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94 78

Minneola axes tax proposal

ROXANNE BROWN Staff Writer

MINNEOLA — Council members honored the pleas of their constituents Tuesday, voting against a property tax hike of more than 40 percent.

Instead, city staff will go back to the drawing board to look for other ways to balance a budget with a projected \$700,000 deficit.

The workshop session Tuesday night focused almost exclusively on a recommended property tax change that would have jumped the millage rate from 4.49 to 6.4.

Unhappy residents lined up to voice their objections.

"It is not time to hammer us with higher taxes," business owner Greg Homan said. "I know one alternative and that is to cut waste, and you have plenty of it."

Another resident called the tax hike "extreme" and one referred to it as a "death sentence" — financially for residents, and politically for officials.

A fourth resident reminded the council that higher taxes would put a bigger burden on homeowners who are already struggling to hold onto their mortgages as it is. The end result could be more empty houses and less property tax revenue for the city.

See TAX, A2

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SOUTH LAKE PRESS

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Man charged with attempted murder

BRAD BUCK Staff Writer

A man allegedly went to a Mount Dora bar, talked about killing his ex-wife, drove to Clermont and was eventually charged with attempted murder, police said.

Clermont police say John William Holliday, 37, went to a bar, threatening to shoot his ex-wife and family, according to an arrest affidavit.

The alleged incident happened about 1:45 a.m. June

Clermont police: Suspect went to bar, threatened to kill ex-wife, himself

25, the affidavit said. Mount Dora police later gave Clermont police what Capt. Jon Johnson called a perfect description of the green Chevrolet pickup that Holliday was driving.

Mount Dora police also reported that Holliday said he was going to drive to Clermont to kill his ex-wife and then himself, Johnson said.

Sure enough, said Johnson, a Clermont officer



Holliday

saw the vehicle turning south from State Road 25 onto Citrus Boulevard, the affidavit said.

Clermont police dispatchers informed the officer that the driver of the vehicle was armed and had just called his ex-wife to tell

her that he was two miles from her home.

Police saw his tag light was not working and pulled him over.

By that time Holliday was less than a mile-and-a-half away from his ex-wife's home, the affidavit said.

Police found three firearms, including one semiautomatic pistol and a semiautomatic rifle — both loaded — in Holliday's vehicle, according to the affi-

davit.

Holliday had a strong odor of alcohol on his breath, so police conducted a field sobriety test on him.

Authorities charged him with DUI, driving with a suspended license and, later, the attempted murder charge, according to the affidavit and online jail records.

Holliday was still in the Lake County jail on Wednesday without bond.

Groveland community comes together to rebuild

ROXANNE BROWN Staff Writer

GROVELAND — Dozens of community residents and some government officials pledged this week to roll up their sleeves and do everything they can to revitalize a rundown, drug-filled area of the city.

To do that, they'll have to take back the neighborhood from the criminal element, clean up the yards and work on homes desperately in need of repair, and make the streets safe once again.

It won't be easy, said organizers on hand for a special meeting hosted by the Community Redevelopment Agency.

"If we're ever gonna help Groveland, it can't be a Black community, a Hispanic community or a poor community," said Pastor Tony McCoy of Hope International Church of Groveland. "What we have to do is ask, 'What do we have in common?'"

McCoy, in an inspirational pep talk reminiscent of a Sunday morning service, reminded all those present for the meeting that success depends on total involvement.

"I need you to understand this, that when you say the word community, it encompasses common unity," he said.

The targeted area, which lies just east of Groveland's main downtown drag, is long overdue for revitalization, said longtime resident Jimmy Brown.

"It should've been done a long time ago, because there are lots of things that need to be done in the community, especially for the kids," Brown said. "But leaders need to make sure this is not the only day, but a starting day, for this community."

Pledges of support were given by members of the

See REBUILD, A2



ROXANNE BROWN / SOUTH LAKE PRESS

Community members discuss proposals for revitalizing a Groveland neighborhood.

Your Money, Your Government — Groveland

LARRY ELL Staff Writer

GROVELAND — As the city of Groveland grew, its form of government evolved as well. Groveland's current structure is city manager-council, but it was changed to that format back in the 1980s, according to City Clerk Teresa Begley.

Previously, the city operated under the strong mayor form of government. The change gave Groveland the ability to maximize its interaction between elected offi-

cials and constitutional officers.

"It's a very efficient form of government because you have somebody educated and trained to run a city," Begley said.

The city council is made up of five members — four council members and a mayor. Each is elected by at-large voters, but all council members have to live in the district they represent. The mayor, however, is elected separately and can live anywhere in the city. The city's



vice mayor is chosen by the majority of the council.

Current council members include Mayor Richard Smith, who fills Seat 1, James Gearhart in Seat 2,

James Smith in Seat 3, Evelyn Smith in Seat 4 and Vice Mayor John Griffin in Seat 5.

Dolly Miller is the interim city manager. Once the budget is finalized, Begley said the council will discuss her contract. If council members decide not to keep her in that capacity, she will go back to serving as the city's finance director.

Groveland's current population is listed as 7,135 and it's total operating budget is \$24,506,600.

By the numbers

Budget

Recent Revenue	\$6,180,030
Total Expenditures	\$4,899,154

City officials annual salaries

City Manager	\$101,451
Clerk	\$57,804
Police Chief	\$87,526

Elected Officials annual salaries

Mayor	\$18,000
Councilmember	\$12,000

Questions for candidates: Lake County School Board District 1

Editor's Note: Questionnaires for other Lake County races will appear here in the next two weeks.

Jim Miller, Leesburg

Why are you running for public office?

We are in the worst economic crisis of our time — and I think the

best time to effect positive change in the system to help all kids achieve. During the boom years the system was fat, like we all were. With the recession the system was forced to make unprecedented cuts with more on the way. Tallahassee doesn't have the money, even if they wanted to give it to us.

Adversity is the best way to find

new and better ways to do things and better yet — to stop doing things the way we have always done them. We can use "We can't do it that way any more, because we don't have the money" as a club for positive change.



If you want to redesign the system for the betterment of kids, it is the perfect time to become a school board member.

What experience do you have that would qualify you for the position?

I have a strong business background. In the late 1990s, I found-



See MILLER, A2

Miller

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Lake's jobless rate remains high

Theresa Campbell
Staff Writer

LEESBURG — Lake County's unemployment rate remains in the double-digits at 11.9 percent, and is higher than the national average of 9.6 percent, according to the latest figures released Friday from Workforce Central Florida.

The number of unemployed workers in June is a slight increase from the county's 11.7 percent unemployment rate in May.

Sumter County fares better with 9.5 percent people who are unemployed.

Yet the number of jobless residents in both counties

has increased over the past two years, according to WCF. Lake County had a 11.3 percent unemployment rate in June 2009 and 5.9 percent of its workers were unemployed in June 2008. For the same time period, Sumter County was faced with 8.5 percent unemployment in June 2009 and 3.9 percent in June 2008.

WCF also noted 9,232 new unemployment claims were filed last month in comparison to 7,591 claims in May for the Orlando metropolitan statistical area, which includes Lake, Sumter, Orange, Osceola counties.

In the four-county area,

WCF said there are 128,369 people who are unemployed, while 997,483 people are working.

The agency offered the following tips for unemployed workers:

■ Apply for a Stimulus-Funded Internships.

WCF is connecting qualified job seekers, age 22 or older, with stimulus-funded employment opportunities through April 2011, where they can earn \$10 per hour and work up to 40 hours a week for three months. A list of qualifications and the application can be accessed at WorkforceCentralFlorida.com/ReEmploymentConnection.

■ Browse WCF's online job bank at WorkforceCentralFlorida.com for job leads in all industries.

Among the top five job openings in the Orlando MSA area are:

1. Registered nurses (1,427 openings)
2. Retail salespersons (1,110 openings)
3. First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers (1,090 openings)
4. Physical therapists (1,072 openings)
5. Customer service representatives (949 openings)

WFC also announced that there are programs to help

LAKE COUNTY

11.9%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

9.6%

employers in today's unemployment market, including the Employed Worker Training, where employers can apply for up to \$100,000 to train their current workforce.

The project allows employers to stretch their budgets, cross-train employees when they are faced with hiring freezes, and provide additional training to remain competitive in the market

and/or to prevent a lay off.

Employers also can apply for a stimulus-funded intern, where WCF connects qualified job seekers with 700 stimulus-funded intern opportunities with local employers (nonprofits, government agencies, health care, green or emerging jobs, science, technology, engineering or math jobs).

For information, employers may call (407) 531-1200.

More trouble for homeless shelter

Brad Buck
Staff Writer

GROVELAND — The man who recently took over a homeless shelter run by a ministry has been charged with domestic violence against his ex-wife, police said Friday.

Among the things he's accused of are beating the woman and e-mailing her a web link to a site selling sexual performance-enhancing medication.

Vincent Dominic Noffleo, 41, was charged July 7 with misdemeanor domestic violence, according to an arrest affidavit from Groveland police. As part of his release from the Lake County jail, Noffleo was told not to have contact with his ex-wife.

But just a day later, the woman returned to the Groveland Police Department to say Noffleo had e-mailed her and several other women residents of the shelter with the web link to pur-

Director charged with domestic violence on ex-wife

chase sexual drugs, the affidavit says.

Now, Noffleo also has been charged with violating the no-contact provision of his previous charge.

According to the affidavit, Noffleo said he and his ex-wife were arguing after she accused him of having an affair with a co-worker at the homeless shelter. He denied any physical contact between him and his ex-wife.

But the ex-wife said she and Noffleo were arguing about cell phone calls to women at the homeless shelter. She said that he would "see her dead before he would allow her to ruin his life and his candidacy for Groveland mayor."

She also said she called the church pastor, who told her that Noffleo had again been preying on the women at the shelter.

Noffleo eventually pushed his ex-wife

down to a chair, grabbed her head and spit on her, the police report said.

Additionally, because the woman alleges that Noffleo has a history of violence toward her, she asked her 15-year-old daughter to videotape the abuse. Police used that recording as evidence to arrest Noffleo.

Noffleo is being held without bond at the Lake County jail.

This is the latest incident plaguing the Faithful and True Ministry. Noffleo started running the shelter, run by the ministry, after the former pastors, Shelly and Linda Hall, quit after they were charged with stalking.

Linda Hall later was charged with multiple counts of fraud against the elderly after allegedly using the ATM card of a shelter resident to take money from his account, police said.

Woman dies in Clermont house fire

Theresa Campbell
Staff Writer

CLERMONT — The State Fire Marshall's Office is investigating the cause of a single-story house fire that claimed the life of a Clermont woman Sunday morning.

The woman's name has not been released.

"It was just a tragic and unfortunate event," said David Kilbury, assistant chief of administration for the Clermont Fire Department, of the fire that also killed a dog, believed to be the family pet.

Kilbury said the first call came in around 1 a.m. Sunday of a house

See FIRE, A5

TAX

From A1

Council members, who cannot vote on the final details of the budget until September, directed staff to look at other cost-saving alternatives. However, staff cannot suggest mandatory furloughs or a four-day work week for employees; cut funding for the fire department or reduce the \$1.4 mil-

lion contract with the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

Councilman Rick Roderick was the sole supporter of the property tax hike, but he agreed with the other stipulations council placed on city staff.

"I'm for taking the hat and if that means selling apples on the side of the

road, I'll do it, but this is the right thing to do and this is the right time to do it," he said in reference to the proposed millage rate increase.

Cost-saving measures the city has already taken include nine layoffs in 2009 and seven this March.

Roderick also said further layoffs should not be an option considered, but Mayor Pat Kelley and

Councilman Victor Ortega disagreed.

Ortega said a part-time job is better than no job, and Kelley said layoffs should be considered, if only on a one-year trial basis.

"There's more analytical support and work that has to be done (to the budget) and we need more numbers to justify it," the mayor said. "But this staff needs direc-

tion."

Council members suggested staff look into additional cuts in departmental spending; possible outsourcing of departments without reducing city services; the elimination of unnecessary training; reviewing telephone and operating costs for possible reductions; and the raising of other city fees.

Councilman Joe Saunders

praised the city's finance department, calling it one of the best around.

"The bottom line is for the most part, we are doing what we can," Saunders said. "We are doing what we know how to do."

Kelley called for another workshop to discuss an amended budget proposal. The date will be announced later.

REBUILD

From A1

CRA board, which include Groveland's city council members, and director Janet Shira of B&H Consultants.

As a testament to their seriousness, the CRA board chose to hold the meeting at South Street Park, located in the heart of the targeted area. A funding allotment of \$8,000 has been earmarked for the pilot project.

While those funds can help start the work, more money will be needed for the longer-term projects many supporters envision -- things like a crime watch program, programs and activities for the children, a Boys and Girls Club, and a swing set and water fountain at the park.

Others said they wanted something done -- enforcement wise -- so that the park and the surrounding vicinity could be used by children instead of being used by drug dealers or other

adults who loiter in the area.

Willa Mae Thomas, a CRA board member who lives within the community, said she thinks people are ready to stand up and say they won't tolerate lawlessness any longer.

"I think it's for a good purpose that we are all here tonight," said Thomas, "to see Groveland grow and for things to be done here. We've been in the same spot for a long, long, time."

Lt. Eddie McConnell told attendees he was proud of them for stepping forward to do something for the neighborhood.

"I'm proud to be in law enforcement, proud to be a Christian, but most of all, proud to be here talking to you," McConnell said. "But you have to stop those people that are disrespecting your neighborhood, whether they are family or friends or not."

McCoy offered to spearhead the

MILLER

From A1

ed and was executive director of WorldClass Lake County. WorldClass was a Florida Chamber initiated school reform movement. 130 Champions (business people, teachers, and administrators) spent 2 days learning best practices from superintendents, principals and teachers from all over the country. While not a political organization, many champions have been involved in shaping our school system such as: Former School Board Members Gerald Smith, Scott Strong, Dennis Reid & Becky Elswick.

I learned from my son being paralyzed and my cancer diagnosis, that every obstacle or crisis presents new opportunities. Bill is doing great and I have never been healthier -- absolutely no sign of cancer. I don't have all the answers, but with my approach and experience, I will help teachers and staff find the answers.

If elected, what would be your top three priorities?

One: From what I hear, the state will

be forced to make substantial cuts next year when the \$5 billion in stimulus money drops off. My perception is all the fat is already cut off and we are going to be forced to re-design the system to minimize the flesh and bone cuts. My business and life experiences will help insure that our kids still get what they need to succeed.

Two: The Feds -- "Race to the Top" and the State -- Senate Bill 6 are trying to shake things up. One thing we learned during our years with WorldClass is that "Top down" reform almost never works. Lake County's Teacher's Union, since back in the AFT days, has always been on the cutting edge with the Effective Teaching Center, etc. Many of their members are WorldClass Champions. I know that they will accept the challenge to help design a system that works for teachers, but more importantly, works for the kids of Lake County.

Three: I have toured all of our high

schools. I see no reason why they can't be A & B rated, instead of C & D. Not only will our kids benefit, but it will be a huge plus for the economic future of Lake County.

This will be a personal mission of mine.

What's the most important issue in this race?

The slow economy and the impending short falls -- helping the system redesign itself to function with a lot less money and still help all kids succeed.

How will you qualify for the race, by petitions or paying the filing fee? And why?

I have already qualified by petition. It was a lot of work, but a great way to get out and meet the voters and get their feedback. The fee for school board is "only" \$1,400, but as hard as donations are to get in these times I felt, I owed it to those who support me not to spend their money on this fee.

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IN MEMORY

District holds the line on taxes

Death Notices

Danny Earl Adams

Danny "Butch" Earl Adams, 57, of Bushnell died Friday, July 16, 2010. Cremation Choices, Minneola.

John Leslie Asregadoo

John Leslie Asregadoo, 62, of Clermont died Wednesday, July 14, 2010. Becker Family Funeral Home, Clermont.

Lounez T. Ball

Lounez "Lou" T. Ball, 100, of Clermont died Monday, July 19, 2010. Becker Family Funeral Home, Clermont.

Robert Conlon

Robert Franklin Conlon, 76, of Clermont died Friday, July 16, 2010. Becker Family Funeral Home, Clermont.

Imre D. Gregor

Imre D. Gregor "Doc", 87, of Clermont died Saturday, July 10, 2010. National Cremation Society, Fruitland Park.

LARRY ELL
Staff Writer

TAVARES — Lake County taxpayers won't have to pay more to support county schools.

The school board voted to approve its TRIM notice without adding an extra .25 mills to the tax rate.

When the tentative millage rates and budget are advertised on July 23, county residents will see the highest rate they'll face in 2010-11 will be 7.523 mills, down from the 7.532 rate they paid in 2009-10.

In actual dollars, if the maximum rate is adopted by the school board. Many homeowners can expect to pay 90 cents less per \$100,000 of the tax-

able value of their property. Last year, the board included the extra .25 critical needs millage in the TRIM notice, but never enacted it. This year, it decided to not even worry taxpayers with the possibility.

able value of their property.

"I've had some conversations with some business people in the community and others," school board member Debbie Stivender said. "While I

think we need to have it because we need it for the students, I don't think now is the right time to do it."

"Even without imposing the quarter mill increase, the taxpayers will still be paying more than what they paid this year and what they paid in years prior," school board member Rosanne Brandenburg said. "In light of the economic times, I can't do that to peo-

ple."

Without the additional critical needs millage, Chief Financial Officer Carol McLeod told the board there would be a nearly \$2.7 million deficit in the 2010-11 budget.

However, because the board set aside money last year in anticipation of state cuts that never happened, it has available cash to make up the difference.

Any tax increases to fill in future gaps would need to be approved by the voters, officials said.

"Our cash position to me is not alarming right now," board member Larry Metz said. "If this was on the ballot, I don't think it would be supported by the community."

Cheryl L. Holbrook

Cheryl L. Holbrook, 44, of Mascotte died Friday, July 16, 2010. Brewer & Sons Funeral Home, Clermont.

Jose E. Latorre

Jose E. Latorre, 29, of Cumby, PR died Friday, July 16, 2010. Brewer and Sons Funeral Home, Clermont.

George O. Long

George O. Long, 80, of Webster died Wednesday, July 14, 2010. Cremation Choices, Minneola.

Susan Evans Parks Susan Evans Parks, 63, of Minneola died Monday, July 19, 2010. Becker Family Funeral Home, Clermont.

M. T. Rodriguez-Cruz

Maria Tera Rodriguez-Cruz, 80, of Clermont died Tuesday, July 13, 2010. Cremation Choices, Minneola.

James Alden Swift

James Alden Swift, 55, of Montverde died Thursday, July 15, 2010. Becker Family Funeral Home, Clermont.

Ruth Haffner Thomas

Ruth Haffner Thomas, 88, of Altamonte Springs died Friday, July 16, 2010. Brewer and Sons Funeral Home, Clermont.

Maria Villanueva

Maria Isabel Villanueva, 58, of Lake Whales died Sunday, July 18, 2010. Becker Family Funeral Home, Clermont.

Maloy Williams

Maloy Williams, 88, of Clermont died Thursday, July 15, 2010. Becker Family Funeral Home, Clermont.

Ronald C. Williams Sr.

Ronald Curtis Williams Sr., 50, of Mascotte died Sunday, July 18, 2010. Becker Family Funeral Home, Clermont.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS August 2010

Health & Wellness Series

FOOD ALLERGIES

August 10, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Food allergies can manifest themselves as rashes, swelling of the skin, nasal congestion, nausea, diarrhea or anaphylactic shock. Come learn more about the diagnosis and treatment for food allergies. Presented by board certified allergist Santiago Martinez, M.D. To register call 352.394.4071, ext. 4412. Free and open to the public.

MEN'S PROSTATE SCREENING

September 11, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Brief educational program, followed by prostate screening. Includes digital exam (DRE) and prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test. Presented by Kenneth Essig, M.D., board certified urologist. Screening fee is \$10. Pre-registration is required. For more information call 352.241.7109.

WOMEN'S HEALTH DURING PREGNANCY

Prenatal care and a woman's health during pregnancy are important factors in having a healthy baby. With numerous sources of information available today, it can become overwhelming and confusing knowing what information is accurate and important for your health throughout pregnancy. Come learn about infertility issues and options, prenatal and postpartum care and other pregnancy related issues. Presented by Manny Herrera, M.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology. To register call 352.394.4071, ext. 4412. Free and open to the public.

Educational Programs

AARP DRIVER'S SAFETY PROGRAM

September 7 & 12, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

A 2-day course developed by AARP designed to update seniors on how to drive defensively. Course fee \$12 for AARP members, \$14 for non-members (make checks payable to AARP). To register call Pearl Strong 352.394.0250.

BREASTFEEDING WORKSHOP I

August 4, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Course fee \$30, or \$15 for Childbirth Education class attendees. To register call 352.241.7109.

BREASTFEEDING WORKSHOP II

August 9, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Advanced topics including maintaining breast milk supply, pumping and returning to work, and incorporating solid foods while continuing to breastfeed. Course fee, \$30.00. To register call 352.241.7109.

CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION

Express Class: August 7, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Five Week Series: August 17 – September 14, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Prepares new parents for labor, delivery and postpartum, also how to care for yourself and your baby after delivery. To register and for fee information call 352.241.7109.

CPR TRAINING

August 11, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

August 27, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation training for community members and health care professionals. Course fee \$25. For more information call 352.241.7109.

DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

August 11 & 25, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

A one day program designed to help diabetics learn self-care behaviors. Course fee \$10. To register call 352.241.7109.

FIRST AID

August 25, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Basic First Aid covering the most common medical and injury scenarios. Course fee \$25. For more information call 352.241.7109.

NAMI FAMILY TO FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Classes begin October 7, 7:00 PM - 9:00PM

FREE 12 - week series class structured to help caregivers, family members, partners, and significant others understand & support individuals with serious mental illness while maintaining their own well being. To register call 1-800-482-6847.

NEWBORN CARE CLASS

August 3, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

This class will teach you how to care for your newborn so that you will feel more confident when you take your baby home. Free to those attending five week Childbirth Education class, all others \$15. To register call 352.241.7109.

NEW VISION GROUP

August 3, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

An overview of programs and services available for people with visual impairments and adjusting to vision loss. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to New Vision for Independence at 352.435.5040.

SMOKING CESSATION

Classes held Monday evenings, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Eight week smoking cessation course. Instructor teaches a step-by-step method for changing behavior, quitting smoking or other nicotine addiction habits. Course fee \$50. For more information call 352.241.7109.

Support Groups

BETTER BREATHERS

Will Resume in the Fall

Support program for people with chronic lung and breathing problems. Free program. For more information call 352.241.7109.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

August 12, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Free program. For more information call 352.227.4410 or 352.429.9343.

FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP

August 11, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Free program. For more information call 352.394.0833.

JOINT REPLACEMENT EDUCATION

August 3 & 17, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Program for patients scheduled for hip or knee replacement surgery at South Lake Hospital. Free program. For more information call 352.394.4071, ext. 4419.

LUPUS SUPPORT GROUP

August 21, 12:00 PM

Free program. To confirm date and time, call 352.394.4210.

MOM'S MORNING OUT

Classes held Wednesday mornings, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Bring your newborn to six month old and join our casual, fun and supportive group as we discuss parenting issues and provide professional breastfeeding support. Free program. Located at the Centre for Women's Health 2nd floor Sunroom. For more information call 352.241.7109.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS GROUP

August 25, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Free program. For more information call 352.241.7109.

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are held at the National Training Center (NTC), 1935 Don Wickham Drive, Clermont

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Letters

Letters are limited to 350 words on a single issue of public concern. They should either be written by a South Lake resident or address an issue of specific relevance to South Lake. They must be original, signed with the full name of the writer, and include the writer's address and telephone number for verification. Letters will be edited for length, grammar and clarity. No open letters, form letters or copies of letters to third parties will be published. Writers are limited to one letter per month. Letters may be

submitted by mail, e-mail or fax.

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Clermont, FL 34711

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VETERANS



If you know of a Lake County veteran whose name should be added to the Lake County Veterans Memorial, call (352) 314-2100 or visit www.lakeveterans.com

Opinion



Kids rise up along with new school

It's a wonderful situation when circumstances and need collide, resulting in a quality solution. And that appears to be what happened with the nearly century-old Lee Adult Center near downtown Leesburg.

