



TODAY & Friday morning
HIGH 66 Mostly clear with patchy frost after midnight.
LOW 35 Winds around 5 mph.
 PAGE A4

CITRUS COUNTY
CHRONICLE
 www.chronicleonline.com



NEWS BRIEF

Did Cheetah of Tarzan fame die?

PALM HARBOR, Fla. — A Florida animal sanctuary said Cheetah, the chimpanzee sidekick in the Tarzan movies of the early 1930s, has died at 80. But other accounts call that claim into question. Debbie Cobb, outreach director at the Suncoast Primate Sanctuary, said her grandparents acquired Cheetah around 1960 from "Tarzan" star Johnny Weissmuller. But Cobb offered no documentation, saying it was destroyed in a 1995 fire.

Also, some Hollywood accounts indicate a chimpanzee by the name of Jiggs or Mr. Jiggs played Cheetah alongside Weissmuller early on and died in 1938.

In addition, an 80-year-old chimpanzee would be extraordinarily old, perhaps the oldest ever known.

Cobb said Cheetah died Dec. 24 of kidney failure and was cremated.

"Unfortunately, there was a fire in '95 in which a lot of that documentation burned up," Cobb said.

—From wire reports

INSIDE

FIGHTING CONTINUES:



Civilians die

Activists: Syrian regime not stopping./Page A10

OPINION:

“We are glad the troops are home and feel strongly they should be honored for the sacrifices they made.”

EDITORIAL, PAGE A8

KEY WATERWAY:



Oil conflict

U.S. warns Iran against closing important oil passage./Page A10

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Bin Laden's death tops year in news

Editor's note: This is the first of a three-day series showcasing the top stories of 2011. Friday coverage will highlight the top 10 state stories of 2011, and on Saturday the Chronicle will take a look back at the year in Citrus County.

DAVID CRARY
Associated Press



Osama bin Laden
 world's most-wanted terrorist killed by U.S. special forces in May 2 raid.

The killing of Osama bin Laden during a raid by Navy SEALs on his hideout in Pakistan was the top news story of 2011, followed by Japan's earthquake/tsunami disaster, according to The Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.

The death of bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader who masterminded the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, received 128 first-place votes out of 247 ballots cast for the top 10 stories. The Japan disaster was next, with 60 first-place votes. Placing

third were the Arab Spring uprisings that rocked North Africa and the Middle East, while the European Union's financial turmoil was No. 4.

The international flavor of these top stories contrasted with last year's voting — when the Gulf of Mexico oil spill was the top story, President Barack Obama's health care overhaul was No. 2, and the U.S. midterm elections were No. 3. Here are 2011's top 10 stories, in order:

Osama bin Laden's death

He'd been the world's most-wanted terrorist for nearly a decade, ever since a team of his al-Qaida followers carried out the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. In May, the long and often-frustrating manhunt ended with a nighttime assault by a helicopter-



In this image released by the White House and digitally altered by the source to diffuse the paper in front of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, along with members of the national security team, receive an update May 1 on the mission against Osama bin Laden in the Situation Room of the White House in Washington.

See YEAR/Page A9

Manatees rescued



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Rescue workers strain to hoist this 1,000-pound manatee onto a boat Wednesday afternoon after the manatee suffered an injury.

Injured cow, calf pulled from Three Sisters, taken to Tampa

MATTHEW BECK
Chronicle

—CRYSTAL RIVER
 Rescue workers battled unusually large crowds of swimmers and sea cows Wednesday morning as they set out to capture an injured manatee and its calf from a small sanctuary at the mouth of Three Sisters Springs in Crystal River.

The rescue team, comprised of staff members and volunteers with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), not only had to contend with an abnormally high number of snorkelers at the popular destination, but with many manattes — the cold night drove more than a hundred of the protected, marine mammals to the sanctuary, creating crowded conditions.

The week between Christmas and New Year's is traditionally one of the busiest for tourists in the area, and at times there are as many as 200 swimmers enjoying the springs.

Refuge officer Craig Cavanna with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said his office was contacted Friday about a manatee that was possibly injured and workers headed out to find the animal.

"When we first located and identified the animal it was in really shallow water, acting strange. We've been observing it since," he said from his boat Wednesday morning.

A decision was made Wednesday to contact FWC, which sent a team of biologists from Tampa to evaluate and then corral the mother and calf, which had yet to be weaned.

"When you have a juvenile animal like this with its mother, certain things have to be considered. The young manatee learns a lot from (its) mother from this early age and that's why there has been a lot of discussion about whether to remove the mother," he said. "They decided to remove the mother and with her, the calf has to come out, too."



Workers struggle to gain control of a manatee calf Wednesday morning.



Rescuers stay close to this injured manatee Wednesday morning. It is believed the animal suffered a boat strike, according to those who rescued the animal. Rescuers noticed propeller scars and a distension on the right side of the animal, indicating the possibility of a boat strike. An irregular breathing pattern also told rescuers the animal was having respiratory distress.

See MANATEES/Page A4

Crime Stoppers hits \$1M milestone

November bust of grow house spurred by tip

A.B. SIDIBE
Staff Writer

As 2011 comes to a close, Citrus County Crime Stoppers is also marking a milestone — anonymous tips to the organization have led to more than \$1 million worth of recovered items and drugs seized.

Ken Perez, the organization's liaison with the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, said the big grow-house bust by the sheriff's tactical unit last month helped it reach the mark. A tip to Crime Stoppers helped expose the grow-house operation in Pine Ridge involving multiple homes. Two people have so far been arrested in connection with the crime.

"This shows the value of Crime Stoppers and that people know they can be completely anonymous with their tips, coming forward with information to help the sheriff's office arrest many of these people," Perez said.

"However, a lot of the credit has to go to the people at the sheriff's office who actually go out and make it happen."

In 2009 when the program first began in the county, only \$1,005 worth of items were confiscated because of tips from the public to Crime Stoppers. Last year, the figures jumped to \$2,380. Today the numbers are at a \$1,100,785.

Most of this year's figures are based on the street value of the marijuana from the grow-house bust. The rest of the properties recovered were either returned to the rightful owners or forfeited. Forfeited properties are impounded by the sheriff's office.

Perez believes Crime Stoppers' recent advertising campaign featuring billboards and newspaper ads has helped cultivate better relations with the public.

He points to anonymity as a major motivation for tipsters, because even the tip line for Citrus County goes to phones in Canada to reduce the chance of people being identified through a local phone system. Perez said a similar set of intricate privacy measures is employed for tips coming via text and emails.

See CRIME/Page A2

Nation BRIEF

Police: Thief proposed with stolen ring

BURLINGTON, Vt. — A diamond engagement ring didn't have the outcome a Vermont man had hoped for. His girlfriend said yes, but the ring landed him in jail.

Burlington police said 25-year-old Ryan Jarvis was charged with stealing the \$3,200 ring from a Zales jewelry store.

WCAX-TV reported Jarvis was looking at jewelry in the store for about an hour when he asked to see the 1-carat white gold solitaire ring Monday afternoon and then took off with it.

Police said they received tips that led to a posting on Facebook by Jarvis' girlfriend in which she showed off the ring.

—From wire reports

CRIME

Continued from Page A1

"We don't even require check endorsements. Every reward is paid in cash," Perez added.

He said candidates for rewards have unique identifiers assigned to them when they go to offer a tip about a crime and it is through that channel they also get rewarded.

Perez said the organization in the coming years is going to pivot more toward helping fight crime in schools.

He said a study of school violence found that most students knew about shootings and other crimes before they happened.

"If we can get them to provide tips anonymously before anything like a shooting happens, it will help stop a crime and make them feel like they are going to be discovered," Perez said.

Crime Stoppers is totally financially independent of the sheriff's office, Perez said. He said the organization gets its money from fees assessed in court and donations from businesses and individuals.

Chronicle reporter A.B. Sidibe can be reached at 352-564-2925 or at asidibe@chronicleonline.com.

Reapportionment, gambling atop agenda

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — For most lawmakers, drawing new boundaries for legislative districts that help keep them in office will be priority No. 1 in the once-a-decade session devoted to reapportionment.

Aside from that, it's unclear what else will get done in the 60-day legislative session that begins Jan. 10. Although lawmakers are required to pass a budget, they could decide to call a special session later in the spring in hopes of a rosier forecast from economists.

Although a highly public battle waits on the expansion of gambling in Florida, many legislators are reluctant to tackle it in an election year. They'll also be looking for ways to crack down on the massive amount of fraud that plagues both the automobile and personal property insurance marketplaces.

It's shaping up as a bountiful session for lobbyists, who have dramatically increased their influence at the Capitol over the past generation. The parties with interests at stake in the gaming and insurance fights have bankrolled some of the city's most prominent wheelers and dealers.

Those issues and others could wait until lawmakers figure out their own political routes. That path may be a bit trickier than in the past for the Legislature — where Republicans have overwhelming advantages of 28-12 in the Senate and 81-39 in the House — as voters ap-

proved constitutional amendments banning gerrymandering. No longer can lawmakers draw legislative or congressional districts where the obvious aim is to help the majority party or an incumbent.

The reapportionment process is often time-consuming and usually not pretty. "Believe me, there are politics involved here," said Senate President Mike Haridopolos, R-Merritt Island.

The results also can be unpredictable. Democrats were in charge 20 years ago when the legislative and congressional boundaries were redrawn — but that didn't stop a Republican takeover of state government.

The legislative maps, but not the congressional plan, go to the Florida Supreme Court to ensure they comply with the state constitution. Gov. Rick Scott, a Republican, has veto power over the congressional map but not the legislative plans.

The maps must also be reviewed by the U.S. Justice Department to make they're in accordance with the federal Voting Rights Act because of past racial discrimination in five of Florida's 67 counties.

But beyond redistricting, there appears to be less tension between Scott and the legislative leadership this year.

Scott, who fared well in his first session last spring, appears to have adopted a more conciliatory approach overall and he's more comfortable with the veteran politicians he deals with in the Legislature.

A top priority for Haridopolos is getting a pair of emotion-packed bills passed that would compensate two men whose lives were



2012 SESSION

turned upside down by government mistakes.

One would benefit Eric Brody, who suffered brain damage and paralysis when he was 18 after a speeding Broward County sheriff's deputy — running late to work — crashed into his car in 1998. The other would pay \$810,000 to William Dillon, who spent 27 years in prison for a Brevard County murder he didn't commit.

Both claims bills died in the final moments of the 2011 session, largely victims of some 11th-hour political gamesmanship.

Scott and some lawmakers also want to find ways to make the state university system more effective and boost the number of students graduating with degrees in science, technology, engineering and math. House Speaker Dean Cannon, though, said lawmakers may do no more than just start the conversation in

2012 without acting on this complex issue.

Scott has made a turnabout on education spending. Last session, he proposed deep cuts as part of his drive to reduce taxes in hopes of jump-starting Florida's economy. Now, Scott wants an additional billion dollars for education in the budget year that begins next July 1.

However, Senate Democratic Leader Nan Rich of Weston said it was "disingenuous" for the governor to claim he's proposing a \$1 billion increase when schools are losing \$634 million next year due to expiring federal stimulus and jobs bill money while more students come into the public schools system.

The mundane, but critical battle for dollars will be closely watched again in a year as lawmakers face a \$2 billion budget shortfall.

Scott, who once ran the nation's largest chain of hospitals, suggested savings could be realized by cutting what the state spends reimbursing hospitals for taking care of patients enrolled in Medicaid. He also would like to close a handful of state prisons, eliminate 4,500 state jobs and require all state employees to pay the same for health insurance.

The governor and his Republican cohort in the Leg-

islature have said they will not raise taxes in order to help offset the projected budget shortfall.

That could tempt some legislators to get behind a strong push by builders, contractors and business lobby Associated Industries of Florida to expand gambling across the state that still suffers from double-digit unemployment.

Scott broached the solvency of state-backed Citizens Property Insurance Corp. and the fraud that has led to skyrocketing increases for Florida drivers required to carry personal injury protection (PIP) by challenging legislators to fix them.

Citizens wants legislators to approve a long list of changes during the upcoming session with an eye to depopulating a company that is now the state's largest property insurer.

The PIP issue has defied resolution for more than a decade.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson tried to clamp down on PIP fraud in the late 1990s when he was Florida's treasurer and insurance commissioner.

"It's been so hard to fix," Nelson said. "You've always had trial lawyers versus the insurance companies, plus health care providers trying to get at least some of their costs covered in car injuries."

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Public Notice

The City of Crystal River residents are invited to apply for our City Volunteer Boards. The Planning Commission and the Waterfronts Florida Advisory Board currently have vacancies.

Planning Commission. These terms are for 3 years. The Planning Commission serves as the Local Planning Agency (LPA) pursuant to Florida Statutes and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding various issues and applications that come before this Commission relative to zoning, subdivisions, planned unit developments, variances and other types of land use scenarios.

Waterfronts Florida Advisory Board. This Board does allow for two seats to be filled by County residents; however, currently we need City residents to fill the open seats. The terms for these positions are 4 years. This Board is charged with studying and monitoring water quality of Kings Bay, the Floridian aquifer, flora and fauna, the care and protection of the Florida Manatee and the impact of storm water and septic tanks.

Tree City USA Board. This is a 3-year term. This Board is charged to study, investigate, council and develop and/or update annually, and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas.

For further information on these Boards, please contact Laura Black at 795-4216 ext. 306. Applications are available on our website at crystalriverfl.org or you can pick one up at City Hall, 123 NW Hwy 19, Crystal River.

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Around
THE STATE

St. Petersburg

Severed human leg washes up in yard

A severed human leg was discovered in a St. Petersburg yard after it washed up from nearby Tampa Bay.

The leg was found Tuesday. St. Petersburg Police said the limb was discovered by a Canadian couple staying at the home while on vacation.

The Pinellas County Medical Examiner took the leg for investigation and is trying to determine the race, sex, age and approximate time of death of the person. Police said it's a right leg with the foot missing at the ankle. It also appears to belong to a heavyset person and is clean shaven.

A St. Petersburg Police spokesman said the agency has sent its marine unit to check the surrounding waters for any additional evidence.

Man dies weeks after outside cooking fire

Officials said a transient man has died several weeks after an outdoor cooking accident in the Tampa Bay area.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office reported that 59-year-old Say Vieng died Tuesday morning.

Authorities said Vieng was trying to cook a meal with candles Dec. 12 when his shirt caught fire. He was airlifted to a Tampa hospital.

A medical examiner will conduct an autopsy.

Naples

Panther kills former racing horse

Southwest Florida officials said a panther is responsible for the death of a pregnant former racehorse.

The *Naples Daily News* reported the 10-year-old mare named Muneca was found dead on Christmas. The horse was seven months pregnant.

On Monday, the Collier County Domestic Animal Services investigated and a veterinarian found the horse's wounds were consistent with a panther attack.

Panther tracks dotted the property.

The horse's owners initially thought the horse died from foul play and suspected it had been attacked with an ax.

Officials said livestock and pet owners should learn about how to protect their animals from panther attacks and said domestic animals should not be free roaming or tethered at night.

Miami

Visitation for mom facing charges

A South Florida woman facing charges of trying to sell her baby has been granted supervised visits with her three children.

Officials said 30-year-old Kenia Quiala Bosque's first visit with the children will take place Wednesday. She hasn't seen the children since her Dec. 4 arrest. Authorities said she tried to sell her youngest son for \$7,000.

The *Miami Herald* reported Bosque pleaded not guilty and was released last week on a \$25,000 bond.

Orlando

Toddler hit by bullet in critical condition

An Orlando Health spokesman said a Central Florida toddler who was shot in the head when a gun discharged at her home remains in critical condition.

Orlando police on Tuesday reported that the girl had died. But the *Orlando Sentinel* reported late Tuesday that hospital officials confirmed 2-year-old Kaylen Torres was still alive.

— From wire reports

Come help ring in 2012

County bash leads local events

SHEMIR WILES
Staff Writer

CITRUS SPRINGS — For people wanting some place fun to go to usher in 2012, Citrus County Parks and Recreation will host its first New Year's Eve Ball.

The formal event will kick off at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, at the Citrus Springs Community Center, at 1570 W. Citrus Springs Blvd.

Dina Emmanuel, supervisor of

Citrus County Parks and Recreation, said there will be a sit-down dinner at 8 p.m. People can choose either New York strip steak or chicken marsala.

Magic Sound, an Orlando-based six-piece band, will also provide music spanning different genres.

"From swing to rock to jazz ... they're going to do a little bit of everything," she said.

Besides a night filled with dance, photos will be taken to remember 2011. And at midnight, there will be a balloon drop.

"Seven hundred balloons are going to drop from the ceiling," Emmanuel said. "We're going to have a good time."

Appetizers will be offered before dinner, with a cash bar available during the event.

Advance tickets are \$25 per person and need to be purchased at the Citrus Springs office. With only about 80 to 90 tickets left, Emmanuel said they are going fast.

Call 352-465-7007 or 352-527-7540.

Other New Year's events: ■ The "Day Before New Year's Party" will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, at the West Citrus Community Center, at 8940 W. Veterans Drive, Homosassa. The cost for the early celebration is \$5 per person.

The afternoon tea dances are ongoing and a portion of the proceeds will benefit In-Home Senior Serv-

ices. For more information, call Brenda at 352-795-3831.

■ Encore Swing Band will provide a free spaghetti dinner, complete with meat sauce, bread, salad, holiday desserts, beverages (non-alcoholic) and music beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, at the café building of Calvary Chapel Church of Inverness, 960 U.S. 41, near the fairgrounds.

Doors will remain open all evening. For more information, call director Chaz Iannaci at 352-464-4153 or co-director David Morgan at 352-302-3742.

Chronicle reporter Shemir Wiles can be reached at 352-564-2924 or swiles@chronicleonline.com.

Big box a-building



CATHY KAPULKA/Chronicle

Construction on the new Homosassa Wal-Mart continues to move forward as the store's parking lot and parking lot islands are created. The site is at 6885 U.S. 19 South on the southeast corner of West Cardinal Street and U.S. 19.

Donors give 3,686 kids Christmas miracles

Family Resource Center helps coordinate efforts

NANCY KENNEDY
Staff Writer

Thanks to local social services agencies and the generosity of county citizens, 3,686 Citrus County children awoke on Christmas morning with gifts to unwrap.

"It's very exciting — I'm proud of

our county," said Ginger West, executive director of the Family Resource Center on Wednesday.

West said it was a combined effort of the Salvation Army, local service clubs, churches, the Citrus County Builders Association, Citrus United Basket, Toys for Tots and 400 volunteers working tirelessly — not to mention the thousands of people who "adopted" and bought gifts for the children.

All the children's names came as referrals from case workers from 38 local agencies. The resource center acts as a central clearinghouse to avoid duplication of services.

"We survived and all the children that were presented to us got gifts, including the 10 my daughter (learned about) on Christmas Day," she said. "We always say we 'close' on Dec. 22, but we always get calls on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day."

West said the day after Christmas she was out shopping the heavily discounted sales, restocking the shelves for next year.

"All year long we look for bargains, like sweatshirts in July," she said. "People in the community do the same thing, too. We've been doing this for 30 years, and they assume we'll do it the next year, so

they'll go to Wal-Mart and see a basket of shoes and buy them all."

West added now they're in "regular outreach mode," helping families with necessities, clothes, food, bicycles and cold weather gear. They always need tents and things like camp stoves, blankets, jackets and shoes — the need doesn't stop just because the holiday season ends.

The Family Resource Center is at 2435 N. Florida Ave., Hernando. For information, call 352-341-1001.

Chronicle reporter Nancy Kennedy can be reached at 352-564-2927 or nkennedy@chronicleonline.com

Colleagues mourn men killed in helicopter crash

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE — Two employees of the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville who died in a helicopter crash are being remembered as caring medical professionals who loved their work.

Heart surgeon Dr. Luis Bonilla and procurement technician David Hines died Monday when the helicopter carrying them from Jacksonville to Gainesville crashed. They were going to pick up a heart for a transplant in Jacksonville.

The helicopter pilot, E. Hoke Smith of SK Jets in St. Augustine, also was killed.

Bonilla, 49, had recently transferred to Jacksonville from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, where his family still lives.

"What resides in my mind and my heart is that he was just a noble and wonderful man," his wife, Tracy Bonilla, told *The Florida Times-Union*. "He was a wonderful husband and father."

Former patients remembered his kind bedside manner while explaining



Associated Press

Clay County Sheriff's officials create a staging area Monday about 150 yards from wreckage from a helicopter crash in an area west of Green Cove Springs. The helicopter was headed to Gainesville from the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville to receive a heart for a transplant when it crashed.

complex procedures.

"He never rushed you," said Ross Carrier, whose mother underwent lung surgery with Bonilla last month. "I felt like my mom was his only patient."

Hines' colleagues recalled his upbeat attitude and skills.

"He was a great teacher and mentor to the field of

organ recovery and transplantation," said Cheryl Martin, an organ recovery coordinator at the Mayo Clinic. "There are simply not enough wonderful things to say about Dave to be able to fully describe him."

Hines also served 25 years in the military, including in the 125th Fighter Wing of the Florida Na-

tional Guard.

The Mayo Clinic performs more than 350 transplants each year in Jacksonville, with liver and kidney transplants being the most frequent, spokesman Layne Smith said. Crews frequently make trips to retrieve organs, but Smith couldn't immediately recall any past cases in which staff

and organs for transplant were involved in crashes.

Smith flew from St. Augustine to pick up Bonilla and Hines at the Mayo Clinic and quickly ferry them to Shands at the University of Florida, where surgeons were preparing to recover a heart from a donor, Smith said.

"Because of the distance and time constraints with a donor heart, flying is the preferred option," Smith said, adding such flights are frequent.

