



THE Herald-Advocate

HARDEE COUNTY'S HOMETOWN COVERAGE

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Thursday, December 14, 2017



PHOTO BY TOM STAIK

Seth Fawley with the Wauchula Public Works Department prepares to install a control valve Tuesday afternoon on a water main near the intersection of Hanchey and Stenstrom roads near Hardee Senior High School.

Valve Shuts Off Wildcat Games Temporary Boil-Water Order Ends Today

By TOM STAIK

Of The Herald-Advocate

Replacement of a faulty underground water valve prompted the cancellation of evening activities at Hardee Senior High School on Tuesday.

According to Athletic Director Travis Tubbs, both the boys junior varsity and varsity basketball matches against the Lake Wales Highlanders were canceled. A new date has yet to be announced for the Class 6A District 10 match-up between the Wildcats and Highlanders. City of Wauchula utility

crews began the valve installation at the intersection of Hanchey Road and Stenstrom Road following the final school bell, according to Assistant City Manager Olivia Minshew.

"The water will be off about an hour for the work," Minshew said Tuesday morning.

A precautionary boil-water notice for the school and surrounding property was issued by the city that ends today (Thursday) at noon.

The Hardee County School District was taking added precautions to protect equipment

at the school. "My guys are going to go out and turn off the a/c unit and the ice machines," said Rob Krahl, facilities director for the district.

Air conditioning units at the school are dependent on water to operate, Krahl explained.

Shutting off the water flow to the ice machines, Krahl added, will ensure the school has usable ice made from water from before the boil-water notice when it reopens on Wednesday.

"We should be good to go tomorrow (Wednesday)," Krahl

added. The girls and boys varsity soccer matches against Poinciana at Wildcat Stadium on Tuesday were not impacted.

Wauchula Public Works Director Andy Maddox said the valve installation will give the city better control in isolating specific sections of its water system.

Work is expected to continue in the area once the high school breaks for the holidays. "We are going to try to schedule the rest of the work for when the kids are out on break," Maddox said.

All You Want For Christmas

Call To Get On The List For Hurricane Irma Debris Removal

By TOM STAIK

Of The Herald-Advocate

Primary debris cleanup from Hurricane Irma ended last Friday with many residents left wondering if their streets will be cleaned before Christmas.

The answer, according to Emergency Management Director Jill Newman, is complicated.

The debris-hauling contract with Crowder Gulf – the county's private contractor for hurricane debris removal – ended Dec. 8, according to Newman.

"We are about 98 percent as of Dec. 8," Newman said of the cleanup.

Hope remains, however, that the remaining two percent of homes needing debris removal will be serviced soon.

Hardee County is working with a tree service to manage the removal of "leaning trees" from the right of way, Newman said.

County crews are also beginning the process of removing

larger logs and root balls from the right of way, she noted.

Additionally, staff at Hardee County Landfill are maintaining a list of residents still in need of roadside cleanup.

Residents who still have uncollected hurricane debris at the roadside need to call the landfill so their address can be added to the work list, Newman stressed.

County officials are encouraging homeowners not to sneak extra debris into their piles.

"Residents need to avoid adding anything that is not storm-related," Newman said. "(The crews) can tell if it was new or old. They know the difference."

The distinction between hurricane and non-hurricane debris is crucial. Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement, Newman said, will depend on the county providing accurate figures on tonnage hauled.

See DEBRIS A2

Man Charged With Rape, Kidnapping

By CYNTHIA KRAHL

Of The Herald-Advocate

A man reportedly intent on killing his former girlfriend's new beau allegedly terrorized her over a two-day period as he attempted to force her to take him to his intended victim, authorities said.

Gregory Ibarra, 30, of 311 N. 10th Ave., Wauchula, is scheduled to appear in Hardee Circuit Court for arraignment on Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.

He faces one count each of kidnapping while inflicting bodily harm or terror, sexual battery, tampering with a witness — all felonies — and petit theft and two counts battery — all misdemeanors.

According to an arrest report filed by Lt. Matthew Whatley of the Wauchula Police Department,

the alleged crimes were initiated early in the afternoon of Aug. 31 when the suspect drove to his former girlfriend's home and ordered her into his truck, threatening harm to her, her children and her family if she did not comply.

Ibarra then allegedly drove the 25-year-old woman to his home. See KIDNAPPING A2



ibarra

Weather Forecast: Snow & Shows

By NAOMI EREKSON

Herald-Advocate Intern

Frosty the Snowman had to avoid getting slushy, so Main Street Wauchula Inc.'s "Hometown Christmas" was postponed until tomorrow (Friday) night.

"Hometown Christmas" originally had been scheduled for last Friday night in downtown Wauchula, but due to weather concerns for rain,

Main Street Wauchula decided to hold off and move the date to tomorrow at 6 p.m. instead.

All activities except the live music performances will remain as originally planned. The Hardee Senior High School Jazz Ensemble and Bailey's Dance Academy are still on to provide entertainment, but Gospel Jubilee is no longer on the slate for the night. Instead, Main Street Wauchula's "Movies in the Park" will be substituted in order to keep it on its regular monthly schedule.

"Home Alone" is the movie of choice. It is expected to begin at around 7:15, so make sure you and your family bring chairs and blankets to provide that little bit of extra comfort to make the movie more enjoyable.

Jessica Newman of Main Street Wauchula said that because of the weather forecast for last Friday, "it was better for us to make the call and reschedule rather than risk having the event in inclement weather."

With good climate conditions being a necessity for the 12 tons of snow and the live

performances, rescheduling was the only option, as the event is too popular to cancel.

"All the vendors were able to reschedule," Newman added. "We talked to Santa up in the North Pole, and he was able to reschedule as well."

Keeping these reassurances in mind, almost everything that was originally planned for "Hometown Christmas" will remain the same. Families can still take their kids to Santa's Playland for crafts and snow-sliding, as well as having their pictures taken with Santa. The

See FORECAST A2

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
12/05	83	60	0.00
12/06	84	59	0.00
12/07	84	61	0.00
12/08	84	68	0.06
12/09	72	43	0.63
12/10	60	36	0.00
12/11	65	33	0.00
TOTAL Rainfall to 12/11/2017 - 50.11			
Same period last year - 43.25			
Ten Year Average - 47.77			
Source: Univ. of Fla. Ona Research Center			

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School Support Personnel Get Bonuses Friday

By TOM STAIK

Of The Herald-Advocate

The holiday season will be a little merrier this week for more than 250 school employees.

Hardee County School Board support staff – officially termed education support professionals or ESPs – will receive a pre-tax bonus of \$625 in paychecks on Friday.

According to Finance Director Greg Harrelson, one-time bonuses – that total \$168,125 – have been issued with this week's pay for 269 support staff.

See BONUSES A2

CITRUS SCREENING



COURTESY PHOTO

Grapefruit grows better in screen houses than in groves because the indoor facilities keep out the insect that causes citrus greening, new University of Florida research shows. Protecting citrus from greening is essential, UF says, because the disease already has destroyed more than 250,000 acres -- for a 36 percent drop in planted area and a 68 percent reduction in yield. That's why a system known as Citrus Under Protective Screen could be crucial to Florida growers, UF scientists say. Although screen-house cost is high and varies depending on facility size, two commercial growers in the state are currently using screening.

THE Herald-Advocate

HARDEE COUNTY'S HOMETOWN COVERAGE

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DEADLINES:

Hardee Living — Thursday 5 p.m.
School News & Photos — Thursday 5 p.m.
Sports — Thursday 5 p.m. (Weekend Events, Monday Noon)
General News — Monday 5 p.m.
Ads — Tuesday Noon

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Hardee County — 6 months, \$21 • 1 year, \$39 • 2 years, \$75
Florida — 6 months, \$25 • 1 year, \$46 • 2 years, \$87
Out of State — 6 months, \$29 • 1 year, \$52 • 2 years, \$100
Online — 1 month, \$5 • 6 months, \$19 • 1 year, \$37 • 2 years, \$70

LETTERS:

The Herald-Advocate welcomes letters to the editor on matters of public interest. Letters should be brief, and must be written in good taste, signed and include a daytime phone number.



Kelly's Column

By Jim

Nancy Craft reports she is the self-appointed mayor of Downtown Sweetwater, home of the "scenic route," and she appointed Wilbur Robertson as mayor of Uptown Sweetwater, home of the "rich people."

The current Florida Trend magazine includes a section on health care.

Among Florida's largest hospitals are Jackson Memorial in Miami, 1,493 beds; Baptist Hospital in Miami, 728 beds; Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, 716; Florida Hospital Orlando, 1,217; Orlando Regional Medical Center, 808; Arnold Palmer Medical Center in Orlando, 473; Tampa General, 1,011; Lakeland Regional, 849; Sarasota Memorial, 819; UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville, 895; Northeast Florida State Hospital in Macclenny, 1,138; UF Health in Jacksonville, 695; Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee, 1,230; and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, 772.

Specialized hospitals in Florida include Mayo Clinic Florida in Jacksonville, 304 beds; Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami, 289 beds; Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, 259; H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, 206; Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, 100 beds; and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, 204 beds.

Florida Trend reports there are 1.1 million Puerto Ricans living in the Sunshine State with more expected following Hurricane Maria. Florida's overall population is over 20 million.

The magazine reports a 1960s rock and shell mine near the border of Sarasota and Manatee counties is now a 500-acre rectangular shallow water pit that became a local rowers' favorite destination by 2010. The rowing venue hosted the 2017 World Rowing Championships, lasting 11 days and having over 40,000 visitors. Hardee County Judge Jeff McKibben likes to row there.

Florida Trend reports Orlando plans a five-block long urban park under Interstate-4 called "Under i" that will break ground in 2021 and have soccer fields, basketball courts, a running track, playground, splash pad, and skateboard plaza, among other amenities.

The above two projects are called turning negatives into positives. The phosphate mining industry and governmental agencies can do the same thing in Hardee County, leaving behind lakes and other recreational and development post-mining projects.

Florida Trend in 1967 first announced the restaurants winning the Golden Spoon Award. Four of the Top 12 are still in business 50 years later: Bern's Steak House in Tampa, Columbia in Tampa, Joe's Stone Crab in Miami Beach, and Louis Pappas in Tarpon Springs.

Among those not around anymore from the 1967 list are Las Novedades in Tampa and Sundown in Winter Haven.

The first Red Lobster restaurant was in Lakeland in 1968. Two decades later a Tampa group started the Outback steakhouse.

Popular steakhouses of the past included Johnny's between Wauchula and Zolfo Springs, Foxfire in Lakeland, the Red Barn in Lakeland, and the Brahman in Ocala. No Hardee County restaurant has ever won a Florida Trend Golden Spoon Award.

Our newspaper on Monday received a greetings card from The White House, with the signature names of Donald J. Trump, Melania Trump and Barron Trump. They used the words "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

Political correctness of the previous administration would probably have used the term "Happy Holidays." President Trump calls a spade a spade, and that and other qualities helped him get elected over the early favorite Hillary Clinton.

Winona Hansen of Wauchula has given us an extra 2018 calendar by Citizens United for the Trump Agenda. The calendar lists the following 11 achievements of his Presidency so far:

- Withdrew our country from the horrible Trans-Pacific Partnership.
- Approved the Keystone XL Pipeline.
- Ordered the Military to combat and destroy ISIS.
- Nomination and confirmation of conservative Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court.
- Issued an Executive Order implementing extreme vetting for countries with histories of international terrorism.
- Enforced our laws to secure our borders resulting in a 64% drop in illegal immigration.
- Slashed job-killing regulations.

DEBRIS

Continued From A1

Debris on state-maintained rights of way, however, will likely remain an issue for a few more weeks.

The Florida Department of Transportation and the county were at odds over the need for addition efforts locally.

According to landfill director Ken Wheeler, FDOT maintained that its initial pass through Hardee was sufficient. The county — prevented from

working on state-maintained rights of way — asserted more state effort was needed.

The spat, thanks to an agreement reached Dec. 8, should bring additional state resources in the coming weeks.

"DOT is not going to do a second pass, but they are considering doing hot spots in the next few weeks," Wheeler said.

Residents on state roads are

strongly encouraged not to add additional debris to piles.

"It will not be picked up," Wheeler said.

Residents wishing to report debris for pickup should call the Hardee County Landfill at 773-5089.

"There is still some material out there, but we are going to have county staff and some local contractors finish it up," Wheeler said.

FORECAST

Continued From A1

one-hour block reserved for special needs families at Santa's Playland is also still on the agenda to ensure everyone has a good time.

Another Christmas event that was rescheduled last week is the movie that was supposed to have been shown at the old train depot in Bowling Green following that town's Christmas Parade.

"Arthur Christmas" now will show at the depot on East

Main Street this Saturday night at 6:30.

The movie will be shown outside, so make sure to bring your chairs and blankets for comfort. The movie is family-friendly, and there will be free popcorn provided and drinks for \$1 each. There is no admission fee for the movie.

"It was too cold and windy," said Jean Kelly, one of the members of the Bowling Green Parks & Recreation

Committee. However, if you're wondering about the parade, that event still went on as planned. "We had to have the parade because the floats were already there, and it was earlier in the evening so the weather wasn't as bad," Kelly added.

So, make sure you mark your calendars with these new dates and head into either or both cities this weekend for a seasonal celebration.

BONUSES

Continued From A1

Roughly a dozen more ESPs, hires that started later in the school year, will receive their bonuses at a later date.

Support staff on years-of-service steps 17, 18, 20-23 and over 25 will receive an additional \$625 bonus. It is estimated the second bonus will be distributed to 68 employees at a cost of \$42,500.

The payouts were approved at Tuesday's meeting of the School Board, where board members voted unanimously to set a revised salary schedule for the 2017-18 school year.

According to Harrelson, the

majority of support staff will see the new salary schedule reflected on checks beginning Dec. 22. Those checks, Harrelson said, will also reflect retroactive pay to July 1.

The raises include \$500 for each step and the awarding of an additional step for eligible ESPs.

The raises are expected to cost \$230,000 annually.

The raises and bonuses for support staff follow the Nov. 30 ratification of this year's contract for support staff by members of the Hardee Education Association/United.

Instructional staff, con-

versely, rejected their contract, which offered considerably more incentives.

Negotiations between teachers and the district are not expected to begin again before the spring.

The School Board, in approving the salary schedule on Tuesday, re-set the teacher pay structure to 2016-17 levels. The board had, at a meeting on Nov. 17, amended the salary structure for the current year to include the salary structure being offered to teachers.

Bonuses, step and pay increases for ESPs total approximately \$470,848.

KIDNAPPING

Continued From A1

her head into the refrigerator several times and repeatedly striking her face with his open hand, according to the arrest report.

Whatley said the man then drove with the woman to the Speedway convenience store, leaving her inside the truck. She noticed he left her phone in the truck, too, and quickly placed a call to the 911 emergency line before having to hang up as he left the store and approached the vehicle.

From there, the woman told police, the suspect drove her to the Charlie Creek Mobile Home Park on State Road 64, trying to get her to tell him which mobile home belonged to her new boyfriend.

She gave him the wrong information, the report said. Heading back toward Wauchula, the suspect received a call from his father noting that the police were looking for him, the woman relayed to police. Ibarra then drove to Bowling Green, stopping at the

Marathon station to get a drink before heading to his mother's house in Fort Meade.

While at the Marathon, she told authorities, she made eye contact with a man in a pickup truck and mouthed a plea for help. Later, she said, she noticed that same truck following them as they headed north.

Whatley said Polk County sheriff's deputies arrived at the mother's house and took the suspect into custody on the Wauchula complaint, transporting him to the Polk County Jail.

Meanwhile, he added, his alleged victim was taken to Florida Hospital Wauchula, where she was examined and treated for her injuries.

Ibarra was later transferred to the Hardee County Jail, and an amended charging document and arrest warrant were served on him on Nov. 29.

Bond was set at \$115,250 the next day.

The Public Defender's Office is representing the suspect in court.

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **MEASUREMENTS:** How long is a cubit?
2. **MEDICAL:** What malady would you have if you suffered from "striae gravidarum"?
3. **TELEVISION:** What long-running soap opera is set in Genoa City?
4. **HISTORY:** What world peace group preceded the United Nations in the 20th century?
5. **MUSIC:** Where did the Beatles have their first concert in the United States in 1964?
6. **GEOGRAPHY:** What English city's Roman name was "Aquae Sulis"?

ANSWERS

1. About 18 inches
2. Stretch marks
3. "The Young and the Restless"
4. The League of Nations
5. Washington Coliseum
6. Bath

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Sports Quiz

By Chris Richcreek

1. When was the last time before 2016 that a New York team won the Little League World Series?
2. Who was the only player in the 1950s to have at least 20 doubles, 20 triples, 20 home runs and 20 stolen bases in the same season?
3. Entering 2017, how many Oklahoma Sooners had won the Heisman Trophy?
4. In 2017, the Golden State Warriors became the fifth team to start the NBA playoffs 10-0. Name two of the other three to do it (one did it twice).
5. Pittsburgh's Jake Guentzel in 2017 tied an NHL record for the most points by a rookie in one postseason (21). Who else did it?

ANSWERS

1. Staten Island, N.Y., won in 1964.
2. Willie Mays had 26 doubles, 20 triples, 35 homers and 38 stolen bases in 1957 for the New York Giants.

3. Billy Vessels (1952), Steve Owens (1969), Billy Sims (1978), Jason White (2003) and Sam Bradford (2008).

4. The Los Angeles Lakers (1989, 2001), San Antonio (2012) and Cleveland (2016).

5. Minnesota's Dino Ciccarelli (1981) and Philadelphia's Ville Leino (2010).

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Corrections

YMCA 5K

A story in last week's edition on the Hardee County Family YMCA Jingle Bell 5K included scorekeeper results which placed one runner in an incorrect division. Hillary Holley placed second in the Male 45 to 49 division with a time of 41:22.1.

The Herald-Advocate is pleased to set the record straight.

At The Herald-Advocate, we want accuracy to be a given, not just our goal. If you believe we have printed an error in fact, please call to report it. We will review the information, and if we find it needs correction or clarification, we will do so here.

To make a report, call Managing Editor Cynthia Krahl at 773-3255.

SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER

- 14 - Fitness In the Park/ Heritage Park/ Jazzercise/5:30 p.m.
- 14 - Night of Wonder/ Bayside Comm. Church/East Bradenton Campus/ 15800 SR 64 East, Bradenton/featuring Real Life Church & Cast-Crew from The Story of Jesus/ Dec. 13-15/6:30 p.m.
- 15 - Sensory Christmas - Hometown Christmas on Main/ Main Street, Wauchula/6 p.m.
- 15 - Hometown Christmas on Main/Main Street, Wauchula/ 6 p.m.
- 15 - Movies In The Park/ Heritage Park/8 p.m.
- 16 - Heirlooms & Originals/Heritage Park/9 a.m.
- 16 - Heartland Christmas/ Heartland Events/ 3350 U.S. Hwy 17 N., Bowling Green/ 6 p.m.
- 16 - Movie At The Depot/ "Arthur Christmas"/ Bowling Green Train Depot/201 E. Main St., Bowling Green/6:30 p.m.
- 16 - Bowling Green Christmas Lighting Contest/Bowling Green/7 p.m.
- 18 - Open Mic Night/ Heritage Park/ 8 p.m.
- 19 - Indigent Health Care Board/BOCC Chambers/ 412 W. Orange St., Room 103, Wauchula/5:30 p.m.
- 21 - Lunch and Learn/ Chamber-Depot/ 135 E. Main St., Wauchula/Noon
- 21 - Fitness In the Park/ Heritage Park/ Zumba/5:30 p.m.
- 23 - Heartland Christmas/ Heartland Events/ 3350 U.S. Hwy 17 N., Bowling Green/ 6 p.m.
- 26 - "A Different Kind Of Christmas" Vacation Bible School/First United Methodist Church of Wauch/ 9 a.m.
- 29 - Hannah's House 1st Annual Year-End Extravaganza 2017!/ Agri-Civic Center/ 6:00 p.m.

JANUARY

- 4 - Hardee County Commission/ 8:30 a.m.
- 8 - Wauchula Comm. Meeting/6 p.m.
- 9 - Hardee County IDA/EDC Meeting/ Commission Chambers/8:30 a.m.
- 9 - Bowling Green Comm. Meeting/ 6 p.m.
- 11 - Hardee County School Board Meeting/ 5 p.m.
- 15 - Open Mic Night/ Heritage Park/ 6 p.m.
- 19 - Hardee County Comm. Meeting/ BOCC Office/ 6 p.m.
- 19 - Movies In The Park/ Heritage Park/ 6 p.m.
- 19 - Historic Ghost Tour/ Wauchula/6 p.m.

20 - Heirlooms & Originals/Heritage Park/9 a.m.

Save The Date will keep residents informed of upcoming community happenings. To have your non-profit meeting or event posted for free, e-mail features@theheraldadvocate.com as far ahead as possible.

Drainage Repairs At HHS Could Easily Top \$100,000

By TOM STAIK
Of The Herald-Advocate

Water likes to run downhill. A simple physics lesson, no doubt, but it is one practical — and costly — physics lesson that Hardee Senior High School gladly would have skipped.

Flooded by the wrath of Hurricane Irma earlier this year, the auditorium at the high school remains out of commission as officials eye how much it is going to cost to prevent water from pooling in the facility.

"I wouldn't hesitate to think it would be \$100,000 or more," said Rob Krahl, director of facilities for the Hardee County School District.

Krahl has given the flood

protection a solid "F" grade.

"The drainage system that is connected to the auditorium that keeps water away from the auditorium has failed," Krahl said.

The problem of flowing fluids is dynamic.

"(The auditorium) is sloped and the bottom is three feet below grade," Krahl said.

Once water breaches the entranceways, the floor's slope forms an easy path to channel water to collect into a pool at the base of the stage.

Hurricane Irma's watery wrath forced the removal of water-damaged flooring and seating throughout the facility.

Officials, Krahl said, must now devise a plan to channel

water away from the building's entrances.

"We need to get drainage away from the auditorium and away from campus," Krahl said.

Krahl is still getting ready to prepare specs to solicit bids on drainage solutions that tentatively include improvements around the auditorium and construction of a main storm-water line through the campus to an open field.

The bids — once submitted — will then be presented to the School Board for approval.

"There is nothing cheap in running a school," added Superintendent of Schools Bob Shayman. "It is one reason having a budget reserve is essential."



District school officials are eyeing a costly fix to flooding inside the Hardee Senior High School auditorium. In this photo taken Sept. 18, rows of chairs were removed to allow crews to clear away flood-damaged flooring in the auditorium.

Wauchula Accepts \$2.2 Million Bid For Airport Improvements

By TOM STAIK
Of The Herald-Advocate

Wauchula Municipal Airport is one step closer to a multi-million-dollar overhaul.

The Wauchula City Commission voted Monday night to approve a resolution accepting a bid from C.W. Roberts Contracting Inc. valued at more than \$2.2 million to oversee the airport renovations.

The \$2,236,675.77 deal provides for the rehabilitation of runway 18/36, installation of a vertical/visual guidance system, improvements to runway lighting, and the removal of obstructions from the site.

The work is part of a \$2.5 million project funded jointly between the Federal Aviation Administration and the state of Florida.

The FFA is anticipated to contribute 90 percent, or roughly \$2.25 million.

The remaining 10 percent, approximately \$250,000, is committed by the state.

There is no local contribution.

Construction engineering is projected at \$261,183.

Actual construction is expected to cost \$2,236,675.

The commission was briefed on the project during a workshop session held on Monday of last week.

AVCON Inc., the engineering and consulting firm assigned to the project, originally requested bids for a larger construction plan. During the design process, concerns emerged over the eligibility of blast pads under the scope of FFA's grant.

While technically eligible, the pads were determined to not be essential to the project.

Additionally, the grant program reported a lack of available funds.

"Due to the lack of the availability of sufficient FAA funds, several other work items were removed from the project scope by FAA, after bids were opened and the grant application was submitted to the FAA," noted Russell D. Holliday, a senior project engineer for AVCON in his report to the city.

AVCON had anticipated a cost run of \$3.06 million before scaling-back the project after bids were solicited.

C.W. Roberts' bid came in at \$2.97 million — the lowest of the four bids received — and under estimated cost.

Costs of \$729,112 — for the blast pads and other items removed from final plans — were subtracted from the bid prior to approval.

According to Assistant City Manager Olivia Minshew, work is expected to begin at the airport in April 2018.