For the last four years the adult center has been vacant, as if waiting for the right answer to its problem. Now it's been solved. And the catalyst for this answer was Shelia Smalley.

Smalley is a former teacher, administrator and University of Central Florida professor who, since her freshman year at Bethune-Cookman College, wanted to open her own school.

That nearly-lifelong interest reached fruition when it was announced the Humanities and Fine

Arts Charter school would open Aug. 23 on the property upon which the adult center sits. Fourteen portable classrooms are being installed.

The charter school is open to all Lake County kids. It will start with kindergarten to second grade this year and eventually it will expand up to fifth grade. The school will be operated entirely on money provided by the state and funneled through the school district.

The city is leasing the property to the school for \$1 a month. It had been vacant since Leesburg High School's ninth-grade center moved about five years ago.

This collaborative effort saves the school district thousands of dollars in electricity costs, and it puts to use buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places (they were built in 1915 and 1917, respectively).

It seems a perfect solution to what had been an ongoing problem. For years, ideas for the vacant adult center had been broached and, ultimately, discarded. Among them: Beacon College could use the center for expansion purposes; it could be used as a bed and breakfast or turned into apartments or condominiums; the building could become a museum.

The cooperation displayed between the city and school system in making Smalley's dream come true should be applauded. So, too, should Smalley's dream — to help kids who show an interest in these areas of study excel.

What remains now is to make certain it does succeed. Continuing support from the city and school district is essential.

An enterprise like this deserves all the help it can get.

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Four-year-old Travis Ray of Minneola, center, didn't get to meet Boba Fett, his favorite Star Wars character, but was awed by Darth Vader and his stormtroopers during a visit by the 501st Legion Florida Garrison Saturday at the Cooper Memorial Library in Clermont. His sisters, Paige, 7, and Sophia, were just along for the ride, their father joked.

The Empire strikes Clermont

Elements of the 501st Legion, also known as Vader's Fist, invaded Clermont's Cooper Memorial Library last Saturday.

Visit dailycommercial.com to watch the stormtroopers — and a few rebels — show kids the power of the Force.

Right: Dressed as Darth Vader, Gabriel Stalnaker shows his light saber to 3-year-old Velouria Whitford.



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ALDRICH

FIRE

From A2

fire and entrapment at 538 Lake Ave., which was followed by 911 calls from neighbors.

"The first person to arrive from the city was a police officer and he confirmed that there were heavy fire conditions," Kilbury said. "The first engine arrived, probably within four minutes of the original 911 call, and they reported heavy fire on the front of the structure, and the next engine arrived and started the search."

During the interior search of the home, firefighters removed the victim, who was taken to South Lake Hospital.

"They (the neighbors) were concerned when the victim was brought out. It was difficult for them," Kilbury said. The victim was taken to the burn unit at Orlando Regional Medical Center, where she died.

"I did see a garden hose on the front lawn," Kilbury said, responding to reports that the woman's husband tried to put out flames before firefighters arrived.

"Most of the fire was out when I arrived, the guys put it out very quickly on arrival, but I did see amateur video that showed a very significant fire and a garden hose wouldn't have done much to control the amount of fire that coming from the front windows."

Kilbury said he has not been informed of any findings in the investigation by the State Fire Marshall's

Office.

"I'm sure that they will have a formal, detailed

investigation," he said. "It may still be awhile until a cause is determined."

Officials identified the woman as 41-year-old Dawn Cannon.

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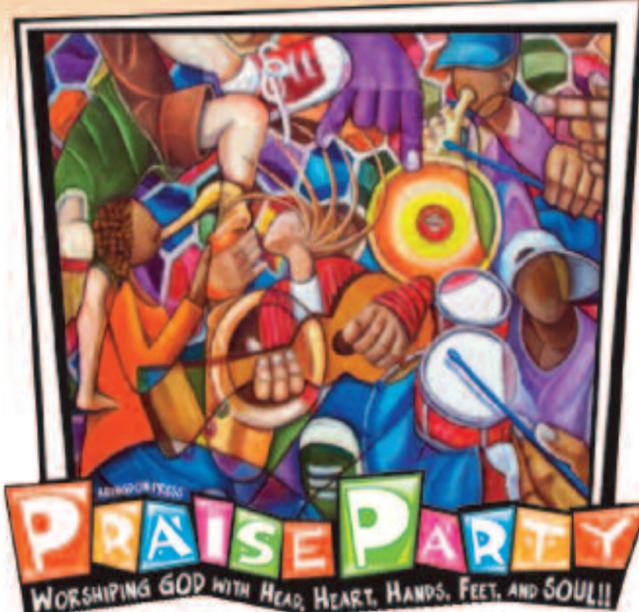
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1. Any resident of any area within South Lake Press's circulation area may enter. Participants must be 21 years of age or older. Employees of South Lake Press, their immediate families, independent contractors and carriers of South Lake Press are ineligible. Drawing will be held each Thursday. Entry forms must be received by Wednesday at noon following the Friday publication. South Lake Press retains the right to publish the winner's name in the following week's newspaper.
2. Official entry form: Limit one entry per person per week. Entries must be made on the official entry blank published in South Lake Press. All entries become property of South Lake Press.
3. Winners will be notified via the phone the week following the drawing. If unable to reach winner, the prize will be given away the upcoming week.
4. Claiming a prize: Winner must present proof of age with a drivers license or Social Security card. Alteration of these documents will lead to immediate disqualification.

Each Friday the readers of South Lake Press will receive a Bingo. By correctly identifying Bingo chips in several advertiser's ads, you'll qualify for the drawing to be held each week. Entries may be mailed or delivered to South Lake Press. South Lake Press's Bingo are available each week at: 732 W. Montrose St, Clermont, FL 34711. No purchase necessary. Please print legible, we are not held responsible for misspelled names.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Today

Lou Burdette Caregiver Auction: 5:30-9:30 p.m., Tavern on the Green at Sanctuary Ridge, 2601 Diamond Players Club, Clermont. Live and Silent Auctions, Chinese Auction, 50/50 Drawing, Prizes. Contact Mary Lou Burdette-Wielozynski at 255-7017.

Saturday

Christmas in July: Haley's House Maternity Home Thrift Store, 1203 West Highway 50, Clermont. All items will be 50-75% off, pictures with Santa, refreshments and fun. For information call 243-7797.

July 26

Opera@thelibrary July showing: 2:00-5:00 p.m., Opera@the Library's July showing is Puccini's Manon Lescaut at Cooper Memorial Library, 2525 Oakley Seaver Drive, room 108B, Clermont. The 1983 Royal Opera at Covent Garden production being shown features Placido Domingo, Thomas Allen and Dame Kiri te Kanawa in the title role. Brief introduction by Norma Trivelli, adjunct professor of foreign languages and voice at Lake-Sumter Community College. Program is free and light refreshments will be served at intermission. Contact Dennis Smolerak at 536-2275.

July 29

Libertarian Judaism Religion for the 21st Century: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Cooper Memorial Library. For information call 536-2275.

Fair Housing Program: 6-7 p.m., Cooper Memorial Library. For information call Lumy Panzardi at (407) 841-7777 ext. 2116.

August 3

Yoga at the Library: instructor Setniwas Vashist, 12-1 p.m., Cooper Memorial Library. Contact Dennis Smolarek at 536-2275.

August 5

Yoga at the Library: instructor Setniwas Vashist, 12-1 p.m., Cooper Memorial Library. Contact Dennis Smolarek at 536-2275.

August 6

Clermont Girls Softball Sign ups: 6-9 p.m., Hancock Park, 3301 Hancock Road, Clermont. Visit www.clermontgirlssoftball.com.

August 7

Clermont Girls Softball Sign ups: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Hancock Park, 3301 Hancock Road, Clermont. Visit www.clermontgirlssoftball.com.

August 13

FAITH Neighborhood Center luncheon: to benefit the Dele Smythe Scholarship fund, 12-2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Clermont. Guest speaker Dr. Steven Saunders, buffet luncheon, door prizes, raffles, games and fun. Contact Dawn Scott at 242-8269 to RSVP by August 9.

Clermont Girls Softball Sign ups: 6-9 p.m., Hancock Park, 3301 Hancock Road, Clermont. Visit www.clermontgirlssoftball.com.

August 14

Clermont Girls Softball Sign ups: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Hancock Park, 3301 Hancock Road, Clermont. Visit www.clermontgirlssoftball.com.

Preparing the Landscape for Hurricanes: author Ginny Stibolt, 11 a.m., B.B.Brown's Gardens, Clermont. Lunch, discussion and book signing. RSVP to 429-5566 or bbbrowns@earthlink.net.

Summer Ongoing Events

Cagan Crossing Summer Reading Program: June 14-July 30, 16729 Cagan Oaks in Four Corners, Clermont. Preschool Storytime for ages 2-5, 11 a.m., Mondays. Crafts for K-5th grade, 1 p.m., Mondays. Large Group presentations, 10:30 a.m., Tuesdays. Baby and toddler

storytime for ages newborn-2, 11 a.m., Wednesdays. Movies and Munchies, 1 p.m., Thursdays. Call the youth department at 243-1840.

Baysinger Memorial Summer Reading Program: June 15-July 27, free events and Summer Reading Incentive Program, 756 West Broad Street, Groveland. PG movies, 2 p.m., Thursdays. Call 429-5840.

Minneola Half Day Summer Camp: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., June 21-August 13, Minneola Trailhead Park. Call 394-3598 ext. 227 or register at Minneola Recreation Department at Minneola City Hall.

Bright Start Learning Center: summer camp, The River Church, 796 Hook Street, Clermont. Call 243-4220.

Montverde Academy Summer Camp: information and registration at www.montverde.org or call (407) 469-2561.

Woodlands Lutheran Church and School: weekly summer programs for PreK-5th graders. For more information call (407) 469-2525 or visit the website at www.woodlandchurch.com.

Clermont Girls Softball Registration: online registration, accepting girls ages 4-16. Sign up open for our new age group, 17 and over. Register at www.clermont-girlssoftball.com. Season starts in August.

Clermont Softball League for Adults: registration open to new and returning teams, City Hall, 685 West Montrose Street, Clermont. Call 341-7352 or visit www.cityofclermontfl.com. Season runs August 23-November 10.

Angels of Mercy Thrift Store: Buy one, Get one sale, 1330 Millholland Drive, Clermont. For information call 394-4094.

Ongoing

CPR Program: first Tuesday each month, \$15. Call William Harrison, Fire Captain at 394-7662.

Minneola Market: 3-6 p.m., every Tuesday, Minneola City Hall, 800 N. U.S. Highway 27. Visit www.minneola.us or call 394-3598 ext. 229.

Groveland Farmer's Market: 2-7 p.m., every Friday, Lake David Park, 450 S. Lake Ave. Call 429-2141 ext. 231.

Downtown Clermont Farmer's Market: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., every Sunday, Montrose Street. Call 394-8618.

Cagan Crossings Community Library: 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday through Saturday.

Cooper Memorial Library: 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday through Saturday.

Marion Baysinger Memorial Library: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday and Wednesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Minneola Schoolhouse Library: 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Angels of Mercy Thrift Store and Food Pantry: store hours, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Food pantry hours, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, 1330 Millholland Drive, Clermont, behind Burger King.

Edge Memorial United Methodist: Clothing Closet, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 441 S. Main Ave, Groveland. Call 429-8146.

New Beginnings Change Boxes: New Beginnings has placed change boxes in banks, restaurants and retail stores around the Clermont area. All proceeds from the change boxes will be used to benefit recovery programs for the homeless. For information call Sandy Williams at 404-6946.

Give a Kid a Backpack and Clean the World: ask for monetary contributions or gently used and new tents to be dropped off at 8018 Sunport Dr., suite 206 in Orlando. Call (877) 452-7225 or visit giveakidbackpack.org.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office with the City of Minneola: COPS, Citizens on Patrol, accepting applicants for the program. Call Sgt. Steve Stevenson at 267-4701 or email steve.stevenson@lcsco.org.

To update, delete or add items in this column, e-mail kristingatlin@dailycommercial or fax to 394-8001.

HEALTH CALENDAR

Ongoing

Breastfeeding Workshop: sponsored by South Lake Hospital. Call 241-7109 to register.

Cardiac Rehabilitation Program: cardiac patients who have suffered heart attack, who have stable angina or who have had heart surgery are encouraged to participate. Learn to manage controllable risk factors and receive a customized exercise program. For information call (407) 296-1599.

Cleaning for a Reason: provides FREE housecleaning for women undergoing chemotherapy. Visit www.cleaningforareason.org.

Lake County Health Department Vital Statistics office: South Lake Hospital's Centre for Women's Health, 1099 Citrus Tower Blvd., Visit www.lakechd.com or call 241-9723.

New Vision for Independence: seeking donations and support for the New Vision Braille Textbook Drive. Call 435-5040.

South Lake Pregnancy Care Center: free pregnancy test, maternity clothes, baby items, parenting classes, life skill classes, childbirth preparation classes, post abortion counseling, diapers, baby food and counsel-

ing. All services are free. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, 1203 West Highway 50, Clermont. Call Eddie Judge at 242-0257.

24 Hr. Haven of Lake and Sumter Hotline: 753-5800.

Mondays

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous: 9-10:30 a.m., Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, room 4, 720 12th St., Clermont. Call John or Bob (863) 422-0389.

The Lake County Health Department: prescription assistance, 1-4 p.m., Monday and Wednesday by appointment only, United Way office, 415 Citrus Tower Blvd., Clermont.

Tuesdays

Pediatric Immunizations: offered by WIC of Lake County Health Department, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday. Call 357-1668.

Narcotics Anonymous: 8 p.m., Tuesday, Minneola Alliance Church, room #3, 405 Main Ave., Minneola. Call 319-5617.

Relative Caregivers Raising Children



KERI RASMUSSEN-BEKIER / SOUTH LAKE PRESS

A group of students from China visit Clermont's Historic Village on Wednesday. Education First helped facilitate the exchange program in which students learn about American culture and practice English.

Strangers in a strange land

International students take in Clermont's culture

ROXANNE BROWN
Staff Writer

There are some new faces in town. About 50 Chinese students and 106 others from various parts of the world, including Russia, Denmark, France and Spain, are visiting the South Lake area.

On Wednesday, the group from China took a stroll through Clermont's Historic Village, examining the living history of the various attractions and snapping pictures.

The things they saw taught them about the area and filled in some of the gaps as to how people here lived centuries ago.

"It is very interesting because the culture here compared to the culture in China is very different and new to us."

Hua Yi Yang, 16

pared to the culture in China is very different and new to us," Hua Yi Yang, 16, said.

Yang, who chose to go by the American name "Bob" while here, commented on what he's noticed since his arrival in Clermont.

"The technology is a little more advanced at the time period where we're at," Bob said.

After touring the Townsend and Kern Homes at the Historic Village, what seemingly affected Bob the most was just imagining how people could have lived in unconditioned homes in this heat.

Zhiling Gu, 13, also said she liked the games and the old Victrola that when wound, still plays the music of long ago.

"We played some old games the people used to play (hopscotch, jump rope and jacks) and the house of Kern is very fun. Also, the intro to the platform of the train is fine," Gu said.

Jake Lin, 13, one of group's leaders, found the houses in the area and the transportation quite different than what he's used to.

"It's interesting because these kinds of houses let us know the history of this town and one of the teachers let us play the games people used to play and it was fun," Lin said. "But in China, most of us live in tall buildings and the traffic here is less."

Lin, who is from Shanghai, said that because of the congested roads and extensive traffic in China, many people get around on bicycles, on foot or by train.

Skylar Ezell-Denman, 11, of Clermont, whose family is hosting three Chinese girls at their home, said she has enjoyed getting to know her

new friends, as well.

Ezell-Denman said she was surprised to hear about the differences in the Chinese educational system as compared to what she's used to here.

"They basically do school the whole time," Ezell-Denman said.

Dolores Walker, the South Lake Historical Society's Secretary/Treasurer, said she personally loves the idea of people simply learning about people.

"My feeling about international is programs like these is that the more down to earth and truly true facts about life that can be taught is much more important than the technology and things like that," Walker said.

"What we want is for them to look at us like people like they are people. I think that's when understanding begins. We're all the same, really," she said.

The international visits were facilitated through a program offered by the Education First Foundation, a company that provides

opportunities for international education through tours, exchange, host family, au pair

See STRANGE, A11



KERI RASMUSSEN-BEKIER / SOUTH LAKE PRESS

Zhiling Gu, 13, left, and Tina Chen, 16 right, practice a ring toss game at Clermont's Historic Village on Wednesday.

HEALTH

From A8

Support Group: 6:30 p.m., first Tuesday, First United Methodist Church of Clermont, 950 7th St., Clermont. Call 394-2412.

The Greater Clermont Foundation: support group, 7-9 p.m., second Tuesday, 927 7th St., Clermont.

The Greater South Lake Area Parkinson's Support Group: 3 p.m., third Tuesday, Cooper Memorial Library, room 108-A. Call Deborah Snow 406-8465 or e-mail redc-snow@yahoo.com.

Wednesdays

Narcotics anonymous: 8 p.m., Wednesday, Wootson Temple, 836 Scott St., Clermont. Call 319-5617.

Thursdays

Domestic Violence Women's Empowerment Group: Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties, 6 p.m., Thursday, 2105 Hartwood Marsh Rd., Suite 6, Clermont. Call

787-5889.

Support Group for Caregivers of Alzheimers and Dementia: 2 p.m., third Thursday, The Best Little Thrift Shop Complex, 415 Citrus Tower Blvd., Clermont. Call Betty Ann Gross at 394-5549, Deborah Snow at 406-8465 or Sharon White at (407) 466-6445.

Fridays

Narcotic anonymous: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Shepherd of the Hills, 13600 Caspian Lane, Clermont. Call 319-5617.

Emotions Anonymous: support group, 7 p.m. Call Mickey at 394-0858.

New Vision for Independence: support group, 1-3 p.m., fourth Friday, Asbury House, 949 7th St., Clermont. Call Florence at 429-3030.

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Community college may go to 4 years

Mojock: It depends on economy

THERESA CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

Lake-Sumter Community College could be offering four-year degrees within the next five years if the economic climate improves and community support continues to grow.

District trustees will vote tonight on LSCC's future, which includes a recommendation that the college begin planning to offer four-year degrees.

Dr. Charles Mojock, LSCC president, believes many of the nine trustees will vote in favor of that course of action.

"It's hard to project out, but if you look at a five-year time span, I would say sometime in that next five-year

period, we'll likely be moving toward offering some degrees at the four-year level," Mojock said Monday.

More than 30 community leaders in Lake and Sumter counties met monthly from January to June as part of the New Vision Council. Their goal: To advise the college on its future direction.

"We looked at the big picture and said that we are fortunate to have good partners now," Mojock said of the college's partnership with the University of Central Florida. Their DirectConnect program guarantees participating LSCC students they can enroll on UCF's main campus, or its regional site on LSCC's South Lake campus.

Mojock said the partnership with UCF ensures that for now, students in Lake and Sumter counties will have higher education options.

In his final address to the New Vision Council, Mojock offered a new model for LSCC's future role — a Partnership-Integrated Model that addresses the community's desire for greater access to bachelor's degree programs on the local level, such as growing its program offerings with UCF, which would avoid costly duplication of resources.

"But, there could be some areas that need to be addressed in the future that either UCF can't, or is not interested in, because of the program size or the field is

not one that they are looking at from their planning to pursue," he said.

The president said LSCC wants to meet the needs of the community and provide workforce-related bachelor's degrees.

"We'll seek out who is in the best position to deliver those degrees. It could be us, it could be UCF, or it could be another," he said, adding LSCC also has a partnership with St. Leo, which offers online courses.

The weak economy has played a hurdle in planning for the future, the president said.

"The state funding situation certainly played a role in terms of the uncertainty about trying to get funding for any new programs," Mojock said. "Just trying to

keep the funding for what we have has been the challenge, so that has been a big consideration."

Yet, he proudly noted that LSCC continues to grow.

"We've had double-digit growth the last three years, and currently we're up 14 or 15 percent over the same time last year in looking at our fall registration," Mojock said. He said he expects the enrollment to be around 5,400 students on LSCC's three campuses.

"We have the kind of programs that students and families need when the economy is difficult," the president said. "They're coming back from the workforce to be re-trained, or they're parents, trying to figure out how they pay the bills and send their kids to

college.

"The community college is still much more affordable. It's very attractive to both adults and students coming right out of high school and starting their college career."

Mojock said LSCC will remain the "college of the community," regardless a possible name change in the future to reflect its new direction and program offerings.

"We're not going to start in another direction and do things that aren't responsive to our community," Mojock said. "If we have to change our name, we want the community to know that they are still our reason for being and we're going to do things that meet the needs of this community."

YOUTH CALENDAR

Summer Ongoing Events

Summer Reading Program: June 14-July 30, 16729 Cagan Oaks in Four Corners, Clermont. Preschool Storytime for ages 2-5, 11 a.m., Mondays. Crafts for K-5th grade, 1 p.m., Mondays. Large Group presentations, 10:30 a.m., Tuesdays. Baby and toddler storytime for ages newborn-2, 11 a.m., Wednesdays. Movies and Munchies, 1 p.m., Thursdays. Call the youth department at 243-1840.

Baysinger Memorial Summer Reading Program: June 15-July 27, free events and Summer Reading Incentive Program, 756 West Broad Street, Groveland. PG movies, 2 p.m., Thursdays. Call 429-5840.

Minneola Half Day Summer Camp: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., June 21-August 13, Minneola Trailhead Park. Call 394-3598 ext. 227 or register at Minneola Recreation Department at Minneola City Hall.

South Lake High School Baseball Camp: 9 a.m.-12 p.m., July 26-28, ages 6-12 years, South Lake High School. Call Kerry Whetro at 551-7908 or email whetrok@lake.k12.fl.us.

South Lake High School Baseball Camp: 5-8 p.m., July 26-28, Jr High-High school age, South Lake High School. Call Kerry Whetro at 551-7908 or email whetrok@lake.k12.fl.us.

Harmony in the Streets Day

Camp: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., August 2-6, Groveland Elementary School. Free camp sponsored by the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches. Visit www.youthranches.org.

The Emperor's New Clothes: 9 a.m.-12 p.m., August 2-6, Minneola City Hall. Register online at www.caponimusic.com.

Soccer Camp: 9 a.m.-12 p.m., August 9-13, Minneola Alliance Church, 405 South Main Ave, Minneola. Students grades K-5. Registration 4:30-7 p.m., July 29. For information call 394-2028 or email minneolamachurch@embarq-mail.com.

Minneola Schoolhouse Summer Reading Program: read-

ing programs for all age groups from infant through adult. Reading prizes given out. Visit www.minneola.us.

Bright Start Learning Center: enrolling summer camp, The River Church, 796 Hook Street, Clermont. Call 243-4220.

Woodlands Lutheran Church and School: weekly summer programs for PreK-5th graders. Call (407) 469-2525 or visit www.woodlandschurch.com.

High School Homeschooled students wanted: volunteer opportunity for homeschooled students interested in a career in Elementary Education. Minimum 18 week commitment. Earn college credit. Contact Juliet Langer

at langerj@lake.k12.fl.us.

Clermont Girls Softball Registration: online registration open, accepting girls ages 4-16. Signs up open for new age group, 17 and over. Register at www.clermontgirlssoftball.com. Season starts in August.

Ongoing

Give a Kid a Backpack by Kidz: call (877) 452-7225 or visit info@giveakidbackpack.org.

Max's House 4 Teens: Game Night, 6-9 p.m., Saturdays, 756 West Ave, Clermont. Call 243-1628.

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FAITH CHAT

July

Woodlands Lutheran Church VBS: July 25-29. For information call (407) 469-2525 or visit www.woodlandschurch.com.

Ongoing

Congregation Sinai of Minneola: religious school has openings for children ages 8-13. Call 243-5353.

South Lake Presbyterian Church Food Pantry: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Mondays and Fridays. Call 394-2753.

South Lake Presbyterian Church Meals on Wheels: 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Tuesday and Thursdays Reservations required, call 394-7905.