The heart Bonilla and Hines hoped to retrieve was not recovered, and the patient who had been scheduled to receive it is back on the transplant waiting list.

The National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Aviation Administration, local authorities and the aircraft's manufacturers are investigating the crash.

Authorities said the Bell 206 helicopter Smith was flying went down in a densely wooded part of Clay County about 12 miles northeast of Palatka. The crash ignited a fire that burned about 10 acres of woods.

Obituaries


Jack Barnett, 81
HOMOSASSA

Jack Lee Barnett, 09/06/1930 - 12/22/2011, lived 81 years full of life. He passed away in his home in Homosassa on Thursday, December 22, 2011, peacefully. He had battled colon cancer for the past couple of years without the knowledge of very many people.

On May 23, 1949, he was discharged from the armed forces as "Corporal Regular Army" after serving in Honolulu, Alaska and the USA for two years. This was his first auto mechanic job. Jack was a member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for many years for North America.

Jack always had a garage in his backyard, or actually owned one. There were times he worked for others, but his entire life he loved being a mechanic and was a "great one." Jack always had a love for cars; he used to race dragsters and stock cars; he often raced at the Golden Gate Speedway in Tampa. In March of 1971, he went to work for SECO in Sumter County as a mechanic and retired in 1992.

After retirement, he and Mary moved to Camp N Water in Homosassa. This is how they were going to spend retirement time, enjoying fishing and boating, which they loved to do along with taking cruises. Then he became president of the board and manager of Camp N Water until this past year. That just was Jack — had to stay busy.

Jack is survived by his brother, Gordon Barnett (Louise); daughters, Chris Barnett, Jackie Smack (Terry), Libby Judd, Sandy Winner (Jesse), Betty Veley (Rick), Cathy Gonzalez (Cande); son, Bill Collins; 17 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Barbara Wood, 64
INVERNESS

Barbara Anne Wood, 64, of Inverness, Fla., died Monday, Dec. 26, 2011.

Private cremation arrangements under the direction of Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with

SO YOU KNOW

- The Citrus County Chronicle's policy permits both free and paid obituaries. Email obits@chronicleonline.com or phone 352-563-5660 for details and pricing options.

Crematory, Inverness.

Sara Baxley, 58
FLORAL CITY

Sara J. Baxley, 58, of Floral City, Florida, passed away on Monday, December 26, 2011, at Hospice of Citrus County, Lecanto, Florida.

She was born in St. Petersburg, Florida, on December 20, 1953, to Jerry and Mary Lou (Parker) Gustin. Sara has been a resident of Floral City for more than 30 years, and was the owner and operator of Jack's Community Shop in Floral City. She loved life, air boating, gardening and playing the slots.

She is predeceased by her husband, Jack Baxley, and brother, Jerry Gustin. She is survived by her life partner, Dirk Hayward; daughters, Janis Pfeifer and Jennifer Roberts; parents, Jerry and Mary Lou Gustin; brother, Jim Gustin; sisters, Terri Corbitt, Jean Gripshover, Margie Brown and their families; and three grandchildren, Emily, Nathan, and Maddie.

Private cremation arrangements under the direction of Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory, Inverness, Florida.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Trixie Maynard, 88
CRYSTAL RIVER

Trixie Maynard, 88, of Crystal River, FL, died on December 27, 2011, at the Cypress Cove Care Center. Trixie was born on December 4, 1923, in Pikeville, KY, the daughter of Earl and Dixie Maynard. She lived in Ocala from 1968 to 2010 and then moved to Crystal River. She was a Baptist and a member of Bible Baptist Church of Ocala.

Trixie was preceded in death by her husband, Ellis Maynard in 1973; son, Emory Maynard in 2009; and sisters, Lucy Horodko in 1998 and Delcie Justice in March of 2010. Survivors include her daughters, Betty Kjos (Doug) of Hernando, FL, Fannie Rucker of Ocala, FL, and Bronis Gardner of Summerfield, FL; son, Ellis Maynard (Alice) of Argillite, KY; sister, Lola Molnar of Lexington, KY; nine grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be Saturday, December 31, 2011, at Heinz Funeral Home from 10 a.m. until the hour of the service at 11 a.m. with Pastor John Potts presiding. Heinz Funeral Home & Cremation, Inverness, FL. Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Vicki Hanson, 54
CRYSTAL RIVER

Vicki Annette Hanson, 54, of Crystal River, Florida, passed away on Friday, December 23, 2011, at her home, holding a picture of her daughter close to her heart.

She was born on June 6, 1957, in New Hampshire. She moved to Florida in 2008 where she lived ever since after moving from Maine. She was a homemaker but could do just about any demanding job that was put in front of her.

She was an outstanding member of The American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 155 of Crystal River, FL, and always volunteered her time and effort to help area veterans, members of the community and the needy.

She is survived by her daughter, Amy Toman (fiancée Troy Scotto) of Gardiner, Maine; and William "Bill" Shreve (fiancée) of Homosassa, Florida. Her first husband, Tim Toman of Augusta, ME; and second husband, Henry R. Hanson Jr., of Inglis, FL.

Vicki had many jobs over the years. She was no stranger to hard work. The most important thing to her was being a mother and homemaker. She put all of herself into everything she did and spent lots of time in the kitchen cooking and baking and making a very special meal for those she loved.

She was and is a beautiful and caring smart soul, mother, friend and companion. Her passions were playing bingo, cooking, gardening, quilting, crocheting, and she always loved her cats.

Her beautiful smile and warm laugh would brighten the darkest days. Very generous of the needy, placing money in donation jars; with kind words and always gave good advice and love. There are no words to express how much she will be missed. But she will always live in our thoughts and hearts. Memories and prayers forever and as she always said, "love you big!"

A memorial ceremony will be at American Legion Post No. 155 at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations accepted to American Heart Association.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.


Russel Parks, 82
HOMOSASSA

The Service of Remembrance for Mr. Russel William Parks, age 82, of Homosassa, Florida, will be held 11 a.m. Friday, December 30, 2011, at the Homosassa Chapel of Hooper Funeral Homes with

Mr. George Hickman officiating. Interment will follow at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Florida. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until the time of service, Friday at the chapel.

The family requests expressions of sympathy take the form of memorial donations to Hospice of Citrus County, P.O. Box 641270, Beverly Hills, FL 34464. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.HooperFuneralHome.com.

Mr. Parks was born May 8, 1929, in Tolula, LA, son of the late Luther and Ollie (Nicholson) Parks. He died December 26, 2011. Mr. Parks was an Army veteran, serving during the Korean War. Mr. Parks was a lifetime resident of Florida, and he worked as a welder until later in life, when he began working at what is now known as Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park. He loved nature, gardening and baking. Mr. Parks was a member of the Crystal River Church of Christ.

Mr. Parks was preceded in death by his son, Ronald W. Parks.

Survivors include his wife of 35 years, Ora Lee Parks of Homosassa, FL; two sons, Ralph (Lydia) Parks of Plant City, FL, and Bill (Penny) Dean of Tampa, FL; two daughters, Dorothy Hudson of Tampa, FL, and Marlene (Donald) Hall of Ridge Manor, FL; 12 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Richard Warne, 88
CRYSTAL RIVER

Richard Harvey Warne, age 88, of Crystal River, FL, passed away on Wednesday December 28, 2011, at Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center in Crystal River.

He was born October 6, 1923, in Orleans, NE, to Murray and Louise (Matthies) Warne. He came here six years ago from Elizabeth, CO, after retiring from cattle-ranching and farming for 33 years. He was a member and past elder of St. Marks Presbyterian Church in Kiowa, CO. He was a 32-degree Mason and a member of the Holdredge, NE, Masonic lodge, and also a member of the Pehama Temple Shrine in Hastings, NE.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Iris Warne, and a brother, Harold Warne.

Surviving are his loving wife of 63 years, Effie Warne, of Crystal River, FL; two sons, John Warne (Jayma) of Crystal River, FL, and Steve Warne (Kellie) of Wellston, OK; five grandchildren, Marissa, Thayer, Victoria, A.J. and Deanne; and two great-grandchildren, Marek and Mia.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 31, 2011, at 11 a.m. from the Strickland Funeral Home Chapel in Crystal River, FL, with Chaplain Brian Baggs officiating.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a memorial contribution to the charity of their choice.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Betty Carter, 84
HOMOSASSA

Betty Ann Carter, 84, of Sugarmill Woods, Homosassa, FL, died Monday, Dec. 26, 2011, at Hospice House of Lecanto. Private cremation arrangements. Wilder Funeral Home.

See DEATHS/Page A7

OBITUARIES

- Obituaries must be submitted by the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements.
- Free obituaries, run one day, can include: full name of deceased; age; hometown/state; date of death; place of death; date, time and place of visitation and funeral services.
- A flag will be included for free for those who served in the U.S. military. (Please note this service when submitting a free obituary.)
- Additionally, all obituaries will be posted online at www.chronicleonline.com.
- Deadline is 3 p.m. for obituaries to appear in the next day's edition.

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GERALD CUNNINGHAM
Funeral Mass Pending

MARGARET SPRADLEY
Viewing: Fri. 1 PM • Service: Fri. 3 PM

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THE MARKET IN REVIEW

HOW TO READ THE MARKET IN REVIEW

Here are the 825 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, 765 most active on the Nasdaq National Market and 116 most active on the American Stock Exchange. Tables show name, price and net change.

Name: Stocks appear alphabetically by the company's full name (not abbreviation). Names consisting of initials appear at the beginning of each letter's list. Last: Price stock was trading at when exchange closed for the day. Chg: Loss or gain for the day. No change indicated by ...

Stock Footnotes: old - Issue has been called for redemption by company. d - New 52-week low. dd - Loss in last 12 mos. ec - Company formerly listed on the American Exchange's Emerging Company Marketplace. h - Temporary exempt from Nasdaq capital and surplus listing qualification. n - Stock was a new issue in the last year. The 52-week high and low figures date only from the beginning of trading. pf - Preferred stock issue. pr - Preferences. pp - Holder owns installments of purchase price. rt - Right to buy security at a specified price. s - Stock has split by at least 20 percent within the last year. wt - Trades will be settled when the stock is issued. wd - With 20 percent. wt - Warrant, allowing a purchase of a stock. u - New 52-week high. u - Unit, including more than one security. vj - Company in bankruptcy or receivership, or being reorganized under the bankruptcy law. Appears in front of the name.

Source: The Associated Press. Sales figures are unofficial.

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Vol(00), Last, Chg. Lists most active NYSE stocks.

AMEX

Table with columns: Name, Vol(00), Last, Chg. Lists most active AMEX stocks.

LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists NYSE losers.

GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists NYSE gainers.

DIARY

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists NYSE dairy stocks.

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DIARY

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists NYSE dairy stocks.

NASDAQ

Table with columns: Name, Vol(00), Last, Chg. Lists most active NASDAQ stocks.

LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists NASDAQ losers.

GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists NASDAQ gainers.

DIARY

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists NASDAQ dairy stocks.

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Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists NASDAQ dairy stocks.

INDEXES

Table with columns: Index Name, Last, Chg. Lists major market indices.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists NYSE most active stocks.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists NASDAQ most active stocks.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists AMEX most active stocks.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with columns: Name, Div, Yld, PE, Last, Chg, YTD. Lists local interest stocks.

TO REQUEST STOCKS & FUNDS

Request stocks or mutual funds to be listed here by writing the Chronicle, Attn: Stock Requests, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; or call 563-5660. Include the name of the stock, market and ticker symbol. For mutual funds, list parent company, symbol and the exact name of the fund. Staff will not provide real-time quotes.

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STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

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Advertisement: 'So You Know The remainder of the NYSE listings can be found on the next page.'

CURRENCIES

Table with columns: Country, Yesterday, Pvs Day. Lists currency exchange rates.

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Table with columns: Country, Yesterday, Pvs Day. Lists currency exchange rates.

MONEY RATES

Table with columns: Rate Type, Yesterday, Pvs Day. Lists money rates.

MONEY RATES

Table with columns: Rate Type, Yesterday, Pvs Day. Lists money rates.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Exch, Contract, Settle Chg. Lists commodity prices.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Exch, Contract, Settle Chg. Lists commodity prices.

SPOT

Table with columns: Commodity, Yesterday, Pvs Day. Lists spot prices.

SPOT

Table with columns: Commodity, Yesterday, Pvs Day. Lists spot prices.

MUTUAL FUNDS

How To Read The Mutual Fund Tables

Here are the 1,000 biggest mutual funds listed on Nasdaq. Tables show the fund name, sell price or Net Asset Value (NAV) and daily net change.

Name: Name of mutual fund and family. NAV: Net asset value. Chg: Net change in price of NAV. Data based on NAVs reported to Lipper by 6 p.m. Eastern.

Table of mutual funds with columns: Name, NAV, Chg. Includes funds like Advance Capital, AllianceBern, AmeriCap, etc.

Table of mutual funds with columns: Name, NAV, Chg. Includes funds like John Hancock, Legg Mason, Parnassus, etc.

DEATHS

Continued from Page A5

Raymond Dampman, 78

INVERNESS

Raymond E. Dampman, 78, Inverness, died Tuesday, December 27, 2011, under the care of his loving family and Hospice of Citrus County, Illi-

nois, to the late Clarence and Ethel (Kruder) Dampman and came to this area in 1976 from Stockton, IL.

He was the owner/operator of his own trucking company. Ray enjoyed NASCAR racing, liked traveling to antique tractor shows and was particularly fond of the "Oliver" tractors. He liked going to yard sales and flea markets. He was a member of Hernando United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife of two years, Patricia A. Dampman; two sons, David Dampman, IL, and Jason and his wife Kim Dampman, Dade City, FL; his daughter, Jennifer and her husband, Jared Hartman, Ocala; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Glenda, in 2008 and his only sister, Virginia.

A Celebration of Life Service will be Friday, January 6, 2012, at 1 p.m. at the Hernando United Methodist Church. The family requests donations in Ray's memory to either the church or Hospice of Citrus County, P.O. Box 641270, Beverly Hills, FL 34464 in lieu of flowers. Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Margaret Spradley, 88

INVERNESS

Margaret Spradley, 88, Inverness, died Dec. 27, 2011, at the Citrus Co. Hospice House in Lecanto. Margaret was a Citrus County native, born on Oct. 21, 1923, in Inverness to the late Jefferson F. and Nettie (Miley) Rogers. She lived in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties for a while, but returned to Inverness several years ago.

She is survived by her two children, James F. Spradley of Independence, KY, and Charlene L. Riggs of Inverness; a brother, J.B. Rogers of Tampa; three grandchildren, Paul Riggs, Donald Riggs and Thomas Spradley; and eight great-grandchildren, Kyle, Brooklynn, Austin, Wade, Mercedes, Gabriel, Kylee and Emily. She was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters, Johnnie Rogers, Elsie Booth, Corbet Rogers, Agnes Garrett, Curtis Rogers and Simon Rogers.

Funeral services will be conducted on Friday, Dec. 30, at 3 p.m. from the Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Stage Pond Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home on Friday from 1 p.m. until the hour of service.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Monica Siwinski, 91

INVERNESS

Monica Joan Siwinski, age 91, Inverness, died Tuesday, December 27, 2011, at Always There Assisted Living Facility. A Celebration of Life Service will be Friday, January 6, 2012, at 1 p.m. at the Hernando United Methodist Church. The family requests donations in Ray's memory to either the church or Hospice of Citrus County, P.O. Box 641270, Beverly Hills, FL 34464 in lieu of flowers. Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.



William Smith Jr., 85

LECANTO

William L. Smith Jr., 85, of Black Diamond Ranch in Lecanto, Fla., died on Dec. 26, 2011. He was born on March 9, 1926, in Lake Charles, La. He received a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Texas as part of a military program during World War II, and on graduation served as an ensign in the U.S. Navy. After the war, he owned a construction firm in Lake Charles and built several commercial buildings, then went on to a 25-year career with PPG Industries. He oversaw large engineering projects in Lake Charles, Augusta, Ga., and Ponce, P.R., then traveled extensively when based at the corporate office in Pittsburgh. He and his wife retired to Sedona, Ariz., and later moved to Florida in 1994.

Bill Smith is survived by his wife of more than 62 years, Johanna Peters Smith; by his son, William Lee Smith of Zug, Switzerland; two daughters, Shelley Smith Ingram of Durham, N.C., and Barbara Peters Smith Somerville of Sarasota, Fla.; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Bill's life is planned for a later date. Memorial gifts may be made to the Black Diamond Foundation.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

OBITUARIES

- If websites, photos, survivors, memorial contributions or other information are included, this will be designated as a paid obituary and a cost estimate provided to the sender. Area funeral homes with established accounts with the Chronicle are charged \$8.75 per column inch. Non-local funeral homes and those without accounts are required to pay in advance by credit card, and the cost is \$10 per column inch. Larger photos, spanning the entire column, can also be accommodated, and will incur a size-based fee. Additional days of publication or reprints due to errors in submitted material are charged at the same rates. Email obits@chronicleonline.com or fax (352) 563-3280. Phone (352) 563-5660 for details.

SO YOU KNOW

- Small photos of the deceased's face can be included for an additional charge. Paid obituaries may include the information permitted in the free obituaries, as well as a date of birth; parents' names; predeceased and surviving family members; year married and spouse's name (date of death, if predeceased by spouse); religious affiliation; biographical information, including education, military service, organizations and hobbies; officiating clergy; interment/interment; and memorial contributions. Paid obituaries are printed as submitted by funeral homes or societies.

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New York Stock Exchange table with columns: Name, Last, Chng. Lists various stocks like AAPL, MSFT, GOOG, etc.

► "In the future no one wins a war. It is true there are degrees of loss, but no one wins."
 Brock Chisholm, 1896-1971

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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"You may differ with my choice, but not my right to choose."
 — David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

HONORING SACRIFICES

Remember troops as war ends

What is the real cost of the nine-year war in Iraq? Monetarily it is penned in the history books as \$800 billion.

But the sacrifice of American troops during the Iraq war, which started March 19, 2003, has been much greater. There were 4,487 American servicemen and service-woman and an estimated 100,000 Iraqis killed during the war. And, there's another 30,000 troops wounded, many maimed for life.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta recently said the cost was not in vain. President Obama hailed the war's end as a historic moment noting "the U.S. left a sovereign state, a democratic government and an enduring partnership in place."

Is Iraq — and the world — a better place without Saddam Hussein? The answer is yes.

As a nation, we paid a steep price for the freedom of the Iraqi people. In its wake are the physically and emotionally disabled men and women who served, many rotating in and out for three or four tours.

There are fathers and mothers reuniting with their children, some for the first time. It has been especially tough on family members who had to go on with their lives here at home. They are heroes as well, for keeping things together on the home front while their loved ones were away fighting.

We are glad the troops are home and feel strongly they should be honored for the sacrifices they made.

Sadly, it came very quietly and with little fanfare. News outlets carried stories, but there were no parades like

those held for sports teams. The possibility for such a parade still remains, but the fact that it is under consideration and not a certainty is a testament to the nation's regard for the Iraqi engagement. Officially, President Barack Obama held a commemoration ceremony at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Most welcome-homes have been familial affairs: hugs from loved ones at military posts, homemade banners, and returning troops surprising their children.

Throng of people gathered in New York City and Washington, D.C., after it was announced Osama bin Laden had

been killed. There were no similar outbursts last week when the White House announced the last troops left Iraq.

We must remember one war has come to an end. But as a nation, we must not forget the nearly 100,000 U.S. troops still fighting the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan, and like in Iraq, training Afghan forces to eventually keep their own country safe.

Should the nation consider the end of this war a victory? We say no. The nation was not at war — the military was at war. And when the U.S. started the aggression by dropping the first bomb, there was no exit strategy in place.

There truly is no winner in this war. Both sides lost human lives and sacrificed much. And terrorists still maintain a foothold in the Middle East. Now the world must wait to see if the new Iraqi government can forge a new — democratic and free — nation.

THE ISSUE:

Iraq war draws to a quiet close.

OUR OPINION:

Our troops are real heroes.

Boehner destroys GOP tax record

OK, enough already. I don't want to hear any more whining from Democrats about how hard it's going to be for President Obama to win re-election in 2012. Because the political landscape has just shifted dramatically.

Of course, it's not going to be any walk in the park for Obama and Democrats. It never is, for either party. But, even with John Boehner caving in on payroll tax cuts, the political equation has experienced nothing less than a historic, seismic shift. And Democrats now enjoy a huge advantage. Think about it.

Ever since Ronald Reagan, Republicans marketed themselves as the party of tax cuts. In fact, 274 Republicans in Congress signed a pledge never, never, never to vote to raise taxes on anybody. But, once asked to cut taxes for the middle class, Republicans were willing to throw that pledge right out the window.

By initially refusing to allow members of the House to vote on the Senate plan to extend payroll taxes for two months — a plan co-sponsored by Republican Senate Leader Mitch McConnell and approved by 89 members of the Senate, including 39 Republicans — Boehner effectively announced to 160 million American wage-earners: We changed our minds. Forget all that stuff we said about never raising taxes. Forget our pledge to Grover Norquist. Effective Jan. 1, Republicans were ready and willing to raise taxes on every American who draws a paycheck.

For working-class families, especially, that would have been bad news. It would have meant

\$40 less, every paycheck: money to put food on the table, gas in the tank, or clothes on the backs of kids. One thousand dollars less in disposable income for 2012. Paying a minimum \$1,000 more in taxes. And for the American economy, billions of dollars less in consumer spending, demand for products, sales tax revenue, and walk-in traffic for small businesses.

