

LETTERS to the Editor

Be a Santa to a senior

Thank you for the Dec. 1 message of the joint effort by local organizations, businesses and the Citrus County Department of Community Services to bring Christmas cheer to seniors who might not otherwise receive a Christmas gift this year.

Two youth organizations — Lecanto Levi's and the Ease's Rough Riders 4-H Clubs — and a local business — Home Instead Senior Care — have joined Community Support Services to identify needy and isolated seniors in Citrus County. How wonderfully considerate of these concerned citizens in being thoughtful of some who may not have family members or friends in their senior years — on Christmas Day!

In this holiday effort, Christmas tree ornaments have been placed on trees featuring seniors' requests at the following businesses/locations: Melodies Body Image Gym, Michael's Floor Covering, Inc., G&R Health Mart Pharmacy, Mama's Kuntry Kafe, Taylor Rental Rental, Home Instead Senior Care and all Citrus County libraries.

Holiday shoppers, after getting ornaments, can buy item(s) on the lists and return them unwrapped along with the ornament attached.

As a part of my holiday schedule, I plan on participating in this noteworthy project. Both of my parents have passed on, but if I can bring some happiness to others, this would make my Christmas 2013 a very special one.

Renee Christopher-McPheeters
Crystal River

Fishing club offers its gratitude

Back in the spring of this year a few women got together one Saturday afternoon at the Coastal Region Library in Crystal River and formed the Nature Coast Lady Anglers club, the first ladies-only fishing club in Citrus County. Our enthusiasm for the sport far outweighed our knowledge and skill level at that time, but as the months have passed we can now say with confidence, "We've come a long way, baby."

That being said, we certainly didn't do it without help. The Nature Coast Lady Anglers would like to offer our sincere gratitude to the following for their encouragement, support and help as we established ourselves and grew during 2013: The FWC Outreach and Education Department; R.G. Schmidt, the Tight Lines columnist for the *Chronicle*; Lauren Moore with Moore Bait and Tackle; Bert Winkler with OFC Rods Plugs and Jewelry; the staff at The

Plantation on Crystal River; Matt and Sue Clemons with Aardvark's Florida Kayak Co.; Paul Cross at The Plantation Adventure Center; Linda Jones with the USCGA; and Andy Smith with the Citrus County Parks and Recreation Department.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to working with you again in the upcoming year.

Delores Belanger
Nature Coast Lady Anglers
Ocala

Concerned about gas pipeline

The impact radius of a Sabal gas pipeline explosion is 800 feet.

Is my property at least 800 feet away from any part of the pipeline?

An explosion will create fires. There is an extraordinary amount of fuel that surrounds my property and home. In this area, fire spreads very rapidly. What are my chances for surviving a pipeline explosion and resulting fire? Does Sumter County have any provisions to protect me from the expected explosion and fire?

Gertrude C. Dickinson
Lake Panasoffkee

Sharing values important on Christmas Day

It was decided by family and friends to have a pioneer Christmas this year, which means we have to prepare meals, gifts and attitude for what pioneers would have experienced and anticipated year's-end Christmas celebration. That means no electrical items, candles will light the way to a special enlightened festival.

Our Christmas tree will have handmade decorations, such as paper, cloth and ribbon, with stringed popcorn and cranberries, cut red/green paper chains, burlap yarn tied in a bow around pinecone, and baked goods such as cookies among the evergreen branches. Some ideas haven't been discovered yet, perhaps Christmas Eve we will identify more.

For our meal, prepared on open fire, stuffed Cornish-like hens, whole squash, corn ears, chopped potato, gravy thickened with flour, salt-rising bread, chopped eggs, clunked cheese, apple pie and a special touch with citrus, which we will find as a team during Christmas day early hours, placing cloves in a row on oranges and topping it with a green bow.

Entertainment is a snowy, 1,000-piece puzzle, a Christmas play, singing carols, making music, word games, telling stories and keeping warm by the fire, if its necessary, because there will be lots of warmth in our cabin.

For us, as a family, Christmas is being together, with whatever we have to offer for each other to make our family unit a memory. Although Christmas is the birth of Christ, it's also peace, love, and hope. No matter what your religion is or is not, make Christmas day differentiated, by your creative thoughts, it really doesn't take much to produce added something's of new delight to your Christmas sunrise.

Oh, I didn't include our gifts. That would be the preparation of natural endowment to family, community and friends in a country that shared the belief that all had a purpose, once. Not all have the same thoughts, or understanding, but all have a life to share, whether it's happy holiday sharing, Christmas day sharing or something so very special to say or give. We can't be all wrong, nor can we all be right, but we can if we try, be a someone that can afford to make Dec. 25 a good day to remember, by sharing value in a course of existence.

Sandra Brasmeister
Inverness

Thank you from Family Fun Walk

We are very grateful and would like to again thank all who supported us in this venture. They gave of their time, donations and talents to make the first Family Fun Walk of 2013 a huge success. Because of the walk, funds were raised that helped the Le Lech League (LLL) get started in Citrus County.