Celebrity Extra

By Cindy Elavsky



Q: I was frustrated to see one of my favorite soap stars, Arianne Zucker, being dragged back into that "Access Hollywood"/Donald Trump fiasco recently. Can you tell me how she's doing?

—Barbara F., via email

A: Arianne is one classy lady, and she's handling the renewed interest in the allegations of President Trump's inappropriate sexual misconduct from years past with grace — and with a drive to try to effect change. Trump recently disputed the veracity of the "Access Hollywood" tape where he is talking with host Billy Bush about things rich men can do to women without asking. (That's about all the detail I'm going to go into because it disgusts me.)

Arianne was the actress they were on the NBC studio lot to meet for a backstage tour of "Days of Our Lives."



Arianne told me: "I feel like there is some responsibility there (for me to speak up), but finding a way to do it is hard. I do know the first thing for anyone who has gone through any type of physical situation against their will is healing. How do you start that? Where do you go? Who do you talk to? You hear the way men spoke in the '60s and '70s about women; that was the way, and you dealt with it. How do we reprogram our children to not think that way? I'm in a position where I can help from the heart."

But Arianne is not all about recent hot-button issues: She's also starring in the Lifetime thriller called "Web Cam Girls," which premieres Saturday, Dec. 30 at 8 p.m. ET/PT. According to Arianne, it's "a psychological thriller based on family relationships. So many parents have these relationships with their children that go sour — how do you find that way back? How do you bring your kid back? That's what I really love about this movie be-

cause, in some shape or form, every parent goes through something like this with their teenager."

Q: Do you have any "House of Cards" news?

—Brian K., Baltimore

A: Production on the hit Netflix drama was halted amid sexual harassment and assault allegations against series star Kevin Spacey. The streaming giant recently announced that Spacey will not be involved when production resumes in early 2018. The sixth and final season will consist of eight episodes instead of the usual 13. The story will center on Robin Wright's character, newly elected President Claire Underwood.

Q: Is it true that "Big Little Lies" is coming back?

—Rain F., via email

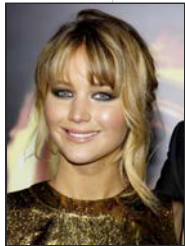
A: It's getting closer becoming a reality. Executive producer/writer David E. Kelley told TVLine.com: "We're kicking around ideas and trying to lasso the talent (to) get the band back together. ... I'm optimistic because everyone wants to do it. We feel we still have storytelling to do." Word has it production could start as early as spring 2018.

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; or e-mail her at letters@cindy-elavsky.com.

Inside Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

Jennifer Lawrence, who joined with director Darren Aronofsky for the psychological horror film "Mother" released in September, had off-screen love scenes but ended their one-year romance. Now she's focused on the release of her next two films, the spy thriller "Red Sparrow," with Joel Edgerton and Jeremy Irons, due March 2; and "X-Men: Dark Phoenix," with James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender, opening Nov. 2, 2018.



Meanwhile, we'll finally get to see John Travolta as Mafia "Don" John Gotti come Dec. 15. Playing Gotti's wife is Travolta's wife, Kelly Preston, who hasn't made a movie since the disappointing "Casino Jack," with Kevin Spacey. Travolta already is shooting another film, "Trading Paint," with Michael Madsen, singer Shania Twain and "Gunsmoke" TV series alumnus Buck Taylor.

"The Night of the Living Dead," which gave birth to the zombie genre, was shot in Pittsburgh in 1968 for a mere \$114,000. It grossed \$30 million. The creator and father of the zombie

genre was George Romero, who left us July 16 at age 77 due to lung cancer. On Jan. 5, the last film he co-wrote based on his original characters, "Day of the Dead: Bloodline," will open. Romero directed five sequels to "Night" between 1978 and 2010, the most successful of which was "Dawn of the Dead" (1978). He also hit big with "Creepshow" in 1982 and the TV series "Tales from the Darkside" (1983-1988). When you watch "The Walking Dead" or see the upcoming "World War Z 2," remember ... it all started with George Romero.

Best-actor nominee Peter Fonda (for 1993's "Ulee's Gold"), son of Oscar-winner Henry Fonda and brother of two-time Oscar winner Jane Fonda, was last seen in the Netflix film "The Most Hated Woman in America," with Oscar-winner Melissa Leo. Now he has completed two films: "The Ballad of Lefty Brown," with Bill Pullman, Jim Caviezel and Kathy Baker (hitting theaters Dec. 15) and "Boundaries," with Vera Farmiga, Christopher Plummer and Bobby Cannavale.

Fonda has just been cast in Amazon's "Tom Clancy's Jack

Ryan" reboot with John Krasinski in the title role (he's also producing). It's set for release in early 2018. Krasinski also will direct and star with his wife, Emily Blunt — who will be seen as Mary Poppins in "Mary Poppins Returns," landing Christmas Day 2018 — in the supernatural/horror thriller "A Quiet Place," due for an April 6 release. They say, "The couple that plays together ... stays together," but how do you direct your own wife?

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The Herald-Advocate

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Super Crossword

STICKING TO THE GOAL

- ACROSS**
 1 Roman god with a bow
 5 Knotting craft
 12 Move like a kangaroo
 15 Overquick
 19 Be a wanderer
 20 Moral
 21 Actress
 22 Comical Kett
 23 Jack London novel
 26 Dumbfound
 27 Flynn of films
 28 Prone (to)
 29 Big name in credit cards
 30 Cake coater
 31 Writer Verne
 33 Easy targets to attack
 36 Lacking a musical key
 38 Writer
 41 Relative of soul
 46 Infuse with oxygen
 50 Spaghnum, e.g.
 51 Cookie with a "Thins" line
- DOWN**
 52 One-masted sailboats
 54 Chic, '60s-style
 55 Really, really quick
 59 Drive off
 63 Pretty low grades
 64 "That is — ask"
 65 "Picnic" playwright William
 66 With
 69 Sports org. with the eight teams featured in this puzzle
 71 Trip to a rain forest, maybe
 73 Vicious
 74 Eban of Israel
 77 Foreboding
 80 Shimon of Israel
 81 2011 Jim Carrey comedy
 86 Head sweller
 87 Tie up again, as shoes
 88 Don't skip, as an event
- ACROSS**
 89 Oaf's cry
 93 Waters off Eritrea
 95 2007-13 pickup truck model
 99 Clearasil treats it
 101 Designer Saarinen
 102 Old TV tube
 103 Be engulfed in fire
 109 Ate
 110 Writer Bret Easton —
 111 Know — fact
 112 Actor's help
 114 The blahs
 117 Rake feature
 118 Hawaiians and Tongans
 122 Tennis' Lendl
 123 TV producer
 124 In a very angry way
 125 Filmdom's — Lund Laszlo
 126 Bird setting
 127 Sinuous fish
 128 Vilify
 129 Gambol
- DOWN**
 5 Ex-Giant Ott
 6 Gazetteer shelfmate
 7 Hew
 8 Falling-out
 9 Masquerade
 10 — Jongg
 11 Chosen few
 12 Papa Doc's place
 13 See
 14 Inflate falsely
 15 Hero, often
 16 Top-floor storage site
 17 Reeked
 18 With
 19 56-Down, surfs like a pro
 24 God, in Islam
 25 Clever type
 30 Most lazy
 32 "St. — Fire" (1985 film)
 33 Hero in a deli
 34 Fluish, say
 35 Shown with explicit detail
 36 It has biceps
 37 However, informally
 38 Golf's Sam
 39 — of one's own medicine
 42 Dog cry
 43 Naval vessel abbr.
- ACROSS**
 44 Fitzgerald of song
 45 Loam, e.g.
 47 Key of "Für Elise"
 48 Mouth organ
 49 Lawn care tools
 53 Eye creepily
 55 — Baba
 56 See
 57 "... woman who lived in —"
 58 Evening, casually
 59 Rear-ending car, e.g.
 60 Arise
 61 Natural legume case
 62 Cube maker
 67 Peninsula northeast of Boston
 68 Brother in Genesis
 70 Pre-O trio
 72 Mil. missions
 75 Bric-a —
 76 Yiddish writer
 78 Actress Samantha
 79 Italian for "new"
- ACROSS**
 82 Summary
 83 16th letter
 84 "Don't make — habit"
 85 Nick of "Warrior"
 89 Potato chip topping
 90 Singer Helen or actor Jerry
 91 Univ. award
 92 Envision
 94 Wise
 96 22nd letter
 97 "Indubitably"
 98 "Grease" actress Eve
 100 Erase
 103 Gain entry
 104 Drab color
 105 Forelimb bones
 106 Close-by
 107 "Exodus" protagonist
 108 Don's group
 109 Cuts down, as a tree
 112 Refer to
 113 Tech support seeker
 115 Bear, celestially
 116 "By Jove!"
 118 Adolescent leader?
 119 Taxing org.
 120 Beret, e.g.
 121 Senate vote



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) An old adversary wants to make amends over the holidays. The decision is yours. But wouldn't it be nice to share the upcoming new year with another friend?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) As news of your work gets around, expect to receive a special holiday "gift" from influential contacts who could help you launch your new projects in the new year.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Instead of fussing over what you didn't do to prepare for the holidays, relax and enjoy the kudos for a job truly well done. A happy surprise awaits you early next year.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The best way to shake off lingering holiday blues is to join loved ones in the fun and festivities of this special time. A confusing situation starts to make sense in upcoming weeks.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Special emotional rewards mark this holiday time for Leos and Leonas who are able to open up to new relationships and the possibilities they offer in the upcoming year.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your efforts to make the holidays especially memorable for some people will be rewarded in some unexpected (but very welcome) ways in the upcoming year.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Be assured that your efforts to make this holiday special for everyone won't go unnoticed by those who could make some important changes in your life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Lots of folks want you to light up their holiday parties. But try to take some quiet time 'twixt those glittering galas to spend with some very special people.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) While the current round of holiday revels has your social life on the fast track, someone special might want to keep pace with you next year, as well.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Enjoy all the fun you deserve at this holiday time. However, don't lose sight of the need to check out some of the changes the new year is expected to bring.

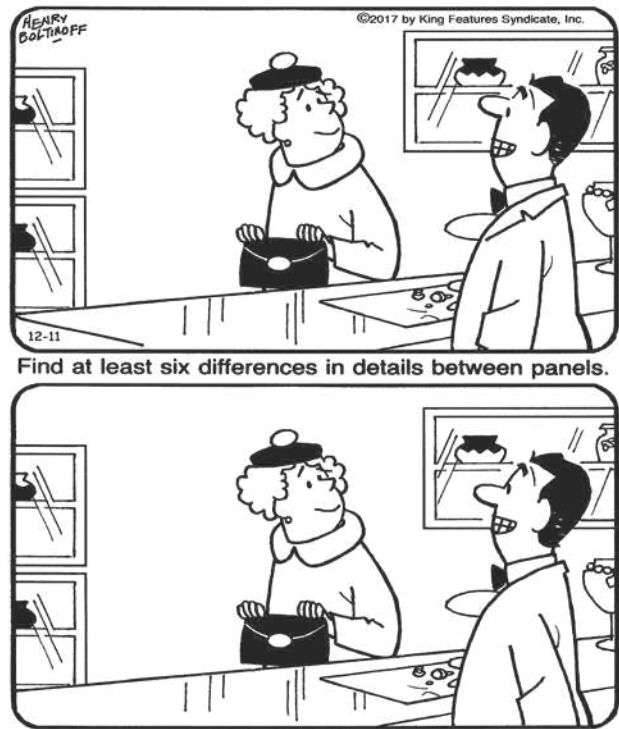
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) What happens during this holiday time can help clear up some of the confusion jeopardizing a once-stable relationship. Follow your instincts on what to do next.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your holidays are brightened by new friends eager to become part of your life. But don't forget to spend time with that one special person. (You know who!)

BORN THIS WEEK: You have the ability to encourage people to reach their potential by setting an example with your own efforts.

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Counter is wider. 2. Arm is moved. 3. Nose is not as wide. 4. Hair is longer. 5. Lipel is missing. 6. Display case is

GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	x		+		16
+		+		-	
	x		+		20
+		+		x	
	x		-		19
7		23		15	

DIFFICULTY: *
 * Moderate ** Difficult *** GO FIGURE!

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	5		9					8
8		5						4
1	4		6		9			
	7	8	4					2
5				6		1		
2		7		6				
6				2		5		
8			5		3			1
	3	9						7

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦
 ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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MAGIC MAZE • WINTER

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Berry	Months	Squash	Wheat
Blahs	Olympics	Storm	Winds
Carnival	Park	Time	Wonderland
Coat	Sports	Vacation	

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		15		23			7
				6	x		4
				5			19
				x		+	
						8	x
				4		+	2
						+	
						9	x
						7	16

ANSWERS
 Go Figure!
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

6		1	4	8	7	6
8	6	4	6	5	7	3
9	7	1	3	8	2	4
4	2	6	3	5	8	3
5	3	8	2	9	7	1
6	1	7	8	4	3	5
9	4	2	7	6	8	9
8	6	2	5	1	2	4
3	7	5	4	2	9	1

ANSWER
 Weekly SUDOKU

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: L equals R

CIPXP BQZX V DLPOPL XNGKDCGLP
 SHPL DQVUCVUM. V MGPXX ZSG
 NSGKB XQZ V'HP IQB Q NIQUMP
 SO QLC.

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
 is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

JGZAJRYZJY UYXA E QGX GB
 JPYMRX XWEX NYQGZUA XG
 JGQM BYYX. — EZGZOFGCA

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WINTER

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

ANSWERS
 These days I prefer sculpture
 over painting. I guess you
 could say I've had a change
 of art.

ANSWER
 CryptoQuip

ANSWER
 Conscience gets a lot of
 credit that belongs to
 cold feet. — Anonymous

ANSWER
 CryptoQuote

Super Crossword

Center For Great Apes Hosts Christmas Event



PHOTOS BY NAOMI EREKSON

It was Christmastime at the Center for Great Apes in rural Wauchula on Saturday as the non-profit's supporting members came from all over the nation for the facility's annual open house. Here, excited guests wait in line to be checked in upon arrival.



A booth displays various pieces of artwork created by the apes living at the facility. These painted canvases and Christmas ornaments were on sale, with proceeds benefitting the refuge.



T-shirts, hats, postcards and water bottles were some many other items that were on sale to help fund the center, its services and its expansion needs.



Supporters had the fun of watching the center's residents receive their Christmas presents.



One of the center's volunteers introduces orangutan Bam-Bam to supporting members.



Center for Great Apes founder Patti Ragan thanks supporting members for visiting as she provides updates on the facility and its residents.



A volunteer dons her festive Christmas attire as she hands a holiday treat to a chimpanzee

Obituaries

In Loving Memory



VIRGINIA RUTLAND

Mrs. Virginia Rutland nee Wilkerson died peacefully at home on Monday, Dec. 4, 2017 in Wauchula, FL at the age of 89.

Virginia is survived by her children, Janetta Kieffer, Roger Rutland and Bill Rutland; her sister Ruth Audrey Skaff in Jacksonville; and several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her former husband Harold Loyd Rutland; her parents; and her sisters Evella Marie Holton, Juanita Mabel Strange, and Mary Annette Kazen.

Virginia was born on July 1, 1928 in Bowling Green, FL to Leon Herbert Wilkerson and Carrie Ann Malvina Wilkerson, nee Brooks. She

graduated from high school and married Harold Loyd Rutland on Dec. 14, 1947. Virginia worked for Rutland Radio and TV for many years. She began clerical work for the Division of Family Services in Wauchula in 1972.

Her children remember her as one who cared for the less fortunate members of the neighborhood, encouraging the children to read, and transporting an elderly friend to the doctor.

Virginia loved to read and grow flowers. She was a faithful member of Harvest Temple Assembly of God in Wauchula Hills.

Visitation is on Friday, Dec. 8, 2017 at Roberts Garden Chapel from 1-1:30 PM. Funeral services are at 1:30 PM, with a short time of fellowship following the service. Interment is at Bowling Green Cemetery. Rev. Donald Holton will officiate.

Expressions of comfort may be made at robartsfh.com.

Roberts Family FUNERAL HOME WAUCHULA



Provided as a courtesy of Roberts Family Funeral Home

In Loving Memory



JUAN PANTOJA MEDRANO

Juan Pantoja Medrano went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017. He passed away at Florida Hospital Tampa.

Juan was born Jan. 27, 1954, in Valle de Santiago Guanajuato, Mexico, to Francisco Pantoja and Maria Luz. He was a resident of Hardee County for most of his life, coming from Mexico. He was a Member of St. Michael Catholic Church in Wauchula.

Juan worked as a laborer working in the agricultural industry.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He was survived by sons, Juan F. Pantoja, of Wauchula, Javier Pantoja, of Georgia, Jamie Pantoja, of

Wauchula, and Jesus Pantoja, of Bowling Green; daughters, Maria Almanza (husband Jorge), of Bowling Green, Anna Ponce (husband Enrique), of Wauchula, Guillermina Juarez (husband Nicolas), of Georgia, Christina Pantoja, of Wauchula, and Francisca Ochoa (husband Israel), of Tampa; brothers, Eliseo Oantoja, of Zolfo Springs, Teodoro Pantoja, of Wauchula, and Fidel Pantoja, of Mexico; sisters, Alejandra Pantoja, of Mexico Luz Cardenas, of Mexico, Maria Pantoja, of Mexico; and grandchildren, Lilianna and Ivan Ponce, Susana and Nicolas Jr. Juarez, Jasmin Pantoja, Caeden Richardson, Jade Poblano, Jorge Jr., Jonathan, Juan, Jose, and Emilio Almanza.

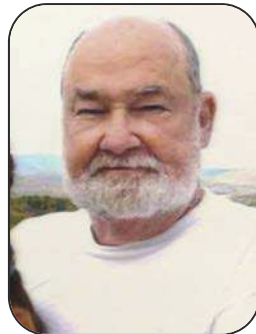
A memorial service will be held at Roberts Garden Chapel today (Thursday) Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.

Expressions of comfort may be made at robartsfh.com.

Roberts Family FUNERAL HOME WAUCHULA



Provided as a courtesy of Roberts Family Funeral Home



HERMAN O. BROOKS

Herman O. Brooks, of Lakeland, died Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017.

He was born in the Tillman community near Fort Meade, on Feb. 3, 1934, to David and Nannie Lou Thomas Brooks. He lived in the Fort Meade area the first 34 years of his life, attending school there, working for Barnett's filling station; then worked in the nursery/landscaping business for approximately 11 years.

In 1968, Herman moved his family to Lakeland. Eventually he left the nursery/landscaping business to work in maintenance at the Polk County Association for Handicapped Citizens (now called Alliance for Progress), a position he held for almost 34 years, retiring in 2005.

He was a life-long member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, first in Fort Meade and then in Lakeland.

He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, June; brothers, Jack, Harold, and Earl; sisters, Betty O'Steen and Lucy Hartwein; and son-in-law, Phillip Peatross.

Survivors include his wife, Arliss; daughters, Judy Brooks, Connie (Tracy) Takemoto, and Sandra Peatross; nine granddaughters and great-granddaughters, Leah (Robert) Reed, Tysha Brown, Missy (Brian) Smith, Messica Lokey, Amanda Peatross (fiance Jared Maltbe), Jaina Peatross, Jennifer Peatross, Madison Reed, and Charlie Smith; grandsons, Tyde and Teyvn Takemoto; and sister, Faye Garcia.

Memorial service was Dec. 10 at the Lakeland Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1435 Gilmore Ave., Lakeland. A private family burial will take place in New Hope Cemetery near Fort Meade. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Fort Meade Seventh-Day Adventist Church or to the Lakeland Seventh-Day Adventist church.

Arrangements by Hancock Funeral Home, Fort Meade.

LEON EDSSEL 'ED' HOLTON

Leon Edsel "Ed" Holton, 75, of Punta Gorda, died Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center.

Born in Bartow on May 13, 1942, he came to Wauchula from Polk County when he married Joyce Hughes in 1979. He was an instrumentation electrician, worked for the mines 17 years, then for Hardee Power Station for 15 years before retiring in 2007 to Punta Gorda. He enlisted in the US Navy on May 19, 1959 and was discharged on Jan. 21, 1963. He was vice president of the Charlotte Radio Control Society - a group of radio controlled airplane enthusiasts.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Evella Wilkerson Holton; and his father, Edsel Odene Holton.

He is survived by wife, Joyce Hughes Holton, of Punta Gorda; two sons, Leon Edsel Holton Jr., of Mulberry, and William Talmadge Holton, of Wauchula; three daughters, Leah Snell, of Lakeland, LaDonna Kennedy of Lakeland, and Holly Smith, of Wauchula; one brother, Donald Holton, of Bowling Green; one sister, Sylvia Galloway, of NaCoohee, Ga.; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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HAPPY CHANUKAH

To our friends of the Jewish faith, we would like to wish you a Happy Chanukah!

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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Immanuel in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which Old Testament prophet said the most about the birth of Christ? Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah
3. From Matthew 1:18, when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ...? Married, Engaged, Just friends, Strangers
4. What priest was told he would not die until he saw the Savior? Joazar, Matthias, Simeon, Elionous
5. Where does the Bible tell us Jesus was born on Dec. 25th? Nowhere, Matthew 3:4, Mark 1:1, Luke 7:7
6. Who informed Joseph that the baby's name was to be Jesus? Herod, Pilate, Mary, an angel

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Isaiah; 3) Engaged; 4) Simeon; 5) Nowhere; 6) an angel
Wilson Casey's 2018 Golf Trivia box calendar makes a great gift. It's available in stores and online at RSVP.com.

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Comfort Foods Made FAST AND HEALTHY!

By Healthy Exchanges

FUDGY BRUNCH MUFFINS WITH PEANUT BUTTER CHIPS

Here is a special muffin to put with your other brunch recipes when everyone is home for the holiday season.

- 1/4 cup I Can't Believe It's Not Butter! Light Margarine
- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1 cup Splenda Granular
- 1 egg, or equivalent in egg substitute
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup Quaker Quick Oats
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 cup peanut butter chips

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Spray 8 wells of a muffin pan

with butter-flavored cooking spray or line with paper liners.

2. In a large bowl, combine margarine, applesauce and Splenda. Stir in egg and vanilla extract. Add flour, oats, cocoa powder and baking soda. Mix gently just to combine. Stir in peanut butter chips.

3. Evenly spoon batter into prepared muffin wells. Bake for 20 to 26 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Place muffin pan on a wire rack and let set for 5 minutes. Remove muffins from pan and continue cooling on wire rack. Serves 8.

• Each serving equals: 195 calories, 7g fat, 5g protein, 28g carbs, 191mg sodium, 25mg calcium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Starch/Carb, 1 Fat; Carb Choices: 2.

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Good Housekeeping

CHRISTMAS MACARONS

These light, fluffy cookies get in the holiday spirit with a layer of chocolate and a couple drops of green food coloring.

- 1 cup slivered almonds
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 3 large egg whites
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 7 drops green liquid food coloring
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 4 ounces bittersweet chocolate

1. Heat oven to 300 F. Line 2 large cookie sheets with parchment paper.

2. In food processor with knife blade attached, process almonds and 1 cup sugar until finely ground and powdery, occasionally scraping bowl with rubber spatula. Add remaining sugar; pulse until combined. Transfer to large bowl.

3. In mixer bowl, with mixer on medium speed, beat egg whites and salt until soft peaks form. Beat in food coloring and almond extract. Increase speed to high and beat

just until stiff (but not dry) peaks form when beaters are lifted. With rubber spatula, fold egg whites into almond mixture until blended. Batter will be just pourable and sticky.

4. Transfer batter to pastry bag fitted with 1/2-inch round tip. Holding bag about 1/2 inch above parchment, pipe 1-inch rounds spaced 1 1/2 inches apart (batter will spread). Let stand 20 minutes.

5. Bake, one cookie sheet at a time, 18 to 19 minutes or until bubbles around bases of macarons are firm to the touch but tops are not browned. Cool on wire rack. Repeat with second cookie sheet.

6. When cookies are cool, spread chocolate on bottoms of half of macarons, using about 1/2 teaspoon for each. Top each with another macaron, bottom side down. Let stand until chocolate hardens, about 45 minutes. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our Web site at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

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Obituaries

In Memory



MARSHA ANN KERSEY

Marsha Ann Kersey, 54, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, at her home, in Wauchula, with her family by her side.

She was born Jan. 14, 1963 in Redbud, Ill., moving to the area from Lakeland 23 years ago. Marsha enjoyed spending time with her family, having fun dancing, mudding and just living life.