Politically, as Karl Rove declared, that was suicidal for Republicans. Because, for the first time in decades, it was the Republican Party raising taxes and the Democratic Party, under Barack Obama, trying to cut them. And this wasn't the first time. In 2009, as part of the stimulus, Obama gave 95 percent of Americans a tax cut. In 2011, he gave every American wage-earner a one-year, 2 percent cut in their payroll tax. And for 2012 Obama wanted to extend and expand that payroll tax cut — but was blocked from doing so by John Boehner and House Republicans — until they caved in.

Boehner's rejection of the bipartisan Senate proposal not only put him at odds with Democrats, it angered fellow Republicans, starting with Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell. Echoing comments by McConnell and other Republican senators, John McCain said the failure of House Republicans to extend payroll tax cuts for at least two months would not only hurt 160 million Americans, it "hurts the Republican Party."

The reason Republican Senators were so upset was because they realized that, overnight, thanks to John Boehner, the Republican Party had surrendered its No. 1 issue. Suddenly, Democrats, not Republicans, were seen

as the party of tax cuts. For Boehner to allow that to happen, as Rupert Murdoch's *Wall Street Journal* complained, was monumentally stupid. Everybody knows Republicans in the House are determined to be against anything President Obama is for, but in this case, argues the *Journal*, "Republicans have thoroughly botched the politics."

And not only on this issue. Ever since Sept. 11, the Republican Party has also sold itself as tough on terrorism. But no longer: It was Barack Obama who gave the orders to track down and kill Osama bin Laden, after George W. Bush abandoned the hunt. It was Barack Obama who led an international coalition against Moammar Gadhafi. And it was Barack Obama who, very quietly, dispatched U.S. drones to kill Anwar al-Awlaki and scores of other al-Qaida leaders. So now Democrats are also the party of national security, the party that keeps America safe.

Bottom line: Under the inept leadership of Mitch McConnell in the Senate and John Boehner in the House, Republicans have ceded the ground to Democrats on two key issues: tax cuts and national security. Meanwhile, the economy continues to improve.

That clearly puts 2012 in a whole new light. As *The Wall Street Journal* lamented: "We wonder if they might end up re-electing the president before the 2012 campaign even begins in earnest."

Merry Christmas!

Bill Press is host of a nationally syndicated radio show and author of a new book, "Toxic Talk," available in bookstores now. You can hear "The Bill Press Show" at his website: billpress.com. His email address is: bill@billpress.com.



LETTERS to the Editor

Thanks for festival

This letter is to thank and compliment the members of the Homosassa Civic Club for their ongoing efforts in producing the Homosassa Seafood Festival each year.

This year I was the winner of Package No. 7 as a result of buying a ticket for the Homosassa Seafood Festival Raffle. Package No. 7 included a large variety of tickets for state and local attractions, gift certificates for six local restaurants, automobile services, kayak rentals, snorkeling tours and more. I was delighted to receive it. It will be gift that will last all year.

It was obvious to me, as I considered the many valuable items in the package, that the club members had been collecting these donated items throughout the past year. I would estimate it involved the efforts of several persons over many months.

Additionally, other community clubs work with the Homosassa Civic Club to sell the tickets to make the fundraiser the success it is. I bought my ticket through the

- OPINIONS INVITED**
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 - All letters must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email. Names and hometowns will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.
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efforts Nancy Smith, a member of the Homosassa River Garden Club.

The Homosassa Civic Club and the Homosassa commu-

nity are to be highly commended for their ongoing fundraising efforts to help the community.

It is not just a one-month or one-year event, but a contribution that has been made for many years. Thank you. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Elaine Moore
 Homosassa

Make a difference

On Christmas morning I learned that I was going to be a grandmother. It was the perfect gift! My gift to this child will be a rededication to do all that I can to make the world a place where he or she can breathe clean air, drink clean water and eat food that is natural and good. I will strive to reduce my carbon footprint by recycling, repurposing and reusing as much as I can.

But I could use some help. For the future of all grandchildren, please join me in doing what is right — for them and for the planet. Thank you in advance. Each of us can make a difference.

Vickie Caligure
 Homosassa

Watch for scam

I also read in the paper about people who were soliciting money. A young woman in a red car with an older woman in the backseat approached me on the Friday after Thanksgiving. I was asked for \$21 to help pay a bill. I think all of our readers and the community should be alerted to this type of a scam that's going on.

Don't send money

I would like to warn the public about this financial payment announcement completion document that I've been receiving in the mail. They want you to send in \$20 to find out if you are eligible for a \$1,800,000 prize. All you have to do is send in \$20 and they'll send you a list of the people eligible. This is obviously a scam. Please do not send in any money to these people.

Smoke distressing

I wish that whatever county is doing that burning — whether it's Citrus, Sumter, any of them, Marion — I wish they'd quit doing that burning, because every day I end up coughing from all those smoke fumes. I really think that's the reason the birds have all left the area, too. They're starting to come back, but if it keeps up, they're going to just go away again.

I wish I knew somebody I could call to complain about this to.

A day for church

I can't believe that churches (were) questioning whether or not to have Sunday services on Christmas Day. Christmas is supposed to be the celebration of Jesus' birth. What better day to be in church?



Nation/World BRIEFS

Thirty-one injured in jet's crash-landing

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan — A Soviet-built jet operated by a Kyrgyz carrier broke its wing, overturned and caught fire Wednesday as it tried to land in deep fog in southern Kyrgyzstan, leaving 31 people injured, officials said.

The Soviet-built Tu-134 operated by local carrier Kyrgyzstan Airlines had flown from the capital Bishkek and was trying to land at the airport in the city of Osh, said Ilyas Egemberdiyev, a spokesman for the airline.

Rescuers quickly extinguished the fire and evacuated 82 passengers and six crewmembers. Emergency Situations Minister Kubatbek Boronov said that 31 people were injured, and 17 of them were hospitalized.

Officials declined to comment on possible causes of the crash. A team of top officials led by the nation's prime minister was to fly to Osh to start a probe, but it had to delay the trip because of thick fog and strong winds in the area.

The twin-engined Tu-134, along with its larger sibling the Tu-154, has been the workhorse of Soviet and Russian civil aviation since the 1960s, with more than 800 planes built.

N. Koreans cry, salute as funeral gets under way

PYONGYANG, North Korea — North Korea's next leader escorted his father's hearse in an elaborate state funeral on a bitter, snowy day Wednesday, bowing and saluting in front of tens of thousands of citizens who wailed and stamped their feet in grief for Kim Jong Il.

At the end of the 2 1/2-hour procession, rifles fired 21 times as Kim Jong Un stood flanked by the top party and



Emergency rescue personnel inspect an overturned Soviet-built Tupolev Tu-134 passenger jet after it crash-landed Wednesday in deep fog in Osh, Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan's Health Ministry said the Soviet-built jet was carrying 95 passengers and six crew.

military officials who are expected to be his inner circle of advisers. Kim then saluted again as goose-stepping soldiers carrying flags and rifles marched by.

Although analysts say Kim Jong Un is on the path toward cementing his power and all moves in North Korea so far — from titles giving him power over the ruling party and military and his leading position in the funeral procession — point in that direction, his age and inexperience leave questions about Kim's long-term prospects. Whereas his father was groomed for power for 20 years before taking over, the younger Kim has had only about two years.

He also faces the huge challenges of running a country that struggles to feed its people even as it pursues a

nuclear weapons program that has earned it international sanctions and condemnation.

Rivals assail Paul over Iran stance

MUSCATINE, Iowa — Mitt Romney and Rick Perry on Wednesday assailed Republican presidential rival Ron Paul for saying the U.S. has no business bombing Iran to keep it from acquiring a nuclear weapon, drawing a sharp contrast with their rising rival as he returned to Iowa to campaign before the lead-off caucuses.

"One of the people running for president thinks it's okay for Iran to have a nuclear weapon," Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, said in this eastern Iowa city in response to a ques-

tion from the audience. "I don't."

It was the first time Romney has challenged Paul directly since the Texas congressman jumped in polls. Neither Romney nor Perry, the Texas governor, named Paul, but the target was clear.

"You don't have to vote for a candidate who will allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. Because America will be next," Perry said in Urbandale, reiterating a line of argument from a day earlier.

"I'm here to say: You have a choice," Perry added.

'Loophole' in health care law costs man \$1,000

CHICAGO — Bill Dunphy thought his colonoscopy would be free.

His insurance company told him it would be covered 100 percent, with no copayment from him and no charge against his deductible. The nation's 1-year-old health law requires most insurance plans to cover all costs for preventive care including colon cancer screening. So Dunphy had the procedure in April.

Then the bill arrived: \$1,100.

Dunphy, a 61-year-old Phoenix small business owner, angrily paid it out of his own pocket because of what some prevention advocates call a loophole. His doctor removed two noncancerous polyps during the colonoscopy. So while Dunphy was sedated, his preventive screening turned into a diagnostic procedure. That allowed his insurance company to bill him.

Like many Americans, Dunphy has a high-deductible insurance plan. He hadn't spent his deductible yet. So, on top of his \$400 monthly premium, he had to pay the bill.

—From wire reports

Gov't to pay family for military jet crash

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A federal judge on Wednesday ordered the U.S. government to pay \$17.8 million to a family that lost four members when a Marine Corps fighter jet crashed into their San Diego home in 2008.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Miller's ruling came after a nonjury trial between the Department of Justice and the family, who sought \$56 million for emotional and monetary loss.

Don Yoon lost his 36-year-old wife, Youngmi Lee Yoon; his 15-month-old daughter, Grace; his 2-month-old daughter, Rachel; and his 59-year-old mother-in-law, Seokim Kim Lee.

Yoon said in a statement Miller's ruling was "thoughtful, reasoned and just."

The Marine Corps has said the plane suffered a mechanical failure but a series of bad decisions led the pilot — a student — to bypass a potentially safe landing at a coastal Navy base after his engine failed on Dec. 8, 2008. The pilot ejected and told investigators he screamed in horror as he watched the jet plow into the neighborhood, incinerating two homes.

YEAR

Continued from Page A1

borne special operations squad on his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Bin Laden was shot dead by one of the raiders, and within hours his body was buried at sea.

Japan's triple disaster

A 9.0-magnitude earthquake off Japan's northeast coast in March unleashed a tsunami that devastated scores of communities, leaving nearly 20,000 people dead or missing and wreaking an estimated \$218 billion in damage. The tsunami triggered the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl after waves knocked out the cooling system at a nuclear power plant, causing it to spew radiation that turned up in local produce. About 100,000 people evacuated from the area have not returned to their homes.

Arab spring

It began with demonstrations in Tunisia that rapidly toppled the longtime strongman. Spreading like a wildfire, the Arab Spring protests sparked a revolution in Egypt that ousted Hosni Mubarak, fueled a civil war in Libya that climaxed with Moammar Gadhafi's death, and fomented a bloody uprising in Syria against the Assad regime. Bahrain and Yemen also experienced major protests and unrest.

EU fiscal crisis

The European Union was hit with relentless fiscal turmoil. In Greece, austerity measures triggered strikes, protests and riots, while



A tsunami floods over the breakwater protecting the coastal city of Miyako at Heigawa estuary area on March 11 after northeastern Japan was hit by a powerful earthquake.

Italy's economic woes toppled Premier Silvio Berlusconi. France and Germany led urgent efforts to ease the debt crisis; Britain balked at proposed changes.

U.S. economy

By some measures, the U.S. economy gained strength as the year progressed. Hiring picked up a bit, consumers were spending more, and the unemployment rate finally dipped below 9 percent. But millions of Americans remained buffeted by foreclosures, joblessness and benefit cutbacks, and investors were on edge monitoring the chain of fiscal crises in Europe.

Penn State sex abuse scandal

One of America's most storied college football programs was tarnished in a scandal that prompted

the firing of Hall of Fame football coach Joe Paterno. One of his former assistants, Jerry Sandusky, was accused of sexually molesting 10 boys; two senior Penn State officials were charged with perjury; and the longtime president was ousted. Paterno wasn't charged, but expressed regret he didn't do more after being told there was a problem.

Gadhafi toppled in Libya

After nearly 42 years of mercurial and often brutal rule, Moammar Gadhafi was toppled by his own people. Anti-government protests escalated into an eight-month rebellion, backed by NATO bombing, that shattered his regime, and Gadhafi finally was tracked down and killed in the fishing village where he was born.

Poor's to strip the U.S. of its AAA credit rating. Later, the so-called "supercommittee" failed to agree on a deficit-reduction package of at least \$1.2 trillion — potentially triggering automatic spending cuts of that amount starting in 2013.

Occupy Wall Street protests

It began Sept. 17 with a protest at a New York City park near Wall Street, and within weeks spread to scores of communities across the U.S. and abroad. The movement depicted itself as leaderless and shied away from specific demands, but succeeded in airing its complaint that the richest 1 percent of Americans benefit at the expense of the rest. As winter approached, local police dismantled several of the protest encampments.

Gabrielle Giffords shot

The popular third-term congresswoman from Arizona suffered a severe brain injury when she and 18 other people were shot by a

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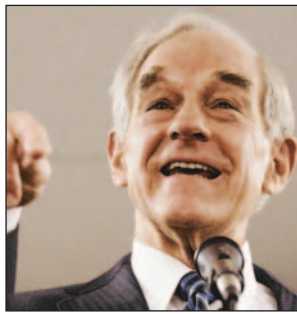
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Nation BRIEFS

Campaigning



Associated Press
Republican presidential candidate Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, speaks during a campaign stop Wednesday at the Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa.

Drug disappoints against cancer

Avastin, the blockbuster drug that just lost approval for treating breast cancer, now looks disappointing against ovarian cancer, too. Two studies found it did not improve survival for most of these patients and kept their disease from worsening for only a few months, with more side effects.

The Genentech drug won approval in Europe last week for advanced ovarian cancer. But its maker has no immediate plans to seek the same approval in the United States. After talking with the Food and Drug Administration, "we do not believe the data will support approval" although no final decision has been made, said Charlotte Arnold, a spokeswoman for Genentech, part of the Swiss company Roche.

Results of the studies are in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

World BRIEFS

Deadly strike



Associated Press
Palestinian relatives gather around the body of Palestinian militant Abdullah Telbani, 22, during his funeral Wednesday in Gaza City, Israel carried out a series of airstrikes in the Gaza Strip late Tuesday, killing Telbani and wounding others. Israel said it targeted militants before they could carry out an attack on the border between Israel and Egypt.

Court rejects ban of Hindu text

MOSCOW — A Russian court decided Wednesday not to ban a religious text central to the global Hare Krishna movement, rejecting claims the text is "extremist" and ending a case that has angered Hindus around the world.

The Indian Foreign Ministry said it appreciated "this sensible resolution of a sensitive issue."

Prosecutors in the Siberian city of Tomsk had argued the Russian translation of "Bhagavad Gita As It Is" promotes "social discord" and hatred toward nonbelievers, causing an outcry in India, where many considered the proposed ban a violation of the rights of Hindus in Russia.

The text is a combination of the Bhagavad Gita, one of Hinduism's holiest scriptures, and commentary by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, which is often called the Hare Krishna movement.

Prosecutors had asked the court to include the book on the Federal List of Extremist Materials.

—From wire reports

US to Iran: Don't close oil passage



Associated Press
Iranian navy members take positions during a drill in the Sea of Oman on Wednesday. Iran's navy chief warned Wednesday his country can easily close the strategic Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, the passageway through which a sixth of the world's oil flows. The navy is in the midst of a 10-day drill in international waters near the strategic oil route.

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — The U.S. strongly warned Iran on Wednesday against closing a vital Persian Gulf waterway that carries one-sixth of the world's oil supply, after Iran threatened to choke off traffic through the Strait of Hormuz if Washington imposes sanctions targeting the country's crude exports.

The increasingly heated exchange raises new tensions in a standoff that has the potential to spark military reprisals and spike oil prices to levels that could batter an already fragile global economy.

Iran's navy chief said Wednesday that it would be "very easy" for his country's forces to close the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the passage at the mouth of

the Persian Gulf through which about 15 million barrels of oil pass daily. It was the second such warning by Iran in two days, reflecting Tehran's concern that the West is about to impose new sanctions that could hit the country's biggest source of revenue, oil.

"Iran has comprehensive control over the strategic waterway," Adm. Habibollah Sayyari told state-run Press TV, as the country was in the midst of a 10-day military drill near the strategic waterway.

The comments drew a quick response from the U.S.

"This is not just an important issue for security and stability in the region, but is an economic lifeline for countries in the Gulf, to include Iran," Pentagon press secretary George Little said.

Genetically modified corn may be losing ability to kill pests

Associated Press

One of the nation's most widely planted crops — a genetically engineered corn plant that makes its own insecticide — may be losing its effectiveness because a major pest appears to be developing resistance more quickly than expected.

The U.S. food supply is not in any immediate danger because the problem remains isolated. But scientists fear potentially risky farming practices could be blunting the hybrid's sophisticated weaponry.

When it was introduced in 2003, so-called Bt corn seemed like the answer to farmers' dreams: It would allow growers to bring in bountiful harvests using fewer chemicals because the corn naturally produces a toxin that poisons western corn rootworms. The hybrid was such a swift success that it and similar varieties now account for 65 percent of all U.S. corn acres — grain that ends up in thousands of everyday foods such as cereal, sweeteners and cooking oil.

But over the past few summers, rootworms have feasted on the roots of Bt corn in parts of four Midwestern states, suggesting that some of the insects are becoming resistant to the crop's pest-fighting powers.

Scientists say the problem could be partly the result of farmers who've planted Bt corn year after year in the same fields.

Most farmers rotate corn with other crops in a practice long used to curb the spread of pests, but some have abandoned rotation because they need extra grain for livestock or because they have grain contracts with ethanol producers. Other farmers have eschewed the practice to cash in on high corn prices, which hit a record in June.

"Right now, quite frankly, it's very profitable to grow corn," said Michael Gray, a University of Illinois crop sciences professor tracking Bt corn damage in that state.

A scientist recently sounded an alarm throughout the biotech industry when he published findings concluding rootworms in some Bt cornfields in Iowa had evolved an ability to survive the corn's defenses.

Similar crop damage has been seen in parts of Illinois, Minnesota and Nebraska, but researchers are still investigating whether rootworms capable of surviving the Bt toxin were the cause.



Associated Press
A Syrian man walks in an alley shelled by the Syrian army forces Monday in the Baba Amr area, in Homs province, Syria. Arab League monitors kicked off their one-month mission in Syria on Tuesday with a visit to Homs, the first time Syria has allowed outside monitors to the city at the heart of the anti-government uprising.

Bloodshed continues

Activists: Syrian troops kill more protesters

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Arab League monitors gathered accounts about the Syrian government's crackdown on dissent in the central city of Homs Wednesday as fresh violence flared just dozens of miles away. Activists said troops opened fire on thousands of unarmed protesters, killing at least six.

Though President Bashar Assad's regime has made concessions to the observers, including the release of nearly 800 prisoners, the military was pressing ahead with a campaign to put down mostly peaceful protests.

In the two days since the Arab monitors arrived, activists said troops have killed at least 39 people, including the six shot in the central city of Hama on Wednesday. The continued bloodshed — and comments by an Arab League official praising Syria's cooperation — have fueled concerns by the Syrian opposition that the Arab mission is a farce and a distraction from the ongoing killings.

The opposition suspects Assad is only trying to buy time and fore-



Associated Press
Defected Syrian soldiers position their rifles as they take cover behind a wall of a damaged house Monday in the Baba Amr area in Homs province, Syria.

stall more international sanctions and condemnation.

"This mission has absolutely no mandate, no authority, no teeth," said Ausama Monajed, a member of the Syrian National Council, the main opposition group. "The regime does not feel obliged to even bring down the number of casualties a day."

The 60 monitors — the first Syria has allowed in during the nine-month uprising — are supposed to be ensuring the regime is complying with terms of a plan to end a crackdown the U.N. says has killed more than 5,000 people

since March.

The plan, which Syria agreed to Dec. 19, demands that the regime remove its security forces and heavy weapons from cities, start talks with the opposition and allow human rights workers and journalists into the country. It also calls for the release of all political prisoners.

On Wednesday, the government released 755 prisoners following a report by Human Rights Watch accusing authorities of hiding hundreds of detainees from the monitors. It was the second concession in two days.

Abortion, immigration changes among new laws

Associated Press

Girls seeking abortions first New Hampshire must first tell their parents or a judge, employers in Alabama must verify new workers' U.S. residency, and California students will be the first in the country to receive mandatory lessons about the contributions of gays and lesbians under state laws set to take effect at the start of 2012.

Many laws reflect the na-

tion's concerns over immigration, the cost of government and the best way to protect and benefit young people, including regulations on sports concussions.

Alabama, with the country's toughest immigration law, is enacting a key provision requiring all employers who do business with any government entity to use a federal system known as E-Verify to check that all new employees are in the country legally.

Georgia is putting a similar law into effect requiring any business with 500 or more employees to use E-Verify to check the employment eligibility of new hires. The requirement is being phased in, with all employers with more than 10 employees to be included by July 2013.

Supporters said they wanted to deter illegal immigrants from coming to Georgia by making it tougher for them to work.

Critics said that changes to immigration law should come at the federal level and that portions of the law already in effect are already hurting Georgia.

Tennessee will also require businesses to ensure employees are legally authorized to work in the U.S. but exempts employers with five or fewer workers and allows them to keep a copy of the new hire's driver's license instead of using E-Verify.



Associated Press

A harvester works through a field of genetically modified corn in October 2005 near Santa Rosa, Calif. So-called Bt corn, genetically engineered to make its own insecticide, may be losing its distinctive ability to kill pests, a possible result of careless farming practices that could give rise to resistant bugs.

