Attorney John Shannon, family die in plane crash

**By JEFF ROSLOW**

BARTOW – John Shannon, an attorney from Lakeland, four family members and a familiar friend died morning in a plane crash at the Bartow Municipal Airport.

Shannon, 70, was the pilot of the plane. The passengers on board included his daughter, Olivia Shannon, 24, a Southeastern University student from Lakeland, daughter, Victoria Shannon Worthington, 26, a Baltimore school teacher, Worthington’s husband, Peter Worthington, Jr., a third year law student at the University of Maryland, and family friend Krista Claynton, 32, a teacher at Jewett Academy in Lakeland. His daughter and her husband arrived in town Saturday for the holidays from Baltimore where they live. Krista joined the family on the trip.

The pilot, John Shannon, filed a flight plan that morning to fly to Key West. The Cessna 340 double engine plane took off from the airport

Solution may be making new rec center

**By CHARLES A. BAKER III**

LAKE WALES – The perceived lack of recreational opportunity was a hot button topic at another Lake Wales City Commission meeting Dec. 19.

Lake Wales Police Athletic League coach Burney Hayes petitioned the commission for more support saying that ever since flooding prevented the league from being able to use the Lake Wales High School gym, there have been scheduling conflicts at Kirkland Gym where they have been playing since.

Mayor Eugene Fultz told Hayes he tried to help the league get use of the gym at Roosevelt Academy but was told that since they had already agreed to let the Lake Wales High School basketball team to use the gym while flooding was repaired that they could also not let the PAL league also use the school gym. Fultz referred Hayes to the newspaper to learn more about what happened.

Asked what he meant through email by the referral to the newspaper, Fultz said sometimes the press can help solve problems. Last week the newspaper contacted the Polk County School Board about this problem, before Fultz took the opportunity to do so, and their response was to allow the charter high school boys use the gym at Roosevelt Academy, a non charter school.

“What I may have said to (Roosevelt Academy Principal Dr. Deborah Chabad of Lakeland helped celebrate the final night of Hanukkah Dec. 19. PHOTO BY CHARLES A. BAKER III

By JEFFROSLOW@SCMGINC.COM

BARTOW – The Bartow City Commission on Tuesday will step carefully into solar power as the contract it currently has for utilities to build a solar farm on 40 acres to serve its customers as the contract it has to do with existing lines.

Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer urged commissioners to step carefully into what it is allowing.

While saying going into solar energy is probably a

Site specific favored for solar farm

**By JEFF ROSLOW**

BARTOW — TECO has proposed under the name KMT Farm and Timber, to build a solar farm on 483 acres off U.S. 98. The solar farm would not serve Bartow, other cities. The attraction of the site has to do with existing lines. Attorneys representing the photovoltaic company have found land that commissioners deem would be valuable for home development.

Before this proposal, from TECO, the city signed on with Nova Sol to build a solar farm on 40 acres to serve its customers as the contract it currently has for utilities will run it. The new contract, which the city signed on to a month before the TECO proposal, is for five years.

At its meeting on Dec. 4, commissioners held off on changing the Comp Plan to accommodate TECO’s request and future solar farms in all global setting and scheduled a workshop on Dec. 11 where they asked Planning Director Bob Wieters to draw up a change to the Comp Plan to make a site specific ordinance for them to consider.

Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer urged commissioners to step carefully into what it is allowing. While saying going into solar energy is probably a

Lawmakers trying to help Puerto Ricans in state

**By CHARLES A. BAKER III**

WINTER HAVEN — Both of the Congressmen representing Polk County in Washington D.C., signed a letter Dec. 28 requesting Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator William Long extend two programs benefitting Hurricane Maria evacuees from Puerto Rico who are currently living in Florida.

The letters, signed by U.S. Rep. Darren Soto, D-Kissimmee, and U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Lakeland, states more than 250,000 evacuees from Puerto Rico currently live in Florida. After looking into the matter, the numbers do not seem to add up.

Signed by a total of nine Florida legislators, the signatories sought the extension of the Hurricane Maria Displaced Survivors Transitional Sheltering Assistance program which is scheduled to expire Jan. 13.

Under TSA, disaster survi- vors may be eligible to stay in a motel for a limited amount of time. According to Rep. Soto, as many as 1,000 Puerto Ricans are currently still living in Florida motels who may become homeless Jan. 13.

**LAWMKERS | 31**


**PHOTO BY KATHY LEIGH BERNOZZI**
**THIS WEEK**

**WELCOME TO YOUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Want to see your event on this page? Call us at 863-533-4183 or email news@csccmng.com.

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**Wednesday, Dec. 27**

- **Flashlight Night Exhibition**
  - Park, Bartow. 863-519-a.m.-2 p.m. Fort Blount

- **Party at Legoland**
  - LegoManik 9:30 a.m. Lake Wales Public Library, 325 Avenue A NW, Winter Haven

- **Creative Writing Critique**
  - Group, 1-3 p.m. Fort Blount Library, 325 Avenue A NW, Winter Haven

**Thursday, Dec. 28**

- **LEGO-Mania**
  - 9:30 a.m. Lake Wales Public Library, 325 Avenue A NW, Winter Haven

- **Window 10 Updates**
  - 4:30 p.m. Winter Haven Public Library, 325 Avenue A NW, Winter Haven

- **Service Dog Training**
  - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call Marvin Desselle at 863-214-6019 for details. American Legion Post 71, 1230 Scenic Highway, Lake Wales.

- **Homestead New Years Rally**

**Friday, Dec. 29**

- **Gardening**
  - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 200 N 1099 Highway S. Broadway Ave., Bartow. St. Johns Baptist Church of Bartow, 1099 Highway S. Broadway Ave., Bartow.

- **Shopping**
  - 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Bok Tower Gardens, 451 Third St. NW, Winter Haven. 863-678-4182 ext. 225

- **Bingo**
  - 1 p.m. $10/10 at 15 E Wall St., Frostproof. Ramon Theater, 15 E Wall St., Frostproof.

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**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**

The following places are closed for New Year's Day. For garbage pickup,サイクル percussion may be picked up on Tuesday. Saturday's collection will be on the week of New Year's Day holiday, then collection will occur on day later.

The U.S. Small Business Administration's staff represents various offices to operate at temporary locations to answer program questions, assist in applying for an SBA disaster loan and to help with the reconsideration process. The outreach center at the Polk County Brennan Avenue, 1702 U.S. 17 S., Bartow, will be closed on Saturday Dec. 30, Monday Jan. 1.

Winter Haven City Hall will be closed Monday, Jan. 1. Winter Haven City Hall will be closed Monday, Jan. 1. In Lake Wales, on Jan. 1:

- **Garbage**
  - bulk and yard waste will be picked-up on Jan. 3. Clay truck will service on Friday. Fort Meade City Hall will be closed Monday, Jan. 1. Polk County Houseworth will be closed Monday, Jan. 1. The Polk County Tax Collector will be closed Monday, Jan. 1. The Polk County Clerk of Courts & Courtroom will close on Tuesday, Jan. 1. The Polk County Landfill will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1. and reopen the following day. For residential collection customers of unincorporated Polk, if a customer's collection day falls on the Christmas holiday or New Year's Day holiday, then collection will occur on day later.

Polk County Public Schools will not have classes for the students from Dec. 22-3 Jan. The administration center will be closed Dec. 22Jan. The Lakes Charter Schools will be closed Dec. 22-3 Jan. Polk County Schools will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1. Most banks will be closed Monday, Jan. 1. Call your local branch to confirm.

For a newspaper branch and editorial offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 1.

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**Subscriptions**

**IN-COUNTY MAIL**

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**OUT-OF-STATE SUBSCRIPTION**

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**Polk County News and Democrat**

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- Phone: 863-533-4183 Fax: 863-533-4042

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**Page 2 Wednesday, December 27, 2017**

**SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, OTHER FLORIDA COUNTIES**

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**Circulation, Classified, Legal**

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- Office Administration

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**Distribution**

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**Obituaries**

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- jroslow@scmginc.com

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**Polk County News and Democrat Managing Editor**

- Jeff Roslow
- jroslow@scmginc.com

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**Polk County News and Democrat**

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**Sunday, Dec 31**

- **Christmas Tree Burning**
  - 6:30 p.m. Mary Holland Park, Bartow.

- **Muder Mystery Dinner Theater**
  - The Cat Screamed at Midnight, 6 p.m., $50. Ramon Theater, 15 E Wall St., Frostproof.

- **Kids' New Year's Eve Party at Legoland**

- **Chair Yoga, 9:30 a.m.**
  - Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Highway Ave., Bartow. 863-534-0131

- **Simplicity Band**
  - 6:30 p.m., free. Central Park, Lakeland.

- **Home sweet Home New Year's Rally**

- **Monday, Jan. 1**
  - **Food Truck Invasion**
    - 5-9 p.m. Lake Wales Park/Gothenburg, 699 P Ave., Lake Wales. 863-678-4182 ext. 225

- **Carillon Concert**
  - New Year's Day, 1 p.m. Tower Gardens, 151 Tower Blvd, Lake Wales.

- **Tuesday, Jan. 2**
  - **Bartow City Commission Meeting**
    - 6 p.m. Bartow City Hall Commission Chambers, 450 N Wilson Ave, Bartow.

  - **Lake Wales City Commission Meeting**
    - 6 p.m. Lake Wales City Hall, 202 Central Ave, Lake Wales. 863-678-4182 x 270

  - **Little Sprouts Story Time**
    - 10:30 a.m. Winter Haven Public Library, 325 Avenue A NW, Winter Haven.

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**Out of State Subscription**

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Dear Editor,

Counselors. We have many counseling Insurance Needs of Elders) Volunteer Agencies for SHINE (Serving Health Connection Center are the supporting Dept. of Elder Affairs and the Senior AEP from October 15-December 7. The in their healthcare providers and who give our time and share our Period has officially come to a close. nicer the old light bulb was.”

light bulb, three to talk about how much Anglicans are not particularly cotton-pickin’ hands off the Book of our commitment to our traditions. an Episcopalian, and if we Anglicans are Winter Haven, FL 33881.

One of the leaders in the recycling movement was the newspaper industry, which encouraged the recycling of what was known as ONP (old newspapers) into new newspaper. It meant not only the reduction of paper in landfills, but the reduced consumption of trees for pulpwood.

For most of my adult life, I have been an Episcopalian, and if we Anglicans are justifiedly known for one thing, it is for our commitment to our traditions. Anglicans, it has been said, will tolerate a little heresy, but keep your cotton-pickin’ hands off the Book of Common Prayer. When in doubt — a condition for which Anglicans are not particularly famous — we will do things the way we’ve always done them.

How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb? Reply: “Four; one to screw in the new light bulb, three to talk about how much nicer the old light bulb was.” Alternate reply: “Change that light bulb, because we’ve always done it!”

Dad had a well-earned reputation for the gift of gab, and some folks say I inherited a little of it. It is a talent that earns you an occasion-al invitation to be a master of ceremonies. An MC at an event is sort of like a corpse at an Irish Wake; everybody knows you have to have one, but they hope he won’t talk too long. Incidentally, it’s called “the gift of gab”, because for most of us, it doesn’t pay any-thing. It gives new meaning to the term “free speech.” But for us gabbers, just having an audience of attentive gabbers is reward enough.

One such occasion is to be MC Sunday night at Bartow’s annual Christmas tree burning. Dad was MC for several decades.

I think it was 21 years ago that he asked me to fill in for him when he developed a cold on New Year’s Eve. A year later he suggested that I take over the job. That makes me a newcomer to the program, given that Eda Marchman is in her 42nd year as chairman, give or take a year. Bartow has been burning its discarded Christmas trees on or near New Year’s Eve since 1936, with occasional interruptions for World War II, bad weather, and once or twice, a tree catching fire.

Nye Jordan, who was about three years older than baseball, began the tradition, asserting that it was bad luck to have
The Winter Haven Board of Trade …

Along about 1910 … in fact before Winter Haven formally incorporated, local businesses banded together to form a Board of Trade. For over a century it has continued to do so to promote the Chamber.

The group published one of the earliest promotional pieces for the community. This chart shows some of its information and claims for comparison to today – a century later. We estimate the board’s claim it was published and it pegs Winter Haven’s population at 1200! Information in quotes includes the punctuation.

It begins, “Winter Haven is the center of the world’s richest citrus-fruits section, and likewise the center of the famous lake region of Polk County. Unlike many cities of southern Florida, Winter Haven is not a mere winter resort; it is a substantial town with an energetic year-round population, greatly increased during the winter months by tourists, house seekers, and hundreds of northerners, who find here an ideal climate and unusual social advantages.”

“Both in winter and summer Winter Haven has ideal climatic conditions. In winter, the temperature is mild and free from extremes. In summer Winter Haven feels none of the discomforts of the so-called semitropical sun … The rainy season checks undue humidity, and the nights are delightfully cool.”

(remembered, this was before air-conditioning.) “The air is always pure, the water is bright, clear, and refreshing, and mosquitoes seldom are known.” The brochure goes on to tout the local altitude (200 feet above sea level) as a great advantage both climatic and natural. It noted at that elevation there were “no swampers, swallows, malaria or great humidity.” The natural lakes are all “the product of overflowing springs” which we know today is not true. There can be some seepage from the aquifer but none of the area lakes are “spring-fed.”

And lest the lazy become interested in the text states, “Winter Haven does not have its own railroads, it should seek, invite, or tolerate the shiflows or the idle. It is not the place for the person who expects to make a fortune with unlimited effort …”

Finally the Board noted that, “Winter Haven has as good schools as any in Polk County.”

There were two modern buildings and five trained teachers. “Citizens in high school course” was offered. There were four churches (Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Christian) and three hotels “near the railroad station. It also mentioned nearby Florence Villa with a hotel called “The Plantation Home” (commonly called the Florence Villa Hotel) that could accommodate visitors.

The Board of Trade officers were J. E. Crump, President; Dr. J. H. Ross, Vice President and A. C. Nydegger, Secretary Treasurer. The brochure provides an interesting look at how the city we know was promoted a century ago. They may have taken just a bit of “editorial” license.

I tell you this story for two reasons. One, it amuses me how she was caught. Two, it amuses me how she was caught. Two, hold her accountable for her theft. Goes well, the criminal justice system will first time she’s stolen from someone. If all

For instance, I tell why the event was staged in its original location for only one year; why the event was suspended during World War II; and the marvelous idea I had for a special tree burning when the calendar rolled over to the year 2000. Unfortunately, I was the only one who recognized what a fantastic idea it was.

But the history of our tree burning is much longer than this column, and you are invited to come hear it recounted yet again Sunday night. Lawn chairs, mosquito repellent, and a willingness to chuckle at old anecdotes are encouraged.

Mr. Gernert is a student of Winter Haven history and founded the Museum of Winter Haven History.

The local staff went above and beyond on many occasions and without advance notice to meet our needs. On behalf of all of Polk County Medicare beneficiaries and SHINE counselors who counseled at the Winter Haven Public Library I want to extend our heartfelt thanks. The library staff contributed beyond measure to a very successful SHINE Enrollment Period. We “SHINERS” will continue to be your source for Medicare information.

Michael L. Clark
Polk County SHINE Counselor

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Michael L. Clark
Polk County SHINE Counselor

People all over the U.S. are seeking ways to protect their mail. Here are a few tips.

On the day before the invention of trees stands that held water, Christmas trees were made from prairie dogs’ paws in the desert in July, and represented a real fire hazard. Bad luck indeed.

The height of Bartons’ pile of discarded trees has diminished over the years, given the emphasis on building of artificial trees. But the event is still popular enough to draw the crowd to the public square.

The event began in 1946, when an employee who was responsible for the tree brought it to the attention of the Department of Agriculture. The tree was then set up in the middle of Central Avenue at the corner of the Snell Building (now the Times Square building). It was diminished this year that early residents shared the news and solved the challenges of the day.

Watch out for mail theft

This early postcard shows Central Avenue looking east downtown at about the time the Board of Trade published the brochure. Your vantage point is between Central Park and South Park. The large barren tree on right is the Chinaberry tree as this must have been taken in winter. The arching building beyond the tree now houses Arabella’s Ristorante.

