sadly they are not long-lasting. Once a bud has bloomed it will close up and drop off after a single day of glory.

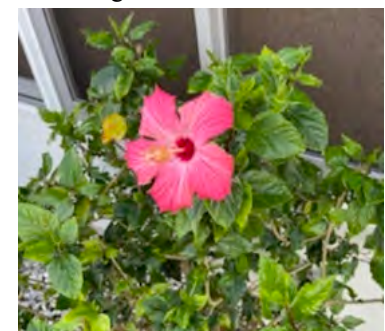
These plants are easy to grow in warm, sunny environments; they need well-drained soil and love sunlight. With the right amount of care these plants can bloom year after year. At least here at TR I see these gorgeous flowers all year round.

Pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hummingbirds are all attracted to these flowers. More of these in our eco-system, please.

Beyond being important beauties of the garden, worldfacts.com shares that these also hold "cultural and symbolic significance in many parts of the world...In Hindu culture, the hibiscus is associated with the goddess Kali and is used in various religious offerings. In many Asian and Caribbean cultures, the flower is also a symbol of hospitality and is often used in leis or floral arrangements for special occasions." The aforementioned state flower of Hawaii is used to represent beauty. Like other adornments the flowers are used to indicate marital status when worn on the ear. On the left for not-available and on the right for yep, I am single.

It does not stop there. Hibiscus also has medicinal and culinary benefits. Think hibiscus tea, now in the herbal tea aisle. Have a cup and you will enjoy its refreshing taste and reap the benefits such as reducing blood pressure and high antioxidant content.

Hibiscus is also used in the beauty and skincare industry for its possible anti-aging effects. Hibiscus extracts are often part of skincare products, touted for their ability to hydrate the skin, improve elasticity and reduce the appearance of wrinkles. But what do we care? Really it is enough to simply love this plant for its dazzling color. Right?



Hibiscus comes in a wide range of colors.

Come take a stroll through the Lake Margaret Garden, or along your own street, and see how many colors of hibiscus you might find.

Upcoming LMGC events:
Annual Garden Walk
Sunday afternoon, March 8.

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Pets on Parade



Photo by Judy Leister

TEDDY

by Judy Leister

Since Lora Davis' dad was a full-time resident in the TR Village, Lora and her husband Sean started coming down from Western Michigan to TR and staying on the Hill so they could spend time with him. Cute little Teddy was just a puppy when those visits started. Eventually Lora, Sean and Teddy got a park model of their own in RV South.

Oh, how time flies. Teddy is now five years old. He is a 12-pound combination of Shih Tzu and Poodle. His adorable appearance really takes after the Shih Tzu in him while the Poodle shows up with his high intelligence. He is soooooo smart. A little bit of stubbornness snuck in there too. If Lora calls him, he might come or he might just decide "Nope I'm not gonna do it." At first she thought maybe he wasn't hearing her, so instead of raising her voice, she went the other direction and whispered "come" very softly. Teddy perked right up and hurried to her. So now if Lora really wants Teddy to come to her, she knows whispers work best.

Teddy was crate trained as a puppy and loves spending time in it now. It's his own private bedroom. He's not an early riser, so the humans might already be up bustling around, but eventually Teddy is ready for breakfast and wanders out. Sean works from home. If he happens to move his rolling desk from the bedroom, where it was next to Teddy's crate, out to the living room, Teddy is quick to follow. He likes his special blankie lying right next to that desk. After breakfast he especially loves the No Hide chew sticks Sean gives him. At 8 p.m. it's so easy to tell that Teddy is ready for his dinner. He goes to his toy box and grabs a toy. He flings it in the air. He grabs another toy and it goes sailing through the room too. Eventually he runs out of toys, so he then adds prancing to his repertoire. Lora tells him, "In a minute." He understands

those words perfectly and he settles right down knowing his dinner is on its way.

Lora and Sean's place here at TR is on a corner where there is lots of car, golf cart and foot traffic. Teddy loves sitting on the top step inside their screened in porch quietly watching all the passersby.

Like so many dogs here at TR, they love going to the dog park. His built-in clock tells him when 2 p.m. rolls around, and it's time for small dogs at the dog park just up the street. That prance soon shows up from his poodle heritage as they happily head to the park. After a lively hour of running, they head home. Treats fit into Teddy's life wonderfully and on their walk home he reminds Lora which neighbors offer him yummy snacks, so of course they stop for a quick visit.

You have been reading about all the things that Teddy loves to do and the things that make him happy, but I saved the best for last. There is one thing that scores higher in Teddy's mind than the yummiest treats, the coolest toys or the fun runs in the dog park...it's time spent in his mommy's lap. He is definitely a lap dog. To Teddy the best thing in life is cuddling with his mom.

Birding Activity



Out of this world!



Photos by Tom Butler

ACORN WOODPECKER

by Tom Butler

This bird was not actually "out of this world," just out of this country when I discovered it. Costa Rica to be exact! However, the range of this beauty extends along the extreme western Coast of the Americas, northward into Washington State and south to Columbia. What is out of this world is the eating habit of the Acorn Woodpecker, our next subject.