As of May 6, 2013, LLL has been holding meetings at The Ceili, located at 116 N.E. Fifth St., Crystal River, with parking across the street.

In attendance at the walk were parents, nursing babies, toddlers, kids, teens and grandparents who attended, walked, and shared a good time in the sun. Displays on breastfeeding, childbirth education, WIC, car seat safety were inside, while face painting, bounce house, Citrus County fire truck inspection, an exercise session as well as water/snacks were outside. The breastfeeding factoid posters along the walk route provided additional education on breastfeeding for all the walkers. Gift Certificates were awarded at the end of the walk.

Many thanks to: The Ceili, Just a Cupcake, AJ's Café, Megan Otera, Citrus County Breastfeeding Coalition members, Clementine's Boutique, Walmart, Citrus Pedi Aquatics, Fun Factory Bounce House, Healthy Families Dance Central, and to all who contributed that day.

The Citrus County Breastfeeding Coalition

Not another nickel

No matter what Duke Energy does with that plant, the only thing that should cost me a nickel is the electricity they send my way. And another thing: Who are the other nine owners who own that plant it said in this morning's paper (Dec. 11)? I thought Duke Energy owned it. It said, "Coupled with funds from the plant's nine other owners." Who could that be?

Editor's note: The nine minority owners are: City of Bushnell, City of Gainesville, City of Kissimmee, City of Leesburg, City of Ocala, Orlando Utilities Commission, Seminole Electric Cooperative and City of New Smyrna Beach.

Haircut not cheap

The article in Sound Off about obviously some female crying the blues that men get better treated, they get better quality. ... The biggest thing, which I thought was the funniest, was men are charged \$7 less for a haircut than a woman. I guess if you go in and do a comparison of what is done to the man's hair vs. what's done to the woman's hair and the effort they go through to style and combing a lot more hair than on a man. And I go to a beauty shop for my haircut, too, and I pay a pretty good price for it, but the guy is very good.

Check out the lights

If people have not been to the fantastic light display on Mary Lue Street in Inverness, they are missing one of the best things that they could ever see. Unfortunately, this is going to be the end of the

display. This is the last year that the people will be doing it. So everybody needs to get out there and check it out. It is absolutely fantastic. These people should be given a key to the city or something for what they've done for so many years. Absolutely wonderful.

Cancer help at center

If you or a family member or friend want information on cancer, you can call or visit the Cancer Resource Center located at 208 Grace St., Inverness. Phone number 637-5577. Staffed by a volunteer on Monday from 8 to 12 and Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 12. You are welcome to stop by or call. The volunteers at the center, sponsored by the American Cancer Society and Citrus Memorial hospital, look forward to assisting you. Wigs and head covers are available onsite for chemotherapy patients, as well as mastectomy bras and prostheses.

Should get a credit

I turned in a tag. I had to sell a car because my wife and I needed the money. So we're down to one vehicle. And I asked the lady, "Do I get credit for my tag being that it was due in September?" And I thought 10 months, nine months to go left on it, so will I get credit on next year's? She said, no, they don't do that. So you pay your registration for a whole year. Even though you're two months into it, you, as a customer, lose 10 months. That's not fair. I should at least get some pro-rated credit toward my other registration next year unless I get another vehicle. That's not fair.

What would your number one safety tip be for citizens over the holidays?

1. "Lock up your prescription medication when children or company are visiting your home."



Sergeant Scott R. Farmer
School Resource Officer-West District



2. "Criminals act on opportunities that can be created by us. Forgetting to lock your car and residence can set you up to become an easy victim. Stay vigilant with your security."



Sergeant Ryan T. Glaze
West Operations



3. "Always hide the gifts in such a place so as not to cause injury to the snoopers, like don't hide them under the lawn mower!"



Detective Corey Davidson
Internal Affairs Division



4. "Always make sure there is enough water in the stand for a live Christmas tree. Never let your tree get dry and brittle."



Linda Fritz
Receptionist



5. "Being a smart party host or guest should include being sensible about alcoholic drinks. More than half of all



traffic fatalities are alcohol-related. Use designated drivers, people who do not drink, to drive other guests home after a holiday party."

Dwane Gannon
911 Dispatch



6. "If a fire develops in your oven, keep the oven door closed."



Chief Jim Goodworth
Fire Rescue



7. "Don't put your vacation plans or plans to leave home on social media."



Deputy Connary Reynolds



8. "Use flameless candles instead of regular candles."



Deputy Michele Tewell



9. "Keep a list with all of the important phone numbers you or a baby sitter would need in case of an emergency. Include the police and fire department, your pediatrician and the National Poison Help Line, 1-800-222-1222. Laminating the list will prevent it from being torn or damaged by accidental spills."



Captain Danny Linhart
West Operations



10. "Count your candles as you light them so you blow out the same number of candles that you lit."



Heather Yates
Media Relations Manager



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