The FAITH Neighborhood Center: seeking donations of clothing, food, bed linens, blankets, etc., 7432 State Road 50, Groveland. Call 429-1200.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church: newspaper and magazine recycling program, 13600 Caspian Lane, Clermont. All proceeds from recycling benefit the FAITH Neighborhood Center food bank. Call 242-9519.

The Mission of Project Zion of Zion Lutheran Church: seeking donations to assist South Lake county neighbors with food, prescriptions, and utilities. Call 429-2960.

STRANGE

From A9

and language programs.

Student visitors participate in daily classes and activities provided by the foundation, but stay with host families around the community who have volunteered through participating churches in the area.

"We are so grateful for those residents who have opened up their homes to them," Education First's Program Leader Nancy Ezell-Denman said.

According to Denman, the Historic Village was the students' first outing, to be followed by many more, including downtown Winter Garden, Disney World, Daytona Beach, Weeki Wachee Springs and the Oakland Preserve for a small taste of Florida's wildlife.

"We're taking them to the preserve so they can see themselves some real live alligators," Ezell-Denman said.

Mondays

Hallelujah Acres: support group, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., first Monday. Call 394-7702.

ATF Youth Group for Middle/High School students: 7 p.m., The River Church, 796 Hook Street, Clermont. Call 243-7507.

Wednesdays

Edge Memorial United Methodist Church Connection: dinner, 6-7:15 p.m.; choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., 441 S. Main Ave, Groveland. Call 429-2572.

Edge Memorial United Methodist Church: Celebrate recovery group, 5:45 p.m., 441 South Main Ave, Groveland. Call (407) 257-3889.

Men of Steel: 6:30 p.m., The River Church, 796 Hook Street, Clermont. For men ages 20-35. Call 243-7507.

Minneola Alliance Church: prayer services, 7 p.m., Washington St. and Main Ave. Call 394-2028.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church: worship service, 7 p.m., 13600 Caspian Lane, Clermont. Call 242-9519.

Christian Men in Action: 8-9 p.m., second Wednesday, New Jacob's Chapel, 410 W. Hwy 50, Clermont. Call (321) 537-1906.

Thursdays

Windermere Union Church Support Group for adoptive and foster parents: 6-7:30 p.m., second Thursday, 10710 Park Ridge-Gotha Rd., Windermere. Call (407) 876-2112 or (407) 947-3613.

Incessory Prayer: 7 p.m.,

The River Church, 796 Hook Street, Clermont.

Fridays

Real Life Christian Church: support groups, 7 p.m., 1501 Steve's Road, Clermont. Call 394-3553.

Congregation Sinai: services, 7:45 p.m., first, second and fourth Friday, 303A N. U.S. Highway 27, Minneola. Call 243-5353 or visit www.congregationsinai-cler-mont.org.

Sunday

Edge Memorial United Methodist Church: traditional service, 9:30 a.m. and contemporary service, 11 a.m., 441 S. Main Ave, Groveland. Call 429-2572.

Edge Memorial United Methodist Church: tweens and youth, 6-7 p.m., 441 S. Main Ave, Groveland. Call 429-2572.

The River Church: traditional service, 9 a.m., contemporary service, 10:30 a.m., Widow to Widow support group, 3 p.m., 796 Hook Street, Clermont. Visit www.clermontriverchurch.com.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church: worship service, 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., Sunday school, 9 a.m., 13600 Caspian Lane, Clermont. Call 242-9519.

Woodlands Lutheran Church: worship, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sunday school, 9:45 a.m., 2 miles North of SR 50 on CR 455, Montverde. Call (407) 469-2525.

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VOLUNTEER CALENDAR

ACS Road to Recovery: answer phones, stuff envelopes, secure drivers, manage scrapbooks, and other duties. Call 326-9599 ext. 112.

Angels of Mercy Thrift Store and Food Pantry: volunteers and donations needed urgently for four hour shifts. Call 394-4094.

Building Blocks Ministries: help adults with developmental disabilities. Call 536-9264.

Community Emergency Response Team: assist local authorities during times of natural or manmade disasters. Email mpeterson.floridaguard@yahoo.com.

Florida LAKEWATCH: monitor local lakes with boats. Call (800) 525-3928.

Friends of Lake Louisa State Park: assist with accounting, website, and newsletter. Call 468-6329 or go to www.floridastateparks.org.

Give a Kid a Backpack Foundation: help with mailing, packing, and events. Call (877) 452-7225.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program: nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. Call (888) 831-0404 or visit

www.ombudsman.myflorida.com.

Max's House: help in educational areas, music, art, fundraising, research, promotion, mentors, cooks. Call 243-1628.

Ronald McDonald House: provide a home away from home for families faced with a medical crisis for a child. Call (407) 898-6127.

South Lake County Historical Society: donate pictures of historic Clermont or South Lake County. Mail pictures to P.O. Box 121723, Clermont, FL 34712. Visit www.southlakehistoricalsociety.com or call Louise 394-1453 or Dolores 394-1390.

Superior Residences of Clermont: offer time, love, and experience to enrich the lives of residents. Training provided. Call 394-5549.

Trout Lake Nature Center: variety of activities. Call 357-7536.

Westminster Care of Clermont: participate in fun activities with residents and perform clerical duties. Call (407) 654-5988.

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SCHOOL CALENDAR

July 26
School Board and Public Hearing: 5 p.m., 315 West Main Street, Tavares.

August 2
School Board Workshop: 2 p.m., 201 West Burleigh Blvd, Tavares.

Ongoing
Believers Royal Academy: openings and scholarships available for students K-12th grade, The River Church, 796 Hook Street,

Clermont. For information contact Amanda Davis at 636-6110 or visit www.thebelieversra@yahoo.com

Bright Start Learning Center: openings for free VPK program, The River Church, 796 Hook Street, Clermont. For information contact Laura Holley at 243-4220 or visit www.mybrightstartclermont.com.

See **SCHOOL, A13**

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KERI RASMUSSEN-BEKIER / SOUTH LAKE PRESS

Harry Stauderman stands among newly planted muscadine white grape vines he hopes to use to produce his own wine at Oak Haven Farm in Sorrento on Monday.

Grape expectations

Sorrento farmer hopes to produce his own muscadine wine

LARRY ELL
Staff Writer

His earth is as fertile as his imagination.

Which is why Harry Stauderman dreams of making a good bottle of wine.

It doesn't matter that his main crops at Oak Haven Farms are strawberries and Christmas trees.

Never mind that Florida is not a friendly climate for most varieties of American and European grapes.

Stauderman's confident his farming expertise will help him prevail.

"You know, if you have a good agriculture background you can do it," he said.

"There's a lot of details that are different, but the basics are the same. This is something new and I'm still learning."

Like a fine wine, the idea

started with an inspiration and has fermented over time. It began simply enough with a surplus of strawberries.

"I was always trying to figure out what could be done with them, so I started messing around and making wine with them and it turned out rather good," Stauderman said. "I started thinking maybe we should make some wine, get a license and also grow some grapes because grapes will grow in this soil."

So, last November a new crop was planted. Two acres of muscadine grape — the Carlos variety for white wine and Noble for red — went into the ground. Eight months into the vines' climb toward maturity, Stauderman received approval from Lake County for his request to open a

micro-winery.

Now, with all the pieces in place, all he can do is wait for the harvest and contemplate the possibilities.

Since his operation is small, Stauderman says he'll be able to pay greater attention to detail and create a more hand-crafted product.

While there's no timetable for when that product will be ready for public consumption, Stauderman hopes to have some strawberry and grape wines available around Christmas.

However, just about every other detail — like how many bottles will be produced, what will the wine be called and what will the labels look like — remains very open-ended.

"You kind of play it by ear as you grow," Stauderman said. "We're still

Muscadine growing areas

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Georgia
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas

way, way at the beginning of this venture. You've got to start with a broad overall plan and fine-tune the details as you go."

KIDS IN HARMONY



Children clamber inside the Lake County Sheriff's Office's SWAT tank during the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch's Harmony in the Streets summer camp Tuesday at Tavares Elementary School. Mixing crafts, sports and other traditional activities, the camp stresses character development through respect for others and developing positive relationships, according to site supervisor Taraneh Hazrati.

VICTORIA ALDRICH / SOUTH LAKE PRESS

SCHOOL

From A11

Citrus Heights Christian Academy: open enrollment and scholarship options including Step up for Students and the John McKay scholarships are available for the 2010-2011 school year, 101 Grand Highway, Clermont. Call 394-4715.

High School Homeschooled students wanted: volunteer opportunity for homeschooled interested in a career in Elementary Education. Minimum 18 week commitment, earn college credit. Contact Juliet Langer at langerj@lake.k12.fl.us.

Imagine Schools at South Lake: free and reduced lunch program. For information call

Selenia Quinones at 243-2960 ext. 104.

LSCC Foundation Ambassador Program: LSCC is looking for students to serve in the Ambassador Program at the college. This position is paid and limited to six students per term. For information visit www.lsc.edu/ambassadors.

Step up for Students: K-12 private school scholarships, visit www.stepupforstudents.org or call (866) 406-6923.

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SCHEDULE:

July 2 The Never Ending Story
July 9 Flicka
July 16 Nanny McPhee
July 23 NO MOVIE - VBS WEEK!
July 30 Beethoven
August 6 Matilda: Special Edition
August 13 Monkey Trouble
August 20 A Bugs Life
August 27 Angels in the Outfield
Sept. 3 Lemony Snicket: Unfortunate Events

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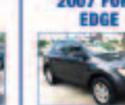
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B SECTION

Remember When Ann Dupee Chamber celebrates with barbecue



20 Years Ago – 1990

The Clermont Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a barbecue from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 5 at the Jaycee Beach Pavilion on Lake Minneola to celebrate National Chamber of Commerce Week. This marks the conclusion of the Chamber's month-long membership drive. Cost is \$3.50 and the public is invited to come celebrate with the Chamber.

In anticipation of creating an industrial park, Lake County Commissioners approved the maximum allowable industrial zoning on county-owned land at the intersection of SR 19/U.S. 27/Florida's turnpike.

Plans for the approximately 680 acres being developed by the Industrial Development Authority and the Tourist Development Council have the property being divided roughly into 285 acres for a multi-use exposition center and recreation complex, 100 acres for the school board's Public Safety Training Complex and the rest as an industrial park.

Concluding there wasn't sufficient high land to withstand grazing 500 hogs on 13.7 acres in the Montverde area, commissioners rejected a Conditional Use Permit for a hog farm on an easement west of Old Highway 50.

Commissioners approved a sand mining operation CUP on 160 acres in the Green Swamp for Ruth A. Ray, Trustee. The property is east of Green Swamp Road, 1 3/4 miles north of CR 474.

Winn-Dixie Celebrates Its 65th Anniversary. Bottom Round Roast, \$1.97 lb. 10 ears Sweet Florida Yellow Corn, \$1.78. Fresh 1-1 1/4 lb. live Maine Lobsters, \$5.97. Coors Beer, \$2.67 6-pk. 12-oz. cans. Superbrand Chocolate Ice Cream, 98 cents half gal. Pepsi-Cola, \$2.97, 12-pak. 12-oz. cans.

Mrs. Raymond V. Todd of Clermont, a former District VII director for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, installed new officers of the Clermont Garden Club: President, Mrs. Robert Hanks; Vice President, Mrs. Thomas Equals; Second Vice President, Mrs. Michael Conley; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Robert Kurz; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Arthur Jordan; and Treasurer, Mrs. Peter Chalmers.

Clermont has purchased the "Seaver" property at 865 Montrose St., one of the oldest homes in Clermont, built in the mid-1880's. The back part of the home was the Ludlum home, the front part was a portion of the Steve Cooper home, which was moved from its location near Hooks Street and Lake Shore Drive about 1910. Mrs. Cooper and her daughter, Ruth Page, ran a boarding house and home bakery there for many years.

The back portion abuts the police and fire departments and will eventually be used for expansion of these facilities. City Manger Wayne Saunders was pictured accepting the key from Oakley Seaver, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.P. Seaver, who bought the property in 1927 and lived there until their recent deaths. When the Seavers bought the property in 1927 the west 75 feet were part of the original R.C. Hooks home place. Mr. Hooks was the father of Mrs. Seaver. When the present police and fire

See DUPEE, B2

Pittman Jewelers: One of Clermont's oldest businesses

Leroy and Vivian Pittman, the owners of Pittman Jewelers in Clermont, have built a business that has brought pride to their family and satisfaction to their customers since 1945.

Throughout the years, the Pittmans have never stopped stocking excellent merchandise and giving great prices with a very personal touch.

The store's motto has always been: "Memories are purchased at Pittman's."

Leroy Pittman's parents founded the company in 1945 and opened a store in Winter Garden.

After graduating from Bradley University in Illinois, Leroy Pittman came back and worked with his parents until 1968.

He then ventured off into other realms of the business, ending up as senior vice president, running 52 stores for a multi-million dollar nationwide company.

In 1980, however, Leroy and his wife Vivian returned to Winter Garden, purchased his parent's store and opened three others in Orlando and Clermont.

Since opening in Clermont, Pittman Jewelers has become one of the city's prime businesses. The store specializes in diamonds, platinum, gold and colored gemstones, jewelry repairs and custom design.

Other services include remounting, watch and clock repair, pearl stringing and appraisals.

Several years ago, Pittman Jewelers was invited to become a member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO), the largest jewelers' buying group in the world.

According to the Pittmans, IJO gives them privileges to buy direct from manufacturers throughout the world, therefore allowing them to give their customers



COURTESY PHOTO

Pittman Jewelers has been in business since 1945.

greater savings and better quality than one would find in most mall stores and smaller independent jewelry stores.

Since then, Pittman Jewelers has earned V.I.P. President Elite status within the organization.

As a member of the South Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Pittmans also believe in the "Shop South Lake" program and they support other local businesses whenever possible to better area schools, roads and community values.

They make sure to involve the company in as many charitable events as possible.

"We also do everything we can to show our support to the community in any

way we can," Leroy Pittman said

Leroy and Vivian Pittman are not the only family members in the business.

They are joined by their children in the trade. The family and other members of staff have adopted the same values and are intent on operating the store with honesty, integrity and trust.

"There is no one else around with that much experience. I guarantee it. I've been doing this my whole life," Leroy said. "Everything is natural to us. We can do any job, small or large."

In fact, they are certain that those ideals are what have kept customers from as far as Ocoee, Orlando, Windermere,

See PITTMAN, B2

There's risk involved in developing relationship

Talking With Tori



Tori Kelley, Ph.D.

DEAR TORI,

I am developing feelings for a guy in my apartment complex. He lives only a few doors down from me and he is really handsome. When we cross paths we say hi and flirt a little bit, but neither of us has made a move to bring the relationship further than that. We have been flirting for about three months. I want to see if there is more

there, but I am also afraid that if it doesn't work out between us, there will be awkwardness when we see each other. I like where I live and don't want to move. What do you recommend I do?

— The Girl Next Door

Dear The Girl Next Door, Where there is great risk, there is also great reward. Of course if it doesn't work out there can be great embarrassment, too! You have to ask yourself if the risk is worth the reward. That being said, you are both adults and if you handle the potential for a relationship with care, you may not have to move. There are two possibilities: He likes you, too, and shares the same fear you have since you said you have both

See KELLEY, B2

Deborah Snow, community liaison

Name: Deborah Snow
Hometown: Clermont. Originally from Sidney, OH, but Clermont has been home for 26 years

Occupation: Community liaison

Family: Husband-Roger, daughter-Amie and Jon, granddaughter-Ashlynn, Greg and Heather Snow, Jen Snow

Q: What do you enjoy most about South Lake County?

A: The warmth of the people, even though the city has grown tremendously it still has that small, hometown feel.

Q: If you had to summarize your philosophy of life in one sentence, what would it be?

A: Give of yourself to others, expecting nothing in return, just for the privilege of doing it.

Q: Name a person or incident you've come across recently that's touched you in some way. Why did this person or incident impress you so much?



Snow

See SNOW, B2

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A simple path to a better life

I was sitting at my computer "surfing" for inspiration for my column. There was article after article on obesity and how people would say they don't know what to eat. (You know what to eat and what not to. You eat real food, in moderation, get your buns out and exercise and you will be healthy!)

There was another article from England on how the "junk culture" is killing childhood. Children are eating junk food, playing junk computer games and are being forced to perform in sports and academics, being forced to grow up too fast in today's world. They are losing their childhood!

Then I read an article about an 88 year-old woman doing triathlons. I decided it's time to write a positive article. So here goes!

We don't have to grow old the way everybody thinks we do. There was a book I read that purported we should be living to age 120. The author explained that what we have been told about aging is a lie since most of the studies about aging have been done in nursing homes, where it's easier to study many geriatric patients all in one place. He stated the maladies of aging are not due to age but due to lack of use (use it or lose it).

Mary Stroebe, the 88 year-old who's done 11 triathlons, skis and does other activities. She is a testament to what we can achieve. I was talking with a patient/triathlete the other day and said something about Jack LaLanne,



Michael Visconti
A.P., N.P.

Natural Medicine

but this person did not know him. I shook my head in disbelief, thinking any athlete should know Jack.

I pulled up Jack LaLanne's website and if you have not seen his accomplishments you should look him up. He was and is extraordinary.

Among his many amazing feats of strength and stamina, LaLanne swam a mile and a quarter, shackled and towing 70 boats carrying 70 people at age 70. He is now 95 and he still works out daily. He looks better on his infomercials pitching his juicer than many people walking into my office at age 60.

This is the way we can be. I am not suggesting we find a bunch of people who want to go on a slow boat ride, but I am suggesting we can age well and live long while maintaining a good quality of life. We have been so brainwashed on how to live our lives.

Let us change the brainwashing. Let us choose how we live, using the body and mind that God gave us to its fullest potential.

Here are some tips to extending life:

— Eat real food. Processed food is not as nutritious as real food. Your body needs nutrients to flourish. As

you grow older, eating well becomes more important as nutrient absorption declines.

— Don't smoke. If you do, quit. Smokers don't live as long as non-smokers.

— Exercise, or at least move. Your body breaks down faster if you don't use it. Try leaving your car in the garage for a year without using it and see how well it runs.

— Have faith. A new study shows that faith and spirituality were cited most often by people over the age of 100 as the source of their longevity.

— Decrease stress. It was reported in a survey a satisfying career can be instrumental in lessening the detrimental effects stress has on the body.

— Sleep between seven and eight hours a night. That has shown to be the number of hours your body needs to optimize functions of repair. You are not sleeping through the night if you wake for any reason.

Remember, life expectancy has risen every generation in history. Our genetics do not change that fast, which means our bodies have the ability to live a lot longer than we are living now, we just have to give them a little help. It's your life. It's your health

Doc Visconti's office is located near the Citrus Tower. If you have any questions regarding this or any other health related topics, please contact him on his website at WWW.DOCVISCONTI.COM. On facebook? Sign up for the "Visconti Acupuncture & Natural Medicine" fan page for interesting information and updates on natural health.

KELLEY

From B1

been flirty, although restrained. The other possibility is that he is just being polite, since you're neighbors. If you think the first scenario is true and you want more, then after your usual hellos, ask him if he would like to grab a bite to eat. In the back of your mind, keep it casual and get to know more about him to see if you are compatible past just his good looks. Keep it friendly, neighborly to start, while you learn about his likes, dislikes, religious beliefs, political opinions, family values, and so forth. In other words, do a proper interrogation before determining whether the relationship can move into the "lasting" category where you will be donning a white dress and merging apartments. Sleeping with the neighbor is a bad idea, because you don't want to move and if you don't do your research before you make a commitment, you are engaging in very risky business that you will likely regret in time.

To submit a question, go to www.CentralFloridaMentalHealth.com and click the "Talking with Tori" icon. Tori Kelley, Ph.D. is a licensed psychotherapist practicing in Clermont. The contents of this column are for informational purposes only and are not meant to be used as a substitute for professional therapy.

DUPEE

From B1

buildings were built, Mr. Seaver sold what is now the parking lot to the city.

Minneola Elementary School had a special million-dollar celebration. Its students were the first school in Lake County to bring in over one million dollars in Publix receipts. Trophies were presented the top five classes, which also will receive a party. Winners are Mr. Houck, Mr. Maurin, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Blackburn and Mrs. Cockcroft. All students received an "I'm A Million Dollar Winner" pencil and certificate of appreciation.

The school has already received two computers and will be getting three more Apple computers, one printer and two software packages, said principal Dennis Reid.

After more than 30 years of lunchtime gatherings, Groveland Kiwanis is changing its Tuesday meetings to breakfast at the Rainbow Restaurant in Mascotte. As a result the group is welcoming 12 new prospective members, including Bill Eyerly, Danny Strickland, Morgan Padgett, Mike Padgett, Allen Thompson, Rodney Drawdy, Mike Olson, Jack Knight, Julie Rogers, Jeff Heins, Ozell Hardy and Greg Kurfiss.

Florida Governor Bob Martine has proclaimed the month of May as "Correct Posture Month." Sponsoring the proclamation advertisement were local Chiropractors Dr. Vincent Darr, Dr. Werner Heinrich, Dr. Ken Felt and Dr. Arthur

Marceca.

The Trustees of Sumter Electric Cooperative are pleased to announce the appointment of James P. Duncan as the new Cooperative manager. He has been the Cooperative's Director of Accounting and Finance for 11 years.

The South Lake Memorial Hospital Auxiliary "Pink Ladies" installed new officers: President, Mary Vaughan; Vice President, Flo McCoy; Treasurer, Minnie Viti; Corresponding Secretary, Helen Orgo; Recording Secretary, Marjie McQuaig.

Outgoing President Ruth Mongeau and her other officers, Mary Vaughan, Polly Todd, Margaret Hendrix, Minnie Viti, Nancy Pederson and Louise Chalmers, were thanked for their outstanding achievements.

Last year, Auxiliary members logged over 20,100 hours of volunteer service and donated over \$40,000 in funds and equipment to SLMH.

Miss Teisha Wiggins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James McDuffie, who one of 300 students chosen for a free paid tour of American Musical Dramatic Academy of New York's Campus. She will be attending this college this fall.

Clermont - Minneola Loins Club member Chester Frederick presented a \$500 check to Cooper Memorial Library librarian Bonnie Homan to purchase books for the large print collection.

SPORTS CALENDAR

July

South Lake High School Baseball Camp: 9 a.m.-12 p.m., July 26-28, ages 6-12 years, South Lake High School. Call Kerry Whetro at 551-7908 or email whetrok@lake.k12.fl.us.

South Lake High School Baseball Camp: 5-8 p.m., July

26-28, Jr High-High school age, South Lake High School. Call Kerry Whetro at 551-7908 or email whetrok@lake.k12.fl.us.

August 2-4

Lake Lacrosse Learn to Play Clinic: children ages 3rd-8th grade. For information visit www.lakelax.com.

August 6

Clermont Girls Softball Sign ups: 6-9 p.m., Hancock Park, 3301 Hancock Road, Clermont. Visit www.clermont-girlssoftball.com.

August 7

Clermont Girls Softball Sign ups: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Hancock

Park, 3301 Hancock Road, Clermont. Visit www.clermont-girlssoftball.com.

August 13

Clermont Girls Softball Sign ups: 6-9 p.m., Hancock Park, 3301 Hancock Road, Clermont. Visit www.clermont-girlssoftball.com.

SNOW

From B1

A: That would have to be Ashlynn my 17 month-old granddaughter. She has an amazing personality. When I'm with her, life doesn't seem so complicated. Everything brings her joy, and she gives us so much joy.

Q: How does what you do contribute to the welfare of the area? Name one of your greatest accomplishments so far?

A: I am a strong advocate for the senior population because of all my years experience in the healthcare industry, through my current position at Angels Care Home Health and

being a Certified Senior Advisor. I started a Parkinson's Support Group for South Lake County last September. We meet once a month at Cooper Memorial Library.

Q: What's something you've always wanted to do but haven't yet?

A: Do more traveling out west, especially to see the Grand Canyon.

Q: What advice would you give to people who want to help out in the community?

A: When you give of yourself to your community, it will ultimately give back to you.

PITTMAN

From B1

Davenport and many other cities at their door all these years.

