



Two of a kind

Thompson, Weaver share player of the year honor

SPORTS, 1B



2 women killed in crash

Semi crosses center line on S.R. 64 between AP, Zolfo

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Sunday, January 1, 2012

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Forecast



Mostly sunny; cold snap on the way

High **77** Low **55**

Complete Forecast PAGE 12A

Online



Question: Will you be awake when 2012 arrives?



Next question: Do you eat black-eyed peas on New Year's Day?

Make your voice heard at www.newssun.com

Obituaries

Kathryn H. Cruise
Age 83, of Cedar Haven, Pa.

Gene A. Hendrix
Age 71, of Sebring

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Health Department closes Sebring public beaches

Due to high bacteria levels

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR
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SEBRING — The Highlands County Health Department officials closed all four of Sebring public beaches on Lake Jackson Thursday afternoon after a high level of bacteria was found in the lake.

Biological scientist (and lover of

bacteria) Stefi Depovic works in the Environmental Health Division at the HCHD. She said the lake was tested on Dec. 27.

"It takes about 24 hours to get the results back in. There was an indication of enterococcus bacteria in the water," Depovic said.

Enterococcus is a group of bacteria that are part of the normal bacteria in humans and animals. The bacteria found

See BEACHES, page 6A



News-Sun photo by ED BALDRIDGE

All the public beaches on Lake Jackson in Sebring were closed Thursday because of bacteria levels.

12 things to watch in 2012

Economy, elections and, of course, Harder Hall's fate

By ED BALDRIDGE

ed.baldridge@newssun.com

SEBRING — Last year was packed full of controversial stories, and looking forward, it seems that the coming 365 days could be just as memorable.

A lot of the stories that made 2011 so interesting will carry over into this year. Here's a look at 12 things that bear watching in 2012:

The economy

Leading the headlines in 2012 will certainly be the state of the economy, not just in Highlands County, but world-wide.

With the prospect of light industry coming to the county, a new hope for job creation to offset the 11.5 percent unemployment is on the horizon.

What will our local leaders do to make Highlands County more business friendly in 2012?

Elections building

The four new commissioners certainly inherited a boondoggle, which was only dragged into the light in late 2011.

With Sebring Building officials ordering all construction stopped, what will the new commissioners do to correct staff who continues to violate permitting and code when it comes to the proposed Supervisor of Elections Building?

The year of the anniversary

On a happier note, everyone loves a party and 2012 will certainly be the Year of Anniversary.

Kicking off the celebrations in January, the City of Sebring heralds its centennial in 2012 and everyone is encouraged to participate in the events planned through the year.

In March, the 12 Hours of Sebring will hold its 60th running. The magic number at the Sebring Airport is 70, and celebrations and quest speakers will abound during the Light Sport Aircraft and Sports Pilot Expo on Jan. 20.

Record crowds are expected to see

See STORIES, page 5A

A boy's mile-high dreams come true

Travels to Denver to hang out with Tim Tebow

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY
christopher.tuffley@newssun.com

SEBRING — Zac Taylor, 9, and his brother Jakob, 4, spent four days in Denver the weekend of Dec. 9th. They were in town to attend the Broncos-Bears game.

The trip was not a vacation. It was a dream come true.

Zac, who is in the fourth grade at Sun 'N Lake Elementary School, was born with a condition called neurofibromatosis. That means tissue grows along the nerves causing pain and damage.

There are good days and bad days.

But that doesn't bother Zac, who is lively and bright. He uses his hands when he speaks and his body for emphasis. Excitement and pure joy sparkle off of him. He is filled with wonder and the ability to be surprised.

Zac's one wish, whenever anybody asked him, was to meet Tim Tebow in Denver and watch a Broncos football game.

Zac has been a Gator fan all of his young life. Die hard. Hard core. A sleep-on-Gator-sheets fan. When he was 7, he even met Tebow during the Gator Walk prior to a game in Gainesville.

But the meeting was in passing. Zac wished for a chance to ask Tebow questions.

This is where the W15H

See DREAM, page 7A



Courtesy photo

Proud dad Toby Taylor took this photo of his son, Zac Taylor, 9, shaking hands with Bronco quarterback Tim Tebow on the field at Sports Authority Field in Denver.

2011 was full of weird news in Florida ... as usual

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Did you hear about the giant Lego man that washed up on Siesta Key beach?

What about the man who walked into a bar, ordered a beer and disappeared for 30 minutes to rob a bank, only to return and finish his drink?

Or how about the puzzling

Strange things are everyday events in Sunshine State

story of the baby grand piano that showed up on a sandbar near Miami?

That's Florida, where weird is an everyday event.

Over the past year, a 92-year-old woman fired four shots at a neighbor who refused to kiss her, a Delray Beach man cut off a piece of

a dead whale that washed ashore — planning to eat it — and an 8-year-old girl gave her teacher some marijuana and said: "This is some of my mom's weed."

The piano was a mystery for about a month. On Jan. 1, 2011, the charred instrument showed up on a Biscayne Bay

sandbar, a couple hundred yards from shore.

A 16-year-old student eventually admitted he put it there as part of an art project. A day after it was removed, someone set up a table with two chairs, place settings and a bottle of wine.

It's still not clear how the

100-pound, 8-foot-tall Lego man washed ashore.

The local tourism bureau hoped to use Lego man to promote the area, but the man who found it has placed a claim on it. He can keep it if the owner doesn't collect it before early next year. As for the bar-bank robber, he was

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New trash carts should save Avon Park money in new year

By ED BALDRIDGE

ed.baldridge@newssun.com

AVON PARK — Residents in Avon Park will be greeted with new trash carts to open the new year courtesy of the city, and the containers are designed to lower overall costs of trash collection.

“We have actually started rolling out the new garbage carts to all city residents and business,” said City Manager Julian Deleon on Monday.

“Our garbage fleet has been upgraded and automated to remove the lifting components away from the employee’s job. We have about 1,000 carts already distributed throughout the community,” Deleon said.

“On a daily basis, we are distributing about 150 carts. I am expecting for all new carts to be distributed by the middle of January,” Deleon added.

The cost for each cart was just \$40, a savings over the original \$65 estimate, Deleon said.

The new receptacles are designed to lower the water weight of the trash collected, which will lower the tipping fees paid at the landfill, an overall savings that should be passed along to the residents, according to Deleon.

“The enhanced hinged lids on the new carts will remove the water weight. We should see a drop in costs next year,” Deleon said.

Since the carts will be lifted by the trucks themselves,



News-Sun photo by ED BALDRIDGE
Jerry Bennett watches as a new trash cart is emptied in Avon Park on Friday.

employee injuries should also be reduced, Deleon said.

“All lifting is performed by mechanical equipment. This will reduce worker injury, and improve safety,” said Deleon.

The new carts are predicted to save time as well, something that is needed to keep costs down as Avon

Park continues to expand its borders in the new year.

“The automation and investment in technology is an important component as we continue to expand the city limits and continue to increase our customer base,” Deleon said.

“It has been a back saver, and there is a lot less lifting,”

said Public Works employee Jerry Bennett early Friday morning as he made his route.

“There is definitely less water in the trash and the new carts are easier to handle,” Bennett added. “Are they saving a lot of time? Not yet, but we are just getting used to handling them.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Dancers host ‘Snow Dance’

LAKE PLACID — The Lake Placid Ballroom Dancers will be hosting a “Snow Dance” on Saturday, Jan. 7 at the fellowship hall, Eastside Christian Church. You have heard of a “Rain Dance”, this will be a “Snow Dance” to help our ski friends in the North fill their slopes with the white stuff.

Get those white shoes working again, and the white pants, skirts. Anything white goes.

Uptown Country will help on the music for dancing with all the usual ballroom fare, and more. There will be a singing group at intermission helping with the January White theme. Sandwiches will be available at 6 p.m. Soda and water will also be available. Note, the new hours for dancing are 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

A special dance to hasten the snowfall will be performed by selected members of the group at intermission.

Eastside Christian Church Fellowship Hall is 2 miles east on County Road 621 off U.S. 27.

‘What’s Up Main Street?’ meeting scheduled

AVON PARK — The Avon Park Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Main Street District will host its next “What’s Up Main Street?” meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan.

10 at Eighteen East restaurant (18 E. Main St.).

Anyone who has an interest in Main Street Avon Park is invited to attend as this meeting that will feature an informal meeting and discussion with the new Avon Park Chamber of Commerce executive director, Laura Wade.

For more information, contact Casey Wohl at Casey.Wohl@Yahoo.com or by phone at (863) 224-6326 or visit www.AvonParkCRA.com.

Humane Society plans Sale-a-thon

SEBRING — The Humane Society announces its second annual Sale-a-thon from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14 at the Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center.

The Society is asking the public for donations of furniture, jewelry, tools, collectibles/ antiques, pet products and general household items. Clean wearable clothing only will be accepted.

Call Pat Hoffer at (863) 835-1491 or the Humane Society Shelter at 655-1522.

Expo introduces food and wine pairing events

SEBRING — This Jan. 19-22, attendees of the U.S. Sport Aviation Expo will have the opportunity to

Continued on page 5A

Pennies for puppies: Girls donate to help dogs taken from fight ring

By ED BALDRIDGE

ed.baldridge@newssun.com

SEBRING — Two girls in Highlands County have decided they would donate all of their pennies to help treat the dogs seized during the break up of a dog fighting ring in Sebring.

In a press release on Friday, Sheriff Susan Benton announced that the public has shown its support for the 49 dogs collected so far.

Four people have been arrested.

“As detectives continue working with prosecutors to build the case against those who were conducting the illegal dog fighting for profit as alleged, our citizens have rallied,” our citizens have rallied,” Benton wrote in a press release.

“As you know, we are working with several rescue associations in anticipation of placing the 49 dogs into a safe environment once the courts give the green light. One of the first hearings is scheduled for Jan. 6. In order to make the placements, funds are needed for the transfer and medical care of the dogs. The community has donated \$4,506.00 as of Thursday, December 29 to help save the dogs that were used and abused for the purpose of profit during these



Courtesy photo

From left, Deputy Michael Parker and K-9 Maverick, Azusena Gomez, 8, Selene Gomez, 11, Karon Kamiski, Deputy William Gentry and K-9 Roni. The Gomez girls donated their pennies to help care for dogs seized from a dog fighting ring in Sebring.

fighting exhibitions,” Benton wrote.

But in her mind, two young ladies stand out in particular.

“Two little girls who had been saving their pennies since October came into the Sheriff’s Office with their grandmother and donated all of their pennies,” Benton said.

Selene Gomez, 11, and Azusena Gomez, 8, answered the sheriff’s call for donations and worked hard to collect pennies for the effort.

Selene Gomez told her grandmother, Karon

Kamiski, that she read the story in the newspaper and she and her sister Azusena Gomez wanted to help the dogs, Benton said.

All of the pennies collected over the course of three months amounted to \$6.

“On behalf of the detectives working the case, the animal control officers who are caring for the dogs we would like to thank Selene and Azusena and all of the many other contributors for helping us fund the placement of these animals for their safety and rehabilitation,” Benton said.

State ag department takes over school nutrition starting today

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida’s Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will take over the state’s school nutrition program starting Jan. 1.

The transfer is a result of a decision passed during the 2011 legislative session.

With the transfer of the program, about 45 full time employees move from the Department of Education to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam has been visiting Florida’s schools for months to learn how educators teach students about healthy food choices. Putnam’s goal is to get schools and Florida farmers to work together to bring produce and other locally produced food into school cafeterias.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced it will allocate an additional \$2.5 million to Florida to help schools improve the quality of meals.

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Dec. 30 12 17 22 30 32
Dec. 29 2 27 28 31 35
Dec. 28 3 4 7 10 31
Dec. 27 4 9 21 34 36

Dec. 30 (n) 5 4 1 3
Dec. 30 (d) 3 0 3 3
Dec. 29 (n) 8 9 4 3
Dec. 29 (d) 7 6 9 7

Dec. 30 3 15 20 27 14
Dec. 27 13 18 25 43 15
Dec. 23 13 19 35 42 10
Dec. 20 1 16 33 40 15

Dec. 30 (n) 5 5 1
Dec. 30 (d) 1 4 7
Dec. 29 (n) 8 1 5
Dec. 29 (d) 1 7 3

Dec. 28 16 21 27 41 45 **PB: 14 PP: 2**
Next jackpot \$25 million

Dec. 24 14 16 30 51 52 **PB: 19 PP: 2**
Dec. 21 10 13 15 31 54 **PB: 18 PP: 5**

Note: Cash 3 and Play 4 drawings are twice per day: (d) is the daytime drawing, (n) is the nighttime drawing.
PB: Power Ball PP: Power Play

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Two women killed in Hardee County crash

News-Sun staff

HARDEE COUNTY — Two women were killed Friday afternoon when they Toyota Corolla they were in collided with a semi truck on State Road 64 between Zolfo Springs and Avon Park.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, 35-year-old Jennifer Jenkins and 34-year-old Kathleen M. O'Callaghan, both of Naples, were in the Corolla, which was heading east on S.R. 64 and being followed by a Ford Escape driven by Daniel R. Jenkins, 33, also of

Naples. Two-month-old Ashley Jenkins was in the Escape, also.

The report said that a 1993 Kenworth being driven by 45-year-old Michael J. Phillips of Lake Wales was headed west when it crossed the center line at around 5:30 p.m. near Blue Jay Road. Jennifer Jenkins, who was driving the Corolla, tried to brake and steer right to avoid the semi truck, but couldn't get out of the way and her car was struck.

Both Jennifer Jenkins and O'Callaghan died at the scene. The

Escape driven by Daniel Jenkins rolled while he tried to avoid the wreck in front of him, but both he and the baby escaped with just minor injuries. There was no indication in the report of how Jennifer and Daniel Jenkins are related.

Phillips suffered serious injuries in the crash. The semi truck ended up against some orange trees.

Everyone involved in the crash was wearing seatbelts, the report said, but alcohol testing on Phillips was pending, as were charges.

The FHP said the crash caused an

estimated \$40,000 in damage to the truck, \$10,000 in damage to the car, and \$7,000 of damage to the SUV.

Motorcyclist killed in Glades County

The northbound lanes of U.S. 27 just south of State Road 29 in Glades County were shut down for several hours Friday morning after a motorcyclist was killed when his front tire blew out.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, 20-year-old Seth

Wyatt Garvey of Moore Haven was on his 2011 Ducati motorcycle around 6:45 a.m. when the front tire failed, causing him to lose control. Garvey and his bike came to rest within the outside lane of U.S. 27.

Two semi trucks that were right behind the motorcycle when it wrecked ran over the motorcycle.

It was unclear, the report said, if the two semi trucks had also run over Garvey, who died from his injuries.

Alcohol tests were pending on those involved, the report said.

No one hurt as camera falls at bowl

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Flying cameras have been providing unique perspectives on everything from golf to college and professional football for more than a decade, becoming so commonplace that fans rarely notice the whizzing remote-controlled devices.

At the Insight Bowl on Friday night, no one could miss the overhead camera when it came crashing down to the field late in the fourth quarter, nearly taking out one of the players. The ESPN camera narrowly missed Iowa receiver Martin McNutt Jr., who became entangled in the guide wire but wasn't hurt.

"First, I looked: What is it that fell from the sky?" McNutt said after Iowa's 31-14 loss to No. 19 Oklahoma. "The next thing I know, the camera kind of scratched me a little bit. It was just pulling me and I knew I didn't want to keep going with it."

The cameras, despite flying over the playing field, have rarely interfered with the action. The incident at the Insight Bowl occurred with Iowa trying to rally from a 10-point deficit in the closing minutes.

While lining up for a play near the 20-yard line at the south end of Sun Devil Stadium, two Hawkeyes had to jump out of the way when the camera fell when the wire appeared to snap with 2:22 left.

McNutt dodged the camera as it fell behind him, but became entangled in the guide wire after it thudded to the ground. McNutt suffered only a minor scratch, but the game was delayed for about five minutes as crews dragged the camera off the field.



Courtesy photo
Ken Hedges, sales manager for Alan Jay Kia, gives a donation check to Rhonda Beckman, executive director for Ridge Area Arc, one of the participants from 2011's inaugural contest.

Charities can rock their way to cash at Alan Jay Kia

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — Alan Jay Kia's Rockin' In The New Year promotion to help Highlands County charities is back for a second year, and bigger than ever.

The week-long charity competition begins at 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 9 and ends at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13. For nine hours each day, someone from a participating Highlands County charity has to be sitting in one of the dealership's rocking chairs, rocking non-stop during that time period. Well over \$2,000 will be donated to those charities that complete the contest.

"This year, we're going to include some extra contests and promotions throughout the week as well, in addition to the main competition," Ari Wildstein, general manager of Alan Jay Kia, said. "The spots are going to fill up fast, so I encourage interested charities to register

early."

Registration for the event begins promptly at 10 a.m. on Monday, with the event beginning the following Monday. Each of the six teams can have up to four registered members to help split the "rocking" duties. For all of the details and event rules, interested charities are encouraged to contact Ken Hedges, Alan Jay Kia's sales manager, at 402-4230.

The newly-renovated Alan Jay Kia is at 401 U.S. Highway 27 S. in Sebring, directly across from beautiful Lake Jackson.

The Kia location is just one of 10 Alan Jay dealerships throughout Central Florida.

The automotive group donates to hundreds of events, charities, schools, fundraisers and individuals each year. One of the automotive group's favorite programs is the Wheels For A's campaign, in which seniors

that have earned As at all four area high schools, including Hardee Senior, enter to win four late-model vehicles, with the drawing held at each school's commencement ceremonies.

In a first, gas and other fuels are top US export

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For the first time, the top export of the United States, the world's biggest gas guzzler, is — wait for it — fuel.

Measured in dollars, the nation is on pace this year to ship more gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel than any other single export, according to U.S. Census data going back to 1990. It will also be the first year in more than 60 that America has been a net exporter of these fuels.

Just how big of a shift is this? A decade ago, fuel wasn't even among the top 25 exports. And for the last five years, America's top export was aircraft.

The trend is significant because for decades the U.S. has relied on huge imports of fuel from Europe in order to meet demand. It only reinforced the image of America as an energy hog. And up until a few years ago, whenever gasoline prices climbed, there were complaints in Congress that U.S. refiners were not growing quickly

enough to satisfy domestic demand; that controversy would appear to be over.

Still, the U.S. is nowhere close to energy independence. America is still the world's largest importer of crude oil. From January to October, the country imported 2.7 billion barrels of oil worth roughly \$280 billion.

Fuel exports, worth an estimated \$88 billion in 2011, have surged for two reasons:

— Crude oil, the raw material from which gasoline and other refined products are made, is a lot more expensive. Oil prices averaged \$95 a barrel in 2011, while gasoline averaged \$3.52 a gallon — a record. A decade ago oil averaged \$26 a barrel, while gasoline averaged \$1.44 a gallon.

— The volume of fuel exports is rising. The U.S. is using less fuel because of a weak economy and more efficient cars and trucks. That allows refiners to sell more fuel to rapidly growing economies in Latin America, for example.

St. Pete Times changes name

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — Florida's largest newspaper is set to start the new year with a new name.

The St. Petersburg Times will become the Tampa Bay Times today. Newspaper officials announced the change in November, saying the new name reflects the newspaper's growth across the

Tampa Bay region.

The St. Petersburg-based Poynter Institute for Media Studies remains the paper's owner. Starting today, the St. Pete Times Forum will be known as the Tampa Bay Times Forum. The arena also will be the site for the 2012 Republican National Convention.



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EDITORIAL & OPINION

TODAY'S EDITORIAL

New year's resolutions

We all know what time it is. This is when we make well intended resolutions that mostly will have to be made again next year ... unless those folks who are going on and on about the Mayan calendar are right, that is.

As individuals we resolve to quit smoking, lose weight, or spend more time with our families.

We wish everyone good fortune in achieving their personal resolutions.

But what we here at the News-Sun really wish for on this first day of 2012 is that Highlands County boards, commissions, councils and committees make some group resolutions of their own. Here are some suggestions:

May this be the year elected officials and public employees resolve to truly operate in the open; that budgets be posted online, line by line; that meeting packets are as complete and available to the citizen as they are to the office holder; that public records requests be responded to promptly; that phone calls are returned and questions quickly

answered.

May the individuals who comprise government resolve to be less defensive this year and more trusting. May this be the year the people who lead us resolve to remember they are not parents and we are not children — that we in the newspaper business are the watchdogs, not judge and jury.

We know we are hoping for a lot here, stuff that is tough to accomplish, especially because old habits are the hardest to break.

Working out in the open without a safety net ourselves, we in the newspaper business know the pain of a bruised ego, and the embarrassment of admitting a mistake. We also know, no matter how embarrassing, that the world doesn't end, even when you wish it would.

Which is why we also know ducking an issue never makes a problem go away. It only makes things worse. Mistakes happen — that is just the way it is. What counts is not the mistake, but what people do to correct it.

It's often the cover-up that kills a career, not the mistake

So, on the other side of the process, we also hope citizens make some resolutions, too.

If a politician or government worker admits to a mistake, may citizens resolve to hear the whole story and wait to pass judgment until all the facts are out there.

That the citizens who watch government closely realize that 99 percent of the time, everyone does their job and does it well.

Ultimately, however, there is only one way individuals in government will ever resolve to be totally open — when it is in their own best interest.

Which is why we hope this is the year more citizens resolve to become voters.

NEWS-SUN

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A look back at 2011

Laura's Look
Laura Ware

It's that time of year again — when I take a few moments to look back over the year we've just survived and hit some of the highlights that occurred. Or as many as can fit in the column, anyway.

According to Harold Camping, we aren't meant to be around. He predicted the world was going to end on May 21, which came and went without incident. He later revised his prediction to Oct. 21, which also came and went with us still around. Of course, there are those who predict the world is going to end at the conclusion of 2012, so we're not done with the doomsayers yet.

But in my opinion, the big news this year was the economy, which continues to sputter along more or less. During the several "crises" we've endured with the federal budget this year, both Democrats and Republicans proved that when the going gets tough, the tough calls the other side names and hurls accusations. This made for a lot of last-minute deals and bad feelings all around, which tells me this next year will be interesting, politically speaking.

Dissatisfaction with the economy and perceived "fat cats" led to the Occupy Wall Street movement, which spread to other cities in the country and had a big impact on the news. It has since faded away from the front pages, and I'm not sure what if anything they managed to accomplish, except some attention.

Protests broke out in various countries of the world, including the Middle East. The results of this "Arab Spring" are still being determined, but led to the downfall of President Mubarak of Egypt and Moammar Khadafy of Libya.

Other political news has to do with Republican presidential candidates. Donald Trump made headlines as he flirted with the idea of running, then backed off. He claims he might still run after all, which means he will probably still be on the radar in 2012.

The rest of the Republican field held approximately 2,134 debates, most of which told

us nothing new and changed few minds. Favorites came and went, including Herman Cain, who was forced to drop out after being accused of sexual impropriety. Everyone who had anything to bad to say about him fell silent after he left the race, which makes me wonder if that was the whole idea.

The rest of the Republican crowd continue to jockey for position, and while Mitt Romney appears to hold his own there is still a strong "anybody but Romney" vibe in the race. With primaries finally happening, people will finally be able to vote — if the debates didn't burn them out so badly they choose to ignore the whole thing.