■ Seminoles set to take on Notre Dame in Champs Sports Bowl on Thursday./B3



■ Pigskin predictions/B2
 ■ NFL/B2
 ■ NHL, NBA/B3
 ■ College football/B3
 ■ College basketball/B3
 ■ Sports briefs/B4
 ■ Outdoors/B5
 ■ Entertainment/B6

Joseph will be Bucs' lone Pro Bowler

Offensive lineman excited to be picked

Associated Press

TAMPA — There has been one constant during a nine-game losing streak that's undermined Tampa Bay's season — the consistent play of Buccaneers guard Davin Joseph, the team's lone Pro Bowl selection. The anchor of an offensive line

that's considered the strength of the NFL's youngest team, Joseph is headed to the annual All-Star game in Hawaii for the second time in four years.

Despite falling apart following a 4-2 start, the Bucs (4-11) have allowed the ninth-fewest sacks in the league. They also are averaging 4.3 yards per rushing attempt, which ranks 13th heading into Sunday's season finale at Atlanta.

Pro Bowl rosters

■ For the entire list of the best players in the NFL, please see: B4

The 2006 first-round draft pick signed a seven-year, \$52.5 million contract in July and responded with perhaps the best season of his

career.

"It's a talented league. It just shows how much work we've put in up front, challenging each other on a day-to-day basis, always looking to get better," Joseph said Wednesday. "It's a reflection of how hard the offensive line has

been working this year. I'm proud to be the one chosen, but I really couldn't do it without my guys."

Joseph, who made his first Pro Bowl appearance in 2009, has started 82 of 83 regular-season games he's played since entering the league following a standout college career at Oklahoma. Teammates say his hard-nosed, never-quit-on-a-play approach is not always appreciated by opposing defenders wary of playing against 6-foot-3, 313-pound guard.

"Davin has been a major bright spot — the effort that guy gives, his

intensity," quarterback Josh Freeman said. "I hear guys all the time talk about ... 'That No. 75, watch out for him, tell him to cut out the cheap shots,' which are not cheap shots, they're hustle plays."

Joseph said he was a little surprised at being picked for the NFC team when the selections were announced Tuesday, mostly because the Bucs have struggled after going 10-6 and narrowly missing the playoffs a year ago.

Freeman has had a down year after throwing for 25 touchdowns and just six interceptions in 2010.

Lecanto Holiday TOURNAMENT

WARRIORS' SECOND WIND

SR Christian battles back to down Citrus

SEAN ARNOLD
 Correspondent

LECANTO — Seven Rivers Christian sophomore guard Adam Gage scored 26 points to help the Warriors bounce back from a narrow loss to the Panthers with a 61-47 victory over Citrus Wednesday in Lecanto's Holiday Tournament.

Seven Rivers (10-3) began the game sluggish, exhibiting symptoms from an 85-81 defeat to the Panthers late Tuesday night, which saw Gage putting up 28 points.

The 'Canes (6-4) outrebounded the Warriors by nearly a 3-to-1 ratio in the first half, with junior forward Randy Lynn grabbing eight, and staked out a 28-18 lead with two minutes remaining in the second period thanks to a 14-point performance by Citrus sophomore guard Devin Pryor and nine points by senior forward Ryan Labrador in the opening quarters.

A pair of 3s by Gage just before the break marked the beginning of a 34-8 run for Seven Rivers, however; that lasted until midway into the fourth.

"We made some adjustments at halftime and the kids responded and did what they needed to do," Seven Rivers coach Jim Ervin said. "We decided we needed to double Labrador in the second half. He's a great player, and our kids just did a great job defensively on him."

"I don't think we ever did recover from Tuesday night," Ervin added. "We didn't quite have the energy. But we talked about how good teams don't lose back-to-back games, which we haven't done in at least three years, and the kids had a will to win."

Citrus' third quarter struggles showed the 'Canes in uncharacteristic form amid their recent stretch of offensive success.

"I thought the third quarter was the difference," Citrus coach Tom Densmore said. "It looked like they stepped it up defensively, and we couldn't buy a



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

Citrus High School's Ryan Labrador makes a shot around Seven Rivers Christian School's Adam Gage Wednesday during the Lecanto High School Holiday Tournament. The Warriors used a big second half to come away with a 61-47 victory over the Hurricanes. Both Seven Rivers and Citrus ended the two-day event with a 1-1 record.

See 7 RIVERS/Page B4

Lecanto bashes Fivay 78-55

LARRY BUGG
 Correspondent

The Lecanto High boys basketball team had one of those basketball celebrations Wednesday night.

The Panthers (12-2) used all 15 of their players to beat Hudson Fivay 78-55 in the final game of the Lecanto Holiday Tournament.

The Panthers had four players in double figures as Panther coach Eddie Buckley gave his reserves plenty of playing time. Robert Vega had 11 points and seven rebounds to lead the Panthers. Richie Rizzolo, Clayton Roessler and Winsor Sineus all chipped in 10 points.

"I liked it a little bit," Lecanto coach Eddie Buckley said. "I was happy with the 15 people who played. The key for us is our depth. Defensively, we need to get better."

Patrick Roulette led all scorers with 25 points for Fivay (2-10).

The Panthers have an unusual opportunity today. They will play Melbourne High at 2 p.m. at the Amway Center in Orlando — that's the home of the Orlando Magic.

The Lecanto game on Wednesday lacked any sense of drama. The Panthers shot out to a 13-2 first period lead and finished the quarter leading 21-8. Rizzolo led the attack with five points.

The Panthers then outscored the second-year school 23-17 in the second period. Mikey Makros led Lecanto with six points.

The halftime score was 44-25 but the victory was sewn up in the first period.

Lecanto outscored the visitors 21-10 in the third period. Roessler scored six for the Panthers.

Fivay actually outscored Lecanto in the fourth period 20-13. Roulette hit 10 points for the Pasco County team. Connor Dupler and Brandon Burich both delighted Panther fans with four points apiece.

The Panthers forced their foes into 15 turnovers while Lecanto had 11 miscues.

The Fivay coach liked his team's performance.

"They were warriors," Fivay coach Marvin Gray said. "Our players played very hard. I'm very proud of them."



Lecanto girls fall on hardwood

JUSTIN PLANTE
 Correspondent

Playing their second game in two days, the Lecanto High School girls basketball team sought to bring some joy to their holiday break, by taking down the River Ridge Lady Knights during the second game of yesterday's holiday tournament held at Lecanto High School.

Unfortunately for the Panthers, River Ridge, coming off a nail-biter itself, would make sure to walk away from the tournament with some Christmas cheer, as the Knights would go on to win 57-35.

DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

The first half would see the most competitive action in the game, as Lecanto held the Lady Knights' lead to single digits for the majority of the first half. The Lady Panthers held their own on the boards in the first half, but just couldn't find the bottom of the net.

Add to that the offensive output from River Ridge player Leah Ford, who led the game with 19 points, and it makes even a single-digit lead look like a mountain to climb.

"River Ridge did a good job playing the ball pressure,"

Lecanto assistant coach Ed Buckley stated. "We definitely missed some shots early. We may have made a run, and got close a couple of times, but we just couldn't make the shots that we needed to close it up."

In the second half, River Ridge would seek to build on its 0-point lead. Despite an early offensive push from Lecanto in the third, led by Megan Straight, Marie Buckley, and Miranda Barber, the Lady Knights would just continue to pour on the points, yielding 18 in the third and 15 in the fourth.

What the Lady Panthers did well in the first half, such as rebounding and slowing the pace down, would ultimately

See LECANTO/Page B4

Citrus girls take slim win over Armwood

LARRY BUGG
 Correspondent

The Citrus High girls basketball team showed why it's still undefeated Wednesday as the Hurricanes beat Seffner Armwood 48-41 in the Lecanto Holiday Tournament.








Lindsay Connors scored 16 to lead the 'Canes in scoring. Shenelle Toxen added 11 and Paige Garvin hit 10.

Citrus is now off to a 13-0 start to the season while Armwood fell to 9-5.

The Citrus High coach did not underestimate Armwood. "We knew Armwood was a very good team," said Citrus head girls basketball coach Brian Lattin. "They are used

See CITRUS/Page B4

PIGSKIN PREDICTIONS

Follow the Chronicle's "experts" all season long as they pick the biggest games of the year.							
Last Week's Results	19-5	18-6	16-8	17-7	18-6	16-8	8-16
Season total	318-140	317-141	302-156	297-161	294-164	289-169	225-233

NFL							
Carolina at New Orleans	N. Orleans	N. Orleans	N. Orleans	N. Orleans	N. Orleans	N. Orleans	N. Orleans
Buffalo at New England	N. England	N. England	N. England	N. England	N. England	N. England	N. England
Chicago at Minnesota	Chicago	Minnesota	Minnesota	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Minnesota
NY Jets at Miami	Miami	Miami	NY Jets	NY Jets	NY Jets	Miami	Miami
San Francisco at St. Louis	San Fran.	San Fran.	San Fran.	San Fran.	San Fran.	San Fran.	San. Fran
Detroit at Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Detroit
Washington at Philadelphia	Philly	Philly	Philly	Philly	Philly	Philly	Wash.
Indianapolis at Jacksonville	J'ville	J'ville	J'ville	J'ville	J'ville	J'ville	Indy
Tennessee at Houston	Houston	Tennessee	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Tennessee
Seattle at Arizona	Arizona	Seattle	Seattle	Arizona	Arizona	Seattle	Seattle
Kansas City at Denver	Kan. City	Denver	Kan. City	Denver	Denver	Denver	Kan. City
Tampa Bay at Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta
Baltimore at Cincinnati	Baltimore	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Baltimore	Baltimore
Pittsburgh at Cleveland	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Cleveland
San Diego at Oakland	San Diego	Oakland	Oakland	San Diego	Oakland	San Diego	Oakland
Dallas at NY Giants	NY Giants	NY Giants	NY Giants	NY Giants	NY Giants	NY Giants	Dallas

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES							
Florida St. vs. Notre Dame	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU	Notre Dame
Washington vs. Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Wash.
Brigham Young vs. Tulsa	Tulsa	BYU	Tulsa	BYU	Tulsa	BYU	Tulsa
Rutgers vs. Iowa State	Rutgers	Rutgers	Rutgers	Iowa St.	Rutgers	Iowa St.	Rutgers
Miss. St. vs. Wake Forest	Miss. St.	Miss. St.	W. Forest	Miss. St.	Miss. St.	Miss. St.	W. Forest
Iowa vs. Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Iowa	Iowa
Tex. A&M vs. Northwestern	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	N'western
Georgia Tech vs. Utah	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Utah	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Utah
Cincinnati vs. Vanderbilt	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Vanderbilt	Cincinnati	Vanderbilt	Vanderbilt	Cincinnati
Virginia vs. Auburn	Virginia	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
Houston vs. Penn State	Houston	Houston	Houston	Penn St.	Houston	Houston	Penn St.
Nebraska vs. S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	S. Carolina	Nebraska	S. Carolina	Nebraska
Michigan St. vs. Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Mich. St.	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
Ohio State vs. Florida	Florida	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State	Florida	Florida	Ohio State
Wisconsin vs. Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Wisconsin
Stanford vs. Oklahoma St.	Okla. S.	Okla. St.	Okla. State	Stanford	Okla. St.	Okla. St.	Stanford
Michigan vs. Virginia Tech	Michigan	Michigan	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan
West Virginia vs. Clemson	W. Virginia	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	W. Virginia

Giants expected to win NFC East crown over Dallas

Associated Press

Thank you, Drew Brees and the Saints.

Because of their 45-16 rout of Atlanta, Pro Picks not only is guaranteed being over .500 for the season against the spread, but also snapped an ignominious streak of nine successive missed Best Bets.

We are tempted to make every game with a line the Best Bet for the final week-end of the season, but given the lack of success in that area, maybe it's best to just swallow the overall record with top choices and move on.

Hoping to move on to the playoffs are the Giants and Cowboys, who meet at the

Meadowlands for the NFC East crown, with the loser going home. Both teams have had schizophrenic seasons, with the Giants revitalizing their chances when they rallied to beat the Cowboys on the road three weeks ago.

But New York, a 3-point favorite, has been mediocre at home, just 3-4. Yet emerging star receiver Victor Cruz is glad to be playing in the Meadowlands.

"It is a big advantage playing here with our fans and their natural hate for the Cowboys is always good," Cruz said. "The fans will be on our side and it is good to be home, it is good to be familiar with this place and them. It is going

to be a good game."

GIANTS, 28-24
Tennessee (minus 1 1/2) at Houston

Titans do their part to grab AFC wild card; game means nothing to locked-in Texans.

BEST BET: TITANS, 20-13
San Diego (plus 3) at Oakland

Staying-home-for-playoffs Chargers get some small satisfaction by eliminating Raiders.

UPSET SPECIAL: CHARGERS, 24-23
Kansas City (plus 3) at Denver

On to the postseason for Tebow and company.
BRONCOS, 14-13

Baltimore (minus 3) at Cincinnati
No way Ravens want to go

wild-card route again. Bengals would earn wild card with win.

RAVENS, 20-19
Pittsburgh (OFF) at Cleveland

Steelers chase Ravens in vain.
STEELERS, 20-9

Buffalo (plus 13) at New England
AFC playoffs run through

Foxborough, not so fearsome a prospect anymore.
PATRIOTS, 31-17

New York Jets (plus 1) at Miami
Dolphins finish off Jets' collapse.

DOLPHINS, 17-10
San Francisco (minus 10 1/2) at St. Louis

Niners grab a playoff bye.

49ERS, 19-7
Detroit (minus 3 1/2) at Green Bay

Packers will show up, try to avoid more injuries. Even then, they can make it close.

LIONS, 31-28
Carolina (plus 9) at New Orleans

Brees takes yards passing record into stratosphere in

shootout with Cam Newton.
SAINTS, 37-31

Seattle (plus 3) at Arizona
Cardinals get to .500, Seahawks don't.

CARDINALS, 24-17
Indianapolis (plus 5) at Jacksonville

Colts stay Lucky, although

losing to Jags takes some effort.

JAGUARS, 17-16
Washington (plus 9) at Philadelphia

Eagles surely didn't dream of this being the end.

EAGLES, 30-10
Tampa Bay (plus 10 1/2) at Atlanta

Hey, Falcons, enjoy that trip back to Nawlins next week.

FALCONS, 35-9
Chicago (minus 1) at Minnesota

Get the season over with.
BEARS, 13-10

RECORD:
Against spread: 8-7 (overall 118-101-4); straight up 11-5 (overall 155-85).
Best Bet: 3-13 against spread, 11-5 straight up.

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COMING TOMORROW



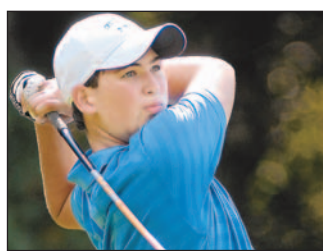
YOUTH SPORTS

COMING SATURDAY



ADULT LEAGUE SPORTS

COMING WEDNESDAY



HITTING THE LINKS



GET IN THE GAME

Page B5- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2011

New lure credited for \$100k purse

If you are a bass fisherman and you haven't heard about the Alabama Rig, you have probably spent the last few months in deer camp and failed to check in at all with the "real" world as we know it.



Dan Hermes
GREAT OUTDOORS

Let me fill you in.

Bassmaster Elite Series pro Paul Elias topped the 100-pound mark fishing with the "new" bait on Lake Guntersville at an FLW Tour Open back in October, and cashed a check for a cool \$100,000. With the win, Elias, the 1982 Bassmaster Classic champion, set in motion a "feeding frenzy" as anglers hit the Internet in search of the "magical" bait, myself included.

And let me forewarn you, before you plop down \$25 or \$30 for one of these baits (I hope my wife isn't reading this!), you had better eat your Wheaties. If you are a finesse fisherman at heart, this may not be the bait for you. But then again, you may want to switch tactics. After all, a four-day, 20-fish bag weighing more than 100 pounds can make fishermen do funny things ...including changing tactics, underwear or jobs.

Striper fishermen and saltwater anglers have been familiar with umbrella rigs for many years, so the basic technique is not really new. Targeting suspended bass, the 'Bama rig proved almost miraculous for Elias, who admitted in an interview with Bassmasters that suspended bass have "given himself and many other anglers 'fits' over the years." There is nothing, and I

mean nothing, more frustrating than seeing large schools of fish on your fish finder and not being able to put them into the boat.

Inventor Andy Poss hit the immediate jackpot with this lure, and has a deal with Mann's Bait

Company to distribute it. The rig consists of a lead tie-in head and five leader wires with a snap swivel attached to each wire, which are flexible. The anglers can use a jig head or other type of hooks with the rig along with a wide variety of soft plastic baits, and according to the company web site, spinnerbaits and crankbaits as well.

Without baits, the rig weighs in at less than 3/8 of an ounce. Throw on five baits with hooks, and you have quite a load to cast. And might I say an expensive one too. Five swimbaits can cost up to \$9.99; five swimbait hooks run \$3 or \$4, and presto, you can have a little more than \$40 tied on the end of your line. The company suggests you use 80- to 100-pound test braided line (another \$30 to \$40 for a spool full) and a flipping stick to throw the now very expensive and heavy rig. But if it catches bass, who cares? I'd toss out a small, expensive car if it caught fish.

Anyone who has targeted suspended bass knows that they can be some of the toughest fish to catch, so having another tool in the arsenal always makes sense. But, buyer beware. If you are out of shape and think you can cast this lure



Bassmaster Elite Series pro Paul Elias topped the 100-pound mark fishing with a new bait on Lake Guntersville at an FLW Tour Open back in October and cashed a check for a cool \$100,000. Above, Elias displays the Alabama Rig, the lure he used to land his tournament-winning catch.

around all day long ...think again. It takes its toll on a body, as four hours of slinging it around recently proved to yours truly.

I didn't catch any bass with it, but I did realize how out of shape I am. While resting for two days on the couch, I thought about other "magic" lures that have hit the market over the years. The first and foremost that

came to mind is legendary angler Roland Martin's "Helicopter Lure."

I've never fallen prey to that piece of expensive junk that Martin (he ought to be ashamed to this day) ran to the bank with, nor did I ever purchase the "Banjo Minnow." The name and images of Deliverance scared me off on that one, but many people do purchase in-

mercial lures with the hope of "catching that fish of a lifetime." If you still use these baits, do not, and I repeat, do not hold your breath!

Time will tell if the Alabama Rig can hold up to the demands of catching large-mouth bass day in and day out, and if it keeps producing fish. My educated guess is that we may have a game-

changer on the horizon. And heck, with all the stuff I buy to catch fish, what's another \$30? If the Alabama Rig doesn't pan out, I can give it to my niece, Delaney, to hang over her crib as a mobile ... minus the hooks, of course!

Dan Hermes is an outdoors writer based out of Inverness. He can be reached at dan_outdoors2001@yahoo.com.

Outdoors BRIEFS

Boating safety course offered for 2 Saturdays

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Homosassa Flotilla 15-4, will conduct a two-session "About Boating Safely" program on two Saturdays, Jan. 14 and 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This safe boating class

will be taught at the West Citrus Community Center, 8940 Veterans Drive, Homosassa.

Subjects covered will include knowledge of your boat, boating preparation, how to navigate on the waterways, safe vessel operation and the legal requirements, both federal and state. Also included will be information on boating emergen-

cies/what to do, carbon monoxide dangers and hypothermia warnings.

At the completion of this program, the student will receive a certificate of completion, a safe boating card and the knowledge and information for safe boating to truly enjoy the beautiful Florida waters. Total cost is \$30.

For more information or to sign up for the class, call Rusty Hayes at 352-598-4369, or Elaine Miranda at 352-564-2521.

Flotilla invites new members

Put your time and talents to good use while making friends and providing a valuable serv-

ice to the community.

Flotilla 15-01 of Crystal River invites everyone to become a member of the unit of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Flotilla 15-01 is comprised of men and women from all walks of life and all age groups. Meetings are at 6:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month at 148

N.E. Fifth St. in Crystal River.

In addition to offering safe boating classes, providing safety patrols and radio communication on the Crystal River and the Gulf, Flotilla 15-01 members participate in many community events including festivals and parades.

For information, call Vince Maida at (917) 597-6961.

Pompano: tasty, good fighters here now, so cast away

I've been getting scattered reports of pompano catches for the past few weeks, but the reports exploded last week. One guide, Captain William Toney, said he recently experienced the best day of hook-and-line catches of pompano in his life. With three anglers aboard and a bag limit of six, they limited out in 20 minutes.

"We had them flapping on the deck and bouncing off the gunwale, and we were netting them two at a time," Toney said.

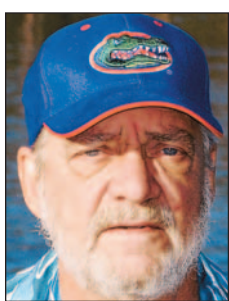
I fished pompano commercially by hook and line back in the late 1950s off Fort Pierce, and never had a day like that. (In 1958, the first year I fished them commercially, I got a buck a pound at the fish house, whole, not gutted. May not sound like much, but that dollar is more than \$7.50 today, and, at less than 30 cents per gallon, kept both my Jeep and my 10-horse kicker fueled.) There were two ways I fished pompano, and there's a reason I'm going there.

On calm days, I'd take my little 14-foot Bacchus flat-bottomed boat (built right on Causeway Island in Fort

Pierce by two brothers) out Fort Pierce Inlet and south off Hutchinson Island, where I'd drift a few hundred yards off the beach while bouncing a yellow bucktail jig off the bottom.

When conditions didn't allow taking that little boat out the inlet, I'd fish from the beach. I built rods from Lami-glass No. 1163 blanks cut down to 10 1/2 feet and mounted a Penn Squidder loaded with either 20-pound-test monofilament or 21-pound-test Dacron line, and used a terminal rig consisting of a 1-ounce pyramid sinker and a double-hook rig I tied myself.