She was preceded in death by her parents Larry Finley and Nina Spinnie.

Marsha was survived by her husband, Arlie Kersey, of Wauchula; daughter, Tiffany Griffin (and husband Justin), of Wauchula; son, Nathan Fuller (and wife Tiffany), of Wauchula; siblings, Rocky Koenig, of Lakeland, Larry Finley Jr.,

of Auburndale, Rodney Finley, of Polk City, Ronda O'Conner, of Marion, Ill., Sandra Garrard (and husband Troy), of Winter Haven, Sonja Karcowski (and husband Robert), of Cedarville, Mich.; eight grandchildren, Lain Kersey, Brandon Hardy, Brianna Hardy, Mackenzie Fuller, Draven Nanney, Landon Fuller, Juslin Griffin, and Logan Fuller; and two great-grandchildren, Paizley Kersey and RaeLynn Lowery.

Visitation was Dec. 13 from 6-8 p.m. at the Chapel of Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home. Service will be today (Thursday), Dec. 14, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Chapel of Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home with burial following at Wauchula Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made at pongerkaysgrady.com

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Kitchen Diva

By Angela Shelf Medearis



Feast on Fish at Christmas

I've been reading about Christmas customs, holiday meals and traditional feasts in Europe. One of the things I love the most about studying food is the insight that culinary traditions give you into history and culture. Studying culinary traditions is a wonderful way to discover history through food. I particularly enjoyed reading about a tradition called The Feast of the Seven Fishes, also known as The Vigil, along with several delicious recipes for preparing fish.

The fish often is used as a symbol of Christianity. Because of persecution faced by the early church, when a Christian met a stranger in the road, the Christian sometimes drew one arc of a simple fish outline in the dirt. If the stranger drew the other arc, both believers knew they were in good company.

Preparing and eating seafood on Christmas Eve in celebration of the birth of Christ is an old European tradition. Many families abstain from eating meat and serve only fish or other types of seafood on Christmas Eve.

This traditional dinner is a southern Italian custom in which a meal of at least seven different kinds of seafood is served before midnight on

Christmas Eve. A typical feast features various types of fish, eel, octopus, calamari, mussels, clams, sardines, shrimp and lobster.

While researching the preparation of the seafood for this feast, I discovered a delicious recipe for Pasta with Sardines and Lemon Capers Sauce. This budget-friendly recipe is packed with flavor while using only a few, high-quality ingredients. It's the perfect dish for feeding and serving a crowd during the holidays.

PASTA WITH SARDINES AND LEMON CAPER SAUCE

8 ounces angel hair (capellini) or spaghetti pasta
7 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
1 cup Panko breadcrumbs
1 package (about 4.3 ounces) imported sardines, in pure olive oil, drained and oil reserved
1/2 medium onion, minced
3 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
2 teaspoons lemon zest
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
3 tablespoons capers, rinsed
1/4 cup lemon juice, plus 3 tablespoons for sprinkling

3 tablespoons fresh parsley or basil, chopped

1. Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain, reserving a cup of the pasta cooking water. Rinse pasta under cool water for a moment or two to keep the noodles loose. Reserve.

2. In a large skillet or saute pan, heat 3 tablespoons of the oil. Add the Panko breadcrumbs and toast until lightly browned and crunchy, stirring occasionally. Remove breadcrumbs to a bowl, season with salt and pepper, and set aside.

3. Add the remaining 4 tablespoons of olive oil and the reserved sardine oil to the pan and turn the heat to medium.

4. Once the olive oil is hot, add the onion, garlic, lemon zest, crushed red pepper, salt and pepper. Cook until the onions are soft and translucent (watch carefully so that mixture doesn't burn).

5. Add the sardines and capers to the pan. Saute for about 2 minutes until warmed through, breaking up sardines into smaller pieces as you saute. When the sardines begin to turn golden, slowly stir in the lemon juice.

6. Add the cooked pasta and freshly chopped parsley or basil to the pan. Toss pasta to evenly coat with sauce, mixing well with the other ingredients. If the pasta seems too dry, add a little of the reserved pasta cooking water, 1 tablespoon at a time, to loosen it a bit.

7. The pasta should not be thick or heavy, the noodles should be lightly coated with oil. Add additional salt, pepper, pepper or chili pepper flakes to taste, if desired. Top with the breadcrumbs and a sprinkle of lemon juice. Serve hot. Serves 4.

Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is www.divapro.com. To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

It was noted American journalist, satirist and cultural critic H.L. Mencken who made the following sage observation: "Whenever 'A' attempts by law to impose his moral standards upon 'B,' 'A' is most likely a scoundrel."

You're certainly aware that the Middle East has large deposits of petroleum. It makes a kind of sense, then, that one of the first uses early discovers put the substance to was to treat their camels' mange.

As the holiday season approaches, there are some interesting traditions you might want to keep in mind:

You'll have bad luck on Christmas Day if you refuse mince pie on Christmas Eve.

If you eat an apple on Christmas Eve, you'll have good health throughout the following year.

If you eat a raw egg before eating anything else on Christmas morning, you'll be able to lift heavy weights.

If you don't eat plum pudding on Christmas Day, you'll lose a friend within a year.

Those who study such things say that Julia Grant, the wife of Ulysses S. Grant, our 18th president, initially refused when it was assumed that she would be interred beside her husband. She didn't change her mind until she was assured that Grant's Tomb would never be equipped with public restrooms.

The first state to declare Christmas an official legal holiday was Alabama, back in 1836.

You might be surprised to learn that the best-selling flowering potted plant in the United States is the poinsettia. You probably won't be surprised to learn, however, that the best-selling Christmas song of all time is Bing Crosby's "White Christmas."

Thought for the Day: "The people of these United States are the rightful masters of both Congresses and courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution."

—Abraham Lincoln

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ABOUT...

Obituaries

Obituaries are published free of charge by The Herald-Advocate as a public service, but must be submitted through a funeral home. A one-column photo of the deceased may be added for \$15.

Obituaries contain the name, age, place of residence, date of death, occupation, memberships, immediate survivors and funeral arrangements. The list of survivors may include the names of a spouse, parents, siblings, children and children's spouses and grandchildren, and the number of great-grandchildren. If there are no immediate survivors, consideration of other relationships may be given.

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To Your Good Health

By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Years ago, my husband took Lipitor, and after taking it for quite a while, his muscles and limbs developed a profound weakness; he could barely hold up a shovel and had no muscle tone. The doctor switched him to Vytorin, and it went away. Now he is experiencing similar problems after taking Vytorin for many years -- his joints ache, he feels like his body is slow to follow "orders" to move and his feet hurt. Could Vytorin now be the culprit?

—J.H.

ANSWER: Lipitor (atorvastatin) and simvastatin are cholesterol-lowering medications in the class called statins. Vytorin is a combination of simvastatin and another, nonstatin medication called ezetimibe. Muscle aches and even muscle breakdown are uncommon (but

not rare) side effects of all statin drugs. The side effect usually happens in the first six months of taking the medicine, but still can happen even after years of taking the medicine. Given your husband's history, I would recommend talking with his doctor about stopping the medicine. Changing statins (as your husband did, from Lipitor to simvastatin) can relieve the problem sometimes.

There are other causes of joint and foot aches, and slowness in moving sounds like it might be a neurologic or rheumatologic issue rather than a side effect. But a trial off the medicine is still a good first step.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 79-year-old male with mild Parkinson's disease and Type 2 diabetes. I can walk about 10 feet before becoming ter-

ribly short of breath and weak. I have been this way for several years, and it has become increasingly worse. Can you help me?

—K.C.

ANSWER: Neither Parkinson's disease nor Type 2 diabetes explains terrible shortness of breath on mild exertion. Severe shortness of breath can come from serious heart or lung problems (many types) or severe anemia. I can't help: Get to your doctor right away.

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. To view and order health pamphlets, visit www.rbmamall.com, or write to.

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The term "to unfriend" didn't start with Myspace or even Facebook. Its usage goes all the way back to 1659.

Every ton of newspaper recycled saves 4100 kWh or enough energy to power a TV for 31 hours.



KOVELS

Antiques & Collecting

By Terry & Kim Kovel

CHRISTMAS TREE STAND

All the early Christmas trees were freshly cut from a nearby forest. By the 19th century in America, the fresh trees were brought into a church or home and decorated. But it was a problem to keep the tree upright, and without water it quickly dried out and lost its needles. In 1876, a man in Philadelphia patented an iron tree stand, and by 1919, a cone-shaped tin stand weighted with sand or water was being sold.

But the stands were not large enough to hold all the water needed, and that is still a problem for stands. The stands had to be heavy to keep the tree from tipping, so they were

made of cast iron. Many were made with three legs that looked like tree branches. All had large screws that pierced the trunk to hold the tree in place.

Collectors search for the iron stands made in unusual shapes — a Santa Claus, village scene or even a group of reindeer. They sell today for \$250 to \$900. An unusual tree stand made of concrete shaped to look like a Santa Claus head was sold at a Bertoia auction in 2015. It was made to hold a feather tree and had a small concrete cylinder attached to the back to hold the trunk. No water was needed. The 11-inch-high stand, painted white and red as expected, sold for \$118.

Q: I have a cube puzzle titled "The Night Before Christmas" made by McLoughlin Brothers in New York. It consists of 20 cubes, 2 1/2 inches on an edge, that depict various Christmas scenes based on Clement Moore's poem. Santa is shown in a green coat with a red belt and fur trim. The puzzle is 4 cubes by 5 cubes. The copyright date reads "18--." The last two digits are obscured. What is the copyright date? The puzzle has been enjoyed by four generations of children, and it



This rather serious Santa is a Christmas tree stand made of concrete. It sold last year for \$118, less than expected. The heavy stand was made for a feather tree, not a natural tree that needed water.

shows. It's in good enough condition so that all six scenes are shown in detail. What is the approximate value?

A: The copyright date is 1889. The pictures made by assembling the cubes are from the children's book, "The Night Before Christmas," published by McLoughlin Brothers. This Santa Claus cube puzzle sells for more \$2,000 in almost perfect condition.

CURRENT PRICES

Advertising tin, Smith's White Fruit Cake, A Delicacy from Dixie, round, yellow and red, woman, fruit basket, Gordon Smith, 8 x 3 inches, \$20.

Christmas ornament, green grapes kugel, brass cap, hanger, cluster, iridescent, Germany, 1800s, 6 inches, \$350.

Silver Hanukkah lamp, menorah, eight oil fonts, detachable servant light, crown-shaped backplate, marked, Bezalel, c. 1910, 5 x 6 inches, \$980.

Have a collector on your holiday shopping list? The 50th Anniversary edition of "Kovels' Antiques & Collectibles Price Guide 2018" makes a great gift. The 548-page softcover book features 20,000 listings and more than 2,500 full-color photographs, plus trends, special events and surprises.

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**The Word Became Flesh And Lived Among Us
 And We Have Seen His Glory ...**

Jesus Christ, The Savior, Is Born

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:11-14 KJV

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 newhopewauchula.com
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Riverview Heights Missionary Baptist
 Jim Harris, Pastor
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 (Main Street/64A)
 773-3344

Christmas Blessings
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First Baptist Church Wauchula
 Pastor Joe Butler
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Santa Claus Checks Out The Public Library



A family enjoys a snack of milk and cookies in the children's area after meeting Santa.

PHOTOS BY NAOMI EREKSON & GERALD SHACKELFORD
The Hardee County Public Library hosted its annual Cookie & Milk with Santa event Monday night of last week. Here, a line of parents and their eager children wait to meet Santa and have a photo taken.



Some children and their parents color holiday pages while they wait to meet Santa.



This trio of siblings happily poses with Santa for a keepsake photo.



A Hardee Senior High School Key Club member assists some small children with making crafts during the fun event.



This tiny tyke gives the bearded man in a red suit the once-over while his big brother cheerfully puts his arm around Santa.



There are smiles and stocking caps as these siblings gather around Santa for a picture.



This boy bashfully looks away as Santa Claus reads his letter.



This reluctant little guy reaches out to Mama as Santa attempts to console him.



These siblings don their best Christmas red for a picture with Santa.



This little boy isn't too sure about this strange-looking man.



Mama holds her frightened daughter so they can still get a keepsake photo with the jolly old elf!



Sitting on Santa's lap was a Christmas treat for these sisters.



Everyone is all smiles, except the concerned little guy who is checking out Santa!



A wave from the excited little guy in a tie!



Her Christmas top looks just like Santa!



Santa and pal pause for a picture pose.



This little boy gently cradles a candy cane in his hands as he visits with Santa.



His T-shirt says it all: "Dear Santa, I Can Explain."



Candy canes were welcome treats.



THANKSGIVING TABLES

COURTESY PHOTOS • MONTAGE BY DARLENE WILLIAMS
 These first graders at Zolfo Springs Elementary not only can set a dinner table, they can build one! Teacher Sharon Ussery challenged the students to build a Thanksgiving dinner table out of dominoes and popsicle sticks. They then had to be able to place five Thanksgiving items on the table without the table falling down or any of the items overlapping. It was all part of a Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics study.



Couch Theater DVD Previews

By Sam Struckhoff

DVDs reviewed here are available in stores the week of Dec. 11.

PICKS OF THE WEEK

"Kingsman: The Golden Circle" (R) — The boys are back in the next adventure of "Kingsman." The Kingsman headquarters and its entire network is blown up, save for Eggsy (Taron Egerton) and Merlin (Mark Strong). The pair uncovers a tenuous connection to a parallel American organization, Statesmen, with its own cast of characters (headed by Jeff Bridges, with Channing Tatum and Pedro Pascal). When the destructor of Kingsman is uncovered as lunatic drug-dealing wannabe CEO

mance is not steamy enough and the landscape is far too entertainment-industry lush (she just happens to inherit an L.A. villa complete with a snazzy car to run away to?) to be relatable.

"Detroit" (R) — In 1967, Detroit's 12th Street Riot rocked the already fractured urban landscape. Director Kathryn Bigelow



(*"The Hurt Locker"*) brings us a dramatization of the Algiers Motel murders that happened during this race riot, and its unresolved aftermath. John Boyega plays Melvin Dismukes, a private security guard ensnared in the power displays of cop Phillip Krauss (Will Poulter). Algee Smith and Jacob Latimore portray members of a music group holed up in the Algiers after their tour bus is mobbed. The film has been both lauded for its importance and panned for its selective storytelling, but it's a gripping tale worth watching, with outstanding performances from both Boyega and Poulter.

"Home Again" (PG-13) — Separated from her husband, Alice (Reese Witherspoon) decides to move home to Los Angeles and start over in the house she grew up in. Out for her 40th birthday celebration, she meets three young filmmakers (Nat Wolff, Jon Rudnitsky and Pico Alexander) in town to pitch a project. Sparks fly in a May-December arrangement with one of the young men, who hit it off with Alice's two young daughters and her mother, and move into the guest house. I really wanted to love it: I'm a Reese Witherspoon fan of the first order, I love Nat Wolff (*"The Fault in Our Stars"*) and my favorite, "Ashby", and then there's Candace Freaking Bergen as Alice's mother. But the struggles are not real enough, the ro-

"Viceroy's House" (NR) — Hugh Bonneville (*"Downton Abbey"*) headlines as the Viceroy of India, Lord Mountbatten, who arrives in India to supervise its transfer from a British colony to independence. Gillian Anderson plays his headstrong wife, Edwina. Political tensions and unrest ignite between important political parties, and we witness the story of Mountbatten's valet Jeet (Manish Dayal) whose pursuit of the beautiful Alia (Huma Qureshi) may be doomed due to religious differences.

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All is WELL

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Trance/Formers Distributed Thanksgiving Food Nov. 21

By **JIM KELLY**
Of The Herald-Advocate

Trance/Formers Inc. on Nov. 21 distributed Thanksgiving food to 25 families in the Bowling Green, Wauchula and Fort Meade area. The meal package consisted of a whole turkey, dressing, whole corn, green beans, a cake and a two-liter Pepsi.

N'Kosi Jones of Bowling Green is president and CEO of the charity formed in 2009 to provide counseling, education, discipling and mentoring for community children.

"We value the family as the primary source of community development, and our priority is to initiate the development and growth of the youth. We are targeting youth between the ages of 7 to 17 but are not limiting ourselves to those ages, because a healthy and successful lifestyle must be maintained, ongoing into the senior adult life.

"We want to establish and

maintain a nurturing environment, with caring adults and a healthy, safe place to improve educational success, reduce the number of youth engaging in delinquent behavior, and improve the quality of their lives economically, educationally, socially and spiritually."

The mission of Trance/Formers is to address youth who are at-risk, isolated, impoverished, in drug-infested environments, as well as those who are or have been emotionally, physically and/or verbally abused and/or neglected. Primary prevention and early intervention can help youth increase their coping skills to emulate healthy patterns instead of negative ones such as juvenile delinquency, premature sexual behavior, substance abuse, violence, etc.

"We endeavor to lower the level of emotional disorders by providing mentoring in formal and informal settings, to reduce stress and promote condi-

tions that increase confidence and coping skills in young boys and girls. Due to a variety of changes in the scope of our country's economic status, we provide an array of life-altering strategies and techniques for those who are adults as well," said Jones.

Goals and objectives include to strengthen and stabilize the functional skills of those struggling with generational poverty issues, to assess the level of education and provide educational enhancement, G.E.D. and college entry preparation if necessary, to provide prevention strategies for criminal delinquency, STDs, premature pregnancy, and substance abuse, and to be liaison for professional child abuse prevention counseling, conduct parenting skills training, and provide a full range of mental health counseling.

Jones can be reached at 850-207-2808 at jones_nkosi@yahoo.com.



N'Kosi Jones with Thanksgiving food boxes.

COURTESY PHOTOS





We hope we've got everyone covered as we wish our customers, neighbors and friends, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
For your past support, we are truly grateful.
Jimmy Hanchey

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AVID Students Tour South Florida State College



COURTESY PHOTOS

Twenty-five sixth grade Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students from Hardee Junior High School traveled to Avon Park on Nov. 29 for a tour of South Florida State College (SFSC) with teacher Jessica Gilliard and AVID district director Meredith Durastanti.



SFSC scavenger hunt winners were Reese Galvan, Lucia Sanchez, Savannah McCall, Yureidy Roblero-Flores, Victoria Jackson, and Alvin Sanchez.



AVID students explore SFSC's new Mechatronics Lab.



Sixth grade AVID students explore the art sculptures at SFSC.



Students listen as a lab assistant discusses the functions of the brain during a tour of the nursing and science labs.



The Criminal Justice Academy showed the AVID students the effects of impaired driving by having Juan Vera-Sosa wear impairment goggles.



At the Criminal Justice Academy, Juan Vera-Sosa pretends to drives down the road.



Victoria Jackson, Logan Garcia, Dulce Hernandez, and Candis Litton work on an art project at SFSC.

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1321 E. Main Street, Wauchula
for our Candle Light Service



As Seen From This Side
By Jerry "Gray Wolf" Phillips
Wauchula

When I was a small child, there was a real Santa Claus. He would walk down the streets of Colquitt and Bainbridge, Ga. Not in a red suit but in a red and black flannel shirt and blue-jean coveralls.

Every child he met got a \$5 bill (that was more than a day's work on the farm). To the mothers, he would give \$20 two weeks before Christmas. We never knew his name, where he came from, or how he got there.

This went on for over five years. He started this mystery just before the end of World War II and stopped as the Korea battles began. There was a lot of speculation but the mystery was never solved.

In later years, there were stories in the newspaper of this happening elsewhere.

My dad said one thing was for sure. He didn't do it for praise. No one knew who he was, even when the news people got involved.

When I was in high school, I dated a girl whose father ran a department store. Every Friday and Saturday, he would sit on a roller cart and sell pencils for only a donation. She and I saw him getting into a new Buick parked behind their store.

Then, one day we met one of our teachers who said the same man would go into the schools on Monday and leave money for the children who did not have lunch money.

I've often wondered if these two were the same man. To a lot of kids, he was the real Santa.

Some 22 years ago this month, I was a mall Santa and did so for six years. In those great times, I had the privilege of hearing many good things out of the mouths of children.

There were some great requests. Some were funny and there were even a few that brought tears to my eyes, which still do today.

There was a pair of twin girls, age 6. One of them wore a body brace from having her spleen and liver damaged by her stepfather kicking her in the stomach for spilling a drink on the table.

When I asked her what she wanted for Christmas, she replied she wanted to be allowed to visit him in prison, to tell him she forgave him.

There was one child, when asked what she wanted, who replied that the only thing she wanted was to "have Mommy let Daddy come back home."

The greatest kid of all was one little first-grader who told me I was a phony Santa. He had been in Kindergarten the year before and now he was with his kid brother who was in Kindergarten that year. There were 94 kids who had "Breakfast with Santa" that day.

My photographer will not take photos of a Santa with a cotton beard and hair, as well as pillows for a stomach. I weighed 252 pounds, standing at 5 feet and 6 inches tall. Yeah, I was fat.

The mall was exceedingly warm (there was ice and snow in Tennessee), so I could not wear a shirt under the suit, and I had my own beard and hair.

As I approached the booth (where the kids were eating with parents) from behind, I heard the older boy tell his brother I was a phony. I tapped him on the back and asked him why he thought I was a phony.

He stammered, then declared my stomach was a pillow. I lifted my top and let him know there was no pillow. Then he thought my hair and beard were glued on. After proving otherwise, I moved on.

When all the photos were taken, the boy and his brother came to have theirs taken together. He turned to me and said, "OK, make it snow."

About 30 minutes later, the kids lined up to get on the buses to return to school. He was first in line and one of the drivers came in and exclaimed, "it's spitting snow outside and it's still 40 degrees."

This kid broke into a full run without asking permission and ran the full length of the mall, stormed up on the stage out of breath and screamed loud enough for the whole mall to hear, "hey man, how did you do that?" I just grinned and said, "Santa can't tell you everything."

All these years later, I can still see that expression on his face.

This will be a story about a Baptist deacon and a chew of tobacco, eventually.

Benny Brookins lived in Albany, Ga., and worked for Bell Telephone. He was transferred to Bainbridge, Ga., the same place Johnny's brother-in-law had been working for 10 years after getting back from World War II.

A few weeks after Benny's transfer, an opening became available by seniority. He had two days seniority over Johnny's brother-in-law Hilton. They became friends and Benny also attended church with us.

The job was Benny's by seniority but he stepped aside since Hilton had been in Bainbridge the longest. It was then that Benny took over the job Hilton had been doing. A lineman.

We were over at Johnny's one day when a sudden thunderstorm blew in. Benny was working on the line in front of the house and had started up the pole. As he got to the top, he had forgotten to hook his safety belt.

As he was hooking the buckle, lightning struck, a long way down the line but still close enough for a shock.

The shock knocked Benny off the pole, and he fell about 15 feet, landing on top of the hood of his truck.

When he fell, we ran to see if he was hurt. Well, he was getting up, reaching for his hip pocket. He took three fingerfuls of Beechnut Chewing Tobacco and said, "I knew something was missing. My tobacco. I never climb without it."

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FEMA Assesses 'Historic' Hurricane Season

Hurricane Irma Strongest Atlantic Ocean Storm On Record

While 2017's historic hurricane season has officially ended, FEMA is still actively assisting disaster survivors recovering from the devastating season.

Four hurricanes made landfall: Harvey, Irma, Maria and Nate. The first three were classified as major hurricanes, and they affected roughly 25.8 million people.

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma marked the first time two Atlantic Category 4 hurricanes made landfall in the Continental United States in the same season.

Hurricane Harvey set a new record for the most rainfall from a U.S. tropical cyclone, with more than 50 inches of rain in some areas. The storm resulted in catastrophic flooding in Texas and western Louisiana.

Two weeks later, Hurricane Irma became the strongest Atlantic Ocean hurricane on record.

Winds peaked at 185 mph, and Hurricane Irma remained a hurricane for 11 days. Irma was the longest-lived Atlantic hurricane since Ivan in 2004.

The public response as Hurricane Irma approached resulted in one of the largest sheltering missions in U.S. history.

Hurricane Maria devastated the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico soon after Hurricane Irma struck their shores.

Hurricane Maria was the first Category 4 hurricane to make landfall on the main island of Puerto Rico in 85 years, and the resulting response became the longest sustained air mission of food and water in Fed-

eral Emergency Management Agency history.