Osama Bin Laden was finally caught and killed, closing a door that he opened on 9/11. Steve Jobs passed away, to the sorrow of geeks everywhere. The creator of "The Family Circus," Bil Keane, succumbed to congestive heart failure. Other significant deaths include Christopher Hitchens, Kim Jong-Il, and Andy Rooney.

Earthquakes rocked Japan and the east coast of the United States. Japan's earthquake brought on a tsunami, which added to the disaster. In Highlands County we had our normal weather for the year, and were blessed with no hurricanes to trouble us.

In personal news, I've continued to e-publish short stories online for readers to download onto their personal e-readers. This month, I published my first novel, "Dead Hypocrites." If you enjoy a Christian mystery, please check it out.

A lot more happened in 2011, but I'm just about out of room. There will be a lot happening in 2012, I'm sure. I look forward to writing about it.

Laura Ware is a Sebring resident. She can be contacted by e-mail at bookwormlady@embarqmail.com Visit her website at www.lauraware.com. Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the staff of the News-Sun.

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICY

Make sure to sign your letter and include your address and phone number. Anonymous letters will be automatically rejected.

Please keep your letters to a maximum of 400 words. Letters of local concern take priority.

Send your letter to 2227 U.S. 27 South, Sebring, FL 33870; drop it off at the same address; fax 385-1954; or e-mail editor@newssun.com.

Letters are limited to two per month and a guest column can be submitted once every three months.



TODAY'S LETTERS

An unexpected gift

Editor:

A few days before Christmas I was in Sweetbay and had gotten \$43 plus some change worth of groceries. I was going to use my debit card, however when I tried to key in my PIN number it would not go through. I looked where I keep that kind of information to check the PIN number. Sure enough, I was using the right number. The checker ask to my card and she had found out it had expired (in November). No big deal, I would pay cash. To add to my embarrassment I looked in my wallet to find I only had \$41 with me.

I told the checker to put my things aside and I would go home for the rest of the money. Before I got to my car the lady that was bagging came after me. I thought to myself, "Now what? Did I forget my debit card?" When I got back into the store I was told the couple behind me had paid for my groceries. I tried to give them the \$41 I did have only for them to say "Merry Christmas."

I was still so upset with myself for the way the day was going I did not get enough of a look at them to recognize them if I passed then in another place to even speak. But I do hope they know I really appreciate what they did and wish them the very best in 2012.

*Judee VanBrookhoven
Sebring*

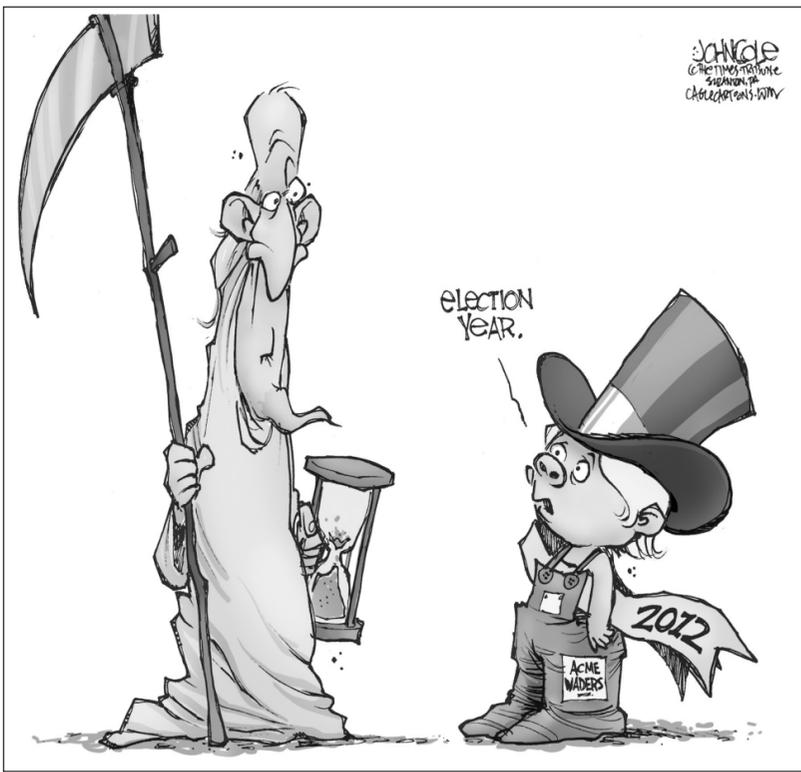
Thank you, donors

Editor:

We would like to send a thank you to the following restaurants who annually donate food to our program.

The Guardian ad Litem program held a volunteer christmas luncheon that was a great success due to the donations that we received from: Homer's, Ruby Tuesday, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Outback, Red Lobster, Sonny's Bar-B-Q. A big thank you.

*Theresa Carter
Guardian ad Litem program*



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Continued from page 2A

sample fine wines, gourmet food and exotic cheeses during five food, cheese and wine pairing events over the four-day weekend.

World renowned chefs and wine experts from Georgia and Sebring will dazzle guests with luscious wines, cooking demonstrations and recipes for fine cuisine such as Tuna Tartare Napoleon with Avocado and Wasabi Aioli, Chicken Cordon Bleu, and Tiramisu. Wine experts from Republic National Distributing Company will impart the delicacies of wine pairing with the delightful food served. Artisanal cheeses from all over the world will be sampled with specially paired wines during the igourmet-sponsored event as well.

All of the food and wine pairing events benefit Heartland EAA Chapter 1240 and Humane Society of Highlands County. Ticket information and event details are available at www.sport-aviation-expo.com or by

calling 655-6444.

Big Brothers Big Sisters plans Winter Fest on Jan. 21

SEBRING — There's going to be snow ... in Sebring? That's right, but not until after the first of the year. How?

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast is proud to announce its seventh annual Winter Fest Outdoor Community Festival. Presented by the Gertrude S. McGrew Charitable Trust, Winter Fest 2012 will feature real snow. Considering this is just about the only way Sebring will ever see snow, this is one event not to miss. This annual fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters provides the resources necessary to administer its programs in the Highlands and Hardee areas to fulfill their mission of providing children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally-supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better.

Winter Fest 2012 will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan 21 at the Sebring International Raceway, 113 Midway Drive. The day will be packed full of fun for kids of all ages and undoubtedly the highlight of the day will be a giant mound of snow. As if that wasn't enough, the festival will also feature pony rides, giant inflatables, outdoor bowling lanes, video games, face painting, Toby the Clown and plenty of delicious food.

Ian Belanger with Belanger Media Group will be there to keep the party going and the Cohan Radio Group's own 105.7 Lite FM will be on scene for a live remote broadcast.

For a small \$5 entrance fee, Winter Fest will offer plenty of activities, entertainment and food the whole family will enjoy.

Contact Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Resource Director Kiko Vazquez at 402-9001, or via e-mail at kvazquez@bbssun.org.

12 things to watch in 2012

Continued from page 1A

the exciting and low cost event, according to organizers.

Also, the 2012 Highlands County Fair will be the 75th.

2012 elections

As the 2012 election season gears up at the national level, residents need to be on the lookout for several local elections.

Elections for county commission Districts 1, 3 and 5 are due in 2012 as well as school board seats in Districts 2 and 3.

The City of Avon Park has three council seats open for candidates, but Sebring and Lake Placid have no elections scheduled for 2012.

Sheriff's building

After five years of discussion and haggling, commissioners Don Elwell and Greg Harris placed a building for the sheriff on their short term list of issues to resolve.

A sum of \$5 million has been set aside in the county's capital finance strategy for the past few years, and the commission has narrowed down the choices to three options, which include building a new building on current county property, purchasing and retro-fitting the Bank of America Building in downtown Sebring and purchasing and retrofitting the Restoration Church on Sparta Road.

Parkway Phase III

The next phase of the Sebring Parkway, which starts at the 9-degree turn and turns north to College Drive in Avon Park, has already begun.

The relocation of gopher tortoises started in October of 2011, and road crews are already preparing the land between the two connections. The projected end date is late in 2012.

Harder Hall

Like a large pink elephant in the room, the future of Harder Hall continues to loom over the Sebring City council in 2012.

A recent bid from Catellus Hotel Group LLC., a North Carolina Company, for \$2.5 million falls short of the \$4.155 million the city currently owes on the building.

Mud bogging

Popular support for the outdoor recreation club planned for Swamp Hammock notwithstanding, several landowners in the Lake Placid area along Lake Josephine have banded together to protest proposed mud bogging events planned.

Stuck in the middle is the county commission, which doesn't have rules opposing the events, but wants to stop the wheels of business until they can draft an ordinance to regulate any large outdoor events in the county.

Biofuel

After four years of being poised on the brink, plans for two proposed biofuel plants should move forward in 2012.

Planned at the corner of U.S. 70 and U.S. 27, U.S. Biofuels announced they will start contraction in the new year and should bring close to 200 jobs to that area.

The Vercipia Plant, part of a joint venture between British Petroleum and Verenum further east on U.S. 70, is also to make a move in 2013 when the government red tape over a grant is removed.

County charter

Commissioner Don Elwell refused to take no as an answer from former board chair Barbara Stewart and stood firm that the county

and public should discuss making Highlands a charter county.

A charter would spell out what the county government could and could not do, and could put the decision to fill vacant commission seats back into local hands.

Rowan vs. Avon Park

After a controversial year in 2011, the City of Charm still has to solve their lawsuit and finish arbitration from the termination of Chief Michael J. Rowan.

Rowan was placed on administrative leave and then terminated months later on Oct. 19 after reportedly investigating members of city council for wrongdoing.

After his suspension, Rowan filed a whistleblower suit in district court. After his termination, he asked for arbitration under the city's own rules.

Both sides are gearing up for a Jan. 9 discovery hearing in the arbitration.

Sam's Club

The land has been bought and the old Scotty's Building has been removed awaiting construction to begin on the proposed Sam's Wholesale Club along U.S. 27 at the intersection of Bayview Drive.

Company plans were to have the store open in 2011, but the economic downturn slowed new store openings from the retail giant early in the year.

Will Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. renew their plans and begin construction in 2012?

OBITUARIES

KATHRYN HEILMAN CRUISE

Kathryn Heilman Cruise, 83, died Sunday, Dec. 25, 2011, in Cedar Haven, Pa.. She was the wife of the late Harold W. Cruise.

Kathryn was born in Lebanon on February 12, 1928, a daughter of the late William and Pearl Dowhower Heilman. She attended the Bible Fellowship Church of Lebanon and enjoyed knitting, sewing and crocheting.

She is survived by a son, Jay H. Cruise, Sr. and wife Bonnie of Lebanon; daughter, Gail M. Frost of Neb.; grandsons, Jay H. Cruise, Jr. and wife Carolyn of Lebanon; Shawn Schulte of Neb.; granddaughters, Jennifer L. Rivera and husband Tom of Lebanon; Genet L. Cruise of Reading; Christine Schulte of Florida; 14 grandchildren; sister, Pearl Fitzgibbon of Lebanon and High School friend, Fern Poorman. She was preceded in death by a brother, Calvin Heilman; sisters, Anna Donmoyer and Jean Eby.

Memorial service will be held at the convenience of the family. Clauser Funeral Home, Inc. of Schaefferstown, Pa. is handling her arrangements.

www.clauserfh.com/.

GENE A. HENDRIX

Gene A. Hendrix, 71 of Sebring, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011 at Good Shepherd Hospice. He was born in Bryson City, North Carolina moving to Sebring in 1972. He was the owner of Gene's Alignment and Brake Service. He was a veteran of the United States Army. He enjoyed golf and fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn; sons Gene A. Hendrix, Jr. and Vaughn Hendrix of Sebring, Walt Hendrix of Orlando and Jeff Hendrix of Cody, Wyoming, daughters Melanie Hendrix-Johnson of Sebring and Michele Stevens of Bonifay, 13 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Arrangements are pending at this time. Condolences may be expressed at www.morrisfuneralchapel.com.

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Weird news filled 2011

Continued from page 1A

arrested at his watering hole, not too long after the holdup.

Author Tim Dorsey, whose novels include Florida strangeness both real and fantasy, said the state is an odd place because of its diverse, highly transient population.

"There's pockets of strangeness all over the country, but here it's a baseline lifestyle. There, it's the aberration. There, it's the tail end of the bell curve. Here, it's the peak of the bell curve," Dorsey said.

It's probably why Lego man received more media attention than the \$1.25 million worth of cocaine that washed up on a beach south of Port Canaveral in September and the \$2.2 million in cocaine that washed up on a Fort Pierce beach the next month.

There are a lot of odd drug stories in Florida.

Like the Boynton Beach Police Department's 2010 "Officer of the Year" who was accused of selling drugs in 2011. Or the marijuana found growing on the property of Oak Hill's 84-year-old mayor. There were also several younger Floridians that contributed to this year's odd news.

In Palm Beach County, an elementary school teacher opened an end-of-the-year gift from an 8-year-old student's grandmother — and found toiletries and a loaded handgun. A Tampa woman upset with her 15-year-old son's bad grades forced him to stand on a corner with a sign that read: "Honk if I need an education."

A 15-year-old Florida Keys girl who is a big fan of the "Twilight" books and movies was afraid that her mother would get upset by



A piano showed up on a sandbar in Biscayne Bay near Miami in 2011. A teenager admitted to placing it there as part of an art project.

the bite marks her boyfriend gave her after they acted out her vampire fantasy. She made up a story about being attacked; doubtful investigators got her to tell the truth.

Deputies arrested an 18-month-old's father after they found the man passed out in his mobile home while the toddler was in the yard picking up beer cans and drinking from them.

Pasco County deputies said a woman walked into a bank with a 3-year-old boy and robbed it. A homeless man held up a Tampa bank, fled on a city bus and handed out stolen cash to passen-

gers. Police say a man robbed a Gainesville credit union then began throwing money from his car as he fled on Interstate 75.

And while he didn't rob it, an unhappy Palm Coast bank customer left quite a deposit. He urinated in a drive-through bank tube and drove off.

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CDC, FDA say powdered infant formula not tainted

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Four cases of infants sickened by a rare bacteria sometimes linked to powdered formula, including two who died, are not related and parents can continue using the products to feed their babies, two federal agencies announced Friday.

Scientists with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and

Drug Administration tested various types of powdered infant formula and distilled water, known as nursing water, and found no cases of contamination by Cronobacter sakazakii.

Four babies, including one in Missouri and another in Florida who died, were sickened by the bacteria that are found naturally in the environment and in plants such as wheat and rice.

Obama hopeful for more economic progress

By JULIE PACE
Associated Press
HONOLULU

Reflecting on a challenging year, President Barack Obama says he's hoping for more economic progress following action by Congress to prevent tax increases at the start of 2012.

"It was good to see members of Congress do the right thing for millions of working Americans," said Obama, using his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday to deliver a New Year's message.

He said the public made itself heard on a Social Security payroll tax cut and that was one big reason that lawmakers agreed to extend it for two more months.

The American people, Obama said, "had the courage to believe your voices could make a difference."

The president said he expects Congress to finish the job when lawmakers return to Washington in January and extend the tax cut through the end of the year.

Reflecting on 2011, Obama said it was a time of great challenge and progress, including the end of the war in Iraq, the death of Osama bin Laden and signs of an economic recovery.

"There's no doubt that 2012 will bring even more change," Obama said.

HCA ready for opening show



Courtesy photos
Heartland Cultural Alliance presents the opening show of 2012 at the HCA Art & Music Gallery in the Kenilworth Lodge, Sebring, on Saturday, Jan. 7. Works by James Hahn, including "Cinematication" and "Phoot Phetish" will be on display. Hahn owns galleries in Vero Beach and Lake Wales and is considering opening one in Sebring. The exhibit will also feature original work from Highlands County artists in a variety of mediums. There will also be a book signing by local author Millie Richmond for her children's book 'Hilde.' Artists reception will be from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 7. Classical guitar by Kenny Summers. Uncommon snacks and wine will be served. This free event is open to the public. For more information contact Fred Leavitt, 402-8238, or email info@heartlandculturalalliance.org.



Lake Jackson public beaches closed due to high bacteria level

Continued from page 1A

indicates that there may also be other bacteria forms present in Lake Jackson, but none have been confirmed.

"This is the second time we've inspected this month. We inspect the lake on a monthly basis. All four beaches are closed; there is not a whole lot we can do. The rain and run-off and animals usually take care of it," said Depovic.

"We've got the signs up and we want people to be aware," Sebring Public Works Director Kenneth Fields said Friday. "They are going to re-test in a few days I believe."

Depovic gave caution to citizens about what is going on with the lake and advises citizens to stay out of the water.

"We don't know what other bacteria is really in there. All we have is the indication of enterococcus. Of course there are always

people who go into it (lake) even if it is closed. People need to be cautious. If you have an open wound or are swallowing water it could result in more bacteria in your bodies," Depovic said.

This is the first time in a long while that all four of Lake Jackson's beaches — Veterans, Crescent, Hidden and City Pier — have been closed.

"People get scared sometimes when you tell them it's bacteria around. They start thinking E. Coli and things like that. But E. Coli lives in our body already, it's just balanced out by other bacteria. It takes care of itself," Depovic said.

"It doesn't happen often but it is always good to be cautious," Depovic said. "We take the necessary steps: first inform the city and the county and the public. We let them (city and county) know that nothing has changed in the last few days, none of the numbers have gone up."

AG seeking certification of appeals court decision

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — Florida's attorney general wants an appeals court to certify a recent decision that could help the state move ahead with its investigation into fraudulent foreclosures.

The 4th District Court of Appeal ruled in April that Attorney General Pam Bondi's office lacked the authority to subpoena records of a South Florida law firm. A certification by the 4th DCA would permit

Bondi's office to appeal to the Florida Supreme Court.

Bondi's investigations have focused on whether false or improper affidavits were filed in foreclosures by the Plantation-based Law Offices of David J. Stern and whether employees signed documents without reading them. Stern's now-defunct operation is among a six law firms being investigated on suspicion of potential misconduct.



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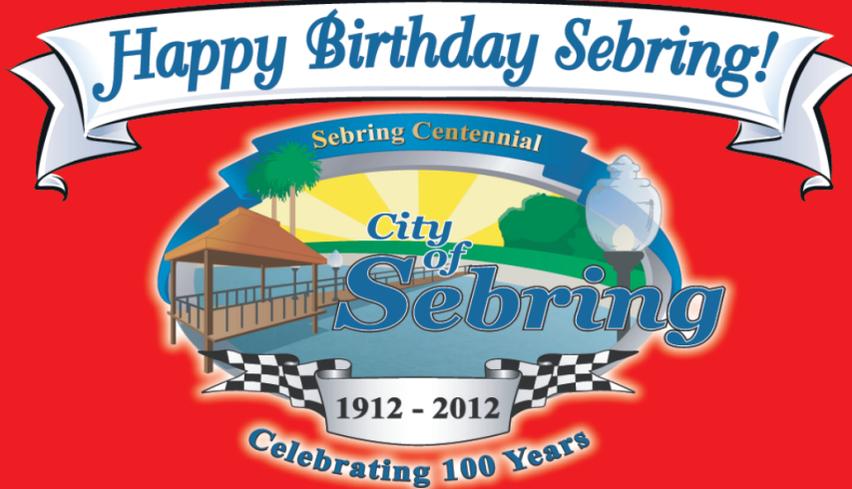


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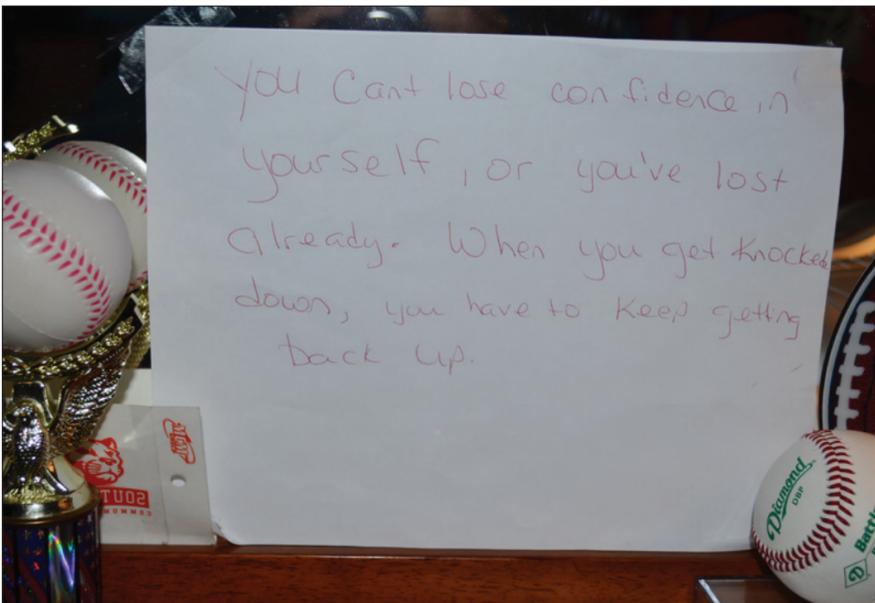
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Zac Taylor keeps this quote by Tim Tebow taped to a mirror in his room. It reads, 'You can't lose confidence in yourself, or you've lost already. When you get knocked down, you have to keep getting back up.'

Dream comes true as local boy gets to hang out with Tim Tebow

Continued from page 1A

Program of the Tim Tebow Foundation and Dreams Come True become a part of the story.

Zac's parents, Toby and Stephanie Taylor, submitted his wish to the foundation, which selected it, and had Dreams Come True bring it to life.

Zac was going to Denver, he was going to an NFL game, and he was going to meet his hero. Best of all, his family would be with him.

Everything was taken care of, every worry removed. All Zac's parents had to do was enjoy their son's happiness, and share in all of the things he did for the first time.

And did he ever do things for the first time.

He flew in an airplane and got to visit the cockpit. He drove up into the Rocky Mountains to the Continental Divide and played in snow. He rode a trolley, went to Dave and Busters and the Hard Rock Cafe, walked in a big city decorated for Christmas, and slept in a bed 34 stories off of the ground.

He sat at the 30 yard line at Sports Authority Stadium, down near the field, and watched the Denver Broncos beat the Chicago Bears 13-10 in over-time.

"The 59-yard (field goal) that tied it was cool," Zac said. "After they kicked that field goal people went wild."

And of course he got to meet Tebow, and ask him questions, and see his truck, and spend time with Tebow's father and two of his brothers, and even go with Tebow to a doctor's appointment — Tebow's appointment, not Zac's.

The initial meeting on the



field was overwhelming.

"After warm-ups here comes Tim," Zac said, jumping with excitement at the memory.

They shook hands and hugged, surrounded by reporters and people.

"Do you remember meeting me at Gator Walk?" Zac said Tim asked him. And that Tebow answered yes, when Zac said, "You remember that?"

Zac's voice is incredulous telling the story. "That was like two years ago," he said. "I don't know how he can remember."

After the game, when Tebow was back in street clothes Zac had the chance to ask his questions.

Do you have a bedtime? Early.

Do you have a girlfriend? No. Do you?

NO. Maybe we could find one together.

How does it feel to hit by a 250-pound linebacker? Ouch.

What do you drive? An F-150

Do you say a certain prayer when you go to the doctor?

Yes. (Tebow told Zac the prayer).

At this point, Stephanie Taylor had to interrupt her son, "He's (Tebow) just an unbelievable guy. He gets on a kid's level. The whole family. They take you like they've known you forever."