OK, OK, I'm getting to the point. I used as many as three rods from the beach, because when pompano hit the bait, they almost invariably hook themselves. There, I got to it; you can quit whining now.



R.G. Schmidt
TIGHT LINES

Not many anglers target pompano in this area most of the time, but the time to do so is now. Be sure of your identification, as pompano and small permit look very much alike, and while the size limits are the same outside South Florida's Special Permit Zone (11 inches, fork), the bag limits are not.

Colors vary between permit and pompano, but not by a great deal, and the difference in shape can be subtle on smaller fish. The method I've always used is to draw an imaginary line straight down from the front of the dorsal fin, perpendicular to the lateral line. If that line falls noticeably in front of the start of the anal fin, the fish is a pompano; if the line meets the front of the anal fin, or nearly meets it, you have a permit.

Pompano feed on invertebrates such as sand fleas, co-

quina clams and mole crabs as well as shrimp, so there are your bait choices, and a 1/0 hook should do the job. (I have no experience with circle hooks for pompano, so

if you do, please drop me a note.) Look for sandy areas, especially at the mouths of creeks.

That's all I have space for, but if you want more info on

pompano, just ask. Tight Lines to you. R.G. Schmidt, Chronicle outdoors columnist, can be reached at rgsschmidt@embarqmail.com.

CHRONICLE

Tide charts

	Chassahowitzka*		Crystal River**		Homosassa***		Withlacoochee*	
	High/Low		High/Low		High/Low		High/Low	
THURS 12/29	8:03 a.m. 9:07 p.m.	4:08 a.m. 4:32 p.m.	6:24 a.m. 7:28 p.m.	1:30 a.m. 1:54 p.m.	7:13 a.m. 8:17 p.m.	3:07 a.m. 3:31 p.m.	4:11 a.m. 5:15 p.m.	11:42 a.m. -----
FRI 12/30	8:53 a.m. 9:39 p.m.	4:54 a.m. 5:04 p.m.	7:14 a.m. 8:00 p.m.	2:16 a.m. 2:26 p.m.	8:03 a.m. 8:49 p.m.	3:53 a.m. 4:03 p.m.	5:01 a.m. 5:47 p.m.	12:04 a.m. 12:14 p.m.
SAT 12/31	9:49 a.m. 10:15 p.m.	5:45 a.m. 5:38 p.m.	8:10 a.m. 8:36 p.m.	3:07 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	8:59 a.m. 9:25 p.m.	4:44 a.m. 4:37 p.m.	5:57 a.m. 6:23 p.m.	12:55 a.m. 12:48 p.m.
SUN 1/1	6:46 a.m. 6:21 p.m.	10:59 a.m. 11:03 p.m.	4:08 a.m. 3:43 p.m.	9:20 a.m. 9:24 p.m.	5:45 a.m. 5:20 p.m.	10:09 a.m. 10:13 p.m.	1:56 a.m. 1:31 p.m.	7:07 a.m. 7:11 p.m.
MON 1/2	7:54 a.m. 7:13 p.m.	12:20 p.m. 11:54 p.m.	5:16 a.m. 4:35 p.m.	10:41 a.m. 10:15 p.m.	6:53 a.m. 6:12 p.m.	11:30 a.m. 11:04 p.m.	3:04 a.m. 2:23 p.m.	8:28 a.m. 8:02 p.m.
TUES 1/3	9:07 a.m. 8:19 p.m.	1:47 p.m. -----	6:29 a.m. 5:41 p.m.	12:08 p.m. 11:12 p.m.	8:06 a.m. 7:18 p.m.	12:57 p.m. -----	4:17 a.m. 3:29 p.m.	9:55 a.m. 8:59 p.m.
WED 1/4	12:51 a.m. 3:05 p.m.	10:15 a.m. 9:32 p.m.	7:37 a.m. 6:54 p.m.	1:26 p.m. -----	12:01 a.m. 2:15 p.m.	9:14 a.m. 8:31 p.m.	5:25 a.m. 4:42 p.m.	11:13 a.m. 9:56 p.m.

*From mouths of rivers. **At Kings Bay. ***At Mason's Creek.



Julianne Munn
OVER EASY

Seafood for the winter season

It's very likely the first words Floridians hear from guests from the north during the holiday season are "where's the seafood?"

Holidays traditionally evoke visions of golden roasted turkeys, honey-glazed baked hams, racks of lamb and other such dinner centerpieces. But old-time Florida residents know mid-winter in the south is the best time to enjoy the bounty of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic waters — and tourists have discovered that, too.

Sweet stone crab (a taste better than Maine lobster to some aficionados), pink shrimp and plump oysters are the stuff of dreams for landlocked northerners who look forward to indulging in the best seafood from the Sunshine State's waters.

Here are some ideas from the State of Florida cuisine to help you share with visitors the tastes you enjoy:

SPICY JALAPENO AND CHEESE OYSTERS

- 36 oysters, shucked, on the half shell
- Rock salt
- 12 ounces Mozzarella cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup cooked bacon, crumbled
- 4 jalapeno peppers, chopped

Arrange oysters on rock salt in a baking dish. Top each oyster with 1/2 teaspoon of the cheese, crumbled bacon and chopped jalapeno to taste. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until edges of oysters begin to curl. It makes six servings.

FLORIDA SHRIMP WITH PASTA

- 1 8-ounce package angel hair pasta
- 1 large onion
- 1 garlic bulb, crushed
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 package sun-dried tomatoes, chopped fine
- 1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined
- Crushed red pepper to taste
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 1/2 cup fresh grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 package feta cheese
- Capers to taste

Boil the angel hair pasta. When cooked, place in a large bowl. Sauté the onion in crushed garlic and butter. Add the sun-dried tomatoes. Add the shrimp, salt and pepper and crushed red pepper. Cook until shrimp are pink in color.

Mix the shrimp dish with the pasta. Add fresh tomatoes, Parmesan and feta cheese and capers. Mix and serve while warm. It makes four servings.

See EASY/Page C3

Brunch or lunch

for the morning after New Year's Eve parties



State of Florida Cuisine/Special to the Chronicle

Banish the New Year's Day blues when you serve this easy-to-make tamale brunch casserole after party night.

Several recipes available to suit every foodie ringing in 2012 this weekend

JULIANNE MUNN
 Chronicle food writer

Millions of people around the world, including those in the Citrus County area, will celebrate the start of 2012 on New Year's Eve this weekend.

It sounds like a fun time — but what about the morning after?

If you have friends visiting during the long double holiday of Christmas and New Year's, the morning after a midnight celebration will likely require an abundance of good food to satisfy the guests and family.

Plenty of good eats in the house is also mandatory for one of the busiest sports weekends, with parades and football bowl games to please every fan from now through New Year's Day and beyond.

The TV crowd will count on lots of snacks that don't require much effort or planning.

That might include the super simple cream cheese and pineapple dip with potato chips: Just mix two packages of softened cream cheese with a large can of crushed pineapple until smooth. Chill and serve.

Or maybe the Two Cheese Artichoke dip:

Mix together 1 pound shredded Mozzarella cheese, 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese, 1 cup mayonnaise, 2 minced green onions and 1 can (8.5 ounce) artichoke hearts, drained and chopped. Bake in lightly buttered 3 1/2-quart crock pot on high for about 1 hour. Good served with pieces of French bread.

Something a little different from the familiar dip recipes is the Greek yogurt and blue cheese dip:

Combine 2 cups nonfat Greek yogurt with 4 ounces crumbled



East Wisconsin Cheese/Special to the Chronicle

Start off the new year deliciously with today's brunch recipes, including these Tarragon and Wisconsin Gruyere Petit Quiches.

blue cheese, 1/2 cup finely chopped toasted walnuts and salt and pepper to taste. This can be made ahead and served on crackers, scooped into endive leaves or onto apple or pear slices.

A dip that can be made the day or night before is this Cheesy Beer dip:

2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened, combined with 3 tablespoons ranch dressing or 1 package ranch dressing; stir in 2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese and two chopped green onions (tops only). Add 1/3 to 1/2 cup beer to make desired consistency. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

It's said anything spicy after a night of revelry is a good antidote for too-many-cups-of-good-cheer headaches and blues.

With that in mind, Flair for Food offers a delicious Jan. 1 recipe for chilaquiles de huevos

with queso quesadilla cheese, (basically corn tortilla bites scrambled with eggs, cheese and chiles), and a tamale casserole, plus dishes that feature various cheeses from Wisconsin cheese:

INDULGENT STUFFED FRENCH TOAST WITH HAVARTI

- 1 16-ounce challah or French bread loaf, cubed
- 1 8-ounce package Wisconsin Havarti cheese, cut into thin slices
- 6 large eggs
- 4 cups milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/4 cup maple syrup

- 1 1/2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
- 1 12-ounce jar blueberry preserves

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Arrange half of bread cubes in lightly buttered 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking pan. Top evenly with Havarti; top with remaining bread cubes.

Whisk together eggs, milk, sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, butter and maple syrup in large mixing bowl; pour over bread mixture, pressing bread cubes to absorb egg mixture. Sprinkle remaining cinnamon over the top. Cover baking pan with foil.

Bake for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 30 more minutes or until lightly browned and set. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Stir together blueberries and blueberry preserves in a small saucepan over low heat until warm. Serve blueberry sauce over French toast. It makes eight to 10 servings.

CHILAQUILES DE HUEVOS WITH QUESO QUESADILLA CHEESE

- 6 stale corn tortillas
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup white onion, finely chopped
- 1-2 fresh chiles serranos or jalapeños, finely chopped
- 6 eggs
- 1/2 tablespoon salt
- 2-4 tablespoons half & half
- 6 ounces Wisconsin queso quesadilla, Muenster or queso asadero cheese, shredded

See BRUNCH/Page C3

Rosemary is for remembrance, repast

Rosemary is one of my favorite edible landscaping plants for a variety of reasons. Let's start with some background information.

Rosemary is native to the Mediterranean region, often growing in dry coastal areas. Rosemary's genus name, Rosmarinus, translates "dew of the sea," indicating its coastal origins and propensity for receiving water from the dew carried on sea breezes. The species name "officinalis" refers to rosemary's exten-



Randy Hobson
EDIBLE LANDSCAPE

sive historical use for medicinal purposes.

Rosemary is an attractive, woody perennial whose tiny leaves have downturned edges, giving them a pine-needle appearance. The underside of the leaves and tips of stems have a covering of fine white fuzz. The upright plant can grow up to 6 feet in height, although some varieties have a prostrate growth form (1 to 2 feet in height). The structure of the delicate blue flowers reveals rose-

mary's membership in the mint family. The entire plant is aromatic with a bracing, clean pine scent.

Rosemary has rich historical connections and was used by the Romans and Greeks, being associated with their worship of Eros and Aphrodite. In Europe, rosemary is a symbol of remembrance and is immortalized in Shakespeare's Hamlet where Ophelia states, "There's rosemary, that's for remembrance."

Rosemary grows well in containers or in the ground. Rosemary is very tolerant of the cold temperatures we encounter in Citrus County. It prefers sunny locations and requires well-drained, neutral

to alkaline, soil. While it is drought-tolerant once established, the rigid structure of the leaves does not permit wilting, so no clue will be given if the plant is drying out.

In our moist climate, rosemary can prove short-lived. I plant new rosemary plants periodically, anticipating some of the older specimens will decline. I've had good success with placing rosemary containers on the ground and allowing the roots to leave the pot through holes and enter the soil. Having the crown of the plant elevated allows for excellent drainage.

See EDIBLE/Page C3

Food trends fluctuate in 2011



Associated Press
First lady Michelle Obama speaks June 2 at the Agriculture Department in Washington to introduce the department's "My Plate" — a simple circle divided into quadrants that contain fruits, vegetables, protein and grains — which will replace USDA's food pyramid.

Changes include switching pyramid for plate

J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor

2011: The year I officially became the last American to still eat gluten.

Or did it just feel that way? Because though only a tiny fraction of Americans suffer sensitivities to this wheat protein, the multibillion dollar industry of foods, cookbooks and magazines touting their gluten-free cred this year would suggest an epidemic.

Didn't notice? Perhaps you were too busy chugging raw milk, herding your backyard flock of chickens and hunting down nearby sources for heirloom vegetables, all popular pastimes buoyed by growing demand for so-called "local" foods — a market the government predicted this year would generate some \$7 billion in sales.

And so went the year in food, a period marked by some unusual dietary dichotomies.

At the same time, sharply rising food prices made it ever harder for American families to get dinner on the table, our nation was seized

by an almost obsessive need to know just how many courses would be served at Prince William's wedding. And how does one make that kooky chocolate biscuit groomsman cake?

At least our government was mindful of its food dollars, right? Accusations the Justice Department spent \$16 per muffin at a breakfast conference turned out to be false. They spent \$16.80 for a continental breakfast of pastries, fruit, coffee, tea, juice and, of course, muffins. Wait a minute ... Isn't that what I get for free when I stay at a hotel?

Meanwhile, Congress apparently wants to send plenty of cash to the potato and pizza industries. For this was the year our politicians blocked efforts to limit french fries in school cafeterias and declared the tomato sauce on slabs of pizza the equivalent of a vegetable. Add a ketchup chaser and it's practically a salad.

Maybe kids can get some healthy eating tips from Tony the Tiger and Toucan Sam. This fall, the government gave cartoon characters a hall pass when it

comes to pushing sugary cereals and similar foods, caving to food industry pressure while crafting guidelines aimed at toning down the marketing of junk food to kids.

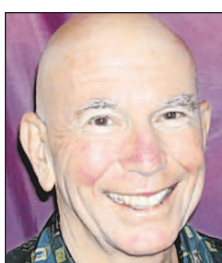
But childhood obesity remained on Michelle Obama's radar. The first lady spent 2011 forging alliances with restaurants to offer healthier foods, and even enticed Wal-Mart and other retailers to get more fresh and healthy items into regions where such foods are scarce.

Just don't ask people where those ingredients fall on the food pyramid. Government health officials decided pyramids were too perplexing and scrapped them in favor of a new healthy eating icon, "My Plate" — a circle divided into different sections for fruits, vegetables, protein and grains.

Food safety also was a hot topic. Despite new regulations signed into law in January, the nation suffered its deadliest known outbreak of food-borne illness in more than 25 years when listeria-contaminated cantaloupes sickened 146 people in 28 states, killing 30 of them.

Sharing champagne

America is not a country steeped in wine traditions. Still, it's a sure bet even the least enlightened know champagne is a sparkling beverage turning up at weddings and over the holidays.



Ron Drinkhouse
WINES & SUCH

But did you know true Champagne (capital "C") is made only in the French region of the same name. It's for certain the wine world's most romantic drink.

"It gives you the impression that every day is Sunday," said screen icon Marlene Dietrich.

Brigitte Bardot whispered, after her 60th birthday, "There comes a time in every woman's life when the only thing that helps is a glass of champagne."

Champagne trivia makes for fun reading. Did you know more than 50 million bubbles are in a 750-milliliter bottle? So a "Nebuchadnezzar," which is equal to 20 bottles, contains around a billion teeny nose ticklers. And thanks to the great reference staff at the library, I discovered this monster weighs 84 pounds!

The gas pressure in a bottle is about 90 pounds per square inch, which is why these units are so thick and why they are sealed with wire. Corks fly out at a rate of about 40 mph, and the longest record cork flying distance is 187 feet, around 63 yards, a good toss for even an NFL quarterback.

It's a great wine to go with food. Caviar, strawberries, chocolate, goose liver pate and smoked salmon are made for it, but so are pizza, hamburger and spare ribs.

"Brut" is the driest version and most popular while "extra dry" is a tad sweeter because tiny extra doses of sugar are added to every bottle during the second fermentation.

Champagne is 85 percent NV (non-vintage).

Those labeled with a vintage year are allegedly better quality, but I have not found this to be true. They do cost a lot more. Super premium champagnes such as Dom Perignon and Roederer Crystal in that clear bottle will run more than \$100. Again, in my humble opinion, I always found them overrated as well as overpriced.

The biggest American per capita market for champagne is Washington, D.C., with all those lobbyists pulling the big strings.

And what about rose-colored champagne referred to as "pink?" Go for it. They are quite dry, often with nice tasting hints of raspberries or strawberries. The color of itself is sure to make hearts flutter.

There are dozens of Champagne labels on the shelves today and all make for happy drinking, particularly during the Christmas season. Following are nine suggestions across the price range.

1. **Barefoot Bubbly Moscato**, French & semi-sweet, \$9.
 2. **Domaine St. Michelle**, a perennial Washington State Best Buy, \$12, sure to please, crisp and dry.
 3. **Zonin Baccorosi Spumonti Rose**, \$13, semisweet Italian.
 4. **Chandon "Riche"**, California, and delicious, \$14.
 5. **Piper Heidsieck Extra Dry**, very smooth, from France, \$30. Bev and I prefer the extra dry version.
 6. **Schramsberg Premium California sparkler**, \$34, the granddaddy of California sparklers.
 7. **Haton Blanc de Blanc** made from 100 percent French Chardonnay grapes, \$38. This producer is small and makes fine wine.
 8. **Krug Grand Cuvee**, super premium from France, about \$230.
 9. **Collato Rose**, Extra Dry, is our favorite family sparkler from Italy, and it won't break the bank. It is a pink sparkling wine from Italy priced at about \$18. You will taste the raspberries in the swallow.
- Happy and healthy New Year from Bev & I.

Oak Ridge resident Ron Drinkhouse was a buyer and seller of wines in his native Connecticut. He welcomes inquiries, and can be reached via email at ronoc19@aol.com or via telephone at 352-445-0328.

1. **Barefoot Bubbly Moscato**, French & semi-

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COMMUNITY

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

News NOTES

Transit retirees to meet Jan. 6

New York City Transit Retirees of Florida — Chapter No. 9, Citrus County will meet at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, in the Beverly Hills Community Building, 1 Civic Circle.

Those who are retired from the New York City Transit System and reside in Citrus County are welcome. Retirees from the NYC Transit System visiting locally are also welcome. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call President Clarence Redd at 352-527-8418 or Secretary Clarisse D'Adamo at 352-527-2508.

Jerseyans, friends to get together

New Jersey and Friends Club of Citrus County will meet at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, at VFV Post 4252 on State Road 200 in Hernando. The Horse Game will be the featured activity.

The club will have lunch at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at Red's, 8411 State Road 200, Hernando, and will trek to Hudson Jan. 21 to see "Hairspray" at the Show Palace.

The club bowls at 10 a.m. Thursdays at Beverly Hills Bowl; all are welcome.

Reservations are being taken for the annual bus trip to Biloxi from Jan. 29 to Feb. 1. Also scheduled is a day trip to Tampa Bay Downs on Feb. 29.

For more information about trips, call Mary Anne at 352-746-3386. For more information about the club, call 352-527-3568.

Butterfly club gathers Jan. 8

Beverly Hills Butterfly Club will meet at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, at the Community Building in Beverly Hills, 1 Civic Circle.

The club welcomes new friends and old friends who are interested in butterflies. There are no dues.

Speaker will be Bobby Vigliotti from Homosassa Butterfly.

For more information, call Chris at 352-527-8629.

Elks' Ladies to host show

The Ladies of the West Citrus Elks Lodge 2693 will host the annual fashion show Friday, Jan. 27, at the Elks Lodge on Grover Cleveland Boulevard, Homosassa.

"Fun and Fancy Fashions" will be presented by Belk. Doors open at 11 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. Tickets are \$20 and are available by calling 352-382-1848 or 352-382-3151.

Animal Shelter ADOPTABLES

Ciera



Special to the Chronicle

Ciera is a small, adorable 4-year-old Terrier mix. She's very sweet, gentle and well-mannered. She loves being with people and gets along great with other dogs. She's very thin and could really use a loving home to get her back to her old self. Ciera would make an ideal new family member for anyone. She is at Citrus County Animal Shelter, 4030 S. Airport Road, Inverness, behind the fairgrounds. View all adoptable pets at www.citruscritters.com. Call 352-746-8400.

Delve into your past

Genealogical Society meeting is Jan. 10

Special to the Chronicle

The Citrus County Genealogical Society (CCGS) will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3474 W. Southern St., Lecanto.

Guest speaker will be Peter Sum-

mers, president of the Pinellas County Genealogical Society. His topic will be "Getting the Most Out of the National Archives Website."

He will talk about the parts of the website that are of the greatest value to genealogists.

Although the website (www.ancestry.com/~flccgs2

archives.gov) is very large and sometimes difficult to use, it does provide free access to numerous records via the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) link on the Research Our Records page.

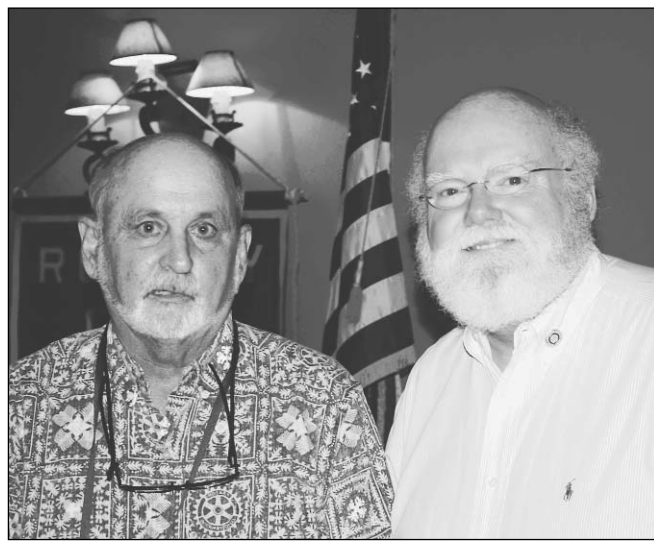
Guests are welcome to attend CCGS meetings. For more information, call Mary Ann Machonkin at 352-382-5515. Visit the website at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flccgs2.