There is also Little Miss Diamond Emmee, the Shih-tzu whom many have come to know over the last 10 years.

The Pittmans said everybody knows her and she just loves children. There are plenty of Emmee stories and she's good at selling diamonds, according to the family.

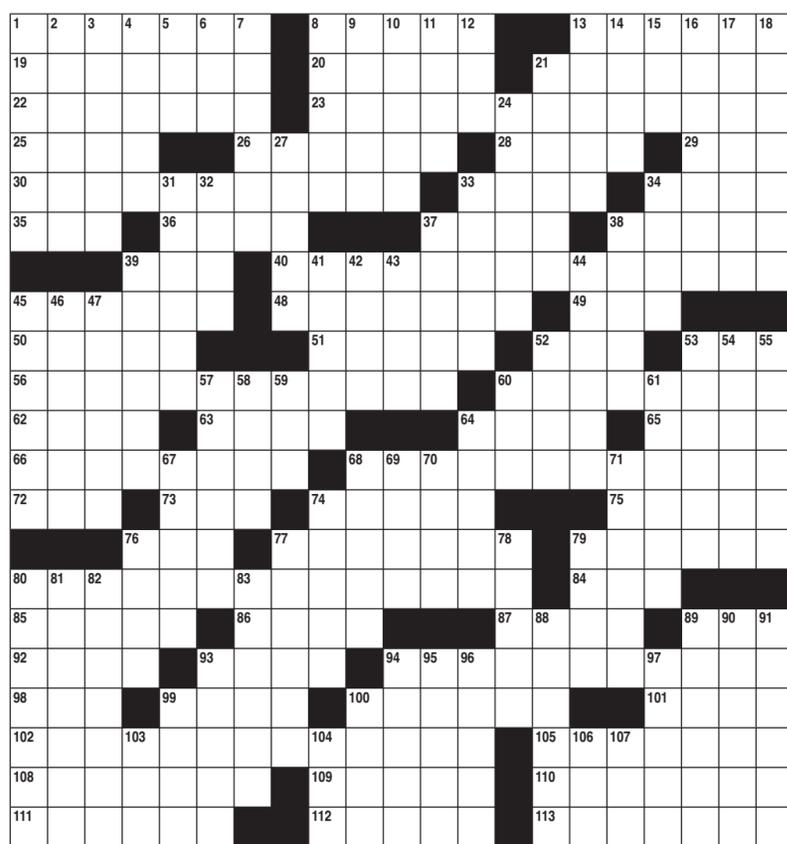
Leroy and Vivian, along with their staff, said they would like to invite people to the store, located at 675 E. Highway 50, to experience for themselves what Pittman Jewelers has to offer.

As the Pittmans say: "Try us and you'll like us," adding that every item in stock is currently being offered at special prices through December.

"Don't miss out on these great prices," they said. For information, call 352-394-2612.

AS ELMER FUDD WOULD SAY .. By Ed Sessa / Edited by Will Shortz

- | | | | |
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| Across | 49 Cartesian conclusion | 92 PBS staple since 1974 | 14 ___ of Solomon |
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| 36 Jerusalem's Mosque of ___ | 76 Intent | 1 Recover from a blackout | 43 Stereotypical debate outburst |
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| 38 Arduous travels | 79 Marco Polo's destination | 3 Gets more InStyle, say | 45 Be philanthropic |
| 39 Down | 80 React to a bitter mouthwash? | 4 Lying | 46 Clay, e.g. |
| 40 Bio for a Looney Tunes coyote? | 84 Big hirer of techies | 5 Make a choice | 47 Golden Globe winner Pia |
| 45 Bakery trayfuls, say | 85 Mae West's "___ Day's a Holiday" | 6 Singer | 52 Rite for a newborn Jewish boy |
| 48 Philosophy | 86 2003 disease scare | 7 Singer Yearwood | 53 1958 #1 hit by Domenico Modugno |
| For any three answers, call from a touch-tone phone: 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 each minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. | 87 Battle of Normandy town | 8 Singer's accompaniment | 54 King Arthur's burial place |
| | 89 Egg container, of sorts | 9 "Put ___ in it!" | 55 Solidify |
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| | | 12 ___ king | |
| | | 13 Actress Meadows | |



- | | | | |
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| 59 "The Fountainhead" writer Rand | 70 "Put ___ writing!" | 82 Cancels | 95 "No more for me, thanks" |
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| | 81 Shade of green | | 107 Child-care writer LeShan |

Solution to puzzle on page B8.

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B4

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Friday, July 23, 2010

LIGHTNING STRIKES RATS

Outstanding pitching, timely hitting brings 5-0 victory



PHOTOS BY KERI RASMUSSEN-BEKIER / SOUTH LAKE PRESS
Top: Leesburg Lightning's Robert Beary runs in to score against the Sanford River Rats on Tuesday at Pat Thomas Stadium-Buddy Lowe Field. **Above:** Leesburg's Mark Darlington makes the catch as Sanford's Drew Morgan retreats to first. **Below:** Leesburg's Robert Lake delivers in the first inning.

TREY GARANT
 Special to the South Lake Press

LEESBURG — After what could easily be called the worst game of the year for the Lightning on Monday night, the Lightning left no doubt that they are one of the best teams in the Florida League Tuesday night against the Sanford River Rats. The Lightning were phenomenal in every aspect of the game, stellar pitching throughout backed up by an errorless defense and supported by effective clutch hitting. "Overall ballgame, no question the best game we've played," said Leesburg coach Frank Viola.

Robert Lake went five scoreless innings for the Lightning, giving up just four hits and fanning four. Through his first four innings, Lake was absolutely dominant, allowing only one single and setting the

River Rats down in order in both the third and fourth innings. In the fifth, Lake ran into a bit of trouble after retiring the first two batters of the inning, giving up three consecutive singles to load the bases with two outs. But he quickly closed the door, striking out one of the best hitters in the league, Tyler Benzel to end the inning.

The Lightning were quick to give Lake run support. Robert Beary started off the bottom of the first with a single up the middle. With two out, Beary stood on second base after a

passed ball when Robert Case delivered the clutch two-out double down the right field line to collect the RBI.

The Lightning struck again in the third, when with one out Case slapped routine grounder to the third. But the throw sailed high over the first baseman's head, allowing Case to advance to second base. Mark Darlington blooped a single into shallow left to move Case to third, and Matt Pierpont drove in Case on a fielder's choice.

See **LIGHTNING WIN, B5**



	W	L	Pct.	GB
Winter Park	24	9	.727	--
Sanford	23	11	.676	1.5
Leesburg	15	20	.429	10
Orlando	12	22	.353	12.5
DeLand	10	22	.313	13.5

Tuesday's Games

Leesburg 5, Sanford 0
 Winter Park 6, Orlando 4

Friday's Games

Leesburg at DeLand
 Winter Park at Orlando

Lightning bats on ice as Mavericks prevail, 10-2

TREY GARANT
 Special to the South Lake Press

LEESBURG — The Leesburg Lightning were handed their worst loss of the year by the Orlando Mavericks Monday night. The Mavericks scored in six of the first seven innings of the game, four innings with multiple runs to give Orlando its final margin of 10-2. On the way, the Mavericks racked up 18 hits and took advantage of several Lightning errors.

Although Leesburg was able to notch 11 hits of their own, they were unable to sustain any kind of rally. In every inning except the ninth, the Lightning had baserunners, but were unable to take advantage. "Eleven hits and only two runs, once again we're just not getting the timely hits," Lightning Coach Frank Viola said after the game.

The Orlando Mavericks started their attack immediately, scoring one run on two singles and an error in the opening frame. With the exception of the third inning, the Mavericks would score two runs in every inning up to the seventh. Lightning starter Kyle Wahl struggled in his four innings of work, giving up five runs, four earned, on nine hits and recording only two strikeouts. Wahl has been outstanding for the Lightning thus far, but the Mavericks were quick to jump ahead, never allowing Wahl to get deep into counts.

Lee Hall provided relief for 1 2/3 innings, giving up four runs on six hits and two walks. Nick Wilson would then come in relief of Hall and pitch the seventh inning, giving up one run on two singles, a walk, and a hit batsman.

The Lightning were only able to score two runs on the evening, one run coming in the second inning when designated hitter Robert Case would open with a double to left-center. After a fly out, Alex Hudak scored Case in with a double down the left field line. Hudak went 2-for-4 on the night, also tallying a single in the fourth inning. In the fifth inning, Michael Albaladejo singled up the middle with one out, and Robert Beary followed with a single to left field, Albaladejo advancing to third and Beary to second. Mark Darlington collected the RBI on a groundout to the second baseman.

With eight games remaining in the season, the Lightning need to turn things around quickly to avoid dropping from third place.

2010 FC SL ALL-STAR GAME

HOME Rule

Home team takes 2-0 victory in FC SL All-Star tilt

FRANK JOLLEY
 Staff Writer

Kyle Wahl's first inning of work often is his worst. In an All-Star, when starting pitchers usually throw only an inning or two, that becomes a major liability.

At Wednesday's Florida Collegiate Summer League All-Star, Wahl's opening inning woes for the Away team proved to be the difference in a 2-0 win by the Home team at Sanford Memorial Stadium.

The game pitted 44 of the FC SL's top players in an exhibition game, similar to Tuesday's Major League Baseball All-Star game. Players from each of the FC SL's five teams took park, with half assigned to the Away team and half to the Home team.

The Leesburg Lightning sent nine players to the game. Mike Albaladejo, Nic Kovacs, Dylan Ortega, Danny Baatz, Scott Robinson and Wahl suiting up for the Away team. Mark Darlington, Mike



VICTORIA ALDRICH / SOUTH LAKE PRESS
 Leesburg Lightning's Kyle Wahl (16) pitches in the bottom of the first inning of the 2010 FC SL All-Star game on Wednesday at Sanford Memorial Stadium.

All-Star game in Leesburg could happen

SANFORD — Leesburg to host FC SL All-Star game.

That could be a future headline if the Florida Collegiate Summer League and the Leesburg Lightning can find a way to make it a profitable event for the league.

Lightning officials said Thursday the team would have no problem writing a check to the league if that would be enough to bring the game to Pat Thomas Stadium-Buddy Lowe Field. The team believes it could make enough money through advertising, sponsorships, game-day donations and concession stand sales.

First of all, let's make it clear that Leesburg and the FC SL are not at odds over the game. Both groups continue to support each other and look forward to maintaining a positive relationship.

Having said that, however, it is clear that Lightning fans want to know why the league's "Midsummer Classic" is never played at the home of the FC SL's best-supported team.

Good question. And FC SL vice president Rob Sitz had a valid response.

"(The All-Star) game goes a long way to helping fund the league's overall budget every year," Sitz said. "We usually make between \$3,500 and \$4,000 off the game, but I'm



Frank Jolley

Sports Columnist

hoping we can get \$5,000 this year. And that includes paid admission."

That's legitimate.

The league does need money to operate and, apparently, the All-Star game is a significant revenue producer. Four of the five teams in the FC SL are owned by the league — the Lightning is the only franchise with a separate ownership group.

Since the league-owned teams, combined, do not match the Lightning's league-leading attendance figures, they have to find ways to generate revenue to pay the bills. Those four teams charge admission to games, primarily because the "Pass the Hat" program likely would not fill the coffers like ticket sales do.

The Lightning — the only team that does not charge admission to its home games — survives through donations and sponsorships. And it does so

See **ALL-STARs, B5**

See **JOLLEY, B5**

Weighing the decision LeBron made

In what has to be the one of the most misunderstood stories in NBA history, LeBron James has taken a pounding around the league, in the media and especially in Cleveland for his decision to use his free agency to leave the Cavaliers and take up residence in South Beach with the Miami Heat.

Right up until the moment that LeBron told fans around the world of his 'Decision,' fans in Chicago, New York and, of course, in Cleveland were begging the King to reign over their individual courts. In an unprecedented move, gigantic banners were unfurled on country roads, railroad bridges, highway overpasses and uncounted suburban back yards suggesting that LeBron's talents could best be utilized in their city.

A MATTER OF LOYALTY?

But no sooner had he named Miami his final destination than the trouble began.

Fans in Cleveland ripped down his posters. LeBron merchandise was cleared out of the arena just a few hours later. And Cavs owner Dan Gilbert railed against his former King in a manner unbecoming an NBA owner. LeBron was a quitter, Gilbert said. And in the most absurd ranting of all, he added that "I personally guarantee that the Cleveland Cavaliers will win an NBA Championship before the self-titled former 'King' wins one." More than anything else Gilbert's statement showed why LeBron, in



Don Hunsberger

Sports Columnist

leaving Cleveland, had made the right call.

Although not in the running for LeBron's services, Magic General Manager Otis Smith felt compelled to comment. "I was surprised that he went (to Miami)," Smith chimed in. "I thought he was, I guess, more of a competitor. The great ones ... usually stay in one location." Sure, Otis, just as Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen did. Just as Shaq did.

It's understandable that Smith is upset, but it's about having to face the Heat on a regular basis as much or more than anything else.

Cleveland fans complained that LeBron had deserted them, had promised them a championship, then left them high and dry. The fact is that LeBron gave Cleveland seven years of his life (more, incidentally than the length of the average NBA career) trying to win. So determined was he to deliver on that promise that, right up until the end, he was trying to convince Chris Bosh to join him in Cleveland. The decision was about winning, not about anything else. It was only when Bosh refused that James gave up and joined his friend Dwyane Wade with the Heat.

A MATTER OF COLLUSION?

This might be one of the silliest complaints of all.

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban suggested that the NBA should "re-evaluate the issue of player tampering." Cuban objected to the fact that LeBron, D-Wade and Bosh had been talking with each other about the 'decision.' It's hard to know which aspect of Cuban's comment was more idiotic. It might have been when Cuban seemed to forget that the definition of free agency is being able to go wherever you want for whatever reasons you choose.

All three men were free agents and NBA Commissioner David Stern quite properly notified Cuban and the rest of the league that none of the three had done anything wrong.

What LeBron and D-Wade and Bosh have done is to create a new business model for the NBA. By agreeing to meet in Miami, they left millions of dollars on the table - money that would later be used to sign the talent necessary to complement the Big 3. In the prime of their careers, each man decided that winning an NBA title was more important than the money.

What's happened in American sports that we no longer respect that kind of commitment?

Don Hunsberger is a sports columnist for the South Lake Press/Daily Commercial. He may be reached at donhunsberger@dailycommercial.com.

Lightning slip past Suns, 3-2

STAFF REPORT

DELAND — Nick DeGuidice doubled down the left field line in the sixth inning, scoring Robert Case with what turned out to be the winning run last Saturday night as the Leesburg Lightning held on for a 3-2 win over the DeLand Suns.

With the win, the third-place Lightning increased their lead to 2.5 games over the fourth-place Suns.

Leesburg starter Garrett Bush picked up his second win of the season for the Lightning, allowing just five hits in an equal number of innings while striking out six DeLand batters.

The Suns jumped out to a two-run lead after two innings on an unearned run in the first and Bryan Adamez's two-out line single to center, which scored Cody Smith who had walked to begin the rally.

But the Lightning struck back to tie the game with single runs of their own. Mike Darlington's single scored Robert Beary, who had singled, to put the Lightning on the board. And in their next turn at bat, Leesburg scored an unearned run when Michael Gonzalez reached second on a double error charged to Suns first baseman Cody Smith, advanced to third on an infield hit by DeGuidice and scored on Matt Pierpont's sacrifice fly.

ALL-STARS

From B4

Gonzalez and Josh Patton competed for the Home team.

After Home starter Zach Haile recorded a scoreless opening half of the first, Wahl was greeted by Lake-Sumter Community College product Stephen Bellantoni, who singled and stole second. Brandon Thomas worked Wahl for a walk as did Jabari Blash, setting the stage for Kelvin Clark.

Clark hit a ground ball to shortstop Sam Kimmel, who stepped on second to retire Blash, but his relay to first sailed wide, allowing Bellantoni and Thomas to score.

The Home team threatened to add to its lead in the seventh. Gonzalez reached on an infield hit and moved to third on a pair of stolen bases. With one out, Tyler Benzel lofted a flyball into shallow left field, which shortstop Luis Montesinos caught with his back to the infield.

Gonzalez tagged and tried to score, but a perfect throw from Montesinos to Albaladejo completed an inning ending double play.

A highlight for the Lightning contingent, which was nine-players strong, was the performance of righthander Kovacs. Pitching for the Away team, Kovacs pitched the fourth inning and struck out the side.

Pitching dominated the contest, with both pitching staffs combining for 18 strikeouts and only 13 hits. Each pitcher for the Away team, which was managed by Winter Park skipper Clint Chrysler, tossed one inning, except Robinson and Ortega, who shared the mound in the eighth.

Sanford manager Davey Johnson, used Haile and Steven Starbird, his first two pitchers of the game, for two innings each. Haile



Team mascots strut their stuff and entertain the crowd before the start of the 2010 FCSL All-Star Game in Sanford.

was credited with the win. Joseph Munoz earned the save.

Wahl was tagged with the loss.

Gonzalez, who entered the game in the fifth inning, and Bellantoni were the top offensive players with two hits apiece.

A crowd of about 1,000 witnessed the league's 7th annual midsummer classic, which started on time despite a late-afternoon thunderstorm. Prior to the game, the league held its Home Run Derby, pitting 10 of the league's top bombers in a contest similar to the major-league version.

Kelvin Clark and Brad Hutton outlasted the competition to face off in the finals. Hutton was unable to muster a home run in the final round, while Clark launched the second pitch he saw nearly 400 feet to win the competition.

JOLLEY

From B4

because the community has adopted the Lightning and supports the team.

No other team in the FCSL can stake claim to a fan base like the Lightning.

They wish they could.

They would like to count on at least 800 to 900 fans every night.

But they can't.

The Lightning has said money is not a problem, if that's all the prevents the game from being played in Leesburg. In fact, if guaranteeing a \$4,000 profit from the game is the lone factor, the Lightning will write a check to cover the costs.

"Our fans deserve the All-Star game," said Chuck Johnson, a member of the Lightning's board of directors. "We're the only two-time winner of the league championship and we've led the FCSL in attendance every year since 2007. It makes sense to play the

game here, considering those accomplishments."

An All-Star game at Pat Thomas Stadium-Buddy Lowe Field certainly would be special. The ballpark would be packed and the atmosphere would be electric.

But there's still some work to be done to make this happen. The Lightning have done their part by insuring the league could generate the revenue it seeks.

Now it's time for the fans to step up and get involved.

Flood the league office with e-mails, stating our desire to host next year's game. Be polite when you write and don't get nasty.

The FCSL is not our enemy in this endeavour. After all, they awarded Leesburg a franchise and have acknowledged the Lightning's value to the league.

Don't make them think

Lightning fans are foul-mouthed and childish.

Simply write, "We want the All-Star game in Leesburg."

Sitz's e-mail address is rsitz@floridaleague.com. If you want to use snail mail, the mailing address for the league office is 1778 Park Avenue North, Suite 201, Maitland, FL 32751.

This is doable.

The Lightning has indicated it will do its part to bring the All-Star game.

Now, it's time to do your part — send out those e-mails or post cards!

The Lightning family — the team and its fans — has shown that nothing is out of reach when everyone comes together.

You can help make it happen!

Frank Jolley is a columnist for the Daily Commercial. Write to him at frankjolley@dailycommercial.com.

LIGHTNING WIN

From B4

In the fourth inning, Alex Hudak lined a leadoff double to the left-center gap. Beary reached on an outfield error, putting Hudak at third and Beary at second. Thomas Sicking then grounded to first, but reached when the throw came home with Hudak scoring on the play.

Jesse Holiday came on in relief in the sixth inning, giving up two singles right off the bat, and after the Rats laid down a sacrifice bunt, Holiday found himself in a jam with runners on second and third and one out. But a simple pop-up to third and a quick strikeout ended the inning. From there, the ball would be handed to Josh Patton who recorded the save, going the last three innings and striking out four batters while allowing only one base runner.

"What can you say about Josh Patton?" Viola said. He's had a great, great summer and he's getting stronger as the summer goes

on."

The Lightning would score one more run in the sixth inning, with Case picking up his second RBI of the night, to put the score at 4-0. Hudak, who had already doubled and scored a run, hit his first home run of the year in the eighth inning. The left-handed Hudak sent a 2-1 pitch screaming over the fence.

"That might have been the longest ball I've ever seen hit here in my three years," Viola said. I can say with confidence that if the Lightning play the rest of the season the way they did tonight, they can beat anyone. It was an incredible display of talent, determination, and most importantly, teamwork. "I was very proud of them tonight," Viola said.

Trey Garant is a journalism intern for the Leesburg Lightning.



Children scramble to catch the ball during a pre-game Home Run Derby

ROOT, ROOT, ROOT for the Home Team!

Lightning Schedule July 18th - July 24th

A - Sun. 7/18.....6-2 Sanford
H - Mon. 7/19.....10-2 Orlando
A - Tues. 7/205-0 Leesburg
A - Wed. 7/21.....Sanford
A - Thurs. 7/22Off Day
A** - Fri. 7/23DeLand
A - Sat. 7/24.....Winter Park

H = Home Game **A** = Away Game
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Sunday - July 25th

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Game Day Trivia -What did Babe Ruth, Rogers Hornsby, Ted Williams and Willie Mays all do in their first major league at-bat?

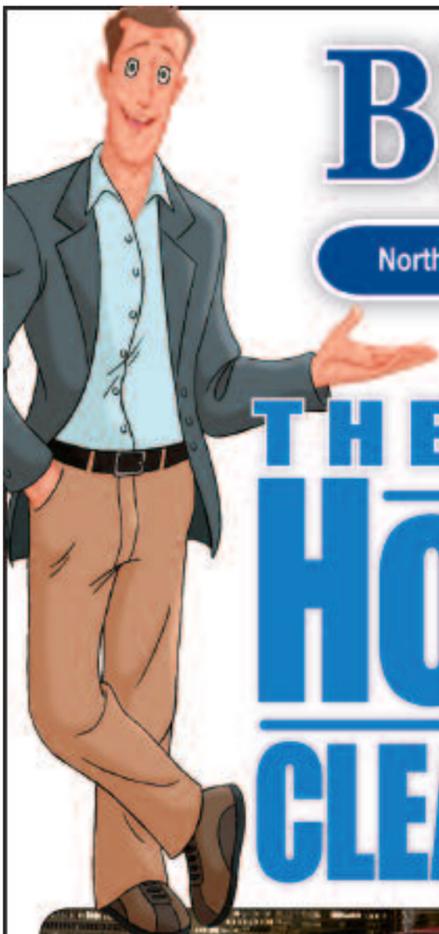
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Kiwanis awards East Ridge grads



Clermont Kiwanis awarded graduating seniors from East Ridge High School with scholarships. Pictured: Clermont Kiwanis President Richard Collins, Cristian Perez, Arti Mistry, Samantha Schultz, Matthew Bowen, Frank Gutierrez, Jessica Choy and Carolyn Singh. Missing from picture: Sara Hasunuma.

COURTESY PHOTO

Mascotte Science Fair winners



Congratulations to this year's Mascotte Elementary School Science Fair winners. The winners are from third through fifth grades.

COURTESY PHOTO

Run for Freedom

The Rotary club of South Lake presented a donation to Run for Freedom. Run for Freedom is a Florida based ministry racing to end human trafficking.



COURTESY PHOTO

Montverde readers

Montverde Academy's 5th grade girls participated in the Sunshine State Young Readers Award program by reading seven out of the 15 books required. The girls received an Ice Cream Sundae Party for recognition. Pictured: Anne Mitchell, Mackenzie Nailos, Erin Lafferty, Natalia Rodriguez, Alexandra Donnelly, Harley Ganna and Hadley Van der Reit.



COURTESY PHOTO

New Clermont Women's Club officers



The new officers of the Clermont Woman's Club for 2010-2010 are: Parliamentarian Sylvia Barto, Treasurer Helen Cooney, District 7 Presenter Kathy Harris, President Debbie Milwee, Second Vice President Eileen Scates, First Vice President Ollie Emory, Recording Secretary Ellie Fink and Corresponding Secretary Gloria Pastuer.