In addition to these hurricanes, prior to the 2017 season FEMA already had 17 field offices working 28 presidentially-declared disasters. Since Harvey made landfall in Texas on Aug. 25, the president has granted 16 Major Disaster declarations and 14 Emergency Declarations, while FEMA has authorized 25 Fire Management Assistance Grant declarations. Over a span of 25 days, tens of thousands of personnel were deployed across 270,000 square miles in three different FEMA regions.

So far, more than 4.7 million disaster survivors registered for federal assistance with FEMA — more than all who registered for hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma and Sandy combined.

To respond to the historic demand, FEMA expanded its call center capacity by tenfold, and increased the number of home and property damage inspectors fourfold.

"This historic hurricane season should serve as a gut check and an opportunity for citizens, businesses, state, local, tribal and federal officials to re-evaluate how we prepare for and respond to any disaster," said FEMA Administrator Brock Long.

"Response and recovery is dependent upon the whole community to be successful," he said. "While we continue to support the recovery from these storms, we must also take the opportunity to become better prepared for future disasters."

To date, FEMA has placed

more than \$2 billion in disaster assistance into the hands of disaster survivors to help them recover from these events, Long noted.

"State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, along with the residents in the impacted areas, are the true first responders," said Long. "FEMA alone cannot deliver assistance to this vast number of survivors. We must hit the re-set button on the culture of preparedness in our country."

Non-profit organizations provide crucial services to sustain lives in partnership with the rest of the response and recovery infrastructure. The private sector also plays a significant role in disasters, as businesses work to restore critical services and donate time and resources to help communities rebound in the wake of disasters.

Thousands of members of the federal workforce were de-

ployed to Texas, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, including 13,892 staff from various offices of the Department of Defense, including the military services. For the first time, FEMA extended the Department of Homeland Security's "Surge Capacity Force" to all federal agencies, deploying over 3,800 non-FEMA federal employees.

FEMA search and rescue teams saved nearly 9,000 lives, in addition to those saved or assisted by the Defense Department, the Coast Guard, state and local partners, first responders, and neighbors helping neighbors.

While the 2017 Hurricane Season has ended, recovering from these devastating hurricanes will take years, and FEMA continues to support affected governments and survivors as they build back stronger.

Hurricane Irma Stats

- More than 2.6 million survivors have contacted FEMA for assistance.
- More than \$933 million has been approved for individuals and families.
- More than \$695 million in Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and business owners has been approved.
- More than 27,000 National Flood Insurance Program claims have been submitted.
- More than \$369 million has been paid on approved NFIP claims.
- FEMA operated 73 Disaster Recovery Centers.
- More than 91,000 people visited the centers located throughout the 48 designated counties to receive information and advice for their recovery.
- Disaster Survivor Assistance teams have visited more than 273,000 homes and talked to more than 178,000 survivors about how FEMA can help and, if needed, to assist with helping survivors register.

Crop Update

December 11, 2017

General: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 10, 2017. Precipitation estimates ranged from trace amounts of rain to 4.5 inches in Starke (Bradford County). The average mean temperatures ranged from 48.9°F in Whiting Field Naval Air Station (Santa Rosa County) to 77.3°F in Miami Beach (Miami-Dade County).

Citrus: The citrus region experienced the coldest temperatures of the season over the weekend, with several stations dropping to the mid to upper 30s. The cooler weather benefits the trees by assisting them to build a tolerance to the cold. All areas encountered some rainfall. Totals were between less than half of an inch in Kenansville (Osceola County) to more than one and a half inches in Lakeland (Polk County). According to the December 7, 2017, U.S. Drought Monitor, the complete citrus region remains drought free.

Grove operations were normal for this time of the year, with growers conducting light spraying, mowing, and harvesting. All areas were running irrigation on at least one or two days due to the lesser amounts of rainfall over the past several weeks.

Harvest continued at a normal pace with growers spot picking red grapefruit and getting into orange blocks suitable for the fresh market. Harvesting for the fresh market also included early tangerines, (Sunburst, Osceola, Roe, Autumn Honey, Fall-glo and a few minor varieties) and tangelos. On the processed side, the large majority of the harvest was early oranges. All processing plants are up and running to accept fruit.

Fruits and Vegetables: Strawberry volumes continue to increase in Hillsborough County. Vegetable growers continue harvesting a wide variety of vegetables. Crops coming to market include cabbage, cucumber, eggplant, green beans, herbs, pole beans, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Pastures were damaged by frost this week in Dixie, Jackson, Osceola, and Walton Counties. Pastures were reported to be high, dry, and brown in color in Brevard and Indian River Counties. Cattle remains in mostly good condition throughout the state.

Field Crops: Cotton harvest is nearly complete. Sugarcane harvest is ongoing in Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties.

ATTENTION:

HARDEE COUNTY DISPOSAL CUSTOMERS

Due to the

Christmas Holiday

there will be **NO** garbage pick-up

Monday, December 25th.

Garbage collection will resume on the next scheduled pick up day

Thursday, December 28th.

Due to the

New Year's Day Holiday

there will be **NO** garbage pick-up

Monday, January 1st.

Garbage collection will resume on the next scheduled pick up day

Thursday, January 4th.

REMINDER TO ALL CUSTOMERS:

All garbage should be out by 7am each morning, as route pick-up times are subject to change due to holidays, weather and other circumstances.

ALL CUSTOMERS please be advised that if you have CANS LARGER THAN 32 GALLONS, ALL WASTE MUST BE CONTAINED IN GARBAGE BAGS as our helpers can not lift these larger size cans. THANK-YOU in advance for your cooperation and consideration for the safety of our employees.

Monday-Friday • 8:00am-5:00pm

12-14-21c

TOP CHOICES



COURTESY PHOTO

Zolfo Springs Elementary has chosen Helen Neal (left) and Vicky Sanchez as the school's teacher and support person of the year, respectively. Neal is a first-grade teacher, and will go on to compete for the district-wide Teacher of the Year award. Sanchez is a paraprofessional who works with kindergarten classes. She will be the school's candidate for district Educational Support Person of the Year.

AG ANGELS



COURTESY PHOTO

Partnering with Farm Credit, Ag Angels recently presented a check for \$2,000 to Zolfo Springs Elementary. The cash will be used to provide Christmas presents for students who may otherwise go without any gifts. It was gratefully received by staff members who will ensure it spreads joy.



MINI MALL

COURTESY PHOTOS
MONTAGE BY DARLENE WILLIAMS
Students at Zolfo Springs Elementary were able to visit the school's "Santa Shop" to choose from a large variety of items so that they could proudly purchase gifts for their family members and friends. From pot holders to candle holders and key rings to birthstone rings, there was something for nearly everyone on the little elves' lists!



Cultivating our Communities Starts at Home

In fulfilling our mission to feed a growing world, Mosaic is committed to supporting the communities our employees and their families call home. The Community Investment Committee from the South Pasture Mine takes pride in nurturing organizations that enrich our community, like NU-HOPE Elder Care Services. Mosaic employees recently donated their time and skills to assist with facility enhancements so NU-HOPE can focus on providing vital nutrition, care and advocacy for the seniors it serves.

We are proud of our employees and their dedication to supporting programs and events that help our region flourish. Mosaic recognizes that the strength and prosperity of our local communities are the roots of our success.

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Lady Cats Lifted To Victory Over DeSoto

By TOM STAIK

Of The Herald-Advocate

The Lady Cats clawed their way to victory over the visiting Lady Bulldogs as they notched out a win in the first home weightlifting meet of the season.

Held in the weight room at Wildcat Stadium last Thursday (Dec. 7), the meet saw the ladies in Orange and Blue from Hardee Senior High School lift their way to a 45-38 win.

A dozen Lady Wildcats – coached by John Sharp – placed in their respective weight classes.

Hardee lifters placing first were: Janessa

Tamayo, Alyssa Shoemaker, Alexis Benjamin Graham, Julissa Flores, and Acheline Delhomme.

Second place finishers were: Alexis Neel, Jacquiline Chagoya, Ami Gutierrez, Deborah Figueroa, Heather Coronado, and Stephanie Louis.

Heidi Smith placed third.

Hardee was scheduled to travel to Arcadia to face the Lady Bulldogs, again, on Tuesday (Dec. 12). Results were not available at press time.

The Lady Cats will again see action on Monday (Dec. 18) as they travel to Lake Placid for a 5 p.m. showdown with the Lady Dragons.



Alexis Benjamin Graham, spotted by her father, took first in her weight class.



Jacquiline Chagoya benching as Alyssa Shoemaker spots.



Janessa Tamayo registering her next attempt.



PHOTOS BY TOM STAIK

Coach John Sharp spots as Alyssa Shoemaker takes her turn benching.



Deborah Figueroa (left) and Julissa Flores getting taped for the match.

Wildcats Notch First Win

By TOM STAIK

Of The Herald-Advocate

The Wildcats notched their first win of the season Friday night before a home crowd at the Hardee Senior High School gymnasium.

"We played a very exciting game in front of a great Friday night game at the Cage and actually fell behind by as many as nine late in the game," said coach Wally Helms. "But when we got things going we finished it off."

The "Cage" – the nickname given by the team to Hardee's gym – was fouled as the Wildcats marched to a 78-73 victory over the visiting Bulldogs from Frostproof Middle/Senior High School.

The teams pulled an astounding 51 fouls before the final buzzer.

"You would of thought they were getting paid by commission", I had one fan tell me," Helms said. "It was crazy. Their all-state guard did his best to beat us. He was driving and missing shots but one of my guys would get called for a foul almost every time. I would have done the same thing if I was going get every call."

The Wildcats went up 15-13 at the end of the first quarter. Jean Youte netted six points – two from penalty – to lead the quarter. Tavon Faulk had three points, and Cody Helms, Kai Washington, and Randy Mc-

Cleod each hit the net for two.

The Bulldogs narrowed the Hardee lead to one, 32-31, heading into lockerroom at half time.

The Wildcat second quarter effort was again led by Youte, who netted twice and completed 5-for-8 from the free-throw line. Helms netted his first of three three-pointers, Samuel Luis netted once, and McCleod went three-for-four at the foul line to contribute to Hardee's 17-point effort in the second.

The ball continued to bounce in Frostproof's favor in the third quarter as the Bulldogs took the lead with a 23-point effort.

Hardee's 16 points – seven from penalty – came from McCleod with two baskets, Zachary Hicks with a basket, Helms with his second three-pointed and two penalty shots, and Youte who shot 5-for-6 at the free-throw line.

The third quarter ended with the Wildcats trailing, 48-54.

The come-from-behind victory came in the fourth quarter as the Wildcats amassed a staggering 30 points as they held Frostproof to 19.

Luis led the quarter with a three-pointer, three baskets, and going 3-for-4 at the free throw line. Youte netted one and shot for three, Helms recorded his third 3-pointer and went 2-for-2 in penalty

shots, Hooks went 1-for-2 on free shots, Washington netted one, Faulk netted one, and McCleod netted one and went 1-for-2 at the penalty line.

Helms was full of praise for his Wildcat squad.

"Jean Youte did well driving and shooting for us as he had 25 points, 10 rebounds, four assists, and 2 steals. Cody Helms never got going from the outside but ended up with 15 points, eight assists, and seven rebounds. Randy McCleod had a decent game with 12 points, eight rebounds, and four blocks," Helms said.

The Wildcats even had an unexpected "hero."

"The surprise hero was Samuel Louis with 14 points and 5 rebounds," Helms said. "He hit a three early in the fourth that turn on his game. He was getting boards, easy layups, and hit his free throws."

Hardee recorded 41 rebounds, 18 assists, and was 25-35 on free throws.

The Wildcats faced district foe Lake Wales at home Tuesday (Dec. 12). Results were not available by press time.

Lakeland Christian will come to town today (Thursday) for a 7:30 game. Hardee will be on the road Monday (Dec. 18) as they travel to Mulberry High School and play again Tuesday (Dec. 19) as they face McKeel (Lakeland) Academy.

Go Kart Race Cancelled

By TOM STAIK
Of The Herald-Advocate

Heartland Senior Games has pulled go kart racing from this season's schedule of events.

"Unfortunately, repeated attempts to get a confirmation from the management of the track have gone unanswered," said Neil Simpson, ambassador for the games.

The event was originally slated to be held at Sebring Kart Racing — behind Heartland Bowl — on Feb. 13.

While the bowling facility was destroyed by fire during Hurricane Irma earlier this year, the track was reportedly not damaged.

"Therefore, it was expected that the Heartland Games Kart Racing would go ahead as planned," Simpson said.

Those already submitted a registration form with payment for go kart racing, the money will be refunded unless they wish to substitute another event, Simpson said.

New Golf Rules

The state senior games have moved the 65-69 year old men ahead to the forward tees. With this in mind, men will be playing white 50-64 at 5,971 yards, gold 65-79 at 5,560 yards, and

green 80+ at 5,123 yards. Ladies will play pink at 4,518 yards.

The registration form asks for a handicap. This will not be used for scoring, simply to help create foursomes which will prove challenging for the strongest golfers and enjoyable for the others.

Swimming Limited

Swimmers will be limited to six events this year

Registration Continues

For those who have not yet registered for the Games, a revised form, with space for a phone number, is available at www.southflorida.edu/community-education/heartland-games-active-adults.

Registration forms must be submitted at least two weeks prior to your first event. The earlier they are turned in, the easier it is for staff to process them.

For those unable to print the form, hard copies are available at the Chamber of Commerce offices in Avon Park, Sebring, Lake Placid, Arcadia and Wauchula as well as at the SFSC campuses in Avon Park, Lake Placid, Arcadia and

Bowling Green and most area golf courses.

Florida Senior Games Winners

Heartland Games athletes competed in the Florida Senior Games in Clearwater last week.

Winners include:

Shuffleboard: Jacques Poitras, 1st; Michael Zellner, 1st, and Randy Johnson.

Bowling: Ron and Virgil Crandall.

Swimming: Ted Riley, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th; Geraldine Fabb, 2nd and 3rd.

Golf: Kelly Cramer, 1st; Wayne Colledge, 1st; Max Gnagy, 1st; Charlie Miller, 1st; Bob Nebel, 2nd; Jerry McClain, 2nd; John Schwartz, 4th; Rex Smolek, 4th; Thomas Kessler, 13th.

Tennis: Bruce Wyse, 2nd; Darlene and Ron Ochsenknecht, 3rd; Bruce Wyse and Bobby Fulcher, consolation winners.

Cycling: 5 & 10K, Doug McClellan, 1st; Allen Hughes, 3rd; Darryl Troy, 4th.

Pickleball: Gail Brown and Jim Maynard, 1st.

Track & Field: Brenda Scott, 2nd and 5th; Roland Jones, 1st, 2nd, and 5th; Duncan Beck, 3X 2nd, 3X 3rd.

For information, call or email 863-784-7388 or 863-784-7034 or communityeducation@southflorida.edu.

Sebring Takes Wins Over Cats

By TOM STAIK

Of The Herald-Advocate

The Hardee Wildcats fell 0-3 to the visiting Blue Streaks of Sebring last Thursday (Dec. 7) before a home crowd at Wildcat Stadium.

"Although controlling the ball for over 60 percent of the game, Hardee lost 0-3," said coach Dennis Aubry. "Sebring made a nice chipped shot in the first quarter. Hardee made a defensive error in the third quarter to allow the second goal."

The varsity soccer game was also marred by an injury to the Wildcat goal keeper in the second half.

"Out back-up keeper had to face a relentless team," Aubry said.

The junior varsity squad lots 0-3 in the evening's early event.

Wildcats, Highlanders Battle To Tie

The Hardee Wildcats surrendered a 3-1 lead to escape the Lake Wales Highlanders with a 3-3 tie last Tuesday (Dec. 5) at Wildcat Stadium.

"The wheels fell off," said Aubry.

The varsity soccer squad led 3-1 as it entered the second half, but the Highlanders returned re-energized as they put up two points in the fourth to leave the match tied, 3-3.

The junior varsity squad fell 0-4 to Lake Wales in the evening's earlier game.

The "organized" Highlander JV squad "played very well," Aubry said.

Wildcats Down Frostproof, 4-2

The Wildcats traveled to Frostproof on Dec. 1 to deliver a 4-2 defeat to the Bulldogs in high school soccer action.

Hardee scored first in the 8th minute on a shot by by Juan Gaiton.

Frostproof scored their first goal in the first half at the 22nd minute.

In the second, forward Adam Pazzaglia made two goals within the first few minutes of the half. Frostproof added a goal 14 minutes later to come within 1.

Abed Hijaz secured the match with a goal in the last minute of the game.

The junior varsity squad also earned victory against the Bulldogs with a decisive 6-1 match.

Hardee saw two goals in the first by forward Irvin Campos. The Wildcats had four goals in the second half: one by Irvin Campos, and three by forward Narlensky Sanon.

Sanon and Campos both had "hat tricks" — three goals in one game.

Wildcats Blank Poinciana

The Hardee Senior High School varsity soccer squad traveled to Poinciana High School in Polk County on Nov. 30 and earned a 3-0 victory.

"The varsity team took a while finding a way to score in the first half but only took 4 shots," said Aubry. "In the second half, they unleashed a barrage of shots — 11 — and were able to sink three."

Two shots were recorded by winger Juan Gaiton and one shot by mid-fielder Juan Castillo.

Hardee Battles Sebring

The Wildcats battled the Blue Streaks at Fireman's Field in Sebring to a 1-1 tie on Nov. 28.

"Sebring scored early in the game on a quick header. Hardee trailed the rest of the game until nearly two minute to play in the game," Aubry said.

A foul — called against Sebring just outside the penalty area on the right top of the box — proved a turning point for the Wildcats.

"Mid-fielder Abed Hijaz took the free kick and nailed it on a hard shot in the left side of the net to tie the match," Aubry said.

Hardee's junior varsity squad also saw action as they battled Sebring to a 0-0 tie.

State Offers Gift To Young Sportsmen

The state is offering something of a stocking stuffer to young Floridians.

From now until Dec. 31, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission will offer Lifetime Sportsman's Licenses for children and young adults at a reduced cost. The license currently costs up to \$1,000 but the price will be reduced by 25 percent for Florida residents who are 17 and younger.

The lifetime license covers saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing, hunting and most associated permits.

Gov. Rick Scott said, "Our state's natural treasures give families all across the state opportunities to spend quality

time together, and I'm proud to reduce the cost of the Lifetime Sportsman's Licenses for Florida's children and young adults this holiday season. I encourage Florida's children and young adults to take advantage of this opportunity to spend time enjoying Florida's great outdoors."

A Lifetime Sportsman's License allows fishing and hunting in Florida for the rest of the license holder's life, even if that person is no longer a resident of the state.

The license may be purchased online at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com, and at Florida county tax collectors' offices. Residency must be verified.



Well football fans, it is that "Most Wonderful Time of the Year" — Bowl Season.

From Dec. 16 to the National Championship Game, there is a plethora of 40 plus bowl games to keep your interest.

The other most watched college football saga, the "Coaching Carousel" or more realistically, the "Musical Chairs" of college coaching have all but stopped with Mario Cristobal landing at Oregon. The SEC will have multiple new coaches in 2018. Scott Frost returning to his Nebraska roots should turn the Huskers around as well.

The Gators choice of Dan Mullen was a safe choice and a good one for Florida. He has the ties to Gainesville and experience in the SEC. It should not take long for him to turn around the program.

The FSU saga ended with Willie Taggart coming back home from Oregon after just one year. Jimbo seemed ready for a change of scenery and a 10-year, \$75 million deal even makes College Station, Texas look like a 5-star resort. Amazing what coaches make today. In 1976, Bobby Bowden left West Virginia for FSU for \$37,500 a year. He got a whopping \$2,500 more than WVU was paying him.

Tennessee finally found someone to take the job in Knoxville. After the Schiano debacle, a succession of candidates turned down the job. Jeremy Pruitt coming in with experience under Nick Saban should do a better job than Butch Jones.

Now, let's look at the first bowl games:

Dec. 16

Six games on the opening day of Bowl Season.



1. New Mexico Bowl — Marshall vs. Colorado State — Both teams finish 7-5 floundering in the second half of the season. The Rams have played a tougher schedule than the Herd. Marshall has the best winning percentage in college bowl games and has won five straight. Colorado State 31 — Marshall 17



2. Cure Bowl — Georgia State vs. Western Kentucky — Hilltoppers should prevail over a 6-6 Georgia St team. Western Kentucky 34 — Georgia State 13



3. Celebration Bowl — North Carolina A&T vs. Grambling — Two 11-1 teams put it on the line in this one. Grambling has tradition but North Carolina A&T prevails this time in a close

one. North Carolina A&T 38 — Grambling 35



4. New Orleans Bowl — North Texas vs. Troy — Trojans are much stronger than the mean Green who won the weaker division of CUSA. Troy 35 — North Texas 14



5. Las Vegas Bowl — Oregon vs. Boise State — The Ducks have lost their coach and hired a new one. Will the turnover hurt the bowl chances? Boise lives for bowl games and has a chance to knock off a name team. Boise State 42 — Oregon 34



6. Camellia Bowl — Middle Tennessee vs. Arkansas State — If Stockstill is at quarterback for the Blue Raiders look for a win. If not, look for Arkansas State to blow them out. Should be a fun game to watch though. Middle Tennessee 33 — Arkansas State 24



Dec. 19

7. Boca Raton Bowl — Akron vs. FAU — Lane Kiffin pulled this off to play at home. The Zips have no chance. FAU 55 — Akron 13



Dec. 20

8. Frisco Bowl — La Tech vs. SMU — Mustangs lost their coach to Arkansas but will still take care of business. SMU 43 — La Tech 20



Dec. 21

9. Gasparilla Bowl — Temple vs. FIU — Butch Davis, like Kiffin, is in a bowl in his first year at a CUSA school. FIU 30 — Temple 27

A couple notes in conclusion to this first bowl preview, the bowl committee has to get some props for getting the right four teams in the championship picture. That has not been the case in the past. This time, despite the lobbying for an undeserving Ohio State to be included, they gave us the teams that earned the spots.

The Heisman Trophy also went to the best player this year. Baker Mayfield has been sensational on the field leading the Sooners to a playoff berth. His story from walk-on to winning the Heisman is a testament to what a player can do with hard work and dedication.

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Saturday, Dec. 16th
A Heartland Christmas
6 pm - 9 pm • \$5 (plus tax) per person
6:30 pm Contest winners for Gingerbread House and Christmas Ornament
7 pm Wendy's Dance Company/Competition Teams

December 23
Breakfast With Santa and Mrs. Claus
9 am - 11 am* • \$8 (plus tax) per person
*Reservations/Tickets Must be bought online
5 pm - 6 pm Sensory Needs Children (must register online www.HCSN.weebly.com)
6 pm - 9 pm A Heartland Christmas

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13 New Law Officers Graduate At SFSC

Thirteen graduates of South Florida State College's Class No. 254 from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy were recognized at a ceremony on Friday in the University Center Auditorium in Avon Park.

No longer cadets of the academy, the BLE graduates who received occupational certificates were Christopher Bandy, Michael R. Barry, Jeira Colon, Dustin L. Edwards, Beth Gainous, LaToya Henley, Estella Islas, Cierra L. Johnson, Wesley Jones, John Layport, Meghan Nielsen, David Shoopman, and Brittany Whittington.

Both Bandy and Gainous are Hardee County residents.

Guest speaker for the ceremony was Chief John Eason of

the Wauchula Police Department.

In addressing the graduates, Eason noted that Sir Robert Peel, who established the London metropolitan police department in 1829, stressed the importance of earning public support.

"Winning public approval requires vigorous work to build reputations, enforcing laws impartially, hiring officers who represent and understand the community, and using force only as a last resort," Eason said.

"This still rings true today. Each of you have worked tirelessly to make it to this point. Do not throw it away by forgetting your oath and canon of

ethics. Each of your classmates, your family, your instructors, your agency, and most importantly, your community demands only the absolute best you have to offer."

Eason went on to thank the family and friends of the graduates: "On behalf of the instructors of the SFSC Basic Law Enforcement Academy, I want to thank the graduates' friends and family members. You helped get your loved ones to this point today. You have each faced challenges and adversities throughout this course, but you've risen to the challenge. Continue to support your law enforcement officer."

During the ceremony, special awards were presented to Wesley

Jones as class leader and for top academic scores in the class and Dustin Edwards for top firearms score.

SFSC's BLE occupational certificate program trains cadets to become law enforcement officers in Florida. By successfully completing the program, they are eligible to take the state certification examination to become certified law enforcement officers. The program runs 770 contact hours, or about five months full-time or 10 months part-time.