Rotary working in community



ABOVE LEFT: Nancy Ayres, left, past president of the Rotary Club of Central Citrus, presented Mary Napolitano, right, a \$1,000 club donation to Friends of Citrus County Animal Shelter. Napolitano accepted the check on behalf of Dr. Julie Rosenberger, president and veterinarian for the Citrus County Animal Shelter, and on behalf of Samantha Carter, president of FOCCAS. Napolitano is one of many volunteers who give of their time, efforts and hearts to the ongoing challenge of finding homes for hundreds of abandoned and homeless animals at the Citrus County Animal Shelter each year. The Central Citrus club decided to support the shelter after Rosenberger offered a presentation about its efforts. RIGHT: As a final piece of business for the year, the club recognized Mary Moore, who has hosted breakfast meetings at Black Diamond for the past several years. This was Moore's last meeting in the capacity and she was thanked for her service. Rotary of Central Citrus meets at 7:30 a.m. most Wednesdays at Black Diamond. For more information about the club, call secretary Karen Stephenson at 352-746-6427.

Special to the Chronicle



At the final Rotary meeting of the year Wednesday, Dec. 20, Paul Slosberg made a Paul Harris Plus Five presentation to new Central Citrus member Michael Busler, recognizing his contributions to Rotary programs. Donors of \$1,000 or more to the Annual Programs Fund, Polio Plus or the Humanitarian Grants program or people who have that amount contributed in their name, are recognized as Paul Harris Fellows.



'Meet the Experts' with hospice

Special to the Chronicle

All are welcome to Meet the Experts mini-conference, sponsored by Hospice of Citrus County, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at the Wings Education Center, 8471 W. Periwinkle Lane, Homosassa (east of U.S. 19).

The program is the first in a series of educational mini-conferences presented by a panel of local professional experts in financial planning, tax law, elder law, estate planning, insurance, real estate and charitable giving.

Panelists include, Sally Long, Edward Serra, Tom

Slaymaker, Eddie Levin, Debbie Rector and Anthony Palumbo.

John J. Ceparano, principal of Joseph Capital Management, will serve as moderator for the Meet the Experts panel.

"No one on this panel can tell you what's coming down the road with the country's

ever-changing tax laws," he said, "but they can provide you with information on how to prepare for the challenges and opportunities that exist."

Space is limited. Reservation includes complimentary continental breakfast. Reserve space by calling Linda Baker at 352-527-2020.

Have lunch with New Yorkers in January

Club will host publisher as guest speaker

Special to the Chronicle

The New York Club will meet for its January luncheon at noon Thursday, Jan. 12, at the Inverness Golf & Country Club.

January's speaker will be Gerry Mulligan, publisher of the *Citrus County Chronicle*.

All are welcome; being from New York is not a requirement. On the menu are: roast pork loin with gravy or grilled tilapia, wild rice, mixed vegetables, dinner rolls, rainbow sherbet

and cookies. Coffee, tea, or soft drinks are included with all lunches.

Lunch reservations must be made by Wednesday, Jan. 4.

Check in when you arrive for your meal choice ticket. Cost is \$12 per person, which includes tax and tip. Write your meal choice on your check and mail to: New York Club, P.O. Box 641261, Beverly Hills, FL 34464.

Dues for the club are \$6 per person for the season, October through May. The club supports the nonprofit Citrus Abuse Shelter Association (CASA) and requests donations of household supplies, toiletries, baby supplies and cash.

For more information, call Dot or Ed at 352-527-2332.



Special to the Chronicle

The New York Club's last meeting of the year ended with a Christmas party at the Inverness Golf & Country Club. Entertainment included music by Fred Campbell, singing here with sisters Rose Lynch and Veronica Markiewicz, to put everyone in the holiday spirit. After a short meeting, trips to several locations were discussed. It was also announced membership has reached 90 members as of December. For more information about the club and its activities, call Dot or Ed at 352-527-2332.

New Year's blood drive planned at church

Special to the Chronicle

Our Lady of Grace Church and the Knights of Columbus Abbot Francis Sadlier Council No. 6168 will host its second annual New Year's resolution Blood Drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, in the Parish Life Center.

The drive gives everyone the oppor-

tunity to meet a New Year's resolution with the least effort for about an hour's worth of time on each of six Saturdays during the year.

Those who have given in the past know this is a painless and rewarding way to spend an hour or so to get a mini-physical, give a pint of blood, enjoy a complimentary breakfast and receive a souvenir T-shirt and a free

cholesterol reading.

There have been many changes as to who can and cannot give blood. LifeSouth-trained technicians will not permit someone to donate if there is a health condition or medication that would dictate otherwise.

Call Barbara Waitkevich at 352-249-7394, Don Irwin at 352-527-8450 or LifeSouth Blood Center at 352-527-3061.

News NOTES

Thinkers to meet at park Saturday

New Age Thinkers will meet at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, in the Florida room at the Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park on U.S. 19.

Guest speaker will Suzanne Giesemann, author of "The Priest and the Medium." She will discuss her unexpected journey from a Navy commander and aide to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to a medium and writer of spiritually inspired books. Giesemann will explain some of the how-to's of mediumship and share ways to uncover your own spiritual gifts. New attendees are welcome.

For more information, email miss-donna@tampabay.rr.com or call Donna at 352-628-3253.

Come play with accordionists

Accordion Adventure meetings are 6 to 9 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at the Brooksville BPO Elks No 2582, 14484 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville.

This is an informal group of accordionists and enthusiasts of all levels of performance. The public is welcome at the "January Jubilee" on Jan. 17. Any types of musicians are welcome; \$2 admission.

For information, call Cathy at 352-686-0975 or Peg at 352-442-5574.

Garden club meets at wildlife park

Homosassa River Garden Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 16, at the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park Visitor Center's Florida Room.

The program will be teas and herbal tisanes from the garden, with guest speaker Gerry C. Hall.

The club will have a tree distribution Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Shoppes of Sugarhill Woods at U.S. highways 19 and 98.

New members are always welcome. Call Sandy at 352-382-2689.

Decorative artists gather Jan. 7

WEEKI WACHEE — Nature Coast Decorative Artists Chapter of the Society of Decorative Artists will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center (off U.S. 19 and Toucan Trail).

There is a short meeting, show and tell, and a birthday drawing. This is the White Elephant Sale and Soup and Salad Lunch. Bring pieces, patterns and books to sell.

Janelle Johnson, colored-pencil artist will be here for a two-day seminar Jan. 14 and 15. Call Sandy Mihalus at 352-688-4106.

For more information, visit www.ncda-artist.com, or call Andi at 352-666-9091 or Pat at 352-249-7221.

Meet others, make friends with club

Citrus Newcomers Club provides an opportunity for women of Citrus County to have fun while making friends. All women in Citrus County, new or longtime residents, are welcome.

In addition to monthly luncheons at various country clubs throughout Citrus County, the club has many activities planned. Visit www.citrusnewcomers.org.

The club's first luncheon of the new year will be Jan. 19 at Plantation Golf and Country Club. Speaker Dianne Dorman is a former Playboy model and now author of "Playboys, Celebrities and Me." Reservations must be made before Jan. 12. Call Carolyn Moss at 352-746-6445 or Sharon Gatz at 352-270-3908.

■ Submit information at least two weeks before the event.

■ Early submission of timely material is appreciated, but multiple publications cannot be guaranteed.

■ Submit material at *Chronicle* offices in Inverness or Crystal River; by fax at 352-563-3280; or email to community@chronicleonline.com.

■ Notes tend to run one week prior to the date of an event. Publication on a special day can't be guaranteed.

■ Expect notes to run no more than once.

THURSDAY EVENING DECEMBER 29, 2011. Table with columns for time slots (6:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WESH, WEDU, WFTL, etc.).

PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn. Jane Roberts, who was pre-eminent in the field of paranormal phenomena, said: "Beneath words and logic are emotional connections that largely direct how we use our words and logic."

Bridge 12-29-11. Card game puzzle with North, West, East, and South hands, dealer information, and an opening lead.

than a science. Although we strain to bid spades, that West hand has neither power nor suit quality. Pass stands out. However, when two hearts comes back to him, West must courageously balance with two spades.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. Includes word puzzles (SLOIP, SARHB, TRUETB, NTRATY) and a cartoon illustration.

ACROSS 1 Type of pool, 6 From the top, 11 Wield authority, 12 NFLer's honor (hyph.), 13 Met productions, 14 Prepared a trap, 15 Jeopardy, 16 Fixed the table, 17 Grumpy mood, 19 Zest for life, 23 - de mer, 26 Deadlocked, 28 Monsieur's affirmative, 29 Nail enamel, 31 Seize power, 33 Cowboy meet, 34 Fighting fish, 35 Pamplona cheer, 36 Merger or buyout, 39 Hairpin curve.

DOWN 1 Be gloomy, 2 In charge of, 3 - Garr of "Tootsie", 4 Paperless exams, 5 Hosp. workers, 6 Jai -, 7 Coast along, 8 Fitting, 9 Fury, 10 Auction signal, 11 Elephant party, 12 Diminish, 15 62, to Livy, 18 - degree, 20 Oafs, 21 Mystiques, 22 Pinches off, 23 Lettuce, 24 Pilgrim suitor, 25 Commit perjury, 27 Proper, as respect, 29 B.C. or N.S., 30 Piece of turf, 32 Sault - Marie, 34 Lunch counter order, 37 Makes a salary, 38 Hirt and Pacino, 41 Comes across as, 43 Old cattle town, 45 Ready to pick, 47 Trojan War hero, 48 Sturdy lock, 49 "Mister Ed" actor, 50 Natalie's father, 51 Speed meas., 52 El Dorado loot, 53 Caesar's man, 54 Interest amt.

Dear Annie: I have been with my husband, "Andrew," for 10 years. During this time, I have witnessed the way he is treated by his step-mother. His father always defended his wife when she insulted or hurt Andrew, saying "she didn't mean it that way."

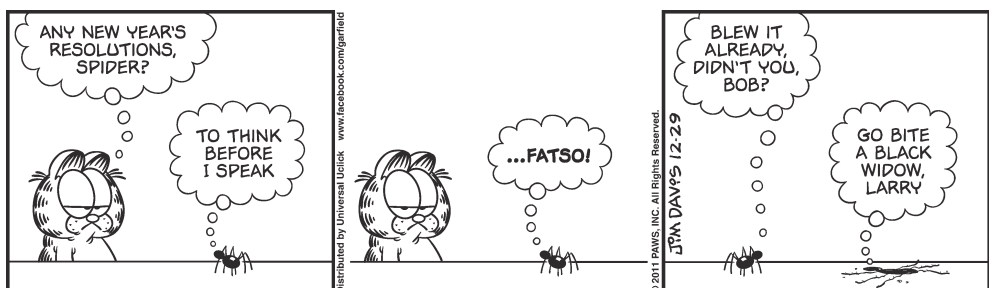
for expressing how he feels? — Hurt and Confused in Wisconsin Dear Wisconsin: People don't want to hear unpleasant truths about themselves, especially when they don't much like you to begin with. While your approach seems justified, it doesn't sound especially diplomatic, and this is why the response was so harsh.

outside the home? Can you find a job, even part time, that will help support your family? Would your family be willing to help? Please look into ways to become more financially independent, while also seeking sources of emotional support. Dear Annie: I am in the same boat as the wife of "Chagrined in Chicago," as are many women. I have absolutely no desire for sex whatsoever. It cannot be aroused by any means. What was once exciting is now uncomfortable and unwanted.

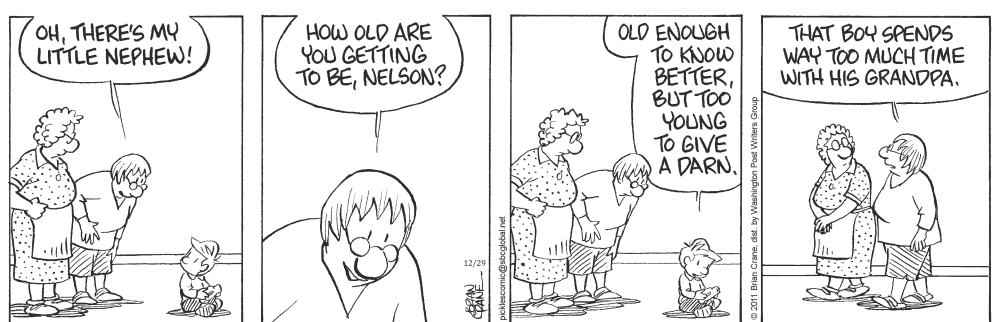
Peanuts



Garfield



Pickles



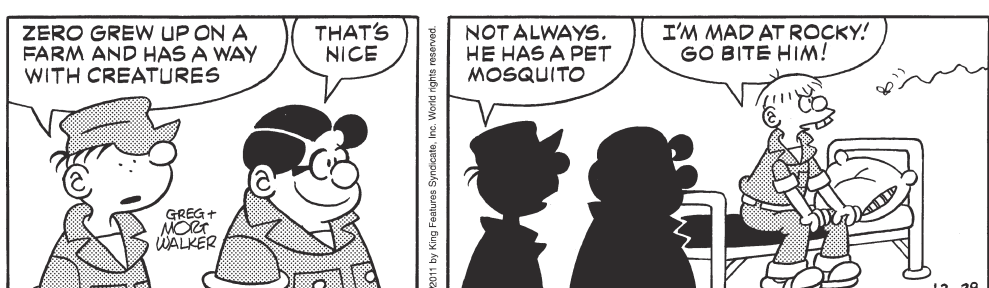
For Better or For Worse



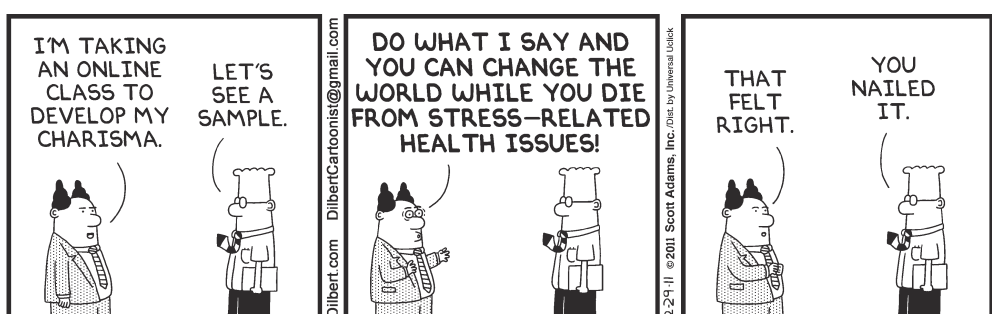
Sally Forth



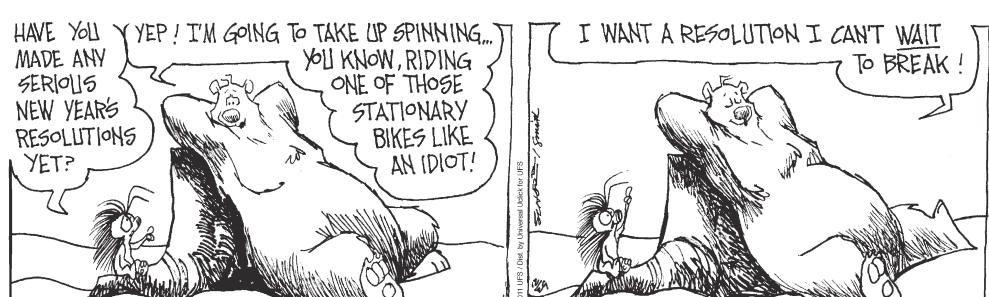
Beetle Bailey



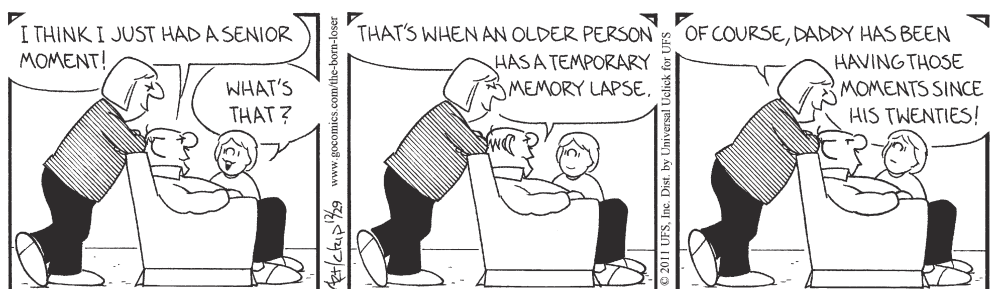
Dilbert



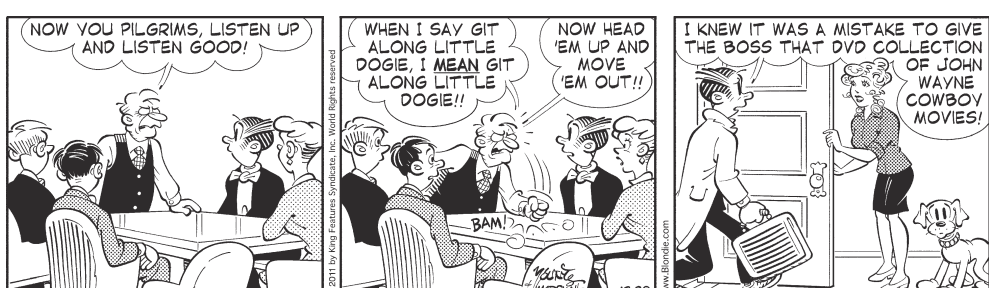
The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



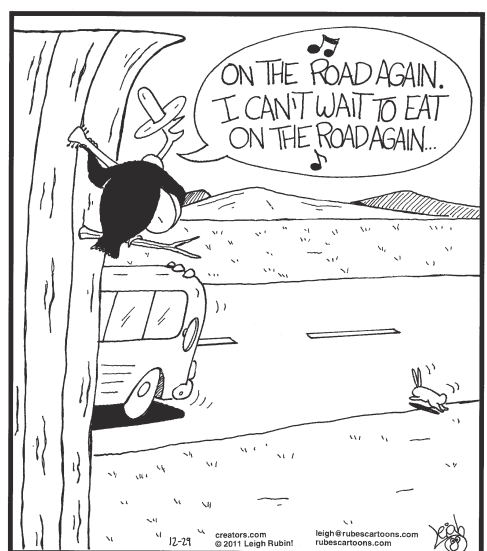
Blondie



Kit 'N' Carlyle



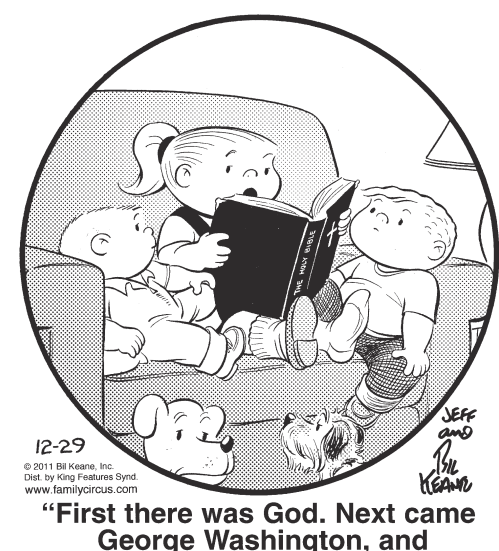
Rubes



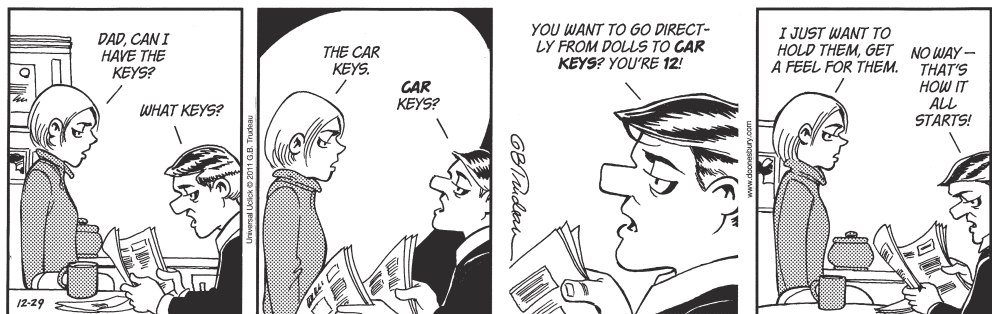
Dennis the Menace



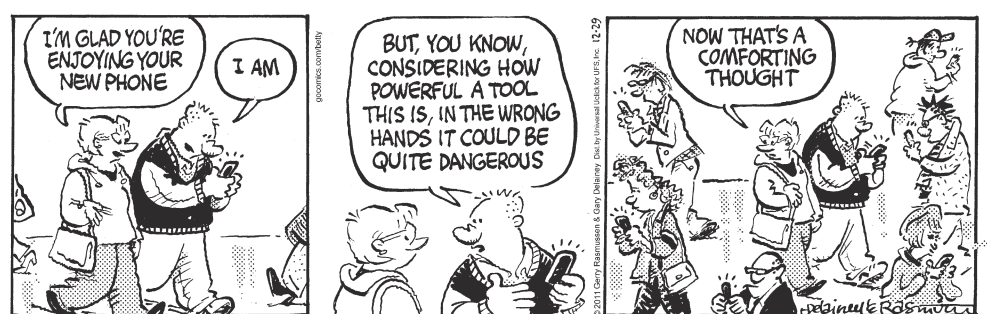
The Family Circus



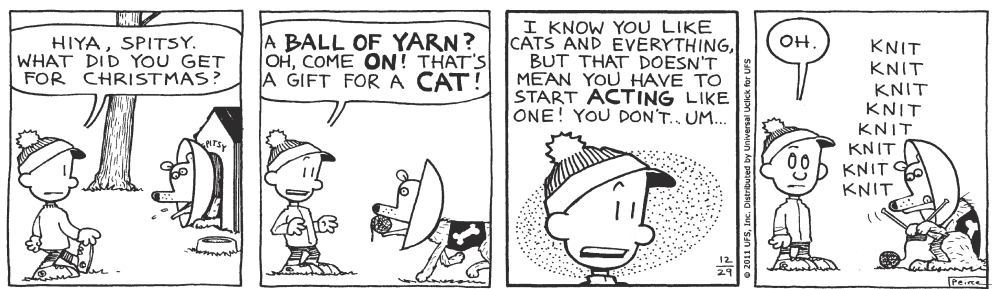
Doonesbury



Betty



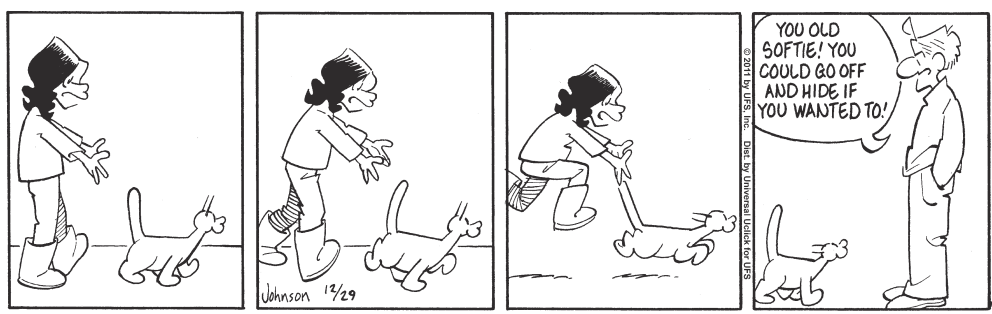
Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



