



***Commissioner Sandy Murman, along with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, hosted a “Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and Their Families” event recently at the Hillsborough County Veterans Resource Center. The two-day event brought experts together in the hope of creating and developing a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention.***

#### **Hillsborough County on cutting edge of tech savvy growth**

The Tampa Bay area is gaining a national reputation as an up-and-coming player in the scramble to attract high-tech jobs, and Hillsborough County is nurturing the trend. Established technical firms and start-ups, along with IT arms of most sizable local companies, are changing the way Hillsborough County does business. Economic Development supports the budding tech ecosystem by providing grant funding, connecting practitioners, and helping firms acquire capital to pursue innovative ideas.

#### **Tampa Bay job center scrutinized under auditor report**

Leaders at two publicly-funded career agencies in Tampa Bay approved inflated monthly bonuses for staffers who didn't meet job performance thresholds, an auditor has found. Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandy Murman, a longtime member of the CareerSource Tampa Bay board, said Thursday she had not yet seen a copy of the auditors' report. "I'm sorry this stuff just keeps coming up. It's frustrating, but we're going to get it right," she said. "We are scrutinizing every single thing."

#### **Two Hillsborough libraries become Passport Acceptance Facilities**

Starting this month, two Hillsborough County libraries will offer another resource: U.S. passport application acceptance. First-time passport applicants must submit their documentation and sign their paperwork in person at a Passport Acceptance Facility. In a partnership with the U.S. Department of State, the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library system is joining the list of acceptance locations as yet another way that libraries can offer a convenient service that will make life a little less stressful.

#### **Tampa still mulling over support for return of ferry service**

St. Petersburg and Hillsborough County have already committed to funding the ferry for the coming November-April season, but the Tampa mayor said he hasn't made up his mind yet. A decision is unlikely before he presents the city's nearly \$1 billion budget to City Council on July 19. That budget is still being finalized as officials find ways to pare a \$5 million deficit. St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman, who has led the effort among elected officials to establish the ferry, called Tampa's mayor a few weeks ago to urge Tampa's support.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY**

Wednesday, July 18, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting at County Center

Tuesday, July 24, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Land Use Meeting at County Center

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#### **WHAT'S ON THE BOCC AGENDA?**

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