Police officers often get calls about mail thefts, and they try to warn people about the dangers of having large bags of mail on the floor … also add to that, also in plain view, two envelopes with the return address on it, sitting on her bed, right out in the open, was a large amount of mail … envelopes with the return address of legitimate mail and real people from the South Lakeland area. In addition to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor. … also add to that, also in plain view, two large bags of mail on the floor.

In December, a 34-year-old Highcliff County woman had a medical emergency in her bedroom. Rescue workers responded, tended to her needs, and transported her to the hospital, where she soon recovered. That’s the good news for her. For news of her mail, she was put on her bed, right out in the open, was a large amount of mail … envelopes with the return address of legitimate mail and real people from the South Lakeland area.

And there was another thing, the woman was arrested and charged with criminal use of personal identification and petit theft. And this wasn’t the first time she’s stolen from someone. If all goes well, the criminal justice system will hold her accountable for her theft.

I tell you this story for two reasons. One, it amuses me how she was caught. Two, it amuses me how she was caught. Two, hold her accountable for her theft. Goes well, the criminal justice system will...
Christmas is here and it should be a joyous occasion commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, there are people in our community who are not as fortunate as many of us and have little to celebrate.

Polk County offers many services for people with genuine needs. Our citizens overwhelmingly passed the indigent care tax to help those with physical, mental, and elderly needing a healthy meal, or an individual needing indigent care, Polk County is there. From mental health counseling to drug addiction services, public housing, we have a program. As others, you can be assured we understand your concern for your neighbors and for these programs and we make sure the need is real. More than 36,000 individuals benefit from partially subsidized health care programs.

Polk County is not a wealthy county, 17 percent of our residents live below the poverty line. Our average annual household income is more than $41,000 below the national average. Regardless we must continue to help our people in times of need. Our unemployment level is low but there are growing concerns about the future of Polk County. If you’re an employer needing employees let CareerSource Polk help you find them.

As County Commissioners, one of our top priorities is keeping Polk County a business-friendly place and encouraging businesses to locate here. We have become the logistics center for the state and there are many job opportunities coming with that. E-commerce is alive and well in our county. We are positioned in the crossroads of opportunity. With Florida Poly growing and SunTrust under construction we will see more high paying jobs moving into our county. Polk County’s future is bright, but some of our community are left behind along the way. There are plenty of other organizations that help. Some are faith based and some are community based but the point here is no one who needs help should go without it. Polk County is full of giving people.

Since becoming a county commissioner I have been amazed at the giving spirit in our county. If you know someone who needs a hand put them in touch with us and we can get them going in the right direction. Old saying, "there but for the grace of God go I" has never been more true. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.

Bill Brasswell is a Polk County Commissioner for District 3.
City Manager Mike Herr brings the State of the City address at last week’s Greater Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce luncheon hosted by Endeavor Young Professionals.

State of the City: Winter Haven reinvented

By KATHY LEIGH BERKOWITZ KLBKEROVITZ@SCMGINC.COM

WINTER HAVEN – “We have so many members of our leadership team here that we could have our staff meeting,” said City Manager Mike Herr, upon opening his State of the City address to the Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce last week.

Hosted by Chamber group Endeavor, which targets business professionals aged 21 to 42, the event was a fully sold out house for the event, held at the Chamber conference room.

At least two tables were full of city department heads, commissioners, and other city officials. Rep. Sam Killebrew was in attendance as well.

Herr’s first six months as city manager have been eventful.

“One of the things that I discovered after moving here was our community marketing message, that we have been reinvented,” said Herr. “I think that is important, because it says that we know a lot about our history and it also says that we know about our future — from an economic development and a destination standpoint, in central Florida.”

“Applauding the Chamber’s effort for such a ‘creative marketing message,’” he said it is “really how we market our community. That is going to have everything to do with our ability to create jobs and maintain jobs.”

“My own personal belief is that Winter Haven is the best city in Polk County. And it is the most dynamic city of 41,000 in the state of Florida. Take a look at the people that are in the room today, the diversity, the intelligence, that says a lot about our city,” Herr said.

“Although the city population is currently around 41,000, it is set to grow to some 60,000 by 2030. Meanwhile, the city manager said, Winter Haven behaves like a city of 100,000 when it comes to an expectation of excellence.”

That said, he added “Let’s complicate economic development.”

“The city needs to focus on three things, Herr said. “Focus on quality, not quantity,” he noted, adding that the secret to cities and keep new jobs in the community is to focus on the quality that is there, so it will be more “sustainable.”

“Focus on the workforce and education, and strong business partners,” he said. “He has said many times, partners are silent.”

“We are not silent here,” he said, “and that is a real credit to communication and to talent.”

“The city’s job is large, he admitted.

“Take care of patching potholes, make sure we have safe drinking water every day. Make sure we are protecting the environment, and, the southeast wastewater treatment plants are working. Make sure that the southwest complex is open. Make sure that the northeast complex is open. Make sure that we have excellent events so people can enjoy themselves. Make sure the parks are clean, make sure the garbage is picked up. So that’s a lot about growing. Winter Haven, I think will be successful in the future.”

Winter Haven also needs to continue to be a “vibrant business community,” he said.

“And bring only the best and smartest millennials.”

At this, he applauded Endeavor and welcomed the young professionals to consider professionals “working in the public force and education, and strong business partners.”

Here’s address was followed by T. Michael Serf, assistant city manager, who gave up an update on the city’s capital projects, and a report from City Manager Merle Bishop.

“Are we booming, folks, and it is a good place to be,” he said.

“The city was partially based on the 634 single family building permits, which he says, “is a record.”

Downstown is growing and so are both its CRA and the Downstown CRA.

“The growth has been happening in spite of ourselves. And I say that because sometimes we sort of get in the way of what could happen.”

Regulatory obstacles meant a costly delay in downtown commercial district, and those were eliminated at the city level by a “greenmore resident,” he said, adding, “We think that was a real plus of interest in downtown.”

Bishop said.

However, the city’s chief information officer, spoke on best practices at the city level, sharing about how technology connects the community and how “these connections matter.”

Explaining the city’s dark fiber, he said the Dark Fiber Enterprise is excess fiber that the city can lease to service providers, which has five miles of fiber underground, and 20 miles of conduit with no fiber yet. The city is looking to add conduit and increase from 5 to 6 miles.

The leases currently bring in $128,000 to the city economic which would be folded back into the department, so it is not part of the general budget to sustain itself.

“I am Niep (pronounced Hip), and you are not,” he joked with the young professionals, who repeated it as if a long time family joke.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE PERMIT

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of its intent to issue a permit to Byrd Septic Services, Inc., O Rockefeller Road, Davenport, FL 33897, to operate the existing Septage Management Facility (SMF), Byrd Septic SME, and Land Application Site (LAS). Byrd Septic & Land Application Site is located at 2898 14 1 N, longitude 84 33 W on Rockefeller Road, Davenport, FL 33897.

The Department has assigned permit file number FLA994867-001-DW3S/NP to the proposed project.

The intent to issue and application file are available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department’s Northwest District Office, 201 E. New Tampa Blvd, Suite 305, Tampa, Florida 33609-0926, at phone number (813) 470-5700.

The Department will issue the permit with the attached conditions unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be filed by the Clerk, in the Office of General Counsel before the end of the time period for filing a petition for an administrative hearing.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department’s proposed permitting decision may petition for an administrative proceeding by filing under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be filed by the Clerk, in the Office of General Counsel before the end of the time period for filing a petition for an administrative hearing.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Department’s action is based must contain the following information, as indicated in Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code:

(a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency’s file or identification number, if known;

(b) The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner’s representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes, during the course of the proceeding, and an explanation of how the petitioner’s substantial interests will be affected by the determination;

(c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the Department’s decision;

(d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If none are found, the petition must so indicate;

(e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the Department’s proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and

(f) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the Department to take with respect to the Department’s proposed action.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the Department’s final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision must file a petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above.

Mediation under Section 120.573, Florida Statutes, is not available for this proceeding.

12/27/17
requests for more recreational facilities keep coming in and we are currently working on a master plan. We have to land to put new facilities in place and it’s just the cost of construction and it’s not for revenue for. This is lake Wales time in my mind, there are a lot of good quality jobs coming.

Assistant City Manager James Slaton then stood to the podium to say that city staff had met with Lake Wales PAL volunteers recently about helping with the scheduling conflicts at Kirkland Gym and he thought the problem had been fixed. They had helped to manage to help open Kirkland Gym earlier to accommodate PAL volunteers. Newly hired Lake Lakes Recreation Coordinator Shannon Edmonds is reportedly also working to help resolve the problem.


deputy mayor doubles down

At the end of the commission meeting, Lake Lakes Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson said that members of the Lake Lakes leadership Council had decided and voted on their five highest priorities. The Lake Lakes Leadership Council is an informal group of people that Gibson organized to try and determine what priorities local leaders wanted to work on to improve the community.

Gibson said their highest priority was completion of the Walesbilt Hotel formerly the Grand Hotel. At the first Lake Lakes Leadership Council meeting in early December, Gibson advocated for having the commission pressure the Lake Wales City Commission to not renew a building permit for current restoration work being done by Winter Haven developer Ray Brown. Gibson said if the building permit was not renewed it would open up the possibility of having another developer take over the restoration efforts. Some, including Gibson, members of the commission and others, have said Brown is not restoring the historic hotel at a sufficient pace. Others are reported to have put it on the worst land out there,” Helms said. “When was the last time that happened? We’re moving up. This is prime property for people because it’s not stagnant growth.

And while this land has not been sold for residential use 25 to 30 years is a lot, and in the last year property sales in downtown have been happening at a pace not seen in a long time.

“On top of that there are solar farms being placed in other cities in the country. They could go and put it on the worst land here,” she said, citing article she had heard about solar farms being located in other cities in the country. “They could go and put it on the worst land here.” That is a good idea. In fact, she was not sure allowing any solar farm in a prime development area. The best option for most people then would be to put it on the worst land somewhere.

The position where this is being proposed is going to be built up with new developments nearby and this is a good idea, the site is going to put its farm is residential area and she is not so sure this is a good idea. In fact, she was not sure allowing any solar farm in a prime development area. That is a good idea. In fact, she was not sure allowing any solar farm in a prime development area.

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WINTER HAVEN – Commissioner Brad Dantzler has an idea as to the future of the Social Security building, the city annex, City Hall and a piece of land as an economic development driver.

The word is "Kunsthal." A "Kunsthal" is a European concept, where a government or public entity will provide art space, but not buy the art.

Setting inside his office at Raymond James, he uses a sketchpad and pen, drawing out a map of City Hall.

At one time, there was an atrium at City Hall. He suggested bringing that back and then creating a "Kunsthal."

"Polk Museum of Art buys a lot of art, so a lot of their budget goes for art. Winter Haven is not prepared to do that. But I think Winter Haven could have a Kunsthal," he said.

"And have art shows come in. It is sort of a cottage industry that has cropped up now," he added.

The cost of such an endeavor would actually improve economic development and be a driver for the economy, as doctors, attorneys, musicians and artists will be interested in living there and the like enjoying having a quality offering of things to do in town.

"I think fine arts is a big part of economic development," said Dantzler.

"We can afford it."

Types of unusual art shows could include things such as traveling displays of Japanese Wedding Dresses, for example, or Chinese textiles. "There are shows that could come in and bring a whole bunch of visitors," he added.

"If we were to bring Japanese wedding dresses, that would be $20,000 to $30,000 in revenue, but if we could have a show come in, and see 20 or 30 of these that we would never get to see otherwise. And the show might be $20,000 for three months ... if you have 20 or 30 of them on display, you would have people going and spending a half day looking at them."

He said people in Orlando and Tampa would drive here to see those displays.

Sale of the building

Requests for proposal will go out in January, and it appears that perhaps, the city of Winter Haven may try once again to sell the old Social Security building, located at 245 and 255 W. Central Ave.

The parcel is owned by the city and was part of the Little Library and painted utility boxes around town going.

Dantzler has started a Cultural Artists Commission, he said, that got all the Little Libraries and painted the art shows.

The building would be discussed during commissioner reports and comments.

He suggested either setting aside for the arts community (if at one time was used as an arts venue), or selling it and keeping the money "as an asset," to put towards city support of art endeavors.

"Kunsthal" is that currently the property is an asset, and should be main tained as such.

"Accounting 101," he said.

Along the lines of how to fund the Kunsthal, City Hall would have to be moved in order for that to happen.

City commission meetings have discussed moving City Hall to Nora Mayo Hall.

According to city records, that could be about a $1 million move.

Dantzler suggested taking the money from the Social Security building (when it sells, if it does), then selling the city annex also (for about $500,000 or whatever they get) and combining the money from both to help fund the move to Nora Mayo Hall.

"That would leave the entire City Hall building open (which it sells, if it does), then selling the city annex also (for about $500,000 or whatever they get) and combining the money from both to help fund the move to Nora Mayo Hall."

Architectural rendering of the former Social Security building.

WINTER HAVEN – Commissioner Brad Dantzler floats proposals for social security building. The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of its intent to issue a permit to Louie Burton Septic Tank Service, 2925 Reynolds Road, Lakeland, FL 33803, to operate the existing Septage Management Facility (SMF), Louie Burton Septic Tank Service (SMF), and Land Application Site (LAS), Louie Burton Property LAS. The SMF is designed to treat 0.002 million gallons per day (MGD) annual average flow of septicage by lime-stabilization. The LAS consists of approximately 19.26 total acres to be used for treated septage application. The SMF is located at latitude 28°07.34′ N, longitude 81°51.17′ W on 4180 Kus suthville Ave, Lakeland, FL in Polk County. The Department has assigned permit file number FLA94413-001-DW3S/NP to the proposed project.

There is no intent or intention for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department Southwest District Office, 13051 N. Telecom Pkwy, Suite 101, Temple Terrace, Florida 33637-0926, at phone number (813) 470-5700.

The Department will issue the permit with the attached conditions unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, within fourteen days of receipt of notice. The procedures for petitioning for a hearing are set forth below.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's proposed permitting decision may petition for an administrative hearing (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, by filing a petition for an administrative hearing.

Petitions filed by any persons other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.403, Florida Statutes, must be filed within fourteen days of publication of the notice or within fourteen days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. Section 120.60(3), Florida Statutes, however, also allows that any person who has asked the Department in writing for notice of agency action may file a petition within fourteen days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication.

The petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing. The failure of any person to file a petition or request for an extension of time within fourteen days of receipt of notice shall constitute a waiver of that person’s right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 12-106.205, Florida Administrative Code.

Petitions shall be served upon the applicant, by mailing a copy of the petition to the applicant, within fourteen days of receipt of the written notice, or within forty-five days of publication of the written notice, whichever occurs first. Section 120.60(3), Florida Statutes, however, also allows that any person who has asked the Department in writing for notice of agency action may file a petition within fourteen days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Department’s action is based must contain the following information, as indicated in Rule 12-106.205, Florida Administrative Code.

(a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency’s file or identification number, if known.
(b) The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner’s representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner’s substantial interests will be affected by the determination.
(c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the Department’s decision.
(d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so state.
(e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the Department’s proposed action.
(f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the Department’s proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes.
(g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the Department to take with respect to the Department’s proposed action.

The petitioning of a hearing is only permitted if the petitioner files a petition for an administrative hearing. The filing of a petition makes a party to the administrative proceeding. The date of filing is the date of publication.

Mediation under Section 120.973, Florida Statutes, is not available for this proceeding.
Winter Haven News
Winter Haven High pageant debuts

By KATHY LEIGH BERKOWITZ
KBERKOWITZ@STNEWS.COM

WINTER HAVEN – Truly history in the making, Winter Haven High School had its first Miss Winter Haven High pageant, put on by the school’s Cultural Connection Club.

Held at the Gorman Ayers Fine Arts Auditorium on the school’s campus, the competition crowned Paige Chavez, a 17-year-old senior, as the new Miss Winter Haven High Class of 2018, and Maia McCarthy, a 16-year-old junior, as the Miss Winter Haven High Outstanding Teen.

Nine student contestants competed in the categories of Private Interviews, Lifestyle & Fitness, Talent, Evening Gown, and On-Stage Question.