For more information about the program, visit south-florida.edu or call SFSC's Criminal Justice Academy at (863) 784-7285.

PARADE PREP



COURTESY PHOTO

With a theme of "A Storybook Christmas" for the annual Christmas Parade through downtown Wauchula, selecting Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" for a float theme was a natural for Hilltop Elementary School. Shown above in the staging area with the Grinch are Brittany Wiggins (left) and Blake Rickett. Getting ready to roll below are (from left) Sky Martinez, Addison Sonnier and Rigdon Cornelius.



COURTESY PHOTO

Two Hardee Countians are among the most recent graduates of the Basic Law Enforcement Academy. Shown at the Friday ceremony are (front, from left) Brittany Whittington, David Shoopman, John Layport, Michael Barry, Christopher Bandy, Cierra Johnson and Meghan Nielsen; (back) Wesley Jones, Beth Gainous, Dustin Edwards, Jeira Colon, Estella Islas and LaToya Henley.



SFSC FOUNDATION, INC.

MILLION DOLLAR HOLE-IN-ONE GOLF SHOOTOUT

Inaugural Fundraiser Benefitting South Florida State College Athletics

JANUARY 18-20, 2018
SUN 'N LAKE GOLF COURSE
SEBRING, FLORIDA


QUALIFYING ROUNDS
Thursday, January 18, 2018
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday, January 19, 2018
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

SHOOTOUT
Saturday, January 20, 2018
9:00 a.m.


For more information, call 863-453-3133.

Event Sponsor





Media Sponsors






Extended Hours Open Six Days a Week







We've Got You Covered Wauchula

The medical team at Pioneer Medical Center wants to be more than just your health providers, they want to be your partners in health. That means convenient and quick access to care, with the kind of personal attention that makes all the difference.

Offering Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of:

- Acute and Chronic Disease Management
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- Minor Skin Procedures
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- Well-Woman Visits
- Immunizations
- Childhood Vaccines

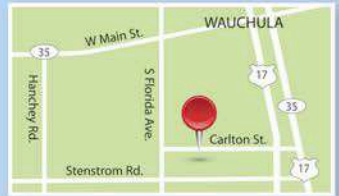





Justin Blalock, ARNP Lauren M. Canary, PA-C Keith O. Coker, PA-C John Gill, PA-C

Call (863) 773-6606 for more information.

**Florida Hospital Wauchula
Pioneer Medical Center**
515 Carlton Street
Wauchula, FL 33873

Hours of Care
Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 8 am - 5 pm
Tuesday: 8 am - 6 pm
Thursday: 7:30 am - 5 pm
Saturday: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm



FLORIDA HOSPITAL WAUCHULA
Pioneer Medical Center

Crime Blotter

During the past week, sheriff's deputies and city police officers investigated the following incidents and made the following arrests:

COUNTY

Dec. 10, Justin Michael Welch, 37, of 1100 Magnolia Ln., Wauchula, was arrested by Det. Ryan Abbott and charged with battery.

Dec. 10, criminal mischief on SR 64 East and a theft on Shackelford Road were reported.

Dec. 9, John Steger, 60, of 1262 Murphy Rd., Ona, was arrested by Det. Ryan Abbott and charged with DUI.

Dec. 9, a fight on Lake Branch Road was reported.

Dec. 8, Scott Colin Fields, 42, of 1842 Dishong Rd., Wauchula, was arrested by the Drug Task Force (DTF) and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of synthetic cannabis, two counts possession of drug paraphernalia and smuggling/introducing contraband into a detention facility.

Dec. 8, criminal mischief on Mockingbird Road was reported.

Dec. 7, Jennifer Bryan, 35, of 333 Charley Bryan Rd., Ona, was arrested by Dep. Brian LaFlam and charged with battery.

Dec. 7, a theft on Rigdon Road was reported.

Dec. 6, Hunter Steven Phillips, 18, of 7218 Twillen Gate Dr., Charlotte, N. C., was arrested by Dep. Brian LaFlam on an out-of-county warrant.

Dec. 6, a business burglary on SR 66 and a vehicle stolen on Steve Roberts Special were reported.

Dec. 5, Carlos Marquez, 25, of 607 Harvey St., Wauchula, was arrested by DTF and charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Dec. 5, a theft on Heartland Way was reported.

Dec. 4, Annie Elena Torres, 41, of 665 Hyde Rd., Wauchula, was arrested by Sgt. Todd Souther on a charge of violation of probation.

Dec. 4, criminal mischief on Morgan Grice Road and on Garden Drive, and a vehicle stolen on Cecil Durance Road were reported.

WAUCHULA

Dec. 10, Johnny Benavides, 20, of 5109 Howard Ave., Bowling Green, was arrested by Ofc. Kaleigh Anderson and charged with resisting/obstructing an officer without violence.

Dec. 9, Cecil Winthrop Crews, 78, General Delivery, Wauchula, was arrested by Chief John Eason and charged with trespassing on a structure/conveyance.

Dec. 9, Frank Farias, 20, of East Main St., Wauchula, was arrested by Ofc. Kaleigh Anderson and charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Dec. 8, Cassidy Michelle Lane, 20, of 313 Indiana Ave., Wauchula, was arrested by Sgt. Thomas Fort on an out-of-county warrant.

Dec. 8, a theft on North Ninth Avenue was reported.

Dec. 7, Christifer Thompson, 23, and Olivia Kristie Sambrano, 32, both of 603 S. First Ave., Wauchula, were arrested by Ofc. Christopher Gicker. Thompson was charged with aggravated battery an offender should know would cause injuries and Sambrano was charged with battery.

Dec. 7, a theft on South Fifth Avenue (U.S. 17 North) was reported.

Dec. 6, a theft on East Palmetto Street was reported.

Dec. 4, a residential burglary on Azalea Hill, burglary of a conveyance on Stenstrom Road and criminal mischief on South Tenth Avenue were reported.

BOWLING GREEN

Dec. 10, criminal mischief on East Banana Street was reported.

Dec. 7, a theft on Central Avenue was reported.

Dec. 6, criminal mischief on Willow Avenue and a vehicle stolen on Manila Lane were reported.

Dec. 4, a fight on Banana Street was reported.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The HARDEE COUNTY

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

meeting as the local planning agency will hold a

PUBLIC HEARING

on

THURSDAY, JANUARY 04, 2018

6:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter

in the County Commissioners' Board Room

Room 102, 1st floor Courthouse Annex

412 West Orange St., Wauchula, FL

TO HEAR THE APPLICATION, AND TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT FOR

Agenda No. 18-05

Lexan Properties LLC/Sharon G. Mytyk and Erica M. Scheipsmeier request approval of a Site Development Plan to construct a new agriculture building for the agriculture business and to provide agri-tourism events on the parcel to include outdoor commercial recreation, educational activities, the keeping of non-commercial livestock, the operation of a plant nursery including wholesale and retail sales of ag-related products and on-site food sales on A-1-zoned parcels in the Highway Mixed Use Future Land Use Category

On or about the South side of Torrey Rd.,

East of US Hwy 17 N

Parcel 1, Parcel 2, Parcel 3, Parcel 4, Heartland Place S/D 28.65+/-acres

PARCEL 1, Heartland Place S/D

That part of SW1/4 of NW1/4 of S16, T33S, R25E, Hardee County, FL being more part desc as follows: Com at NW corn of said S16; thence S 00deg10min45sec W, along W line of said S16, a dist of 1331.56 ft to S r/o/w of Torrey Rd and the Point of Beginning; thence cont same line, a dist of 361.00 ft to a pt on E r/o/w of State Rd #35 also known as US Highway #17, said pt being on a curve to the left; thence S 1/2 along said E r/o/w and along said curve (having a radius of 2804.79 ft and a central angle of 00deg26min29 sec) a dist of 21.61 ft; thence S 12deg15min17sec E along said E r/o/w a dist of 326.22 ft; thence N 77deg44min48sec E a dist of 719.67 ft; thence N 12deg14min24sec W a dist of 559.44 ft to said S r/o/w; thence N 89deg51min57sec W along said S r/o/w a dist of 657.24 ft to POB

AND ALSO

That part of SE1/4 of NE1/4 of S17, T33S, R25 E, Hardee County, Florida, being more part desc as follows: Com at NE corn of said S17; thence run S 00deg10min45sec W along E bdry of NE1/4, a dist of 1331.56 ft to a pt on S bdry of Torrey Road and to POB; thence cont S 00deg10min45sec W along E bdry, 361.00 ft to a pt on E r/o/w line of State Road 35-US Highway 17; thence N 1/2 along said r/o/w line, along the arc of a curve to the right (having a radius of 2804.79 ft, central angle 07deg27min22sec, and chord 364.74 ft, chord bearing N 08 deg05min08sec W 365.00 ft) to a pt on said S bdry of Torrey Road, S 89deg51min57min E along said S bdry 52.43 ft to POB.

PARCEL 2, Heartland Place S/D

That part of SW1/4 of NW1/4 and SE1/4 of NW1/4 of S16, T33S, R25E, Hardee County, Florida being more part desc as follows: Com at NW corn of said S16; thence S 00deg10min45sec W along W line of said S16, a dist of 1331.56 ft to S r/o/w of Torrey Rd; thence S 89deg51min57sec E, a dist of 657.24 ft for Point of Beginning; thence cont same line a dist of 697.54 ft to W line of said SE1/4 of NW1/4 said pt lying 21.36 ft S of NW corn of SE1/4 of NW1/4; thence cont S 89deg51min57sec E a dist of 20.67 ft; thence S 00deg12min47sec W and parallel with said W line a dist of 312.50 ft; thence S 89deg23min42sec W a dist of 20.67 ft to said W line; thence S 00deg12min47sec E along said W line a dist of 157.45 ft; thence N 53deg36min13sec W a dist of 60.80 ft thence S 77deg44min48sec W a dist of 523.00 ft; thence N 12deg14min24sec W a dist of 559.44 ft to POB;

PARCEL 3, Heartland Place S/D

That part of SE1/4 of NW1/4 of S16, T33S, R25E, Hardee County, FL being more part desc as follows: Com at NW corn of said SE1/4 of NW1/4; thence S 00deg12min47sec E along W line of said SE1/4 of NW1/4 a dist of 491.57 ft to Point of Beginning; thence S 53deg36min13sec E a dist of 43.60 ft; thence S 00deg12min47sec E a dist of 337.45 ft; thence N 89deg35min44sec E a dist of 252.41 ft; thence N 00deg05min38sec W a dist of 192.76 ft to N line of SW1/4 of SE1/4 of NW1/4; thence N 00deg09min12sec W a dist of 638.32 ft to S r/o/w of Torrey Road; thence N 89deg51min57sec W along said r/o/w a dist of 267.82 ft to a pt lying 20.67 ft E of said W line; thence S 00deg12min47sec E and parallel with said W line a dist of 312.50 ft; thence S 89deg23min42sec W a dist of 20.67 ft to said W line; thence S 00deg12min47sec E along said W line a dist of 157.45 ft to POB;

PARCEL 4, Heartland Place S/D

That part of SE1/4 of NW1/4 of S16, T33S, R25E, Hardee County, FL being more part desc as follows: Com at NW corn of said SE1/4 of NW1/4; thence S 00deg12min47sec E along W line of said SE1/4 of NW1/4 a dist of 491.57 ft; thence S 53deg36min13sec E a dist of 43.60 ft; thence S 00deg12min47sec E a dist of 337.45 ft for Point of Beginning; thence N89deg35min44sec E a dist of 252.41 ft; thence N 00deg05min38sec W a dist of 25.00 ft; N 89deg35min44sec E a dist of 277.82 ft to a pt lying 100.00 ft W of E line of SW1/4 of SE1/4 of NW1/4 of said S16; thence S 00deg05min38sec E and parallel with said E line a dist of 494.78 ft to S line of said SE1/4 of NW1/4; thence S 89deg36min38sec W along said S line a dist of 540.25 ft to a pt 24.00 ft E of said W line; thence N 00deg12min47sec W and parallel with said W line a dist of 410.00 ft; thence N 89deg36min38sec E a dist of 11.00 ft; thence N 00deg12min47sec W and parallel with said W line a dist of 59.64 ft to the POB.

Roger Conley, Chairman

This is a Disabled-Accessible facility. Any disabled person needing to make special arrangements should contact the Planning and Development Department at least two (2) working days prior to the PIZ Public Hearing.

This Public Notice is published in accordance with the Hardee County Unified Land Development Code.

Prior to the PIZ Public Hearing, documents relating to the request is available for public inspection during weekdays between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at the Planning and Development Department, 110 S. 9th Ave., Wauchula, Florida.

If you wish to discuss the request, it is suggested to call 863 767 1964 to schedule an appointment with Hardee County Planning and Development Department prior to the public hearing.

All interested persons shall have the right to be heard.

In rendering its decision the Planning/Zoning Board shall rely solely on testimony that is relevant and material

Although minutes of the Public Hearing will be recorded, anyone wishing to appeal any decision made at the public hearing will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made by a court reporter.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

BARBARA SPEARS, the holder of the following tax certificates has filed the certificates for a tax deed to be issued. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are:

CERTIFICATE NO.: 247 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2015

Parcel ID Number: 17-33-25-0000-04650-0000

Name in which assessed: JOLENE FUNDING LLC

Description of Property:

1 AC BEG NW COR OF NE1/4 OF SE1/4 OF SW1/4 RUN S 291 FT E 150 FT N 291 FT W 150 FT POB 17 33S 25E 439P382 2011125002589

SUBJECT TO RESERVATIONS, COVENANTS, RESTRICTIONS, AND EASEMENTS OF RECORD.

All of the property is in HARDEE, State of Florida. Unless the certificate or certificates are redeemed according to law, the property described in the certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder on JANUARY 3, 2018, at 11:00 a.m.

Victoria L. Rogers
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hardee County, Florida
Florida Ad No.: 1

By: Norma M. Juarez, Deputy Clerk
Tax Deed File: 252017TD018XXXX
Date: 11/01/2017
Pursuant to F.S. 197.512

11:30-12:21c

PUBLIC NOTICE

The HARDEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

will hold a

PUBLIC HEARING

on

THURSDAY, JANUARY 04, 2018

8:35 A.M. or as soon thereafter

in the County Commissioners' Board Room
Room 102, 1st floor Courthouse Annex
412 West Orange St., Wauchula, FL

TO HEAR THE REQUEST, RECEIVE A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD, AND TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT FOR

Agenda No. 18-03

Norma Virginia Rehberg requests a Temporary Special Use Permit to temporarily locate a second dwelling in the form of a single-family manufactured home dwelling to provide care for her daughter Debra Driver on an A-1-zoned parcel in the Agriculture Future Land Use Category

On or abt 3749 Penny Dr. 34 34 26 0000 02660 0000
Beg at NW corn of SW1/4 of S34, T34S, R26E, run E 970.60 ft to Point of Beginning; thence cont E 328.28 ft; thence S 656.57 ft; thence W 328.28 ft; thence N 656.57 ft to POB; said parcel lying in SW1/4 of S34, T34S, R26E, Hardee County, Florida, subj to one-half mineral rights as reserved in Deed Bk 53, Pg 281 and O.R. Bk. 166, Pg. 157; and right-of-way easement granted to Peace River Electric Coop as recorded in O.R. Bk 260, Pg 827 and perpetual easement as granted in OR B 288, Pg 500

Russell A. Melendy, Chairman

This is a Disabled-Accessible facility. Any disabled person needing to make special arrangements should contact the County Manager's office at least two (2) working days prior to the BoCC Public Hearing.

This Public Notice is published in accordance with the Hardee County Unified Land Development Code.

Prior to the BoCC Public Hearing, documents relating to the request are available for public inspection during weekdays between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at the Planning and Development Department, 110 S. 9th Ave., Wauchula, Florida.

If you wish to discuss the request, it is suggested to call 863 767 1964 to schedule an appointment with Hardee County Planning/Development Director prior to the public hearing.

All interested persons shall have the right to be heard. In rendering its decision, the Board of County Commissioners shall rely solely on testimony that is relevant and material.

Although minutes of the Public Hearing will be recorded, anyone wishing to appeal any decision made at the public hearing will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made by a court reporter.

12:14c

Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

FILE NO.: 252017CP000072

IN RE: ESTATE OF

CATHERINE C. BASS

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Catherine C. Bass, deceased, whose date of death was December 31, 2016, is pending in the Circuit Court for Hardee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 417 West Main Street, Wauchula, Florida 33873. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is December 7, 2017.

Attorney for Personal Representative:

Charlotte C. Stone
Charlotte C. Stone, Esq.
Florida Bar Number: 21297
Stone Law Group, P.L.
3200 US Hwy 27 S., Suite 307
Sebring, Florida 33870
Telephone: (863) 402-5424
Fax: (863) 402-5425
E-Mail:
charlotte@stonelawgroupfl.com
Secondary E-Mail:
tami@stonelawgroupfl.com

Personal Representative:

Charles R. Saylor
Charles R. Saylor
1062 Blue Jay Road
Wauchula, Florida 33873

12:7,14c

PUBLIC NOTICE

You are hereby notified that on

Thursday, January 4, 2017,

at **9:00 a.m.** or as soon thereafter, the

Hardee County Board of County Commissioners

will hold a public hearing for the adoption of a resolution closing and vacating the road/easement known as

An Alleyway in the Limestone Subdivision

being described as: All that part of the 15 feet alleyway located in the Limestone Subdivision, lying within Block 58 running north and south, west of Lots 1 through 7 and east of Lots 8 through 13 and bounded by Marion Street to the north, located in Section 10, Township 36 South and Range 24 East as shown in Plat Book 2, Page 1 of the Public Records of Hardee County, Florida.

The public hearing will be held in the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners Board Room, 412 West Orange Street, Room 103, Wauchula, Florida.

This procedure shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 336, Florida Statutes.

A petition for the closing and vacating of the above-referenced road shall be considered by the Board of County Commissioners after required publication of this Notice. Copies of the documents relating to this proposal are available for public inspection during weekdays between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. in the Hardee County Public Works Division, 205 Hanchey Road, Wauchula, Florida.

This is a Disabled-Accessible facility. Any disabled person needing to make special arrangements should contact the Board of County Commissioners' office at least five (5) days prior to the public hearing.

All persons are invited to attend and be heard. Although minutes of the Public Hearing will be recorded, anyone wishing to appeal any decision made at the public hearing will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made by a court reporter.

Russell A. Melendy, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

12:14c

Bowling Green Christmas Parade Held Dec. 9



Cub Scout Pack 875 of Bowling Green had this trailer.

PHOTOS BY JIM KELLY



These Cub Scouts of Pack 875 rode in back of a pickup truck.



Participating in the Bowling Green Christmas Parade Dec. 9 from Avion Palms were Karen Childs, Pat Clough, Nan Shull and Sarah Widmer.



Representing Bowling Green are Mayor Sam Fite and City Recreation Committee Co-chairs Leslie Long and Jean Kelly.



From Avion Palms in Bowling Green were, from left, Don Widmer, Jim Ploesser and Judy Ploesser.



On their golf cart for the parade are Norm and Bonnie Edwards of Avion Palms.



This Hardee County fire truck participated in the parade with Fire Fighters/Paramedics Kevin Armstrong and Chad Reeves. The truck also gave Santa Claus his ride in the parade.



David Horton with daughter Annabelle, wife Amanda, and other campaigners participated in the parade, cold weather and wind included. He is a 2018 candidate for county judge.



These Bowling Green police officers began the parade with lights flashing or directing traffic, including officers Brett Rich and Breanna Locke, City Commissioner Shirley Tucker, and Summer Dowden, and her husband Captain Brett Dowden.



This entry represented Martin Luther King Jr., driven by Alfred Morris.

Meet Our Teachers

Hardee County School District



Born in Miami
 North Wauchula Elementary - Kindergarten • 11 years teaching experience

High School Diploma — Lake Placid High
 Associate of Arts in Elementary Education — South Florida Community College
 Bachelors of Arts in Social Work/Minor in Psychology — Warner Southern College
 Masters of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education K-6 — University of Florida Sarasota/Manatee

I am married to Clifford Samuel Whaley and have three children, William Samuel Whaley, 10, Timothy Ryan Whaley, 8 and Trent Taylor Whaley, 5.

Hobbies and Interests: I love going to church at First Christian and spending time with my family. I enjoy going camping with my family and spending time outside. I also enjoy crocheting, knitting, and painting. I love to travel to new places, too.

There are many reasons I became a teacher. However, the main reason I became a teacher is to make a difference in the life of a child.

The most rewarding moment I've had being a teacher is watching the students grow in their learning. It's such an awesome feeling knowing that you have gotten a child to learn the skills they need to move onto the next grade. I love seeing their learning gains.

Something most people don't know about me: Some people may not know that I'm adopted. My mother was a foster parent. She got me from the hospital when I was three days old. She officially adopted me when I was 2 years old.

Another fun fact about me, I was born with a 6th toe on my left foot. I had it surgically removed at 2.



Stacie Marie Crawford Whaley



Yessenia De Loera

Born in Carson City, Michigan
 Wauchula Elementary - Second grade • 3 years teaching experience

High School Diploma — Hardee Senior High
 Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education — University of South Florida

I am married to Jimmy Vallejo.

Hobbies and Interests: Spending time with family and experiencing adrenaline rushing activities, such as skydiving and bungee jumping.

I first became a teacher to make a difference in someone's life. I knew I cared enough for children to devote my time to them. Thinking of teaching brought me excitement. After time and prayer, I knew I had my answer.

The most rewarding moment as a teacher is the, "I love you" moments or the "I don't want to go home. I want to be with you" moments. It's the knowing that you are keeping the children safe and knowing they are trying their best because they care. It's creating a loving environment in the classroom. It's seeing the children progress academically and witnessing their personalities blossom throughout the year. It's knowing that families appreciate you and all that you do for their children.

Something most people don't know about me: I aspire to someday be part of something bigger for the world. My desire in life is to create or become part of something where I will be able to continuously help the less fortunate in the world. To provide them with the necessities we have at our daily disposal. To somehow give others the opportunity to worry less because they have more to offer their families.



Debbie Kissel

Born in Wauchula
 Zolfo Springs Elementary - Fourth grade reading, writing, & social studies • 7 years teaching experience

High School Diploma — Hardee Senior High - Go Wildcats!
 Bachelors in Elementary Education — University of South Florida

I am married to Eli Thornton.

Hobbies and Interests: Traveling, reading, football, podcasts, sunshine and being outdoors.

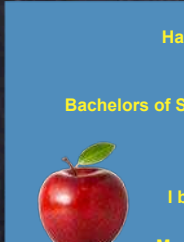
I became a teacher because a teacher is one of the only jobs that every child gets the chance to observe over and over again. Growing up I was lucky enough to have some wonderful teachers who changed my life and ultimately inspired me to be here doing this today. As a kid, I can remember "playing school" with my sisters and telling them what to do. This never really changed. ☺ I now enjoy helping my students learn and hope I have the same impact on them as my childhood teachers had on me.

In teaching rewarding moments happen by the minute, I am fulfilled with the simplest of things on a daily basis. It is a special feeling to see the smiling faces of my students who are just happy to be at school every day. A simple "Good Morning, Ms. Thornton" makes for a great start to the day. Each child brings something different into the classroom and everyone learns from each other, including myself. Some other rewarding moments include when a child grasps a concept that they have struggled with and experience an "aha" moment. Their face lights up when they realize they have accomplished something that they worked really hard at.

Something most people don't know about me: If I wasn't a teacher, I would be an investigator. I ask A LOT of questions, (just ask my friends and family) and I love a good mystery!



Erica Thornton



Cindy Moffat

Born in Garfield Heights, Ohio
 Hardee Junior High - ESE-Intellectual Disability • 36 years teaching experience

High School Diploma — Brecksville Senior High-Brecksville, Ohio
 BS in Mental Retardation and Elementary Education — Bowling Green State University-Ohio

Hobbies and Interests: I love the outdoors, especially the beach. Hunting for those perfect little treasures is my thing! When the beach is not possible, sitting on the porch in the evening and listening to nature-the crickets, the frogs, locust is totally awesome!

Why I became a teacher: When I was 8 years old, my best friend (and next door neighbor) became a big sister to a beautiful baby boy born with Down's Syndrome. As I watched Jonathan grow, and participated in his life...I was hooked! I was destined to become a Special Ed Teacher.

Most rewarding moment as a teacher: I have had lots of moments in my career that give me "goose bumps!" When one of my students recites the pledge of allegiance verbatim-goose bumps! When an alumni gets her mom to call me on the phone-no matter how hard it is to understand her-goose bumps! When two of my students genuinely hug each other-goose bumps!