After the game something unexpected happened. Zac became famous — he was on the game clips with Tebow, and they ran first on ESPN, then YouTube, then Twitter and Facebook. He was all over the place.

At the airport coming home, the Homeland Security team recognized Zac and asked him about his trip. The next thing you know, he's opening his suitcase to show them the gifts.

"From the head honcho to the lowliest worker," Stephanie Taylor said laughing, "They were all gathered around him."

Asked what had been the dream come true's best moment, Zac, looking dumbfounded at such a silly question, said "Meeting Tim."

His mother's answer was different. "Just for him to be a kid. Just to see that natural smile."

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 6 lines - 14 pubs
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DEADLINES	ADJUSTMENTS
Publication Place by: Wednesday 4 p.m. Monday Friday 4 p.m. Wednesday Sunday 4 p.m. Friday All fax deadlines are 1 hour earlier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please check your ad for errors the first day it appears since the News-Sun will not be responsible for incorrect ads after the first day of publication. If you find an error, call the classified department immediately at 314-9876. • 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. <p>Cancellations: When a cancellation is called in, a KILL number will be given to you. This number is very important and must be used if ad failed to cancel. All ads cancelled prior to scheduled expiration date will be billed for complete run unless a KILL number can be provided.</p>

Important: The publisher reserves the right to censor, reclassify, revise, edit or reject any classified advertisement not meeting our standards. We accept only standard abbreviations and required proper punctuation.



1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
 IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO: GC-11-000738
 TAYLOR BEAN & WHITAKER MORTGAGE CORP.
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 ANTHONY SCALZULLO; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANTHONY SCALZULLO; UNKNOWN TENANT I; UNKNOWN TENANT II; ADVANCED BUILDERS, INC., AN ADMINISTRATIVELY DISSOLVED CORPORATION, and any unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and other unknown persons or unknown spouses claiming by, through and under any of the above-named Defendants,
 Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
 TO:
 ADVANCED HOME BUILDERS, INC., AN ADMINISTRATIVELY DISSOLVED CORPORATION
 4010 HIDDEN RIVE LANE
 SARASOTA, FL 34235
 OR
 1925 SW 18TH COURT, SUITE 111,
 OCALA, FL 34471
 OR
 5005 47TH ST.,
 SARASOTA, FL 34235
 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS STATED, CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose Mortgage covering the following real and personal property described as follows, to-wit:
 LOT 62, BLOCK 182, UNIT 10, SUN 'N LAKE ESTATES OF SEBRING, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 60, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Mark A. Buckles, Butler & Hosch, P.A., 3185 South Conway Road, Suite E, Orlando, Florida 32812 and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court on or before 30 days from the first publication, otherwise a Judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
 WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court on the 15th day of December, 2011.
 If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, (941)534-4690, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call (TDD) (941)534-7777, or Florida Relay Service 800-955-8770.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 By: /s/ Annette E. Daff
 Deputy Clerk
 December 25, 2011; January 1, 2012

1050 Legals

Dated at Sebring, Florida, this 18th day of October, 2011.
 ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 Deputy Clerk
 January 1, 8, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY
 CASE #: 2010-CA-000746
 DIVISION 3:
 UNC:
 BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, L.P. F/K/A COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, L.P.,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 The Estate of Jane W. MacBain, Deceased; Jennifer MacBain; Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees; Creditors, Lienors and Trustees of Jane W. MacBain, Deceased, and all other Persons Claiming By, Through, Under and Against the Named Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION
 FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS-PROPERTY
 TO: Jennifer MacBain, ADDRESS UNKNOWN BUT WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS IS: 5817 NW 42nd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33319
 Residence unknown, if living, including any unknown spouse of the said Defendants, if either has remarried and if either or both of said Defendants are dead, their respective unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant(s); and the aforementioned named Defendant(s) and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants as may be in infants, incompetents or otherwise not sui juris.
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced to foreclose a mortgage on the following real property, lying and being and situated in Highlands County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:
 THE SOUTH ONE HALF OF LOT 9, BLOCK 8, SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 33 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, CITY OF AVON PARK, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE EAST 90 FEET OF THE SOUTH ONE HALF OF LOT 8, BLOCK 8, SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 33 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, CITY OF AVON PARK, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 more commonly known as 14 West Pleasant Street, Avon Park, FL 33825.
 This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon SHAPIRO & FISHMAN, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 4630 Woodland Corporate Blvd., Suite 100, Tampa, FL 33614, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
 WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 20th day of December, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 Circuit and County Courts
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk
 January 1, 8, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO. 28-2010-CA-000549
 US BANK, N.A.
 Plaintiff,
 v.
 CASEY N. SCOVILLE A/K/A CASEY SCOVILLE; BETTY A. LOCKER; BRIAN E. SCOVILLE A/K/A BRIAN SCOVILLE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BETTY A. LOCKER; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS, who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said unknown parties claim as heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, spouses, or other claimants; LAKE HAVEN ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
 Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
 Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated October 18, 2011, in this cause, I will sell the property situated in HIGHLANDS County, Florida, described as:
 LOT 9, BLOCK 4, LAKE HAVEN ESTATES, SECTION ONE, AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 6, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 a/k/a 4406 LEWIS AVENUE, SEBRING, FL 33875-5135
 at public sale on January 18, 2012, to the highest bidder, for cash, in the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse located at 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida, in accordance with section 45.031, Florida Statutes, beginning at eleven o'clock a.m.
 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

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1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CIVIL ACTION
 CASE NO.: 28-2010-CA-000276
 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 FAYE L. EVANS, et al,
 Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated December 21, 2011 and entered in Case No. 28-2010-CA-000276 of the Circuit Court of the TENTH Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. is the Plaintiff and FAYE L. EVANS: ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; are the Defendants, The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE at 11:00 AM, on the 18th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:
 LOT 55, IN BLOCK D, OF HILLSIDE LAKE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, AT PAGE 27, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH A MOBILE HOME LOCATED THEREON AS A FIXTURE AND APPURTENANCE THERETO, SIDE 1 SERIAL N. HMLCY28040912273A, SIDE 2 SERIAL NO. HMLCY28040912273B
 A/K/A 300 RIVER DRIVE, SEBRING, FL 33875
 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale
 WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Court on December 21, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk
 January 1, 8, 2012

Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
 P.O. Box 25018
 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
 F10009375 COUNTRY-SPECFNMA--Team 2
 **See Americans with Disabilities Act
 In accordance with the Americans Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending the notice at Echevarria & Associates, P.A., P.O. Box 25018, Tampa, FL 33622-5018, telephone (813) 251-4766, not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding. If hearing impaired, (TDD) 1-800-955-8771, or voice (V) 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.

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1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 PROBATE DIVISION
 FILE NO. PC 11-448
 IN RE: ESTATE OF FOREST W. GOODWILL
 Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of Forest W. Goodwill, deceased, whose date of death was September 17, 2011, and the last four digits of whose social security number are 5664, is pending in the Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 590 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870. The names and addresses of the personal representatives and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
 All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
 All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
 ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
 NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
 The date of first publication of this Notice is December 25, 2011.

Personal Representatives:
 /s/ Joan Judd Britt
 630 Norway Rd
 Chadds Ford, PA 19317
 /s/ Ida Merritt
 12288 E. Bates Circle
 Aurora, CO 80014
 Attorney for Personal Representatives:
 /s/ Charlotte C. Stone
 Attorney for Personal Representatives
 Florida Bar Number: 21297
 Stone & Walder, P.L.
 3200 US Hwy 27 S., Suite 304
 Sebring, FL 33870
 Telephone: (863)402-5424
 Fax: (863)402-5425
 E-Mail: Charlotte@StoneandWalder.com
 December 25, 2011; January 1, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 CASE NO. 11000793GCS
 WELLS FARGO DELAWARE TRUST COMPANY, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR VERICREST OPPORTUNITY LOAN TRUST 2010-NPL1,
 PLAINTIFF,
 VS.
 MARK A. BIRON, ET AL.,
 DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF ACTION
 To: Mark A. Biron & Unknown Spouse of Mark A. Biron
 RESIDENCE: UNKNOWN
 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 6504 Pioneer Road, Sebring, FL 33876
 AND TO: All persons claiming an interest by, through, under, or against the aforesaid defendant(s).
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property located in Highlands County, Florida:
 Lots 6, 7 and 8, Block 127, MAP OF NORTHSIDE SUB-DIVISION, according to plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 3, page 32, Public Records of Highlands County, Florida,
 has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action, on Gladstone Law Group, P.A., attorneys for plaintiff, whose address is 1499 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Suite 300, Boca Raton, FL 33486, and file the original with the Clerk of the Court, within 30 days after the first publication of this notice, either before January 17, 2012 or immediately thereafter, otherwise a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
 This notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in the News-Sun.
 DATED: Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk of the Court
 December 25, 2011; January 1, 2012

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CIVIL ACTION
 CASE NO.: 28-2010-CA-000023
 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST UNKNOWN HEIRS OF PATRICIA ANN HAHS A/K/A PATRICIA A. HAHS F/K/A PATRICIA A. HAHS F/K/A PATRICIA A. HARRIS, DECEASED, et al,
 Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated October 18, 2011 and entered in Case No. 28-2010-CA-000023 of the Circuit Court of the TENTH Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. is the Plaintiff and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST UNKNOWN HEIRS OF PATRICIA ANN HAHS A/K/A PATRICIA A. HAHS F/K/A PATRICIA A. HARRIS, DECEASED; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; LORI M. ARENA, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN HAHS A/K/A PATRICIA A. HAHS F/K/A PATRICIA A. HARRIS, DECEASED; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN HAHS A/K/A PATRICIA A. HAHS F/K/A PATRICIA A. HARRIS, DECEASED; ANTHONY LEE GLODO A/K/A ANTHONY L. GLODO, AS HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN HAHS A/K/A PATRICIA A. HAHS F/K/A PATRICIA A. HARRIS, DECEASED; are the Defendants, The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE at 11:00 AM, on the 18th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:
 LOT 7, BLOCK 14, OF AVOCADO PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 62, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 AND
 LOT 6, BLOCK 14, ORANGE BLOSSOM ESTATES, UNIT 12, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 65, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 A/K/A 1902 ANDALUSIA STREET, SEBRING, FL 33875
 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale
 WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Court on October 19, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 Deputy Clerk
 January 1, 8, 2012

Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
 P.O. Box 25018
 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
 F09097586 NMNC-SPECFLMC--Team 5
 **See Americans with Disabilities Act
 In accordance with the Americans Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending the notice at Echevarria & Associates, P.A., P.O. Box 25018, Tampa, FL 33622-5018, telephone (813) 251-4766, not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding. If hearing impaired, (TDD) 1-800-955-8771, or voice (V) 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.

WANT NEW FURNITURE?
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1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CIVIL ACTION
 CASE NO.: 28-2011-CA-000270
 JAMES B NUTTER & COMPANY,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 JOYCE YVONNE MCMAHON, et al,
 Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated December 21, 2011 and entered in Case No. 28-2011-CA-000270 of the Circuit Court of the TENTH Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida wherein JAMES B NUTTER & COMPANY is the Plaintiff and JOYCE YVONNE MCMAHON; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON BEHALF OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; are the Defendants, The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE at 11:00 AM, on the 18th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:
 LOT 12, BLOCK C, SEVENTH ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF SEBRING, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 70, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 A/K/A 729 LEMON AVENUE, SEBRING, FL 33870
 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale
 WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Court on December 21, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk
 January 1, 8, 2012

Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
 P.O. Box 25018
 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
 F11015644 NUTTER-FAR-R UNASSIGNED--Team 4
 **See Americans with Disabilities Act
 In accordance with the Americans Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending the notice at Echevarria & Associates, P.A., P.O. Box 25018, Tampa, FL 33622-5018, telephone (813) 251-4766, not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding. If hearing impaired, (TDD) 1-800-955-8771, or voice (V) 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.

LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL HOME?
 Search the News-Sun Classifieds every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday.

1050

Legals

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE DIRECTORY

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION
 CASE NO.: 28-2010-CA-000970
 BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP F/K/A COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, L.P., Plaintiff,
 vs.
 JONATHAN M. ADAMS, et al, Defendant(s).
 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated December 21, 2011 and entered in Case No. 28-2010-CA-000970 of the Circuit Court of the TENTH Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida wherein BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP F/K/A COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, L.P. is the Plaintiff and JONATHAN M. ADAMS; REBEKAH J. ADAMS; are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE at 11:00 AM, on the 18th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:
 LOT 21, IN BLOCK 64, OF SEBRING COUNTRY ESTATES, SECTION THREE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 6, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 A/K/A 914 COUGAR BOULEVARD, SEBRING, FL 33872
 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale
 WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Court on December 21, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 Deputy Clerk

Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
 P.O. Box 25018
 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
 F09071087 COUNTRY-SPECFNMA-Team 2
 **See Americans with Disabilities Act
 In accordance with the Americans Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending the notice at Echevarria & Associates, P.A., P.O. Box 25018, Tampa, FL 33622-5018, telephone (813) 251-4766, not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding. If hearing impaired, (TDD) 1-800-955-8771, or voice (V) 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.
 January 1, 8, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 282009CA001376A000XX
 BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING LP, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 THOMAS D. AST; TRUDY L. AST; CITY OF SEBRING, FLORIDA; STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN TENANT(S); IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.
 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure Sale dated the 17th day of October, 2011, and entered in Case No. 282009CA001376A000XX, of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING LP, is the Plaintiff and THOMAS D. AST; TRUDY L. AST; CITY OF SEBRING, FLORIDA; STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) are defendants. The Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL 33870 at the Highlands County Courthouse in Sebring, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 18th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:
 THE EAST 100 FEET OF THE SOUTH 15 FEET OF LOT 5 AND THE EAST 100 FEET OF LOT 6, IN BLOCK 223, OF DENISE COURT A SUBDIVISION OF THE WEST HALF OF TRACT 13 OF THE LAKE-VIEW-PARK-LANDS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, AT PAGE 83, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
 Dated this 17th day of October, 2011.

Robert W. Germaine
 Clerk Of The Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 Deputy Clerk
 January 1, 8, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO. 282008CA000649XXXXX
 DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF MORGAN STANLEY ABS CAPITAL I INC. TRUST 2006-HE6, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-HE6, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 ROBERT L. WELLS, et al., Defendants.
 RE-NOTICE OF SALE
 PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Summary Final Judgment of foreclosure dated May 10, 2010 and an Order Resetting Sale dated December 15, 2011, and entered in Case No. 282008CA000649XXXXX of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF MORGAN STANLEY ABS CAPITAL I INC. TRUST 2006-HE6, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-HE6, is Plaintiff and ROBERT L. WELLS; GINA G. WELLS; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at in the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse, 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, at Highlands County, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 11th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Order of Final Judgment, to-wit:
 LOT 8, BLOCK 5, A REPLAT PORTION OF A PORTION OF FRANSVILLA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 8, PAGE 9, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
 In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Clerk of the Court not later than five business days prior to the proceeding at the Highlands County Courthouse. Telephone 863-386-6565 or 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.
 DATED at Sebring, Florida, on December 15, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 As Clerk, Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 As Deputy Clerk
 December 25, 2011; January 1, 2012

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 PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS / PROCESS SERVING

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 Private Investigator - Patricia Austin
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1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 282008CA000624A000XX
 JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., Plaintiff,
 vs.
 PHILIP OSTRANDER; LINDA M. OSTRANDER; IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.
 RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Resetting Foreclosure Sale dated the 22nd day of December, 2011, and entered in Case No. 282008CA000624A000XX, of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., is the Plaintiff and LINDA M. OSTRANDER, PHILIP OSTRANDER, JANE DOE and JOHN DOE IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL 33870 at the Highlands County Courthouse in Sebring, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 18th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:
 LOTS 22 AND 23, BLOCK 3, LAKE HAVEN ESTATES, SECTION ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 6, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
 Dated this 22nd day of December, 2011.
 Robert W. Germaine
 Clerk Of The Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Annette E. Daff
 Deputy Clerk
 January 1, 8, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO. 282011CA000381XXXXXX
 BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 DAVID A. BLAND; AMANDA BLAND; HIGHLANDS COUNTY; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Summary Final Judgment of foreclosure dated December 22, 2011 and entered in Case No. 282011CA000381XXXXXX of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, is Plaintiff and DAVID A. BLAND; AMANDA BLAND; HIGHLANDS COUNTY; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at in the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse, 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, at Highlands County, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 18th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Order of Final Judgment, to-wit:
 THE NORTH 45 FEET OF LOT 1092 AND THE SOUTH 30 FEET OF LOT 1093, OF SEBRING HILLS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 2, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
 In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Clerk of the Court not later than five business days prior to the proceeding at the Highlands County Courthouse. Telephone 863-386-6565 or 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.
 DATED at Sebring, Florida, on December 22, 2011.
 ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 As Clerk, Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Annette E. Daff
 As Deputy Clerk
 January 1, 8, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION
 CASE NO.: 28-2010-CA-000300
 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff,
 vs.
 PANAGIOTIS NIKOLAKAKIS, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated October 18, 2011 and entered in Case No. 28-2010-CA-000300 of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. is the Plaintiff and PANAGIOTIS NIKOLAKAKIS, CHARLENE NIKOLAKAKIS; SEBRING HILLS ASSOCIATION, INC.; TENANT #1 N/A GARY WARREN are the Defendants, The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE at 11:00 AM, on the 18th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:
 LOT 219, SEBRING HILLS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 2, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 A/K/A 228 LARK AVENUE, SEBRING, FL 33872
 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale
 WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Court on October 19, 2011.
 ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 Deputy Clerk

Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
 P.O. Box 25018
 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
 F10008170 NMNC-FHA--Team 1
 **See Americans with Disabilities Act
 In accordance with the Americans Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending the notice at Echevarria & Associates, P.A., P.O. Box 25018, Tampa, FL 33622-5018, telephone (813) 251-4766, not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding, if hearing impaired, (TDD) 1-800-955-8771, or voice (V) 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.
 January 1, 8, 2012

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION
 CASE NO.: 28-2011-CA-000580
 FIFTH THIRD MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 TIMOTHEA H. BEHRENDT, et al, Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF ACTION FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS-PROPERTY TO:
 MACKENZIE M. BEHRENDT: ADDRESS UNKNOWN BUT WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS IS: 42 CLUB HOUSE LANE, SEBRING, FL 33876.
 Residence unknown and if living, including any unknown spouse of the Defendant, if remarried and if said Defendant is dead, his/her respective unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant; and the aforementioned named Defendant and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendant and such of the unknown name Defendant as may be infants, incompetents or otherwise not sui juris.
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property to-wit:
 LOT 21, IN BLOCK 2, OF ERIN PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, AT PAGE 77, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA more commonly known as 1205 Killarney Drive, Sebring, FL 33875.
 This action has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, to it on the Plaintiff's attorney, FLORIDA FORECLOSURE ATTORNEYS, PLLC, whose address is 601 Cleveland Street, Suite 690, Clearwater, FL 33755, on or before 30 days after date of first publication, response due by January 17, 2012, and file the original with the Clerk of the Circuit Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
 WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on this 14th day of December, 2011.
 Clerk of the Court
 Highlands County, Florida
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk
 December 30, 2011; January 1, 2010

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO. 282011CA000381XXXXXX
 BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 DAVID A. BLAND; AMANDA BLAND; HIGHLANDS COUNTY; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Summary Final Judgment of foreclosure dated December 22, 2011 and entered in Case No. 282011CA000381XXXXXX of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, is Plaintiff and DAVID A. BLAND; AMANDA BLAND; HIGHLANDS COUNTY; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at in the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse, 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, at Highlands County, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 18th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Order of Final Judgment, to-wit:
 THE NORTH 45 FEET OF LOT 1092 AND THE SOUTH 30 FEET OF LOT 1093, OF SEBRING HILLS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 2, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
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 In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Clerk of the Court not later than five business days prior to the proceeding at the Highlands County Courthouse. Telephone 863-386-6565 or 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.
 DATED at Sebring, Florida, on December 22, 2011.
 ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 As Clerk, Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Annette E. Daff
 As Deputy Clerk
 January 1, 8, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION
 CASE NO.: 28-2010-CA-000300
 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff,
 vs.
 PANAGIOTIS NIKOLAKAKIS, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated October 18, 2011 and entered in Case No. 28-2010-CA-000300 of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. is the Plaintiff and PANAGIOTIS NIKOLAKAKIS, CHARLENE NIKOLAKAKIS; SEBRING HILLS ASSOCIATION, INC.; TENANT #1 N/A GARY WARREN are the Defendants, The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE at 11:00 AM, on the 18th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:
 LOT 219, SEBRING HILLS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 2, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 A/K/A 228 LARK AVENUE, SEBRING, FL 33872
 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale
 WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Court on October 19, 2011.
 ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 Deputy Clerk

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1100 Announcements

CHECK YOUR AD

Please check your ad on the first day it runs to make sure it is correct. Sometimes instructions over the phone are misunderstood and an error can occur. If this happens to you, please call us the first day your ad appears and we will be happy to fix it as soon as we can. If We can assist you, please call us: **314-9876 News-Sun Classified**

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DIESEL MECHANIC- Walpole Inc. is currently seeking a HIGHLY motivated, proactive, hands on individual for our Okeechobee Terminal. This position is responsible for preventive maintenance, troubleshooting, and repairing diesel engines. We offer a competitive wage and full benefits package. EOE/DFWP

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 In accordance with Section 121.055 F.S. the Highlands County Sheriffs Office intends to designate the following positions under the Senior Management Service Class: 0215 Accountant.
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No Smoking, no pets.
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863-446-0972 Sebring
FULL BED Complete in good cond.
\$100 Call 863-655-3312
GLIDER CHAIR Plaid. \$15 obo. Call
863-381-7958
SONY FM-AM Walkman
headphone radio \$25.00
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THREE CASSEPOLE ELECTRIC Buffet
Server. \$15 Call 863-452-0903
UPRIGHT VACUUM CLEANER
/ Excellent condition / \$20 Cash
obo 863-471-2502

7520 Pets & Supplies

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& Cream, long or short hair w/health
cert., and all shots. \$390 Call
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have an official health certificate
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MSRP 29K. FIRST \$16,000 Takes it.
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Five-Day forecast for Highlands County

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly sunny	Periods of sun; breezy, not as warm	Partly sunny and cooler	Partly sunny	Partly sunny
77° / 55°	67° / 38°	58° / 34°	64° / 41°	68° / 49°
Winds: NW at 4-8 mph	Winds: NNW at 10-20 mph	Winds: NNW at 12-25 mph	Winds: NNE at 6-12 mph	Winds: NW at 6-12 mph



Almanac

Temperature
Readings at Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid

High Tuesday	79°
Low Tuesday	46°
High Wednesday	65°
Low Wednesday	21°
High Thursday	67°
Low Thursday	43°

Heat Index
For 3 p.m. today

Relative humidity	44%
Expected air temperature	77°
Makes it feel like	77°

Barometer

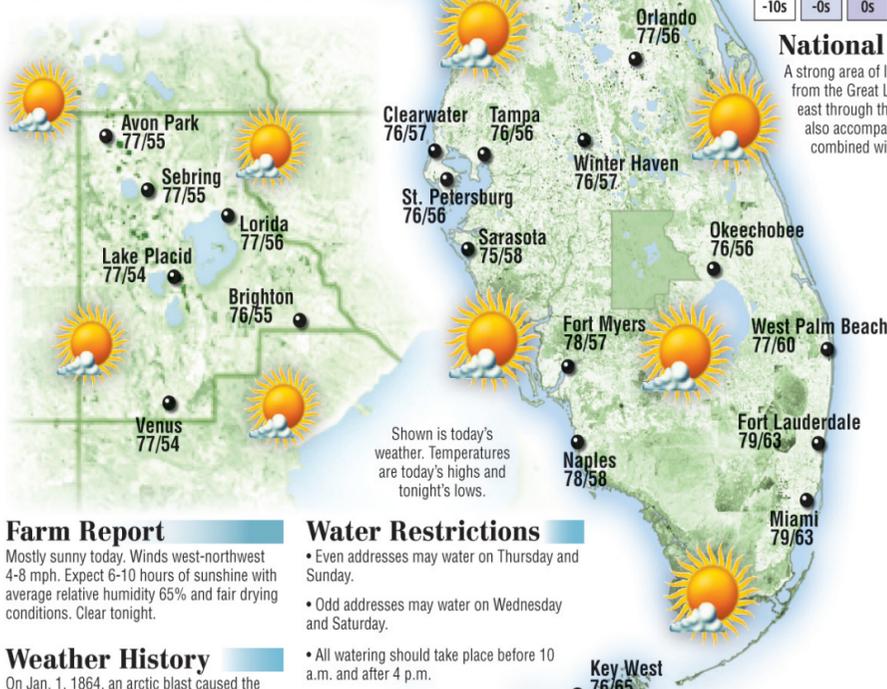
Tuesday	30.19
Wednesday	30.12
Thursday	30.15

Precipitation

Tuesday	0.12"
Wednesday	0.00"
Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	0.43"
Year to date	46.65"

Regional Summary

Mostly sunny today. Clear tonight. Breezy and not as warm tomorrow with times of clouds and sun. Tuesday: partly sunny and cooler. Wednesday and Thursday: partly sunny.