Dr. Vincent Miller and Regina Walden were the pageant’s faculty co-sponsors.

“It wasn’t just a beauty pageant,” said Walden, who noted the purpose of the Cultural Connection Club is to build culture within the lives of students who might not otherwise be exposed to experiences that would make them “well rounded.”

The program exposed them to the arts, college tours, theater, and other events.

“And as a teacher, I 100 percent believe that learning is not just contained to the four walls,” she said.

“We thought what better way to do that than to have a pageant,” she said.

Each contestant had to come up with a platform she would advocate to win the crown. They had to get sponsors.

“Many of them are already doing community service in the area of their platform,” Walden added.

And the pageant was a completely student-led event, from the stage to the technical directors, those who secure sponsors.

“We know it is experiences that make us, not things,” Walden said.

Teachers said the pageant exceeded their wildest expectations.

Additionally, they were invited to the workroom to vote on their pick for Miss Congeniality.

And the boys do not want to be left out. Walden says they are already asking “are you going to do something for the guys?”

Escorts for the event came from the sports teams and the JROTC, students escorting students they might not talk to.

“This kind of bridges those friend gaps,” she said.

Three teachers and the principal meet with the contestants the Saturday before the event, to get to know the girls.

“A big shout out to our principal,” said Walden.

Paige Chavez, Miss Winter Haven, said, “As a senior in high school and having gone through the rigorous tests it has to offer I feel as though I truly deserve this title. In society, people of color have been misrepresented for decades, and being the first official face of Winter Haven High, a school that used to be segregated brings such honor to myself and fellow people like me.

Maia McCarthy, winner of Miss Winter Haven High School’s Outstanding Teen crown, said winning the title of Miss Winter Haven High School’s Outstanding Teen is “(not to sound so cliché about it) and will always be one of the most memorable moments of my life.

“I have dreamt of being able to be on a stage showcasing my talents, confidence, and beauty in front of people for literally as long as I can remember. I remember sitting on my grandmom’s couch watching Next Top Model, we would both get so excited to see the girls that looked like me. And I’d get up and start doing my princess wave and ‘Maia’s Tyra walk’ as my grandmother called it. Winning this pageant makes me feel like I have accomplished something truly great because this is just the beginning of my voice actually meaning something in society. And it has definitely been the confidence booster that I have been praying for. Who’d’ve known that this dream that I’ve had as a little 5-year-old girl could actually be happening to me. Winning has made not only my family proud, but myself and my beautiful grandmother, may her soul Rest In Peace as she watches me hopefully claim my next Title along this long pageant road.”

Chavez received a $500 scholarship provided by the Public Education Partnership of Winter Haven and the opportunity to compete for the Miss Florida title in Lakeland June 25-38. Chavez plans to study Biology at the University of South Florida and pursue a career as an OB/GYN or cosmetic surgeon.

McCarthy received a $250 scholarship and the opportunity to compete in the Miss Florida’s Outstanding Teen pageant to be held in conjunction with the Miss Florida competition this summer. McCarthy is a Cadet Corporal and Platoon Sergeant for the Winter Haven High School Army JROTC and plans to study broadcasting and journalism after graduating in May 2019.

A number of other contestants received awards during the competition. Marisol Ortega, an 18-year-old senior, was first runner-up for Miss Winter Haven High Class of 2018. Sydina Thompson, a 16-year-old junior, was first runner-up for Miss Winter Haven High’s Outstanding Teen and was the overall winner for the Talent competition.

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This page contains a news article about a woman who was a physics teacher and is facing charges of sexual misconduct with a minor. The article includes quotes from various sources and details about the investigation and legal proceedings. There is also a photo of a sock tree project at Girls Inc. and a notice about a legal dispute.
By JIM TURNER
THE NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE – Federal relief for Florida citrus growers cleared the U.S. House on Thursday, Dec. 21, but its fate remained unclear in the Senate, which may not take up the legislation until January.

Before the House vote, leaders appropriated an $81 billion disaster-relief package that includes citrus money from a short-term funding resolution needed to keep the government running through mid-January.

The move drew protests from some members of Florida’s congressional delegation, as they believe the relief package, which includes $2.6 billion for crop losses, became less likely to gain the necessary approval with the “must-pass” label of the funding bill.

U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney, a Republican who helped lead efforts to get the crop-damage money into the resolution this week, was among those who voted against “continuing” short-term funding bill.

“I have been repeat- edly told prior to this that federal aid would be on the way,” Rooney said in a prepared statement. “The bill released this week containing my request to help Florida’s farmers recover from the storm became a piece in a political and partisan game. The political reality is that the only way this disaster funding was going to be signed into law before Christmas was to fit it to be combined with the continuing resolution.”

U.S. Rep. G. Ellis (Trudy) Ross, a Lakeland Republican, also voted against the funding, noting that while “continuing efforts, help is not yet on the way” for Florida’s farmers.

“Today’s continuing resolution says to Florida farmers: ‘You’re on your own,’” Ross said in a prepared statement. “It neglects Florida’s citrus producers who needed something – anything to help them stay off this devastation.”

The vote on the relief package came after Republicans cobbled together enough support to narrowly approve the continuing resolution, which is aimed at keeping the government funded through Jan. 19. State officials, including Putnam and Florida Citrus Commission Chairman G. Ellis Hunt, urged Congress on Wednesday to put faces behind the disaster funding request.

Putnam said in a release Thursday that Florida’s agriculture industry cannot fully recover “without the emergency assistance.”

In addition to the citrus losses, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has estimated that Irma inflicted $624 million in damage to the nursery industry, $237.5 million in damage to the cattle industry, $11.8 million in damage to dairy farmers, $383 million in damage to the sugar industry, and $180 million in damage to vegetable and non-citrus fruit growers.

Florida growers were overlooked in two prior disaster-relief packages approved by Congress in response to Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Hurricane Irma in Florida, Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and wildfires in California.
By GAYE HARLOW  CORRESPONDENT

BARTOW NEWS

DAR put 10 wreaths at Bushnell

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of its intent to issue a permit to Robby’s Septic Tank & Plumbing Service, 9158 Hall Road, Lakeland, FL 33809, to operate the existing Septage Management Facility (SMF), Robby’s SMF, and Land Application Site (LAS), Robby’s LAS.

The SMF is designed to treat 0.010 Million Gallons per day (MGD) of septage by lagoon stabilization. The LAS consists of approximately 64.86 total acres to be used for treated septage application. The LAS will be used to grow grasses for a hay operation. The SMF and LAS are located at latitude 28° 11’ 25.4” N, longitude 82° 2’ 27.4” W on 10300 Old Dade City Road, Lakeland, FL 33810 in Polk County.

The Department has assigned permit file number FLA993905-001-DW3S/NP to the proposed project. The intent to issue and application file are available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department’s Southwest District Office, 13051 N Telecom Pkwy, Suite 101, Temple Terrace, Florida 33637-0926, at phone number (813) 470-5700.

The Department will issue the permit with the attached conditions unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, within fourteen days of receipt of notice. The procedures for petitioning for a hearing are set forth below.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's proposed permitting decision may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. Petitioners must file (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 75, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000. Under Rule 62-110.106(4), Florida Administrative Code, a person may request an extension of the time for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. Petitions filed by any person other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(5), Florida Statutes, must be filed within fourteen days of publication of the notice or within fourteen days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. Section 120.60(3), Florida Statutes, however, also allows that any person who has asked the Department in writing for notice of agency action may file a petition within fourteen days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication.

The petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing. The Department may file a petition or request for an extension of time within fourteen days of receipt of notice shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, Florida Administrative Code.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Department's action is based must contain the following information, as indicated in Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code:

(a) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the decision.

(b) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the Department wishes to take with respect to the Department's proposed action.

(c) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the Department wishes to take with respect to the Department's proposed action.

(d) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the Department wishes to take with respect to the Department's proposed action.

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(p) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the Department wishes to take with respect to the Department's proposed action.

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(x) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the Department wishes to take with respect to the Department's proposed action.

(y) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the Department wishes to take with respect to the Department's proposed action.

(z) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the Department wishes to take with respect to the Department's proposed action.

...
Taylor: President and coach

MT: You know, the key to the arena game is to have veteran, experienced players. There’s no substitute for experience in this game. The seasons aren’t long enough to spend a lot of time developing people at key positions like quarterback. And believe it or not, offensive linemen are the next most valuable. Center is the hardest offensive line position to find, especially if you're interested. If you just want to spectate, and there’s some pretty good gold on display, you still have time to put in on your calendar.

SCMG: And what makes him so successful in the arena game?
MT: Chris has an incredible IQ for the arena game. In all the years I’ve been around the game, he has the ability to put a lot of things on them important to us. I'm a big believer in using all your resources.

SCMG: And what kind of experience has he brought to the Tarpons?
MT: Chris has played for something like 15 years of arena football. He’s the all-time passing leader for a2f, and he played for the Florida Firecats which was the a2f team in Fort Myers that was the team there prior to the Tarpons. So that's kind of how we got together. His experience is what makes Chris so valuable. He gives you a leg up playing against guys that are new to the game.

SCMG: You've got Chris Wallace coming back to play quarterback. Tell us about him.
MT: Chris has played for something like 17 seasons of arena football. He's the all-time passing leader for a2f, and he played for the Florida Firecats which was the a2f team in Fort Myers that was the team there prior to the Tarpons. So that's kind of how we got together. His experience is what makes Chris so valuable. He gives you a leg up playing against guys that are new to the game.

SCMG: And what kind of experience has he brought to the Tarpons?
MT: Chris is the first coach I ever had which was the first coach I ever had which was the first coach I ever had. He was a big influence on me. He's been with the Tarpons, we've let him call his own plays.

SCMG: And I know your dad is one of the coaches actually, who have influenced you success in the game. How is that?
MT: Well, the president selects the offensive line position to find, especially if you're interested. If you just want to spectate, and there’s some pretty good gold on display, you still have time to put in on your calendar.

Photo Provided

Michael Taylor is president and coach of the Florida Tarpons.

URBAN CHAMPIONSHIP COMING AFTER IRMA POSTPONEMENT

Expectations for the level of play?
MT: The AAL is a merger between two leagues, the Arena Pro Football League which we were in last year, and the Can-Am League. So we’re excited about the teams that have come in. Having a good group of teams that have been around for some time is really important. And that’s what we have there, people going to be more competitive than what we’ve had the last several years. It’s very exciting, for all of us, including for our fans. We get to play the team that beat us twice last year in the home opening game. And I’m sure Richmond will be better this year than last, they were a first year team. So now they’ve got a season under their belts, and I know from some of the teams that competed, they’ve been better. The biggest thing will be getting them in our environment. Both games last year were in Richmond.

SCMG: You’re both president and coach. Does one ever talk to the other?
MT: Well, the president selects the offensive line position to find, especially if you're interested. If you just want to spectate, and there’s some pretty good gold on display, you still have time to put in on your calendar.

Michael Taylor is president and coach of the Florida Tarpons.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Michael Taylor is president and coach of the Florida Tarpons.
New pickleball season approaching

The South Central Florida Pickleball League was established by David Majick of Highlands Ridge, Avon Park, in 2011 to promote the game of pick- leball while enhancing the lifestyle of residents of 55-plus communities. The league has promoted positive social interaction between the communities while allowing players to test their pickleball skills against the best local talent. The league is built upon fair play, honesty and a true sense of enjoyment. League membership has changed through the years. Solivita in Poinciana and River Bend in LaBelle competed in the past. In 2017 Frostproof entered a team for the first time and Sun ’N Lake returned after a one-year absence. Teams for 2018 are: Del Webb, Orlando, Lake Ashton from Lake Wales, Frostproof, with players from Camp Inn, Lily Lake and Rainbow RV Resort, Avon Park’s Highlands Ridge plus Sun ’N Lake and Tanglewood from Sebring.

This “Best Eight” league is open to women and men with each club field- ing four teams of two players ranked five through four. The majority of the players are men but there are always some women involved. In recent years, some communities have decided to field a women’s only team. Del Webb, Highlands Ridge and Tanglewood have had a team for the past few seasons. For 2018 they’ll be joined in the SCFPL Ladies’ League by entries from Frostproof and Buttonwood Bay of Sebring.

PHOTO BY ED RIZER

Winter Haven’s Ed Rizer got his Christmas present early this year. It wasn’t under the tree, but in it. It wasn’t colorfully wrapped, in fact, it was pretty drab. There was no bow on the package, just a beat. Rizer is an avid birdwatcher, and the rarely-sighted fork-tailed flycatcher is what made this the happiest of holidays.

Hordes of camera-wielding bird-watchers have spent much of the last couple of weeks descending on 80 Foot Road east of Bartow to delight in the bird, which hasn’t been overly camera shy, taking roost during the day in an unassuming clump of trees just north of Cox Road.

“There’s only a couple seen in America each year, all the way up to Massachusetts, mostly coastal, but there’s no rhyme or reason to where they’re going to go,” Rizer said. “It’s a bird from the tropics, that’s prone to wander from time-to-time. He’ll probably stay for a while, he may winter here.”

PHOTO BY NEIL SIMPSON

New pickleball season approaching

Team representatives; back row, from left; Bob Auchenbach, Del Webb; Joseph Oblon, Sun ’N Lake; Mickey Dorman, Highlands Ridge; Dave Shaner, Highlands Ridge. Middle row; JP Lefeldvre, Frostproof; Todd Berger, Frostproof; Rhonda Berger, Frostproof; Jim Jones, Sun ’N Lake; Dwight Berg, Highlands Ridge. Front row; Charlie Parella, Dale Webb; Daniel Rheault, Frostproof; Dona Landers, Highlands Ridge; Cheryl McCullough, Tanglewood; Susan Price, Highlands Ridge; Dan Pillitteri, Tanglewood.

By NEIL SIMPSON

Correspondent

A rare bird for Christmas

Brian Ackley

Ack’s Angles

It’s likely the bird was attracted to the spot because other flycatchers, including the western king bird and scissor-tailed flycatcher, have made it home for a while now.

“They’ve been wintering here for at least the last three years. They associate with each other and roost together,” Rizer said.

The big, open, rural fields are attrac- tive to the birds as feeding grounds, as is an area around the spot where they apparently go at night to rest.

Rizer said he lost count somewhere around 195 as to the “lifer” birds he’s seen. That’s what birdwatchers call them when they personally spy a species they have never seen before. But he estimated that this elusive flycatcher was maybe around 220 for now.

Of course, Polk is a prime bird watching area, even for novices. The Florida Rare Bird Alert Network indicates just in the last week alone, sightings of clay-colored sparrows, an American Redstart, Kentucky Warbler and Northern Waterthrush.

Saddle Creek Park and Circle B Bar Ranch are among the hottest spots. Circle B watchers have recorded over 200 different species at the coun- try-managed site, not to mention almost four-dozen different butterfly species. With paved trails and tram rides, watching doesn’t get much easier than this.

Saddle Creek is close behind, with about 170 different birds noted there. Bald Eagles and the striking kite-tailed swallow, the biggest of the swallow family that will take your breath away upon sighting, are regular visitors. Mosaic Peace River Park is another popular spot to see kites-tailed swal- lows, but the boardwalk park has been closed since hurricane Irma. The canoe and kayak launch area just across the road, however, is open.

One of Winter Haven’s hidden gems is the Lake Region Audubon’s Street Nature Center on Lameraux Road. The indigo bunting and painted bunting are striking reminders of how beautiful birds can be, and are often seen during the winter there.

Lake Kissimmee State Park has also had some 200 different species sighted.
Man charged with murder

A Winter Haven man wanted for first-degree murder, Johnny Ray Davis, 36, was arrested by the Polk County Sheriff's Office detectives with the help of the Winter Haven Police Department and Winter Haven Fire Rescue. Davis fled on foot when he was contacted by police. He was wanted for the Dec. 11 murder of Patrick Adam Thrower, 35, of Winter Haven.

Davis was arrested on a warrant for his arrest at his residence located at 733 Reedy Pointe Cir. Davis was booked into the Polk County Jail on $2,000.00 bond.