Christina Elizabeth Butler

Born in St. Louis, Missouri
 Hardee Senior High - Sophomore world history and junior honors US history • 3 years teaching experience

High School Diploma — Trinity Catholic High, Spanish Lake, Missouri
 Associate of Arts in Teaching — Florissant Valley Community College, Ferguson Missouri.
 Bachelors of Sciences in Secondary Education with an emphasis in history — University of Missouri St. Louis, St. Louis Missouri.

I am married to Kevin Moffat, we don't have kids but we have two dogs, Carly and Kaiser.

Hobbies and interests: My husband and I lift weights together. I am a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan.

I became a teacher because I had a really good teacher in my high school that I am still friends with today, and I knew I wanted to teach when I was in high school because of my experiences there.

Most rewarding moment as a teacher: I have not been teaching long enough to really consider this seriously, I really enjoy when my students enjoy coming to my class, and are more open to learning because of it.

Something most people don't know about me: I have no musical talent but have always wanted to learn how to play an instrument.



LeAnne Buzzard

Born in Bartow
 Bowling Green Elementary - Third Grade Mathematics • 7 years teaching experience

High School Diploma — Hardee Senior High
 BS Elementary Education — University of South Florida
 AS Liberal Arts — South Florida Community College

I am married to David Butler Jr. and have one child, Bronx Butler, 1.

Hobbies and Interests: When I have free time I enjoy crafting, cheering on the Miami hurricanes and the New York Yankees, and I love spending time with my family and friends.

Ever since I was a little girl, I had always dreamed about becoming a teacher. One reason I became a teacher is because I wanted to give back to my small community. Another reason I became a teacher is because I wanted to inspire children and remind them that they could be anything they want to be. I have a passion for helping children grow and become successful. I love my job and could not imagine myself doing anything else.

The most rewarding moments as a teacher for me would have to be witnessing my students have "Aha" moments, seeing the growth they make throughout the school year, and hearing my students say that they love school and learning.

Something most people don't know about me: I love watching cooking shows on the Food Network!



Born in Clearwater
 Hilltop Elementary - Kindergarten • 20 years teaching experience

High School Diploma — Bloomingdale Senior High, Valrico
 Bachelor of Science; Elementary, 1-6; Primary, K-3 — Florida Southern College — Lakeland Florida

I am married to Jeffrey Buzzard and have two children, Shelby Buzzard, 15, sophomore at HHS and Brett Buzzard, 12, 6th grader at HJH

Hobbies and interests: Boating on the lake and spending time with family

I became a teacher because I knew teaching was my calling when I was in second grade. I played school with my chalkboard and stuffed animals at home, and loved it when my teacher, Mrs. Quinn, let me grade papers for her.

Most rewarding moment as a teacher: When a former kindergartner sent me his high school graduation invitation. After watching him struggle, I was so proud to know that he hadn't given up and was moving on to his next phase in life. He informed me that my efforts with him in kindergarten were his inspiration to persevere through school.

Something most people don't know about me: I am a 7th generation Floridian. Permelia Ann Whitfield Carson was my great, great, great, great grandmother and she was considered the mother of Frostproof. They were the first family to move there.



LeAnne Buzzard

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IDA Seeking Grant Funds

By MICHAEL KELLY
Of The Herald-Advocate

The Hardee County Industrial Development Authority will seek state grant funds to assist in developing the Hardee County Commerce Park expansion project, which is expected to cost approximately \$4 million to complete.

The board voted Tuesday to seek funding from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity grant fund after Gov. Rick Scott allocated \$85 million for infrastructure projects across the state.

Board members directed staff to talk to DEO representatives to gauge what level of matching funds would be

needed to improve the chances of receiving an award.

No match is required, but the IDA is prepared to offer between a 25 percent to 50 percent match if it means being in a better position over other competing projects.

The 104-acre expansion is directly south of the existing 129-acre park located off State Road 62, which is nearly fully built out.

The board has one available lot left in the original project, and it would create an additional 20 lots ranging in size from four to 11 acres with the expansion project.

Whether the IDA receives the grant funding or not, it will

soon begin plans for the expansion, which include water and sewer lines, paving a road through the property and site work for the various lots.

The plans have been on hold for more than two years after the zoning change that was approved by the County Commission in 2014 was challenged by nearby property owner John Terrell.

The lawsuit is still pending in Circuit Court. At the time, the board had decided not to move forward with the expansion until the legal proceedings were complete, but now the case has sat idle for more than a year and it is not known when it may be resolved.

Solunar Forecast

12/14/2017 Sun Data Rise: 7:09 AM Set: 5:34 PM Day Length 10 hrs. 25 mins. Moon Data Rise: 3:51 AM Set: 3:25 PM Overhead: 9:41 AM Underfoot: 10:03 PM Moon Phase 11% Waning Crescent Major Times 9:41 AM - 11:41 AM 10:03 PM - 12:03 AM Minor Times 3:51 AM - 4:51 AM 3:25 PM - 4:25 PM Prediction Hunting or Fishing Average Time Zone UTC: -5	12/16/2017 Sun Data Rise: 7:10 AM Set: 5:35 PM Day Length 10 hrs. 25 mins. Moon Data Rise: 4:44 AM Set: 4:03 PM Overhead: 10:26 AM Underfoot: 10:49 PM Moon Phase 6% Waning Crescent Major Times 10:26 AM - 12:26 PM 10:49 PM - 12:49 AM Minor Times 4:44 AM - 5:44 AM 4:03 PM - 5:03 PM Prediction Hunting or Fishing Better Time Zone UTC: -5	12/18/2017 Sun Data Rise: 7:12 AM Set: 5:36 PM Day Length 10 hrs. 24 mins. Moon Data Rise: 7:19 AM Set: 6:11 PM Overhead: 12:47 PM Underfoot: 12:23 AM Moon Phase 0% NEW MOON Major Times 12:23 AM - 2:23 AM 12:47 PM - 2:47 PM Minor Times 7:19 AM - 8:19 AM 6:11 PM - 7:11 PM Prediction Hunting or Fishing SEASONS BEST Time Zone UTC: -5	12/20/2017 Sun Data Rise: 7:13 AM Set: 5:37 PM Day Length 10 hrs. 24 mins. Moon Data Rise: 8:54 AM Set: 7:50 PM Overhead: 2:22 PM Underfoot: 1:58 AM Moon Phase 5% Waxing Crescent Major Times 1:58 AM - 3:58 AM 2:22 PM - 4:22 PM Minor Times 8:54 AM - 9:54 AM 7:50 PM - 8:50 PM Prediction Hunting or Fishing Better Time Zone UTC: -5
12/15/2017 Sun Data Rise: 7:10 AM Set: 5:35 PM Day Length 10 hrs. 25 mins. Moon Data Rise: 4:44 AM Set: 4:03 PM Overhead: 10:26 AM Underfoot: 10:49 PM Moon Phase 6% Waning Crescent Major Times 10:26 AM - 12:26 PM 10:49 PM - 12:49 AM Minor Times 4:44 AM - 5:44 AM 4:03 PM - 5:03 PM Prediction Hunting or Fishing Better Time Zone UTC: -5	12/17/2017 Sun Data Rise: 7:11 AM Set: 5:36 PM Day Length 10 hrs. 25 mins. Moon Data Rise: 6:28 AM Set: 5:26 PM Overhead: 11:59 AM Underfoot: ---: Moon Phase 0% Waxing Crescent Major Times ---:--:--: 11:59 AM - 1:59 PM Minor Times 6:28 AM - 7:28 AM 5:26 PM - 6:26 PM Prediction Hunting or Fishing Best Time Zone UTC: -5	12/19/2017 Sun Data Rise: 7:12 AM Set: 5:36 PM Day Length 10 hrs. 24 mins. Moon Data Rise: 8:07 AM Set: 7:00 PM Overhead: 1:34 PM Underfoot: 1:10 AM Moon Phase 2% Waxing Crescent Major Times 1:10 AM - 3:10 AM 1:34 PM - 3:34 PM Minor Times 8:07 AM - 9:07 AM 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Prediction Hunting or Fishing Better++ Time Zone UTC: -5	12/21/2017 Sun Data Rise: 7:13 AM Set: 5:37 PM Day Length 10 hrs. 24 mins. Moon Data Rise: 9:38 AM Set: 8:41 PM Overhead: 3:09 PM Underfoot: 2:46 AM Moon Phase 10% Waxing Crescent Major Times 2:46 AM - 4:46 AM 3:09 PM - 5:09 PM Minor Times 9:38 AM - 10:38 AM 8:41 PM - 9:41 PM Prediction Hunting or Fishing Average Time Zone UTC: -5

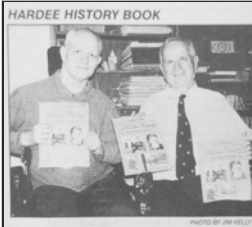
Provided courtesy of solunarforecast.com

Decades

What were Hardee Countians thinking and talking about in the 1960s, or maybe the '30s? Each issue, we will revisit that corresponding week and year in a decade past, using old copies of The Florida Advocate, the Hardee County Herald or The Herald-Advocate. This week, the decade of ...

The '00s Dec. 13, 2007

Book On Hardee: Local historian Spessard Stone has gotten a book published! "Hardee



Wauchula author Spessard Stone (left) and St. Petersburg publisher Jean Plowden (right) display the newly released "Hardee County - Its Heritage & People," the first history of this county since Jean Plowden's 1929 book. The hardbacks arrived in boxes at The Herald-Advocate office two weeks ago, and are on sale there and at Cafe On Main for \$40 each. Of the 702 copies available, 120 already have been sold. Stone will hold book sales and signings at Wauchula State Bank in Wauchula tomorrow (Friday) from 11 to 1 and 3 to 5, at Cafe On Main on Saturday from noon to 2, and at the local newspaper office next Wednesday from 2 to 4.

County: Its Heritage & People" is the first record of the

county's history since Jean Plowden's book in 1929. Stone (left) is pictured with St. Petersburg publisher Byron Kennedy and some copies of his new book. So far, 120 copies have already been sold out of 702.

Big Bucks: After three years, the town of Zolfo Springs can now get down and dirty with its new backhoe machine. Town Manager Linda Roberson worked to get a forgotten grant application renewed, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture & Rural Development funded \$39,200 for the 2007 John Deere machine. It loaned another \$32,200, totaling \$71,400 for the new backhoe.

Ears To Hear: David Kelly's "From The Heart" column this week talks about the excitement of having young children in the house over Christmastime. Kelly also discusses the matter of people always feeling like they need to have more, feeling like they need to be heard. "After a few short pauses and excited breaths, maybe we should just start by thanking God for giving us His Son, Jesus," he concludes.

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME ACT
 Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the provisions of the Fictitious Name Act, Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, as amended, intends to register with the Secretary of State of the State of Florida, the fictitious name of New Life In You Learning Center under which the undersigned is engaged or will engage in business at: 107 Hanchey Rd. in the City of Wauchula, Florida 33873.
 That the party/parties interested in said business enterprise is/are as follows: Jacqueline Jackson.
 Dated at Wauchula, Hardee County, Florida 33873.
 Person authorizing publication: Jacqueline Jackson.
 Dated: December 12, 2017

HARDEE COUNTY SEEKS "HALL OF FAME" NOMINEES

Superintendent Bob Shayman requests that members of the public submit names for potential inductees into the Hardee County Hall of Fame. Nominees should be people who have made significant contributions to their professional fields and who have attended public school in Hardee County.

Letters of nomination will be accepted through December 29, 2017. The letter should include the:

- nominee's name and address (or address of the nearest living relative if the nominee is deceased)
- the approximate dates of enrollment in Hardee County Schools
- a description of the nominee's accomplishments
- the name and address of the person or organization making the nomination.

Letters should be addressed to:
 Hardee County School Board
 ATTENTION: Hall of Fame
 PO Box 1678
 Wauchula, FL 33873

The program initiated in 1991 has recognized Mr. Merle L. Albritton, Mr. Shelley S. Boone, Mr. Doyle W. Bryan, Mr. John Burton, Governor Doyle E. Carlton Sr., Dr. Leffie M. Carlton Jr., Mr. Jesse S. Carter, Mrs. Exie Cathcart, Mrs. Catheryn McDonald Coker, Dr. Sylvia M. Collins, Mr. J.W. (Bill) Crews Jr., Mr. Michael Crews, Mr. Standish L. Crews, Mr. Joe L. Davis, Brig. Gen. Frederick H. Essig, Mr. W. Curtis Ezelle, Colonel John Cecil Fralish, Mr. Charles Frazier, Mr. Dwight W. Grimes, Mrs. Annie W. Hart, Dr. Harold E. Henderson, Mr. Wayne Hovis, Miss Valda E. Long, Mr. John W. Maddox, Col. Louis F. Makowski, Col. Donell Matthews, Mr. Tom McEwen, Judge Shirleyon J. McWhorter, Col. William Moran, Mr. Lawrence A. Roberts, Mr. Bartley Sapp, Mr. L.M. Shakelford, Miss Ruth V. Southerland, Mr. Leon T. Stephens, Mrs. Myrtle W. Strickland, Mr. Dunning Terrell, Reverend R. Perry Tomlison, Mr. W.L. Warren Jr., Mr. Dewey E. Whidden Jr., Mr. Carl Saunders, Mr. Todd Silverman & Mr. John Terrell

SCHOOL BOARD OF HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 1009 North 6th Avenue
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12:14c

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HARDEE COUNTY FOOD PANTIRES

Alpha & Omega Freedom Ministries

113 N 7th Ave Wauchula, FL 33873
 Tele: 863-773-5717
Requirements: Identification, Social Security card
When: Wednesday ONLY | 10 am - 12 noon

Bowling Green Church of God

121 W. Broward Bowling Green, FL 33834
 Tele: 863-375-2231
Requirements: Identification
When: 3rd Saturday of the month | 9 am - noon

Cutting Edge Food Ministry

3059 Elm Street Zolfo Springs, FL 33890
 Tele: 863-773-2484
Requirements: ID & Physical Address (Lease, Light bill etc.)
When: Tuesday & Friday
 10 am - noon & 1 - 3 pm
 Closed 3rd Full Friday of the Month

First United Methodist Church of Wauchula

207 N. 7th Ave Wauchula, FL 33873
 Tele: 863-773-4267
Requirements: ID & Physical address (Light Bill, Lease etc.)
When: 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month
 1:00 - 3:00 pm (first come, first serve)
Other Program: Bagged Lunch
 M, W, F 8 am - 12 pm
Wednesday night Community Dinner:
 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Hardee Help Center

713 E. Bay Street, Wauchula, FL 33873
 Tele: 863-773-0034
Requirements: Proof of Address (Light Bill, Lease etc.)
Programs: USDA, LIFAP, Crisis Food available
 For more information, please see HHC Staff
 Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

St. Michael's Catholic Church Food Pantry

408 Heard Bridge Rd, Wauchula, FL 33873
 Tele: 863-773-4089
Requirements: Identification or Light Bill
When: Every Saturday 7:00 - 9:00 am

Rev. 8/28/2017

2018 Kindergarten Pageant "Americana"



Open to all Kindergarten girls attending a Hardee County Elementary school

- \$50.00 entry fee (to be made payable to the Hardee County Fair Board)
- Mandatory pictures & coloring contest - TBA very soon!
- Mandatory practice- Thursday, February 15th (6:00-9:00pm)- Civic Center
- Pageant-Sunday, February 18th (2:00pm)- Civic Center
- **Deadline-Friday, December 22nd** (must be submitted no later than 11:00am due to early release for the winter break)
- All forms & fees must be submitted to Ashley Rigney at Hilltop Elementary School (2401 US-17, Wauchula) by the deadline-**No Exceptions!**
- Flyers will also be handed out to all Kindergarten girls at their school site

2018 Kindergarten Pageant Entry Form

Participant's Name: _____
 Participant's School & Teacher: _____
 Participant's Address _____
 Person of contact _____
 Phone # _____
 Cell # _____
 Work # _____
 Parent's Email Address: _____

A pageant information packet will be sent to the email address listed above, once the entry form & fee have been submitted. It will contain important pageant information for the contestants.

12:14,21c

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 EOE/DFWP

cl10:5f1c

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 12:7tfc

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 12:7,14p

Help Wanted

LEARN TO DRIVE A TRUCK! Get your Commercial Driver's License today at South Florida State College. Scholarships available to eligible participants. 863-784-7033. 12:14-1:4c

WANTED: • MAINTENANCE Mechanic, • Welder, • Foreman/Supervisor, • Diesel Mechanic, • Deckhand, • Dredge Operator, for local dredging company with several years of work with projects at Mosaic. MSHA training a plus. Must pass background/drug test. EOE/DFW Contact by email: guy@floridadredge.com 813-634-2517. 11:23-12:14c

Help Wanted

LOCAL CALADIUM FARM looking for experienced tractor operator, preferably with farming background and basic mechanical ability. Must be willing to keep equipment maintained and also do general farm work. Must have transportation and valid drivers license, 863-781-0670.
 11:16-12:14p

HELP WANTED: SERVICE Technician. Apply at Ullrich's Water Conditioning, 409 Goolsby Street, Wauchula. 10:19tfc

Lost/Found

HAVE YOU LOST A PET? Contact animal control in Bowling Green at 863-375-2255 to see if we have your cat or dog. We also have pets for adoption.
 4:16dh/tfc

Miscellaneous

NEW KNAPHEIDE TRUCK bed, \$1,900, 863-781-4314. 12:7,14p

NEW JOHN DEERE 15kw PTO generator on trailer, \$1,600, 863-781-4314. 12:7,14p

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cl17:28tfc

NOTICE

Hardee County Sheriff's Office
 To Whom it May Concern:

You are hereby notified that the following described livestock: **1 Jersey Cross Bull & 1 Brahman Cross Bull** was found in the area of 1790 Moffitt Road, Hardee County and is now impounded at Hardee County Sheriff's Office. The amount due by reason of such impoundment is all incurred fees. The above-described livestock will, unless redeemed within 3 days from date hereof, be offered for sale at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash.

14 day of December, 2017

Arnold Lanier, Sheriff
 Hardee County, FL

cl12:14c

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cl5:18tfc

Pets

ADOPT A PET! If you have lost a pet or are looking for a new one, the City of Wauchula invites you to come and see if you can find the pet you're looking for. The Wauchula Animal Control is located at 685 Airport Road. Please call 863-773-3265 for more information. tfc-dh

ATTENTION! State Statutes 828.29 requires that all cats and dogs sold in Florida be at least 8 weeks old, have an official health certificate, have necessary shots and be free of parasites. tfc-dh

Rentals

NICE DOUBLE WIDE TRAILER, 3/2, no smoking, \$850 month, \$850 deposit, 419-656-3246, 419-656-2777. 12:14p

ATTENTION! The Federal Fair Housing Act prohibits advertising any preference or limitation based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or the intention to make such a preference or limitation. Familial status includes children under 18 living with parents or guardians and pregnant women. tfc-dh

Services

I, JOE, WILL PICKUP for FREE old stoves, refrigerators, microwaves, freezers, lawn mowers and other metals. Call 863-245-9898. 12:14-1:11p

VITAS INNOVATIVE HOSPICE Care offers a bereavement walk-in support group for those that have experienced the loss of a love one. Beginning 9/2/16 every Friday at 1 p.m. in the VITAS office, 113 W. Main Street, Wauchula, 863-583-7100. 8:18tfc-dh

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, Thursday 7:00 p.m., Grace Fellowship Church, 131 S. 8th Ave., Wauchula. Bill 727-326-3816. tfc-dh

 NEED A WELL OR HAVE PUMP TROUBLE? CALL ULLRICH'S PITCHER PUMP For complete well, sales, service and installation, call 863-773-6448. 7:18tfc

THE WAUCHULA LIONS CLUB collects NOT broken prescription eyeglasses, cases and sunglasses. Please drop off at 735 N. 6th Ave. tfc-dh

DO YOU HAVE a problem with drugs? Narcotics Anonymous meets Monday and Thursday night 7:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, at the corner of Palmetto and 7th Ave., Wauchula. tfc-dh

IS ALCOHOL CAUSING a problem? Call Alcoholics Anonymous in Hardee county at 863-781-6414. Several weekly meetings. tfc-dh

HARDEE CAR COMPANY
 (Across From First National Bank)

**Buy Here
 Pay Here**

773-6667

cl6:25tfc

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 2001 Nissan Maxima SE
 4Dr Silver
 VIN: JN1CA31D61T611859
 10:00 AM, DEC. 28, 2017
 HILL'S TOWING, INC.
 4205 US HWY 17 N.
 BOWLING GREEN, FL 33834

cl12:14c

BOWLING GREEN QUICK LUBE & AUTO REPAIR

YOUR TIRE HEADQUARTERS
 5101 N. Hwy 17 • Bowling Green
375-4461
 New Tire Changer & Balancer
 Can Do 26" Wheels
 MONDAY - SATURDAY 8 am - 6 pm

 **TERRY**  **MIKE**

Licensed and Insured
 Reg.# MV-40625

✓ Foreign and Domestic Cars / Diesel Engines
 ✓ Gas or Diesel Manual or Automatic Transmissions

ASE

cl6:21tfc

MAINTENANCE WORKER II
PAY RATE:
\$22,187.53(\$10.67/hr.) - \$30,585.75 (\$14.70/hr.)

Wanted for the Hardee County Road & Bridge Department. Applicants must have some knowledge of the general maintenance trades. Ability to perform heavy manual labor.




- High School Diploma or GED (preferred) but not required.
- A Valid Florida Driver's License is required.

Complete job description and Application forms posted on County website @ www.hardeecounty.net. Please submit applications to the Hardee County Human Resources Department @ 205 Hanchey Road, Wauchula, FL 33873, Phone: (863) 773-2161.
Position is open until filled.
 Excellent Benefits including State Retirement.

EOE-F/M/V

cl12:14,21c

Hill's Auto World

 **Dan**  **Sandra**  **Jimmy**

735-0188 **375-4441**
 3505 US Hwy 17 S 4205 US Hwy 17 N
 ZOLFO SPRINGS BOWLING GREEN cl1:12tfc

NOTICE

Hardee County Sheriff's Office
 To Whom it May Concern:

You are hereby notified that the following described livestock: **1 Black Brangus Cross Cow, 2 Charolais Cross Cows, 1 Charolais Cross Heifer & 1 Black Bull with White Spots.** was found in the area of King Road / East Main St., Hardee County and is now impounded at Hardee County Sheriff's Office. The amount due by reason of such impoundment is all incurred fees. The above-described livestock will, unless redeemed within 3 days from date hereof, be offered for sale at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash.

14 day of December, 2017

Arnold Lanier, Sheriff
 Hardee County, FL

cl12:14c

I buy gifts all throughout the year because I have a large family and there are always birthdays coming up on a regular basis. At the end of the year there are gifts to buy for Christmas.



Peavy's Ponderings

By Jonell Peavy

Sugar Possum of the late Truman Thomas

That's when I start trying to remember where I put all the things I have bought and put away for Christmas so I can wrap them and get them under the tree. As we always have Christmas at my daughter's, all my gifts go under her tree to be given out on Christmas day.

We don't realize it at the time, but with each generation we create a new tradition. When my children were small we went to my husband's family for Christmas Eve to dine and open gifts. We went to my family on Christmas day.

After our parents were no longer here we celebrated Christmas at home for many years. As the children married and had children of their own, traditions changed yet again.

While the grandchildren were growing up the kids always came home for Christmas. As they got older and the grandkids started families of their own, we started having Christmas at my

daughter's.

I don't have a crystal ball to see future Christmases, but I would make a guess that as the great-grandkids grow to adulthood where they go for Christmas will change once more, and it will be the start of another tradition.

This will be the first Christmas in many years that I don't have a Christmas cactus blooming for Christmas. They are usually in full bloom by the time Christmas gets here, but this year Irma took care of that. There's always next Christmas.

I just checked the temperature at 12:15 a.m. and it was 40 degrees. That means by morning it will be in the 30s and I don't like cold weather. I feel for all of you who have to get out in it and go to work, especially for those who work outside.

I remember coming home from work at night, washing clothes and diapers and while I was hanging them on the clothesline the diapers would start to freeze. I would go home for lunch the next day and take them in to fold. That was long ago but they're memories you don't forget.