Farm Report

Mostly sunny today. Winds west-northwest 4-8 mph. Expect 6-10 hours of sunshine with average relative humidity 65% and fair drying conditions. Clear tonight.

Weather History

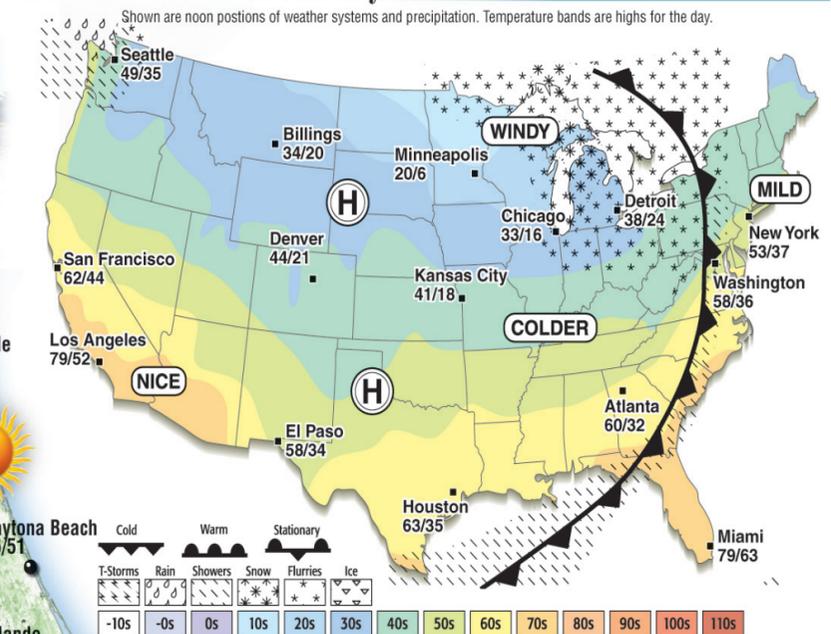
On Jan. 1, 1864, an arctic blast caused the temperature in Louisville, Ky., to drop from 47 to 19 below zero in just 21 hours.

Sun and Moon

	Today	Monday
Sunrise	7:13 a.m.	7:13 a.m.
Sunset	5:46 p.m.	5:46 p.m.
Moonrise	12:14 p.m.	12:48 p.m.
Moonset	12:29 a.m.	1:21 a.m.



National Forecast for January 1



National Summary

A strong area of low pressure will track from the northern Plains into eastern Ontario today, bringing areas of snow from the Great Lakes into southwestern Quebec. The strong storm will push a cold front from the Plains and Northeast through the Southeast, ushering in very frigid air and sharply colder temperatures. Very strong winds will also accompany this cold front, with winds gusting past 50 mph in some places in the Midwest. Strong winds combined with cold temperatures will make it feel even colder.

U.S. Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.	City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Albuquerque	53/32/s	51/31/s	56/31/s	Los Angeles	79/52/s	78/51/s	76/51/pc
Atlanta	60/32/pc	45/24/pc	40/22/pc	Louisville	47/26/c	30/18/c	30/17/pc
Baltimore	57/39/pc	44/26/pc	34/18/pc	Memphis	55/30/pc	38/24/s	45/31/s
Birmingham	61/30/pc	46/22/s	42/26/pc	Milwaukee	28/14/sf	20/9/c	21/18/pc
Boston	49/34/pc	43/26/pc	28/14/pc	Minneapolis	20/6/sf	11/2/pc	21/12/pc
Charlotte	64/34/pc	45/20/pc	39/17/pc	Nashville	54/28/pc	39/22/pc	32/19/pc
Cheyenne	42/18/s	49/35/s	51/26/pc	New Orleans	68/42/pc	53/34/s	54/38/s
Chicago	33/16/sf	22/10/pc	25/17/pc	New York City	53/37/pc	43/26/pc	29/18/pc
Cleveland	40/24/c	31/17/sn	20/17/sf	Norfolk	64/38/s	47/28/pc	42/22/pc
Columbus	42/24/c	25/15/sf	25/16/pc	Oklahoma City	52/26/s	46/26/s	55/32/s
Dallas	59/33/s	54/31/s	58/38/s	Philadelphia	54/36/pc	41/26/pc	29/17/pc
Denver	44/21/s	55/33/s	63/29/s	Phoenix	76/53/s	76/50/s	72/49/sf
Detroit	38/24/sf	27/15/sf	21/17/pc	Pittsburgh	45/26/c	27/18/sf	22/13/sf
Harrisburg	51/28/pc	36/22/sf	30/14/pc	Portland, ME	44/30/pc	40/24/pc	27/7/pc
Honolulu	80/66/s	79/66/s	80/70/s	Portland, OR	47/34/pc	48/39/r	48/38/c
Houston	63/35/s	57/33/s	59/40/s	Raleigh	67/34/s	46/22/pc	38/18/pc
Indianapolis	38/20/c	21/11/c	23/18/pc	Rochester	47/28/c	35/13/sf	16/8/sf
Jackson, MS	63/32/pc	49/22/s	51/27/s	St. Louis	49/22/pc	31/16/pc	35/25/pc
Kansas City	41/18/pc	35/18/s	46/25/s	San Francisco	62/44/s	59/47/pc	60/44/s
Lexington	46/22/c	26/12/c	27/13/pc	Seattle	49/35/sh	49/42/r	47/42/r
Little Rock	58/32/pc	44/25/s	48/29/s	Wash., DC	58/36/pc	43/26/pc	36/20/pc

World Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.	City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Acapulco	89/76/pc	88/74/s	88/73/s	London	52/39/c	43/37/s	50/39/r
Athens	54/41/pc	55/43/s	58/49/s	Montreal	37/30/c	31/31/sf	7/-4/sf
Beirut	57/53/r	58/51/r	59/51/pc	Moscow	28/23/c	25/14/c	30/29/sn
Berlin	48/46/sh	50/37/r	43/39/pc	Nice	60/45/s	56/46/c	61/47/s
Bermuda	72/68/sh	72/64/pc	65/56/r	Ottawa	40/26/sn	27/-1/sf	8/-8/pc
Calgary	30/24/s	49/23/pc	42/28/c	Quebec	32/27/c	30/11/sf	5/-6/sf
Dublin	46/34/pc	43/38/pc	44/33/r	Rio de Janeiro	85/70/r	79/70/r	79/69/sh
Edmonton	22/14/s	34/21/c	29/12/s	Seoul	34/18/s	32/21/pc	34/18/sf
Freeport	79/58/s	74/50/pc	68/47/pc	Singapore	90/77/r	88/77/r	90/77/r
Geneva	49/45/c	46/38/r	43/42/pc	Sydney	82/61/s	84/63/s	88/64/pc
Havana	80/54/s	78/48/s	71/47/c	Toronto	42/23/sn	27/6/sf	16/12/c
Hong Kong	66/57/s	63/59/s	68/55/s	Vancouver	46/42/sh	47/41/r	45/41/r
Jerusalem	52/44/pc	51/40/r	54/39/pc	Vienna	47/46/c	50/42/c	43/39/r
Johannesburg	80/59/r	82/60/s	87/61/s	Warsaw	37/36/c	44/40/r	41/25/c
Kiev	33/15/pc	38/37/sn	39/35/c	Winnipeg	16/4/pc	10/10/pc	18/10/c

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And Another Thing...
 Dan Hoehne

The year gone by

Harkening back on the year gone by, it was a pretty eventful one at that.

A lockout in the NFL that really didn't do too much to hurt the league.

Potential mayhem seemed in the offing when the NBA lockout couldn't seem to get figured out.

Perhaps it was that maybe that allowed cooler heads to prevail and get a deal done in time to save, though shorten, the season.

Yet, while those were the two big sports stories of this calendar year, there were plenty more.

Nobody could have fathomed the miraculous wins Tim Tebow would continually pull off.

Each week he would look horrible for much of the game, only to transform into a precision-passing, rocket-armed quarterback.

With all the fanfare, and negativity, Tebow has kept an even keel, even as we're all getting a little tired of the over-the-top coverage.

You might not have thought the St. Louis Cardinals would win the World Series and lose the face of their franchise a few weeks later.

Each of us were surprised with the spending spree the newly named Miami Marlins went on.

And yet, even with the hiring of Theo Epstein, the Cubs are likely not going to surprise anyone soon.

Robert Griffin III was the underdog that made a late charge to win the Heisman, just as the Packers were within an eyelash of not even making the playoffs before rolling to their Super Bowl win.

Each of us has our own memory list of the past year, from our favorite teams and players in the pros and college, to the youngsters in our own back yard.

Victory at the Dixie Ozone World Series was had for the second year in a row for the Sebring All-Stars.

Excellence in Avon Park wrestling continued as Johnny Baldrige marked the sixth straight year of a Devil making it to state, and the fifth straight year of a medal being won with his fifth-place finish.

Reaching state, as well, were Sebring's Taylor Tubbs and Lake Placid's Alex Coyne and Dalton Shelton in cross country this past fall.

Youth football in the area also had another strong season as the Avon Park Mites claiming their second Super Bowl win.

One long-standing goal for any student athlete, beyond wins, is being able to get a college education through a scholarship.

Numerous such dreams were fulfilled last spring, with Sebring's Johnny Knight going a bit further in being drafted and signed by the Philadelphia Phillies.

Each year has its memories to look back on, successes to relish – and as of today, it's time to start making some for this year.

Two of a kind – Thompson, Weaver All Highlands Co-Players of Year

By DAN HOEHNE

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"You're 5-foot-nothin', 100-and-nothin', and you have barely a speck of athletic ability."

Such were the words from the character Fortune to Dan "Rudy" Ruettinger in the underdog football movie, "Rudy."

And though it might not really apply too well to News-Sun All-Highlands County Co-Players of the Year Damion Thompson of Sebring and Nevada Weaver of Lake Placid, especially the part about athletic ability, it does touch on a tangent for both players – their size.

Interestingly, both are 6-foot-1, 175-pounds, and neither would strike you as football standouts, even in full pads and uniform.

That is, until the game starts.

"He's the sort of player you need to see to appreciate," Lake Placid head coach Jason Holden said of Weaver during the season. "Seeing him on paper doesn't do him justice."

Something many would-be tacklers that Weaver bulldozed over, bounced off of or ran around would attest to that, just as any runner that took a surprisingly jarring hit from the wiry linebacker now understands.

The same could be said for any of Thompson's foes.

Looking more like he might be a speedy outside runner, it is striking to see him run through hits by much larger defenders with nary a hesitation in his step.

He does have the speed to break it outside or take it the distance after blasting through those initial hits, which also benefits him defensively, chasing down runners and filling gaps before delivering a bone-rattling tackle.

But just like neither wows the eye at first glance, so too do their stats seem less than eye-popping.

But it's the total package one needs to look at to gain their full measure.

See **YEAR**, Page 3B



Two of a kind, Lake Placid's Nevada Weaver and Sebring's Damion Thompson are the News-Sun's 2011 All-Highlands Football Co-Players of the Year.

News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE

2011 All-Highlands Football Team

Offense

QB- Davaris Faulk, Sebring

RB- Charles Louis, Avon Park

RB- Damion Thompson, Sebring

RB- A.J. Gayle, Lake Placid

WR- Michael Weston, Sebring

WR- Jarviel Hart, Avon Park

OL- Patric Morris, Sebring

OL- Estevenson Louis, Avon Park

OL- Delroy Blake, Avon Park

OL- Zach Howard, Sebring

OL- Brad Perry, Lake Placid

Defense

DL- Kyle Yarbrough, Sebring

DL- Benji Toney, Sebring

DL- Jake Bryan, Sebring

DL- Akin Thomas, Avon Park

LB- Mason Jahna, Avon Park

LB- Nevada Weaver, Lake Placid

LB- Nick Swain, Lake Placid

DB- Anthony Powell, Sebring

DB- Dominique Leveridge, Sebring

DB- J.D. Hardy, Avon Park

DB- Decaris Jones, Sebring

Kicker- Donovan White, Sebring



News-Sun file photos by DAN HOEHNE

Above: While he had Lake Placid's two longest gains on offense this past season, Nevada Weaver really did the job on defense, totaling 123 tackles. Below: Though he could run through would-be tacklers, Damion Thompson also has the speed to take it to the house.



Avon Park holds off Homestead

By DAN HOEHNE

daniel.hoehne@newsun.com

SEBRING – Their defense is the key, and was nearly the downfall for the Red Devils in Thursday's closing day of the Holiday Tournament against the Broncos of Homestead.

But a heightened effort in the second half, and some key free-throw shooting down the stretch, helped Avon Park hold on for a 73-66 win to go 3-0 for the tournament.

"We definitely didn't play up to our level," senior forward Reggie Baker said. "We weren't playing well on defense or rebounding real well, and their number 23 just kept hitting."

That would be junior Bronco guard Josh Roman, who hit four three pointers, including another long two, in the first half over the Red Devil zone.

Avon Park was, however, doing well enough offensively

to stay in front throughout, just not by much.

Marcus Dewberry hit two first-quarter threes as part of his 10 points, to stake his squad out to a 25-21 lead.

And though Dewberry and Baker each went for seven in the second, Homestead held an 18-16 edge for the period to go into the half trailing just 41-39.

Avon Park
73
Homestead
66

"We kept asking coach (Luther Clemons) to put us in man-to-man defense," sophomore guard Jarviel Hart said. "We didn't in the first half, but pushed for it at halftime and he let us come out in man-to-man in the second half."

Which did the trick defensively, as the Broncos didn't get their first score of the third until nearly six minutes had gone by.

But as the defense heated up, the offense went cold, scoring just seven points

over those six minutes to add to the lead, but not by much.

And they would score just four more points over the final two minutes of the frame, while Homestead added seven to head into the final period down just 52-48.

"It was tough and we weren't playing our best, but those are the kind of games I like to be in, where you have to fight the whole way," Baker said. "It's better than blowing teams out and it helps us more."

Well, the Devils got that help as the Broncos kept bucking back.

Romeollo Roberts began the fourth by canning two free throws, but Roman scored on a drive.

Baker drove for a score, but was answered by a Ricky Williams lay-in.

After Hart took a nice pass from Dewberry for a score, Gilbert Johnson put back an offensive rebound and it was 58-54 with 5:32

See **DEVILS**, Page 4B



Reggie Baker scored 24 points in Avon Park's 73-66 win over Homestead Thursday.

News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE

THE SCOREBOARD

National Football League

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	East				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	464 321
N.Y. Jets	8	7	0	.533	360 344
Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	351 385
Miami	5	10	0	.333	10 296

	South				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
y-Houston	10	5	0	.667	359 255
Tennessee	8	7	0	.533	302 295
Jacksonville	4	11	0	.267	224 316
Indianapolis	2	13	0	.133	230 411

	North				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
x-Baltimore	11	4	0	.733	354 250
x-Pittsburgh	11	4	0	.733	312 218
Cincinnati	9	6	0	.600	328 299
Cleveland	4	11	0	.267	209 294

	West				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Denver	8	7	0	.533	306 383
Oakland	8	7	0	.533	333 395
San Diego	7	8	0	.467	368 351
Kansas City	6	9	0	.400	205 335

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	East				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
N.Y. Giants	8	7	0	.533	363 386
Dallas	8	7	0	.533	355 316
Philadelphia	7	8	0	.467	362 318
Washington	5	10	0	.333	278 333

	South				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
y-New Orleans	12	3	0	.800	502 322
x-Atlanta	9	6	0	.600	357 326
Carolina	6	9	0	.400	389 384
Tampa Bay	4	11	0	.267	263 449

	North				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
y-Green Bay	14	1	0	.933	153 138
x-Detroit	10	5	0	.667	433 342
Chicago	7	8	0	.467	336 328
Minnesota	3	12	0	.200	327 432

	West				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
y-San Francisco	12	3	0	.800	346 202
Seattle	7	8	0	.467	301 292
Arizona	7	8	0	.467	289 328
St. Louis	2	13	0	.133	166 373

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Sunday's Games

- Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
- Carolina at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
- Detroit at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
- San Francisco at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
- Tennessee at Houston, 1 p.m.
- Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.
- Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
- N.Y. Jets at Miami, 1 p.m.
- Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
- Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
- Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
- Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
- Washington at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
- San Diego at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
- Kansas City at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
- Seattle at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.

End of Regular Season

LEAGUE LEADERS

AFC PASSING

	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	Int
Brady, NE	576	378	4897	36	11
Schaub, HOU	292	178	2479	15	6
Thibodeaux, PIT	473	301	3856	21	14
Moore, MIA	316	189	2375	15	7
Rivers, SD	556	347	4314	24	19

NFC PASSING

	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	Int
Rodgers, GB	502	343	4643	45	6
Brees, NO	622	440	5087	41	13
Romo, DAL	485	317	3895	29	9
Stafford, DET	604	385	4518	36	14
Ryan, ATL	557	341	4071	27	12

AFC RUSHING

	Att	Yds	Avg	TD
Jones-Drew, JAX	318	1437	4.5	8
Foster, HOU	278	1224	4.4	10
Rice, BAL	267	1173	4.4	10
Mathews, SD	222	1091	4.9	6
Bush, MIA	216	1086	5.0	6

NFC RUSHING

	Att	Yds	Avg	TD
McCoy, PHI	273	1309	4.8	17
Gore, SF	275	1202	4.4	8
Turner, ATL	284	1168	4.1	9
Lynch, SEA	266	1118	4.2	12
Jackson, STL	244	1069	4.4	5

AFC RECEIVING

	No	Yds	Avg	TD
Welker, NE	116	1518	13.1	9
Grnkowski, NE	82	1219	14.9	15
Marshall, MIA	77	1177	15.3	6
Bowe, KC	75	1066	14.2	5
Rice, BAL	74	696	9.4	3

NFC RECEIVING

	No	Yds	Avg	TD
White, ATL	96	1227	12.8	8
Graham, NO	91	1213	13.3	10
Johnson, DET	85	1437	16.9	15
Sproles, NO	81	681	8.4	6
Gonzalez, ATL	79	867	11.0	7

AFC SCORING, NONKICKERS

	TD	Rus	Ret	Pts
Grnkowski, NE	16	1	15	0
Rice, BAL	13	10	3	0
Foster, HOU	12	10	2	0
Jones-Drew, JAX	11	8	3	0

NFC SCORING, NONKICKERS

	TD	Rus	Ret	Pts
McCoy, PHI	20	17	3	0
Johnson, DET	15	0	15	0
Newton, CAR	14	14	0	0
Lynch, SEA	13	12	1	0
Peterson, MIN	13	12	1	0

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	23	9	4	50	107	77
Philadelphia	22	10	4	48	123	106
Pittsburgh	21	12	4	46	120	97
New Jersey	20	15	1	41	100	104
N.Y. Islanders	12	17	6	30	80	112

Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	24	9	1	49	121	64
Toronto	18	14	5	41	116	122
Ottawa	18	15	5	41	117	131
Buffalo	17	17	3	37	98	109
Montreal	14	17	7	35	97	107

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	19	12	7	45	100	105
Winnipeg	18	14	5	41	101	105
Washington	19	15	2	40	107	107
Tampa Bay	16	17	3	35	99	120
Carolina	13	20	6	32	101	130

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	24	10	4	52	125	107
Detroit	23	13	4	47	120	84



LIVE SPORTS ON TV

BOWLING SUNDAY

1 p.m. PBA - World Championships ESPN

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

TUESDAY

7 p.m. Michigan State at Wisconsin ESPN2

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

MONDAY

1 p.m. Outback Bowl - Georgia vs. Michigan St. ABC

1 p.m. Capital One Bowl - Nebraska vs. South Carolina ESPN

1 p.m. Gator Bowl - Florida vs. Ohio St. ESPN2

5 p.m. Rose Bowl - Oregon vs. Wisconsin ESPN

8:30 p.m. Fiesta Bowl - Oklahoma St. vs. Stanford ESPN

TUESDAY

8:30 p.m. Sugar Bowl - Michigan vs. Virginia Tech ESPN

NFL SUNDAY

1 p.m. N.Y. Jets at Miami CBS

1 p.m. Detroit at Green Bay FOX

4 p.m. Kansas City at Denver CBS

4 p.m. Tampa Bay at Atlanta FOX

8:15 p.m. Dallas at N.Y. Giants NBC

NHL MONDAY

1 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia NBC

TUESDAY

7 p.m. Tampa Bay at Toronto SUN

PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER

TUESDAY

2:55 p.m. Manchester City vs. Liverpool ESPN2

Times, games, channels all subject to change

St. Louis	21	11	5	47	95	82
Nashville	20	14	4	44	100	105
Columbus	10	22	5	25	91	124

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	24	12	2	50	128	92
Minnesota	21	12	6	48	93	91
Calgary	18	16	5	41	96	106
Colorado	20	18	1	41	104	113
Edmonton	15	18	3	33	99	100

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	19	11	4	42	99	83
Los Angeles	18	14	6	42	82	89
Dallas	20	15	1	41	96	105
Phoenix	18	16	4	40	98	101
Anaheim	10	20	6	26	85	120

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Thursday's Games

- N.Y. Islanders 3, Calgary 1
- Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 2
- Carolina 4, Toronto 3, OT
- Tampa Bay 4, Montreal 3
- Minnesota 4, Edmonton 3
- Winnipeg 1, Los Angeles 0, OT
- Columbus 4, Dallas 1
- Colorado 3, Phoenix 2
- Vancouver 5, Anaheim 2