COURTESY PHOTO

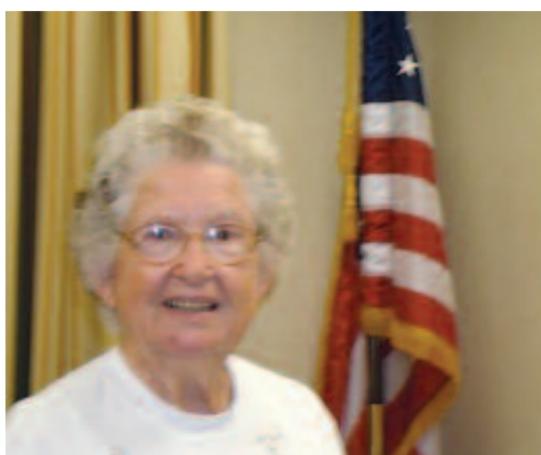
Hevener speaks to Kiwanis Club



Tony Hevener of First Priority Central Florida spoke to the Clermont Kiwanis Club. First Priority Central Florida is a not for profit organization that is working towards reaching local teens. Pictured: Tony Hevener and Kiwanis Club of Clermont President Richard Collins.

COURTESY PHOTO

South Lake Historical Society



Clermont Historian and South Lake Historical Society Secretary Dolores Walker spoke at the June 14 meeting of the South Lake Historical Society. Walker spoke about her life growing up in Clermont as a farm child during the Great Depression with no electricity or indoor plumbing.

COURTESY PHOTO

Solution to puzzle on page B2.

C	A	R	P	O	R	T	M	A	M	B	A	J	O	B	J	A	R		
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New Montverde NJHS members



Montverde Academy Middle School inducted seven new members into their chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. New Members: Skylar Knight, Meghan Emling, Anne Lee, Melissa Mankewich, Iden (Aaron) Sassani and Katalina (Alli) Lima. Current Members: Shaula Rey, Ariana Sims, Chris Cho, Dcota Sims, Danielle Pechous, Caitlin Emling, Alli Keeler, Samantha Lafferty, Rachael Metallo and Gabriela Barber. Adviser: Lisa Spangler.

COURTESY PHOTO

CLUB NOTES

Ongoing

Mom's Club: call 536-1219.
Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority: call 243-9310.

Mondays

Mops II: 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Monday, Church at South Lake, 332 Mohawk Road. Call 536-1844.

Mops I: 9:30-11:30 a.m., second and fourth Monday, First United Methodist, 950 7th Street, Clermont. Call (407) 451-1222.

Teen Mops: 5:30-8 p.m., second and fourth Monday, First United Methodist, 950 7th Street. Call (321) 206-8655.

American Legion Post 55: second Monday, West Desoto Street, Clermont.

Seniors Monday Night Bridge: 7 p.m. Clermont Recreation Club-Kehlor Building. Call 394-5803.

Sons of Italy: 7 p.m., third Monday, Jenkins Auditorium. Call 394-7828.

South Lake Christian Women's Club: 11:30 a.m., third Monday, Sanctuary Ridge club house, 2601 Diamond Club Drive, Clermont. Call 206-7111.

Friends of the Cooper Memorial Library: 5 p.m., fourth Monday. Call 536-2275.

Tuesdays

Clermont Tops 464: 5:45 p.m., South Lake Presbyterian, 131 Chestnut Street. Call 217-1258.

Green Valley 99'ers Womens: 12 p.m., Green Valley Country Club. Call Barb at 404-6401 or Rosie at (407) 469-4550.

Kiwanis of Clermont: 11:30 a.m., First United Methodist.

Sisters of Sound: 7 p.m., Community Foundation Building, 2150 Oakley Seaver Blvd, Clermont. Call (321) 276-3123.

Moose Lodge Bingo: 7 p.m., 17355 N. Highway 27, Clermont. Call 394-5936.

South Lake Rotary: 7 a.m., The Wesley Center. Visit www.southlakerotary.com.

Toastmasters #2423: 6:30 p.m., St. Matthias Episcopal. Call 242-0234.

Vocal Express: 7:30 p.m., Jenkins Auditorium. Call 394-3173.

Clermont Shuffleboard: 9:30 a.m., Tuesday and Friday, Kehlor Park, corner of Fifth Street and Minneola Ave. Call 242-9755 or 394-6597.

Clermont Woman's Club: 1 p.m., 655 Broome St. Call 243-3640.

H.I.N.T.: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., first Tuesday, Cheeser's Palace, 707 West Montrose Street, Clermont. Call 406-8465.

Mops 4: 9:30 a.m., first and third Tuesday, Real Life Christian Church, 1501 Steves Road, Clermont. Call 394-3553.

American Legion Post #239: 7 p.m., second Tuesday, Post Bldg, American Legion Rd, Mascotte.

Auxiliary Club of the National Organization of Hadassah: 12-1:30 p.m., second Tuesday, Perkins Restaurant, Highway 50 and Citrus Tower Blvd, Clermont. Call 243-9622.

Clermont Garden Club: Green Thumb Circle, 9:30 a.m., second Tuesday, Clermont Garden Center, 849 West Ave.

Democratic Hispanic Caucus: 7 p.m., second Tuesday, 466 W. Minneola Street, Clermont.

Lakecountyhispaniccaucus@gmail.com.

South Lake Bass Anglers: 6:30 p.m., second Tuesday, Holiday Inn Express. Call 396-6381.

American Legion Post #55: 7 p.m., third Tuesday, 1063 Desoto Street. Call 394-4472.

Clermont Garden Club: Sandspurs Circle, 9:45 a.m., third Tuesday, Clermont Garden Center, 849 West Ave.

Cooper Memorial Library Book Club: 6:45 p.m., third Tuesday, 821 Minneola Street, Clermont.

Seniors Singles Card Club: 1 p.m., third Tuesday, Kehlor Building, 466 West Minneola Ave, Clermont.

Wednesdays

AARP, Chapter 5199: 12 p.m., first Wednesday, Kehlor Building. Call 242-0314.

South Lake Democratic Club: 7 p.m., first Wednesday, Kehlor Building. Call 242-6541.

South Lake Philosophers Club: 6:30 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays, Kehlor Building. Call 242-2333.

Writers Group: 1 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays, 821 West Minneola Street.

Clermont Garden Club: Hibiscus Circle, 9:30 a.m., second Wednesday, 849 West Ave.

Kings Ridge Masonic: 8:30 a.m., second Wednesday, Perkins Restaurant, State Road 50 and Citrus Tower Blvd. Call 241-4530.

Clermont Downtown Partnership: 8 a.m., third Wednesday, St. Mathias on Montrose, Clermont.

Computer User's: 1 p.m., third Wednesday, Cooper Memorial Library, second floor conference room. www.rootsweb.com.

Korean Veterans Chapter 188: 1 p.m., third Wednesday, James White Center, Groveland. Call (863) 609-5112 or 243-3257.

Marine Corp League Sgt. I.W. Hatcher Jr. DRT 1120: 6 p.m., third Wednesday, Clermont Bowling Center. www.mcl1120.org.

Thursdays

American Legion Post 55: Bar bingo, 6-8 p.m., Clermont.

Business Masters Exchange: 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary Ridge Clubhouse.

Chess Club: 6-11 p.m., Kehlor Building. Call 394-6280.

Clermont/Minneola Lions: 12 p.m., Sanctuary Ridge Clubhouse. Call 394-3026.

The Groveland Writers' Group: 6:30 p.m., Marion Baysinger Library. Call 429-9154.

JUKE BOX: Doowop-Acappella Singing Group, 7 p.m., Kings Ridge Clubhouse. Call 536-1466.

Kiwanis Club speaker



Carolyn Sawyer Certified Elder Law Attorney spoke at the Clermont Kiwanis meeting. Pictured: Carolyn Sawyer and Richard Collins.

COURTESY PHOTO

Scholarship winner



Clermont Woman's Club presented a scholarship to South Lake High School graduate Terry Murray. Pictured: Carol Spaldi and Terry Murray.

COURTESY PHOTO

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Wednesday 7:00 pm

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www.thecrossingchurch.org

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Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm
Omar Walker 394-5966

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www.fumc-clermont.org
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Sun. Worship (Contemporary) 9:30 am
Sunday School 9:30 am & 11:00 am
Sun. High School POWERHOUSE 7-8:30 pm
Wednesday Men's Fellowship (at Holiday Inn Express) 6:30 am
Tuesday Middle School POWERHOUSE 6:30 - 8:00 pm
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Wednesdays
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Minister Kenneth Williams, Youth Pastor
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Sunday Services - Morning Service - 7:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday - Youth Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday - Adult Bible Study - 6:45 p.m.
Website: www.newjacobschapel.com
e-mail: info@newjacobschapel.com

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Miercoles: Estudio Biblico y Oracion 7:00 pm

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Sunday 9:30 & 11:15 am

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Sundays - 11:15 am (High School)

The Way (Middle & High School)

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(352) 394-3382

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394-1396 or 394-3004
Sunday 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
Thursday 7:30 pm

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FERNDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
at CR455 & CR561A
407-469-3888

Pastor: Gordon (Bird) Sanders
Sunday School: 9:15 am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship & Discipleship Study: 6:00 pm
TeamKid: Sunday 6:30 pm
Wednesday: 7:00 pm
Prayer Service, Youth Activities, Mission Kids for Children

GROVELAND

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441 S. Main Avenue, Groveland
352-429-2572
Rev. Dr. Donna Manwaring
Traditional Worship 9:30 AM
Lighthouse Cafe 11:00 AM
Sunday Fellowship 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM
Wednesdays 5:30 PM Dinner
Wednesdays 6:30 PM Christian Education

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

137 E. Cherry St. • 429-2651
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship 10:50 am & 7:00 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm

MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 AM
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Prayer Service - Saturday 8:30 AM
Bible Study - Wednesday 7:00 PM & 2nd and 4th Sundays 4:00 PM
Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
15641 Stuckey Loop
Stuckey, FL 34736 (West of Mascotte)
Rev. Clarence L. Southall-Pastor
Phone: (352)429-3888

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Messgae line: 352-243-5353
Email: congregationsinai@cfl.r.com
Web: congregationsinai-clermont.org

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Monday Worship 7:00 pm
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Wednesday Family Night 7:00 pm

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- Please check your ad for errors the first day it appears since The Daily Commercial will not be responsible for incorrect ads after the first day of publication. If you find an error call the classified department immediately at 314-3278 or 748-1955.
- The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for errors or for omission of copy. Liability shall not exceed the cost of that portion of space occupied by such error.

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2 Legal Notices

003 Legal Notices

NOTICE Under Fictitious Name Statute Law Pursuant to Section 865.09(3)(d), Florida Statutes

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute" Florida Statute 865.09, 2009, will register with the Division of Corporations, Department of State, State of Florida, upon receipt of proof of publication for this notice the Fictitious Name, to wit:

SOUTH LAKE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Intends to register the said Fictitious Name located at the below address:

1067 W. HWY 50
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Florida 34711

That the interested owner(s) in said business enterprise is

ROBERTO O RODRIGUEZ

Dated in Lake County, Florida this 21 day of July, 2010

Ad No.: 00228584
July 23, 2010

Need a Job? Check out Classified Section 400

003 Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No: 2010-DR-512

IN RE: The Marriage of: DANIELLE L. CAVANAGH, Petitioner, and JOHN CAVANAGH, Respondent/Husband

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

TO: JOHN CAVANAGH

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on DANIELLE L. CAVANAGH, at the office of her attorneys, Pamela J. Helton P.A., 301 North Highway 27, Suite H, Clermont, Florida 34711 on or before August 23, 2010, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at 550 W. Main Street, Tavares, Florida 32778, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.

003 Legal Notices

Warning: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: July 8, 2010
NEIL KELLY
Clerk of the Court
By: /s/A. Henry
Deputy Clerk

Ad.No: 00226890
July 16, 23, 30, & August 8, 2010

CLICKS

100 Announcement

102 Lost

CHIHUAHUA mostly long brown/blk. hair w/white paw & chest, in Tavares area next to Taco John's. REWARD! CALL 352-360-8842

GOLDEN RETRIEVERS (2) near 44 & South St. FOUND!!!

103 Found

DOG Big yellow male, white paws, found at Spillway Grill off CR 44. 352-504-0237

106 Personals

GODLY WOMAN 50 yrs looking for Godly Christian friend. For friendship or more. 352-454-2603

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ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE needed for local newspaper in CLERMONT

Candidates will maintain existing account base and solicit for new businesses in South Lake County.

We are looking for a highly motivated and organized professional individual able to work independently. Reliable transportation a must. Outside sales experience preferred but will train the right candidate.

Base salary plus commission, mileage, paid time off, health insurance, 401k & more.

Email or fax resumes to: humanresources@dailyccommercial.com 352-365-1951
Attention: Human Resources Director or drop off at: 732 Montrose St. Clermont.

CLICKS

421 Financial

Community Bank & Trust of Florida

TELLER FULL TIME The Villages Office
H.S. Diploma or GED. Cash handling exp. req'd, Customer Svc. exp., basic computer knowledge. Receives & pays out money, keeps records of money & negotiable instruments involved in financial transactions.
Apply On Line www.cbtfi.com
Or in person: 1603 SW 19th Ave. Ocala, FL
Human Resource Dept. 9 - 4pm - Mon. - Fri. EOE/DFWP

Looking for the best fishing spots, see the Outdoor page every Sunday in the sports section.
Please call (352) 365-8200 to start your subscription today.

423 Accounting

FINANCE MANAGER
Experienced Financial Manager with Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance needed for state funded non-profit. Responsible for all accounting functions, benefits administration, budgeting and regulatory reporting. QuickBooks experience preferred.
Please fax resume to: 352-435-0235 or email lbuchbinder@elcic.org
For more information please visit our website @ www.elcic.org. Resumes must be submitted no later than 5:00pm on Thursday July 29, 2010

425 Clerical

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
for a fast paced office of a Leesburg production company. Skilled in A/R, Inventory, Order Entry & Purchase Order. Computer & business knowledge req'd. Benefits avail.
Fax resume: 352-728-6002 or Email: HR@tissportswear.com

425 Clerical

CLERK NEEDED F/T Mon. thru Fri. & Sat. mornings. Apply in person: 1086 E. Hwy. 50 Clermont. Next to Dunkin Donuts

DOCTOR'S OFFICE IN SUMMERFIELD FRONT DESK & MA W/EXP. A MUST. Hrs. 11-7, Mon. - Fri. & some wknds.
Fax resume: 352-385-0033 or 352-693-2476

ORDER ENTRY CLERK
Americraft is seeking a skilled P/T Order Entry Clerk at our Mt. Dora office. Requires attention to detail, accurate, quick & efficient work habits using our company software. Also assist Accounting & Customer Service. Position is not eligible for company benefits.
Apply via email at: recruiting@americraftcookware.com

Who's Your Paper? South Lake Press!

Solution to puzzle on B2

C	A	R	P	O	R	T	M	A	M	B	A	J	O	B	J	A	R				
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400 Employment

401 Management

APARTMENT MANAGEMENT COUPLE PREFERRED. live on site. Salary, 2 br. apartment, plus util. & paid vacation, etc. Great for retiree of any age.
Send Resume to: cmc7600@cfr.rr.com Fax 386-740-0105

NEED A CAR? CHECK OUT CLASSIFIED SECTION 1200

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
Beacon College, a private, accredited 4 yr. college exclusively for students w/learning disabilities & ADHD is seeking an exp. Director of Marketing. Requirements include excel. writing & public relations skills, knowledge of internet marketing techniques, organizational branding, & event planning.
Please send resume & cover letter to: Walter Ziellinski, Ph.D. Vice President of Institutional Advancement Beacon College 105 East Main Street Leesburg, FL 34748 or email: wzziellinski@beaconcollege.edu

it's not just about making the sale anymore...
...it's about building trust
...it's about being a part of the community
...it's about helping businesses grow

Do you love selling a product you believe in? Are you committed to excellence? if so, we're interested in talking to you!

The South Lake Press is actively seeking a dynamic sales professional that knows the difference between "just making a sale" and "building a solid and dependable relationship with a client". If you are a sales oriented individual who is self-motivated, customer oriented and possess exceptional communication and organizational skills, consider joining our team.

Candidates will be required to maintain established accounts while developing new clientele and working closely with area business organizations. Transportation required.

Base salary plus commission, mileage, paid time off, health insurance, 401K & more.
Email or fax resumes to humanresources@dailyccommercial.com 352.365.1951
Attention: Human Resources Director or drop off at 732 Montrose St., Clermont.

SOUTH LAKE PRESS
...it's about finding the right person

425 Clerical

RECEPTIONIST For American Cement Company. Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm. Answer phones, greet visitors, & other clerical duties. Assist HR & other Managers. Proficient in Microsoft Office & excellent communication skills.

Fax Resume to Dawn (352) 569-5397 or email dgoshorn@americancementcompany.com EOE/DFWP

432 Dental

DENTAL ASSISTANT CLERMONT AREA P/T Experience Req'd. Call 352-242-1763

IN JUST 10 SATURDAYS You can have the skills you need to get a job as a DENTAL ASSISTANT 10-Saturday course. Tuition \$2,300 Payment plans. Call 407-478-0206 for info. packet & Free CD. OPEN HOUSE 11am, Aug. 21st. CLASS STARTS September 11 2010 www.LSCC.edu/continuing/10yers.aspx www.mygodas.com Lic. by FL Commission of Ind. Ed. Lic. #3333

South Lake Press is the best! No need to read the rest. We don't just!

435 Medical

Arbor Village Nursing A Beautiful 210 Bed SNF Seeks Caring Professionals to Join Our Team

LPN's 3-11 & 11-7 P/T CNA's 3-11 & 11-7 P/T Long Term Care Experience Required Offering Competitive Wages & Great Shifts Differentials! Drug/Background Check Req.

Call 800-442-1353 Fax 877-571-1952 JOBS@CQCARE.COM Arbor Village Nursing 490 S. Old Wire Rd. Wildwood

DEPENDENCY PROGRAM MANAGER To manage the daily operations of case mgmt. svc's; supervise first level supervisory and support staff; and ensure that client needs and departmental goals and objectives are effectively met. Req.'s Master's degree in a human svc's related field and 2 yrs. exp. in Human Svc's or Bachelor's degree in a human svc's related field and 4 yrs. exp. in Human Svc's; Min. of 2 yrs. supervisory exp. in child welfare. Prefer program mgmt. experience.

CERTIFIED DEPENDENCY CASE MANAGER To identify and assess client and family needs of minors placed in care by DCF due to abuse or neglect by caretakers, with the ultimate goal of permanency. To evaluate, coordinate and ensure necessary svc's and/or treatment are provided; complete req'd assessments; assist individuals and families by using such activities as delineating alternatives, helping to articulate goals and providing needed info. Req.'s Bachelor's Degree in Human Svc.'s related field and State of FL Child Protection Cert. Please apply on Company website www.chsf.org

Expanding Home Health Agency seeking CNA/HHA/PTA for per diem, F/T & P/T F/T RN/Case Manager with benefits Fax resumes: 352-435-0303

NORTH CAMPUS Rehabilitation and Training Center

MDS COORDINATOR (RNLPN) A Leesburg LTC SNF is currently seeking a RNLPN w/MDS exp. to monitor & guide the completion of PPS OBRA assessments & RAPS

FL license LPN/RN required! MDS exp. required! F/T opening! Competitive salary + strong benefits offered Call 800-442-1353 Fax 877-571-1952 JOBS@CQCARE.COM 700 Palmetto St. N Leesburg, FL 34748

435 Medical

PROGRAM DIRECTOR To direct, manage and develop a group of direct service programs of the Division. Must have Professional Florida license in Mental Health, Social Work, Marriage and Family therapy or Psychology Experience working w/children and families Master's Degree in Social Work, Human Services or related field Minimum of five years of supervisory experience in a social welfare or health care agency

Please apply on Company website www.chsf.org

RN, CHARGE POSITIONS INTERMEDIATE CARE 7am-7pm and 7pm-7am MED./SURG. 7pm-7am ORTHOPEDIC 7pm-7am

ASN required, BSN preferred 3 years of hospital experience, Charge experience preferred, Critical Care experience preferred.

Apply online: www.munroregional.com

500 Pets/Animals

Lakeview Terrace Retirement Community 331 Raintree Drive Altosna, FL 32702 352-669-2133 Fax: 352-669-1170 Email: joanhd@s-l.com EOE

450 Trades

DRIVERS - LAKE LIMO Some luggage lifting, hours vary. Call 8-5, Mon. - Fri. 352-742-2808 DFWP

HOUSEKEEPER Immediate Opening. Do you love to clean? Veranda Apts. in Mt. Dora wants self-motivated, hardworking person to clean amenities. Must be detailed & committed. F/T 9hr + Monthly Bonus & Benefits.

Apply at 155 Veranda Way, or Fax resume: 813-636-8863 EOE/DFWP

LOW BOY DRIVER Needed, must have clean CDL Class A, hazmat & tanker Please fax resume to: 352-300-2609 EOE/DFWP

PAINTLESS DENT / INTERIOR TECH. Leesburg F/T good pay & benefits. Exp. req'd. Contact Val 365-1228 DFWP/EQE

DRIVERS CRST NEEDS YOU! Immediate opportunities! NO CDL. No problem! CDL Training Available. Great Benefits & Start earning! \$750 - \$800 weekly! Call Today! 1-866-987-8257

PRN's Per Diem Staff Needed in Dietary, Maintenance & Housekeeping. Submit application at: www.avantgroup.com or in person at: 3050 Brown Ave Mt. Dora NO PHONE CALLS

ROOFERS NEEDED Min. 7 yr. Exp. in all phases of roofing. Valid drivers license. South Lake area. 352-267-6511

TRUCK MECHANIC Thermo King experience a plus. Must have own tools. Apply in person see Jack

455 Restaurants/Hotels/Clubs

Beef O'Brady's HIRING SERVERS at 27405 US Hwy 27 Suite 109 Apply in person after 2pm

470 General

DISPATCHER Needed for Over the Road trucking company. Must have experience, self motivated, dependable, must be willing to work nights and weekends. Please fax resume with salary requirements to (352) 735-0344 for consideration

DRIVER - CLASS B license-local deliveries with heavy lifting Call Misty 352-394-2116

470 General

DRY CLEANING & LAUNDRY counter help hard working, reliable, honest, people needed Apply in person only, English Cleaners 791 East Hwy 50 Clermont Next to McDonalds

OFFICE MANAGER - FT CAM License required for Senior Park. Fax Resume to: 352-787-4892

WAREHOUSE WORKERS Local food distribution company seeks qualified candidates to join our team. Must be available to work any shift including nights & weekends. The Florida Supply Chain Center for Domino's Pizza is located near the junction of U.S. 27 and State Road 19 in South Lake County. We offer competitive pay & benefits with an opportunity for career growth. Interested candidates should apply on-line at: careers.dominos.com EOE/DFWP

501 Pets For Sale

AMERICAN BULLDOG female, 18 mo. old, Registered. Found A HOME!

AMERICAN PITBULL TERRIERS puppies 3 boys & 2 girls. \$700-\$900. Ready 7/26. 1st vaccines & health Certificates incl. 352-504-8463

BEAGLES (3) 1 Beagle Basset Cross, good deer dogs, jump their own game. \$200. Call 352-568-8576

BICHON POODLE 7 mo. old female, all shots. \$480. Please call 352-343-5256

KITTEN FREE TO GOOD HOME ONLY! 352-409-6272

KITTENS & CAT, Trained & fixed. FREE TO GOOD HOME. 352-989-1339

KITTENS ready 7/16, all shots. Free to a good home! Fruitland Park GONE!

LAB/BULLDOG MIX 2 mo. old female. FREE to a good home. Call 352-793-5691

POODLES & PEEK A POOS, AKC. Toy & Teacups, family raised. \$650 & up. 352-307-4444

SHIH-TZU PUPPIES (2) males (2) females. Asking \$300 ea. 352-409-0095

TOY CHIHUAHUAS (2) 8 wks old. CKC registered less than 1 lbs. \$250. Call 352-303-5469 or 352-418-5794

602 Arts/Crafts

ARTIST EASEL 2' wood. New. \$10. SOLD!