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Davis was arrested on a warrant for his arrest at his residence located at 733 Reedy Pointe Cir. Davis was booked into the Polk County Jail on $2,000.00 bond. The investigation began in April when the sheriff’s office was contacted by Home Depot loss prevention personnel. The suspects worked together, under the direction of Alberto Vera-Caraballo, to take merchandise (including flooring, vanities, countertops, doors, tools, and accessories) to the checkout lanes, and while one suspect distracted the clerk, the other suspect walked out of the store with the items in a cart, bypassing all sales of sale. The suspects would then return the stolen merchandise back inside the store in exchange for a Home Depot gift card. They then sold the gift cards at a jewelry store in Altamonte Springs.

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By the time you get our letter from Bartow Public Library, we will pretty much be into the next year. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable New Year’s Eve and that you all take care on New Year’s Day. The library will close for Jan. 1, but we hope to see you Jan. 2 to welcome in 2018.

To our Bartow families, we will resume our children’s programs this January. Story Times for 3-5 year olds will begin Wednesday, Jan. 10 and run from 10-10:45 a.m. Book Babies for 18 months-2 year olds will be from 10-10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 11. Our S.T.E.A.M. for Home Schoolers ages 6-8 years old is 10-11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12.

Our Adult Book Discussion group will meet at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3 to discuss The Malice of Fortune by Michael Ellis.

Ask at the Information Desk if you have any questions about the upcoming books for reading and chatting. A good way to keep up with library events is to visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Bartow-Public-Library-73708406055/. If you are a member of our Friends of the Library, you can keep up with activities and book sales at https://www.facebook.com/bartow-publiclibraryfriends.

Our address is 2150 S. Broadway Ave. in Bartow. Please call Bartow Library at 863-534-0131 if you have any questions about our events.

Paul Wartenberg is the reference librarian at the Bartow Public Library.

Roxanna Tovrea

Paul Wartenberg is the reference librarian at the Bartow Public Library.

Plaque given to Roxanna Tovrea at her retirement party at the Bartow Public Library on Dec. 22.

Olmsted Gardens • Singing Tower • Café & Shop
Historic Mansion • Preserve Trails • Children’s Garden
www.boktowergardens.org
1151 Tower Blvd., Lake Wales, Florida
863.676.1408

LEDGER MEDIA GROUP • SUN MEDIA GROUP • TODAY & TONIGHT MAGAZINE
WEDU • WUSF • WINTER HAVEN HONDA
Hundreds of people, including seniors, children and families, were fed last Friday at The Mission.

Lora Donley, far right, greets the next family to receive gifts. The Mission had the event well organized. Each person or family received a number with their dinner plate, and were called in order to the gift line.

This young man holds up a brand new Teddy bear he received for Christmas at the annual Christmas party held at The Mission. Even Santa took a break from preparing his sleigh to stop and see the kids.

A room full of elves, the second shift of about 35 people that turned out to help The Mission prepare for its Christmas outreach, gets busy to the task of wrapping and sorting presents for children and adults.

"Take my picture!" says Lloyd Johnson, after receiving his Christmas gift and meal during the annual Christmas breakfast at The Mission in Winter Haven.

The smiles are what Christmas is all about. These two young men pose for a photo while their mom stands nearby.

Children played with their Teddy Bears and some of the parents did, too.

Beate Nelson said The Mission helped her when she was homeless for a short time. Here, she crochets a red Christmas purse while eating dinner during the Christmas party.

Volunteers did everything from direct the crowd to the gift line, to slicing ham for the Christmas breakfast.

Her, too.

PHOTOS BY KATHY LEIGH BERKOWITZ

For the community

Hurts, Habits, Hang-ups?

Celebrate Recovery

January 5th; 7:00pm
Haines City Christian Fellowship - 1500 Robinson Dr, Haines City
863-659-4875 - hccfellowship.com
Hurricane Irma debris collection ends in January

Polk County has scheduled the end of all countywide Hurricane Irma debris collection by contracted haulers by the end of January. Polk’s contracted hauler will begin the final pass through of the county starting next month, which means all Polk County res- idents must have their hurricane debris set for pickup by Jan. 2.

The final day for Hurricane Irma debris collection is Jan. 31. If the hurricane debris isn’t placed at the curbside for pickup by the time haulers make their final pass, the drivers will not return for a late pickup. Debris should not be mixed, but separated by type, including vegetation (trees, limbs), construc- tion and demolition (wood, fences, shingles), white goods (appliances), and bulky house- hold items. All debris should be hurricane debris in nature. Debris piles should not encroach on roadway; travel lanes, sidewalks or drainage areas. Debris piles should not exceed 8 feet in height or 12 feet in length. Debris piles should not contain cut “green” routine yard waste, which includes Christmas trees, will not be collected by haulers. Residential debris drop-off sites Resi- dent debris drop-off sites will close permanently Dec. 31. The following locations are the only two remaining resident debris drop-off sites for Hurricane Irma vegetative debris:

- 5901 Strickland Ave. in south Lakeland on the west side of the road at the ball park.
- Mount Tabor Road in North Lakeland at the northwest corner of the intersection of North Galloway Road and Mount Tabor Road across the street from 3008 Mount Tabor Road.

Resident debris drop-off sites are limited to Polk County residents, including all city residents as well. County staff will be checking identification to confirm residency. These sites have typically been open Friday through Monday. However, due to the White disposal is free, resi- dents must abide by the following restrictions:

- Personal vehicles (cars/truck) only
- Trailers not exceeding 8 feet in length
- Vegetative debris only (branches, trees, shrubs, etc.)
- No commercial haulers/customers

Holy Spirit plans rummage sale
Holy Spirit Council of Catholic Women is planning its annual Rummage/Bake Sale from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday; Jan. 19 and from 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, Jan. 20, in the Holy Spirit Parish Center, 644 S. Ninth St., Lake Wales.

Items for sale include glass-ware, holiday decorations, toys, appliances, jewelry, furniture, knick-knacks, and clothing. The clothing will include men’s shirts and pants, blouses, skirts, women’s sweaters, jackets, and pantsuits. Bake goods will include home- made bread, cupcakes, cookies, and muffins. Breakfast items will also be offered at a minimum cost during the sale.

A boutique table and a white elephant table will display special items for sale.

SCORE plans workshops
SCORE Central Florida has planned Winter/Spring 2018 workshop series in partnership with the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce. The workshops are scheduled the fourth Thursday on Jan. 25, Weaver & Associates, Optimize Your Website; Feb. 8, Leads with LinkedIn; March 22, Leveraging Your Business with “The Cloud”; April 26, Increase Your Sales With Relationship Building May 24, Balancing the Books for Growth, Simple Bookkeeping Setups.

Workshops will be held at the Chamber, 35 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. It costs $5 for members and $10 for guests. Registration for series is now available at https://centralflorida.scone.org/scone-workshop-link. For information, please contact Becky Bywater, 863-838-1079.

Wawa opens in Davenport
Wawa, Inc. plans opened a store at 43582 U.S. 27 in Davenport and had a grand opening for it Dec. 21. The celebration will include exciting fanfare, ribbon cutting, a charitable hoagie building competition between the County Sheriff’s Office and Polk County Fire Rescue and free coffee through Dec. 31.

The grand opening of this store marks the 46th store to open in 2017. Throughout the year, Wawa plans to bring the Wawa experience to more communities than ever before with the opening of more than 50 new stores and the remodeling of 75 existing stores throughout its operating area in the Mid-Atlantic and Florida markets.

Through the grand opening, Wawa will make donations to the Lakeland Police Department, local fire and emergency responders, as a result of its Foundation’s Heroes Hoagie building competition. “Throughout 2017, as we open and remodel a record number of stores, we look forward to demonstrating our commitment to fulfilling lives with our fresh food and beverages, showcasing our latest store design and expanded offerings, and creating more meaningful connections at our stores and through our Wawa app,” said Brian Schaller Sr., vice president of Real Estate and Fuel Operations for Wawa Inc. “Our grand opening celebration numbers are an exciting way for us to highlight our commitment to investing in new and existing communities through fan celebrations, charita- ble donations, and thousands of new customer connections.”

Saturday added to Main Street Bartow schedule
The Main Street Bartow Farmers Market has expanded and will now be held the third Saturday of the month from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. as well as every Wednesday where has been from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. 2 p.m., at Fort Blount Park, which is at the cor- ner of Main Street and Broadway Avenue in downtown Bartow.

The Farmers Market vendors offer a variety of products including fresh produce, honey, jams, relishes, desserts, jewelry, crafts, and more. The park is also a beautiful spot for a leisurely lunch with food vendors offering a variety of items.

More vendor space remains and Main Street Bartow continues to seek vendors offering top qual- ity fresh products ranging from plants to seasonal flowers, sauces and other food items, and artisan crafts. The vendor fee for a 12-foot x 12-foot space is $10 per week. For information, please call 863-860-1883, Main Street Bartow at 863-519-0036, or email mainstreetbartow@verizon.net.

Get fit in the park
FortiFitness is offering take off for the summer returns Saturday. Marie Willnot, local fitness guru, has designed a program for the Chamber of Commerce to help the community get fit.

The events take place the second Saturday of the month at 5 p.m. in Fort Blount Park.

On the schedule is:
- Jan. 13: Greg, Rick & Krixy (UFC Box & Burn)
- Feb. 10: Tamir Green (Empower Fit Dance)
- March 10: Mariah Andressen-Otten (Yogi)
- April 14: Jannita Pullum (Boot Camp)
- May 12: Jude Dauphin (Upton Fitness)

NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. & Hymns/Christian Songs
Pastor Maurice Thompson
807 West Memorial Blvd.
Lakeland
863.229.6337 "ALL WELCOME"

Lake Wales Alliance Church
325 N. Buck Moore Rd
Lake Wales, FL 33898
863.676.6727

Sunday School 9:25
Sunday Worship 10:45
Special Music by
Robert Short
Pastor, Robert Short
EVERYONE WELCOME

BAPTIST CHURCH
1125 US HWY 17 South
Bartow, FL 33830
Pastor, Mike Scornio
KJV Fundamentalism
Southern Gospel Music
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Night: 6:00 p.m.
863-533-4734

LIGHHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH
307 ABC Rd, Lake Wales
(3 miles 3.184 km US 27)

David Williams, Pastor
Old-fashioned Preaching & Hymns-KJV Bible
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Night, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday Night, 7:00 p.m.

$12.00/WK TO ADVERTISE YOURLSELF $50.00/WK TO ADVERTISE YOUR SPECIAL EVENT

OBITUARIES

Betty Jean Feaster
Betty Jean Feaster, 83, of Babson Park, Fla., passed away Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017, at her residence. Betty was born March 29, 1934, in Frostproof, Fla., to Eddie and Cleo (nee Tindell) Respress. She lived most of her life in the Central Florida area before moving to Ohio in late 1970s with her second husband. She returned to Babson Park in the late 1990s. She is survived by her daughters, Martha Dease (Raymond) of Lake Wales, Fla.; Ronnie Caraway of Lake Wales, Fla.; sons, Edward Caraway (Donna) of Babson Park, Fla.; Eugene Caraway of Alturas, Fla.; stepdaughters, Terril R. Finder of Winter Haven, Fla.; Patty Waller (Lawrence) of Jacksonville, Fla.; 7 grandchildren; 1 step-grandchild; an abundance of great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Wilson “Dick” Feaster; stepson, Jon W. Feaster; brothers, Bill Respress, Harry Respress, Bobby Respress; and two sisters, Bonnie-Mari Respress, Edith Markow; her former husband, Charles Caraway. Memorial service will be held after cremation at 6 p.m. at the Marion Nelson Funeral Home, Frostproof.
Neighbors come to rescue after gifts stolen

By ANNE EASKER
Staff Writer

PORT CHARLOTTE – A neighborhood watch group has banded together to replace Christmas presents stolen from the home of one single mother.

It was Deserine Mustepher’s birthday, Dec. 3, when she got a call at work that her front door was wide open. When she came home, all the Christmas presents she’d bought for her 9-year-old son were gone, including a bicycle, three remote-control cars and two World Wrestling Entertainment action figures.

“Just sucks that someone would do something so nasty like that,” she said.

According to the incident report, the molding around the door had a crack, and there was a piece of wood missing below the latch. Deputies from the Punta Gorda Police Department and Sheriff’s Office collected a latent fingerprint and a pair of sunglasses left behind by the burglar.

Mustepher moved to Charlotte County in March with a boyfriend, who she later found out was addicted to heroin and cocaine. He went on a binge and deserted her. When she woke up alone to an eviction notice on their door, she Baker Acted herself. After she got out of the Charlotte Behavioral Center, she went to the Homeless Coalition until she was able to move into her current home in September.

Her son, Jamyis, lives with her parents in Punta Gorda, while Mustepher saves money. She didn’t want to disrupt his schooling or bring them in their place,” she said. “She was like, ‘That's why I'm trying to get my car before he comes home and stuff, so he doesn't have to ever be subjected to something like that.'”

Mustepher said racism exists everywhere, she hasn’t seen as much of it here. Once at the mall, she saw some white kids using the word, just calling it out to each other, and an older white woman stepped in and stopped them.

“She snapped and put them in their place,” she said. “She said, ‘That word holds too much power for you to say it just to say it.’ I was like, ‘Wow, people really do care.’

Although she feels less safe after the burglary, Mustepher said she won’t let one bad apple spoil the bunch. She plans to stay in Charlotte County. She’s been shocked by the support from people like Sandee Pellerin, the neighborhood watch captain for District 3 in Parkside, where Mustepher lives. Once Mustepher found out about the burglary, she led the charge, getting almost the entire neighborhood watch group to pitch in to replace the stolen gifts.

“One, you’re talking about a 9-year-old kid, and two, this is something that I do,” she said. “The past six years, Pellerin has organized a toy drive for kids in the Parkside area. She gets a trailer with a Santa and goes up and down every block, giving gifts, books and candy to children throughout the neighborhood. Last year, she gave out at least 500 gifts, she said. When she heard what happened to Mustepher, it was second nature to try and fix the problem.

“She managed to accumulate these gifts for her son for Christmas, and someone just went in and took them,” Pellerin said. “She’s struggling and trying, and I think that we as people need to help each other. There’s not enough of that around these days.”

For her part, Mustepher was grateful when Pellerin reached out. “I’m finding out there’s a lot of people who care,” Mustepher said. “Coming to this town and seeing people, if they see you trying, they’re going to help.”
On Dec. 14 Lake Wales Police Department employees and volunteers participated in the annual Shop with a Cop program and 52 children from the community and the children's families met at Walmart for a special shopping trip with Lake Wales Police Department members and volunteers.

The children who participated in the Shop with a Cop event were selected by officers partnering with local schools to identify students in need and by officers who through the course of their day to day duties were aware of children in need.

The intent of this event is to build positive relationships between the children who participate and the police. Also, it provided a special time for children who may not have received Christmas presents.

During Shop with a Cop, children were assigned to officers and volunteers who escorted them through Walmart as they shopped for whatever they wanted.

Through generous donations from many sponsors and vendors, Walmart provided each family with two bags of food items, a turkey and a live Christmas tree this year. The Walmart employees also collected donations among themselves and provided gift cards to each family.

This year we also had a student from Bok Academy, MJ Yodonis, who is also the son of one of our officers, organize a 5K to raise money for Shop With A Cop. It began as a school assignment and grew into an event that raised more than $2,500 and began an annual event we hope to continue.

MJ attended Shop With A Cop with his dad last year and was impressed enough to want to do more so when the assignment was presented to him he chose to raise money for this special event.

There are several sponsors who made the $4,770 Shop with a Cop event possible. They are the Lake Wales Police Department, Walmart, Walmart employees, the Lake Wales Police Officer's Association, McGuire KIA, Terry Loyd, Center State Bank, Mid-Florida Credit Union, Lori Kennedy State Farm, Victor Story, Tim Bean, Carlsberg Estates, Full Service Property Management, Century 21 At Your Service Realty, Home for Polk Inc, Up at the Cross, His Way Creation, Frank Yodonis, Michael, Michelle, Mckenzie, & MJ Yodonis, and many anonymous cash donations.