Friday's Games

- Nashville 2, St. Louis 1, SO
- Washington 3, Buffalo 1
- Ottawa 4, Calgary 3, OT
- N.Y. Rangers 4, Florida 1
- Chicago 3, Detroit 2

Saturday's Games

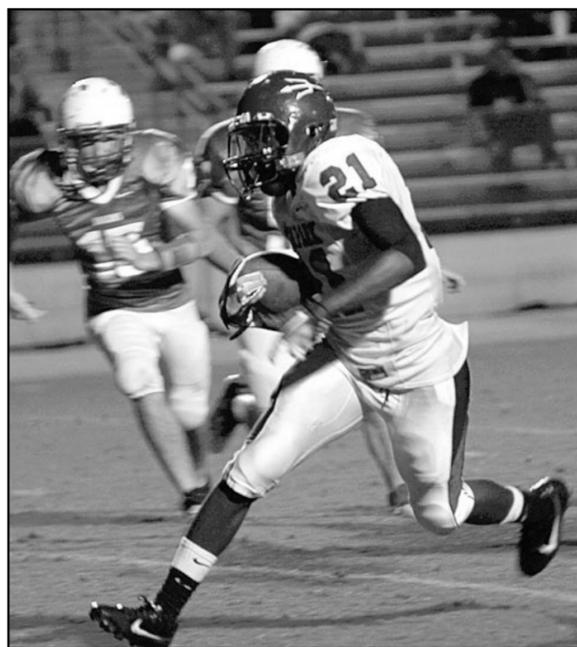
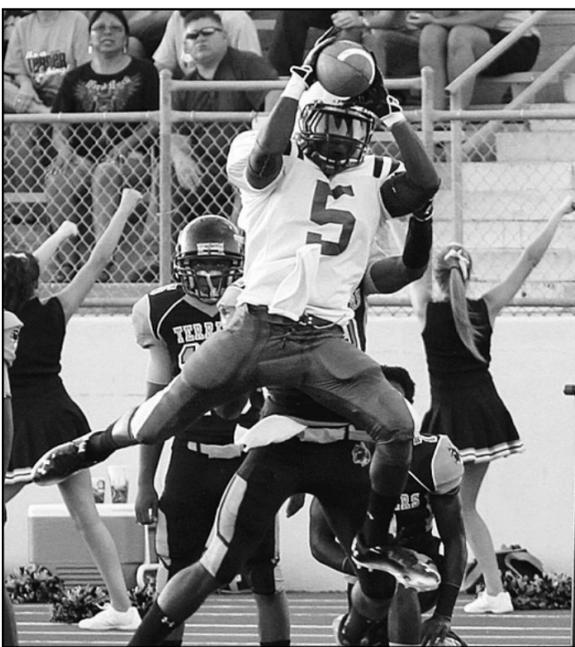
- Edmonton at N.Y. Islanders, late
- Pittsburgh at New Jersey, late
- Carolina at Tampa Bay, late
- Phoenix at Minnesota, late
- Montreal at Florida, late
- Ottawa at Buffalo, late
- Toronto at Winnipeg, late
- St. Louis at Detroit, late
- Washington at Columbus, late
- Boston at Dallas, late
- Colorado at Anaheim, late
- Vancouver at Los Angeles, late

Sunday's Games

- Calgary at Nashville, 6 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Player	Team	G	A	PTS
Giroux	PHI	17	28	45
H. Sedin	VAN	10	35	45
Kessel	TOR	20	23	43
D. Sedin	VAN	17	26	43
Malkin	PIT	15	28	43
Hossa	CHI	17	24	41
Stamkos	TB	23	17	40
Lupul	TOR	17	23	40
Vanek	BUF	18	21	39
Eberle	EDM	16	23	39
Pominville	BUF	12	27	39



News-Sun file photo courtesy by KIM GAUGER, DAN HOEHNE and ED BALDRIDGE



Clockwise from top left: Anthony Powell made the first of his six interceptions for the season at Moore Haven. A.J. Gayle cracked the 1,000-yard mark rushing this season, totaling 1,056 yards on 189 carries. Charles Louis lead the Red Devil ground game with 772 yards, 5.5 yards-per-carry, and eight touchdowns. Jarviel Hart caught 13 passes for 360 yards and made his sure hands useful on defense as well, snaring three interceptions. Benji Toney wreaked havoc in opposing backfields, recording 13 tackles for a loss during the 2011 season.

News-Sun 2011 All- Highlands Football



Year sees all-around efforts from Thompson, Weaver

Continued from 1B

Weaver gained 469 yards rushing, scoring five touchdowns.

Thompson rushed for 455 yards and seven TDs.

Each could be counted on as a safe checkdown on a pass play to make the reception and gain yards. Thompson had 11 receptions and Weaver had Lake Placid's two longest plays from scrimmage with a 78-yard run and 43-yard reception.

Moving to the defensive side of the ball, Thompson had 64 tackles and 12 tackles for loss, while Weaver led the

Dragons with 123 tackles.

"(Damion) wasn't our best running back and he wasn't our best linebacker," Sebring head coach LaVaar Scott said. "But put together what he did at both and he was our team MVP."

Which is what it's all about, really: doing their part to help the team in numerous ways.

And while both certainly had their effect offensively, both prefer the defensive side of the ball.

"I like being able to hit people," Weaver said. "I prefer defense because that is my strength, reading the other team and making a

play."

Thompson agreed with the initial sentiment.

"I like both sides," he said. "But on defense, all you have to do is hit people."

And each recognizes their similarity to one another.

"He plays hard, like me and isn't scared to play smash mouth," Thompson said of Weaver.

"Damion brings speed to the game as well," Weaver said. "He just goes out and makes plays."

Their senior season's complete, their high school careers over, both now look ahead.

"I plan to find the best sit-

uation for both education and football," said Weaver, who plans to major in Mechanical Engineering. "They're both important in my life."

Thompson also faces those options and decisions.

"I want to continue playing because I love football, mostly it's to help me get an education," he said. "I really want to major in graphic design, but depending on my college, I might have to do business, which is my second choice."

"My strength is my determination because I never look at someone's size and let that discourage me," Thompson went on to say. "Being named (Co-Player of the Year) makes me appreciate that people noticed how much I put into football."

Weaver's reaction to the honor was similarly selfless.

"It is an honor to be able to represent Lake Placid," he said. "It signifies that all the work I have put into football has paid off."

Fortune's line from the movie continued, "In this life, you don't have to prove nothin' to nobody but yourself. And after what you've gone through, if you haven't done that by now, it ain't gonna never happen."

While the first part of the line had some relevance, the conclusion of it doesn't, in this case.

For it seems that Nevada Weaver and Damion Thompson have done just that - proven themselves.

Historic Orange Blossom opens Centennial Year

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — The City of Sebring is celebrating its 100th birthday in year 2012, so it's ironic to have the first major event this year be a sport celebrating its 99th birthday - Shuffleboard!

The tournament will be played Jan. 2-4, at the Sebring Recreation Club.

There are more than 25,000 members to the Florida Shuffleboard Association.

Shuffleboard began in Daytona in 1913. Shuffleboard activities started in Sebring in 1930.

The Orange Blossom Classic is the most historic and prestigious tournament of the year in Florida.

Pros from clubs all over the state will be arriving to participate in this popular tournament.

Prize money is one of the largest in the state thanks to local sponsors, including the Palms of Sebring, Lampe & Keifer of Sebring, Blue Crab Restaurant, Highlands Independent Bank, Sebring

Animal Hospital, Heartland Periodontics (Dr. Kirsch), Dell Realty Team and Heartland Real Estate.

This year Inn on the Lakes is the host hotel.

It was once said "Shuffleboard is not a matter of life and death, it's more important than that!"

Even though the Orange Blossom Classic is a pro tournament, amateurs may participate and are welcome.

The entry fee is \$5 per player and Men's Doubles and Women's Doubles have

separate divisions.

All players should be registered by 8:30 a.m., on Monday, Jan. 2.

Bleachers are available for spectators and watching the best play is a great way to learn the strategies of the game. (No charge for spectators).

Shuffleboard is a sport for life - "Get in on it!"

County Commissioner, Don Elwell and Mayor George Hensley will welcome participants during opening ceremonies.

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Streaks salvage tourney with win

By LAUREN WELBORN
News-Sun correspondent

SEBRING — The Blue Streaks snatched a 65-57 win over Frostproof Thursday night as the annual Taveniere Holiday Tournament came to a close.

Coming off of two shaky losses over the first two days of tournament play, Sebring played a bit ore solidly for this contest.

By the end of the first quarter, the boys were up 14-10 and then further increased their lead to 36-23 before the half.

Still taking charge of the game, the Streaks gained another 16 points over the Bulldogs' 11 to enter the final quarter still in the lead at 52-34.

It wasn't until late in the game, with most of the starters off the floor, that Frostproof started to really close the gap.

With five points separating the two as the final minutes withered away, it was solid free throws and a few foul-outs that played the largest factor.

Decaris Jones' contributed to his 26 total points for the night as he took his fair share of shots from the line to put more points back on the board for Sebring.

One Bulldog three-pointer closed the lead yet again to only a four-point difference.

Three straight free throws, however, soon pushed the lead back to seven for the Blue Streaks.

During the last thirty seconds, Frostproof only had four players on the court as the intense level of play and foul-outs took their toll.

Other leaders for Sebring included 10 points by Jared Cannon and six from Junior St. Louis.

Despite the win, head coach Princeton Harris was not necessarily happy with the performance.

"We made too many mental mistakes and were undisciplined. We needed to focus on the game."

The two teams will meet once again Tuesday in a regular season match-up, followed by entering into the



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
Davaris Faulk stretches to pull down this rebound in Sebring's Thursday win.

district schedule on Friday with a game at Winter Haven.

"Hopefully the new year brings new results," Harris said.

Devils hit free throws, hang on

Continued from 1B

left to play.

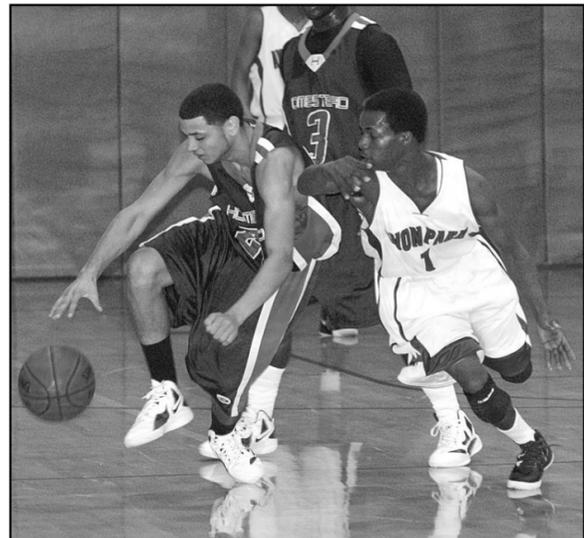
Coming out of a time out, Dewberry laid one in and Roberts took one for the team, drawing a charge on Johnson, and Dewberry promptly drained a three to push the lead to 63-54.

From there, it was a back and forth trade-off of scores until, with time winding down, Homestead was forced to start fouling.

But Avon Park made that strategy backfire, with Dewberry going 4-of-4 and Hart and Alfred Brown each splitting a pair to keep the margin just out of reach of the Broncos.

Dewberry had a game-high 28 with Baker close behind with 24.

The Devils get back to regular season action Tuesday at Winter Haven before returning to their district schedule Tuesday, Jan. 10 at Mulberry.



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
Jarviel Hart knocks the ball loose from Homestead's Josh Roman, leading to a steal and fast-break score for the Devils in Thursday's win.

LeBron turns 27, scores 34 in win over Wolves

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Playing LeBron James any day of the year is enough to make most opponents break out in cold sweats in the middle of the night.

Be one of the unfortunate teams to get a game against King James on his birthday, and you know you're in for a long night.

James turned a ripe old 27 on Friday, and the Miami Heat again proved that he plays with a little extra juice on his birthday.

The Heat beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 103-101 on Friday night, and James had 34 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

"My birthday and my mom's birthday are the two days I feel real, real good about playing basketball," James said before the game. "I've had the luxury of having games on my birthday and my mom's birthday so we'll see what happens."

What happened was James scored 15 points in the first quarter alone.

He cooled off at times, but his slick lob pass to Dwyane Wade off an inbound play with 4.6 seconds left in the game lifted the Heat to victory.

This was the fifth time in James' nine seasons that he

has played on his birthday. His averages? 35 points, nearly eight rebounds and six assists.

He's also shot better than 56 percent from the field and 43 percent from 3-point range.

"I think this is a continuation of the way he's started the season. But if it happens to be on his birthday and he likes it as a gift, I'll take it," coach Erik Spoelstra said.

So what gets into him on those days?

"You know my birthday when I turned 15 or I turned 9, when I was growing up, it wasn't the best of days on my birthday," he said. "To see where I am today, and to be able to turn 21 and be in the NBA and turn 22 and now turn 27 and be a part of this league, it's a testament. It's also I'm very humbled that I am able to be here and I'm very blessed."

James' best birthday performance came in 2009 when he had 48 points, 10 rebounds and six assists in a victory over Atlanta while he was still with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

That's also the only time he's headed home for his birthday cake with a victory.

James had 38 points and seven assists in a loss to Miami in 2008; 33 points and nine boards against Chicago

in 2006; and 22 points, 10 rebounds and four assists in a loss to Indiana in 2003.

"It's amazing how many games he gets on his birthday, I'll tell you that," Wade said. "He's had a lot of games on his birthday. The schedule works that way."

James is playing some of the best basketball of his career early this season for the Heat, who are coming off a disappointing NBA finals loss to the Dallas Mavericks last season.

He's averaging 32.7 points, 7.3 rebounds and 6.0 assists in his first three games, and has developed a low-post game to boot.

"He's been playing exceptionally well," Wade said. "He's in a different mind state right now. I expect him to continue the mind state he's in."

"You can't always know what that is going to result to, but he always enjoys certain moments. It's a special moment when you get an opportunity to play on this day. The biggest thing is to try to come out and lead us to a win."

James said the best birthday present he ever received was the Hummer SUV his mother bought him when he turned 18.

The Timberwolves had their own birthday treat for James when they shut down

guard J.J. Barea for the game with a strained right hamstring.

The super-quick Barea hurt the Heat in the NBA finals last season and was a major reason the Mavs were able to pull off the upset.

Asked if he'd miss chasing Barea around, James didn't hesitate: "Absolutely not."

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<http://www.twitter.com/APkrawczynski>

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Howard's 20-20 powers Magic

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Dwight Howard had 20 points and 24 rebounds, Ryan Anderson scored 23 points, and the Orlando Magic beat the Charlotte Bobcats 100-79 on Friday night for their third straight victory.

Orlando jumped to an 11-0

lead and never trailed, eventually leading 56-43 at half-time and building the lead up to as many as 21 in the second half.

Charlotte never got closer than nine points in the second half.

Anderson was 5 of 12 from 3-point range, as the Magic

shot 43 percent from beyond the arc.

Howard also had four blocked shots and four assists.

The Magic also got 16 points from Jason Richardson, 15 from Hedo Turkoglu and 11 from J.J. Redick.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar provides a brief listing of local clubs and organizations who meet on a regular basis. It is the responsibility of the group to update the *News-Sun* on any changes in this listing by calling 385-6155, ext. 516; send any changes by e-mail to editor@newssun.com; or mail them to *News-Sun* Community Calendar, 2227 U.S. 27 South, Sebring, FL 33870.

SUNDAY

■ **American Legion Post 25 Lake Placid** has lounge hours from 1-9 p.m. Live music is from 5-8 p.m. Call 465-7940.

■ **American Legion Post 74** open 1-8 p.m. Happy Hour 4-6 p.m. Members and guests only. Post is at 528 N. Pine St., Sebring. Call 471-1448.

■ **Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661** lounge is open from 1-7 p.m. Card games start at 1:30 p.m. The lodge is open to members and their guests. Call 465-2661.

■ **Lake Placid Moose** has karaoke in the pavilion. Horseshoes played at 9:30 a.m. Food available at 4 p.m. Open to members and qualified guests only.

■ **Loyal Order of Moose**, Highlands County Lodge No. 2494, 1318 W Bell St., Avon Park. Cards start at 4 p.m. Music outside Tiki Hut at 3 p.m. Lodge phone number 452-0579.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous**, meets from 4-5 p.m. in second floor conference room No. 3 at Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center, 4200 Sun 'N Lake Blvd., Sebring. Call 382-7731. No dues, fees or weigh-ins. For details on the organization, go to www.oa.org.

■ **Ridge - Area Missionary Soldiers Avon Park Pathfinder Club** meets from 9 a.m. to noon every first and third Sunday at 58 E. Sixth St., Avon Park. Call 471-2143.

■ **Sebring Eagles Club 4240** serves lunch at 2 p.m. at the club, 12921 U.S. 98, Sebring. Call 655-4007.

■ **Sebring Moose Lodge 2259** offers NASCAR racing in the pavilion at 1:30 p.m. Bar open and kitchen open from 2-5 p.m. Lodge is at 11675 U.S. 98, Sebring. Call 655-3920.

■ **Society for Creative Anachronism (Local Chapter: Shire of Stagridge)** meets at 2 p.m. first and third Sunday at Brewster's Coffee House on U.S. 27 in Sebring. Call 214-5522.

■ **The Artists' Group** at South Florida Community College will hold a critique clinic the first Sunday of every month, 2-4 p.m., at the Hotel Jacaranda, Avon Park. Professional local artists will discuss and evaluate participants' paintings. The fee is \$5 with a two painting limit. For more information, call 784-7346.

■ **U.S. Military Vets Motorcycle Club** meets at 1 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at VFW Post 9853, State Road 64 West and North Oliva Drive. For information call Dr. J at (954) 290-6981.

■ **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3880** serves hamburgers from 4-5:30 p.m. and plays poker at 5:30 p.m. at the post, 1224 County Road 621 East, Lake Placid. Call 699-5444.

■ **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4300** Karaoke is from 5-8 p.m. at the post, 2011 SE Lakeview Drive, Sebring. Call 385-8902.

MONDAY

■ **AI-Anon - LET IT BEGIN WITH ME** family group meets at 10:30 a.m. every Monday at the Heartland Christian Church on Alt. 27 in Sebring.

The church is behind Southgate Shopping Center where Publix is. For more information call 385-5714.

■ **Alcoholics Anonymous** meeting, 8-9 p.m. at Episcopal Church, Lakeshore Drive, Sebring. Call 385-8807.

■ **Alcoholics Anonymous One Day At A Time** group meets for a closed discussion at 9:30 a.m. Monday and Friday at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 4500 Sun 'N Lakes Blvd., Sebring. Call 314-0891.

■ **Alcoholics Anonymous** meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Rosewood Center, 517 U.S. 27 South, Lake Placid.

■ **Alanon** meets at 8 p.m. at St. Agnes Episcopal Church, 3840 Lakeview Drive, Sebring. Call 202-0647.

■ **Ambucs**, a local charity that assists people with disabilities, meets at noon every first Monday at R.J. Gator's Sea Grill and Bar, Sebring. The meeting is open to the public. Call 386-4387.

■ **American Legion Placid Post 25 Lake Placid** has shuffleboard at 1 p.m. Lounge hours are 12-9 p.m. Legion and auxiliary boards meet at 6 p.m. General meeting at 7 p.m. Call 465-7940.

■ **American Legion Post 74** open noon to 8 p.m. Happy hour from 4-6 p.m. Call 471-1448.

■ **AmVets Post 21** plays darts at 7:30 p.m. for members and guests. Call 385-0234.

■ **Avon Park Lakes Association** has shuffleboard at 1 p.m. and bingo at 7 p.m. The clubhouse is at 2714 Nautilus Drive in Avon Park.

■ **Avon Park Veterans Honor Guard** meets first Monday at the American Legion Post 69, Avon Park. Call 382-0315.

■ **Boy Scout Troop 482** meets 7 p.m., 34 Central Ave., Lake Placid.

■ **Bridge Club of Sebring** (American Contract Bridge Club) plays duplicate games at 12:30 p.m. at 347 Fernleaf Ave., Sebring. Call 385-8118.

■ **Corvette Cruisers** meets at 6:30 p.m. first and third Monday at the Dairy Queen in front of The Home Depot, Sebring. Call Ed Robson at 655-2092.

■ **Florida Association Home and Community Education** meets from 9-11 a.m. weekly on Mondays at The Agri-Center. The group of sewers and crafters make items for residents of adult congregate living facilities. Call Penny Bucher at 385-0949.

■ **Grand Prix Cloggers EZ** Intermediate and Intermediate Clogging class are held at 9 a.m. every Monday at Reflections on Silver Lake, Avon Park. Call Julie for further information at 386-0434.

■ **Harmony Hoedowners Square Dance Club** meets from 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first and third Monday at Sebring Civic Center from December through April. There will be alternating mainstream and plus dancing with rounds. Casual dress or square dance attire is acceptable. For more information, call Sam Dunn at samdunn@samdunn.net.

■ **Heartland Horses & Handicapped Inc.** is offering pony rides every Monday and Wednesday from 4:30-6:30 p.m., weather permitting. \$5 donation per child. Call 452-0006 for more information. All proceeds raised support our free equine assisted riding program for adults and children with special needs, which resumes in September.

■ **Heartland Pops** rehearses at 7 p.m. Mondays at Avon Park High School Band Room,

In an effort to clean out items on the Community Calendar that are out of date, the News-Sun is asking that all groups with entries to email editor@newssun.com or call 385-6155 ext. 539 and inform us that your entry is current. Any group not heard from by Jan. 15, 2012, will have its entry deleted from the calendar.

700 E. Main St., under the direction of Anthony Jones. Musicians of all ages are welcome. For information, call 314-8877.

■ **Highlands County Concert Band** rehearses 7-9 p.m. every Monday at Sebring High School band room. All musicians are welcome. Vic Anderson, musical director. Call Don at 386-1101.

■ **Highlands County Sewing Group** meets from 1-3 p.m. at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center in the 4-H laboratory, Sebring. Call 402-6540.

■ **Highlands Stamp Club** meets the first Monday. Talk and swap at St. John's United Methodist Church, 3214 Grand Prix Drive. Call Bob Gleisner at 471-6526 or Budd Steinke at 382-9373.

■ **Lake Placid Art League** will have classes in Drawing and Painting, conducted by Anne Watson, from from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cultural Center, 127 Dal Hall Blvd. From 1-4 p.m., Mary Gebhart will teach Fabric Painting at the center. For information call Dan Daszek at 465-7730.

■ **Lake Placid Art League** will have 'Open Studio' from 1-4 p.m. Bring your projects in whatever medium, to work in a friendly atmosphere. Cost is only \$2 per session. Call Pat Keesling, 699-2058.

■ **Lake Placid Democratic Club** meets at 6 p.m. first Monday at Placid Lakes Town Hall, 2010 Placid Lakes Blvd. Call Bill Sayles at 699-6773 for details.

■ **Lake Placid Elks 2661** opens its lounge at 1 p.m. at the lodge. Ladies crafts at 2 p.m. Sign up for darts is at 6:30 p.m. Music from 5-8 p.m. It is open to members and their guests. Call 465-2661.

■ **Lake Placid Library** has storytime at 10 a.m. for ages 3-5 except during holidays.