I won't insult your intelligence by asking you to guess what food source they prefer to dine on. Acorns, of course! While they will eat a few insects, catch a few flies, eat a few seeds and enjoy some sap from the trees in the summer months, acorns get these birds through the winter. They are social and communal in that they live and nest in groups of 12.

However this isn't the most interesting aspect of this beautiful and social creature. A white face and neck are highlighted by a red cap and a black body with a speckled breast. This striking appearance has earned them the nickname of "Clown-faced Bird."

Again, this is an interesting fact, but the way they store their preferred food is even more amazing! Trees, telephone poles or any wooden structure may be selected and will be referred to as granaries because of the storage they will provide. Thousands of acorn-sized holes are drilled and acorns are wedged into them for future use.

As the acorns dry, they will be turned to fit more snugly or moved to another hole. A sentry will remain at the granary to chase away thieves. The picture attached to this article will give you some idea of this incredible behavior. However, I suggest you search for additional photos to gauge this "out of this world" strategy.

Preppers and hoarders have nothing on the Acorn Woodpecker!

These communal groups lay their eggs in the hollow of a tree using a single nest and will then take turns incubating them. Researchers once reported 17 eggs in a single nest. Thank goodness for shared responsibilities! These juveniles will hatch in 10 to 14 days and will be altricial – blind, naked and helpless. It will take a month for them to develop enough to fledge and nearly two months to become independent (oh happy day). The workload is shared with non-breeding females in the commune known as "helpers." AKA Nannies!

So, if you don't have 17 babies in a nursery, screaming to be fed, get out there and marvel at Mother Nature and the incredible world we live in. You won't see the Acorn Woodpecker, but you might get a glimpse of the Pileated, Red-bellied, Red-headed or Downy Woodpeckers doing their thing in this area. Good luck. (But!!! If you do see an Acorn Woodpecker – call me!!!)



Acorn Woodpecker storing food.



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Forever Young theme of Annual Fashion Show



Barb Swartz wore a drum major outfit and twirled the actual baton she used in high school.



AMY PEEBLES



Sisters Cindy Tinkham and Luann Gatewood were co-chairpersons for the event.



Alex Adair hoped that this was one spider that her husband would like.



Cherie Richman sported the fur cape that belonged to her mother.



GAYLE KENNARD



LINDA SPENCER



Nancy Staton and Vee Dunlap are sisters. Living far apart they treasure their time together at TR.



Susan Stahley's lovely, pink purse also happens to serve as a convenient wine bottle carrier.



LORRAINE MASTROVITO



DEBI NILES



MARTA SELICK



Pat Gallagher looks ready for an evening out in her dressy outfit.



GAYLE SUNDE



Jan Rubino's outfit reflected her interest in the Garden Club.



Lorraine Gould maintains such a busy schedule it is a wonder she had time to take part in the show.



PATRICE CHANDLER



Photos by Bill and Pam Watkins



Linda Smith took us back to the days of the hippies.



Joan Hyde wore a dress she purchased for her daughter's wedding.



Peggy Wood appeared with husband, Phil, who is often mistaken for Colonel Sanders.



Amy Gier as Boris on the left and Bob Rubino as Natasha, on the right, concluded the program with a hilarious Boris and Natasha routine. Do you remember these characters from children's TV many years ago?

Fire Station 33 personnel share the love to more than 400 people at their first-ever open house



Many residents turn out on a beautiful afternoon for the open house at Fire Station 33 to learn more about the many services offered to the community by our Volunteer First Responders.



Gayle Sunde prepares to demonstrate CPR rhythm to "Staying Alive."



Jim Prasch may be explaining the need for a 4-digit address when calling in an emergency and expecting a quick response.



David Bass is ready to give donors the boot.



Teresa Bearman participates in the blood pressure clinic.



Wally Wilson and Jim Prasch stand ready at the responder cart.



Photos by Pam Watkins



The CPR/AED table draws attention as folks roam the exhibits with their strawberry shortcake treats.



Joe Politsky listens as Brian Curtis explains the uses of the various equipment onboard.



Jenice Johnson, Cynthia Bradley and Patti Hawkins share the love with strawberry shortcake flavor.



Steve Oppel and Vicky Prasch are happy to explain the need for everyone to have a Vial of Life.



TR Sports

500

by Deborah May
Saturday, Feb. 7

Nan Lance	2060
John Bearman	1930
Barb Watson	1860
Sam Wykoff	1780
Deborah May	1650
Carol Jean Beard	1420
Arlene Wykoff	1360



Golf Scramble

by Dawn Pulleyn

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who came out to play and supported the golf course.