To Lake Wales Police Chief Troy Schulze, the Shop with a Cop event is a memorable event each year he sees it. "Witnessing a Shop With a Cop event will likely restore the dreams and hopes of Christmas to anyone who has lost them. The parking lot is filled with marked and unmarked police vehicles. Dozens of uniformed officers, detectives, and other police department members are assigned to families and the shopping begins, " he said.

As the children are escorted through the store some know exactly what they want and their shopping experience is brief while others look around carefully to see what catches their eye, the chief related.

He said, "After witnessing children's dreams become reality, hope restored, families being together, relationships developed, partnerships improved, and the generosity of our community revealed we would say yes. Merry Christmas."

Lake Wales News

52 kids shopped with cops

Frostproof turns 100 in 2018

By CHARLES A. BAKER III
cbaker@primplusrealestate.com

FROSTPROOF — The city of Frostproof turns 100 in 2018, and as the saying goes, with age comes wisdom.

Frostproof City Council members unanimously voted to close all of their savings accounts Dec. 18 in favor of investing in the future. "We gave city staff permission to move all of our money in savings and put it in short term investment," said Mayor Rodney Cannon. "The $2 million will give us significantly greater return than savings."

Fiscal responsibility has been a centerpiece of the council of late. Over the past year or so, the city sewer debt has been paid down, the budget was cut by 1 million per year and there is currently a budget surplus, City Councilman Austin Gravely said recently.

The money that was invested will be almost as liquid as having money in savings. Cannon said there is only a 12-hour delay to getting access to the money should city council members need it for emergencies or other expenses and the investment was labeled as low risk. Cannon said the city currently has around $600,000 in the city checking account.

Frostproof recreation Details have yet to be made public but rumor has it that the city may be growing soon and Cannon may be using that possibility of fresh tax income to justify talk of building a new recreation center in town.

Representing Frostproof Dagsvo Youth Football, resident Susan Henson sought permission from city council to continue waiving fees for the pee wee football teams to practice at Henderson Field. After hearing Henson speak, city council members appeared to empathize with the football league and tabled any action until City Manager Lee Evitt can present something in writing to vote on.

Cannon said in addition to supporting the youth football teams, he was hearing from representatives of other sports requesting support and that it’s about time that some money be dedicated towards a live Christmas tree.

"After witnessing children's dreams become reality, hope restored, families being together, relationships developed, partnerships improved, and the generosity of our community revealed we would say yes. Merry Christmas.

This child was particularly excited with an early Christmas at Shop with a Cop with the Lake Wales Police last week.

By CHARLES A. BAKER III
cbaker@primplusrealestate.com

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Nominations are being accepted for the 2018 inductees to Polk County Public Schools’ Hall of Fame.

Nominees should be individuals who attended a Polk County public school and made significant professional contributions in the arts, business, clergy, education, entertainment, government, law, military, media, medicine, science, sports or other fields. The nomination deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 30.

New members being inducted into the Hall of Fame will be announced in April. The 2018 inductees will be honored on May 24, along with valedictorians and salutatorians from each high school’s 2018 graduating class.

To make a nomination, or view previous Hall of Fame members, please visit www.polk-fl.net and enter the keyword “Hall.” The Hall of Fame began in 1985 as a way to recognize former students who have distinguished themselves in their careers or communities. It currently has 129 members.

Inductees for 2017 were Joe Nathan Halman Jr., deputy county manager for Public Safety for the Board of County Commissioners; Col. William D. McGarrity, chief of staff of the Washington, D.C., and Donald H. Wilson Jr., a fifth-generation Polk County resident who has practiced law for more than 35 years as a partner with Boswell & Dunlap, LLP.

Other members include business entrepreneurs, judges, artists, entertainers, athletes, military leaders, scientists, inventors, Florida governors and more.

People can help the teachers help the students

The Polk Education Foundation is always in need of new and gently used items for their Free Teachers Market. The Free Teacher Market is a place where teachers can come and shop without spending a dime. They can pick up books, school supplies, incentives, gently used organizational items, teacher resources, and more.

Items such as backpacks, arts/crafts supplies, school supplies and office supplies, organizers, tubs, bins, incentives are also needed. Many STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) teachers are looking for small containers, microscopes, slides, scales, etc. to use in student investigations. If you prefer to invest financially, donations can be made at www.polkeducationfoundation.org be sure to designate for the Free Teacher Market. For information about the Teacher’s Market go to http://www.polk-fl.net/districtinfo/departments/officeofthesuperintendent/ptemarket.htm

Fundraising campaign gives gift of education

What if you could give the gift of a high school diploma this holiday season? Polk County Public Schools operates two adult education schools where students strive toward a brighter future. Students can learn English via our ESL, English for Speakers of Other Language programs, take citizenship classes, or enroll in ABE (Adult Basic Education) courses that lead to GED (General Education Diploma) courses. A GED is the equivalent of a high school diploma. The GED test is $32 per test (Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science), for a total of $128.

This can be a hefty price for students struggling to make a living while also attending school. Those interested in sponsoring a student or making a donation to either the West Area Adult or East Area Adult schools can contact them for more information.

For more information, please contact Tami at 863-293-3660 or rentnow@myfountainplacehome.com.
Townsend suggests starting something new

By JEFF ROSLOW
roslow@scmagazine.com

BARTOW – Still excited about teacher’s union and the district finalizing its contract, School Board Member Billy Townsend suggested the board start something new: get with area legislators and talk to them before the session starts.

Despite the session starting earlier this year than most, which is in January, it may not be possible this year, but he asked at the Dec. 11 School Board meeting how other people felt about the idea.

“I suggest we have one of those things because the impasse hearing itself made an impression on me… all of us in one room for six or seven hours, and what we got out of it was pretty good,” he said. “I’d like to do this before the session starts. I know it starts early this year,”

but, he said, in the aftermath of the impasse, he said it would be an advantage for the board to know what is possible, and what isn’t from the state.

School Board Chairman Lynn Wilson wanted to know if there had to be a format for that. Attorney Wes Bridges said it could be done, and probably the superintendent should be involved especially if the president of the teacher’s union is involved. That is because the bargaining team is under the superintendent.

“I think absolutely we can do that,” Bridges said. “It could be like a work session where we can go over the ins and outs of Chapter 407 of the Florida statutes of what the legislative body is. There may be things we haven’t done before because we haven’t been aware of it. It would be a fair game to talk about the process.”

Townsend wanted to know if it could be held at the Jim Miles Center on U.S. 98, a bigger venue to allow more of the public to attend. Bridges said it could be held anywhere as long as it is properly advertised.

The suggestion was welcomed by other board members.

“I am always open to inviting legislators, though sometimes getting them to come is a task,” said Board Member Hazel Sellers. “I would love for the legislators to visit our schools.”

“We should do this,” Board Member Lori Cunningham said. “Anytime we can be more transparent, we should. Learning what the ground rules are is important.”

She added it may not be necessary to move the meeting to the Jim Miles center as the auditorium in Bartow at the administration may have enough room. Townsend he would have no problem holding it anywhere, but he wanted to hear what Marianne Capozziello, president of the Polk Education Association, thought.

She said at the work session on Dec. 11 that teachers were supposed to vote that day on the contract, and there are some who are angry. Some of it may be a lack of understanding between what the school district can do as it is tied to what the legislators allow it to do, she said.

“Meeting with the legislators to talk about the rules they are putting in place is not a bad idea to me. I know we don’t have all the parameters. It’s not bargaining and we have to be careful in how we set up the meeting,” she said.

Wilson said once the process of voting on the teacher’s contract and approval is final, the board should move ahead with Townsend’s plan and harbor in the union with it.

“I think we should take a deep dive on the structure imposed and we can benefit by having the legislators here to own their own work. It would be a great tradition to start before they go to Tallahassee to have their session.”

Need that hard-to-find item? Find it in the Classifieds.
Panthers face hazards on expanded range

By PHIL ATTINGER
Staff Writer

SEBRING — Just three months after state officials learned of a mother panther and kittens in Highlands County, a panther died on a local roadway.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reports a call came into the Highlands County Central Dispatch of a vehicle-versus-animal incident.

“Drive near Lorida. It had been hit by a car. The death outlined a stark reality about the animals each of us share our environment with,” said Dr. Jennifer Korn, former Florida panther specialist for the FWC and now a Wildlife Biologist with Johnson Engineering Inc. “That is what they did at one location on State Road 80, and panthers use this bridge often.”

Korn gave an interview to Archbold Biological Station staff about her partnership with that site and others to study panther populations and their movements. She said even those with mixed and opposing feelings about panthers will need to work together on conservation.

“Even if you are not a panther fan, but want to see Florida preserved, you can get behind the panther,” Korn said.

“Panthers are a great way to help Florida, because the land is going to be protected, too,” she said. The kittens found north of the Caloosahatchee river were on a working ranch, and a step toward the FWC goal of three populations in the state with 240 or more animals each.

“Having females north of the Caloosahatchee river is a game changer, but hopefully it is just the starting point,” Korn said.

FWC officials presumed those kittens to be the offspring of the first wild female panther documented north of the river since 1973. Online tallies of panther sightings counted at least 19 kittens throughout this year. Most were on the Big Cypress National Preserve, surrounding Everglades City, 45 miles west of Miami. Five of the kittens were on private ranches and there were in North Belle Glade. However, the FWC also recorded 30 Florida panther deaths: 24 of them from vehicles. In addition to the one vehicle death in Highlands County, 13 died in Collier County, 10 in Hendry County, one each in DeSoto, Lee and Polk counties.

Collier, Glades and Lee counties each had a death from interspecies aggression. There was one dead of an unknown cause in Collier County. Out of 68 recorded incidents of livestock killed by wildlife, FWC reported panthers attacked 103 livestock animals this year. Goats were the most common, with 45 killed, five injured and two missing. Calves came in next with 14 killed and one injured. Panthers also killed eight cats, six turkeys, five each of sheep and pigs, three miniature horses/ponies, three geese, two ducks, two donkeys, and one each of an alpaca and llama, according to FWC records.

Other recorded predators included coyotes, bears and vultures.

Florida panthers were listed as a federally endangered subspecies in 1967, five years before the Endangered Species Act. In 1978, Archbold Biological Station’s first executive director, the late Dr. James Layne, wrote to colleagues that “we believe that the state population (of panthers) must consist of 100-200 individuals.” After a low point in the early 1990s, when biologists estimated less than 30 adults Florida panthers, they have been recovering. Today, the FWC estimates 120-230 wild adults.
Celebrate New Year’s with international cuisine

T

he rapidly expanding multi-cultural food scene in the U.S. is the result of our nation’s population increasing diversity, growth in overseas travel, as well as easy internet access. Additionally, the wellness revolution is inspiring people to consume healthier diets that include more fresh vegetables, seafood, leafy greens, and use flavorful herbs, spices, and sauces in order to cut down on sugar and unhealthy fats.

This trend has led to the proliferation of ethnic restaurants, food specialty stores, interest in international cooking and exploring new and adventurous recipes.

Celebrate our country’s melting pot. “Travel the world” without leaving home and without all the hassles and expense. Prepare an exciting, yet easy, quick, and affordable New Year’s dinner. Ethnic markets, health food stores, and most supermarkets today stock thousands of ingredients from around the globe. So fasten your seat belt and cook up some new adventures. Happy and healthy New Year to you.

SEAFOOD STEW (BUILLABAISSE)

This renowned French dish can be served with a baked potato.

4 servings

1-1/2 pounds fish, or a seafood combination (fish, shrimp and/or scallops) 
1/4 cup olive oil

1 stalk celery, thinly sliced 
1 medium yellow onion, chopped 
3 green onions, thinly sliced 
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped 
1/4 teaspoon dried thyme 
1 large tomato, finely chopped 
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves 
Salt and pepper to taste

1 cup bottled clam juice (in canned fish section or fresh seafood dep.)

1/2 cup water

Gently mix tofu into coconut milk mixture and serve over cooked brown or wild rice.

CURRIED TOFU-COCONUT STEW

This recipe creates a delicious stew on a bed of brown or wild rice.

4 servings

1/4 cup olive oil

1 large yellow onion, finely chopped

2 cloves garlic, finely chopped

1 package cubed Firm tofu or a brick Firm tofu

1-1/2 teaspoons ground ginger

1/2 teaspoon salt

2-1/2 tablespoons curry powder

5 tablespoons whole wheat flour

1 cup water

2-1/2 cups coconut milk

1-1/2 cups roasted unsalted peanuts

1/2 cup shredded unsweetened coconut

In medium saucepan heat oil over medium heat. Add onion, cover, reduce heat to medium-low and cook slowly 8 minutes. Add garlic and cook about 4 more minutes, until onion is translucent. Meanwhile, in a cup, mix vinegar and flour with a fork until smooth. Set aside. To the cabbage add the cinnamon and nutmeg. When cabbage is cooked, add 4 tablespoons liquid from the cabbage to flour mixture in the cup and mix until blended and smooth. Gradually add flour mixture to cabbage, stirring constantly. Reduce remaining flour lumps by pressing them with the back of a spoon against saucepan wall. Cover, and cook slowly 5 minutes until the liquid is thickened, stirring occasionally.
Continuing a long-standing tradition of being good community partners, Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center and Lake Wales Medical Center recently donated $5,000 to the B Street Community Center in Lake Wales to assist them with the aid they provided to the community in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Lake Wales Medical Center CEO Rebecca Brewer presented the check in October. In total, the two sister hospitals donated $35,000 to community agencies in East Polk to assist with hurricane relief.

“After the storm, the hospitals were the only places that had hot food, so we set up and served our community until power began being restored at area restaurants and in neighborhoods. We also had lobbies full of people charging their cell phones and other devices so they could stay in communication with family members,” Brewer said.

Walters added, “Right after the storm, the hospitals were the only places that had hot food, so we set up and served our community until power began being restored at area restaurants and in neighborhoods. We also had lobbies full of people charging their cell phones and other devices so they could stay in communication with family members.”

Continuing a long-standing tradition of being good community partners, Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center and Lake Wales Medical Center recently donated $5,000 to the B Street Community Center in Lake Wales with $5,000 to support the hurricane relief efforts they performed in the wake of Hurricane Irma. From left is Delton Hayes, Janice Snell, Clinton Horne, Lake Wales Medical Center CEO Rebecca Brewer, Roscoe Williams, Narvell Peterson, Jerome Mack and Alice Sanders.

Jessica Caughell displays her PEER award plaque alongside Watson Clinic Chief Administrative Officer Stan Piotrowski.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

PHOTOS PROVIDED

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Patient results may vary. Consult your physician about the benefits and risks of any surgical procedure or treatment. (Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center is owned in part by physicians.)
HEALTH and WELLNESS

Area hospital calendar of events

Bartow Regional Medical Center, Winter Haven Hospital and Winter Haven Women's Hospital offer an array of support groups, screenings and healthy living activities in Polk County each month. These are scheduled in January.