■ **Lake Placid Moose** plays cards at 2 p.m. Open to members and qualified guests only. Lodge closes at 6 p.m.

■ **Let It Begin With Me Alanon Group** meets from 10:30 a.m. to noon every Monday at Heartland Christian Church, 2705 Alt. 27 South, Sebring. For details about Alanon, a self-help group for families and friends of alcoholics, call 385-5714.

■ **Loyal Order of Moose**, Highlands County Lodge No. 2494, 1318 W Bell St., Avon Park. Meetings held first and third Mondays at 8 p.m. Lodge phone number 452-0579.

■ **Narcotics Anonymous Never Alone Candlelight** meets at 8 p.m. at 133 N. Butler Ave. in Avon Park, near the First Congregational Church. For information call Heartland area helpline (863) 683-0630. More information on other meetings and events at www.nafheartland.org.

■ **National Association for Advancement of Colored People**, Highlands County Branch meets 7:30 p.m., 401 Tulane, Avon Park.

■ **Patriots Chapter, Daughter of the American Revolution** meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month September through May at the Church of the Redeemer Parish Hall on U.S. 27 directly across from Wells Motor Company, three-

tenths of a mile north of the South Florida Community College spotlight. Call 471-2096.

■ **Rotary Club of Highlands County** meets at 6:15 p.m. at Beef 'O Brady's, Sebring.

■ **Sebring AARP** meets 1:30 p.m., The Palms, Pine Street, Sebring.

■ **Sebring Bridge Club** has Bridge, ACBL Duplicate at the clubhouse, 347 N. Fernleaf, Sebring at 12:30 Mondays. For details or info on lessons, call 385-8118.

■ **Sebring Historical Society** open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Located in back side of Sebring Public Library building on Lake Jackson. For information, call 471-2522.

■ **Sebring Optimist Club** meets at 6:15 p.m. first and third Mondays at Jim's house. Call Jim Harrison at 381-9767 or Gabriel Read at 453-2859.

■ **Sebring Women of the Moose** has chapter meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the lodge, 11675 U.S. 98, Sebring. Call 382-8782.

■ **Sebring Eagles Club 4240** has a joint officers meeting on the first Monday of each month at the club, 12921 U.S. 98, Sebring. Call 655-4007.

■ **Sebring Elks Lodge 1529** has the lounge open from 12-7 p.m. Smoke-free environment. Call 471-3557.

■ **Sebring Meals on Wheels** delivers hot meals from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., including holidays, Monday-Friday. The cost is \$4.35 per meal. Call 402-1818 for details.

■ **Sebring Moose Club 2259** serves beef franks and Italian sausages from 1 p.m. to closing at 11675 U.S. 98, Sebring. The Women of the Moose meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday for chapter enrollment, refreshments and trivia pursuit. Call 655-3920.

■ **Take Off Pounds Sensibly FL 632, Sebring** meets at 2 p.m. for weigh-in at the fellowship hall at the First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine, Sebring. Call 659-1019.

■ **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3880** euchre, 6:30 p.m., 1224 County Road 621 East, Lake Placid. Call 699-5444.

TUESDAY

■ **AI-Anon Family Groups** meet for discussion and Twelve Step study at noon, Union Congregational Church, 105 N. Forest Ave., Avon Park. Parking available south of old church.

■ **American Legion Placid Post 25 Lake Placid** has shuffleboard and euchre, both at 1 p.m. Lounge hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 465-7940.

■ **American Legion Post 74** open noon to 8 p.m. Hot dogs served. Happy Hour 4-6 p.m. Call 471-1448.

■ **Avon Park Boy Scout Troop 156** meets from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Scout Lodge, 202 Robert Britt St., Avon Park. Boys ages 11-17 are eligible to join. Call 452-2385.

■ **Avon Park Library** has storytime at 10 a.m. for ages 3-5 except during holidays.

■ **Avon Park Lions Club** meets 6:45 p.m., dinner included, Lions Club, 1218 W. Bell St., Avon Park.

■ **Ballroom Dance lessons**, 4 p.m., free, first and third

Tuesday of each month. Eastside Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 101 Peace Ave., Lake Placid. 314-9215 or 699-0886

■ **Celebrate Recovery** meets every Tuesday night at "The Rock," Union Congregational Church, 28 N. Butler Ave., Avon Park. A barbecue meal is served at 6 p.m. for a donation. At 6:45 p.m., members meet. At 7:30 p.m., the group breaks up into small groups for men and women. The program is designed for drug and alcohol addiction, divorce, death or illness grief, low or lost self-esteem or identity due to dysfunctional relationships, depression/anxiety, or any other need for healing. For details, contact Celebrate Recovery coordinator Pam Sim by calling 453-3345, ext. 106.

■ **Fleet Reserve Association Board of Directors** Heartland Branch No. 173 meets 7 p.m., Branch Hall, 1402 Roseland Ave., Sebring. Regular meeting, first Tuesday after board of directors meeting. Call 471-6109 for details.

■ **Fletcher Music Club** meets every Thursday and Tuesday at Fletcher Music Center in Lakeshore Mall, Sebring. Call 385-3288.

■ **Florida Native Plant Society** meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring. Call Roy Stewart at (863) 632-0914.

■ **Heartland Harmonizers Barbershop Chorus** meets from 7-9:30 p.m. in the Sebring High School Music Room, Sebring. All men who enjoy singing are invited. Reading music is not required. Call 471-2294 or 386-5098.

■ **Heartland Insulin Pump Support Group** meets the first Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m. at the Highlands County Health Dept., 7205 S. George Blvd., Sebring. If you would like more information on insulin pumps or are a pump wearer and would like to share ideas and suggestions, please join us. For more information, contact Kathy McNeil at 414-6444.

■ **Heartland Talk of the Town Toastmasters** meet the first and third Tuesday from 6:15-7:15 p.m. at Century 21 Advanced All-Service Realty, corner of Thunderbird Road and U.S. 27 in Sebring. For information call Linda Udall at 386-6495 or email erinehess@yahoo.com or www.toastmasters.org.

■ **Highlands County Adoption Support Group** meets from 7-8:30 p.m. first Tuesday at Quality Inn & Suites Conference Center, 6525 U.S. 27 North, Sebring. Call 382-0352.

■ **Highlands County Lodge of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America** meets the first Tuesday of each month at Visions ADT in Sebring. The officers meet at 6 p.m. and the general meeting will follow at 7 p.m. Call Philomena Greco at 402-0048.

■ **Highlands County Quilt Guild** meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Women's Club of Sebring, 4260 Lakeview Drive, across from Veterans' Beach, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, call 471-0694 or e-mail sbringquilter@embarq-mail.com

■ **Highlands Senior Center Bingo** every Tuesday 6-9 p.m. at 3400 Sebring Parkway. Doors open at 4 p.m. Cards on sale at 5 p.m.; games start at 6 p.m. Great snack bar. For more information, call 386-0752.

■ **Highlands Tea Party** meets at 6 p.m. Tuesdays at Homer's Restaurant, 1000 Sebring Square. Call 386-1440.

■ **Hope Hospice** grief support group meets at 11 a.m. at 319 W. Center Ave., Sebring; and 4:30 p.m. at Southern Lifestyle ALF, across U.S. 27 from Florida Hospital Lake Placid. Call 382-0312.

■ **G2G (Grandparent to Grandparent)**, a support group to help grandparents raising grandchildren, meets at 10 a.m. Tuesdays at One Hope United, 7195 S. George Blvd., Sebring. Call 214-9009

■ **Lake Placid Art League** has classes in Parchment Embossing from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. at the Cultural Center, 127 Dal Hall Blvd., taught by Maria Lorant. For information, call Dan Daszek at 465-7730.

■ **Lake Placid Art League Woodcarvers** will have Focus on Airbrushing from 1-4 p.m. and Open Carving from 5-8 p.m. at the Art League, 127 Dal Hall Blvd. Call Norm Pelland, 465-5510, or Ken Lorant, 699-0172.

■ **Lake Placid Elks 2661** opens its lounge at 1 p.m. at the lodge. Happy hour is from 2-5 p.m. Card games at 1:30 p.m. The lodge is open to members and their guests. Call 465-2661.

■ **Lake Placid Grief Support (Hope Hospice)** meets at 4:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Southern Lifestyle, 1297 U.S. 27 North, Lake Placid, with Charlie Stroup. Refreshments served. Door prize given. Call 465-0568.

■ **Lake Placid Jaycees** meets 7:30 p.m., first and third Tuesdays, Jaxson's. Board meetings at 6:30 p.m. on second Tuesday. Call Joe Collins, 655-5545.

■ **Lake Placid Toastmasters** meet the first and third Tuesday at 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 101 S. Oak Ave. in Lake Placid. The web address is www.toastmasters.org. For information call Cathy Schreima at 382-3574 or Linda Udall at 386-6495.

■ **Lorida Community Club** meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Lorida Community Center to plan events.

■ **Multiple Sclerosis Support Group**, meets 7 p.m. second Tuesday at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Sebring, in the first floor doctor's conference room. Call 465-3138.

■ **Nar-Anon Support Group** for family members or friends of someone with a drug problem or addiction. Nar-Anon helps attain serenity and a more normal life for those affected by the addictions of loved ones, regardless of whether or not he/she has stopped using. 6 p.m. every Tuesday at First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine, 111 Lake Josephine Drive, Sebring.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous** meets from 9-10 a.m. every Tuesday at Avon Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1410 W. Avon Blvd. No dues, fees or weigh-ins. Visit www.FloridaRidgeIntergroup.com. Call 382-7731. Visit www.oa.org for more information on OA.

■ **Placid Lakes Bridge Club** meets 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday and has blood pressure screening from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. first and third Tuesday at Placid Lakes Town Hall, 2010 Placid Lakes Blvd. Call 465-4888.

■ **Rotary Club of Sebring (Noon)** meets at noon at the Sebring Civic Center, near the library in downtown Sebring.

Continued on page 9B

Avon Park Pediatrics, Inc. and Sebring Pediatrics, LLC



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Skunks may be small but they have a great defense



News From The Watershed

Corine Burgess

Skunks are famous and well known for their powerful predator-deterrent — a hard-to-remove, horrible-smelling spray. A skunk's spray is an oily liquid produced by glands under its large tail. To utilize this scent bomb, a skunk turns around and blasts its victim with a foul mist that can travel as far as 15 feet. Although the odoriferous spray doesn't cause permanent damage to its victims, it is most unpleasant. The horrendous smell can linger for many days and is difficult to get rid of. As a defensive technique, the spray is very effective. Predators typically give skunks a wide berth unless little other food is available.

There are many different kinds of skunks. They vary in size (most are house cat-sized) and appear in a variety of striped, spotted, and swirled patterns — but all are a vivid black-and-white that makes them easily identifiable and may alert predators to their pungent potential.

Skunks usually nest in burrows constructed by other animals, but they also live in hollow logs or even abandoned buildings. In colder climates, some skunks may sleep in these nests for several weeks of the chilliest season. Each female gives birth to between two and 10 young each year.

Skunks are opportunistic eaters with a varied diet. They are nocturnal foragers who eat fruit and plants, insects, larvae, worms, eggs, reptiles, small mammals, and even fish. Nearly all skunks live in the Americas, except for the Asian stink badgers that have recently been added to the skunk family.

Striped and spotted skunks are found in Florida. The striped skunks are the larger of the two. But both species make their homes in various

types of habitats. Woodlands, grasslands and agricultural lands are all fine environments for the creatures.

The striped skunk eats a variety of things such as insects, worms, snails, crayfish, frogs and small mammals. It will also make a meal of bird eggs, berries, grains, corn and nuts. They will seek out garbage if other food is not available and can be considered a nuisance in urban areas. Skunks are a predator of the honeybee. They have very thick fur that protects them from the sting. In fact, skunks like the bees so much that they teach their young to prey on the insects. The skunk scratches at the beehive disturbing the insects. Once the guard bees come out to investigate, the skunk makes a meal of them.

The striped skunk usually begins searching for food at dawn and dusk. Once the sun begins to rise, the creature will go to its den, which is generally a dark, covered place such as an underground burrow, under a building or rock pile.

The Eastern Spotted Skunk is smaller, faster and more agile than the striped skunk. Spotted skunks have beautiful, silky fur and have been hunted and raised for their pelts. They are secretive and somewhat crafty. Usually humans don't see them because of their cautious temperament and they don't come out of their dens unless it is night time.

Like their cousins the striped skunk, the spotted varieties also enjoy eggs.



Courtesy photo
Spotted skunks warn possible victims by stamping their feet on the ground and even doing a handstand before they spray. The stamping is loud enough to be heard several meters away.

When the tiny creatures find an egg, they straddle it with their front legs and bite it open with their teeth. If the egg doesn't open, they will use their front legs to push the egg back and give it a good kick with their hind legs.

Spotted skunks do try to warn off any threats by stamping their feet on the ground and even doing a handstand before they spray their victim. The stamping is loud enough to be heard several meters away. However, even with these warnings, as people encroach on areas that were previously wildlife habitat, they are bound to have a run in with a skunk sooner or later.

There are some steps that can be taken to make living

with these smelly, but necessary creatures more bearable:

- If you do encounter a skunk, back away slowly and be careful not to scare it. If the skunk still sprays you, your pet or any equipment you may have, the most important step is to act quickly.

- Remove any clothing and get it in the washer as fast as you can. If the idea of ever wearing these garments again doesn't appeal to you, when you pitch the garb make sure to double bag the trash before putting it in the garbage can.

- If your pet or equipment is the victim of the oily sub-

stance, here are a few solutions to help out:

- Take a gallon of water, a quart of hydrogen peroxide, a cup of baking soda and some detergent — mix together well and get your pet in the bathtub. Cotton balls are good for protecting the ears and be careful around the eyes. Lather the pet up well and work the solution into their coat. Let the solution sit for at least ten minutes, rinse, lather and repeat.

- If your house or equipment got hit with the nasty stuff, use a bleach solution. Mix 90 percent water, 10 percent bleach and a dash of detergent together. Soak the area and allow it to set for a few minutes. Spray it off with a water hose and repeat.

- If none of these homemade remedies work, you may have to call in the professionals.

- There are also a number of specialty skunk odor removers available at hardware and pet stores.

Corine Burgess is and Environmental Specialist for the Highlands County Parks and Natural Resources Department. Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun.

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Inspirational Thoughts
by Patricia Valentine

Deuteronomy 1:8, "See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give to them and their descendants after them." God explained to the Israelites that

they were about to enter the Promised Land in fulfillment of his promises to their fore-fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Regardless of their actions, however God always keeps his promises in the end. Read God's word and claim his promises for your life. The rainbow stands as a reminder of God's faithfulness, that he will keep his promises. A promise is a guarantee that something will happen. A promise is only as good as the person who makes it. A person who has broken promise after promise cannot be trusted. Most people try to keep their promises, but that doesn't always happen. They may forget or get distracted or change their minds. In a world of broken promises, God's promises are certain. He never forgets, he never makes a promise he does not intend to keep, he never changes his mind. As we enter this New Year, let's stand on God's promises. There may be dark clouds of troubles and trials but remember, God's certain promises give us hope and comfort. Get in the word of God and seek to know the promises which belong to the children of God. The promises are there for you, but you will never walk into your promise if you don't know what they are. Enjoy the promises of God in this New Year. **Be Blessed!**

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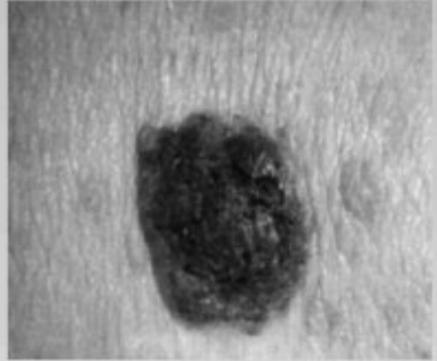
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ENTERTAINMENT

Country artist Daryle Singletary, others come to area

Special to the News-Sun

JG Big Star Productions is under way with its 2012 entertainment schedule as they bring some great concerts to central and southwest Florida starting Jan. 5.

The 1,400-seat, majestic performing arts Theatre at South Florida Community College in Avon Park launches the first of nine concert dates as Nashville recording artist and hard core country traditionalist Daryle Singletary headlines the show with an acoustic duo performance.

He earned his notoriety for country authenticity with such unforgettable hits as "I Let Her Lie," "Too Much Fun," "Amen Kind of Love" and "The Note." His new album, *Rockin' In The Country*, epitomizes his ability for finding brilliantly written country songs and singing them to perfection. Listen to "Love You with The Lights On," the collection's first single and you'll agree, it's as romantic a love ballad as he has ever sung.

Ticket prices are \$25 for reserved seating and \$12.50 for general admission.

Opening the show starting at 6:30 p.m. and performing many of the greatest traditional country songs will be B. J. Slaughter and his

Country Classic Band. This nine-member group of veteran Nashville musicians, now residing in Florida, have formed one of the best traditional country bands in the state. They headline many shows themselves as well as perform back up to many of the greats traveling through the state.

Now, if residents of Highlands County want to travel to the West Coast of Florida, Punta Gorda to be exact, less than 75 miles from Highlands and want to show support for one of the county's very own bands, then get your tickets. The Lotela Gold '50s and '60s show band will headline a two-hour performance inside the beautiful Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center at 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda.

The show date is Friday, Jan. 13 starting at 7 p.m. Call (863) 494-0577 to order tickets: \$25 for reserved and \$15 for general admission.

Just a few miles north in Port Charlotte, on Sunday, Jan. 29 experience the number one tribute performing band, Hotel California "A Salute To the Eagles" as they bring their internationally renowned production to the Cultural Center of Charlotte County for a two-show performance.



Daryle Singletary will be in concert at SFCC on Jan. 5.

Courtesy photo

The first show is under way at 1:30 p.m. and the second starting at 5:30 p.m. This will be an 'up close' and personal experience inside this 500-seat theatre.

Remember "Desperado," "Take It To the Limit," "Lyin' Eyes," "Peaceful Easy Feelin'," "Tequila Sunrise," and of course "Hotel California" as well as many more. These performances will take you back with a sound 'so authentic,' you'll think you're back in the '70s again. Opening the shows will be California Toe Jam from Highlands County, a great band that has rocked

the state of Florida since 1984.

All tickets are purchased through the Cultural Center Box office or by calling them.

The next town in the schedule is Arcadia. This community has the largest facility for entertainment outside of the major cities in the state - the Turner Agri-Civic Center with its 4,000-seat capacity, air-conditioned building.

This will be the place to see Marty Haggard perform an acoustic duo, A Tribute to Merle Haggard 'My Dad'. Marty is taking a two-month

tour away from Branson, Mo., and his nine-month long country show held at the Clay Cooper Theatre. The Turner Center is where you'll want to be for a matinee performance that gets under way at 2 p.m. Opening the show will be the exciting and crowd pleasing country performer, Chris MacArthur and his Florida Cracker Boys Band.

It's back to the west coast of Florida again to see the 2010 Country Music Legend of the Year, Gene Watson. This is the third year in succession that this country great has been booked to perform by JG Big Star, and he's sure to please the crowds again as he and his Farewell Party Band deliver that pure traditional sound. Tickets are selling fast for this show.

The final show of the season will be back at South Florida Community College. The Lotela Gold Band has been turning heads and drawing great response in previous appearances. They open the show at 5:30 p.m. and are followed by two of the state's most popular tropic rock groups, and Parrot Head club members simply love these artists and their great music. You'll enjoy the sounds of the Jack Mosley Band and Jim Morris and the Big Bamboo Band.

See more information on these show dates at www.jgbigstarproductions.com.

Oprah: Dedicated to OWN despite rocky first year

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Oprah Winfrey earned the rare opportunity to convert her media charisma into a monogrammed TV channel. Now she's the one tasked with rescuing OWN, the Oprah Winfrey Network, after a disappointing first year.

It's a high-stakes, potentially ego-shattering challenge that could make the strongest woman or man flinch. But win or lose, Winfrey says she relishes the fight to turn OWN's fortunes around.

"Yes, some mistakes were made. Who hasn't made mistakes? The real beauty is you can say, 'I learned from that,'" Winfrey said. "I don't worry about failure. I worry about, 'Did I do all I could do?'"

The cable channel, which marks its first year Jan. 1, is trying for a fresh start after executive turnover and missteps that proved OWN lacked a solid foundation on which to build, this despite a Discovery Communications investment of a reported \$250 million and counting.

Viewers snubbed the lineup that skimmed on programming and, surprisingly, what should have been OWN's unique weapon of choice: Winfrey herself, whose limited on-air presence will be boosted Sunday with a new weekly series, "Oprah's Next Chapter."

OWN has failed to improve on, or in some instances even match, the modest ratings and small audience earned by the low-profile Discovery Health channel it replaced.

"I would absolutely say it is and was not where I want it to be for year one," Winfrey said.

"My focus up until (last) May was doing what I do best, which is 'The Oprah Winfrey Show,' and giving that my full attention" until its conclusion.

But Winfrey, who said management team errors in planning and execution could serve as a cautionary tale ("I was never interested in writing a book. ... THIS could be a book"), rejects the idea that a single year's performance will determine OWN's ultimate fate. Or hers.

"Somebody was talking to me in that kind of saddened,

'How are you?' tone, and I was thinking, 'I'm fine,'" said Winfrey, 57, who ruled as the queen of daytime TV until she ended her talk show after 25 years and turned her attention to the channel.

"I realized the reason people have this tone is they're reading all the press (about OWN), so you see me and wonder if I can still walk. ... I am a determined and committed woman. I don't give up. I'm just getting started," she said in a recent interview.

"Everybody has told me — Ted Turner has told me, Barry Diller has told me, Lorne Michaels has told me, David Geffen has told me — anybody who's ever worked with a channel, who's ever done anything, has said it takes three to five years," she said, adding, "You have to do the work. ... You do not have to pay attention to the criticism."

Year two for OWN will reflect executive changes made last July, when Winfrey expanded her role at the channel by adding the roles of chief executive and chief creative officer to her position as chairman.

Discovery Communications COO Peter Liguori had filled in as interim head after OWN CEO Christina Norman was dismissed in the wake of poor ratings.

Although the channel's ownership is split evenly between Discovery and Winfrey's Chicago-based production company, Harpo Inc., it is Discovery's money that's on the line.

With more scheduling consistency, movies, original series with and without Winfrey, and "a lot more Oprah in general," Discovery

is "a lot more confident that we're heading in the right direction," said company spokesman David Leavy.

Sheri Salata and Erik Logan, two veteran Harpo executives, were brought on board to share the title of OWN president, with Logan moving from Chicago to OWN's Los Angeles headquarters.

Logan said he clearly understands the hard work in establishing any cable channel, and this one in particular.

"One of the greatest gifts and challenges is to have her name on the door," Logan said of his top boss. "Everything you do garners a high level of scrutiny and attention. ... We don't run from that."