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WHGN-FM 91.9 Religious
WXCW-FM 95.3 Adult Contemp.
WXOF-FM 96.3 Adult Mix
WEKJ FM 96.7, 103.9 Religious

Local RADIO

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WXJB 99.9 FM News Talk
WRGO-FM 102.7 Oldies

- WYKE-FM 104.3 Sports Talk
WUVV 105.5 FM Hudson
WJQB-FM 106.3 Oldies
WFJV-FM 103.3 '50s, '60s, '70s
WRZN-AM 720 Adult Standards

Today's MOVIES

Citrus Cinemas 6 - Inverness; 637-3377
'We Bought a Zoo' (PG) 12:50 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 10:25 p.m.
'Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol' (PG-13) 12:15 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 10:15 p.m. No passes.
'Adventures of Tintin' (PG) In Real 3D. 1 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:40 p.m., 10:10 p.m. No passes.
'Girl with the Dragon Tattoo' (R) ID required. 12 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m. No passes.
'Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows' (PG-13) 12:45 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 7:20 p.m., 10:20 p.m.
'Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked' (G) 12:30 p.m., 2:40 p.m., 4:55 p.m., 7:50 p.m., 10:05 p.m.
'War Horse' (PG-13) 12:40 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 10:35 p.m.
'Adventures of Tintin' (PG) 12:15 p.m.
'Adventures of Tintin' (PG) In Real 3D. 2:45 p.m., 5:10 p.m., 7:45 p.m., 10:10 p.m. No passes.
'Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol' (PG-13) 1:10 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:05 p.m., 10:15 p.m. No passes.
'Girl with the Dragon Tattoo' (R) ID required. 12:30 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 10:30 p.m. No passes.
'Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows' (PG-13) 1:20 p.m., 4:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 10:25 p.m.
'Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked' (G) 12:20 p.m., 2:40 p.m., 5:05 p.m., 7:20 p.m., 9:40 p.m.
'My Week with Marilyn' (R) ID required. 12:25 p.m., 2:50 p.m., 5:20 p.m., 8 p.m., 10:25 p.m.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.
TODAY'S CLUE: A equals B
'PECGD ZBG DEY TEBWHKGD TEB
ZWHDW. BEAGBY BGRTEBR'U VHDGU ET
RHUYHDXHYED ZBG CF EVR-ZWG
PBHDLVGU.' - NZDG TEDRZ
Previous Solution: 'Anyone who thinks I'm not scared of my mind whenever I do one of my stunts is crazier than I am.' - Jackie Chan

Miscellaneous Financial

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**Make
strides
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walking
Page 6**

January 2012

Senior Style

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



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Community Affairs Graphic Artist

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Upcoming events at the Citrus County Community Centers

New time for line dance class

Line Dance Class with Carl Raff, starting on Jan. 6, Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. at Central Citrus Community Center. Cost \$3. Feb. 10 time will change to 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Computer Classes will resume in January

These are conducted using the Microsoft Operating System, call the center to register and next class date. If you have a laptop, you may use it for the class, please let us know when you are registering.

Introduction to the Computer: A class for the beginner that will take you through the Windows Operating System, word processing, Internet activity and emailing. \$25 for a six-week session.

WCCC – Mondays at 2 p.m. Instructor is Dick Bromley

CCCC – Tuesdays at 2 p.m. with Chris Dusombre (new instructor) starting Jan. 10

Fridays at 2 p.m. Instructor is Dick Bromley, starting Jan. 6

Advanced Computer:

CCCC – Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Instructor is Dick Bromley. \$25.00 for five-week session, starting Jan. 18

Sign language classes

Instructor for all classes is Sue Paulus. Cost is \$35 for eight weeks.

Call East Citrus, West Citrus or Central Centers to register. The classes are Introduction to American Sign Language, Basic Sign Language, and American Sign Language I and II. Home-school students' class at Central

(ECCC)
East Citrus Community Center
9907 E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway
Inverness, FL 34450
344-9666

(WCCC)
West Citrus Community Center
8940 W. Veterans Drive
Homosassa, FL 34446
795-3831

(ICC)
Inverness Community Center
10821 N. Paul Drive
Inverness, FL 34450
726-1009

(CCCC)
Central Citrus Community Center
2804 W. Marc Knighton Court
Lecanto, FL 34461
527-5993

Citrus center.

For more information, call Sue at 527-8479 or email at handjivesue@yahoo.com.

Games

Bingo: Call centers for days and times.

Duplicate Bridge Groups:

CCCC – Wednesdays 1 p.m.

and Thursdays at noon

ECCC – Thursdays and Fridays at noon

Bridge Lessons: Sandy Brown \$5 per lesson

CCCC – Wednesdays 2:30 p.m.

Mah-Jongg Lessons: Sandra Brown \$5 per lesson

CCCC – Tuesdays 12:30 p.m.

Mah Jongg Players at CCCC, ECCC and WCCCC, call for times and days

Billiards: offered at Central Citrus, East Citrus and West Citrus
WCCC – Pool Lessons with Ron at 2 p.m. on Mondays. Women's pool lessons at 12:30 p.m.

Thursdays

Table Tennis: offered at Central

Citrus, East Citrus, and West Citrus

Pinochle: at WCCC and CCCC
Cribbage and Canasta: CCCC
Wii Games: Sports at Central Citrus, East Citrus and West Citrus Community Centers

Join the fun with the latest games, great exercise and entertainment.

Wii Bowling Leagues at Central Citrus

Skipbo: at WCCC, CCCC, and ECCC

Hand and Foot Card Game: at CCCC on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and Fridays at 1 p.m.

Rummikub:

CCCC – Monday through Friday, Tournaments are Mondays at noon

Dancing and Music

Social Tea Ballroom Dance:

Hosted by DJ Sapphire, \$5 per person, light refreshments

CCCC – 1:30 p.m. second Wednesday of the month

Karaoke

ECCC – Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

WCCC – Mondays at noon with Walt and Kay

Musical entertainment and social dances

WCCC – Social Dance Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.

Thursdays – Walt and Kay at 10 a.m.

Back Porch Band – third Thursday of the month at noon

ECCC – Country Sunshine Classic Country Band on Fridays at 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Jaime Roldan Entertains – first Monday of the month at 10 a.m.

Guy and Pam Smith – Country and Western Music – first and third Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

CCCC – Jaime Rolan entertains last Thursday of the month

Ballroom Dance Lessons:

June Queripel, instructor

CCCC – Wednesdays 1:30 p.m. Beginners and 2:45 p.m. Advanced. \$5 per person per class.

WCCC – Fridays at 1:30 p.m. Beginners Class \$5 per person per class

Line Dancing:

ECCC – Beginners and Intermediate classes \$3 a class.

WCCC – Beginners and Intermediate classes \$3 a class.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Instructor Linn

CCCC – True Beginners Step by Step \$3. Instructor Sandy Brown

True Beginners, Beginners and Intermediate classes, \$5

Instructor Linda Heebner – Mondays and Thursdays

Beginners – Friday 1 to 3 p.m. \$3 Instructor Carl Raff

Couples Country

Doubles Dance Lessons:

ECCC – Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. \$3 per lesson, Instructor Kathy Reynolds



CENTERS

Continued from **Page G2**

Tap Dancing Lessons:

Sandra Brown instructs all ages
CCCC – Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. \$5 per class

Fun Klogging Class:

Marcy Male instructs
WCCC – Beginners, intermediate \$2 per class

Tap and

Jazz Dance Class:

WCCC – Joyce Lane teaches all types of dance. \$4 per class

Exercise Programs

Yoga for seniors:

WCCC – Tuesdays, Thursdays Cost \$7 per class.

Chair Exercises:

WCCC – Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:45 a.m.

CCCC – Monday through Friday at

10:15 a.m.

ECCC – Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Walking Program:

ECCC – Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Tai Chi:

CCCC – Tuesdays at 10 a.m. with Connie

WCCC – Mondays at 10:30 a.m. with Nancy

Aerobics:

WCCC – Power Hour Aerobic Video Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

CCCC – Aerobics with Ann Monday through Friday at 8 a.m. (videos)

Indoor Walking Video Mondays and Wednesdays. 3 p.m.

Arts and Crafts

ECCC – Ceramic Painting, Crocheting, Quilting and Knitting

CCCC – Stamping Class –

Mondays at 9 a.m. \$3 card-making with stamping classes

Nature Coast Carvers meet Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

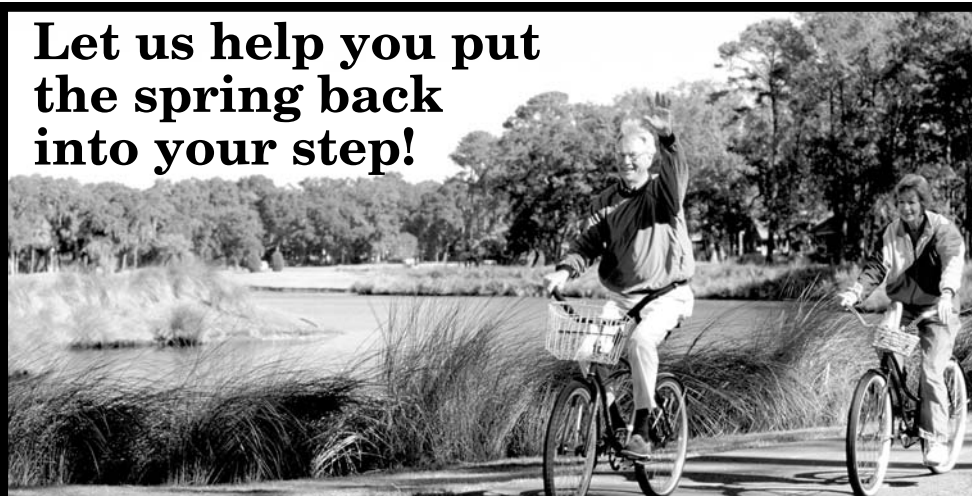
Art Classes: Thursdays at 10 a.m. – call to register

WCCC – Craft Time Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

Art Classes all kinds on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. \$10. Call centers for more information.



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Serving Those Who Served Us

America's veterans have done everything asked of them in their mission to serve our country and we believe it is never too late to give them a hero's welcome home. That's why HPH Hospice is joining a national movement to take part in the *We Honor Veterans* program. Our staff understands the unique needs of veterans and are prepared to meet the specific challenges that veterans and their families may face at the end of life.

We have embraced our mission to serve our local veterans. It's our way of saying thank you for the sacrifices they have made in serving us.

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000444

How to get financial and retirement advice on a budget

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend any resources that provide affordable one-shot financial advice for folks on a budget? I'm about six years from retirement and would like a quick financial checkup and get a few questions answered, but I don't want to pay an ongoing financial advisor to manage my money.

Seeking Advice

Dear Seeking,

There are actually a number of services you can turn to for occasional financial and investment advice without tying yourself down or spending a fortune. Here are several to check out.

Fee-only advisors

If you only want a one-time financial checkup, have a few financial questions you need answered, or are looking for some occasional investment advice, a fee-only financial advisor with a certified financial planner (or CFP) certification is one of your best options. The CFP certification serves as the gold standard for personal financial planning, and fee-only advisors charge on an hourly basis, versus advisors who earn a commission by selling you financial products.

A great place to find fee-only advisors is at the Garrett Planning Network, which offers the services of 300 independent advisors nationwide. At garrettplanningnetwork.com (or call 866-260-8400) you can locate an advisor in your area, hire one, and get an hour or two of advice either over the phone or in person. There's no minimum income or net worth requirements you'll need to meet to get help.

And you can use this service for a one-time engagement, as well as for periodic or ongoing financial advice. The cost for a Garrett advi-

sor ranges between \$180 and \$300 per hour.

You can also find fee-only advisors through the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors website, which lists 1,400 accredited advisers at napfa.org.

Other services

Another convenient service you should know about is My Financial Advice (myfinancialadvice.com), which provides hourly advice via phone or email. You select the topics you want help with, like retirement planning, investing, insurance, employee benefits, debt management and more, and then choose a financial planner who is standing by to answer your question. This is great for one-shot questions and second opinions. The cost for this service averages \$150 per hour, but simple questions can be answered for less.

If you're looking for help with your 401(k), 403(b), 457 plan, federal Thrift Savings Plan or SEP IRA, a company called Smart 401k

(smart401k.com, 877-627-8401) is worth a look.

They provide personalized investment advice either over the phone or online based on the funds available in your retirement plan. The cost is \$200 per year.

And for do-it-yourself investors, Financial Engines (financialengines.com, 888-443-8577) is an online company that of-

fers investment advice for retirement accounts, including guidance on employee stock options for \$150 a year. Or you can get comprehensive investment advice that includes non-retirement accounts for \$300 per year.

Free services

If you're an AARP member, you can now get a free financial consultation through a new partnership program between AARP and the financial services firm Charles Schwab (www.schwab.com/aarp, 877-310-7746). This program provides a complimentary, no obligation financial consultation with a Schwab financial advisor either over the phone or in person at one of their 300 branches nationwide.

Another resource that offers free financial advice is Jump-Start Your Retirement Plan Days. This is a completely free public service pro-

gram provided by the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA) and Kiplinger Personal Finance magazine. On Thursday, Jan. 12, and Tuesday, Jan. 17, you can call toll free 888-919-2345 anytime between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. eastern standard time, and a NAPFA advisor will be standing by to answer your financial and retirement questions. Or, if you prefer, you can participate in an online discussion on these same dates through Kiplinger's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KiplingerPersonalFinance.

Dear Savvy Senior

I would like to get my personal and financial information organized so my kids will know what's going on when I die. Any tips would be appreciated.

Overwhelmed Senior

Dear Overwhelmed,

Organizing your important papers and personal information is a smart move and a great gift to your loved ones. Here are some tips to help you get started.

Get organized

The first step in getting your affairs in order is to gather up all your important personal, financial and legal information so you can arrange it in a format that will benefit you now, and your loved ones later. Then you'll need to sit down and create various lists of important information and instructions of how you want certain things handled when you die or if you become incapacitated. Here's a checklist of areas to focus on.

Personal information

- **Contacts:** Make a master list of names and phone numbers of close friends, family, clergy, doctors, and professional advisors such as your lawyer, accountant, broker and insurance agent.
- **Personal documents:** Include such items as your birth certificate, Social Security card, marriage license, military discharge papers, etc.
- **Secured places:** List all the places you keep under lock and key or protected by password, such as safe deposit boxes, safe combination, security alarms, etc.
- **Service providers:** Provide contact information of the companies

See SAVVY/Page G5

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Holiday celebrations always memorable

It's hard to believe Thanksgiving and Christmas are over.

We want to thank all of those folks who volunteered their time and energy to make Thanksgiving dinner so memorable. The mystery dish has been identified as pumpkin-cranberry pie.

The usual amount of guests came down for Christmas vacation this year.

Due to the high cost of heating the pool, management wants to pass on the additional expense to the park residents. However, since most of us are on a tight budget we are asking for volunteers to help heat the pool another way. In theory the more people we can get in the pool the higher the temperature will get.

A member of the porch dwellers, commonly known as "the jury," exclaimed that even if we don't get enough people to warm the pool up, at least we've got a chance to enter the Guinness Book of Records for the most cardiac arrests.

A vote was taken at one of the Friday Morning Coffees not to serve turkey again at the Christmas dinner. Requests for ham, chicken and potato salad were unanimously voted for, except for one individual who wanted Spam.

A suggestion was made to rent a cherry-picker to be used to decorate the palm trees with lights instead of ladders.

If you recall last year, the fire department was called to rescue Ernie Slatmeyer when he suddenly remembered he has a fear of heights and couldn't descend from the ladder. Ernie's best friend, Harold Bemus, said Ernie thought he had a fear of widths.

It seems Ernie got the two confused. A fear of heights and a fear of widths is a classic example of a Senior Moment.

It's time to mention the New Year's Eve Party, as some of you don't at-

tend the Friday Morning Coffees or check the bulletin board as often as you should. The monthly newsletter seems to be the only source of park activities for some. We had some park residents going door to door to help spread the word, but when some failed to return, well, let's just say we no longer practice this service.

Now, the New Year's Eve Party is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. There are two reasons for such an early start. The first is because most of us can't stay up until midnight. The second reason is that we get a reduced rate from the DJ we hire to provide the music because he can book another party after he leaves ours.

Speaking of DJs, some of you were wondering why we need to hire one in the first place since we provide the Kate Smith and Guy Lombardo music ourselves. The main reason we hire a professional is because the CD player on Ernie Slatmeyer's golf cart wasn't loud enough and the management won't allow Ernie to bring his golf cart

into the clubhouse anymore.

A potluck luncheon is slated for noon before the New Year's Eve Party. That's because most of us take our afternoon naps and combining potluck with the party afterwards usually means a poor attendance for the latter.

Alcohol beverages are permitted at the party. Those of us who are on medications shouldn't drink. We certainly don't want a repeat of last year when people (you know who

you are) played musical wheelchairs after drinking gin and Metamucil cocktails. It's true that tonic can easily be confused with Metamucil, but that's still no excuse.

We are once again reminded by the Women's Luncheon Club that there is still time to buy 2011 calendars before the year is up. Yes, we realize the lost logic behind this, but the money does go toward group therapy.

Until next month, happy holidays. Stay healthy and don't forget your meds.

Larry Elsenheimer and his wife of 41 years, Kathleen, live in Homosassa. Before moving here, they lived five years in a retirement community, where he served as vice president for a year and president for two years of a homeowners association. He also called bingo and was privileged to host Friday morning coffees. It is from his experiences and folks he met that he draws the ideas for the "Watcher Point Community Newsletter." The names have been changed to prevent lawsuits.



Larry Elsenheimer
WATCHER POINT

SAVVY

Continued from **Page G4**

or people who provide you regular services such as utility companies, lawn service, etc.

- **Pets:** If you have a pet, give instructions for the care of the animal.
- **End of life:** Indicate your wishes for organ, tissue or body donation including documentation (see donatelife.net), and write out your funeral instructions. If you've made prearrangements with a funeral home include a copy of agreement, their contact information and whether you've prepaid.

Legal Documents

- **Will:** Include the original copy of your will and other estate planning documents you've made.
- **Power of attorney:** This names someone you trust to handle money matters if you're incapacitated. If you

don't have a will or power of attorney, do-it-yourself resources like legalzoom.com can help you create them for a few dollars.

- **Advance directives:** These documents spell out your wishes regarding your end-of-life medical treatment when you can no longer make decisions for yourself. For free advanced directive forms visit caringinfo.org or call 800-658-8898.

Financial Records

- **Income and debt:** Make a list of all income sources such as pensions, Social Security, IRAs, 401Ks, interest, investments, etc. And do the same for any debt you may have.

- **Financial accounts:** List all bank and brokerage accounts (checking, savings, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, IRAs, etc.) and their contact information. And keep current statements from each institution in your files.

- **Company benefits:** List any retirement plans, pensions or benefits from your current or former employer including the contact information.

- **Insurance:** List the insurance policies you have (life, long-term care, home, auto, Medicare, Medigap, prescription drug, etc.) including the policy numbers, insurance agents and phone numbers.

- **Credit cards:** List all credit and charge cards, including the card numbers and contact information.

- **Property:** List real estate, vehicles and other properties you own, rent or lease and include documents such as deeds, titles, and loan or lease agreements.

Savvy tips: To help you get organized, Nolo (nolo.com, 800-728-3555) offers a resource book called "Get It Together" for \$18.50. You can purchase guides at organizemyaffairs.com.

Thanks a Brunch!

Each December, our residents and their families don their holiday best and are treated to a Holiday Brunch celebrating the season.

The succulent buffet created by Chef Joe features items such as Eggs Benedict, carved beef, home-baked muffins and mimosas. While enjoying homemade eggnog, family and staff members sing Christmas carols and exchange holiday wishes.