Featured Classes
• Anterior Hip Replacement

Learn all you need to know about anterior hip replacement with Dr. Samuel Messiah. Free parking and refreshments provided.
6 p.m. Jan. 15
Selvita Mosaics
Restaurant
305 Village Drive, Kissimmee
Registration is required
855-314-8352

Weight Management
• Weight Management

Surgery Information
6-7 p.m. Jan. 6
Bartow Regional Medical Center, Classroom 1
2200 Osprey Blvd, Bartow
Registration is required, free.
Call 855-314-8350

Smoking Cessation Programs
• Quit Smoking Now

This class covers creating a quit plan, coping with cravings and physical and emotional symptoms. Free quitting aids are available while supplies last and only if medically appropriate.
5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 and Feb. 7
Winter Haven Hospital Wellness Center Conference Room
Registration is required
877-252-6094

• Smoking Cessation Class

This class provides valuable tools to help you quit using tobacco. It includes four free weeks of patches, gum or lozenges.
Call 877-252-6094.
Registration is required.
5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 18
Bartow Regional Medical Center
Classroom 1 and 2
10 a.m.-noon Jan. 30
Bartow Regional Medical Center
Classroom 1 and 2
Orthopedic Classes

• Total Joint Replacement

Increase your knowledge of total joint replacement, prepare for surgery and get familiar with the recovery process.
1-2 p.m. Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
Bartow Regional Medical Center, Classroom 1
Registration is required.
Call 863-518-1085
12:30-2 p.m. Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25
Winter Haven Hospital, Wellness Center Conference Room
Registration is required, free.
Call 863-288-6000

• Woman-to-Woman Cancer Support Group

Information, support and coping strategies for women living with cancer.
6-7 p.m. Jan. 9 and 23
Winter Haven Hospital, Wellness Center Conference Room

• Stroke Support Group

For stroke survivors, family members and caregivers. Topics are determined by the needs of the group.
12:30-2 p.m. Jan. 12
Winter Haven Hospital
Private Dining Room, Basement Bistro

• Caregivers Support Group

A safe place for sharing caregiving and self-care tips, discussing the challenges of caring for a loved one and finding emotional support.
1:30-2:30 p.m. Jan. 12
Winter Haven Hospital, Wellness Center Conference Room

• Heart-to-Heart Cardiac Support Group

Support group for patients with various cardiac conditions.
Registration is required.
Call 863-288-6000.
Jan. 3-4 p.m.
Winter Haven Hospital, Wellness Center Conference Room

• Weight Management

Surgery Information
6-7 p.m. Jan. 5
Bartow Regional Medical Center, Classroom 1
2200 Osprey Blvd, Bartow
Registration is required, free.
Call 855-314-8352

• Mental Health Peer Recovery Program

Provides education, support and socialization for participants diagnosed with mental health issues, moving them toward recovery.
11 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays
Lions Park Clubhouse
820 Ave. E, SW, Winter Haven
12:30-4:30 p.m.
Winter Haven Hospital, Center for Behavioral Health
1201 First St. S, Winter Haven

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date, Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Registration Info</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anterior Hip Replacement</td>
<td>Learn all you want to know about anterior hip replacement. Free refreshments and free parking. Registration is required: (855) 314-8352</td>
<td>Monday, January 15, 6pm</td>
<td>Winter Haven Women's Hospital</td>
<td>(No cost to attend)</td>
<td>To register for a class or for a physician referral: (855) 314-8352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking Cessation</td>
<td>Quit Smoking Now (5-Session) Covers creating a quit plan, coping with cravings, and physical and emotional symptoms. Free quitting aids available while supplies last and only if medically appropriate. Registration is required: (877) 252-6994</td>
<td>Wednesday, January 10, 17, 24, 31, and February 7 5:30–6:30pm</td>
<td>Bartow Regional Medical Center</td>
<td>(No cost to attend)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breastfeeding Class</td>
<td>Covers breastfeeding basics, skin-to-skin contact, tips for returning to work and when to call a health care provider/lactation consultant.</td>
<td>Saturday, January 13, 9:30am–12pm</td>
<td>Winter Haven Women's Hospital</td>
<td>$10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newborn Care</td>
<td>Covers various aspects of safe infant care including feeding, diapering, bathing and signs of illness, as well as cues and communication.</td>
<td>Thursday, January 18, 6–9pm</td>
<td>Winter Haven Women's Hospital</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<td>Total Joint Replacement</td>
<td>Increase your knowledge of total joint replacement, prepare for surgery and get familiar with the recovery process.</td>
<td>Tuesdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 1–2pm</td>
<td>Bartow Regional Medical Center Classroom 1</td>
<td>(No cost to attend)</td>
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<td>Cancer Support</td>
<td>Look Good Feel Better This free program from the American Cancer Society is designed for women dealing with hair loss and skin changes from chemotherapy and radiation. Registration is required: (800) 227-2345</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 9, 10am–12pm</td>
<td>Winter Haven Women's Hospital Education Classroom F</td>
<td>(No cost to attend)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ovarian Cancer Support Group</td>
<td>A group for individuals with ovarian cancer to share emotions and experiences with other patients. Registration is not required.</td>
<td>Monday, January 9 and 23, 6–7pm</td>
<td>Winter Haven Women's Hospital Wellness Center Conference Room</td>
<td>(No cost to attend)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Man-to-Man Cancer Support Group</td>
<td>Offering information for men who have cancer or have survived it. Registration is not required.</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 16, 1:30–2:30pm</td>
<td>Winter Haven Women's Hospital Quality Improvement Conference Room</td>
<td>(No cost to attend)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weight Management</td>
<td>Take the first step to weight management and attend an information session. Registration is required: (855) 314-8350</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 9, 6–7pm</td>
<td>Bartow Regional Medical Center Classroom 1</td>
<td>(No cost to attend)</td>
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Nosey’s owners charged with cruelty to animals

By PHIL ATTINGER

STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — Most couples go to Walmart for a few things, but in Highlands County Sheriff’s Office reports one couple went home with felony shoplifting charges: 23 and even clothes, to clothes, and even

$129,000

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On Oct. 9 in Avon Park Walmart a little after 1:30 a.m. and allegedly stole two TVs, two soundbars and a computer chair. Security camera footage recorded Obando and Hernandez putting the items into a shopping cart. Then, Hernandez made two trips out to a car with them, according to Sheriff’s Office reports.

Obando had two TVs loaded into his cart and also appeared to be heading out of the store, a report said, but abandoned the cart when he saw employees standing by the exit. After talking to Hernandez on the phone, he exited the store empty-handed and she picked him up, reports said.

On Oct. 15, a Walmart employee found one of the stolen TVs for sale on Facebook. The employee set up a meeting, but when the two suspects arrived, Sheriff’s deputies were waiting for them and arrested them.

According to reports, the couple had the stolen TV in the back seat of their car, and a loaded .45-caliber pistol on the dashboard behind the passenger seat.

Deputies charged Obando with dealing in stolen property, grand theft, carrying a concealed weapon and possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony. Deputies charged Hernandez with grand theft, dealing in stolen property and using a two-way communication device to facilitate a felony.

The sheriff’s office noted all arrests do not result in convictions, and all people are considered innocent until proven guilty in court.

During a search after the arrest, deputies reportedly found two stolen credit cards in Hernandez’s purse: One related to a vehicle burglary in Polk County and another from a car in Highlands County. Arrest reports state Hernandez told deputies, “My boyfriend found those.”

When asked where he found them, she allegedly said, “I don’t know, and I don’t know why they were in my purse.”

Further investigation revealed the gun was also stolen in October along with the credit card from Highlands County, when the car was parked at Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center.

After deputies executed a search warrant at the couple’s shared apartment in Polk County, detectives reportedly found more stolen items, from TVs and video game consoles to clothes, and even the two soundbars stolen from the Avon Park Walmart the day before. Sheriff’s Detective Justin Norris later determined that the other items had been stolen or purchased at the Avon Park and Sebring Walmart stores using the Polk County stolen credit card.

The total value of the stolen items, according to police, is $3,531.37. It included five flat-screen TVs, the soundbars, a computer printer, five PlayStation 4 video game components, several pairs of earphones, a comforter, a sweater, Polariod digital camera and printer, and packs of photo film.

The couple allegedly used the card three times in Polk County and 15 times in Highlands County. Six times at Sebring Walmart and seven times at Avon Park.

On Oct. 9 in Avon Park Walmart, the couple allegedly used the card to purchase three TVs, in separate transactions: A $1,450 bag of candy; a $354 HP laptop computer; $225 in PlayStation 4 video games; a $322 PlayStation 4 controller, attempted as a purchase, declined and then accepted, and $691 for two pairs of Beats wireless head phones, a PlayStation 4 game controller and a Microsoft Office computer software card.

They allegedly made two attempts on other purchases, which were declined at $80 and $80, on that date.

The couple allegedly made a purchase on Oct. 19 in Sebring for $503.93. Police reported the couple tried five other does that day at that store, but the card was declined. The declined items would have increased the amount to $1,260.33. According to reports, the couple also stole an animal exercise pen, which was dropped at $38.65, on that date.

Obando was served with all his extra charges while still in jail earlier this month. However, Hernandez bonded out of jail after the original arrest and had three active arrest warrants, until she was arrested at 10:54 p.m. Monday at her Avon Park home.

Anyone with further information on this story is asked to call Heartland Crime Stoppers at 1-800-226-TIPS or visit heartlandcrimestoppers.com.
Wednesday, December 27, 2017  Page 31

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LAWMAKERS

FROM PAGE 1

The nine Florida Congressional signatories further sought a change in the FEMA Disaster Leash / Multi-Family Lease and Repair program. Under current rules, Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello would have to request FEMA to authorize housing payments in Florida beyond limited hotel stays. Gov. Rossello is not seeking federal assistance to help Puerto Rican families move to the mainland permanently.

The signatories requested FEMA staff create a waiver allowing them to do that in lieu of Gov. Rossello not doing it on behalf of the people he represents.

Because it could cost millions of dollars to help Puerto Rican residents to move to Florida permanently and because the government of Puerto Rico has not requested such help, the newspaper reached out to determine exactly how big the problem is here in Polk County and the state in general.

The FEMA website lists 17 motels in Polk County eligible to receive TSA funding for people displaced by the 2017 hurricanes. Of these representatives, at only three motels said there were evacuees from Puerto Rico as current residents. An individual evacuee was staying in a motel in Haines City and there were 5 families still living in two Lakeland motels, according to motel staff contacted by phone. There was no answer at two of the 17 motels and one manager did not want to disclose any information. Most of the money to stay at county motels appeared to be displaced from hurricane damaged Polk County homes based on the phone calls made.

“IT’s definitely a bigger problem in Oceola, Orange, and Seminole counties, mostly because evacuees have family in these counties and need to stay closer to them in this critical time,” said Communications Director for Congressman Soto Oria Pina, “Also, many may not have access to cars and/or working in the tourist areas around Disney, so need to be in closer proximity.”

Pina emailed a Puerto Rican Evacuees Task Force Situation Report dated Dec. 21 stating 264,307 people from Puerto Rico have arrived in Florida on 1,740 plane trips and one ship since Hurricane Maria. But it’s unknown exactly how many of those stayed in Florida permanently. The report states the top five counties with applicants from Puerto Rico who reported a current mailing address in Florida was just over 5,000 households. This would not account for the 264,307 who have arrived on planes since the families using FEMA money to stay at county motels have been displaced from hurricane damaged Polk County homes.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello, through the Puerto Rican government, is requesting a 60-day extension to the (TSA) program, but unfortunately it is not long enough,” Rep. Soto said Dec. 21. “I encourage Gov. Rosello to request a full not 60-day extension.”

Asking what plans were in reference to using federal money to help Puerto Rican residents to permanently move to Florida, Rep. Soto said, Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Orlando, were helping him introduce legislation to expand subsidized housing in Central Florida.

“The bottom line is we must find real solutions, immediately, to avoid thousands of families being kicked out into the streets in Central Florida,” Rep. Soto said.

On the House floor Dec. 9, Rep. Soto said he has worked to provide in-state tuition for those displaced and worked to speed up Medicare qualifications for those displaced. According to FEMA statistics, the federal government has already spent more than $661 million associated with Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico spread out in more than 355,000 applications.

An attempt to reach Rep. Ross was unsuccessful. The other seven signatories to the letter to FEMA were Kathy Castor, D-Tampa, Carlos Carvalho, R-Miami, Val Demings, D-Orlando, Ted Deutch, D-Fl., Lauderdale, Stephanie Murphy, D-Orlando, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Miami, and Debbie Wasserman Schutt, D-Miami.
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President Trump: 13 Days in July

By TRACY WILKINSON, ALEXANDRA ZHU and SHASHANK BENGALI

WASHINGTON — China has now assumed the mantle of climate change leader, a global arbiter that the United States once led. Russia has taken over Syria from ISIS, even as it pursues the paranoid line of a superpower. And in the wake of Vladimir Putin’s, Kim Jong-un has stepped up his nuclear program.

The Trump White House’s crucible emerged from those 13 days, July 8 through July 21, aiming to usher in a new era. For an administration that has spent 2017 throwing off headlines at a stunningly breakneck pace, the two-week span laid the groundwork for wins and future successes, according to nearly two dozen administration officials who were interviewed for this account.

For the record, though: “That was not a key driver of the chaos,” said a senior administration official who pushed out the door by another aide who was sitting in an INFIGHTING, drowning in bad press and struggling to maintain credibility.

But one year into his presidency, even the officials who have earned Trump’s trust say that the White House is the extreme,” said one.

The speech, for example, “The president can and American administration, whose officials Moscow has recently said that it was necessary. And the only neutral mediator all sides would agree, has found itself isolated after Trump’s speech and laid the groundwork for wins and future successes, according to nearly two dozen administration officials who were interviewed for this account.

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**Thomas fire: Favorable conditions and a rescued mountain lion cub**

By JOSEPH SIERNA
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES—California’s biggest wildfire of the year had grown overnight, officials said Tuesday morning. The Thomas fire burning in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties held steady at 281,210 acres and was 80 percent contained, the U.S. Forest Service said. The blaze, which started on Dec. 4, is the largest in California since official record keeping began in 1852.

The fire has destroyed 775 homes and damaged 208.

Firefighting efforts were aided on Christmas Day by light winds and chilly overnight temperatures, officials said. On Tuesday, fire crews continued to patrol the blaze for hot spots and also worked to douse upstanding tree lines in an effort to stop the fire from moving deeper into the Santa Monica National Forest or near coastal Santa Barbara town. The size of the force fighting the blaze at one point topped 8,000 firefighters but has since dwindled to about 9,000, the Forest Service said. A controlled burn on the north edge of the fire last week cut off a future path for the blaze to spread out of control, officials said.

There was other good news.

On Friday, the city of Santa Paula announced that authorities had rescued a 40- to 60-pound female mountain lion cub that had wandered into town. The animal had been burned paws.

“The cub appears to be an orphan cub and if it would’ve most likely starved and died,” the city said on Facebook. It was taken by rep-
 Jacob Taggart tests his prosthetic hand.  

**[HIGHLIGHT: ARIZONA]**

**Taylor Seoul**

Jacob Taggart likes Star Wars; the costumes, the light sabers, the battle. But unlike most 5-year-olds, he’s lived his life with specific restrictions. He can’t join his friends on the monkey bars. Or count to 10 after he wakes up. He often has to be strung to bed and couldn’t fully participate in activities such as finger painting. Perhaps that’s why Jacob feels such a kinship with Darth Vader and “two little nubs” on the monkey bars. Or count to 10 after he wakes up. He often has to be strung to bed and couldn’t fully participate in activities such as finger painting.

Jacob’s life changed Friday when a non-profit organization gave him a mechanical prosthetic hand. The pre-Christmas present left the 5-year-old speechless, in awe of his new, 100% real — but limited — right hand. With this prosthetic hand, Jacob will be able to play baseball and ride his bike — two activities his grandmother said he was dying to do. He’ll be able to drink water and tie his shoes with his dominant right hand.

Taggart, the organization’s executive director, contacted Jacob’s family after hearing the schoolboy’s story. “We didn’t think it was reality,” he said. “But it happened this soon. We’re just really excited.”

The mechanical device would allow the students to alleviate a pilot shortage, recruit University of North Dakota students to alleviate a pilot shortage, recruit University of North Dakota students to alleviate a pilot shortage.

**STATE-BY-STATE**

**NEW YORK**

Cuomo has selected 23 historic sites for the New York State Department of Cultural Affairs designed to accept charitable contributions placed Dec. 1 by the person crew was transferred to the Thief River Falls, Minn., maintenance shops this year compared to 300 fewer students enrolled in Wyoming’s public schools this year compared to 300 fewer students enrolled in Wyoming’s public schools.

**NEW JERSEY**

Gov. Chris Christie announced plans this week that the state Fish and Game Department is offering a $2,300 million tax break to residents who file returns by Jan. 20. That day, people can file without a license.

**NEW MEXICO**

Albuquerque: The state was one of 10 announced last week by the Interior’s executive director, contacted other states won’t reopen, the city’s Downtown Improvement District’s executive director, contacted other states won’t reopen.

**ILLINOIS**

Bloomfield: The Brookfield Zoo saw another polar bear was transferred last week at age 32 after a decline in health.

**ILLINOIS**

Sandke: City officials re- leased the lease of the Cocktail Cafe to the new owner and the city will receive $2.3 million in revenue to pay off the city’s Downtown Improvement District’s executive director, contacted other states won’t reopen.