Greater Vision Gospel Quartet will be in concert at:

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BOOKS

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "11/22/63" by Stephen King (Scribner)
2. "The Litigators" by John Grisham (Doubleday)"Death Comes to Pemberley" by P.D. James (Knopf)
3. "Kill Alex Cross" by James Patterson (Little, Brown)
4. "Death Comes to Pemberley" by P.D. James (Knopf)
5. "Locked On" by Tom Clancy with Mark Greaney (Putnam)
6. "The Best of Me" by Nicholas Sparks (Grand Central Publishing)
7. "Red Mist" by Patricia Cornwell (Putnam Adult)
8. "Explosive Eighteen" by Janet Evanovich (Bantam)
9. "V Is for Vengeance" by Sue Grafton (Marian Wood)
10. "The Drop" by Michael Connelly (Little, Brown)
11. "The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest" by Stieg Larsson (Knopf)
12. "Micro: A Novel" by Michael Crichton and Richard Preston (Harper)

13. "IQ84" by Haruki Murakami (Knopf)

14. "A Dance with Dragons" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)

15. "The Art of Fielding" by Chad Harbach (Little, Brown)

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. "Steve Jobs: A Biography" by Walter Isaacson (Simon & Schuster)
2. "Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard (Henry Holt and Co.)
3. "Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption" by Laura Hillenbrand (Random House)
4. "Go the F--k to Sleep" by Adam Mansbach (Akashic)
5. "Guinness World Records 2012" (Guinness World Records)
6. "Through My Eyes" by Tim Tebow with Nathan Whitaker (Harper)
7. "Jack Kennedy:

PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY BEST-SELLERS

Elusive Hero" by Chris Matthews (Simon & Schuster)

8. "Every Day a Friday" by Joel Osteen (FaithWords)

9. "Nearing Home" by Billy Graham (Thomas Nelson)

10. "Being George Washington: The Indispensable Man, As You've Never Seen Him" by Glenn Beck (Threshold Editions)

11. "Paula Deen's Southern Cooking Bible" by Paula Deen with Melissa Clark (Simon & Schuster)

12. "Thinking, Fast and Slow" by Daniel Kahneman (Ferrari, Straus & Giroux)

13. "Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman" by Robert K. Massie (Random House)

14. "Heaven Is for Real" by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent (Thomas Nelson)

15. "Ripley's Believe It

or Not! Strikingly True" by Geoff Tibballs (Ripley)

MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

1. "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson (Vintage)

2. "The Girl Who Played with Fire" by Stieg Larsson (Vintage)

3. "Toys" by James Patterson and Neil McMahon (Vision)

4. "The Land of Painted Caves" by Jean M. Auel (Bantam)

5. "A Game of Thrones" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)

6. "Smokin' Seventeen" by Janet Evanovich (Bantam)

7. "A Feast for Crows" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)

8. "The Shack" by William P. Young (Windblown Media)

9. "Crescent Dawn" by Clive Cussler and Dirk Cussler (Berkley)

10. "The Confession" by John Grisham (Dell)

11. "Gabriella & Alexander" by Nora Roberts (Silhouette)

12. "Don't Look Behind You: Ann Rule's Crime Files Number 15" by Ann Rule (Pocket Books)

13. "The Perfect Christmas" by Debbie Macomber (Mira)

14. "A Clash of Kings" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)

15. "Storm of Swords" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)

TRADE PAPERBACKS

1. "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett (Putnam Adult)

2. "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson (Vintage)

3. "Heaven is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back" by Todd Burpo, Sonja Burpo, Colton Burpo and Lynn Vincent (Thomas Nelson)

4. "The Tiger's Wife: A Novel" by Tea Obreht (Random House)

5. "The Zombie Survival

Guide: Complete

Protection from the Living Dead" by Max Brooks (Three Rivers)

6. "The Next Always" by Nora Roberts (Berkley)

7. "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot (Broadway)

8. "The Girl Who Played with Fire" by Stieg Larsson (Vintage)

9. "Unlikely Friendships" by Jennifer S. Holland (Workman)

10. "The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel" by Garth Stein (Harper)

11. "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" by Jonathan Safran Foer (Mariner)

12. "Outliers" by Malcolm Gladwell (LB/Back Bay)

13. "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese (Vintage)

14. "Moneyball" by Michael Lewis (Norton)

15. "Sing You Home" by Jodi Picoult (Atria/Emily Bestler Books)

PLACES TO WORSHIP

Places to Worship is a paid advertisement in the News-Sun that is published Friday and Sunday. To find out more information on how to place a listing in this directory, call the News-Sun at 385-6155, ext. 502.

APOSTOLIC

■ **Greater Faith Apostolic Church**, 24 Rainer Drive, Lake Placid, FL 33852. invites you to come worship with us in spirit and truth at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, and at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. For information contact (239) 671-0390. Pastor Travis Vanderford.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

■ **Christ Fellowship Church (Assembly of God)**, 2935 New Life Way. Bearing His Name; Preaching His Doctrine; and Awaiting His Coming. "Worshiping God in Spirit and in Truth." Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10 a.m.; Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday: Worship, 7 p.m. Pastor Eugene Haas. Phone 471-0924.

■ **First Assembly of God**, 4301 Kenilworth Blvd., Sebring. The Rev. Wilmont McCrary, pastor. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Morning Worship and KIDS Church, 11 a.m.; Evening Worship, 7 p.m. Wednesday Family Night, (Adult Bible Study), LIFE Youth Group, Royal Rangers, Missionettes, 7:30 p.m. Phone 385-6431.

BAPTIST

■ **Avon Park Lakes Baptist Church**, 2600 N. Highlands Blvd., Avon Park, FL 33825. George Hall, Pastor. Christ centered and biblically based. Sunday worship services, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Nursery facilities are available. Bible studies at 9:45 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Wednesday. Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Bible classes at 9:45 a.m. are centered for all ages. Choir practice at 5 p.m. Sunday. Church phone: 452-6556.

■ **Bethany Baptist Church (GARBC)** We are located at the corner of SR17 and C-17A (truck route) in Avon Park. Join us Sunday morning at 9:00 AM for coffee and doughnuts, followed with Sunday School for all ages at 9:30. Sunday morning worship service begins at 10:30 a.m., and evening worship service is at 6 p.m. On Wednesdays, the Word of Life teen ministry and the Catelyst class (20's+) begin at 6:30 PM. The adult Bible and Prayer Time begins at 7 p.m. For more information go to www.bethanybaptistap.com or call the church office at 863-452-1136.

■ **Faith Missionary Baptist Church**, off State Road 17 North of Sebring at 1708 LaGrange Ave. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday Service, 7 p.m. Deaf interpretation available. Ken Lambert, Pastor. Phone 386-5055.

■ **Fellowship Baptist Church**, 1000 Maxwell St., Avon Park, FL 33825. Sunday: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:45

a.m.; Wednesday: Evening Service, 7 p.m.; Children/Youth, 7 p.m. Telephone: 453-4256. Fax: 453-6986. E-mail: office@apfellowship.org; Web site, www.apfellowship.org.

■ **First Baptist Church of Avon Park**, 100 N. Lake Ave., Avon Park. Rev. Jon Beck, pastor; Scott King, interim youth minister; and Joy Loomis, music director. Regular Sunday schedule: 9 a.m. Library open; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship; 11 a.m. Children's Church; Wednesday schedule: 6 p.m. Bible Study and Prayer; 6:30p.m. Adult Choir Practice; 6:00 p.m. children's choir rehearsals; 7 p.m. children's mission groups. Call 453-6681 for details. Primera Mision Bautista, 100 N. Lake Ave., Avon Park, Johnattan Soltero, Pastor. Regular Sunday schedule: 10 a.m., Bible Study; 11 a.m., Worship Service. Wednesday schedule: 7 p.m., Bible study.■

■ **First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine**, 111 Lake Josephine Drive, Sebring (just off U.S. 27 midway between Sebring and Lake Placid). Your place for family, friends and faith. Sunday morning worship service is 11 a.m. Nursery is provided for both services with Children's Church at 11 a.m. Life changing Bible Study for all ages starts at 9:45 a.m. Associate Pastor Allen Altwater leads the youth in their quest to become more like Christ. Sunday night worship at 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer meeting at 7 p.m. along with youth worship in the youth facility, and missions training for all children. Call the church at 655-1524.

■ **First Baptist Church of Lake Placid**, Knowing God's Heart and Sharing God's Hope, 119 E. Royal Palm St., Lake Placid, FL 33852 (863) 465-3721, Website: www.fbclp.com. Email: information@fbclp.com. Sunday services - Traditional Service 9 a.m., Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. Link Groups at 9 and 10:30 a.m., Senior Sunday Night at 6 p.m. Wednesday Activities: Family dinner at 5 p.m. (\$4 per person, reservations required). Prayer meeting, Youth Intersections, and MaxKidz Extreme meet at 6:15 p.m. The church is at 119 E. Royal Palm St., Lake Placid. For information, call 465-3721 or go to www.fbclp.com.

■ **First Baptist Church of Lorida** located right on U.S. 98 in Lorida. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. for all ages. Sunday worship services are at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Preschool care is provided at the 11 a.m. worship service. Wednesday evening Bible Study and Prayer meeting is at 6:30 p.m., followed by adult choir rehearsal. From September the AWANA groups meet. First Lorida is the "Place to discover God's love." For more information about the church or the ministries offered, call 655-1878.

■ **First Baptist Church, Sebring**, 200 E. Center Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. Telephone: 385-5154. Dr. David E. Richardson, senior pastor; Rev. Joe Delph, associate pastor, minister of youth and activities; and Rev. Nuno Norberto, associate pastor, minister of music and senior adults. Group Bible Studies, 9:15 a.m.; Blended Service, 10:30 a.m.; Mision Buatista Hispana, 2 p.m.;

Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday night programs at the ROC begin 5:30 p.m., at church begin 6:30 p.m. Preschool and Mother's Day Out for children age 6 weeks to 5 years old. Becky Gotsch, director. Call 385-4704.

■ **Florida Avenue Baptist Church**, 401 S. Florida Ave., Avon Park. Mailing address is 710 W. Bell St., Avon Park, FL 33825. Telephone, 453-5339. Rev. John D. Girdley, pastor. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; 11 a.m. Children's Church; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday night programs for children, youth and adults at 7 p.m.

■ **Independent Baptist Church**, 5704 County Road 17 South, Sebring, FL 33876. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening, 6 p.m. Wednesday service, 7 p.m. Fundamental, soul-winning, mission-minded, King James Bible Church. Larry Ruse, pastor. Phone 655-1899. Bus transportation.

■ **Leisure Lakes Baptist Church**, 808 Gardenia St., Lake Placid (just off of Miller at the west end of Lake June) "Where the old fashion gospel is preached." Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship service at 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 7 p.m. Call the church at 699-0671 for more information.

■ **Maranatha Baptist Church (GARBC)**, 35 Maranatha Blvd., Sebring, FL 33870 (A half mile east of Highlands Avenue on Ar buckle Creek Road.) Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:15 a.m.; Evening Service, 6 p.m. Mid-week service, Wednesday, 6 p.m. Daily Prayer and Bible Study, 8 a.m., Hamman Hall. Pastor Gerald Webber and Associate Pastors Don Messenger and Ted Ertle. Phone 382-4301.

■ **Parkway Free Will Baptist Church**, 3413 Sebring Parkway, Sebring, FL 33870. Welcome to the church where the "Son" always shines. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m.; and Wednesday Evening Worship, 7 p.m. End-of-the-Month-Sing at 6 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month. The Rev. J.S. Scaggs, pastor. Church phone: 382-3552. Home phone: 214-3025. Affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Nashville, Tenn.

■ **Sparta Road Baptist Church, (SBC)** 4400 Sparta Road. Rev. Ken Geren, interim pastor. Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday: Prayer/Bible Study, 6 p.m. Nursery provided. For information, call 382-0869.

■ **Southside Baptist Church (GARBC)**, 379 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring. David C. Altman, Pastor. Sunday School for all ages, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.; Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday: Student ministry, 6:30 p.m.; Awana kindergarten through fifth grade, 6:30 p.m.; Adult Midweek Prayer and Bible Study, 7 p.m. A nursery for under age 3 is available at all services. Provisions for handicapped and hard-of-hearing. Office phone, 385-0752.

■ **Spring Lake Baptist Church**, "Where the Bible is Always Open." Pastor Richard Schermerhorn, 7408 Valencia Road; 655-2610. Assistant Pastor Ronald Smith, 386-1610. On U.S. 98 at the Spring Lake Village II entrance. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. for all ages; Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday Mid-week Bible Study and Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m. Nursery available for all services.

■ **Sunridge Baptist Church, (SBC)** 3704 Valerie Blvd. (U.S. 27 and Valerie, across from Florida Hospital), Sebring. Tim Finch, pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.; and Sunday Evening Service, 6 p.m. Wednesday: Prayer, Bible Study, and Youth, 6:30 p.m. Nursery provided. For information, call 382-3695.

CATHOLIC

■ **Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church**, 595 East Main St., Avon Park, 453-4757. Father Nicholas McLoughlin, pastor. Saturday Vigil Mass is 4 p.m. in English and 7 p.m. in Spanish; Sunday mass 8 and 10:30 a.m. in English. Weekday mass at 8 a.m. Confessions are at 3:30 p.m. Saturday. Religious Education Classes are 9-10:20 a.m. Sunday for grades K through 8th. Confirmation class is from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday. Youth Nights grades 6th and up, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday.

■ **St. Catherine Catholic Church**, 820 Hickory St., Sebring. Mailing address: 882 Bay St., Sebring, FL 33870, 385-0049; fax, 385-5169; email, office@stcath.com; website, www.stcath.com. Very Rev. José González, V.F., frjose@stcath.com; Parochial Vicar, Rev. Victor Caviedes, 385-3993; Assisting Priest (retired), Rev. J. Peter Sheehan; Deacons, Rev. Mr. James R. McGarry and Rev. Mr. Max M. Severe. Parish office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Masses - Daily Masses 8 a.m. and noon Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. Saturday. Weekend Masses 4 and 5 p.m. Saturday, 5 p.m. Saturday Spanish Mass (Holy Family Youth Center), 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, noon Sunday Sunday Mass; 5 p.m. Sunday English Family Mass (Holy Family Youth Center). Confession: every Saturday 3-3:45 p.m. or first Friday of the month 7:15-7:45 a.m., or by appointment with any priest.

■ **St. James Catholic Church**, 3380 Placidview Drive, Lake Placid, 465-3215. Father Michael J. Cannon. Mass schedule: Summer (May 1 to Oct. 31) - Saturday Vigil, 4 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.; Weekdays, 9 a.m. December thru Easter - Saturday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Weekdays 9 a.m.; and Holy Days 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., first Saturday at 9 a.m.

■ **St. James Catholic Church**, 3380 Placidview Drive, Lake Placid, 465-3215. Father Michael J. Cannon. Mass schedule: Summer (May 1 to Oct. 31) - Saturday Vigil, 4 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.; Weekdays, 9 a.m. December thru Easter - Saturday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Weekdays 9 a.m.; and Holy Days 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., first Saturday at 9 a.m.

CHRISTIAN

■ **Eastside Christian Church**, 101 Peace Ave., Lake Placid, FL 33852 (two miles east of U.S. 27 on County Road 621), 465-7065.

Ray Culpepper, senior pastor. Sunday: Bible classes, 9 a.m.; Worship Celebration with the Lord's Supper each week 10:15 a.m. Thelma Hall, organist; and Pat Hjort, pianist. Wednesday: Praise and Prayer, 6:30 p.m.; "Building God's Kingdom for Everyone." "Jesus Christ, the Way, Truth and Life!" "Alive and Worth the Drive!"

■ **Sebring Christian Church**, 4514 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33872. Tod Schwingel, Preacher; David Etherton, Youth Pastor. Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m.; Sunday Youth Service, 6 p.m.; Evening service at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night meals, 5:30 p.m. followed by classes at 6:30 p.m. Changing Seasons, a men's grief support group, meets at 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Alzheimers Caregivers Support Group meets at 1 p.m. Thursdays. Office hours, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday. Phone 382-6676.

■ **First Christian Church**, 1016 W. Camphor St., Avon Park, FL 33825; (863) 453-5334; on the Web at www.firstchristianap.com. Our motto is "Jesus is First at First Christian Church." Greg Ratliff, Senior Minister; Jon Carter, Music Director. Bible School 9 a.m.; Worship 10 a.m.; Wednesday studies for all ages, 6 p.m. Nursery provided for all events.

■ **First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**, 510 Poinsettia Avenue, (corner of Poinsettia and Eucalyptus), Sebring, FL 33870. Phone: 385-0358 or 385-3435. The Rev. Ronald Norton, Pastor; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Praise Breakfast, 10 a.m., Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Children's Church, 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Praise and Worship, 6:45 p.m. Youth Fellowship, 7:15 p.m.; Midweek Bible Study, 7:15 p.m.

CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

■ The **Alliance Church of Sebring**, 4451 Sparta Road, Sebring, FL 33875. Call 382-1343. Rev. Steve Hagen, pastor. Sunday services: Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship Service meets at 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening Bible Study meets at 6 p.m. (off site); Wednesday Prayer Gathering meets at 6 p.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

■ **Christian Science Church**, 146 N. Franklin St. Sunday: 10:30 a.m. morning worship and Sunday school. Testimonial meetings at 4 p.m. each second and fourth Wednesday. A free public reading room/bookstore, located in the church, is open before and after church services. The Bible and the Christian Science textbook, 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures' by Mary Baker Eddy are our only preachers. All are welcome to come and partake of the comfort, guidance, support and healing found in the lesson-sermons.

CHURCH OF BRETHREN

■ **Church of the Brethren**, 700 S. Pine St., Sebring, FL 33870. Sunday: Church School, 9 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:15 a.m. Wednesday: Temple Choir, 7:30 p.m. Phone 385-1597.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

■ **Avon Park Church of Christ**, 200 S. Forest Ave., Avon Park, FL 33825. Minister: Larry Roberts. Sunday Worship Services, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Nursery facilities are available at every service. Bible Study: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, 7 p.m. Bible centered classes for all ages. Church phone: 453-4692.

■ **Sebring Parkway Church of Christ**, 3800 Sebring Parkway, Sebring, FL 33870; 385-7443. We would like to extend an invitation for you and your family to visit with us here at Sebring Parkway. Our hours of service are: Sunday Bible Class, 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF NAZARENE

■ **First Church of the Nazarene of Avon Park**, P.O. Box 1118., Avon Park, FL 33825-1118. 707 W. Main St. Randall Rupert, Pastor. Sunday: Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. for all ages; morning worship at 10:45 a.m.; and evening service at 6 p.m. Wednesday evening service is at 7 p.m. with special services for children and adults. Special services once a month for seniors (Prime Time) and Ladies ministries. If you need any more information, call 453-4851.

■ **First Church of the Nazarene of Lake Placid**, 512 W. Interlake Blvd., Lake Placid, FL 33852. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Morning worship, 10:45 a.m.; Evening service, 6 p.m. Wednesday evening, 7 p.m. Classes for adult children and youth. Call 465-6916. Pastor Tim Taylor.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN CHRISTIAN UNION

■ **Community Bible Church - Churches of Christ in Christian Union**, (Orange Blossom Conference Center) 1400 C-17A North (truck route), Avon Park. Presenting Jesus Christ as the answer for time and eternity. Sunday morning worship service, 10:30 a.m. Nursery provided. Junior Church activities at same time for K-6 grade. Sunday School Bible hour (all ages), 9:30 a.m. (Transportation available.) Sunday evening praise and worship service, 6 p.m. Wednesday evening prayer service, 7 p.m. Children and youth activities at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Everyone is welcome, please come worship with us. Don Seymour, Senior Pastor. Phone 452-0088.

Banished words: 'Baby bump' dumped

Associated Press

DETROIT — Before passing comment on someone's "baby bump," take a pregnant pause. Likewise, give up promoting "shared sacrifice." And if you're tempted to proclaim your desire to "win the future," you've lost it here in the present.

Michigan's Lake Superior State University is featuring those phrases in its annual List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse and General Uselessness. The 2012 list, released Friday, was compiled by the university from nominations submitted from across the globe.

What else do the syntactical Scrooges want to cast out with the good cheer in the new year? The list also includes "occupy," "ginormous," "man cave" and "the new normal."

In all, a dozen words or phrases made the 37th end-of-the year list. The list started as a publicity ploy by the school's public relations department on New Year's Day 1976, and has since generated tens of thousands of nominations.

"Amazing" received more than 1,500 nominations, the most of any on this year's list. Disdain for the superlative was apparently universal

among English speakers, garnering disparaging dispatches from across the United States and even the United Kingdom and Israel.

While it lacked a single pop-culture culprit, such as the proliferating protest movement that occupied the word "occupy" or the collective ooing and aah-ing that accompanied Beyonce's "baby bump," nominations to banish "amazing" cite its overuse on reality television and by daytime talk show hosts. Social media also spurred the call to surrender the word's conversational credentials, notably through a Facebook page called "Overuse of the Word Amazing."

"The word has been overused to describe things only slightly better than mundane," Alyce-Mae Alexander of Maitland wrote in her nomination. "I blame Martha Stewart because to her, EVERYTHING is amazing!"

University spokesman John Shibley said he and his colleagues were surprised that "amazing" hadn't already graced the archive of about 900 banished words.

"The simple ones are always the ones that get through the cracks — until this year," he said.

Other terms circulating for years that have finally raised enough ire to earn a spot on the list include "blowback," "man cave," "the new normal" and "thank you in advance." The last one particularly annoys Mike Cloran of Cincinnati, Ohio.

"This is a condescending and challenging way to say, 'Since I already thanked you, you have to do this,'" Cloran wrote in his submission.

Lake Superior State University, located in Sault St. Marie — the last stop before Michigan's northernmost border-crossing with Canada — has seen its list survive despite many banished words stubbornly clinging to the language.

For evidence, look no further than last year's "fail," "viral" and "a-ha moment." And then there is, well, blowback from critics who can't take a little tongue-in-cheek critique.

Shibley said some people have missed the point over the years and complained that the list is an effort to control the language.

But most seem to receive it in good cheer, rather than with jeers.

"A lot of people can take this wrong. We don't mean any malice when we publish it," Shibley said.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 5B

For information, call 385-3829 or 471-9900.

■ **Scleroderma Support Group Meeting** is the first Tuesday of each month from 1-2 p.m. at the Sebring Library, 319 W. Center Ave., Sebring. Call 402-6716.

■ **Sebring Bridge Club** will have Duplicate Bridge games every Tuesday evening. If interested in playing Duplicate Bridge, call 385-8118.

■ **Sebring Elks Lodge 1529** plays darts, beginning with sign in at 6 p.m. Games start at 6:30 p.m. No experience necessary. Cost is \$2. Smoke-free environment. Call 471-3557.

■ **Sebring Lions Club** meets at noon at Dot's Restaurant, 950 Sebring Square. For information call 382-2333.

■ **Sebring Moose Lodge 2259** serves soft shell tacos 5-7 p.m. and beef franks and Italian sausages from 1 p.m. to closing at 11675 U.S. 98, Sebring. Euchre is played at 6:30 p.m. Call 655-3920.

■ **Sebring Recreation Club** plays bridge at 12:30 p.m. and table tennis at 4 p.m. at 333 Pomegranate Ave., Sebring.

Call 385-2966 or leave a name, number and message.

■ **Sertoma Club** meets at 7 a.m. at Dee's Restaurant, Sebring. Call Scott Albritton at 402-1819.

■ **Take Off Pounds Sensibly Chapter FL 99** meets from 6-7 p.m. at the Atonement Lutheran Church, 1744 Lakeview Drive, Sebring. Call 655-1743.

■ **Take Off Pounds Sensibly Chapter FL 618** has weigh in from 4-4:30 p.m. at Community Bible Church, 1400 CR-17A N., Avon Park. Meeting is at 4:45 p.m. Call 452-1093.