ARTS & CRAFTS ITEMS assorted kinds. \$5. 352-483-1228

603 Collectibles

ANGELS, 40 of them. Mostly ceramic Asking \$50 Call 352-748-3737

BASEBALL CARDS 8 complete sets \$80. Call 352-610-3836

BASEBALL/SPORTS CARDS over 100. Asking \$20 obo. 352-323-4903

BATMAN CARDS (50) 1960's w/Batman & Robin button. \$60/all 407-221-5962

BRITISH COLLECTIBLES royal pins, books, & plates All \$40. 407-221-5962

COMIC BOOKS (420) in sleeves, like new \$100. Please call 352-735-1591

DOLL 1960 Madame Alexander Joanite, blonde hair 36" tall \$75. 352-383-2398

RANDALL KNIFE M3 Stag \$400. Call 352-735-1591

REMOTE CONTROL CAR Stuart Little, red roadster, mint in box. \$30. 352-874-5418

SEWING BOX old, expandable, mahogany, excel. cond. \$50. 352-728-2534

TOYS McDonald's in display case & advertisements. \$30 obo. 352-748-5366

520 Livestock

ROOSTERS (1) Rhode Island Red & (1) Araucana. \$15 both. Call 352-787-7584

560 Pet Supplies

AQUARIUM 29 gallon, complete w/wood stand. \$80. Call 352-321-6262

AQUARIUM 35 gallon hex., needs bottom band resealed. \$35. 352-787-9467

AQUARIUM 55 gallon w/light, excel. cond. \$60. Please call 352-430-0222

BIRD CAGE, red, 26" x 19" 3/4" x 38" tall, w/25" stand. \$90. 352-330-0003

CAGE (for birds or sm. pets) 30.5" L x 18" W x 18" H, white. \$50. 352-748-9611

DOG CRATE 36"Lx21"Wx27"H Excellent cond. \$45. Call 352-735-1591

DOG CRATE extra large. Paid \$60. Sell \$20. SOLD!

DOG CRATE extra lg., like new. \$65. 352-735-4020

DOG CRATE lg. 42"Lx 27"Wx32"H. Great Cond. \$75 obo 352-259-4486

DOG HOUSE 38"Lx33W & KENNEL 36"Lx25Wx28H \$80. Call 352-504-9690

DOG STROLLER, large, purple. Used twice. New \$80 asking \$60 obo. 352-504-2879

DOG TRACKING SYSTEM Quick Track QTR-M, tracks all 219 frequency, 6 quick track long range collars. New quick knot antenna \$600. 568-8576

600 Merchandise Mart

601 Antiques

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES \$40 FOR ALL. 352-321-6158

JEWELRY vintage & costume. \$25/all. 352-321-6158

PANTS PRESS IRON good cond. works good. \$20. Please call 352-360-9972

RECORDS size 78, buy the box \$20. Call 352-602-4478

SEWING MACHINE elec. Singer, Model 24 w/case, works. \$25. 352-330-4484

SEWING MACHINE, antique treadle type. \$100. 408-4190 leave message.

TABLE w/4 chair wrought iron, frosted glass top. Asking \$100. 874-6237

ATTENTION

TOO MUCH STUFF Turn Your Garages, Barns, Sheds, Closets & Attics into CASH! Blake's Auctions 214 S. 2nd St. Leesburg, Florida's American Pickers! Estates Living & Deceased. Now Accepting Consignments! Call 352-636-4082 AU4079 AB2893

CHAIRS Kitchen '50 chrome 4/w/it padded seats. \$100. Call 352-504-6406

CHEST OF DRAWERS Natural wood w/bk trim. \$35. Call 352-399-2644

CHINA CABINET white w/brown trim. Excel. cond. \$65. Please call 352-434-6857

CHINA HUTCH black, 6.5'x4', glass door. Asking \$98. Call 352-942-0048

COFFEE TABLE Rattan w/glass top. Asking \$50. Please call 352-551-0114

CORNER SELF 5', white. \$26. Please call SOLD

COUCH & LOVE SEAT leather, light tan, great cond. \$990. SOLD

CUSTOM CABINET 44" x 22" x 95", 8/drawers, 3/sheves. \$99. 352-259-5929

DESK maple w/7 drawers, 19x40 top, extra glass top. \$30. Call 352-383-4919

DESK off white wood tone laminated, 3 top drawers & 2 lowers. \$100. 259-3170

DESK, nice maple, 4 drawers. \$60. 352-455-2644

DINETTE w/4 chairs, w/wood rock & roll, neutral color, light oak 60"x42", convertible 42" round. \$160. SOLD!

DINING ROOM TABLE w/4 chairs. Rattan w/glass top. excel cond \$95 365-1355

DINING TABLE 4 chairs, solid maple wood, w/leaf 70"x37.5", without 52"x37.5", excel. cond. \$200. 352-326-5399

DRESSER 6 drawer, good cond. \$65. 352-326-8192

DRESSER 72", 6/drawers off white in great cond. Asking \$100. 352-383-0970

DRESSER antique, wood, 43.5" x 22" x 32". Asking \$100. 352-343-8769

DRESSER French Provincial blonde excel. cond. \$70. Call 352-729-2354

DRESSER triple size Mediterranean oak, dual mirrors. \$75. Call 352-314-9794

DRESSER w/mirror, kids entertainment center. media stand. \$100. 309-368-5400

END TABLE hand made, Mosaic top, gray & white. \$59. George 352-314-2357

END TABLES 3, beveled glass. \$50. 352-326-5760

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER, Whitewash fits 32" 42" TV. \$25. 352-874-1862

FUTON black metal frame, good shape, w/mattress. \$40. 352-303-6885

FUTON, wood frame, arms lift for storage. Nice cond. \$100. 352-360-3027

GALLERY TABLE solid brass, beveled glass Ethan Allen, like new. \$95. 352-735-5370

GLIDER alum., from 1950's. Asking \$100. Please call 352-735-1570

GLIDER ROCKERS in-door. Baby blue & wood \$20 obo 352-669-1163

GLIDER White w/terry baby print cushions. Used in nursery \$40 352-787-3474

HEADBOARD full/queen, walnut color. Asking \$75. Please call 407-929-8915

604 Furniture

BED queen, box spring, frame, Comfort King, excel. cond. \$125. 407-929-8915

BED twin, solid cherry wood, antique, no mattress. \$25. Call 352-205-3756

BED, dresser & 2 night stands, natural color. \$100. Please call 352-347-2825

BOOKCASE 5 shelves, 6' tall, white. \$20. 352-874-5418

BOOKCASE solid wood 6 shelves, 5' wide x 7' high. Asking \$65 352-323-1297

BOOKCASE white, 6ft. \$20.00 takes both Please call 352-365-0938

BOOKCASES (2) like new, 45"x29"x15", adjustable shelves. \$70. 352-787-2774

CHAIR Buri 60" x 40", w/blue cushion w/side table w/glass top. \$49. 314-0614

CHAIR massage, on rollers, heavy duty wood. \$20. Please call 352-483-1065

CHAIR survival rocker. Reco color, good cond. \$40. Call SOLD!

OFFICE CHAIR. Lg. high back, arms adjustable. \$50. Great cond. 589-8350

RECLINER (brown) & Computer desk \$75 for both. Call 352-434-6857

ROCKING CHAIR President Kennedy, new, w/cushion. \$100. Call 352-357-1321

ROCKING CHAIRS 3 vintage, \$100 for all. 352-735-1570

ROCKING CHAIRS outside white \$70. for pair. Please call 352-324-2173

SLEEPER SOFA Dbl. Blue stripe. New upholstery & 6 pillows \$250. 365-0938 No Saturday Calls.

SLEEPER SOFA, light gray pattern, beautiful shape. \$100. 352-323-1297

SLEIGH BEDROOM SET New Queen Cherry, only \$695. Many more sets to choose from! Can Deliver! Call 352-638-6942

SOFA BED queen, green, excel. cond. \$100. Please call 352-750-0740

SOFA recliners on ends, white & pastel colors, 7.5'. \$60/obo. Call 352-460-0293

STUDENT DESK excellent condition. Asking \$55. Please call 352-246-9948

TABLE w/4 chairs excel. cond. med. color \$95. 729-2354

TELEVISION CABINET Cherry wood, good cond. \$26. Call SOLD!

SECTIONAL SOFA Brand New! Micro Fiber & Leather w/ottoman. \$595 Can deliver! 352-638-6942

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ROCKING CHAIRS 3 vintage, \$100 for all. 352-735-1570

ROCKING CHAIRS outside white \$70. for pair. Please call 352-324-2173

SLEEPER SOFA Dbl. Blue stripe. New upholstery & 6 pillows \$250. 365-0938 No Saturday Calls.

SLEEPER SOFA, light gray pattern, beautiful shape. \$100. 352-323-1297

SLEIGH BEDROOM SET New Queen Cherry, only \$695. Many more sets to choose from! Can Deliver! Call 352-638-6942

SOFA BED queen, green, excel. cond. \$100. Please call 352-750-0740

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STUDENT DESK excellent condition. Asking \$55. Please call 352-246-9948

TABLE w/4 chairs excel. cond. med. color \$95. 729-2354

TELEVISION CABINET Cherry wood, good cond. \$26. Call SOLD!

SECTIONAL SOFA Brand New! Micro Fiber & Leather w/ottoman. \$595 Can deliver! 352-638-6942

604 Furniture

BED queen, box spring, frame, Comfort King, excel. cond. \$125. 407-929-8915

BED twin, solid cherry wood, antique, no mattress. \$25. Call 352-205-3756

BED, dresser & 2 night stands, natural color. \$100. Please call 352-347-2825

BOOKCASE 5 shelves, 6' tall, white. \$20. 352-874-5418

BOOKCASE solid wood 6 shelves, 5' wide x 7' high. Asking \$65 352-323-1297

BOOKCASE white, 6ft. \$20.00 takes both Please call 352-365-0938

BOOKCASES (2) like new, 45"x29"x15", adjustable shelves. \$70. 352-787-2774

CHAIR Buri 60" x 40", w/blue cushion w/side table w/glass top. \$49. 314-0614

CHAIR massage, on rollers, heavy duty wood. \$20. Please call 352-483-1065

CHAIR survival rocker. Reco color, good cond. \$40. Call SOLD!

OFFICE CHAIR. Lg. high back, arms adjustable. \$50. Great cond. 589-8350

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ROCKING CHAIRS outside white \$70. for pair. Please call 352-324-2173

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TOO MUCH STUFF Turn Your Garages, Barns, Sheds, Closets & Attics into CASH! Blake's Auctions 214 S. 2nd St. Leesburg, Florida's American Pickers! Estates Living & Deceased. Now Accepting Consignments! Call 352-636-4082 AU4079 AB2893

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SINK dbl. alum. w/ faucet & sprayer. Asking \$50. Please call 352-429-9647

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TUXEDO men's blk., coat 48-52, pants & shirt. New \$450. Sell \$65. 352-217-4809

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VALANCES Swag 84" w & 32" w ivory w/ tassels \$45. Call 352-874-6237

VASE lg. floor size, muted greens, can e-mail pictures \$25. 352-793-1469

WEDDING GOWN 4 pc., New, Nude silk & beading, 6/8. \$100. 352-324-2690

WEDDING GOWN size 8 Beautiful, must see \$500 obo. Please call 352-787-5877

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655 Musical Instruments

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GUITAR amplifier, Fender, FM65R, 12", like new \$125. David 352-243-5775

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BICYCLE men's Huff regular bike. \$35. Call 352-399-2644

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BICYCLE women's 26" 3 spd. \$25. Please call 352-315-0544

BICYCLE New. Girls, 20". Asking \$20. 352-315-0544

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STORAGE SHED 12'x16' excel cond. paid \$3,600 sell \$2,000 **FIRM** cash. Like new. 352-625-3470

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AIR COMPRESSOR 2 cyl. 2hp, 220V, extra filters & regulator \$100. 383-2398

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CHAIN SAW 16" Poulan, great working order. Asking \$50. Call 352-223-1498

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METAL LATHE Atlas w/tooling on bench. \$475. Please call 352-326-0283

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RADIAL ARM SAW Sears needs work \$25. **SOLD!** **CLASSIFIEDS WORK!**

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WELDER Lincoln, wire feed. Asking \$320. Please Call 352-516-3530

WORK BENCH 7' Custom Built Wood, New. \$70. Please call 352-343-7201

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800 Real Estate For Rent

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LEESBURG Channel Lakes Triple wide 3/2, fireplace, stove & fridge. \$900 mo. 1st, last & security dep. 352-988-8130

UMATILLA Very Lg. 3/2 fireplace, W/D, & cable \$800/mo.+ \$800 sec. 352-360-0507

806 Houses Unfurnished

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Clermont - 3br Lake Dot Villa \$1,050.00

Minneola - 3 br/2 bath open porch, near trail \$1,175.00

Clermont - 4 br home canal to Chain culdesac EXTRAS!!! \$1,150.00

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807 Apartments Unfurnished

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Friday, July 23, 2010

Daily Commercial/South Lake Press

C SECTION



Custom built home built in 2004 has three bedrooms, two baths on a five-acre lot.

MORRIS REALTY AND INVESTMENTS

Big lot leaves plenty of space to develop, enjoy

What an incredible opportunity — five acres right outside The Villages! There is plenty of room to grow on this five-acre property with a custom home built in 2004. Expand your horizons with this immaculate block/stucco, three-bedroom, two-bath home with no direct neighbors, yet within minutes to shopping, theaters, restaurants and hospitals. Take a stroll across the acreage for some lovely water views of Spring Lake. Or, if the five acres is too much property, the parcel can be easily subdivided or developed into two units per acre!

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enjoy the country feel of spaciousness, while being so close to so many amenities. The side entry garage helps you conceal your most "precious" items. No deed restrictions, so bring all of your toys (boats, RVs, campers, etc.). This won't last long at this price!

Sellers willing to consider Lease/Purchase to qualified buyers — contact the listing agent today to see if you qualify!

Aggressively priced at \$229,000. Call Julie Riegler for your personal tour today at 352-408-3939 or visit www.JulieSellsGlobal.com.

ERA TOM GRIZZARD REALTY

This cozy home has upgrades throughout

Walk right in and sit right down in a clean and cozy three-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath home with 1,250 square feet that has undergone an amazing transformation. This home is just waiting to put a smile on your face! Complete interior renovations create a new and relaxed atmosphere from the moment you step inside. A charming foyer greets you as you enter the front door, where the shine of the beautifully restored hardwood flooring throughout is bound to sweep you away. The all-new kitchen has new appliances, cabinetry, tiled

countertops and flooring. The bathrooms have been updated as well. The fixtures have been replaced and all new thermal windows have been installed. You will also find lots of closets for storage space. The one-car garage is complete with a washer and dryer hookup. The yard is fenced and has a pretty oak tree for shade. The location is convenient to just about everything. This is one you have to see to believe. Offered at \$106,300. ML#G4661611. Call Linda Grizzard at 352-504-0085.



Home features three bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths with renovated interior.

PAL REALTY

Well built and well priced, this home has lots to offer

A covered front entry with side lights, an entry closet and beige ceramic tile leads you to the off-white carpet in the great room. That opens to the kitchen and bay window, light oak cabinetry, 42" uppers, island snack bar, pantry, under-counter lights, smooth range, built-in microwave, kitchen appliances included. Master suite has a cultured marble vanity and shower with a seat in the bath. The guest bedroom is steps from the guest bath. The den has a double-arch entry, there's a screened lanai, laundry room cabinets, coach lights, double-pane windows, lever door handles, architectural roof shingles, ceiling fans,

oversized custom garage, with an irrigation system with timer and rain sensor to complete this package for under \$200,000.

The Plantation at Leesburg is an adult gated golf and tennis community with two manned gates, on-site restaurant, two golf courses, three clubhouses, three pools, full time activity directors and much more, all within a 30-45 minute drive to Orlando attractions. Stop by or call the sales office: PAL Realty, 25327 U.S. Hwy. 27, Suite 202, Leesburg, 352-326-3626. See more pictures of #951 on our web site www.theplantation.com



Home features covered front entry, island snack bar and a covered lanai.

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PEP talk

Annual Green Symposium includes free educational classes for homeowners

HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS — The Second Annual Green Symposium scheduled for Thursday, July 29-30 at Mission Inn Resort & Club will feature not only a host of presentations and guests speakers for local business owners and professionals, but it will also include free educational classes to help homeowners understand how they can conserve natural resources.

The free educational classes are scheduled for Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Homeowners and residents are invited to attend any of these classes. The schedule includes:

— 9:15 a.m., Florida Friendly Landscaping with Charles Fedunak, Lake County

Extension Agent.

— 10 a.m., Homeowner Maintenance for Wells and Septic Systems with Paul Butler and Jerry Brown from the Lake County Health Department.

— 10:45 a.m., Water Conservation with Gregg Welstead, Director of the Lake County Department of Conservation & Compliance.

— 1:15 p.m., Natural Living with Natural Skin Care Expert Claudia Virga, Organic Gardner Joy Scroggie and Nurse Practitioner Joanne Keller.

— 2:30 p.m., Residential Energy Efficiency with John McCarthy, Lowe's Sales Manager.

The purpose of the symposium is for professionals in varying fields to share ideas about conserving and maximizing natural resources. An agenda of presentations at the symposium will cover a variety of topics including energy conservation, green job creation, alternative transportation, water consumption policy, green tourism and nat-

ural waste to power.

The intended audience for the symposium is business entrepreneurs, land-use planners, engineers, architects, civil engineers, solid-waste staff, transportation experts, energy block grant officials, organic health professionals, public health & government officials and other disciplines.

To register for the symposium visit www.lakecountyfl.gov/greensymposium. Cost for the entire symposium is \$100, or \$25 per lunch and \$50 for the banquet. For information call the Lake County Department of Growth Management at 343-9647.

Spanish web site leads to real estate sales to Europeans

ORLANDO — A Spanish website created by Stirling Sotheby's International Realty agent Adriana Murcia of the firm's Clermont office has led to sales of luxury homes to buyers from Europe, South America and Canada.

Roger Soderstrom, founder and owner of Stirling Sotheby's International Realty, said Murcia launched the bi-lingual web site herself. A native of Colombia, Murcia earned her B.A. Degree in Hotel Management from the University of Colombia in Bogota, has more than 20 years of experience in sales and marketing, and is a specialist in international sales, Soderstrom said.

"Adriana Murcia is a bright, inventive agent and she has carved out a special niche for herself in the Central Florida international market," Soderstrom said.

To visit Adriana Murcia's Spanish website visit www.casasenorlandoyflorida.com or call Adriana Murcia, Stirling Sotheby's International Realty at 217-0465.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

D R Horton Inc. to J & L Enterprises LLC, Lts 3,4,6,7 53-67 Windson at Leesburg Etc., \$880,000.

D R Horton Inc. to Groveland Holdings LLC, Lts 138-149, 154, 156-164, Westwood Ph li Etc, \$1,200,000.

Kenneth J. Dale to Courtney L. Wright and State of Fl Department of Revenue, no legal description, \$0.

Dolores Dalessio to Dolores Dalessio, Linked Records: D 2010065737, \$10.

Robert W. Daley to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Lt 4 Blk D Sorrento Hills Phs 1,2, \$132,900.

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. and Freedom Mortgage Corporation to Robert W. Daley, Lt 4 Blk D Sorrento Hills Phs 1,2, \$131,133.

Leon La, Angie Dang, Eagle Dunes Homeowners Association Inc., Simon La and Nugyn to Wells Fargo Bank Na, no legal description, \$0.

Mary Daniel to State of Fl, no legal description, \$0.

C. Richard Clere, Roselyn A. Clere and Angela R. Shoff to Linda C. Daniels and Terry L. Blatchley, Lt 3447 Orange Blossom Gardens Un 13, \$118,000.

Toccisha Qunese to State of Fl, no legal description, \$0.

Don F. Danielson Jr., Kimberly Ann Danielson, Heritage The Cottages of Sanders Grove Property Owners Association Inc., Pringle Communities Inc. and Pringle Development Inc. to Capital City Bank, Lt 60 Heritage The Cottages of Sanders Grove, \$0.

James R. Darst and Nanci K. Darst to Branch Banking and

Trust Company, First Federal Savings Bank and First Federal Savings Bank of Lake County, Mtg 2002037522, \$0.

Brenda Dasher, (spouse) Dasher and Lake Dots Villas Association Inc. to Chase Finance LLC, Un 23 A Lk Dot Villas, \$0.

Lee A. Vandevander to State of Fl Department of Revenue and Vanessa Daskey, no legal description, \$0.

Ramdular Dass to State of Florida, no legal description, \$0.

Thomas B. Corkery and Thomas F. Daudelin to Barclays Capital Real Estate Inc. as Atty, Homeq Servicing as Atty and Wells Fargo Bank Na Tr by Atty, Lt 2882 Orange Blossom Gardens Un 12, \$60,500.

Andrew Facey, Asset Title Services LLC and Kel Title Insurance Group Inc. to Richard Daun and Doreen Daun, Lt 15 Upson Downs, \$0.

Jenifer T. Davenport, Countrywide Home Loans Servicing Lp, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Incorporated, Bac Home Loans Servicing Lp and Eagle Dunes Homeowners Association Inc. to Bac Home Loans Servicing Lp, Countrywide Home Loans Servicing Lp and Neil Kelly Clerk, Lt 30 Blk C Sorrento Hills Ph 3, \$0.

David Penny Tr, Cynthia J Penny Tr, David Penny and Cynthia J. Penny Revocable Living Trust to David Penny and Cynthia J. Penny, Pt Lt 2 Lt 3 R A Sales Sub, \$10.

Nancy Joseph Davidson to Louis Rospars Ind and Tr, Louis Rospars Trust, Janet C Rospars Ind and Tr and Janet C Rospars Trust, Lt 5090 Orange Blossom Gardens Un 15, \$128,800.

willing to spend. Don't begin your project until you have answers to every aspect of your plan.

The National Kitchen and Bath Association recommends spending up to six months evaluating and planning before beginning the actual work. Once work has begun — a process that averages two to three months —

See **REMODELING, C4**

Brainstorms for bathroom remodeling

HOME AND GARDEN TELEVISION

When planning to remodel a bathroom, it's crucial to have all your ducks in a row. Here are some pertinent points to consider:

1. Create a plan, and stick to it

Evaluate how you plan to use the space, what kinds of materials and fixtures you want, and how much you're

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Pace of Orlando home sales remains strong in June

ORLANDO — Strong homebuyer demand continued in June, elevating the level of home sales and increasing the area's month-over-month median sales price for the sixth consecutive month. Members of the Orlando Regional REALTOR® Association reported completed sales on 2,834 homes in June, which is a 27.66 percent increase over the June 2009 mark of 2,220.

The number of new contracts filed in June 2010 (3,736) represents an increase of 1.36 percent more than were filed in June 2009 (3,686). The area's pending sales statistic, also an indicator of future sales activity, is likewise remaining at a record high with 33.13 percent more homes (9,625) under contract and awaiting closing in June of this year than in June of last year (7,230).

The median price of all existing homes combined sold in June 2010 increased 0.87 percent to \$116,000 from the \$115,000 recorded in May 2010. June 2010's median price is, however, a decrease of 11.57 percent compared to June 2009's median of \$131,175.

"Sales in June got a boost from the homebuyer tax credit, as buyers raced to close by the original deadline. The extended deadline of September 30, 2010 for closing tax credit eligible transactions will continue to increase sales in the next few months," explains ORRA Chairman of the Board Kathleen Gallagher McIver, RE/MAX Town & Country Realty. "Even with the expiration of the homebuyer tax credit, buying conditions remain favorable. Affordability, historically low interest rates, and a great selection of homes make this an excellent time to buy a home in Orlando."

June's \$116,000 median price encompasses all types of sales situations and home types. The median price for "normal" sales is \$175,000 (up 9.38 percent from last month's \$160,000). The median price for bank-owned sales is \$77,500 (down 4.32 percent from last month's \$81,000), and the median price for short sales is \$115,526 (up 4.78 percent from last month's \$110,000).

