

NEWS NOTES

Celebrate new year with Beverly Hills post

Come and enjoy New Year's Eve Tuesday, Dec. 31, at VFW Post 10087 in Beverly Hills. Tickets are \$20 per person, which includes a prime rib dinner, a band, dancing, party favors and champagne toast. Cash bar available. Tickets are on sale until Wednesday. There will be no late sales. For information, call 352-464-7440.

All invited to come dance at Moose Lodge

Crystal River Moose Lodge 2013 has dances from 7 to 10 p.m. Mondays at the lodge, 1855 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa. All-you-can-eat spaghetti is served. For more information, call the lodge at 352-795-7030.

Celebrate 2014 at IR-RU club

Celebrate 2014 at the IR-RU on Tuesday, Dec. 31. A buffet dinner catered by Rustic Ranch will be served from 6 to 8 p.m. The menu will include chicken marsala, roast beef, parmesan roasted potatoes, country green beans, roll and butter. Cost of \$35 per person (members/guests) in advance includes dinner, open bar at 8 p.m., party favors and champagne at midnight. Music will be provided by Jimmy Sparks from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Only 100 seats are available. See April or TJ for the seating chart. The IR-RU is at 922 U.S. 41 South, Inverness. For more information, call 352-637-5118.

Come spend day with Floral City Crafters

Are you interested in learning or teaching new crafts or working on old ones? Come join Floral City Crafters from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Tuesday in the Floral City Community Hall beside the library and across from Shamrock's on Orange Avenue. Parking is available behind the building. For questions call Christine at 352-476-3483.

Harmonica Club jams Tuesday evenings

The Citrus County Harmonica Club jams from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the Heads & Tails Lounge, 1.5 miles south of Floral City on U.S. 41. Beginners are welcome. Harmonicas are available for \$5. A free group lesson incorporating the Harmonica Exercise for Lung Program will be offered. For information, call Bruce at 202-669-1797.

A Humane Society
CENTRAL FLA.

Chase



Special to the Chronicle

Chase is a brown tabby with dazzling white socks and a gentle, sweet and cuddly personality. He is well-socialized and looking for his very own home. There are also many more varieties of felines to choose from. Drop by and enjoy the felines in their cage-free, homestyle environment from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the Humanitarians' Hardin Haven on the corner of State Road 44 and North Conant Avenue, east of Crystal River. Call the staff at 352-613-1629 for adoptions, or view most of our felines online at www.petfinder.com/shelters/fl186.html.

Homeless pets need angels

Drive for two local rescue groups will continue through December

Special to the Chronicle

The fourth annual Pet Angels pet needs drive for orphaned animals will run through Monday, Dec. 30. Two local rescue groups — Home at Last Pet Adoptions, halpetadoptions@yahoo.com, and Precious Paws Rescue, preciouspawsflorida.com — are the beneficiaries of the pet collection. Both organizations are nonprofit, all-volunteer, registered charities. Foster pets are cared for in the homes of their volunteers, who provide all the needed daily care. All pets receive the necessary veterinary care, are spayed or neutered, dogs are tested for heartworm

disease and cats for feline leukemia/AIDS. They are up to date on age-appropriate vaccinations and microchipped. Items to help with their care include cat litter, pet food (both canned and dry), disinfectant cleaners, laundry detergent, paper towels, donations and gift cards. Donations can be dropped off at: ■ Precious Paws Adoption Center, Crystal River Mall, from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday (Closed from Dec. 26 through Dec. 29 for the holidays); ■ Plantation Animal Clinic, 9030 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River; ■ Pawfection Ranch, 6420 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa; ■ Goin' Postal, 7789 S. Suncoast Blvd.,

Homosassa; ■ Cypress Village Property Owners Association, 108 W. Cypress Blvd., Homosassa (the A-frame building) at the entrance to Sugarmill Woods; ■ Oak Village Association, 8827 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa; and ■ Midway Animal Hospital, 1835 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa. Donations may be left at each site or checks made out to and mailed to: Home at Last, P.O. Box 4533, Homosassa, FL 34447. All donations are tax deductible. For more information or to have a donation picked up, call Home at Last at 352-212-8555 or Precious Paws at 352-726-4700. A volunteer will return your call.

Tradition of giving



Special to the Chronicle

Every year, the Inverness Lodge of Elks gives Citrus United Basket (CUB) a major donation from the Christmas raffle. This year, the Elks were able to present \$1,200 to CUB. Support from the lodge has been ongoing for many years and CUB has been assisting the community since 1978 with help with everything from food to finances and beyond. Here, Tina Mable presents the check to Jennifer Campbell, CUB executive director.

Kwanzaa celebration on tap Dec. 28

Special to the Chronicle

Kwanzaa is a seven-day festival celebrating the African-American people, their culture and their history. It is a time of celebration, community gathering and reflection, a time of endings and beginnings. Kwanzaa begins Thursday,

Dec. 26, the day after Christmas, and continues until New Year's Day, Jan. 1. The first public celebration of Kwanzaa in Citrus County is scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at the Old Courthouse Museum. All are welcome. Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966, dur-

ing the period of U.S. history in which African-Americans were involved in struggles for their civil rights. This was the period of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Civil Rights Movement and Black Power. Karenga wanted to create a holiday that would bring African-Americans together in celebration of their black cul-

ture. He was inspired by the "first fruit" or harvest festivals celebrated throughout Africa. Three local groups — the Afro-American Club of Citrus County, Unity Church and Universal Unitarians — have joined together to present an informative and fun program of this universal and ethnic celebration.

Decorate HPH Hospice's Tree of Life this season

Special to the Chronicle

For 19 years, HPH Hospice has staged its Tree of Life celebration in November and December. It's the core fundraiser for the not-for-profit, with proceeds supporting patient and family care. Through Tuesday, interested persons may make a donation

ranging from \$5 to \$1,000 or more in memory or honor of someone. An ornament corresponding to that amount will be placed on HPH's Tree of Life at the Citrus Hospice House at Emeritus at Barrington Place, 2341 W. Norvell Bryant (County Road 486) in Lecanto. If desired, a tag with that indi-

vidual's name will be attached. Donations are accepted at the HPH Hospice House or contributions can be made online at www.HPH-Hospice.org or by downloading a donation form at that address. Donations for the Tree of Life can also be made by calling the HPH Foundation at

800-486-8784. The Tree of Life support HPH's community support programs such as free ongoing bereavement groups, holiday bereavement workshops, the Children's Assistance Program for grieving children and community workshops. For more information, call the office at 352-527-4600.



Sheila's Taurus

The Mission in Citrus Homeless Shelters was happy to be able to give a donated Ford Taurus to Sheila Douglas for helping the Mission during the past three years. She was able to move out of the shelter on her own after receiving the car. After three heart attacks and lung surgery, Douglas still helps out when she is able.

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