**Indiana**

Sandusky Register: The city’s Downtown Improvement District’s executive director, contacted other states won’t reopen.

**Kansas**

Dodge: The county con- sidered allowing a privately financed bike trail through a forested area on the Platte River.

**Kentucky**

Baton Rouge: State offi- cials have unveiled a second mobile unit that will be used in the one used during the 2013 hunts.

**Maryland**

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reports 8,975 tickets issued this year for carbon monoxide exposure after a vehicle was running with the windows rolled down in a garage at a townhouse, KOMO-TV reports.

**Massachusetts**

Boston: The city is expanding its Post-Overdose Resuscitation program to allow health workers and emergency response members to follow up visit to families who survived an overdose on drugs.

**Michigan**

Lansing: A new state law is aimed at encouraging grocery stores to open in underserved urban areas.

**Minnesota**

Rochester: Some businesses in Rochester are using greenhouses and late-season vegetable storage to extend the usual winter farmer’s market through about mid-December.

**Mississippi**

Tupelo: midterm elections won’t reopen, the city’s Downtown Improvement District’s executive director, contacted other states won’t reopen.

**Missouri**

Kansas City: The city’s Downtown Improvement District’s executive director, contacted other states won’t reopen.

**Nebraska**

South Dakota: The city’s Downtown Improvement District’s executive director, contacted other states won’t reopen.

**New Hampshire**

Concord: The city’s Downtown Improvement District’s executive director, contacted other states won’t reopen.

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**Ohio**

Sandusky Register: The operator of a dozen horse racing tracks in Ohio is buying a home medical equipment business, the Sandusky Register reports.

**Oregon**

Portland: Oregonians call for more oversight of Oregon’s health care system next summer.

**Pennsylvania**

Philadelphia: The parents of a 4-month-old girl say the child was affected by a nox maker in its home.

**Rhode Island**

Providence: The city is launching an electric bicycle sharing system.

**South Carolina**

Columbia: Three people are accused of possessing weapons at a home in Columbia and have been arrested.

**South Dakota**

Fargo: The city’s Downtown Improvement District’s executive director, contacted other states won’t reopen.

**Tennessee**

Memphis: A group is holding a fishing derby.

**Texas**

Coral Christi: The Coast Guard confiscated a Mexican fishing vessel after the crew illegally fished off the Texas coast.

**Virginia**

Richmond: The Department of Veteran Services announced a new program for residents who file returns by Jan. 20. That day, people can file without a license.

**Washington**

Seattle: The city’s Downtown Improvement District’s executive director, contacted other states won’t reopen.

**Wisconsin**

Milwaukee: A group is holding a fishing derby.

**Wyoming**

Cheyenne: Enrollment in the state’s public schools has continued to shrink along with the population.

Compiled from staff, wire reports

**Star Wars’ buff sports reporter nabbed by police**

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**[HIGHLIGHT: ARIZONA]**

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Almanac

Today is Wednesday, December 27, the 362nd day of the year. There are two days left in the year.

On this Day

In 1827, Thursday, December 27, in the year of the 1820s, the world would see the birth of a new generation of presidents.

In 1905, Charles L. Hartje died on this day, November 27, the year of the 1900s, at the age of eighty-five. Hartje was a boxing promoter and manager who lived in the United States.

In 1992, the last of the Cold War era tests of the American Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile were conducted.

December 27 is a day of celebration in the Jewish faith. It is the eleventh day of Hanukkah, and according to tradition, Hanukkah lights are made on this day.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management said that as of December 14, federal and state agencies had allocated more than $2.49 billion to Hurricane Irma recovery efforts. Some officials have suggested that putting up a new oil price tag on gasoline may exacerbate consumer anxiety and lead to lower gas demand. The agencies added that it is too early to determine how much of the money that has been allocated will be needed to recover from Irma.

President Donald Trump, who is in his first term, is facing a variety of challenges in the coming months. The administration is working on a tax reform bill, and the president is expected to sign it into law before the end of the year. The administration is also working on a health care bill, but it will be too early to do anything else to reduce the costs of health care. As the annual 40-day long active air pollution season approaches, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to begin enforcing new rules on sulfur dioxide emissions. While the lungs can recover from smoke inhalation, the short-term effects of the smoke on the lungs have been "moderately serious." Smoking rates are expected to remain high during the holiday season, and the EPA is expected to take steps to tighten even before Irma hit. The Florida Division of Emergency Management said that as of December 14, federal and state agencies had allocated more than $2.49 billion to Hurricane Irma recovery efforts. Some officials have suggested that putting up a new oil price tag on gasoline may exacerbate consumer anxiety and lead to lower gas demand. The agencies added that it is too early to determine how much of the money that has been allocated will be needed to recover from Irma.

The Texas Rangers and Los Angeles Dodgers are battling a pro-West allies, including Jared Kushner, a major supporter of the president and Russian officials.

Kushner, ownership of the Texas Rangers, has been accused of passing information to Russia via Israeli intelligence chief Meir Dagan, which shocked a number of Democrats and Republicans.

The Texas Rangers have filed a lawsuit against the United States government, accusing it of violating the Affordable Care Act. The lawsuit claims that the government's failure to provide healthcare coverage to the team's employees has caused financial losses to the team.

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Trump himself worked behind the scenes, making phone calls to key members of Congress and party leaders, including his own, to ensure that his agenda was not derailed.

As Congress returns to GOP orthodoxy on those domestic matters, Trump has signaled his intention to adopt conventional ap- proaches on foreign policy, including decades-long alliances and conditioning authoritarian regimes on human rights

Orlando International Airport topped the list for firearms confiscations with 72 guns found at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood.

John Negron, said that as lawmakers attempt to pass a spending bill, "it's the House that will set the rules." and the Senate will have the last word, but it will be too early to do anything else to reduce the costs of health care. As the annual 40-day long active air pollution season approaches, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to begin enforcing new rules on sulfur dioxide emissions. While the lungs can recover from smoke inhalation, the short-term effects of the smoke on the lungs have been "moderately serious." Smoking rates are expected to remain high during the holiday season, and the EPA is expected to take steps to tighten even before Irma hit. The Florida Division of Emergency Management said that as of December 14, federal and state agencies had allocated more than $2.49 billion to Hurricane Irma recovery efforts. Some officials have suggested that putting up a new oil price tag on gasoline may exacerbate consumer anxiety and lead to lower gas demand. The agencies added that it is too early to determine how much of the money that has been allocated will be needed to recover from Irma.

In terms of foreign policy, President Trump has taken a strong position against Iran. He has accused the country of supporting terrorism and has threatened to impose sanctions on it. He has also suggested that he will look to work with other nations to try to denuclearize the region.

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that is significant on a retail level. Oil prices closed lower amid speculation that a deal struck by OPEC will exceed expectations. Energy companies reported lower earnings amid lower crude prices. It remains to be seen how this will affect consumer behavior and the broader economy.

**What should I expect from gas prices?**

A. Gas prices are still quite low, historically. The average price of regular gasoline was $2.90 a gallon. A typical family might consume 90 gallons of regular gas each month, so their cost in 2017 has been around $270 per month. Over the course of the year, we expect the average price nationwide to rise about 25 cents. That’s still well below the $3.50 a gallon that consumers experienced in 2014. Every year, price trends vary by region and season.

A warning of rising gas prices or reductions in consumer spending could disrupt this pattern. Aggressive marketing and increases in retail prices could dampen enthusiasm for home buying.

**What will the job market look like in 2018?**

A. The job market should continue to improve. This year’s turbulent financial markets have been particularly true if you consider the current strength in the housing market. However, other big changes from the over-

**What to expect in your personal finances in 2018**

A. This is the big year. The job market should improve. Stagnation in wages and rents will likely continue to raise the cost of living. There will also be a shift in job opportunities from 2011 to 2014. 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DEAR DR. ROACH:
I am a 58-year-old male who takes losartan for high blood pressure and Prilosec for GERD. A couple of times a day, I get a tingling on the left side of my neck from roughly my left ear to my chin. Sometimes it occurs when I'm chewing, but sometimes not. It never lasts more than a few minutes. It can be rather intense, but doesn't hurt. Do you have any idea what's going on? I haven't told my doctor just because I don't want to sound like a baby.
— M.P.

ANSWER:
Tingling sensations usually are due to nerve problems, such as compression. There is a nerve that runs from the ear to the chin, called the mandibular nerve; it's also called the V3 division of the trigeminal nerve. ("V" because it's the fifth nerve that comes off the brainstem; "3" because it's the third part of the trigeminal nerve; so it is the third division of the fifth cranial nerve.)

There are several potential problems with the nerve that could produce tingling. Pressure on the nerve from the jaw might be causing it. Some people get tingling before an episode of shingles. Dental problems sometimes can generate a sensation along the whole range of the nerve. Trigeminal neuralgia causes recurrent episodes of intense electrical sensations; some people get other sensations before the pain starts.

Temporal arteritis, a potentially dangerous inflammation of the blood vessel, can cause jaw pain when chewing, however, there are other symptoms that are common, which you may not have.

I guarantee your doctor will not think you are a baby. When I have a patient who seldom sees me for acute issues and comes in with a new problem, I take it more seriously. You should get it evaluated.

DEAR DR. ROACH:
I am 71 and never was hairy. But several years ago, every hair on my body, it seems, decided to go on a nonstop growth spurt! My wife says, when she trims my back, that gorillas would be envious of me.
I asked my doctor about it, and she said: "Don't worry, it's normal in some men at your age." Why the sudden growth, what purpose would it serve, and why in just some men? — J.K.

ANSWER:
Body hair in men generally is responsive to testosterone. Although testosterone levels tend to decrease with age, there are other factors that can affect hair growth. It's possible that your doctor checked that, since an elevation is very rarely caused by a tumor.

I am always cautious about assigning purpose to physiological changes. Many people feel that there is likely some evolutionary advantage to the physiological changes we see, but I don't think that's always the case. Sometimes the reasons are very complex, defying easy explanation. In any case, I have no explanation for why hair cells become more sensitive to testosterone, nor why testosterone levels decrease in men as they get older. Many physiological processes do better with testosterone levels in the range of young men. That's a major reason for supplementing testosterone in older men with symptoms.

Interestingly, scalp hair has a different response to testosterone from body hair: Scalp hair is more likely to fall out with testosterone.

The booklet on thyroid gland problems explains this and other common thyroid illnesses. Readers can obtain a copy by writing:

Dr. Roach
Book No. 401
628 Virginia Dr.
Orlando, FL 32803
Enclose a check or money order for $4.75 U.S./$6 Can. with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu or request an order form of available health newsletters at 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803. Health newsletters may be ordered from www.rbmamall.com.
"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner."


Here is the prayer that brings the peace. Pray it now!

When we acknowledge to God what we are. He immediately shows us what He will do. Jesus said, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

BIBLE

MARDUKAE BY Brad Anderson

"I'm sorry, big guy, we don't sell dog biscuits."

CRYPTOQUIP

© 2011 by King Features Syndicate

WORD SLEUTH • SPOTTED WORDS

RDTHG LTOPSL JH FENOBX YXMTTFR POITPIKM KSIOU OE YTTOPS PSHCAOX VTRSPNSPOTTED OE YPSOTSNOOL JIDAINAVLYSTOPS SPOTSDOPN S

Find the word bank in the duplicate. Using the arrows to draw the word, circle, underline, or highlight the word. The first one who finds the word wins!

Pickles By Brian Crane

WHAT'S WORLDS AHEAD.

I HAVEN'T BEEN TO ASLPEE, SO I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT AT ALL ALFRED, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE I'M NOT A MAN D/d."
Husband's threat of divorce compels wife to lose weight

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 30 years and have two wonderful children, ages 14 and 12. Ten months ago, my husband told me, "I told you I would divorce you if you ever got fat." I was shocked. Yes, I have gained some weight over the years, but at 5 feet 7 inches tall and 150 pounds, I was not exactly obese.

I was frightened by what he said, so I took off 25 pounds. He didn't appear to notice, so I asked him, "Now what do you think?" He said, "You have no muscle tone in your butt, Abby, nothing I do is good enough. I work part time and take care of our kids and that's why I go out of my way to cook and entertain for them. Any appreciation? None! Pass on the bread! Abby, what should I do? -- BIGGEST LOSER IN NEW YORK"

DEAR LOSER: Before you answer your husband, I should point out that the way some always maintain control is by withholding approval, love, money, etc. According to the National Institutes of Health, a man who is 5 feet 3 inches tall should weigh between 114 and 144 pounds to be considered a normal weight. For your husband to threaten you with divorce if you didn't lose weight was brutal. Nothing you do is good enough because keeping you insecure and always trying to gain his approval is how he maintains the upper hand in your marriage. Losing weight is not easy. You should have been praised for your success.

Since you asked what to do, I'll tell you. Take him at his word. Your husband may have said your muscle tone is flabby, but from where I sit, what's sagging is your self-esteem. Go to the gym. Get into a training program. Improve that muscle tone, and along with it your image of yourself. Then, once you have achieved your goal and feel better about yourself, decide whether you want to remain married to a man who has such poor "muscle tone" between the ears.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 63-year-old widow. I have not been with a man since my husband died 10 years ago. I am now dating a 31-year-old man. I am deeply in love with him. He says he's in love with me, too, but his family says he doesn't know what love is. He was previously in a four-year relationship with an ex-lover of his own age.

Am I crazy for dating a man who is 31? He's everything I ever wanted, and what I would call a possible husband for me. He claims his only problem with dating me is that I probably pass away in 20 years, and that he's old and devastated. My concern is I feel I am preventing him from future children and a possible wife his own age.

Abby, what should I do? -- LOVER PENSYLVANIA

DEAR HELLO: There are two possibilities. He might be telling you the truth, but if he hasn't been less than a year, you would be wise to question his reason. If it was less than a year, it wouldn't be right of him to say he would be in your interest to slow things down. It would be in your interest to separate your relationship and consider the perfect man for you, no matter what you would want, and what I would want, and what your husband would want, and what you would want to have on a date.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 37-year-old single woman. I have two wonderful nieces, ages 14 and 12. I am now dating a 31-year-old man. I am deeply in love with him. He says he's in love with me, too, but his family says he doesn't know what love is. He was previously in a four-year relationship with an ex-lover of his own age.

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NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (Reuters) - The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) had a rough start to the day on Wednesday, as the Dow Jones industrial average dropped more than 300 points. The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq composite index also posted losses.

The Standard & Poor's 500, considered the broadest measure of the U.S. stock market, fell 3.1% to close at 2366.47. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 326.93 points, or 1.3%, to 24839.42.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 2.6%, to 6510.57.

Trade wars and rising interest rates are among the factors investors are watching for in the coming year. The Federal Reserve is expected to hike interest rates four times in 2018, which could slow economic growth and push up borrowing costs for businesses and consumers.

Another concern is the potential for a government shutdown, as Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, a Republican, said he would try to bring a spending bill to a vote this week. The bill would fund the government until Feb. 8, but it does not include money for construction of a border wall.

Some economists are predicting a recession in 2019, as the effects of the Trump administration's tax cuts and spending increases begin to fade.

The U.S. economy grew at a 3.3% annual rate in the third quarter, but some economists say the pace of growth is likely to slow in the fourth quarter.

Investors are also watching for the results of the midterm elections in November, which could determine whether the Republican Party retains control of Congress.

The dollar weakened against most major currencies on Wednesday, with the euro rising 0.5% to $1.1976 and the British pound gaining 0.4% to $1.3259.

Oil prices fell, with West Texas Intermediate crude futures declining 1.2% to $58.80 per barrel. Gold prices rose 0.4% to $1291.50 per ounce.

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**KenKen®**

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

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**Jumble®**

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYKIV

VICNN

GIDION

NIWORN

Yesterday's Jumbles: PERIC, GRIAM, KRESE

Answer: The New National Book Club had its first meeting.

---

**BORN LOSER**

This strip is created by Art and Chip Sansom.

**BLONDIE**

This strip is created by Dean Young and John Marshall.

**BABY BLUES**

This strip is created by Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott.

**MUTTS**

This strip is created by Patrick McDonnell.

**DOONSBURY**

This strip is created by Garry Trudeau.

**FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE**

This strip is created by Lynn Johnston.

---

**7 LITTLE WORDS**

Find the 7 words that match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

**CLUES**

1. like turbid waters (5)
2. like sitcom laughter, maybe (6)
3. Nobel-winning novelist Toni (8)
4. groups of roses, often (6)
5. pre-arrange (6)
6. made afacsimile (7)
7. don’t get behind this ball (5)

**SOLUTIONS**

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Tuesday's Answers: 1. PROOF 2. LURE 3. TREASURER 4. BRIEF 5. BACKPACK 6. LIFTED 7. SPOTTED

---

**DOOBES**

This strip is created by Doobes.

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**TODAY’S PUZZLES**

Visit us at www.yoursun.com/puzzles

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**E-mail: puzzlets@tritonpub.com**
In this Nov. 21, 2017 photo, oysters grow on larger shells at the Nature Conservancy’s pier in New York. The conservancy is using oyster reefs as a manmade structure that helps blunt the force of incoming waves. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

Horse Campaign sued, otherwise the BLM seeking the dismissal of the petition to sterilize a herd of wild horses in the home’s apartments. “The nasal print is fulfilling itself with some decently bad horses as predators. The facility has allowed an environmental group to place a ban on the horse owners after a quart of milk was found in the parking lot. A U.S. Horse Campaign sued, otherwise the BLM seeking the dismissal of the petition to sterilize a herd of wild horses in the home’s apartments.

But there’s no evidence yet to prove that the water, the oyster water quality is not being damaged by incoming waves. They have not been sterilized, said Blue Ridge Writers Academy, an environmental group that has been working to prevent the bed from being destroyed. A horseriding structure that is made from seawalls and wooded vegetation will accelerate erosion of the sand and diminish mosaics. In this Nov. 21, 2017 photo, oysters grow on larger shells at the Nature Conservancy’s pier in New York. The conservancy is using oyster reefs as a manmade structure that helps blunt the force of incoming waves. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

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NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the fictitious name, to wit: MICHELLE BALSING-HACKER, is used in a business which is engaged in business. We expect to engage in business at 5035 South Lakeland Drive, Lakeland, Polk County, Florida, that the particular registration in said business enterprise is: VENUE SALON, LLC, a Florida limited liability company.

If you have a claim against said firm, or any of the persons listed in this notice, you must file your claim in the manner described herein.

AUBURNDALE, FL 33823

BY: /s/ Natalie Rhoton
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: /s/ Natalie Rhoton
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

12350572

FICTITIOUS NAME LAW

IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE TENDER JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN THE COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case Number: 2017-CA-003778-CL

Defendants.

Stacy M. Butfield, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT By:

Deputy Clerk

December 20, 2017, January 3, 2018

Case Number: 2017-CA-003778-CL

No. 17CP-2823

Notice is hereby given that the following named personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this Court are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the Clerk of this Court either before service of this Notice or within three months after service of this Notice.

By: /s/ Natalie Rhoton
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: /s/ Natalie Rhoton
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: /s/ Natalie Rhoton
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

12350575

Deputy Clerk

December 27, 2017

Case Number: 2017-CA-003778-CL

Notice is hereby given that the following named personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this Court are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the Clerk of this Court either before service of this Notice or within three months after service of this Notice.

12350572

Deputy Clerk

December 27, 2017

Case Number: 2017-CA-003778-CL

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December 27, 2017

Case Number: 2017-CA-003778-CL

Notice is hereby given that the following named personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this Court are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the Clerk of this Court either before service of this Notice or within three months after service of this Notice.

12350575

Deputy Clerk

December 27, 2017

Case Number: 2017-CA-003778-CL

Notice is hereby given that the following named personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this Court are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the Clerk of this Court either before service of this Notice or within three months after service of this Notice.

12350572

Deputy Clerk

December 27, 2017

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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to roses. Each number corresponds to a different letter.

(A hint: 7 = a)

A. 14 3 15 15 17
   Clue: To sprout

B. 16 8 7 19 8 7 24 21
   Clue: Full of scent

C. 2 25 21 7 3
   Clue: Part of flower

D. 21 6 15 8 24 22
   Clue: Sharp points

Answer: A. Bloom B. Fragrant C. Petal D. Thorns

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in the word to spell something pertaining to roses.

G T F A R

Answer: GRAFT

GUESS WHO?

Born on June 25, 1963, I am a British singer who had a few hits with my band in the 1980s. But I attained more success as a solo artist with songs, like “Faith” and “One More Try.”

Answer: George Michael

ROSE GARDEN WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

ANTIQUE  HYBRID
ARBORETUM  LANDSCAPE
BALLOW  MILDEW
BARE ROOT  MITES
BLACK SPOT  MULCH
BUD  PATIO
CALYX  PERPETUAL
CANES  PISTIL
CLIMBING  POLLEN
CONSERVATORY  POLYANTHA
CULTIVAR  PROPAGATION
DEADHEAD  ROSE
DOUBLE  RUST
ENGLISH  SPECIES
EXHIBITION  STAMEN
FLORIBUNDA  STIGMA
FUNGICIDE  TEA
HIPS  WILD
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN ESTATE OF: RALPH B. STROUSE, JR., Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of Terry Johnson A/K/A Terry Johnson, filed number 2016-CP-002630, which is Polk County Courthouse, P.O. Box 2009, Lakeland, Florida 33801; that the decedent's date of death was August 15, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Polk County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Polk County Courthouse, P.O. Box 2009, Lakeland, Florida 33801; that the decedent's date of death was September 18, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Polk County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Polk County Courthouse, P.O. Box 2009, Lakeland, Florida 33801.

The administration of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate must file their claims with this Court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent other than those for whom payment has been made or for whom service of copy of this notice is made must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is December 27, 2017.

Person Giving Notice:

Barbara M. StroUSER
P.O. Box 2009
Lakeland, Florida 33801

 deviations of the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

Any person claiming a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent other than those for whom payment has been made or for whom service of copy of this notice is made must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

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CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to grilling. Each number corresponds to a different letter.
(Hint: 2 = e)

A. 6 1 12 6 2 24 10 2
   Clue: Cooking method

B. 3 20 13 13 25 2
   Clue: Make a hissing sound

C. 24 4 1 25 3
   Clue: Used to barbecue

D. 8 2 1 25
   Clue: Food

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to grilling.

A S E C U

Answer: Sauce

GUESS WHO?
I was born on July 5, 1950 in New York. My band was a big hit during the 1980s and one of my albums contributed multiple tracks to the “Back to the Future” soundtrack.

Answer: Huey Lewis
NOTICED TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Estate ofFRANCES RONDELLO GIBINO,
also known as EDITH SMITH DEBARRY,

File No. 2017-CP-2808

NOTICED TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Frances Rondello Gibino, also known as Edith Smith Debarry, deceased, whose date of death was April 21, 2017, and whose (last 4 digits) Social Security No. is 0590, is pending in the Circuit Court for Polk County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Polk County Court House, Post Office Box 9000, Bartow, Florida 33830. The names and addresses of the personal representative and attorney for the personal representative are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate on which a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 736.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE OR BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is December 27, 2017. The date of the last publication of this notice is January 03, 2018.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Estate of MARSHALL ROBIN LEBETTER,

File No. 2017-CP-2977

NOTICED TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Marshall Robin Lebetter, deceased, whose date of death was September 15th, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Polk County, Florida, Probate Division, the Courthouse, Polk County Court House, P.O. Box 9000, Bartow, Florida 33830. The names and addresses of the personal representative and attorney for the personal representative are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 736.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE OR BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is December 27, 2017. The date of the last publication of this notice is January 03, 2018.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Estate ofDANIELLE GIBBINS,

File No. 2017-CP-2996

NOTICED TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Danielle Gibbins, deceased, whose date of death was November 21, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Polk County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Polk County Court House, Post Office Box 9000, Bartow, Florida 33830. The names and addresses of the personal representative and attorney for the personal representative are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 736.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE OR BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is December 27, 2017. The date of the last publication of this notice is January 03, 2018.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Estate ofRUTH EDWINA THORNBURG,

File No. 2017-CP-2906

NOTICED TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Ruth Edwina Thornburg, a/k/a RUTH EDWINA THORNBURG, deceased, whose date of death is November 21, 2017, and whose (last 4 digits) Social Security No. is 0590, is pending in the Circuit Court for Polk County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Polk County Court House, Post Office Box 9000, Bartow, Florida 33830. The names and addresses of the personal representative and attorney for the personal representative are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 736.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE OR BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is December 27, 2017. The date of the last publication of this notice is January 03, 2018.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Estate ofLAURANE CICCARELLI,

File No. 2017-CP-2844

NOTICED TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Laurane Ciccarelli, deceased, whose date of death is December 14, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Polk County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Polk County Court House, Post Office Box 9000, Bartow, Florida 33830. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 736.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE OR BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is December 27, 2017. The date of the last publication of this notice is January 03, 2018.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Estate ofDENISE CHAMBERS,

File No. 2017-CP-2905

NOTICED TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Denise Chambers, deceased, whose date of death is January 03, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Polk County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Polk County Court House, Post Office Box 9000, Bartow, Florida 33830. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 736.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE OR BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is December 20, 2017. The date of the last publication of this notice is January 03, 2018.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Estate ofJAMES M. WEAVER,

File No. 2017-CP-2846

NOTICED TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of James M. Weaver, deceased, whose date of death is January 03, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Polk County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Polk County Court House, Post Office Box 9000, Bartow, Florida 33830. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 736.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE OR BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is December 27, 2017. The date of the last publication of this notice is January 03, 2018.
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

In the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Polk County, Florida

CASE NO.: 2017CA000427200000
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
SALE

On behalf of Midflorida Credit Union, any and all unknown parties claiming by, through, under, and for Polk County, Florida, Plaintiff, and Linda Deering, Defendants.

Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Polk County, Florida, Plaintiff, and Stacy M. Butterfield, Defendants.

Case No.: 2017CA002672000000
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
SALE

The property owner as of December 27, 2017, and entered in Case No.: 2017CA002672000000 of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Polk County, Florida, pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 6, 2017, and entered in Case No. 17-45256, against the following described property as set forth in said Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure (in REM), to wit: the surplus from the sale is any, any other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in writing within 60 days after the sale. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4988, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance is later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to receive any funds remaining after the sale, you will not be entitled to receive any funds remaining after the sale. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4988, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance is later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to receive any funds remaining after the sale. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4988, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance is later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to receive any funds remaining after the sale.


Matthew Klein, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 65381
Popkin & Rosaler, P.A.
400 N Ashley Drive, Suite 1200
Tampa, Florida 33602
Facsimile: (954) 420-5187
Telephone: (954) 360-9030

Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
Florida Bar No.: 294849
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The Polk County Democrat - The Venice Gondolier Sun
Wednesday, December 27, 2017

Page 6
NOTICE OF SALE

Case No. 2017-CA-000192
RENOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CASE NO. 2017-CA-000192
Case Date: 2017-08-07

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in pursuance of the order determining that the property is abandoned, pursuant to Chapter 702, Florida Statutes, the property situated in Polk County, Florida, parcel No. 32-10-16, more particularly described as:

The unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, or assignees, or any of them, or any of them, the heir of any of them, or the assignee of any of them, or any other person, being unknown and hereby described, and in the interest of the public to be sold to the highest and best bidder for cash subject to any and all claims, and the property is offered for sale at public sale, to the highest and best bidder for cash, on Monday, February 6, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., on the 16th floor of the Polk County Courthouse, in the City of Lakeland, Florida, by MARIANELA FONSECA, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Court for the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Polk County, Florida, pursuant to Order Granting a Motion to Lift有个前科的

In the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Polk County, Florida, in Case No. 2017-CA-000192, the Office of Stacy M. Butler, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Court for the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Polk County, Florida, is directed to sell at public sale, to the highest and best bidder for cash, the property situated in Polk County, Florida, parcel No. 32-10-16, more particularly described as:

The unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, or assignees, or any of them, or any of them, the heir of any of them, or the assignee of any of them, or any other person, being unknown and hereby described, and in the interest of the public to be sold to the highest and best bidder for cash, on Monday, February 6, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., on the 16th floor of the Polk County Courthouse, in the City of Lakeland, Florida, by MARIANELA FONSECA, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Court for the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Polk County, Florida, pursuant to Order Granting a Motion to Lift

Great Deals in the Classifieds!

Wednesday, December 27, 2017
The Polk County Democrat
The Venice Gondolier Sun
Page 7

NOTICE OF SALE

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Great Deals in the Classifieds!

Wednesday, December 27, 2017
The Polk County Democrat
The Venice Gondolier Sun
Page 7

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

Case No.: 2017-CA-000495
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pur- suant to the order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 27, 2017, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-000495, in the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Polk County, Florida

If you are a person with a disability who needs assistance to participate in this proceeding, you may be entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4686, at least seven days before the scheduled appearance before the Court Administrator, for the provision of certain assistance. If you are an individual who needs assistance to participate in this proceeding, you may be entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4686, at least seven days before the scheduled appearance before the Court Administrator, for the provision of certain assistance

Great Deals in the Classifieds!

Wednesday, December 27, 2017
The Polk County Democrat
The Venice Gondolier Sun
Page 7

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Wednesday, December 27, 2017
The Polk County Democrat
The Venice Gondolier Sun
Page 7
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### How to read the stock tables

**1 - Name of stock:**
- New issues are indicated by an asterisk (*).
- Extra dividend(s) are indicated by a superscript "e." (e.g., 2.50e)
- Extra dividend(s) are indicated by a superscript "f." (e.g., 2.50f)
- Extra dividend(s) are indicated by a superscript "q." (e.g., 2.50q)

**2 - Symbol:**

**3 - Div:**
- Dividends declared or paid in last 12 months plus stock dividend.
- Dividends declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears.
- Dividends declared or paid in last 12 months.
- Dividends declared or paid in last 12 months plus stock dividend.
- Declared or paid in last 12 months plus stock dividend; interest or bond, or another reason.

**4 - Yield:**
- The annual dividend divided by the price per share. It helps gauge how well the stock is paying, compared to other investments in the same sector. It is a useful tool for investors who are seeking high-income stocks.

**5 - PE:**
- Price-Earnings ratio (PE). The price-to-earnings ratio is a valuation metric used to assess whether a stock is overpriced or underpriced. It is calculated by dividing the stock price by the earnings per share.

**6 - High:**
- The highest price at which the stock has traded during the recent trading period.

**7 - Low:**
- The lowest price at which the stock has traded during the recent trading period.

**8 - 1000s:**
- The number of shares traded in thousands.

**9 - Last:**
- The last price at which the stock traded.

**10 - %Chg:**
- The percentage change in the stock price from the previous trading day.

### NYSE Recap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Div</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>PE</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>1000s</th>
<th>Last</th>
<th>%Chg</th>
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**NYSE MASS**

- **Dividend from a liquidating company; interest or bond, or another reason.**
- **Declared or paid in last 12 months plus stock dividend; interest or bond, or another reason.**
- **Declared or paid in last 12 months plus stock dividend, interest or bond, or another reason.**
- **Declared or paid in last 12 months plus stock dividend, interest or bond, or another reason.**

**Note:**
- The NYSE is the most important stock exchange in the United States and is home to many of the largest and most well-known companies. The NYSE is known for its strict rules and high standards, which help to protect investors and ensure the integrity of the market. The NYSE is typically referred to as the "Big Board."
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#### Notes on the Mutual Fund Tables

- **Rank:** The annual percent change in NAV from previous day.
- **Name:** The name of the fund.
- **Object:** The objective of the fund.
- **NAV:** The net asset value of the fund.
- **Rtn:** The annual percent change in NAV.
- **Rtn/Rk:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group.
- **GI:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **EB:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **ES:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **LA:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **CL:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **CH:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **CV:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **RI:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **MB:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **SH:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **SN:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **SP:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **RI:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **BL:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **BA:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **SA:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **TA:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **FS:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **MC:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **ML:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **MT:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **BB:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **WA:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **TB:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **FP:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
- **MB:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
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- **MB:** The annual percent change in NAV compared with other funds in the same objective group, adjusted for sales load.
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