Of the 2,834 sales in June, 911 "normal" sales accounted for 32.15 percent of all sales, while 1,211 bank-owned and 712 short sales made up 67.85 percent.

The Orlando affordability index decreased to 226.29 percent in June. (An affordability index of 99 percent means that buyers earning the state-reported median income are 1 percent short of the income necessary to purchase a median-priced home.) Conversely, an affordability index that is over 100 means that median-income earners make more than is necessary to qualify for a median-priced home.)

Buyers who earn the reported median income of \$53,105 can qualify to purchase one of 12,178 homes in Orange and Seminole counties currently listed in the local multiple listing service for \$262,496 or less.

First-time homebuyer affordability in June decreased to 160.92 percent. First-time buyers who earn the reported median income of \$36,111 can qualify to purchase one of 8,204 homes in Orange and Seminole counties currently listed in the local multiple listing service for \$158,664 or less.

Homes of all types spent an average of 85 days on the market before coming under contract in June 2010, and the average home sold for 95.33 percent of its listing price. In June 2009 those numbers were 104 and 93.83 percent, respectively. The area's average interest rate decreased in June to 4.84 percent.

Inventory

There are currently 16,304 homes available for purchase through the MLS. Inventory increased by 341 homes from May 2010, which means that 341 more homes entered the market than left the market. The June 2010 inventory level is 8.56 percent lower than it was in June 2009 (17,831). The

current pace of sales translates into 5.75 months of supply; June 2009 recorded 8.03 months of supply.

There are 12,353 single-family homes currently listed in the MLS, a number that is 509 (3.96 percent) less than in June of last year. Condos currently make up 2,568 offerings in the MLS, while duplexes/town homes/villas make up the remaining 1,383.

Condos and Town Homes/Duplexes/Villas

The sales of condos in the Orlando area increased by 48.54 percent in June when compared to June of 2009 and decreased by 4.99 percent compared to May of this year. To date, condo sales are up 85.20 percent (3,328 condos sold to date in 2010, compared to 1,797 by this time in 2009).

The most (326) condos in a single price category that changed hands in June were yet again in the \$1 - \$50,000 price range, which accounted for 53.53 percent of all condo sales.

Orlando homebuyers purchased 291 duplexes, town homes, and villas in June 2010, which is a 59.02 percent increase from June 2009 when 183 of these alternative housing types were purchased. Fifty duplexes, town homes, and villas sold in June 2010 fell into the \$100,000-\$120,000 price categories.

MSA Numbers

Sales of existing homes within the entire Orlando MSA (Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties) in June were up by 20.85 percent when compared to June of 2009. Throughout the MSA, 3,495 homes were sold in June 2010 compared with 2,892 in June 2009.

To date, sales throughout the MSA are 38.33 percent above this time in 2009 with 17,957 homes exchanging hands compared to 12,981. Each individual county's year-to-date sales comparisons are as follows:

Lake: 23.47 percent above 2009 (2,283 homes sold to date in 2010 compared to 1,849 in 2009).

Orange: 41.33 percent above 2009 (9,701 homes sold to date in 2010 compared to 6,864 in 2009).

Osceola: 24.56 percent above 2009 (3,079 homes sold to date in 2010 compared to 2,472 in 2009).

Seminole: 61.14 percent above 2009 (2,894 sold to date in 2010 compared to 1,796 in 2009).

For detailed statistical reports visit www.orrealtor.com and click on "Housing Statistics" on the top menu bar. This representation is based in whole or in part on data supplied by the Orlando Regional REALTOR® Association or its Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Neither the association nor its MLS guarantees or is in any way responsible for its accuracy. Data maintained by the association or its MLS may not reflect all real estate activity in the market. Due to late closings, an adjustment is necessary to record those closings posted after our reporting date.

ORRA REALTOR® sales, referred to as the core market, represent all sales by members of the Orlando Regional REALTOR® Association, not necessarily those sales strictly in Orange and Seminole counties. Note that statistics released each month may be revised in the future as new data is received.

Orlando MSA numbers reflect sales of homes located in Orange, Seminole, Osceola, and Lake counties by members of any Realtor® association, not just members of ORRA.

Mercantile Capital Corp. reports SBA 504 commercial loan volume up in June

First half of 2010 loan closings soar

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS — Mercantile Capital Corp. reports the dollar volume of commercial loans it closed in June was up more than 284 percent over the same period last year.

At the same time, Christopher Hurn, chief executive officer of Mercantile Capital Corp., said since January Mercantile Capital closed 29 commercial loans for projects valued at \$81.6

million, a spectacular jump (416.46 percent) over the same six-month period in 2009 when \$15.8 million was funded for 10 loans.

"This marks the best six-month period in our company's history," Hurn said.

Mercantile Capital Corp., which ranks as one of the most active providers of U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 Loans in the nation, closed seven loans in June for projects that totaled just over \$20 million in four different states and the District of Columbia.

Visit www.S04Experts.com, or www.S04Blog.com for information.

M/I Homes to host free new home design seminar July 24 at Wekiva Run in Apopka

LAKE MARY — M/I Homes will host a free New Home Design Seminar Saturday July 24 at Wekiva Run, located on Ponkan Ridge Blvd. off Plymouth-Sorrento Rd., C.R. 437, in Apopka.

Jeff Kaizer, vice president of sales and marketing at M/I Homes in the Orlando region, said the New Home Design Seminar will feature interior design experts from Barclay-Barnes Interiors of Orlando.

The seminar is scheduled from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Admission is free and the public is invited.

M/I Homes is building new one and two-story homes on 35 home sites in the third phase at Wekiva Run. M/I's Eco Series homes that reduce energy costs range in size from 1,836 square feet of living space to 3,258 square feet at Wekiva Run.

All interested in attending the free New Home Design Seminar are asked to RSVP by calling 407-889-5522.

About M/I Homes

M/I Homes (NYSE: MHO), based in Columbus, Ohio, has built and sold more than 78,000 new homes since 1976 and ranks as one of America's most active homebuilders. M/I Homes builds single-family homes and town homes in 23 communities in Orange, Seminole and Lake Counties, and won the prestigious Grand Award in the Central Florida Parade of Homes four times within five years. To learn more, visit www.mihomes.com.

Harmony awards Clancy & Theys Construction contract to build first phase of Harmony Town Center

ORLANDO — The Town of Harmony in Osceola County has been awarded the contract to Clancy & Theys Construction Company to build the first phase of Harmony Town Center, a planned 330,000 square foot center at Harmony's main entrance on U.S. 192 across from Harmony High School.

Paul P. Partyka, managing partner of NAI Realvest, exclusive sales and leasing brokers for the Harmony Town Center said the first phase of the development consists of 24,000 square feet of office, retail and cafes.

"The Town of Harmony is a sustainable development that is setting a new standard of long-range development planning," Partyka said. "The Harmony Town Center project will contribute substantially to the Harmony lifestyle and provide a principal community service."

LEED certified construction plans will be submitted to Osceola County Permitting in August, Partyka said.

For more information visit www.NAIRealvest.com.



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Brewing up a creative coffee-table design

MARY CAROL GARRITY
Scripps Howard News Service

Coffee tables are on my mind this summer because I just got one of the new coffee-table ottomans we're carrying at Nell Hill's that are upholstered with antique rug. I'm smitten with mine because the rug covering my ottoman has tiny snags in it that I imagine came from someone's kitty, generations ago. Dan can't imagine why on earth I would buy a piece of furniture with cat scratches on it when we already have several in our home, thanks to our ornery kittens. Call me crazy, but the thought of some lazy cat snoozing on this rug hundreds of years ago makes the piece all the more special.

Now, I have to decide how to accessorize my new coffee-table treasure. These little islands perched in the middle of our living rooms can be challenging to decorate, can't they? They need to walk the line between form and function, sporting displays that are interesting but not obtrusive. If you'd like a new look on your coffee table, here are a few ideas to inspire you.

One of the biggest mistakes I see people make when they design their coffee-table displays is to use too many small or low-profile pieces. You know what I mean -- you see this look at the doctor's office, where the coffee table is covered in a sea of outdated magazines or a few coffee-table books.

For a display that really works, first determine what look you're going for. Do you want something casual or dressy? Be sure your display matches the style of your room and is functionally sound. For instance, you don't want an overly tall, dramatic display

on the coffee table in front of your TV. Instead, save that arresting look for a little-used formal living room and go for something functional in your family room.

Next, collect some intriguing accents you can showcase that bring in a mix of textures, sizes and shapes. Don't be afraid to include beefier objects because accents with some heft will add width and height to your tableau.

To build your display, start with an interesting base, like a tray. I'm a big believer in putting displays on trays because trays pull the pieces together and give the grouping a unified look. Plus, when you build a display on a tray, you can easily move it if you want to clear the coffee table for another use.

Next, find a focal point for your display, like a vase of flowers, a stack of boxes or a candlestick. I like to use pieces that have sentimental value, like a china soup tureen you inherited from your grandmother or an old trophy of your granddads.

Finally, consider including a few items you will use on a daily basis, such as a book or a bowl of candy. Why not add a wooden box to hold your TV remotes or a silver vase to store your reading glasses?

To create this wonderful look, we used a framed mirror as our base. Next, we added layer upon layer of texture using books. Another tip for making your coffee-table creations look wonderful is to replicate a few key pieces, like we did with the books. We added to these visual elements by topping our stack of books with a wooden box. It mirrors the shape of the books but adds a bit of shine.



SHNS PHOTO COURTESY NELL HILL'S

When decorating a coffee table, be sure your display matches the style of your room and is functionally sound.

We finished off the tableau with two porcelain figurines.

While I love traditional coffee tables, I'm also a huge fan of coffee-table ottomans and recommend them all the time to families with young kids. Not only do they remove the safety hazards of sharp corners and hard surfaces, they look lovely without a display on top of them.

For today's example, we decided to dress up a regal upholstered ottoman with a working centerpiece, one you could use when entertaining friends. Our anchor for this bar-service display is a lovely silver tray. I couldn't imagine decorating without silver trays. If you don't have a silver tray yet, consider

adding one (or more) to your arsenal of accents. You will be blown away by how often you use it when you entertain and in your year-round decorating.

Next, we added a few party essentials, from a classic crystal decanter and glasses to appetizer plates with gold detailing. We filled a blue-and-white china bowl with fruit, but you could easily replace it with a dessert server holding canapes or tarts. To bring in some visual height, we finished off the look with a silver candlestick.

Adapted from nellhillsblog.com, which can be linked from the nellhills.com home page. Mary Carol Garrity can be reached at marycarol@nellhills.com.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

HELAINE FENDELMAN AND JOE ROSSON
Scripps Howard News Service

Dear Helaine and Joe: These newspapers are in good shape for their age, and I was wondering if they are the only ones of their kind around (to report on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln). What might the value be and to whom might I sell them? — G. & J.A., Sergeant Bluff, Iowa

Dear G. & J.A.: Newspaper collecting can be a fascinating hobby, and collectors look for such drama-charged headlines as "Dewey Defeats Truman," "Titanic Sinks" or "Hindenburg Explodes."

The headline is the key to a collector's interest in a newspaper, and one of the most sought-after newspapers is the April 15, 1865, edition of the New York Herald, announcing the tragic assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Of course, John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln while the president attended a performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in Washington.

The crime occurred on Good Friday, April 14, 1865, and the mortally wounded Lincoln was carried across the street to William Petersen's boarding house, where he died at 7:22 a.m. on April 15. The shocking news rocketed around the country as fast as it could by 1865 standards, and the New York Herald printed one of the first and best accounts.

There were several editions. The 2 a.m. "regular edition" announced the attack on the president in

one sentence. Then came the 3 a.m. "special edition," followed by the 10 a.m. "reward edition" -- the first to announce the actual death and the first to use the heavy, black column lines, such as those seen in the illustration.

A 2 p.m. "inauguration edition" reported the swearing-in of Andrew Johnson as president of the United States. A 3:30 p.m. "special edition" was also printed.

Unfortunately, the example belonging to G. & J.A. is the so-called "8:10 a.m. extra edition." For years, this edition had been considered genuine, but now the Library of Congress has confirmed that all of the 8:10 a.m. newspapers are absolutely bogus.

This makes it easy for us to state with authority that the newspaper in today's question is a fake and worth less than \$50. In fact, genuine examples of this newspaper are rare and pricey, so we thought we would offer a few hints on how to tell the real thing from the many spurious examples.

If your copy of this newspaper is brown, crumbling and brittle, it is probably a fake. The originals were printed on high-quality rag paper (probably English paper captured from a Confederate blockade runner) and should still be relatively white and "crisp"-feeling. If there is a beardless portrait of Lincoln on the front page (or any portrait, for that matter), the copy is a fake.

If "Whole No. 10459" is



JOE ROSSON AND HELAINE FENDELMAN / TREASURES IN YOUR ATTIC
A few old newspapers can be very collectible, but is this April 15, 1865, edition of the New York Herald genuine?

printed at the top of the page, the example is a fake. It should read "Whole No. 10456." In addition, all pages in the originals were numbered and should generally have eight pages -- except for the genuine 10 a.m. edition, which had just four. The pages in the fakes are almost always unnumbered.

Most of the fakes of the April 15, 1865, editions of

the New York Herald were produced for advertising purposes and not to deceive collectors. Therefore, if your example has large multicolored ads with text and pictures, it is a fake.

Helaine Fendelman and Joe Rossan are the authors of "Price It Yourself" (HarperResource, \$19.95). Contact them at Treasures in Your Attic, P.O. Box 18350, Knoxville, TN 37928. E-mail them at treasures@knology.net.

Garage sales in the new age: On the internet

ROSEMARY SADEZ FRIEDMANN
Scripps Howard News Service

Garage sales have always been a great attraction for many. They appeal to both sellers as well as buyers.

Sellers, of course, want to clean house while making a profit through the sale of items that have lost their value or usefulness. And buyers are hoping to enjoy casual shopping in the quest of finding treasures at a bargain price.

Garage sales started out as neighborhood activities but have now spread to the Internet. Yes, there is a website that unites buyers and sellers. Let's check it out.

GarageSaleTracker.com was launched in 2008 and has gained great popularity this year. Perhaps the economy and people's desires to be thrifty have had something to do with the momentum. The site has listings of garage sales, flea markets, consignment shops and more. It even includes driving directions! You can also search for specific items using the site's iPhone application, which has other user-friendly features.

The site is easy to navigate. There are cities listed, so you can pick where you want to search. Or simply type in your ZIP code and select what distance from that ZIP code you are willing to travel to get to a garage sale.

The site will tell you how many garage sales there are in the area and, if you are looking for something in particular, you can type in that item and the website will search locations that have what you are looking for. There is a link that will give you driving directions to the garage sale and another link that will allow you to contact the seller. The tracker doesn't list each and every garage sale, only those that have been registered with the site.

If you are the seller, you can log onto the site and list all your information, such as date(s) of the garage sale, items you are selling and address of where the sale will take place. Pictures of items can be placed on the site for potential buyers to peruse. And there are even simple instructions on how to upload pictures to the site.

Whichever side of the counter you are standing, good luck!

Rosemary Sadez Friedmann, an interior designer in Naples, Fla., is author of "Mystery of Color." For design inquiries, write to Rosemary at DsgnQuest@aol.com.

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In family room, toasty touches and cozy comforts

CANDICE OLSON
Home and Garden Television

Bobbie and Anthony have made some interesting moves. They were working on a film when they met, and when filming wrapped, Anthony moved to Los Angeles to be with Bobbie. Married soon after, they renovated their first home and then another.

Finding the work more satisfying than the L.A. lifestyle, they packed up and moved to Costa Rica, where they bought a secluded property and built a small boutique hotel from the ground up.

They loved Costa Rica, but after six years of working seven days a week in the tropical heat, they decided to move north to Anthony's hometown. They bought a house close to his parents that they are completely renovating (no surprise there), but Bobbie's anxious about making good design choices in a nontropical climate. While Anthony grew up seeing the four seasons change, Bobbie has always lived in Southern climes and has only seen snow in the movies.

Bobbie and Anthony are afraid they are in over their heads, so they called me to design their family room. Anthony has a vision of a Craftsman-style home, but Bobbie is also hoping for some modern, unexpected touches to lighten things up. This family room will serve as the jumping-off point for the rest of the house, so I want to create a warm, inviting, comfortable space that reflects their style and new environment.

Warmth is a big deal here -- physically and visually -- so my team is ready to bring the cozy touches. The first thing we need is the fireplace. A two-sided, see-through, thermostat-controlled gas fireplace with a rustic log insert will keep this family room toasty. It has a huge presence in the space, owing to the three-sided wall of white, linear-format, polished, honed and bush-hammered limestone tile. The combination of different sizes and finishes adds a modern touch, and this treatment is SO worth the time and patience it takes to apply each tile individually. It's simply stunning.

To ground this space, hand-scraped oak flooring is the perfect contrast to the light stone of the fireplace. And the warmth of wood continues with a wall of cabinetry that sets the tone for this new family room. I'm using vintage-inspired dressers in stainless steel, leather and wood, flanked by custom-built bookcases, for a spectacular feature wall for the TV, media components and storage.

There is much warmth in the space with the fireplace and the texture of the natural stone and wood, but I want this place to feel really cozy, like your favorite old sweater. So the furniture needs to look as if it has been here forever. Distressed leather for the sofa and chair is just the vintage



Left: Bobbie and Anthony's family room was nothing but cement floors and wood frames.

Below: An area carpet brought all the colors in this room together. With an eclectic mix of accessories, this family room is truly a rustic chic and casually comfortable place to enjoy a snowy, cold winter day ? curled up by the fire in style.

SHNS PHOTO



look I'm after, and the tufting detail even adds a touch of elegance.

Inspired by sand, sea and sky, I'm adding color that will bring a touch of Costa Rica to the north. Blue linen draperies, lined for privacy and insulation, provide a fabulous and functional backdrop to the leather sofa, and accent fabrics in traditional patterns add more color and visual interest throughout the space.

With an area carpet that marries together all the colors in the room and an eclectic mix of accessories, this family room is truly a rustic chic and casually comfortable place to enjoy a snowy, cold winter day curled up by the fire in style. Now that's divine!

Interior decorator Candice Olson is host of HGTV's "Divine Design." For more ideas, information and show times, visit www.HGTV.com or www.divinedesign.tv.

Divorce and reorganizing life

SARAH WELCH AND ALICIA
ROCKMORE
getbuttonedup.com

Getting a divorce can be one of the most difficult periods in anyone's life.

In addition to the heart-breaking end of a marriage, there are often difficult decisions that need to be made. Who do the kids live? Where gets the house? How do you divide up the assets?

It's exhausting, emotionally and financially, and can make an already trying time seem almost unbearable. Sarah and Alicia recently sat down with Alicia's sister, Susan, who, after 38 years of marriage, was caught off guard by her husband's plans for divorce and found herself thoroughly unprepared for what came next.

Susan recalls: "It was Mother's Day and my husband of 38 years was in New York on business. I was planning to have a nice day to myself and hopefully catch dinner with him later that evening when he called

with the shocking news that he wanted a divorce. I was totally speechless. I never saw that coming. We had raised our family together and were enjoying being grandparents. I just never expected to hear those words.

"What came next was even more shocking. Sure, I handled the household budget, but he was responsible for overseeing the general finances. I had absolutely no handle on our overall financial picture — things like our bank accounts, retirement accounts and other financial responsibilities. Worse yet, not a single account or policy was in my name. When he later withdrew money from one of our accounts and then swiftly canceled my credit cards, I was left with virtually nothing. I couldn't believe this was happening to me. Emotionally, I couldn't get past the fact that the marriage was over, but then I was left feeling helpless

financially.

"Luckily, I was able to turn to my supportive family, and my sisters were there for me every step of the way, helping me get my feet back on the ground. Now, seven years later, I can't believe I was that person. I tell everyone I know that even if you're happy and think it will never happen to you, you need to know the basics when it comes to your finances. You just truly never know."

No matter how happy you are or secure you feel, here are the basics that everyone needs to know:

1. Be your Own Finance Whiz. You don't have to love it, but you do have to learn it. Nobody should be without the basics of his or her particular financial situation. Don't let one person handle everything. Set up a recurring "State of the Union" meeting once a year to discuss the entire financial picture with your spouse. It's more than just

the checking account. Find out about your life insurance, retirement accounts, college-savings accounts, etc.

2. One-Stop Shopping. Put together a binder or folder that functions as a one-stop spot for your most important information. Buttoned Up's Life.Doc binder is a perfect example, but anything that keeps track of your account numbers, contact information, policy numbers and other vital information will work. It seems rather simple, since it's really just a compilation of information such as bank names, account numbers, contacts and their numbers, but it's a lifesaver if ever needed.

3. Shore Up Your Support. This is not the time to be a martyr and go it alone. If you do find yourself in divorce proceedings, you are going to need lots of advice. This isn't just about your best friend's shoulder to cry on (though you'll certainly need that, too), but it's about finding the right lawyer, talking to the right real-estate professionals, etc. Ask family and friends who may have gone through a divorce for their advice on seeking the right counsel. You'll also need support in



HOLLIE SEHRT AND CINDY RODRIGUEZ / SHNS ILLUSTRATION

Aside from the heartbreaking end to the marriage, often there are many difficult decisions that need to be made.

other ways, so see if you can get your best friend to watch the kids while you schedule your conference with the lawyer. Divorce adds a lot of pressure to already busy lives, so be prepared in advance with the right support system.

4. Divorce File. If you thought your paperwork pile was out of control before, a divorce makes it much worse. It is a serious undertaking with plenty of legal documents, correspondence, meeting notes and other papers. It can be tempting to

throw everything in a box, but we recommend getting a binder or accordion folder to keep everything organized. That way, you'll know you have everything you need when and where you need to access it, and won't waste precious time looking for a piece of paper you know you have but just can't put your finger on.

The writers are co-founders of *Buttoned Up*, a company dedicated to helping stressed women get organized. Send ideas and questions to yourlife@getbuttonedup.com.

REMODELING

From C2

don't change your mind. Work stoppages and alterations add costs.

2. Keep the same footprint
3. Make lighting a priority

Well-designed bathroom lighting surrounds vanity mirrors and serves to eliminate shadows on faces. The scheme includes two ceiling or soffit-mounted fixtures with 60-75 watts each, and side-fixtures or sconces providing at least 150 watts each distributed vertically across 24 inches to account for people of various heights. Four-bulb lighting fixtures work well for side lighting.

4. Clear the air
A bathroom vent should

exhaust air to the outside, not simply to the space between ceiling joists. Better models have whisper-quiet exhaust fans and humidity-controlled switches that activate when a sensor detects excess moisture.

5. Think storage
Freestanding, multitiered shelf units designed to fit over toilet tanks can transform unused wall area into storage. Spaces between wall studs can be used to create niches for holding soaps and toiletries. Install shelves over towel bars to use blank wall space.

Inexpensive woven baskets set on the floor provide a stylish way to hold towels. A floor-stand coat rack can be used to hang towels,

bathrobes, or clothes.

Adding a slide-out tray to vanity-cabinet compartments gives you full access to stored items, and prevents lesser-used items from being lost or forgotten.

6. Contribute a little sweat equity

You can shave labor costs by doing some of the work yourself. Some easy DIY projects:

- Install window & baseboard trim: save \$250
- Paint walls and trim, 200 square feet: save \$200
- Install toilet: save \$150
- Install towel bars and shelves: save \$20 each

Courtesy of John Riha and HouseLogic.com on hgvtv.com

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SETH PERLMAN / AP

Construction worker Brian Stocks unloads doors to a new home under construction in Springfield, Ill. Homebuilders' confidence in the housing market has sunk to the lowest level in more than a year, more evidence that the economic recovery is slowing.

Proposed tax relief amendment falls under attack

BILL KACZOR
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Labor unions and a taxpayer are challenging a proposed state constitutional amendment that would give an extra property tax break to some home buyers.

A Tallahassee judge has scheduled a final hearing Thursday in the lawsuit seeking to remove Amendment 3 from Florida's November ballot.

The proposal, which the Legislature approved last year, would give people who have not owned a home for at least eight years an added — but temporary — homestead exemption on primary residences purchased on or after Jan. 1, 2010.