Top 10 Movies

1. Coco (PG) animated
2. Justice League (PG-13) Ben Affleck, Gal Gadot
3. Wonder (PG) Jacob Tremblay, Owen Wilson
4. Thor: Ragnarok (PG-13) Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston
5. Daddy's Home Two (PG-13) Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg
6. Murder on the Orient Express (PG-13) Kenneth Branagh, Penelope Cruz
7. Lady Bird (R) Saoirse Ronan, Saoirse Ronan
8. Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (R) Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson
9. The Star (PG) animated
10. A Bad Moms Christmas (R) Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell

(c) 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

Looking to sell, rent or hire?
CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE IS TUESDAY AT NOON

THE CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED
Administrative Coordinator
This is a part-time, contracted position for approximately 10 weeks - max 20 hrs. per week. Potential for continued employment if funding successful. Must be organized and able to work independently while maintaining professional appearance and pleasant working relationships with other staff and the public. Proficiency in Microsoft Office, specifically Word and Excel. Experience with budgets, spreadsheets, and archival record keeping. Some evening meetings. Special consideration given to those with knowledge of social media marketing and events. Salary commensurate with experience. Email resume to vithardee@gmail.com. No calls please. cl12:14c

Services

ATTENTION! State Statutes 489-119 Section 5 Paragraph B and Hardee County Ordinance 87-09 Section 10 Paragraph D require all ads for any construction-related service to carry the contractor's licence number. tfc-dh

Wanted

WANTED: HOMEMADE CANE syrup, pint or quart size, 863-375-4797. tfc-dh

Yard Sales

LARGE MULTI-FAMILY, Saturday, 7:30-noon. 1232 Stenstrom Rd. Furniture, clothes, toys. 12:14p

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, Saturday, 208 Park Drive. Shelves, all size, tools, clothes. 12:14p

SATURDAY, 8-?, 1006 N. 8th Ave. Winter clothes, jackets, like new bikes, and misc. items. 12:14p

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Mark Lambert
Advantage Realty #1
743 US 27 S Sebring, Fl. 33870
863-832-0401 cell • 863-386-0303 office
mark33862@gmail.com

JIM SEE REALTY, INC.
206 North 6th Avenue, Wauchula, FL 33873
Office (863)773-0060 • Evening (863)781-1338
www.jimseerealty.com
James V. See, Jr., Broker

Rick Knight

RV space for sale at Torrey Oaks Golf & RV Many improvements made. Located next to golf course. \$64,900

40 acres Presently used for farming & has a well. \$360,000

Large 4,800+ sf Commercial building Close to the McDonalds intersection in Wauchula Asking \$125,000

Realtor Associates
Rick Knight (863) 781-1396
Dusty Albritton (863) 781-0161
Shane Conley (863) 781-9664 cl12:14c

8 temporary farmworkers needed for common field labor in tobacco, sweet potatoes, long green cukes and other diversified crops in Sampson County, North Carolina, for WF Partnership with work beginning on or about 02/10/2018 and ending on or about 11/23/2018. The job offered is for an experienced farmworker and requires minimum 1 month verifiable work experience in the crop activities listed. The minimum offered wage rate that workers will be paid is \$11.46 per hour and piece rate may be offered depending on crop activity. Workers must commit to work the entire contract period. Workers are guaranteed work for 3/4 of the contract period, beginning with the first day the worker arrives at the place of employment. All work tools, supplies and equipment are provided at no cost to the worker. Housing will be provided to those workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of each working day. Transportation and subsistence will be provided by the employer upon completion of 50% of the work contract, or earlier, to workers who are recruited outside the area of intended employment. Applicants must provide documentation that they are eligible legally to work in the United States. Applicants should report or send resumes to NCWorks Career Center - Sampson County, 115 North Boulevard, Clinton, NC 28328 (910) 592-5756, or the nearest local office of their State Workforce Agency, and reference job order #NC10781341. EOE. H-300-17334-736987. cl12:14c

SPURLOCK ROOFING
863-453-5565
Family Owned & Operated
"Serving Central Florida For Over 20 Years"
Owner Robert Spurlock FREE ESTIMATES
\$50 Off Any Job \$500 or More
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER
Licensed & Insured CCC 1325523 cl14:30tfc

Hacienda Farms, Inc. is hiring 30 farmworkers to cultivate and harvest vegetable crops in Collier County, FL for a temporary period starting on 01/16/2018 and ending on 05/24/2018. Three (3) months of work experience harvesting vegetables is required. The wages offered are the highest of \$11.12/hr. or applicable piece rates. This job requires prolonged standing, bending, stooping, and reaching. Job is outdoors and continues in all types of weather. Workers may be requested to submit to pre-hire drug or alcohol tests at no cost to the worker. Workers must be able to lift 70lbs. to shoulder height repetitively throughout the workday and able to lift and carry 70lbs. in field. Employer guarantees work will be available for at least three-quarters of the period stated. Required tools supplies, and equipment will be provided at no cost to worker. Housing will be available for workers who cannot reasonably return home after each working day. Transportation and subsistence expenses will be provided, or reimbursed after 50% of the work contract is completed, if appropriate. Applicants should apply for the position at their local State Workforce Agency office. Job Order Number: FL10586866. 12:14,21p

99 temporary farm-workers needed for common field farm labor hand-harvest strawberries in the vicinity of Plant City, FL, for Rodrigo Gutierrez- Tapia, dba 5 G Harvesting LLC. work will be beginning on or about 01/15/2018 and ending on or about 03/15/2018. This job offer is for a hand harvester. The minimum offered wage rate that workers will be paid is \$11.12 per hour or piece rate may be offered depending on the crop activity. workers must commit to work the entire contract period. workers are guaranteed work for 3/4 of the contract period, beginning with the first work day the worker arrives at the place of employment. All work tools are provided at no cost to the worker. Housing will be provided to those workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of each working day. Transportation and subsistence will be provided by the employer upon completion of 50% of the work contract, or earlier, to workers who are recruited outside the area of intended employment. applicants should report or send resumes to CareerSource Heartland Hardee career center @ 324 N 6th Ave, Wauchula, FL, 33873 (863)773-3474. In reference of job order number 10581101 or their nearest SMS Services EoE H-300-17321-576479 cl12:14,21c

RCMA
Redlands Christian Migrant Association
Information and Database Specialist

PURPOSE OF POSITION: To ensure delivery of efficient and high quality services to children and families through simplifying and streamlining entry and data tracking for informing families and program improvement.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Receive, review, and enter data into computer system or tracking database according to established procedures using Program Resources and Outcomes Management Information System (PROMIS) and/or Enhance Field System (EFS) database.
2. Create and maintain child and family files for all funding sources in designated, locked file cabinet(s).
3. Complete application and determine family's eligibility for SR and VPK child care programs. Complete re-determinations as required.
4. Review the child Sign In/Out forms for completeness in preparation for the Center Coordinator to reconcile and approve attendance rosters.
5. Submit SR and VPK attendance rosters to Program Data Analyst by the 1st of each month.
6. Generate statistical reports to compare, analyze and verify data entered with source documents. Distribute reports to center, area and statewide staff as appropriate.
7. Serve as the primary liaison between the Center and the PROMIS and EFS Administrators in Immokalee.
8. Meet weekly with Center staff regarding analysis of database reports
9. Attend required data entry and eligibility trainings and meetings and provide input to enhance systems.
10. Ensure that confidentiality of data collected and stored are maintained.

MANDATORY QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

LANGUAGE SKILL: Bilingual in English/Spanish preferred and mandatory where applicable

EDUCATION, ABILITY, COMPENTENCY AND EXPERIENCE:

- High school diploma
- Three to five year work experience in a data entry position which provides the desired knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform the position's essential duties and responsibilities.
- Knowledge of records management procedures.
- Computer literacy and data entry experience
- Knowledge of computer software, including Excel and Word.
- Knowledge of PROMIS and EFS database systems a plus.
- Skill in use of basic office equipment.
- Communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Ability to perform mathematical calculations.
- Ability to demonstrate detail orientation.
- Ability to enter accurate information into automated database.
- Ability to demonstrate excellent organizational and follow-up skills.
- Ability to provide customer service effectively and courteously under normal or high-pressure circumstances.
- Detail oriented and possess skill in keyboard and calculator touch system.
- Carry out multiple tasks and meet deadlines.
- Customer service skills and sensitivity to staff and families.

Until Filled
Send application and/or resumes & cover letter to:
Redlands Christian Migrant Association,
Jenifer Pollock (Center Coordinator) • Tel-863-767-0222 • Email: jenniferp@rcma.org
Address: 320 N. 9th Avenue, Wauchula, FL, 33873
Application available online at: www.rcma.org
RCMA is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer cl12:7,14c

• Research suggests the hardest languages to learn are Chinese and Arabic. • A U.S. dollar bill can be folded approximately 4,000 times in the same place before it will tear.

Courthouse Report

COUNTY COURT
The following marriage licenses were issued recently in the office of the county clerk:
 Eulogio Bautista Hernandez, 34, Wauchula, and Flora Gaspar Alonso, 35, Wauchula.
 Fortino Linares Mejia, 31, Wauchula, and Bertha Velasco Ramirez, 33, Wauchula.

The following small claims cases were disposed of recently by the county judge:
 Sharday Santos vs. Christopher Gonzales, judgment.
 Hayden Cobb vs. Elizabeth Miller, judgment.
 Marilyn Morris vs. Yaminah Salaam, judgment.
 Hill's Auto World Inc. vs. Eric Kyle Mather, judgment.
 Suncoast Credit Union vs. Dana D. Richardson, voluntary dismissal.

The following criminal traffic and misdemeanor cases were disposed of recently by the county court:
 Michael Albritton, possession of cannabis, adjudication withheld, and possession of drug paraphernalia, probation 12 months, 30 hours community service, \$490 fines, costs and fees.
 Dwayne Blake Ladwig, DUI—amended to willful and wanton reckless driving, probation 12 months, drug evaluation, 50 hours community service, \$449.25 fines, costs and fees.
 Bryan Cisneros, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, not prosecuted.
 Peregrino Mendoza Cortez, domestic battery, transferred to pretrial diversion program, return Feb. 7.
 Bertin Sotelo Garcia, domestic battery, not prosecuted.
 Patricia Gutierrez, battery, not prosecuted.
 Joshua Cody Lopez, improper exhibition of a deadly weapon and domestic battery, 36 days in jail with credit for time served, \$525 fines, costs and fees.

David Rodriguez, improper exhibition of a firearm, completed pretrial diversion program, not prosecuted.
 Francisco Granadero, domestic battery, transferred to pretrial diversion program, return Feb. 7.
 Joshua McClelland, possession of drug paraphernalia, adjudication withheld, \$470 fines, costs and fees; possession of cannabis, not prosecuted.
 Michael Dean Patton, resisting an officer without violence and possession of drug paraphernalia, 180 days in jail with credit for time served, \$525 fines, costs and fees; possession of cannabis, not prosecuted.
 Rebecca Faulk, petit theft, probation 12 months, 25 hours community service, \$525 fines, costs and fees.
 Keandra Desiree Pettermon, possession of drug paraphernalia, adjudication withheld, probation 12 months, 25 hours community service, \$540 fines, costs and fees; possession of cannabis, not prosecuted.
 Jaterica Robinson, resisting an officer without violence, transferred to pretrial diversion program, return Feb. 7.
 Brandi Trevino, domestic battery, probation 12 months, 25 hours community service, \$927 fines, costs and fees.
 Amado Garcia Jr., violation of probation (original charge petit theft), probation revoked, 60 days in jail with credit for time served, \$75 fee added to outstanding fines, costs and fees and placed on lien.
 Angela Christine Robinson, violation of probation (original charge resisting an officer without violence), probation revoked, 120 days in jail with credit for time served, \$75 fee added to outstanding fines, costs and fees and placed on lien.

CIRCUIT COURT
The following civil actions were filed recently in the office of the circuit court:
 Joseph Henry Cobb and Sabrina Gaton, petition to register divorce and judgment from another jurisdiction.
 Matthew Scott Kelley and Jessica Tomblen, divorce.
 A&S Grove Service vs. Rickert Properties, damages—contracts and indebtedness.
 Jerry Lewis Jones vs. Julie Jones and the state Department of Corrections (DOC), petition to review inmate situation.
 Ashley Nicole Reynosa and the state Department of Revenue (DOR) vs. Jonathan Paul Leyva, petition for administrative child support order.

Alejandra Moreno Heredia and DOR vs. Stony Christopher Ortiz, petition for administrative child support order.
 Jorge L. Ayala vs. Arnold Lanier, damages—auto negligence.
 Linda Howell and Rufus Howell, divorce.
 Josie Rae Mills and Clinton Wade Mills, divorce.
 Kenneth A. Bryan Jr. vs. Jennifer N. Bryan, petition for injunction for protection.
 Cailin Olivia Ervin vs. Anna Castillio, petition for injunction for protection.
 Steven Stow vs. Amanda Stow, petition for injunction for protection.

The following decisions on civil cases pending in the circuit court were handed down recently by the circuit court judge:
 Wauchula State Bank vs. Jerry Mendez and Mary Mendez, judgment.
 Deere & Co. vs. TNT Reclamation Inc. and others, judgment.
 Mary G. Smith vs. Clayton McIntyre, injunction for protection.
 Morgan Crews vs. Jose Luis Castillo, dismissal of injunction for protection.
 Chelsea Webb vs. Chad Richardson, dismissal of injunction for protection.
 Samantha Hodges vs. Christopher Hodges, dismissal of injunction for protection.
 Thalia Camarillo vs. Kristen Davina Duran, injunction for protection.
 Annie Luz Gonzalez Benitez and DOR vs. Craig Toreky, voluntary dismissal.
 Judith Kennedy-Robinson vs. Leonardo Moran and Casimiro Naranjo, dismissed.
 Federal National Mortgage Association vs. Wanda Faye King and others, mortgage foreclosure.
 Xochil Arreola vs. Jose Gutierrez, judgment pending.
 Nationstar Mortgage vs. Jack and Vanetta S. See, dismissed.
 Maria D. Vallejo vs. Britany Banker, dismissal of injunction for protection.
 Robin Murillo vs. Eric Mather, judgment pending.
 Tommy L. Parker and Jennifer Nicole Papa Parker, divorce.

The following felony criminal cases were disposed of recently by the circuit judge. Defendants have been adjudicated guilty unless noted otherwise. When adjudication is withheld, it is pending successful completion of probation. Sentences are pursuant to an investigative report by and the recommendation of the state probation office and also state sentencing guidelines. Final discretion is left to the judge.
 Justin Johnson, violation of probation (original charge possession of synthetic cannabis), adjudication withheld, resume probation with condition of 30 days in jail with credit for time served and anger management class, \$300 fees added to outstanding fines, costs and fees.
 Rebecca Merizalde, possession of cannabis, 31 days in jail with credit for time served, license suspended one year, \$1,020 fines, costs and fees; possession of drug paraphernalia and driving without a license, time served; possession of methamphetamine, transferred to drug pretrial diversion program, return Jan. 16.
 Christopher Allen Castendyk, armed trespass other than structure/conveyance—

amended to trespass, probation 12 months, \$150 to Wildlife Conservation program, hunter safety course, 50 hours community service, \$1,232.16 fines, costs and fees.
 Ricardo Luis Colon, possession of cannabis—adjudication withheld, and possession of drug paraphernalia and fleeing to elude an officer—amended to resisting an officer without violence, probation two years, letters of apology to officers, drug class 100 hours community service, \$1,044 fines, costs and fees.
 Anthony Lampkins, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and habitual driving with knowledge of a suspended license, 60 days in jail with credit for time served, probation five years, \$1,380 fines, costs and fees.
 Tyrese Shevone Madison, dealing in stolen property, burglary of a structure during a state of emergency and grand theft during a state of emergency, Florida State Prison three years, \$1,320 fines, costs and fees placed on lien.
 Thomas Angel Trevino, burglary of a conveyance—adjudication plus felony driving while license suspended, probation four years, \$100 restitution, anti-theft course, \$1,270 fines, costs and fees.
 Brock Adam Winkler, possession of a firearm/ammunition by a convicted felon and armed trespass other than structure/conveyance—amended to trespass, probation three years, \$150 to Wildlife Conservation, forfeit weapon, hunter safety course, \$1,256.16 fines, costs and fees.
 Rafael Bautista, violation of probation (original charge possession of methamphetamine), probation revoked, 364 days in jail, license suspended one


year, \$500 fees and costs added to outstanding fines, costs and fees and placed on lien.
 Veronica L. Jordan, battery by a person detained in jail or a detention facility—amended to battery, 180 days in jail with credit for time served, \$1,672 fines, costs and fees placed on lien.
 Justin Heath Morris, possession of methamphetamine and battery on a law enforcement officer, probation four years, license suspended one year, \$1,890 fines, costs and fees; possession of cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia, time served.

The following real estate transactions of \$10,000 or more were filed recently in the office of the clerk of court:
 Wesley M. and Leslie M. Roe to City of Wauchula, \$10,000.
 Potomac Group LA1 to Paul Mislevey as trustee, \$165,000.
 Tad Werhane to Ricky L. Barton, \$59,900.
 Douglas Bell to Thomas C. and Deborah L. Sims, \$27,500.
 Lucille Crawford as trustee to City of Wauchula, \$25,200.
 Debbie R. Edwards to Dennis D. Fowler, \$50,000.
 Mason M. and Donna S. Bowman to John M. Pfeiffer, \$32,000.
 Loice L. Hart and James Roy and Jean Mary Hart to James Roy and Jean Mary Hart, \$31,300.
 Grace Glorius to Dipakumar Patel, \$47,000.
 S.G.C. Finenoil Inc. to Thomas and Guillermina J. Trevino, \$12,000.
 Linda Dale Kenny to Judith A. Johnson, \$42,000.
 Helen M. Webb to Ryan A. Lambert and Carter A. Lambert, \$94,500.

Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 252017CP000091
IN RE: ESTATE OF JERRY DALE MCVAY a/k/a JERRY MCVAY,
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:
 You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of JERRY DALE MCVAY a/k/a JERRY MCVAY, deceased, FILE NUMBER. 252017CP000091, by the Circuit Court for Hardee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 417 West Main St., Suite 202, Wauchula, FL 33873; that the decedent's date of death was July 16, 2017; that the total value of the non-exempt estate is \$0.00. Estate solely consists of exempt homestead. The names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are: JANE CAROLYN MCVAY whose address is 1744 Star Avenue, Wauchula, FL 33873, as to a life estate interest, and TONY MCVAY whose address is 9806 Payne Rd., Sebring, FL 33875, JERRY DEWAYNE MCVAY whose address is 2420 Avenue C SW, Winter Haven, FL 33830, STEVEN MCVAY whose address is 101 Lime Rd. NE, Lake Placid, FL 33852, and JOEY MCVAY whose address is 4512 Lewis, Sebring, FL 33870, each as to an undivided 1/4th interest in the remainder interest.
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:
 All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
 The date of first publication of this Notice is December 7, 2017.
 Attorney for Person Giving Notice
 ROBERT E. LIVINGSTON
 Florida Bar No. 0031259
 445 S. Commerce Avenue
 Sebring, FL 33870
 (863) 385-5156
 livingston@livingstonpa.com
 Person Giving Notice:
 JANE CAROLYN MCVAY
 1744 Star Avenue
 Wauchula, FL 33873

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HARDEE COUNTY
FILE NO.: 252017CP000116
IN RE: ESTATE OF LILA W. EURES, also known as LILA ARNOLD EURES,
deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of LILA W. EURES, also known as LILA ARNOLD EURES, deceased, whose date of death was August 6, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Hardee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Drawer 1749, Wauchula, FL 33873-1749. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's Attorney are set forth below.
 All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
 All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
 ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
 The date of the first publication of this Notice is December 14, 2017.
 Attorney for Personal Representative:
 JOHN W. H. BURTON, of JOHN W. H. BURTON, P.A.
 Post Office Drawer 1729
 Wauchula, FL 33873-1729
 Telephone No.: (863) 773-3241
 Fax No.: (866) 591-1658
 Email: office@burtonpa.com
 Florida Bar Number: 650137
 Personal Representative:
 JAMES H. EURES
 702 E. Summit St.
 Wauchula, FL 33873

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Last Day for Cattle Wednesday, December 20

WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS
WE WILL RE-OPEN MONDAY, JANUARY, 8, 2018



D&S CATTLE Co., Inc.
LIVESTOCK DEALER

All of us at D&S would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and to all our customers, a Prosperous New Year!

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Churches Partner To Produce An Elaborate Interactive Nativity

Travel back in time and see the Nativity story like you've never seen it before!

Real Life Church and Power & Light Productions, the crew which brought you "The Story of Jesus," "The Story of Noah" and "The Story of Moses," is partnering with Bayside Community Church in Bradenton for a special Christmas event which continues today (Thursday) and Friday.

There is an outdoor, live walk-through Nativity scene with actors and live animals reenacting the Christmas story from over 2,000 years ago.

The event, titled "Night of Wonder," is totally free of charge and family-friendly as you walk through the historic town of Bethlehem and learn fun facts about it. No tickets or reservations are necessary.

Each night, the event will run from 6:30 to 9:30. Pastor Mike Graham of Real Life Church in Bowling Green and of Power & Light Productions

is directing the action as around 100 cast members, including two dance groups, and about 50 live animals appear in this large interactive theater. Some cast members will have memorized scripts while others will be improvising as they answer questions about what life was like in the town of Bethlehem.

Graham said that while many of the people are from Wauchula and Hardee County, cast members are coming from all over the state of Florida, including about 25 from Bradenton. He also noted that the production has done similar Christmas events in the past, but this will be the first time it has ever done something big like this.

"This will probably be one of the biggest Bethlehem layouts from around," he said, adding that this will be "a Christmas experience (people) will remember." Graham hopes "to remind people of what Christmas is all about. Hope-

fully they'll leave lit up and in a Christmas mood."

The performance is a walk-through and interactive program, so don't expect to come with expectations to sit down and get comfortable. However, there will be some amenities provided inside the church, where seating is available for resting. Also, a jacket might be recommended in case of cold evening weather.

With the live Nativity scene being performed outside on the church grounds, hot chocolate and cookies will be provided inside. Your children will also have an opportunity to get their picture taken Santa and Mrs. Claus.

This event will take place at the East Bradenton campus of Bayside Community Church. The address is 15800 SR 64 E., Bradenton, FL 34212. If you have any questions about "Night of Wonder," you can contact Bayside Community Church at (941) 755-8600.

Dr. Barbara Carlton and Son Will Carlton Help Fund Kenya Mobile Medical Clinic

By JIM KELLY

Of The Herald-Advocate

Dr. Barbara Carlton of Wauchula and her son Will Carlton, a member of Cross Timbers Rotary Club in Flower Mound, Texas, have helped fund a mobile medical clinic in Kenya, Africa, which will be in operation by February 2018.

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, they attended the Hardee Rotary Club at the Java Cafe where Dr. Carlton was presented a Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship Award. Will is the International chairman of the Cross Timbers Rotary Club and helped get a \$57,687 Rotary International grant for the mobile clinic which will serve seven villages in rural Kenya. The villages have a combined population of about 30,000.

The first phase last year

raised \$35,000, and the second phase will build a permanent clinic after assessing needs and effectiveness of the mobile clinic. Each village has about 3,500 people, and the mobile clinic will visit each village once a week.

The mobile clinic will provide the following services; immunization, post natal care, birth assistance with clean sterile equipment, family planning services, some emergency care and transport, and HIV/AIDS counseling and testing.

Objectives are to reduce the incidence of maternal, infant and child mortality, reduce dehydration, improve nutrition, improve health education, hygiene and sanitary practices, and link villages to hospitals and hospice care.

Dr. Carlton is retired from a long-time medical practice in Hardee County and now spends time raising cattle, growing oranges, visiting family, and turkey hunting. She has donated to the new Florida Hospital Wauchula, and the chapel is named in her honor.

In the Rotary photo, from left, are club president Olivia Minshew, Dr. Carlton, and Will Carlton.

The permanent medical clinic is planned to be built in the next few years, and will be run by nurses' aides who will live in the specific villages. They will be required to work in the villages at least five years after the training.

The Kenya government will supply vaccines, family planning devices, and medicines through Rotary Club of Gilgil in Kenya.



The East Bradenton campus of Bayside Community Church, which is on State Road 64, is the site of the walk-through interactive live Nativity.



The elaborate production includes town of Bethlehem scenes with 100 cast members and 50 animals.



