

POULIN: Local grandfather is driven, disciplined and determined

FROM PAGE 3

car with hand controls. To this day he does not have a wheelchair ramp but hoists himself in and out of his vehicle with crutches. In 1976 he went canoeing with his cousin. When the canoe tipped over, he realized he could swim. In 1982 he became the first double above knee amputee to be certified in Maine by the YMCA as a scuba diver.

Pete's life took on a new direction seven years ago when he met Steve Lawson while in a medical supply store getting parts to fix his wheelchair.

"You ever bowl?" Steve asked Pete. And although Pete had not even thought about it, he accepted the invitation to join a league of wheelchair bowlers in Venice. He became hooked quickly and was the US National Wheelchair Bowler Champion

for 2007. While competing he has traveled to Georgia, Missouri, Virginia, California, Wisconsin and Oklahoma. Later this year he is going to Las Vegas to compete.

When Pete started bowling his average was 102. Now it is 140.

Pete bowls right handed even though all five fingers are not intact. Joe Criscolo, a bowling coach at Bowland in Port Charlotte, has been a vital asset for Pete's success with bowling.

"I give all my credit to Joe for his substantial support and continuous dedication in helping me and the Southwest Rollerbowlers, which has benefited how we bowl today," he said.

In 2004 he was presented the Craig Richards Sportsmanship Award, of which he is most proud. In 2005 he won 1st place in the Florida Wheelchair Trio

Classic, a three-man team event, with Dave Soutor, a 17-time professional bowler, and Dale McCarthy. Pete has won over \$12,000 competing in this sport in the last seven years.

I asked Pete what is still on his to do list. "Parasailing and piloting a plane," he said. He and other family members enjoy riding the roller coaster at Busch Gardens so they go a couple of times a year. Pete said his life began, not ended, in Vietnam. Why? "Because this incident directed my life and forced me to concentrate on what I could do...not what I couldn't do."

Pete is obviously not your average grandparent. He confesses he has three Ds on his mind, which are drive, discipline, and determination. His life has been and continues to be inspirational. Just like his daughter, Sheila, said.

Cultural Center Cafe — December 17 - 23 — 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte —

What's for lunch in the café?
Wednesday, December 17:
Corned Beef & Cabbage, Turkey Reuben.

Thursday, December 18:
Corned Beef Reuben, BBQ Ribs.

Friday, December 19:
Chicken Salad on Croissant, Salmon.

Monday, December 22:
Grilled Cheese, Baked Pork Chop.

Tuesday, December 23:
Grilled Chicken w/ Swiss, Beef Stew w/ Biscuits.

- 1/2 Sandwich plus soup or lunch salad \$4
- Full Sandwich + soup or lunch salad \$5
- Main Entree plus 1 side dish \$5
- Main Entree plus 2 side dishes \$6

An additional main entree is

served every day. Fresh salads, two varieties of homemade soups and a variety of fresh baked desserts are also available. Freshly brewed coffee or iced tea is \$50. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. daily. Breakfast is available Monday – Saturday 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Sunday Dinner offers a wide variety of entrees and a carving station.

Congregate Meals — Dec. 17 - 23

The Council on Aging's Congregate Meals for the week of December 17 - 23, for which you must have a reservation. All meals include low fat milk and bread. Site locations are: Harbour Heights, Rotonda Lakes, Grove City Manor and Charlotte Towers. For more information or reservations, call 941-743-5353. Call two days in advance for meals or cancellations.

Wednesday, December 17:
Vegetable Soup, BBQ Chicken

Breast Patty, Mashed Potatoes, Corn w/Diced Tomato, Diced Peaches.

Thursday, December 18: Beef Stroganoff Casserole, Broccoli, Three Bean Medley, Chocolate Pudding.

Friday, December 19: Pork Patty w/Brown Gravy, Black Eye Peas, Country Medley, Sugar Cookie.

Monday, December 22:
Meatballs w/Tomato Gravy, Potatoes Au Gratin, Green Beans w/Red Peppers, Peanut Butter Cookie.

Tuesday, December 23: Sliced Ham w/Fruit Sauce, Whipped Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans w/Mushrooms & Diced Red Pepper, Special Holiday Dessert.