The Florida AFL-CIO and Jacksonville resident Brian K. Doyle say in their lawsuit that the title and summary are flawed because they don't mention the purchase date.

The plaintiffs also argue the title says the added exemption is for "new homestead owners" and the summary refers to "a first-time homestead" despite the eight-year provision that allows previous homeowners to qualify.

Doyle would not qualify for the tax break and many union members are government employees paid from property taxes that would be cut by the amendment.

In a written response, the state says the title and summary accurately describe the proposal's chief purpose and that the purchase date is the kind of detail not required by law.

The state also contends the terms "new homestead owners" and "first-time homestead" are commonly understood and that the eight-year provision is cited in the summary so it's clear who can qualify for the tax break.

The amendment would give those homeowners an additional exemption of at least 25 percent in the first year. It would continue for four more years but be

reduced incrementally each of those years.

The purpose is to reduce some of the disparity in taxes paid by recent purchasers and longtime homeowners who get more benefit from the Save Our Homes Amendment. That 1992 constitutional provision caps annual assessment increases at 3 percent for owners of primary homes, also known as homesteads.

The disparity only increased after voters approved another tax relief amendment in 2008 that lets homeowners take at least part of their Save Our Homes benefits with them when they move.

Another provision in Amendment 3 would lower a cap on annual assessment increases for businesses and other non-homestead properties from 10 percent to 5 percent.

It is one of five proposed amendments, out of nine slated for the Nov. 2 ballot, that are being challenged.

The Florida Supreme Court is considering two cases involving three proposals dealing with legislative and congressional redistricting. Two of those, Amendments 5 and 6, are citizen initiatives designed to curtail gerrymandering. The other, Amendment 7, was proposed by the Legislature to counteract the initiatives.

Amendment 9, which would block requirements for citizens to buy health insurance, also is being challenged. A Circuit Court hearing is set for July 29 in Tallahassee.

The Republican-controlled Legislature offered the proposal in response to passage of Democratic President Barack Obama's national health care overhaul. Legal experts, though, say it cannot stand in the way of the new federal law although it could prevent the state from implementing a similar program.

That case and the tax relief challenge also are likely to end up in the Supreme Court.

Homebuilders are losing confidence in the recovery

ALAN ZIBEL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Homebuilders are feeling increasingly pessimistic about their industry, more evidence that the economic recovery is slowing.

The National Association of Home Builders said Monday that its monthly reading of builders' sentiment about the housing market sank to 14 — the lowest level since March 2009. Readings below 50 indicate negative sentiment about the market.

The weak job market and an increasing number of foreclosed properties have prompted builders to limit construction of new homes. A modest revival in sales over the past year ended in May after federal tax credits expired at the end of April.

Conditions are not likely to improve soon. Reports this week on new home construction and previously owned home sales in June are expected to show the housing market remains deeply hobbled. An update on the Obama administration's effort to help those in danger of losing their homes is also expected Tuesday.

While the overall economy appears unlikely to fall back into recession, many analysts expect housing to struggle for some time.

"With growth slumping again, and unemployment hovering near the double digits, we simply don't have the necessary ingredients for a sustainable recovery in housing," said Mike Larson, real estate and interest rate analyst at Weiss Research.

Builders have sharply scaled back construction in the face of a severe housing market bust. The number of new homes up for sale in May fell to 213,000, the lowest level in nearly 40 years. And, at the current sales rate, it would take 8.5 months to exhaust that supply. In a healthy economy, new home inventory takes about six months to exhaust.

Five years ago, at the peak of the housing boom, there were about 460,000 unsold homes on the market. And because of the frenzied pace of sales, it would have taken a little more than four months to exhaust that supply.

In some ways, it could be good news that builders are scaling back. It means they won't add to the supply of homes on the market and that could create more demand for the current stock.

But it won't help the job market. Each new home built creates, on average, the equivalent of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in taxes paid to local and federal authori-

ties, according to the builders' trade group. The impact appears in multiple industries, from makers of faucets and kitchen appliances to lumber yards.

New home sales in May dropped 33 percent to the slowest pace in the 47 years records have been kept. The number of buyers who signed contracts to purchase previously occupied homes tumbled 30 percent in May. The drop-off came immediately after the tax incentives to sign a contract on a home ended on April 30.

Still, the trade group's latest survey of 502 residential builders nationwide suggests the market will remain sluggish for the rest of the year. The index is broken into three separate readings. Its index measuring expectations for the next six months fell one point to 21. Current sales conditions fell two points to 15 and foot traffic from prospective buyers sank to 10.

Even if homebuilders keep construction to a minimum, it could be three years before the supply of housing comes into balance with demand, said Paul Dales, U.S. economist for Capital Economics.

"The supply of housing remains very high and could rise even further," Dales said. "It's going to be a very long time before all the excess supply is worked off."

More than 40 percent leave mortgage-aid program

ALAN ZIBEL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 40 percent of homeowners seeking help from the Obama administration's flagship effort to rescue those at risk of foreclosure have dropped out of the program.

The latest report on the program suggests foreclosures could rise in the second half of the year and weaken an ailing housing market.

About 530,000 borrowers have fallen out of the program as of last month, the Treasury Department said Tuesday. Nearly 1.3 million homeowners had enrolled since

March 2009.

Treasury officials say few of these borrowers will wind up in foreclosure. But many analysts are concerned that a new wave of foreclosures could greatly impact the struggling housing industry.

Another 390,000 homeowners, or 30 percent of those who started the program, have received permanent loan modifications and are making payments on time.

A major reason so many have fallen out of the program is the Obama administration initially pressured banks to sign up borrowers without insisting first on proof

of their income. When banks later moved to collect the information, many troubled homeowners were disqualified or dropped out.

Many borrowers complain of a bureaucratic nightmare. They say banks often lose their documents and then claim borrowers did not send back the necessary paperwork.

The banking industry said borrowers weren't sending back the necessary paperwork.

The Obama plan was designed to help people in financial trouble by lowering their monthly mortgage payments. Homeowners who qualify can receive an interest rate as

low as 2 percent for five years and a longer repayment period. The average monthly payment has been cut by about \$500 on average.

The homeowners receive temporary modifications. These are supposed to become permanent after borrowers make three payments on time and complete the required paperwork. That includes proof of income and a letter explaining the reason for their troubles. In practice, though, the process has taken far longer.

The more than 100 participating mortgage companies get taxpayer incentives to reduce payments. But

as of mid-May only \$132 million has been spent out of a potential \$75 billion, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Though the program has been widely criticized for making only a small dent in the foreclosure crisis, administration officials defend their efforts. They say that the foreclosure prevention program has spurred changes in the mortgage industry, prodding lenders to make more significant cuts to borrowers' monthly payments than before the government effort started.

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LOCATION: Plantation at Leesburg **FEATURES:** Conservation lot, 2BR/2BA, Fl. room. **LISTING PRICE:** \$97,900 **SELLING PRICE:** \$83,000 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Brenda Greenlee, PAL Realty. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Adriana Skoloda, PAL Realty.



LOCATION: Plantation at Leesburg **FEATURES:** Fenced Villa, furnished 2BR/2BA, Fl. room. **LISTING PRICE:** \$115,900 **SELLING PRICE:** \$110,000 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Mark Brooks, PAL Realty. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Dawn Brooks, PAL Realty.



LOCATION: 2349 Conestoga, Leesburg **FEATURES:** 3BR/2BA **LISTING PRICE:** \$55,000 **SELLING PRICE:** \$55,000 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** George Philbeck, The Philbeck Group. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Joan Defoe, Morris Realty & Investments.



LOCATION: Plantation at Leesburg **FEATURES:** Golf course frontage 3R/2BA, Fl. room, 2.5 car garage. **LISTING PRICE:** \$299,000 **SELLING PRICE:** \$285,000 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Audrey Mackiewicz, PAL Realty. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Brenda Greenlee, PAL Realty.



LOCATION: Plantation at Leesburg **FEATURES:** Golf course frontage 3R/2BA, former model. **LISTING PRICE:** \$260,000 **SELLING PRICE:** \$235,000 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Brenda Greenlee, PAL Realty. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Brenda Greenlee, PAL Realty.



LOCATION: 211 Bayou Bend Road, The Cascades of Groveland, Groveland **FEATURES:** 3BR/2.5BA 2,504 sq. ft. **LISTING PRICE:** \$169,900 **SELLING PRICE:** \$164,000 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Allen Mates, Watson Realty Corp. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Allen Mates, Watson Realty Corp.



LOCATION: 13933 Wellington Lane, Grand Island **FEATURES:** 3BR/2BA, 1,830 sq. ft. **LISTING PRICE:** \$126,900 **SELLING PRICE:** \$124,900 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Vangie Berry, Vangie Berry Signature Realty. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Michelle Bilbrey, Vangie Berry Signature Realty.



LOCATION: Lady Lake **FEATURES:** Harbor Hills w/2 bedrms, den. **LISTING PRICE:** \$269,900 **SELLING PRICE:** \$225,000 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Thomas Bankowski & Jan Heggem, Coldwell Banker All Village. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Frances Justison, ERA Tom Grizzard Inc.

Scrapbooks from scratch

SANDI GENOVESE
Scripps Howard News Service

In this economy, with most of us cutting back on expenses, cheap has become the new rich. In an effort to save a few bucks, I discovered the art of the handmade gift, and in the process, I came to realize that handmade gifts are actually more prized than their store-bought counterparts.

During the summer, nearly everyone spends a little time on vacation or a "stay-cation." Either way, photos are usually taken. Why not create a gift-able scrapbook to give those photos a place to live?

When creating a scrapbook from scratch, I usually begin with the covers. A simple way to make clear, acrylic scrapbook covers involves a quick trip to the hardware store. When you buy a sheet of Plexiglas, they will cut it to size and drill a few holes. Depending on the size of the sheet you purchase, several covers can be cut. I chose 5-1/2 by 8-1/2 inches for my scrapbook covers in order to make it easy to cut the inside pages from 8-1/2-by-11-inch cardstock.

The scrapbook pages are divided into sections that are cut in graduated lengths. The width of all of the pages is 1/4-inch narrower than



SANDI GENOVESE / SHNS

During the summer, nearly everyone spends a little time on a vacation or a "stay-cation." Either way, photos are usually taken, so why not create a gift-able scrapbook to give those photos a place to live?

the covers (5-1/4 inches). The lengths of the interior pages vary, depending on their placement in the book. The first five pages are 7-1/4 inches long. Each successive five-page section is 1/4-inch longer than the previous section. The first page of each section is decorated with fish or splash stickers to coordinate with the theme of the photos. The page is trapped between a pair of

mirror-image stickers that protrude over the edge in order to create fish and splash-shaped tabs.

Because the covers are clear, the first page is decorated as if it were the cover, with patterned papers, a title printed with rub-on letters and a few more fish stickers. Using the acrylic covers as a guide, holes are punched in all of the pages with 1/4-inch-hole punch. The book is bound with two metal

rings, purchased at a stationery store, and spray-painted blue.

When creating a scrapbook as a gift, you are not likely to have the photos that go inside, so completing the book may not be possible. The key is to create a book that is decorated to fit the theme of the photos so the recipient need only attach photos and add whatever narrative he or she wants in order to complete the book.

Just imagine returning home from a summer vacation with a camera full of photos. Instead of leaving them unprinted on your memory card, or stuffing the prints into a shoebox, you need only select your favorites and stick them into a customized scrapbook made especially for you. Short of returning to your vacation spot for another week, what could be better?

Contact Sandi Genovese and find free video demonstrations of more photo projects at www.scrapbookshowgram.com.

Furniture that will just bowl you over

PATRICIA SHERIDAN
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Once a center for socializing, the bowling alleys of the 1950s and '60s have gone the way of drive-in theaters and penny candy. But some lucky lanes have survived the scrap heap and are once again the heart of get-togethers, thanks to Jim Malone. He has been turning the wood of demolished bowling lanes into dining tables and more since 2007 at his Brooklyn-based company, CounterEvolution NYC.

He wasn't looking to "strike" it rich by repurposing the old lanes.

"It just sort of landed in my lap," he says.

Malone, 44, was searching for a large slab of wood to build a kitchen counter for his New York City apartment when someone told him about a stash of disassembled bowling lanes.

"I loved the way it looked when it was cleaned up and when friends would come over they just loved it, too."

He spared no details, explaining to friends his counter's past life supporting gutter balls and a parade of two-toned shoes. The counter wasn't the only one with a former career.

"I came to New York to be a professional musician," Malone says.

A singer and songwriter, he has released a couple of solo CDs. His work with a music production company led to dubbing Japanese animation.

"I was the voice director of the phenomenon that was Pokemon."

Although he admits that playing music all day would make him happy, he feels lucky to have found something hands-on that addresses his creative impulse -- not to mention pays the bills.

He was looking to get into a more lucrative line of work when he discovered the charms of 1- by 2-inch slats of maple and heart pine.

"The old bowling alleys were usually the heart pine, which is more dense than the Southern yellow pine. ... It suggests designs based on the material."

He has mostly phased out the maple because it was harder to work with. "I just found it much more interesting to do furniture, but we still do countertops if that's what a customer wants."

Everything is handmade in his production studio and showroom in Brooklyn. He has anywhere from two to five people making the furniture to order, and the orders have been substantial. His commercial clients include Starbucks and Sweet Greens, a salad shop started by a few Georgetown University students that has since sprouted up in other cities. That famous saying from the movie "Field of Dreams" -- "If you build it, they will come" -- was spotted when it comes to bowling-alley benches, tables, chairs, desks and more.

"When I first launched the company, I lugged my heavy pieces out to this great flea market in Brooklyn every Sunday, and people oohed and aahed. I sold a few pieces, but it also gave me great publicity."

Design blogs started writing about him, and that generated more press.

"The Sweet Greens guys really wanted reclaimed materials for their furnishings, and after Googling one night, they found me. 'I'm pretty much self-taught. Trial-and-error has been my best teacher,'" laughs Malone.

Some of the furniture is done with a finger splice of the legs through the top. Made all of wood, it's called the Rustic Line and requires precision cutting so it will fit tightly together.

"It's a lot of hard work using the techniques we've developed. It's all handcrafted no matter how big the order is," he notes.

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LOCATION: Groveland **FEATURES:** Amazing property w/ 6+ acres, wrap-around porch, 4 bedrms, formal living rm, dining rm, screen pool & a horse barn. **LISTING PRICE:** \$324,900 **SELLING PRICE:** \$266,500 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Jessica Graham, ERA Tom Grizzard Inc. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Susan Roberts, Micki Blackburn Realty Inc.



LOCATION: Tavares **FEATURES:** Canal front on 1 acre, 3BR/2BA, vaulted ceilings, french doors & view of canal. **LISTING PRICE:** \$274,900 **SELLING PRICE:** \$235,000 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Craig Yox, ERA Tom Grizzard, Inc. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Julie Taylor, ERA Tom Grizzard Inc.



LOCATION: 16720 Culloden Court Citrus Highlands, Clermont **FEATURES:** 3BR/3.1BA 2,130 sq. ft. **LISTING PRICE:** \$209,900 **SELLING PRICE:** \$202,500 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Dennis Hjorten, Watson Realty Corp. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Simon Ambrose, Weichert Realtors Hallmark.



LOCATION: 2112 Virginia Ave **FEATURES:** 3BR/2BA **LISTING PRICE:** \$33,660 **SELLING PRICE:** \$34,200 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Lorraine Castro, Uptown Realty. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Ron Blouin, Remax Realty Center.



LOCATION: 12115 Nest Ct., Grand Island **FEATURES:** 3BR/2BA, pool home on half acre **LISTING PRICE:** \$147,000 **SELLING PRICE:** \$147,000 **LISTING AGENT & OFFICE:** Pam Myers, Dave Lowe Realty. **SELLING AGENT & OFFICE:** Vangie Berry, Signature Realty.

Stress tests are debt-crisis hurdle throughout Europe

PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON — It is billed as a moment of truth — but some fear an exercise in obfuscation. The results of European Union stress tests designed to uncover the depth of rot in the continent's banking system come out later this week — and an accurate reading would go far to answer the key question of whether Europe's debt crisis is finally over.

Some experts expect gloom whatever the result: Bad news could send markets into a tailspin again.

Too rosy a picture, on the other hand, may alarm investors that the tests have not been rigorous enough.

The hope is that the results are credible enough to lift the cloud of uncertainty surrounding the exposure of European banks to the debt crisis. U.S. stress tests last year helped to shore up confidence after 10 of 19 banks failed tests and were told they needed to raise around \$75 billion.

Europe's debt crisis has already forced Greece to take a 110 billion international bailout to avoid bankruptcy, and pushed governments to put up a \$1 trillion backstop for troubled governments if they need it. Greece's near-failure sent shivers of fear through investors wondering which banks' balance sheets were hiding Greek and other debt that could go bad.

Most of the 91 banks tested are expected to pass — but analysts say some must fail for the tests to have any credibility. And failure won't necessarily mean the banks are bust, but that they will need to raise money from investors or governments.

Raising more money will be an unpleasant reality that should not be dodged, said Nicolas Veron, a senior fellow at economic think-tank Bruegel in Brussels.

"If its outcome is to be credible, it will necessarily reveal significant capital shortfalls in a number of banks," said Veron. Analyst estimates range from 50 billion to 100 billion for new capital requirements.

Those perceived to be candidates for fresh capital injections when the tests are revealed after market close Friday afternoon are some of the smaller Spanish banks — the so-called cajas — hit by the real estate collapse, and regional German banks — the Landesbanken — that made oversized bets on global financial markets before the 2008 meltdown. Both cajas and the Landesbanken are not listed on stock markets and thus not subject to analyst scrutiny the way major banks such as Germany's Deutsche Bank, Britain's Barclays and France's BNP Paribas are.

Equally important will be the response from policymakers and the banks themselves, and the window for action may only last until traders return to their desks Monday morning.

"The announcement of the results needs to include a clear and detailed recapitalization plan for those banks or national banking systems that did not prove resilient to the stress tests," said Silvio Peruzzo, euro area economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Despite the intense market focus on the tests, little is actually known about how the London-based Committee of European Banking Supervisors (CEBS) is conducting its analysis — in marked contrast to the tests that were undertaken last year in the U.S.

What is known is that the CEBS's "adverse economic scenario" assumes that the EU economy underperforms the EU Commission's forecasts by three percentage points of gross domestic output — in other words, a recession. In May, the Commission predicted that the EU economy would grow by 1 percent this year and 1.7 percent in 2011.

The key unknown is what potential losses

the CEBS assumes banks will have to absorb from losses on their investments in government debt — Greek bonds, widely considered the most risky, are expected to have a "haircut" of around 20 percent, while the discount for Germany is likely to be in the very low single-digits at most.

If the probability attached to a Greek debt default is too low, for example, then investors may dismiss the results and continue to worry about hidden losses. Equally, if the tests are too tough then investors will fret about how the banks will be able to raise the money to rebuild their capital.

"Stress testing is a gamble," said Ken Wattret, chief eurozone economist at BNP Paribas.

The euro will likely bear the initial market reaction — the results will be released after Europe's bond and stock markets close on Friday, but New York will still be open.

The euro has advanced over 10 cents since hitting a four-year low of \$1.1878 in early June on a combination of easing worries over Europe's sovereign debt crisis and concerns about the U.S. economic recovery. On Friday, the euro broke above the \$1.30 mark for the first time since early May.

Neil Mackinnon, global macro strategist at VT Capital, thinks the tests will be anything but "stressful" and, given the positive noises coming from many European capitals, increasingly look like they are going to be a "whitewash."

Mackinnon pointed out that the 20 percent figure for the Greek 'haircut' is way too low. Something nearer 50 percent would be more realistic, he said.

"There is every likelihood that these tests will not be stressful at all, which will leave financial markets suspicious that policymakers and regulators are not engaging in a transparent and honest assessment of banks' true balance sheet positions, especially with regard to sovereign risk exposure," said Mackinnon.

Several of Germany's Landesbanken stumbled during the financial crisis and had to seek help after making big bets on global financial markets and large investments in shaky bonds backed by U.S. mortgages to people with poor credit.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaueble has said Germany should be able to handle any signs of stress "with the instruments we gave ourselves in the banking crisis" in 2008. There is no serious talk of bank mergers resulting in Germany from the tests, although there has been talk for years of the need to consolidate the Landesbanken.

Germany's financial-sector rescue fund started out with a maximum 80 billion to recapitalize banks and 400 billion in loan guarantees. It has more than half of that left: some 50 billion for capital injections and 247 billion in guarantees.

Much of the attention Friday will likely focus on the Spanish banks, and the cajas in particular, which have been heavily exposed to the collapsed real estate sector in the country. The CEBS is assessing the fortunes of 27 Spanish financial institutions — making Spain the country with the most banks under scrutiny.

Other question marks include Austrian banks' 204 billion in exposure to central, eastern and southeastern European debt. The country's central bank says those exposures are well diversified and mostly locally financed, diminishing risks of a cash crunch.

Banks in France have significant exposure to Greek debt, but France's Finance Minister Christine Lagarde says she's not "worried" about their performance in the stress test.

Analysts expect Swedish banks, despite high exposure to debt in the Baltic countries where the recession has been severe, to pass the stress tests thanks to writedowns and other steps already taken.

US housing data weigh on world markets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — European stock markets closed lower Monday after disappointing U.S. housing data stoked another bout of jitters about the world's largest economy.

Britain's FTSE 100 index of leading British shares ended 10.57 points, or 0.2 percent, lower while Germany's DAX fell 31.16 points, or 0.5 percent, to 6,009.11. The CAC-40 in France closed down 13.83 points, or 0.4 percent, at 3,486.33.

European stocks had been trading higher for most of the session until figures from the National Association of Home Builders showed confidence in the U.S. housing market down at a year low during July.

U.S. stocks pared their earlier gains in the wake of the data — the Dow Jones industrial average was up only 13.04 points, or 0.1 percent, at 10,110.99 around midday New York time while the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index was barely 0.1 percent higher at 1,065.39.

The U.S. housing news follow a raft of disappointing economic signals out of the U.S. Last week, markets were hit hard by a plunge in consumer confidence as well as downbeat manufacturing surveys.

The main worry in the markets at the moment — replacing the government debt crisis in Europe — is that a sharp slowdown is

taking place in the U.S., with consequences all around the world.

Stocks had been buoyed earlier by strong earnings from the likes of Royal Philips Electronics NV and appliance maker Electrolux in Sweden, toy maker Hasbro and oil services company Halliburton also surprised markets with strong reports.

That partially eased worries about last week's U.S. indicators — poor results from Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America Corp. and a slump in consumer confidence to its lowest point in nearly a year.

The increasingly troubled outlook for the U.S. has begun to overshadow fears from Europe's government debt woes, as markets seem to feel the debt crisis has eased ahead of the release of bank stress test results this week.

In fact, the recovery from Friday's sharp losses came despite a one-notch downgrade by Moody's of Ireland's public debt. The ratings agency cited a weak growth outlook, high debt levels and large banking liabilities. In another reminder of Europe's debt crisis, officials from the International Monetary Fund and the European Union said they had suspended talks of another loan for Hungary.

Yet investors mostly looked past the reports, bidding the euro up to \$1.2961 from \$1.2947 in New York late Friday — a sign that

fears about the debt crisis have largely calmed.

The publication on Friday of EU-wide stress tests of banks, a simulation to see how the region's 91 biggest lenders would fare if the economy worsened sharply, will be European traders' main focus this week.

"Although several European governments have suggested that the banks in their countries will pass the tests there is still a considerable event risk surrounding the announcement," said Mitul Kotecha, analyst at Credit Agricole.

He said much will depend on how rigorous the tests are perceived to be.

In Asia, most indexes closed lower to make up for last week's losses on Wall Street. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index shed 159.21 points, or 0.8 percent, to close at 20,090.95. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 1.5 percent while Seoul's Kospi closed 0.4 percent down.

Markets in Japan were closed for a national holiday.

The Shanghai benchmark, however, rose — gaining 2.1 percent to 2,475.42 — on speculation that the Chinese government was committed to supporting the Agricultural Bank of China's initial public offering to prevent it from dropping below its offer price.

Benchmark crude for August delivery was up 68 cents at \$76.69 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

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