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HARDEE HELP CENTER

HARDEE LIVING

LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT



PHOTO BY JIM KELLY

Jay Dennis, recently retired pastor of the First Baptist Church at the Mall in Lakeland, spoke Thursday night to senior adults at the First Baptist Church of Wauchula. The prime rib dinner was held at the church's Fellowship Hall. Dennis was pastor of the Lakeland church for 21 years and was a pastor for 38 years total. He retired earlier this year at the request of his dying mother who wanted him to slow down and enjoy retirement years. He had been having health problems in recent years including 11 back surgeries with a 12th surgery planned soon. He said little things and small phrases from a Christian perspective can make a big difference in one's life and can impact other people in a positive manner. He has recently completed a 400-page book to help guide Christian ministers in how to help their churches combat a growing problem with many people including churchgoers and especially men--addiction pornography. About 10 years ago some men in his congregation asked for help in their addiction to porn. From left are Rev. Joe Butler, Wauchula First Baptist pastor; his wife Amy; Oralia Flores, chairperson of the church's Senior Adult Committee; and Rev. Jay Dennis.

Fort Green News

By Rilla Cooper
773-6710

Greetings from Fort Green! Last Thursday was Pearl Harbor Day and you did not hear very much about it but it was certainly a day that will remain famous. All Americans need to remember that day, but I am afraid the younger generation is not told very much about our history, which is evident when so many are wanting to remove statues and all that is a part of history. Whether you like the history or not, it all happened! Enough of my ranting but I guess it just shows that I am getting old!

Our grandson and family are due in this Friday so we all plan to celebrate Christmas in a big way. We plan to go to Sebring one night next week and meet Sherman's children and grandchildren for supper and a Christmas celebration. Everyone is busy with special celebrations for their families and we all are thankful to have a family and be able to get together.

I am especially glad that my great-grandson will be here to attend church this Sunday and see the children's program in the p.m. service and then see Santa!

Little Daisy Fields, the young toddler of Mesqua, broke her ankle and has been in a cast for a week or so. This type of problem is hard on young and old. Wanda Shoffner is confined to the wheelchair when up, and this makes it hard on Bill having to lift her, etc. Wesley Smith is not feeling good.

Mr. Alexander got his new heart valve last Thursday but said it is not feeling perfect yet. Tina Owens is sick with a bug. Tom and Sharon Lynn had planned on trying to make it to church Sunday morning but were just not up to it.

Geraldine Floyd was able to return but is still not feeling like running races. Please remember these in your prayers.

Randy and Faye Davis along with Norma and Edith ate supper with us last Wednesday night, then finished a little packing and headed back to Tennessee, wanting to get there before the snow storm hit. Their dog, Cowboy, is bigger than our Rascal so we all have heard of passing down clothes to family but their dog passed down a T-shirt and a collar to Rascal! I just had to shorten the arms for Rascal. These are two spoiled dogs!

The Davis bunch had supper Monday night with his Uncle Sidney Davis and family and then Tuesday they had supper with all of Edith's family.

Denise Kimball had four relatives down from Michigan. They said even though it was cold here it was way better than Michigan! Of course I was all bundled up and they just had on long-sleeved shirts and the ladies, light sweaters!

Jordan Chancey and fiancé were in a bad car wreck last Friday night. Two big trucks were involved in a wreck on State Road 62 and there was debris on the road but Jordan was able to stop even though the debris caused a tire to blow, but the driver behind him could not stop and ran into him. After his fiancé was transported to Lakeland and numerous tests, she began to feel better and was released.

Both are pretty stove up. Then another member of our church, Daniel Ortiz, was in a wreck near Lakeland which destroyed his truck but he was not hurt. Those rainy roads Friday night were a booger. I always read Jim's column

in the paper and I believe Ernie Hendrickson used to play music with some of our neighbors, Jack and Lee Chancey and possibly Danny Keene. Anybody who can play a musical instrument has real talent.

We have a visitor who comes to church quite often and when I called him and his wife by name he said I had a good memory, which I think not! He asked how I could remember their names and I told him I wrote them down when I was first introduced. He had heard a program and it said when wanting to remember something squeeze a soft rubber ball in your right hand and when you wanted to recall what you had memorized squeeze the soft rubber ball in your left hand. This is something about the left and right sides of your brain and it is too technical for me!

I am going to try the cure he gave me that he had heard or read about. Walk barefoot on your grass yard for 10 minutes and 40 percent of your pain would be gone. I think I could stand doing that to see if it works when it gets warm!

The Mosaic Community Christmas dinner was very nice last Thursday night at Hardee Lakes. The decorations were pretty and the food delicious.

Mary Lois and Leonard Crawley got an early Christmas present from their daughter and family of a robotic vacuum. They left it on and were out of town for a day and when they got home the house was nice and clean but they could not find the vac! They are still checking under beds, etc. They are nice but do need room to go. Sherman says we definitely could not use one!

Please pray for one another, our nation and our president.

4-City News

By Henrietta Benson
448-6737

The second annual Bowling Green Christmas Parade was Saturday at 6 p.m. Line-up and start began at First Baptist Church on U.S. 17. Floats were: Crystal Lake Village, Bowling Green Convenience Store, Boy Scouts Pack 875, Desert Boyz/Girlz of West Countyline, Kingdom Kids, "The Night that Christ was Born" Avion Palms, Horton for Hardee Judge, Avion Palms (2) Christmas at the Palms, the fire truck with Santa, police car then mayor of city of Bowling Green, and the Martin Luther King Committee. Also, candy and cookies were passed out.

Deepest sympathy to the Baker family and others in the passing of David Baker of Fort Meade. Also to Billy, Yolanda and Rachael Gilchrist in the passing of their great-grandmother on Saturday.

Progressive Women's Pre-Christmas Dinner group celebration was Saturday at in Wauchula at Materz Steakhouse. The group enjoyed a meal and a cake that read, "Merry Christmas Ladies of Progressive MB Church."

Early release for Hardee schools will be Dec. 22. Be Safe.

The First Missionary Baptist Church youth pre-Christmas program will convene Sunday at 11 a.m. Their rehearsal is every evening at 6 at the church.

Congratulations to Robert Murphy Sr. Last Thursday he was awarded his 25-year certificate of appreciation for working at the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners, over the years doing the road upkeep. Thanks to all the workers, Mr. Murphy is now the supervisor for the Road & Bridge Department.

St. Paul MB Church of Zolfo Spring, the Rev. Eugene

Hollimon, pastor, will have its church family Christmas celebration on Dec. 24 at 11 a.m.

Christmas Youth Program rehearsal for the community of Bowling Green is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. daily. The program is to convene Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Greater Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church.

Sorry to hear of the passing of Virginia Rutland Wilkerson, who died peacefully at home Monday, Dec. 4, in Wauchula. She was 89 years old, born in Bowling Green on July 1, 1925, to Leon Herbert Wilkerson and Carrie Ann Malvina Wilkerson. I remember her and Mr. Herbert Rutland working in their Rutland Radio & TV store for many years in Wauchula. She also worked clerical work for the Division of Family Service in Wauchula, where my family cleaned the office in the afternoon and weekends. She was very dedicated, working late at her desk.

Deepest sympathy to the family of Brenda Joyce Ming, 68, who passed on Dec. 3 in Lakeland. She was born in Bartow on May 28, 1949, and grew up in Fort Meade before moving to Lakeland. She was a retired CNA and a member of Beulah MB Church in Fort Meade. Visitation was Saturday at 10 a.m. and the service followed at 11, both at Cornerstone Church of God in Fort Meade. Repast was at the Community Center.

The New Mt. Zion AME Church Youth Program will convene Sunday, Dec. 24, following the 11 a.m. worship service.

Thanks very much for the sensory-sensitive Christmas events last Monday night for the children, following Cookies & Milk with Santa at the

Hardee County Public Library. Saturday will be Bowling Green's movie in the park at the Train Depot. Please bring your lawn chairs and, if cool, blankets. There will be popcorn, water and hot chocolate for purchase.

The Geraldine Order of Eastern Star Chapter No. 110 of Wauchula, Sis. Louise Taplin, worthy matron, members gathered at the hall on Saturday evening for the pre-Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

Happy birthday to: Jacqueline Weeks, Pamela Speights, Alexis Crews, Becki Allison, Donna Dufresne, Missy Albritton, Gloria Neel, Maebelle Gambler, Cherie Rivers, Joyce Nance, Briana Gardner, Annie Robinson, John Berryan, Doris Harris, Elder E. Reed, Pastor Timothy Lancaster and Christopher Irvin.

Hello to all that reads the "4-City News" at DeSoto Corrections work camp, Hardee Correctional Institution, North. I received your "Thank You" for the news each week.

Keep in prayer mother Thelma Reddicks; also Annie L. Green who's in the hospital.

Congress No. Three of the Union Foreign Fifth Sunday Union will convene Dec. 20-23 in Sebring at Zion Hill Baptist Church, the Rev. Eugene Ellis, pastor. The Friday evening service will be rendered by Progressive MB Church, the Rev. Arthur Powell Jr. of Wauchula; New Bethel Baptist Church, Dr. Frank O'Harroll, moderator of UFMBA; and Zion Hill Church, with choir selections. Senior women's worship service will be Saturday morning at 9:30 followed by the Youth Department at 11. Rev. Powell is president of Union No. Three.

Be safe on the roads, and remember don't drink and drive.

School Menu

MONDAY
Breakfast: cereal, donut, pancakes, juice fruit and milk
Lunch: hot dog (k-5), yogurt, muffin platter (k-12), PB&J (k-12), calzonette (k-12), chicken sandwich (6-12), baked beans, cucumber slices, garden salad (6-12), fruit and milk

TUESDAY
Breakfast: cereal, poptarts, biscuits & sausage, juice, fruit and milk
Lunch: pizza (k-12), yogurt, muffin platter (k-12), PB&J (k-12), turkey pot roast (k-12), cheeseburger/sliders (6-12), carrots, green beans, garden salad (6-12), fruit and milk

WEDNESDAY
Breakfast: cereal, yogurt parfait, pizza, juice, fruit and milk
Lunch: cheeseburger/sliders (k-12), yogurt, muffin platter (k-12), PB&J (k-12), sloppy joe (k-12), beef/bean burrito (k-12), broccoli, mashed potatoes, garden salad (6-12), fruit and milk

THURSDAY
Breakfast: cereal, bread, chicken biscuit, juice, fruit and milk

Lunch: pasta (k-12), yogurt, muffin platter (k-12), PB&J (k-12), pizza (k-12), chicken nuggets (6-12), garden salad, corn, garden salad (6-12), fruit and milk

FRIDAY
Breakfast: cereal, poptarts, eggs w/cheese & bacon, juice, fruit and milk
Lunch: chicken sandwich (k-12), yogurt, muffin platter (k-12), PB&J (k-12), pizza (6-12), celery, french fries, fruit and milk

Roundup

Christmas Food Given Tuesday

The Cutting Edge Food Bank of Faith Temple Church of God will hold a Christmas food giveaway starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19.

The food bank will be at 3059 Elm St., Zolfo Springs. For information on eligibility, call 773-2484.



Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Miles Palmer

Joyfully Request The Pleasure
Of Your Company
At The Marriage
Of Their Daughter

Summer Morgan
To
Hunter Ross Henderson

Saturday, The Twenty-Seventh Of January
Two Thousand And Eighteen
At Four O'clock In The Afternoon

First Baptist Church
1570 West Main Street
Wauchula, Florida

Reception to Follow
Bar Crescent S Ranch
820 Sidney Roberts Road
Ona, Florida

Little Miss Hardee County

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017 6PM
HJH/HILLTOP AUDITORIUM

soc12:7,14c

HARDEE LIVING

Letter To The Editor

Christmas Holidays Can Be Busiest Time of Year

Dear Editor:

Can you remember what gifts you received last year? Can your children remember what Santa brought them last year? Odds are that babies were thrilled to play with the gift wrap, boxes and bows, and the toys made their way to the toy box. My youngsters lined up boxes like a train and sat in them. That make-believe train ran for hours.

Forgot what you received last Christmas? A special holiday outing or a trip to see snow could be a memory that will last forever. There is an attraction in Orlando called ICE, where guests through and play in an icy wonderland of ice sculptures and slides. Outerwear is provided for visitors.

Restaurants are extremely busy during this time, serving customers who dine during or after shopping and who take their visitors out to eat. But restaurants report that the days after Christmas are just as busy if not more when folks come in to use their gift cards.

Black Friday sales were held as usual with shoppers lined up outside stores, waiting for doors to open. The rush began to purchase items on sale. Since Black Friday through the following Monday, Americans spent over one \$1 billion shopping, and most was on electronics, according to a TV report.

There's a story of a man who heard strange noises coming from the next aisle. He walked around and saw two women fist-fighting over merchandise.

Walmart announces sale items at certain times by uncovering displays. Shoppers formed a line, waiting for the reveal. My son asked the store manager if there needed to be a line for the sales. The manager said, "no." When my son passed the line and walked to the sale display, there was almost a fight from one angry man who accused my son of "butting in line."

"There doesn't have to be a line," replied my son, and he

reached over and grabbed what he had come for. Maybe there is some sort of procedure for Black Friday?

The top-rated movies of the year are shown during the holiday season for movie-goers. Thanksgiving and Christmas days have particularly high sales for tickets.

Remember when Wauchula had a movie theater? It was over 30 years ago. The largest ticket sales then were when the movie "E.T." came out. People were in line down the sidewalk until doors closed when the theater was at its full capacity. Then, tickets were sold ahead of time for the next showing. Extra candy, drinks, and popcorn and to be ordered.

Unfortunately, "E.T." was given one of my children nightmares for three years, which I did not learn about until years later. "E.T." was one of the first scary movies for children to see, but it's nothing compared to movies and video games today, which are full of shooting and blood flying everywhere. Our children are

exposed to these things, yet the sales for video games hit a high record.

The newest trend that has exploded is online shopping and having items delivered to your door, rather than face the crowds in stores. Others think the experience of shopping in stores is one of the holiday traditions.

There is now a shortage of truck drivers to make all the additional deliveries. Companies and driving schools are advertising to train drivers.

Whatever your shopping traditions are, bear in mind that shoppers need to tolerate others during this busy time of the year. Smart shoppers might try to shop early in stores or online, but the best savings may be closer to Dec. 25.

If you want to purchase a specific item, better to shop early or use a layaway plan. If you are a late shopper and can't buy the specific gift, then have an alternate plan.

Happy shopping!

Carol Cowing
Winter Haven

Good Housekeeping

VINEGAR COOKIES

This buttery sugar cookie has a little distilled white vinegar in the dough — but no one will ever guess the secret ingredient.

- 1 cup butter or margarine (2 sticks), softened**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 tablespoon distilled white vinegar**
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda**

1. In large bowl, with mixer at low speed, beat butter with sugar until blended. Increase speed to high; beat until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. At low speed, beat in flour, vinegar and baking soda, occasionally scraping bowl with rubber spatula, until mixed. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate dough 1 hour, or until

easy to handle.

2. Preheat oven to 350 F. Drop dough by rounded teaspoons, about 2 inches apart, onto ungreased large cookie sheet. Bake 17 to 20 minutes, until cookies are set and edges are golden. Let cookies remain on cookie sheet 30 seconds, then with wide spatula, transfer cookies to wire rack to cool completely. Repeat with remaining dough. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

• Each cookie: About 65 calories, 4g total fat (1g saturated), 0g protein, 7g carbohydrate, 0mg cholesterol, 50mg sodium.

You'll find more great recipes like this one in the "Good Housekeeping A Very Merry Christmas Cookbook" (Hearst Books).

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Just Imagine A New 'Do!

Looking for a new hairstyle?

Well, with Klassix relocating to the old Cooper's Flowers building, a new hair salon has opened for business in its old facility at 215 E. Orange St. in Wauchula.

Imagen Hair Studio is a family-owned business run by a mother-daughter duo. Oneida Juarez and daughter Tatiana were previously employed with Ideal Hair Salon in Bowling Green, another family-owned business, before they decided to have their own salon.

"We wanted to do our own thing," Oneida Juarez said of leaving her previous job to begin the new business. But, "we're all family" she added.

The new salon offers haircuts, styles and colors. This business provides hair services exclusively, so there are no nail or waxing amenities.

Regular business hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Walk-ins are welcome. If you need your hair done after hours, however, you

While the only two staff members who are currently working in the salon are Oneida and Tatiana, Juarez said her other daughter, Mia, will be



In Business
By Naomi Erekson

must make an appointment.

When it comes to serving the community of Hardee County, and with so many different hair salons already in operation, Juarez said she hopes the business can serve "by helping the community." She noted that her family is all about shopping locally and doing everything locally, so the opportunity to serve as a local business is one of the biggest aspects.

joining later. Mia will be graduating from high school next year and then will go straight into the hairstyling program at South Florida State College. Tatiana is also a student at SFSC, full-time.

As for the name of this new salon, Juarez said "Imagen" is spelled this way, instead of "Imagine," so it can be easily understood by both English- and Spanish-speaking customers.



PHOTOS BY NAOMI EREKSON

Oneida Juarez (left) and daughter Tatiana with the new sign in front of their new hair salon.



What was once Klassix Salon & Spa is now Imagen Hair Salon. The facility is on 215 E. Orange St. in Wauchula.

HANNAH'S HOUSE
presents
The Party You Wont Want To Miss!
1st Annual Year End Extravaganza 2017

Hardee County Agri-Civic Center
515 Civic Center Drive Wauchula

Join us for prime rib and dance away to the band "Plan B" 50-50, Silent Auction, Tricky Tray and GotSneakers!

Tickets \$75 per person or \$700 for a table for 10
Early Discount - Order by December 15
\$125 per couple or \$550 for a table of 10

Order Tickets at www.aofm-hannahshouse.org or call 863-773-5717 ext.1

Reserve your tickets now
Deadline Wednesday December 20
Proceeds to benefit Hannah's House

soc12:14c

Pump Prices A Present For Motorists

The month of December continues to deliver discounts at the pump for U.S. motorists.

Gas prices have slipped to five-week lows after declining non-stop for the past month. Florida gas prices averaged \$2.41 on Sunday, three cents lower than last week. Prices are 12 cents less than a month ago, but remain 19 cents higher than this time last year. "Seasonal trends like reduced gasoline demand and increased fuel supply are allowing pump prices to keep

moving lower," said Mark Jenkins of AAA/The Auto Club Group. "The first half of December is normally characterized by weak demand, as cold weather and shorter days

cause Americans to drive less. "Look for another week of declines as refineries continue to produce gasoline at a much higher rate than what is being consumed," he predicted.

Letter To The Editor

President Trump Honors The Meaning Of Christmas

Dear Editor:

President Trump's comments at the Lighting of the Christmas Tree is one reason many Americans are enthusiastic supporters of our president. (<https://www.c-span.org/video/?437904-1/christmas-tree-lighting-ceremony>) The President's words resonate especially with seniors who remember a very different America. They remember a time when Christ of Christmas was honored very openly, not only at church but also at school and in much of our culture.

"Joy to the World" was one of the many Christmas carols heard at school, at church, in stores, on radio, and on television. Our 45th president's promotion of "Merry Christmas" and singing "Joy to the World" are examples of the Constitutional freedom that has helped to make America exceptional.

The president talked about everyone having value and the need to love everyone. He said the family is the bedrock of society.

Many in America are grateful for and applaud our president, who recognizes the true meaning of Christmas as in the following comments: "this is a holy season, the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ... [That] is the most extraordinary gift of all — the gift of God's love for all of humanity ... Whatever our beliefs, we know that the birth of Jesus Christ and the story of this incredible life forever changed the course of human history. There's hardly an aspect of our lives today that His life has not touched — art, music, culture, law and our respect for the sacred dignity of every person, everywhere in the world." (<http://www.fr.org/updatearticle/20171201/happy-days>)

The Christ of Christmas came to offer forgiveness and a future with Him. "Joy to the World! The Lord has come: Let Earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room." Merry Christmas!
Virgil Ullom, D.D.S.
Babson Park

Regular Hours: Sun. — 11 am - 2 pm
Mon. - Thurs. — 11 am - 9 pm
Fri. & Sat. — 11 am - 10 pm

Mater's Steakhouse
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Saturday, December 16
2 – 4pm

Cookies & Cocoa with Santa

Come have cookies and cocoa with Santa. And drop off your letters to ole' Saint Nick in our specially designated mailbox.

soc12:14c

TOY ROUNDUP



Team ropers from Bellflower Cattle Co. collected toys for families in need, donating them to Wauchula Elementary School for the little cowpokes there. Pictured with the corralled items are (from left) Cristy Bellflower of Bellflower Cattle Co., Assistant Principal Shadow Ward, Principal Sonja Bennett and guidance counselor Dena Paterson. The gifts are sure to round up some smiles!

COURTESY PHOTO

BITTY BOTS



Students at Bowling Green Elementary who read "The Wild Robot" recently put their engineering skills to a test. Each student made a brushbot, and then enjoyed the antics of the tiny bots. It was a challenging task, yet fun. The future engineers were then treated to trail mix and received their twinkling tree book charms.

COURTESY PHOTO

SFSC Graduation Ceremony Tonight

South Florida State College will be celebrating commencement tonight (Thursday) at the Avon Park campus.

The ceremony will begin at 6:45 p.m. in the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts.

A total of 356 students will have met the requirements for December graduation.

Of these, 23 will receive a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Supervision & Management, 122 will receive an Associate in Arts degree, 32 an Associate in Science degree, 19 will receive a Florida High School diploma, and 160 earn occupational certificates, college credit certificates, or advanced technical diplomas.

Participating in the graduation ceremony will be 107 students.

Student speaker will be Angelo Russo, who will receive his Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Supervision & Management. In the fall of 2014, Russo earned his Associate in Science degree in computer information systems from SFSC, and he currently works for Avon Park Correctional Institution in its Information Technology Department. He plans to pursue a master's degree in business through Lynn University.

Mace bearer and chief marshal for this year's ceremony is Michelle Macbeth, and marshals are Elizabeth Andrews,

Dauida Austin, Brian Bohlman, Thomas Bush, Robert Hampton, Melanie Jackson, Lorri Jaques, Dr. Theresa James, Cynthia Kinser, Dr. Kristina Lewis, Claire Miller, Ricardo Pantoja, and Lena Phelps.

A reception will be held in the Catherine P. Cornelius Students Services & Classroom Complex (Building B) immediately following the ceremony.

Live online streaming, accessed by clicking a website banner at southflorida.edu, will allow friends and relatives to see everything from the processional to the last graduate crossing the stage.

The stream begins at 6:30 p.m.

Turnovers, Mistakes, And Another Losing Season

Surprise. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have lost another season.

Currently, the Bucs sit at the bottom of the NFC South at 4-9.

Most recently, the Bucs lost a home game against the Detroit Lions after committing 5 costly turnovers.

Final score, 24 - 21.

Despite an injured hand, Lions' quarterback Matthew Stafford torched the Bucca-

day occurrence.

Church, family dinner, and Winston losing the ball.

A new Sunday tradition.

Moving on to our superstar, pro-bowl level running back, Martin.

Sigh. I've long been the Doug Martin apologist.

No more. The so-called "Muscle Hamster" just isn't getting the job done.

Bucs won't be facing a hit on the salary cap next year. The drug suspension erased any guaranteed money.

I have to wonder, just how long is this going to go on?

How long will the Glazer family allow substandard play, substandard coaching and low attendance to dominate the headlines?

As of Saturday morning, Raymond James stadium still had over 1,500 seats unsold for the Sunday afternoon tilt.

How long until the Glazers realize it's going to take money to bring in an established coach? No more Dirk Koetter or Raheem Morris types. No more unproven, cheap, plug and play head coach replacements.

Find another Tony Dungy.

Find another John Gruden.

Find someone to coach the team.

It isn't like the Bucs don't have talent. Jameis Winston is talented. Lavonte David is talented. OJ Howard is talented. But, these guys need a coach. And more importantly, the fans need a coach.



Bucs Beat

By David Horton

neer's defense for 381 yards and a touchdown.

Two interceptions and three fumbles plagued Tampa Bay's offense.

Jameis Winston, Doug Martin and rookie OJ Howard recorded the fumbles.

Three total turnovers by "franchise quarterback" Winston on Sunday afternoon.

It's just about an every Sun-

Martin has only averaged 3.1 yards per carry after sitting out the first four games due to a drug suspension; 3.1 per carry is unacceptable for an NFL running back.

Heck, that's unacceptable for a college level running back.

The Bucs need to cut Martin loose. None of his giant paycheck is guaranteed so the



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