Meals on Wheels Nov. 17 - 23

This is the Meals on Wheels menu, sponsored by Charlotte County Health Plus, for the week of December 17 - 23. All meals include bread. For information about participating in Meals on Wheels, call 941-625-4343.

Wednesday, December 17: Cream of Mushroom Soup, Chicken Patty Parmesan, Seasoned Sliced Potatoes, Green Beans, Tropical Fruit.

Thursday, December 18: Bean Soup, Vegetable Lasagna, Stewed Tomatoes, Tapioca Pudding.

Friday, December 19: French Onion Soup, Salmon with Dill, Long Grain & Wild Rice, Broccoli, Chef's Choice Dessert.

Monday, December 22: Beef Noodle Soup, Pork & Vegetable Eggroll, Seasoned Rice, Pineapple Tidbits, Chocolate Pudding.

Tuesday, December 23: Split Pea Soup, Chicken Penne, Seasoned Sliced Beets, Diced Pears.



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<p>HIC/Resale Outlet 1354 El Jobean Road (776) Port Charlotte • 206-2606 <small>Just past Sams</small></p> <p>Holiday Food Drive 1% off per donated food item Up to 20% <small>Expires 12/20/08 *Does not include Auto Sales. **Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.</small></p>	<p>"RECYCLING CARS FOR HABITAT" Donate Your Vehicle Today PRE-OWNED VEHICLE LOT IN MURDOCK 99 Ford Expl. 4dr SUV 95 Buick LeSabre LTD 4dr 01 Dodge Dakota p/up 941-206-2606</p>	<p>Resale Store 1750 Manzanara Ave. Punta Gorda • 639-0586 <small>Behind Yamaha</small></p> <p>Holiday Food Drive 1% off per donated food item Up to 20% <small>Expires 12/20/08 *Does not include Auto Sales. **Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.</small></p>
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College has new Port Charlotte campus

REPORT PROVIDED

Southwest Florida College is proud to announce the opening of its newest campus in Port Charlotte, Florida. The Campus is located at 950 Tamiami Trail, Suite 109 and will offer a variety of programs both residential and online.

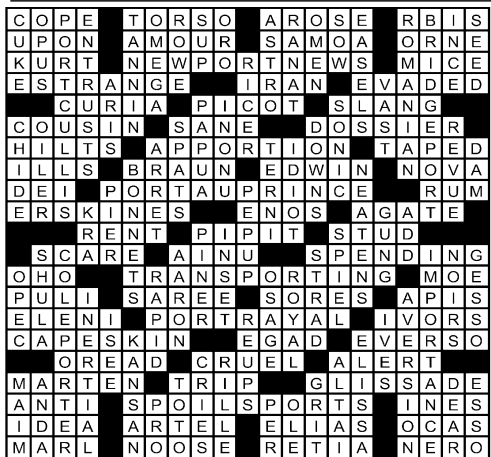
"We are very excited about bringing educational opportunities to the greater Charlotte County area. Southwest Florida College has earned a reputation for providing quality career education that leads to jobs in fields with high growth potential. Our presence in Port Charlotte will add to the growing list of educational options for Charlotte County residents," said Dr. Stephen Calabro, Executive Vice President.

The campus will initially offer Associate Degrees in Surgical Technician, Health Information Technology, and Medical Assisting as well as Diplomas in Medical Assisting, and Medical Billing & Coding Technology. The Port Charlotte campus will also serve as a regional service center for the college's rapidly growing online programs in Management and Marketing, Criminal Justice, Paralegal Studies, and Medical Billing and Coding.

Southwest Florida College is well known for quality career education, where students learn by doing in classrooms and laboratories that are modern and state of the art. Faculty bring both academic preparation and industry experience to the classroom thereby helping students make the transition from the classroom to the real world.

Southwest Florida College is a private, accredited, non-profit senior college that has been providing post secondary education to Floridians since 1974. The addition of the Port Charlotte campus expands the College's presence to four cities – the main campus in Fort Myers, and branch campuses in Tampa, and at the Institute for Interior Design in Estero.

Classes will begin in January or March. For more information about Southwest Florida College and the Port Charlotte campus, call 239-939-4766 or toll-free 1-877-906-4948 or visit the College at www.swfc.edu.



Solution for puzzle on page 4

12/14/08

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Open: Mon. - Sat. 9am - 5pm