The next Mixed Scramble will be on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Saturday, Feb. 14

1. Dan and Paula Currier, Sam and Arlene Wykoff
2. Terry and Brenda Oliver, Dawn Pulleyn, Dave Cap
3. Shirley and Ron Harrison, Sue and Bruce Fulton

Mah Jong

by Denise Weik
Friday, Feb. 13

Wins

Janet Herbert	8
Kathy Bocchino	7
Kelly Fadrowski	6
Betty Brown, Mary Brown, Nancy Moschler, Marcia Hatfield, Linda Gough	5
Jen Furman, Deborah May, Anne Amico	4
Rose Taggart, Rachel Brooks - 3	
Jeff Despart, Laura Bania, Ken Langell	2
Emily Fly, Jeanne McKenney, Denise Weik, Pam Weisberg	1

Cribbage

by Bob Luther
Tuesday, Feb. 10

Bess Kuzma Brewer, Terri Lyburner	605
Frank Bovenberg	582
Eric Van Horn, Ron Lyburner	577

TR RC

Motorsports

by Tom Stuart
Saturday, Feb. 7

Top Points Earners

2WD Class

Bruce Richman	36
Steve Laymon, John Youngblood	32

4WD Class

Kevin Cahill	24
Steve Laymon	18
Sean Neer	16

Wednesday, Feb. 11

2WD Class

James Chambers	36
Wayne Schacht	34
Eddy Fosnight	32

Five Crowns

by Denise Weik
Wednesday, Feb. 11

Table 1, Game 1

1. Brenda Hatchel	65
2. Joan Braun	95
3. Linda Smith, Diane Krupicka	110

Game 2

1. Brenda Hatchel	70
2. Rose Taggart	90
3. Denise Weik	95

Table 2, Game 1

1. John Park	65
2. Kevin Weik	130
3. Deb Oppel	135

Game 2

1. John Park	85
2. Patti Geer	95
3. Jerry McRoberts	105

Table 3, Game 1

1. Brian Krupicka	135
2. Pat Daboll	140
3. Jeff Duquette	145

Game 2

1. Jeff Duquette	70
2. Pat Daboll	75
3. Louise McRoberts	90

Table 4, Game 1

1. Sharon Hall	70
2. Lora Davis	80
3. Sean Davis	105



TR Sporting Clays

by Ray LoPresti
Wednesday, Feb. 11

Rabbit Run, 50 clays

Chuck Bocchino	34
Randy Emerson	33
Tony Tartalone	32
Dennis Ledbetter	30

Thursday, Feb 12

5 Stand, 50 clays

Bill Long	36
Jeff Swartz	34
Gary Grenier, Chuck Bocchino, Chris Pondy	30
Randy Emerson	29
Tony Tartalone, Barb Swartz	28
John Toombs	27
Harold Hughes	25

Party Bridge

by Jen Furman
Thursday, Feb. 12

Janet and Harold Baal	1580
Tawnya Rowden and Jim Weigand	1450
Pat Dellamuth and Jen Furman	1170
Kitty Fisher and Mike Clark	630

Wizard

by Denise Weik
Tuesday, Feb. 10

Game 1 Kevin Weik, Pat Butler

Pat Butler	200
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Game 2 Barb Watson

Barb Watson	210
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Game 3 Pat Butler

Pat Butler	180
------------	-----

Game 4 Kevin Weik

Kevin Weik	270
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Ladies Golf League

by Kathy Reimann
Wednesday, Feb. 11

Low Handicap Gross

Shirley-Ann Appleby	36
Maureen Peet	38
Hazel English	39

Low Handicap Net

Brenda Oliver	28
Lorraine Gould, Kathy Reimann	30

High Handicap Gross

Barb Larose, Barb Watson	42
Denise Michaud	44

High Handicap Net

Ann Horn	29
Jen Furman	31
Beth Farrington, Martha Smith	32

Fewest Putts

Shirley-Ann Appleby, Brenda Oliver	13
------------------------------------	----

Chip Ins

Kim Fenbert, Stella Loisel, Brenda Oliver	1
---	---

Closest to Pin #3

Joan Ledbetter	16'1"
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Closest to Pin #5

Maureen Peet	18'
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Birdies

Shirley-Ann Appleby, Barb Larose, Hazel English, Shirley Harrison, Stella Loisel, Kelly Person	1
--	---



Photo by Marcia Huyck

Many helpers made light work of the new bench installation near Mirror Lake.

Dominoes

by Linda Gough
Thursday, Feb. 12

Table 1 Bob Luther

Bob Luther	169
------------	-----

Table 2 Kelly Fadrowski

Kelly Fadrowski	209
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Table 3 Kim Fenbert

Kim Fenbert	166
-------------	-----

Men's Golf League

by Barry English
Thursday, Feb. 12

Low Handicap Gross

Bill Harkins, Jay Jager	33
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High Handicap Gross

Bob Vaughn, Frank Bovenburg	41
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Birdies

Gary Wintle	3
Bill Harkins, Jay Jager, Richard Beisel, Rob Prophet, Terry Halbrook	2
Dan Currier, Dan Watson, Dave Farrington, John Peet, Ken Lasure, Mark Fedus, Ralph Smith, Trevor Lake	1

Low Handicap Net

Rob Prophet, Stan MacPhee	28
---------------------------	----

High Handicap Net

Trevor Lake, Sam Wykoff, Bob Luther, Dave Watson	31
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Closest to Pin #3

Jim Doggett	11'4"
-------------	-------

Closest to Pin #5

Barry English	13'2"
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