To our residents, Cedar Creek is their happy home. How do we know? You can see it on their faces.



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Walking tall

By Tresa Erickson

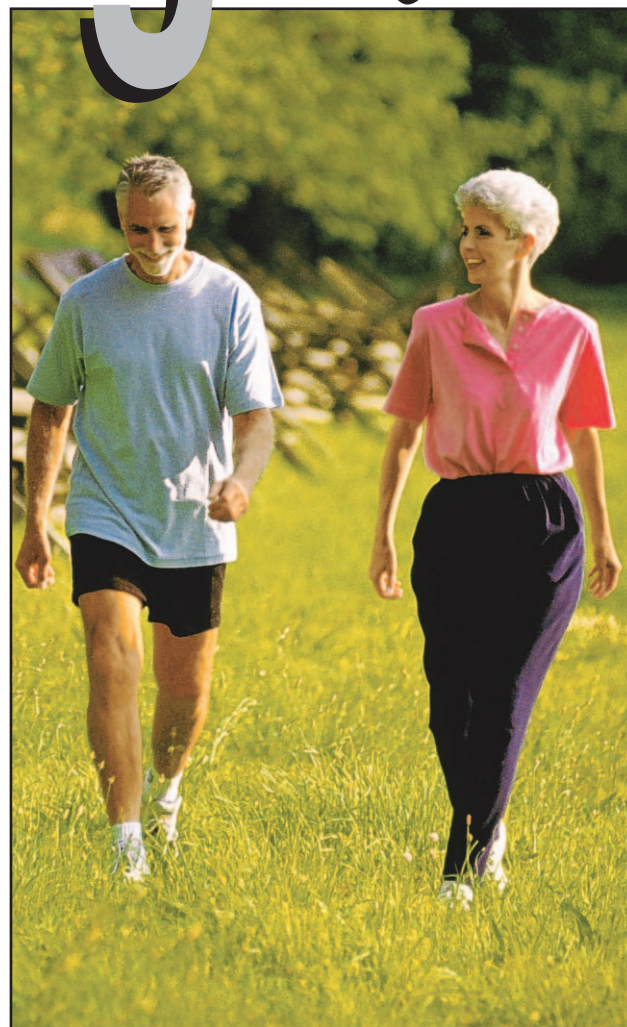
Special to the Chronicle

It's no secret that exercise is one of the keys to good health. Studies show that people of all ages benefit from regular exercise.

One of the best forms of exercise for seniors is walking. Not only does it involve few physical risks, but it offers many health benefits. Walking on a consistent basis controls weight and blood sugar and cholesterol levels, improves cardiovascular fitness and circulation, and alleviates anxiety and stress by producing endorphins, the body's natural stress-reliever. Seniors who walk regularly also tend to live longer than those who are sedentary.

If you're a senior looking to improve your health, try walking. However, keep in mind that there is a right and a wrong way to walk. To get the most from your walks, follow these tips:

- Wear the proper shoes. Do your feet a favor and purchase a pair of well-cushioned shoes that are snug in the heel and roomy enough for your toes to wiggle. Look for shoes that carry the American Pediatric Medical Association's seal of approval, and if your feet tend to swell



See WALKING/Page G7

WALK

Continued from **Page G6**

later in the day, do your shoe shopping then to ensure a good fit.

- Choose an appropriate time to walk. Don't go when it's overly cold or hot. Cold weather makes surfaces harder, putting more stress on the feet and ankles and setting you up for injury, while hot weather increases your chances of having a heatstroke. Avoid extreme temperatures. Walk inside at the local mall or an indoor track during the winter and outside in the early morning or evening when it's less hot during the summer. Dress for the season and drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration.

- Select an appropriate location to walk. Find someplace to walk that has soft ground. As you age, the natural shock absorbers in your feet deteriorate, along with your bone density, which makes you prone to stress fractures. Prevent fractures by walking on even, flat, well-manicured grass or dirt paths.

- Take time to warm up and cool down. Stretch your hamstrings, calves, Achilles tendons and knees before and after you walk. You won't be as stiff later and you'll prevent muscle strain and improve circulation.

- Take care of your feet. Watch out for red spots, swelling, numbness, tingling or burning. These could be signs of a serious foot or circulatory problem. Don't try to treat the problem yourself. Consult a doctor.

- Exercise wisely. Set realistic goals. Don't push yourself and go two miles if you can only handle one. Pace yourself and increase your walking gradually. If you don't, you're likely to suffer an injury, which could sideline you for weeks and even months. Know your limit, exercise with caution and keep injuries at bay.

Seniors who have diabetes should be extra careful when walking. Those who have lost sensation in their feet and legs may not know when an injury has occurred. If left untreated, a small injury, like a blister or scratch, can lead to bigger problems and ultimately damage the feet or legs. Don't take a chance on injury if you're a diabetic. Follow the guidelines above and inspect your feet often. Consult a doctor at any sign of trouble.

Walking is good for seniors. However, before you incorporate it into your routine, check with your doctor and get their approval. You may have a condition that walking could exacerbate.



Exercise The Years Away

Now that you're getting older, are you starting to lose some of your strength and stamina? Are you feeling a little stiff? Well, guess what, you can make your life better and improve your strength, stamina and agility with just a few hours of exercise a week.

Most seniors today don't get enough exercise. They assume it would be too strenuous for them, but that simply is not true. Researchers have found that many older adults, 80 and older, benefit from exercise. In one study, for example, several nursing home residents in their 80s who took part in mild exercise three times a week for three

years experienced a four percent increase in bone mass. In another study, some seniors in their 80s improved their mobility so much after just 10 weeks of strength training that they progressed from using a walker to a cane.

There are four types: endurance, which strengthens the cardiovascular system and increases stamina; strength, which builds up bones and muscles and promotes independence; flexibility, which makes moving easier and decreases the risk of muscle injury; and balance, which improves coordination and helps prevent falls. The best workouts combine the four.

Before you get started with an exercise program, consult your doctor, especially if you suffer from any chronic condition. Most experts, however, agree on the following guidelines:

Endurance

To improve stamina, you

can do anything that raises your heart rate and breathing for extended periods of time, such as walking or jogging. You should do at least 30 minutes of endurance exercise at least three times a week.

Strength

To build strength, you should work out all of your major muscle groups at least twice a week. If you are a beginner, start with small weights and work your way up to larger ones.

Flexibility

To increase flexibility, you should stretch your muscles at least 20 minutes three times a week. Stretching before and after workouts will help prevent muscle injuries.

Balance

To improve balance, you can try a wide range of exercises, including the Planter flexion, hip flexion, hip extension, knee flexion and side leg raise. Many of these can also be used to

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How well do you know your debit card?

The holiday season is filled with goodwill, plenty of cheer and of course, the gift of giving.

In the spirit of giving to loved ones and friends, many consumers use a debit (check) card for their purchases.

Although these cards are convenient and safer to carry than cash, they are not a credit card and should not be treated as one. If you use a debit card you may want to know more about them before you use them. The Citrus County Sheriff's Office encourages you to "know before you go."

Know your bank account balance before making a purchase with a debit card. Never make a purchase without having enough

money in your account to cover it. You could face hefty charges from your bank and from law enforcement.

Know that your debit card is a quick, pay now product, giving you no grace period.

Know about your liability for any unauthorized use, theft or loss of your debit card. Ask if the issuer has any special liability policies and how they work. Under government regulations, financial institutions may have up to 20 days to provide provisional credit because of unauthorized use of your debit card.

Know how problems with non-delivery, defective merchandise or misrepresentation will be

handled. Charges can be disputed within 60 days, however you may have less protection with a debit card than you would with a credit card.

Use card responsibly

- If the card is lost or stolen report the loss immediately to your financial institution. If the card has been used fraudulently you may file a police report at your local law enforcement agency.

- Take your receipts when leaving the register. Your account number may be all someone needs to order merchandise through the mail or over the phone at your expense, especially if the card can be used with out a PIN (personal identification number).

- Always keep your PIN number private. Never write it down and put it in your wallet or purse.

If you have a problem or need assistance call the Seniors vs. Crime office at 352-249-9139 or visit us at 4093 N. Lecanto Highway, Beverly Hills, next to Main Street Restaurant and Grill. Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

It's that time of year

Wow! Here we are again! Can you believe that it's the holiday season already?

Of course, that is a rhetorical question. We ask ourselves that same question every year. Especially those of us who have been around for a few years. Anyway, here it is and we are thankful for so many things this time of year and all year long.

Every year at this time, we like to think of Christmases past. Of course, my memories are based on

life in our little community in Brooksville.

Most of our social life revolved around our little church in Brooksville. I mean really little church. We were so small, we didn't have enough people to go around for the Christmas play, so we had to play two parts and do some quick changing between roles.

One year we decided to use live animals for the manger scene. That didn't work out too well. We brought all kinds of pets from home and as soon as they smelled that hay, for some reason, they all had to go to the bathroom at once. Let me just say it was not a pretty sight and the entire church smelled like a barn for the rest of the play.

That's one Christmas scent I'm trying to forget. I'm glad Yankee Candle never made that Christmas candle.

I think back to the Western Auto Store and the manager Alvin Thompson and his assistant, Mr. Looper. They provided

the layaway plan for most families in Brooksville.

These two men were always smiling and willing to help out any needy family. They allowed us to play with the toys in the store so our parents would have some idea of what we would be asking Santa for Christmas.

I think of how we loved going to that store at Christmas. Probably, if you grew up in Brooksville, your first wheels were a Western Flyer tricycle or bicycle. I can still see these men and how they always had a kind word and a great laugh.

I know that I've written many times about how proud we should be of our heritage and since I was raised in the south, I have noticed some differences. We talked about the language barriers we often face.

Well, I haven't been to too many churches up north, (actually, not any) but I'm guessing our manner of worship is often a little different.

To say that southerners are passionate about their worship, is putting it mildly.

Our church was so small that, when I say that everyone knew everyone, I mean that in all kinds of ways. It was especially different back when I was growing up.

On Wednesday nights we had a good old fashioned testimony service. Everyone who felt moved, would stand up and tell all. If you've never been to one of those good old-southern meetings then you've never truly felt thoroughly sorry for your sins.

Mainly, because if your

mother was anything like mine, she would stand up and name every sin that she and God had observed and delivered me from in the past week. On those nights I would get a little squirmy in my seat, especially if I had been punished or chastised during the week for any act that my mother deemed sinful.

There – in front of God and everybody present – she would name my sins. One just never knew what areas of our young lives were going to be exposed. I can tell you that it was always interesting to say the least.

Ms. Patrick always had the most interesting things to say about her six very active boys. Five of them were named after people in the Bible.

Let me tell you those boys really needed some delivering! Some of that stuff I never would have revealed. But they all turned out to be respectable members of society.

Now, you need to know that I'm not making fun of the good old-fashioned testimony services. On the contrary, I vote we bring them back,

Believe me, if you know that your sins are all going to be announced publicly and that you are going to be "prayed over" by a bunch of people with direct lines to all Three People in The Trinity, you tend to watch what you do and say.

It was better therapy than we can come up with today and a lot less expensive. The news media wouldn't have to go very far to look for a story. Just come to those Wednesday night prayer meetings. We took seriously the verse of scripture that reads "Be sure your sins will find you out!"

See TALK/Page G10

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Feeling out of joint: The aches of arthritis

People often feel pain and stiffness in their joints as they get older, usually when they're around 45 to 50. It's called arthritis, and it's one of the most common diseases nationwide.

What exactly is arthritis? "Arthr" means joint, and "itis" means inflammation (heat, swelling and redness). But the inflammation of arthritis isn't always something you can see. Arthritis comes in many forms. In fact, there are more than 100 types, each with its own symptoms and treatments. The most common

form is osteoarthritis.

Osteoarthritis is a wear and tear disease that breaks down different parts of a joint. It most often affects the fingers, knees and hips. Pain and stiffness in the joints are the most common symptoms. The pain is often worse after exercise and when you put weight or pressure on the joint.

If you have osteoarthritis, your joints probably become stiffer and harder to move over time. You may notice a rubbing, grating or crackling sound when you move the joint.

The phrase "morning stiffness" refers to the pain and stiffness you may feel when you first wake up in the morning. Stiffness usually lasts for 30 minutes or less. It is improved by mild activity that "warms up" the joint.

During the day, pain may get worse when you're active and feel better when you are

resting. After a while, the pain may be present when you are resting. It may even wake you up at night.

Many treatments are available for osteoarthritis. You can talk to your doctor about exercises that can help and activities you should avoid. Several pain and anti-inflammatory medicines are available by prescription or over the counter.



Amy Kingery
**NEWS FROM
SRRMC**

If you feel pain and stiffness in your joints, don't hesitate to bring it up with your doctor. If you wait too long, your joints can become damaged beyond repair. Find

out what's causing your problems now and learn about your options.

You can also attend the free, one-hour Good News About Knee & Hip Pain program presented by physical and occupational therapists at Seven Rivers Regional. At this program you will learn more about the causes of knee or hip pain and the latest treatments, including medications, nutrition and exercise. The next class is Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 1 p.m. Call 352-795-1234 for details.

Amy Kingery is the public relations and communications coordinator at Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center.

The phrase "morning stiffness" refers to the pain and stiffness you may feel when you first wake up in the morning.

What is waiting for you in 2012?

With the new year upon us, have you found yourself wondering what you can do differently in the future?

Adult continuing education classes can help you make new friends, introduce yourself to popular topics and start something new. We have thought about it, and tried to find new, interesting classes that attract your attention. Take a look at the new classes that are planned for 2012 at the College of Central Florida Citrus Campus.

- The couponing craze has hit Citrus County and we are now offering a Couponing class that will be held in two sessions. The first session will be on March 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. and the second will be two weeks later on April

10. The fee is \$30 for both sessions.

In the first session you will learn rules and tips for success as well as how to stack and combine coupons that will teach you save big. Session two will show you real-life shopping scenarios, price matching and rolling transactions at local drugstores.

- Many of our senior computer students were having a difficult time with the keyboard so we introduced a Keyboarding Fundamentals class to help with the basic keyboard layout. Class will be held on Fridays, Jan. 13 and Jan. 27, from 3 to 5 p.m. for a fee of \$45.

- East Meets West: Introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine is a two-hour workshop and

has already gained momentum. Learn a variety of self-help measures for natural health from the ancient Eastern perspective. Acupressure, qi gong, tongue and body analysis, natural vision improvement, meridian tapping and energy balancing will be discussed. Instructor will share experiences from studies in China and in professional practice. This class will be held on Friday, Feb. 24, from 6 to 8 p.m.

- Are you sick and tired of being sick and tired? "Newtrition" for today's health needs will take a look at our dysfunctional diets and their connection to various ailments. Learn how to stop your own energy crisis and make wiser

See COURSES/Page G10

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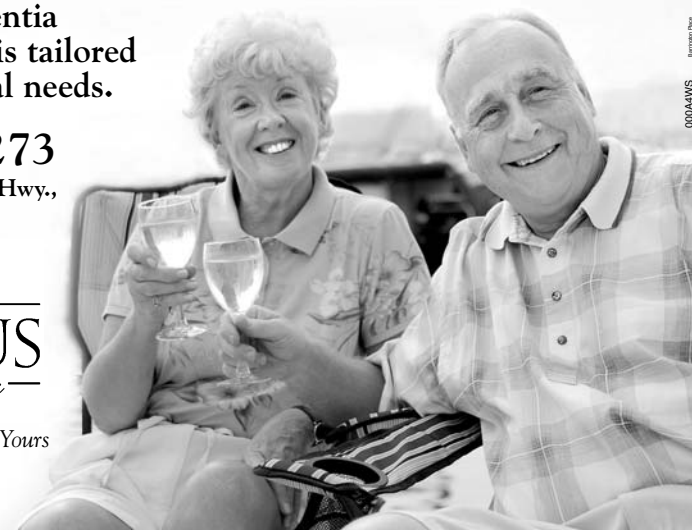


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A positive effect

For some seniors, retirement isn't all that is cracked up to be. All too often grandchildren grow up, children move away and older friends and family members pass away. As a result, many seniors become lonely and depressed. They need something in their life to combat these feelings, and that might just be a pet.

Having a pet also offers seniors health benefits. Pets must be walked, played with, petted, fed and groomed.

Having a pet offers seniors many benefits. A pet provides them with companionship and emotional

stability during times of crisis. A pet offers them a chance to get out and interact with others as they walk their pet or take it to the vet or groomer. A pet gives seniors a sense of purpose and a reason to get up in the morning.

Having a pet also offers seniors health benefits. Pets must be walked, played with, petted, fed and groomed. All of these activities force seniors to get up and get moving, which helps their joints stay limber and flexible, which, in turn, helps their heart stay healthy. Physical contact with a pet also lowers an individual's blood pressure, temperature and heart rate.

Before adopting a pet, seniors must consider whether they have the time and means, physically and financially, to care for a pet. They also need to consider what would happen to their pet if they had to

leave their home or died.

Seniors who have the means to care for a pet must decide what kind of pet to adopt. If they want a pet that doesn't require walking and letting out, the best choice would be a cat. If they want a pet that requires them to be more active, then a dog might work. Older animals will be easier to handle and manage than younger ones.

Many programs are available for adopting a pet. The best place to start is with a local shelter. Adoption fees often include vaccinations and spay and neuter procedures as well. Some shelters offer senior programs, in which the adoption fee is waived. If the local shelter doesn't offer such a program, they may have information and support for new pet owners. Seniors looking for a purebred animal should check with their local shelter and with breed rescue organizations.

Pets and seniors have a lot to offer each other. Having a pet will provide seniors with years of constant, unconditional love.



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TALK

Continued from **Page G8**

What does all of this have to do with Christmas, you might ask?

Well, it was through the prayers of my parents and the prayers of the people

who attended that very small church that I learned the real meaning of Christmas and the values that have brought me through the hard times in life. For all of this, I am so very grateful.

I wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a very merry new year, as

well.

Because, after all, a merry heart is good medicine.

Mary Alice Tillman, executive director at Brentwood Retirement Community in Lecanto, can be reached at mtillman9@tampabay.rr.com.

COURSES

Continued from **Page G9**

choices. Class will begin on Feb. 3. Pre-registration is necessary.

• For the lovers of our feathered friends, we have begun a backyard birding class. Learn about our native birds

and how to attract them to your yard. Call 352-249-1210 for more information.

• Discover the beauty of what has been the drink of many for centuries. The Mystery of Wine class will enter the world of health benefits, myths and scams surrounding these popular drinks. Learn how to

read labels, shop for wines and so much more. Class will be on Wednesdays, Feb. 1 and March 7, from 3 to 4 p.m. for a fee of \$35.

The College of Central Florida is at 3800 S. Lecanto Highway in Lecanto. Please call 352-249-1210 for registration information or log onto CFItraining.cf.edu.

Senior **Style**

FYI

Yoga offered at canning center

Citrus County Parks & Recreation offers yoga with Laura Boetto from 10 and 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays at the Canning Center in Lecanto. Yoga improves flexibility and balance, increases energy, strengthens and tones muscles and reduces stress.

Cost is \$6 per class; \$20 monthly. No pre-registration required.

For more information, visit www.citruscountyparks.com or call 352-465-7007.

Public invited to line dancing

The public is invited to line dancing classes Thursdays. Beginner class is from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Members must show membership card and nonmembers pay \$3 per class.

Call the Recreation Center at 352-746-4882 or Bonnie at 352-527-3738.

Also, the public is invited to join Dottie's Line Dancing Classes from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays at the Beverly Hills Recreation Association, 77 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills. Call Dottie at 352-746-0779 or the clubhouse at 352-746-4882.

Church offers respite program

Catholic Charities, DOSP has openings in its respite program that meets from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Our Lady of Grace Church in Beverly Hills.

The program is for people with early stage Alzheimer's disease and other memory loss illnesses including stroke, Parkinson's disease or senile dementia.

For more information or to make an appointment to observe the program, call Marie Monahan at 800-242-9012, ext 22.

Learn to stretch with Parks & Rec

Citrus County Parks & Recreation offers a new low-impact stretching class. This on-going class will be from 10 to 11 a.m. at Citrus Springs Community Center. Cost is \$5 per class.

The low-impact class is easy, fun with good benefits. Stretching helps to make you more flexible and regular stretching will help mobility and balance.

For more information, visit www.citruscountyparks.com and click on instructional classes, or call 352-465-7007.

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Shuffleboard Club invites public

Floral City Shuffleboard Club plays at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays and at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at Floral Park in Floral City.

It is a great opportunity to meet people in the community, and get some light exercise. We welcome all newcomers. Yearly dues are \$3 per person, and there is no need to purchase any equipment.

Call the vice president of the Floral City Shuffleboard Club, Dana Bause, at 352-726-0670.

Dance classes offered Thursdays

The public is welcome to Ballroom Dance Classes at the Beverly Hills Recreation Center, 77 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills, every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

You do not need a partner to participate.

Classes are free for members of the association; nonmembers pay \$3 per class. No need to preregister.

Call the office at 352-746-4882 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Center has 'seniors on move'

"Seniors on the Move" offers trips to the community centers, movies, flea markets, libraries, parks, beach, theater, shopping trips and more.

For further information, call Sue Carscadden at 352-527-5959.

Seniors on the Move is a program of the Nature Coast Volunteer Center and is sponsored by the Citrus County Senior Foundation.

Zumba at Citrus Springs

Citrus County Parks & Recreation offers Zumba classes with instructor Lynn DaSilva at Citrus Springs Community Center. Zumba is a fitness program designed with exciting Latin and international dance rhythms. No membership or contracts.

Ongoing classes are: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays; and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays. Cost is \$5. For more information call 352-465-7007.

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