■ **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3880**, plays darts 6:30 p.m., 1224 County Road 621 E., Lake Placid. The ladies auxiliary board meeting is at 10 a.m. Call 699-5444.

■ **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4300** has sandwiches at 5 p.m. and Franke from 6-9 p.m. at the post, 2011 SE Lakeview Drive, Sebring. Call 385-8902.

■ **Zonta Club of Highlands County** meets second Tuesday. Call Rebekah Kogelschatz at 314-9336.

PLACES TO WORSHIP

EPISCOPAL

■ **The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer.** Service time is 9:30 with Holy Communion. Coffee hour following services. Newcomers welcome. Call 453-5664 or e-mail redemer1895@aol.com Web site: redemeravon.com. The church is at 839 Howe's Way, Avon Park (two miles north of Sun 'N Lake Boulevard, across from Wells Dodge.)

■ **St. Agnes Episcopal Church**, 3840 Lakeview Drive, Sebring, FL 33870. Sunday Services: Holy Eucharist Rite I - 7:45 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite II - 10 a.m. Midweek service on Wednesday at 6 p.m. Sunday School for all ages at 9 a.m. The nursery is open 8:45 a.m. until 15 minutes after the 10 a.m. service ends. Wednesday: Adult Bible study, 9:30 a.m. Visitors are always welcome. The Rev. Jim Kutz, rector. Church office 385-7649, for more information.

■ **St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church**, 43 Lake June Road, Lake Placid, FL 33852. Phone: 465-0051. Rev. Elizabeth L. Nelson, Rector. Sunday Worship, 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday evening: Holy Communion with Healing Service, 6 p.m. Child care available at the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Come see what makes us different.

GRACE BRETHREN

■ **Grace Brethren Church**, 3626 Thunderbird Road, (863) 835-0869. Dr. Randall Smith, senior pastor. Sunday services at 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesday services at 7 p.m. We offer "Kid City" Children's Ministry throughout all services, and there are various other classes for teens, married couples, "prime-timers," and Bible studies in Spanish. "Kid City" Day Care, Preschool and After-School Monday-Friday: 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (For registration call: 385-3111). Check us out on the Web at www.sebring-grace.org.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL

■ **World Harvest and Restoration Ministries**, (non-denominational) 2200 N. Avon Blvd., Avon Park, FL 33825. Phone: 452-9777 or 453-3771. Sunday service: Sunday School, 10 a.m. and worship, 11 a.m. Wednesday services: 7 p.m. prayer meeting/Bible study. Pastor: W.H. Rogers.

LUTHERAN

■ **Atonement Lutheran Church (ELCA)**, 1178 S.E. Lakeview Drive., Sebring. David Thoresen, Deacon, Spiritual Leader, on first, third and fifth Sunday each month, and Rev. Jefferson Cox on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Jim Helwig, organist/choir director. Worship service at 9:30 a.m.; Holy Eucharist is every Sunday. Coffee hour on the first and third Sunday of each month. Council meeting on the first Monday of month; Ladies Group WELCA meets at noon second Monday of month with lunch. Bring a dish to pass. Church Vegetable Garden Club meets as needed. Labyrinth Prayer Garden open seven days a week to congregation and community. Like to sing? Come join the choir. Visitors always welcome. Come grow with us. Phone 385-0797.

■ **Christ Lutheran Church Avon Park – LCMS**, 1320 County Road 64, 1/2 mile east of Avon Park High School. Sunday Divine Worship is at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated every week with traditional Lutheran Liturgy, hymns and songs of praise. Fellowship time with coffee and refreshments follows worship. Come worship and fellowship with us. For information call Pastor Scott McLean at 471-2663 or see christlutheranavonpark.org.

■ **Faith Lutheran Church – LCMS**, 2740 Lakeview Drive, Sebring. Church phone: 385-7848, Faith Child Development Center, 385-3232. Rev. Gary Kindle, pastor. Traditional Worship service, 8 a.m. Sunday; Sunday Praise Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Communion is served the first, third and fifth Sunday of the month. Sunday school and Bible classes: 9:15 a.m. Sunday. Worship service is broadcast at 8 a.m. on WITS 1340 AM each Sunday. Educational opportunities include weekly adult Bible studies. Faith's Closet Thrift Store (385-2782) is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. All are warmly welcome in the Family of Faith.

■ **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (AALC) American Association of Lutheran Churches**, 3240 Grand Prix Drive, Sebring, FL 33872. James Weed, pastor. Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Bible Study, 9 a.m. Nursery provided. Social activities: Choir, Missions, Evangelism. Phone 385-2346.

■ **New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church**, 3725 Hammock Road, a Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.; Bible Study, 9 a.m. For more information, call Pastor Brian Klebig at 385-2293 or visit the Web site at www.newlife-sebring.com.

■ **Resurrection Lutheran Church - ELCA**, 324 E. Main St., Avon Park. Pastor: Rev. John C. Grodzinski. Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school will resume in the fall. Coffee and fellowship hour follow the service. Midweek Fragrance Free Wednesday worship, (year round) 7 p.m. Office phone number is 453-6858.

■ **Trinity Lutheran Church - LCMS**, 25 Lakeview St., Lake Placid, FL 33852; 465-5253. The Rev. Richard A. Norris, pastor; Susan C. Norris, Trinity Tots Pre-School director; and Noel Johnson, minister of youth and family life. Worship schedule after Easter through December: Worship service 9 a.m., and Education Hour, 8:45 a.m. Worship schedule for January through Easter: Worship service, 8:30 and 11 a.m., Education Hour 9:45 a.m. Traditional Service with Holy Communion each first and third Sunday. Non-Traditional Service each second, fourth and fifth Sunday. Seasonal mid-week services Wednesday evenings during Lent and Advent. Call church office for additional Worship times and special holiday services. Other activities and groups include: Choirs; Ladies Guild and LWML; Men's Fellowship Group, Small Group Bible Studies as scheduled; Trinity Tots Pre-school, Youth Group activities (call for meeting times and dates). Visit us online at www.Trinitylutheranlp.com.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

■ **Bible Fellowship Church**, 3750 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33872. Sunday: American Sign Language: First Worship sermon, songs signed first and second Worship services. First Worship service, 9 a.m.; Second Worship service, 10:45 a.m. Nursery (up to 2 years old) and Sunday school classes both hours. BFC Youth, 6 p.m.; Evening Service, 6 p.m. Wednesday: Children ages 4 years through fifth grade, 6 p.m.; Youth, 6-7:30 p.m.; Prayer time, 6:15 p.m. Todd Patterson, pastor; Andy McQuaid, associate pastor. Web site www.bfcsebring.com. Church office 385-1024.

■ **Calvary Church**, 1825 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33872; 386-4900. An independent community church. Sunday morning worship, 10 a.m.; Bible study, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday evening service, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. Pastor Lester Osbeck. A small friendly church waiting for your visit.

■ **Christian Training Ministries Inc.**, on Sebring Parkway. Enter off County Road 17 on Simpson Avenue. Sunday service is at 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study at 7 p.m. A nursery and children's church are provided. The church is part of Christian International Ministries Network, a full gospel, non-denominational ministry. Linda M. Downing, minister, lindadowning@live.com. Casey L. Downing, associate minister, caseydowning@hotmail.com. Church phone: 314-0482. Web site: www.ctmforme.com

■ **Grace Bible Church**, 4541 Thunderbird Road, (second church on left) Sebring, FL 33872. Phone, 382-1085. Andrew Katsanis, senior pastor. Saturday Worship, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, 9 and 11 a.m. Tuesday 6 p.m. Grace Bible Academy Adult Investigating Truth; first and third Tuesday, Prayer Gathering, 7:15 p.m.; Wednesday, Children's & Youth Programs, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., College Ministry. www.GBCconnected.org

■ **Highlands Community Church**, a casual contemporary church, meets at 3005 New Life Way. Coffee at 9:30 a.m.; Worship at 10 a.m. Nursery and Kid's World classes. Small groups meet throughout the week. Church phone is 402-1684; Pastor Bruce A. Linhart.

■ **The Lord's Sentinel Fellowship Church**, 148 E. Interlake Blvd., Lake Placid (at Lake Placid Christian School), Pastor Juanita Folsom. Sunday morning service, 10:30 a.m.; Monday, Sentinel School of Theology, 7 p.m.; Church service, Tuesday, 7 p.m. More information at www.juanitafolsomministries.com.

■ **Union Congregational Church**, 106 N. Butler Ave., Avon Park, FL 33825. Sunday worship services are at 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Millennium Church. Sunday school for all ages is at 9:15 a.m. We also offer a Saturday service at 6 p.m. with Pastor Tiger Gullett in the Millennium Church. Nursery/child care is available for all services. Senior Pastor is Bill Breylinger. Office: 453-3345. Web page at www.weareunion.org. All teachings are taken from the Manufacturer's Handbook - The Holy Bible. Come join us.

■ **Unity Life Enrichment Centre**, new location, 10417 Orange Blossom Blvd. S., Sebring, FL 33875; 471-1122; e-mail unity@vistanet.net. Web site, www.unityofsebring.org. 10:30 a.m. Sunday Celebration Service,

Nursery and Children's Church. Weekly Classes, Christian Bookstore and Cafe, Prayer Ministry, Life Enrichment Groups. Rev. Andrew C. Conyer, senior minister transforming lives from ordinary to extraordinary.

■ **The Way Church**, 1005 N. Ridgewood Drive, Sebring. Sunday school and worship service at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Youth activities, 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The Way is a church family who gathers for contemporary worship, teaching of God's Word, prayer and fellowship. Come early and stay after for fellowship time. Child care and children's church are provided. Reinhold Buxbaum is pastor. The Way - A place for you. Office Phone: 471-6140, Church Cell Phone: 381-6190. Email: thewaychurch@hotmail.com. Web site: www.TheWayChurch.org

PRESBYTERIAN

■ **Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA)**, 4500 Sun 'N Lake Blvd., Sebring, 33872-2113. A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America. Sunday morning worship: Informal service, 8 a.m.; traditional service, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:15 a.m.; evening service, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting, 6 p.m.; Children's/Youth Group, 5:30-7 p.m.; choir practice, 7:15 p.m. Phone: 385-3234; Fax: 385-2759; e-mail: covpres@strato.net; Web site: www.cpcsebring.org. Rev. W. Darrell Arnold, pastor. Office hours: 8:30-12:30 a.m. Monday-Friday.

■ **First Presbyterian Church ARP**, 215 E. Circle St., (two entrances on LaGrande), Avon Park, FL 33825. Phone: 453-3242. The Rev. Robert Johnson is the pastor. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study, 10:30 a.m.; Potluck dinner, 6 p.m. third Wednesday; choir practice, 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday; Mary Circle business meeting, 1 p.m. second Wednesday; Sarah Circle business meeting, 4 p.m. second Thursday; Women's Ministries Combined Bible study, 4 p.m. third Thursday. Be a part of a warm, caring church family with traditional services, following biblical truth.

■ **First Presbyterian Church, ARP**, 319 Poinsettia Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. 385-0107. Sunday School, all ages, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m.; Tuesday: Grief Support Group, 1 p.m.; Youth Group (middle and high school), 3:30-6:30 p.m.; Wednesday: Adult Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m. Nursery available during worship. Call the church office for more information and other classes. Rev. Darrell A. Peer, pastor.

■ **First Presbyterian Church, ARP**, www.fpclip.com, 118 N. Oak Ave., Lake Placid, 465-2742. The Rev. Ray Cameron, senior pastor; the Rev. Drew Severance, associate pastor. Sunday morning traditional worship is at 8 and 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary; contemporary worship is at 11 a.m. Sunday school classes for adults is at 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. and for all ages, adults and children, at 9:45 a.m. in the educational building. Wednesday: 6:45 p.m., youth group (middle and high school), and nursery and children's ministry; 7 p.m., adult small group Bible studies. Children/youth music ministry (Thursday): grades 3-5 chimes, 2:30 p.m.; grades 3-5 choir, 3:15 p.m.; grades 6-12 hand-

bells, 3:15 p.m. Bible Counseling available by appointment, 699-0132. Call the church office for more information about the classes offered. Nursery is provided for babies and toddlers; while young children up to second grade have a special Children's Church offered during the worship service to help them grow in their spiritual knowledge.

■ **Spring Lake Presbyterian Church (USA)**, 5887 U.S. 98, Sebring, FL 33876. Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship Service, 10 a.m. Session meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of the month, September through June. Board of Deacon's meet at 5:30 p.m. first Monday of the month. Choir rehearses at 7 p.m. each Wednesday, September through April. Presbyterian Women meet at 10 a.m. the third Thursday of the month. Organist: Richard Wedig. Choir Director: Suzan Wedig. Church phone, 655-0713; e-mail, springlakepc@embarqmail.com. Web site, <http://slpc.embarqspace.com>.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

■ **Avon Park Seventh-day Adventist Church**, 1410 West Avon Blvd., Avon Park. Phone: 453-6641 or e-mail: avonparksda@embarqmail.com, Sabbath School, 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Church Service 10:45 a.m. Saturday. Wednesday prayer meeting 7 p.m. Community Service hours on Tuesday and Thursday is from 9:00 a.m. till 2 p.m. A sale takes place the first Sunday of each month. Senior Pastor Paul Boling. Walker Memorial Academy Christian School offering education for kindergarten through 12th grades. ALL ARE WELCOME. Website is www.discoverjesus.org

■ **Sebring Seventh-Day Adventist Church**, 2106 N. State Road 17, Sebring; 385-2438. Worship Services: 9:15 a.m. Worship hour, 11 a.m. Prayer meeting, Tuesday, 7:15 p.m. Community service: every Monday 9-11 a.m. Health Seminar with Dr. Seralde, every Friday, 10:00 a.m. Pastor Amado Luzbet.

THE CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

■ **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**, 3235 Grand Prix Dr., Sebring, FL 33872; (863) 382-9092 Steve Austin, Bishop; Mark Swift, 1st Counselor; Del Murphy, 2nd Counselor. Family History Center (863) 382-1822. Sunday Services: Sacrament Meeting, 10-11:10 a.m.; Gospel Doctrine, 11:20 a.m. to noon; Priesthood/Relief Society, 12:10-1p.m.; Primary for children, 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Youth Activities: Wednesdays, 7-8:20 p.m. Scouts: first and third Wednesday, 7-8:20 p.m. Activity Days: 8-11 yr old Boys and Girls, second and fourth Wednesdays, 7-8:20 p.m.

THE SALVATION ARMY

■ **The Salvation Army – Center for Worship**. Sunday: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Holiness meeting, 11 a.m.; and Praise meeting and lunch, noon. Tuesday: Bible study, 6:30 p.m.; and Women's Ministries, 7 p.m. Wednesday: Youth Ministries, 4 p.m. All meet-

ings are at 120 N. Ridgewood Ave., Sebring. For more information, visit the Web site www.salvationarmy-sebring.com or call Major Bruce Stefanik at 385-7548, ext. 110.

UNITED METHODIST

■ **First United Methodist Church**, 105 S. Pine St., Sebring, FL 33870. The Rev. A.C. Bryant, pastor. Traditional Worship Service at 8:10 and 10:50 a.m. in the sanctuary, Contemporary Worship in the FLC at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Methodist Youth Fellowship at 5:30 p.m. Sundays with Rick Heilig, youth director. The 10:55 a.m. Sunday worship service is broadcast over WITS 1340 on AM dial. There is a nursery available at all services.

■ **First United Methodist Church**, 200 South Lake Avenue, Avon Park, FL 33825. (863) 453-3759, R. James Weiss, Pastor, Sunday School - 9 a.m., Worship - 10:30 a.m. Bible study third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry on the second and fourth Friday of the month at 2 p.m. for women who love God and crocheting. Visit us at our church Web site: www.fumcap.org.

■ **Memorial United Methodist Church**, 500 Kent Ave., (overlooking Lake Clay) Lake Placid, FL, 33852. The Rev. Fred Ball, pastor. Claude H.L. Burnett, pastoral assistant. Sunday schedule: Heritage Worship Service, 8:30 a.m.; Sunday School for all ages, 9:30 a.m.; Celebration Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. New Song worship service at 10:45 a.m. Loving nursery care provided every Sunday morning. Middle School Youth, 4 p.m.; High School Youth, 5:30 p.m. We offer Christ-centered Sunday school classes, youth programs, Bible studies, book studies and Christian fellowship. Church office, 465-2422 or www.memorialumc.com. Lakeview Christian School, VPK to grade 5; 465-0313.

■ **St. John United Methodist Church**, 3214 Grand Prix Drive, Sebring, FL 33872. The Rev. Ronald De Genaro Jr., Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Adult Sunday School, 11 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery provided for all services. Phone 382-1736. www.stjohnsebring.org

■ **Spring Lake United Methodist Church**, 8170 Cozumel Lane, (Hwy 98) Sebring. The Rev. Clyde Weaver Jr., Pastor. Worship service starts at 9:55 a.m. Bible Study meets at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Choir Practice at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday. Church office phone: 655-0040.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

■ **Emmanuel United Church of Christ**, Jesus didn't reject people, neither do we. Join us for worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and you'll be embraced by a compassionate congregation that is all-inclusive. We're at the corner of Hammock and Hope. Choir and Bell Choir practice on Wednesday; Bible studies throughout the week. 471-1999; sebringemmanuelucc.com.

BUSINESS/MONEY

Deep Gulf drilling thrives 18 months after BP spill

By JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

GULF OF MEXICO —

Two hundred miles off the coast of Texas, ribbons of pipe are reaching for oil and natural gas deeper below the ocean's surface than ever before.

These pipes, which run nearly two miles deep, are connected to a floating Shell platform that is so remote they named it Perdido, which means "lost" in Spanish. What attracted Shell to this location is a geologic formation found throughout the Gulf of Mexico that may contain enough oil to satisfy U.S. demand for two years.

While Perdido is isolated, it isn't alone. Across the Gulf, energy companies are probing dozens of new deepwater fields thanks to high oil prices and technological advances that finally make it possible to tap them.

The newfound oil will not do much to lower global oil prices. But together with increased production from onshore U.S. fields and slowing domestic demand for gasoline, it could help reduce U.S. oil imports by more than half over the next decade.

Eighteen months ago, such a flurry of activity in the Gulf seemed unlikely. The Obama administration halted drilling and stopped issuing new permits after the explosion of a BP well killed 11 workers and caused the largest oil spill in U.S. history.

But the drilling moratorium was eventually lifted and the Obama administration issued the first new drilling permit in March. Now the Gulf is humming again and oil executives describe it as the world's best place to drill.

"In the short term and the medium term, it's clearly the Gulf of Mexico," says Matthais Bichsel, a Royal Dutch Shell PLC board member who is in charge of all of the company's new projects and technology.

By early 2012 there will be more rigs in the Gulf designed to drill in its "deep water" — defined as 2,000 feet or deeper — than before the spill.

In November, Perdido began pumping oil from a field called Tobago; the well begins 9,627 feet below the surface of the Gulf. No other well on the globe produces oil in deeper water and that's about as deep as the Gulf gets. For drillers, that means the entire Gulf is now within reach.

"We are at the point where ... depth is not the primary issue anymore," says Marvin Odum, the head of Royal Dutch Shell's drilling unit in the Americas. "I do not worry that there is something in the Gulf that we cannot develop ... if we can find it."

From a distance, Perdido looks like an erector set perched on an aluminum can. This can, or "spar," is a 500-foot-tall steel cylinder that sits mostly underwater, serving as a base for the equipment and living quarters above. It is stuffed with iron ore to lower its center



MCT
Two oil platforms operate near the site of the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

of gravity, keeping the whole operation from bobbing in the water like a cork. The spar is tethered to the sea floor 8,000 feet below with ropes and chains.

Oil and natural gas are pumped to Perdido from nearby wells drilled by an onboard rig and from far-away wells drilled by satellite rigs. Water and other impurities are then removed from the oil and gas, which gets sent hundreds of miles through an undersea pipeline to terminals and refineries along the Gulf coast.

Perdido, which pumps the equivalent of 60,000 barrels of oil and natural gas a day, will eventually yield 100,000 barrels per day from 35 wells in a 30-mile radius, according to Shell. It will likely produce oil for decades — in all, as much as 360 million barrels of oil and 750 billion cubic feet of natural gas, according to Wood Mackenzie.

As global oil demand climbs past 89 million barrels a day and traditional onshore and shallow water fields are depleted, the deep waters of the Gulf and off the coasts of South America, West Africa and Australia are playing an increasingly important role.

In 2000, 1.5 million barrels of oil per day were produced from deepwater fields around the globe, or 2 percent of global production. In 2011, that number grew to 5.5 million barrels, or 6 percent of global production. By 2020, deepwater oil will account for 9 percent, according to IHS CERA.

The Gulf is attractive for many reasons. Its oil fields are enormous; it straddles the world's biggest consumer of oil; it's in a politically stable part of the world; and drillers can easily tap into a vast network of pipelines and refineries. Also, despite industry complaints, the cost of royalties, taxes and regulation in the U.S. are among the lowest in the world.

"Everybody wants to be

there," says Mohammad Rahman, the lead Gulf analyst for Wood Mackenzie.

By early 2012, there will be 40 deepwater rigs in the Gulf, up from 37 before the BP spill, according to Cinnamon Odell of ODS-Petrodata. BP received its first permit to drill in late October.

The Gulf produces an average of 1.5 million barrels of oil per day, according to Wood Mackenzie. That's 27 percent of U.S. output and 8 percent of U.S. demand.

Thanks to more accurate imaging technologies, drillers are able to see under geologic formations that used to confound geologists. In June, ExxonMobil Corp. said it found 700 million barrels of oil — one of the biggest discoveries in the Gulf in last decade. In September, Chevron and BP also announced major finds, thought to be in the hundreds of millions of barrels of oil.

Many of the Gulf's recent discoveries are in a geologic formation known as the Lower Tertiary, formed between 23 million and 65 million years ago. Perdido, which is operated by Shell and owned jointly by Shell, Chevron and BP, is the first to produce oil from this formation. Analysts say it could hold 15 billion barrels of oil.

As the BP disaster made clear, drilling in deep water presents difficulties and dangers. Last month a Chevron well in the deep waters off of Brazil ruptured and spilled 2,400 barrels of oil into the Atlantic after Chevron underestimated the pressure of the oil field it was tapping.

Perdido only recently reached its monthly production target after a year of operation because of difficulties getting oil and gas from the seabed to the platform. New devices designed to separate oil and gas on the sea floor have not performed as well as Shell hoped.

Boosting your retirement plan contributions in 2012



Personal Finance

Jason Alderman

For the first time since 2009, the IRS has increased the amount people can contribute to their 401(k) and other defined contribution plans. Effective Jan. 1, 2012, the maximum annual contribution grows by \$500 to \$17,000, thanks to an increase in the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U), a common measure of inflation the IRS uses to determine whether or not to increase dozens of tax-related numbers from year to year.

That's good news for people who want to boost their tax-advantaged retirement savings. Here's an overview of what will and won't change in 2012 with the more common retirement savings plans:

Defined contribution plans

In addition to increasing the maximum allowable annual contribution to 401(k), 403(b), 457(b) and federal Thrift Savings plans to \$17,000, these additional factors apply:

- ◆ People over 50 can also make an additional \$5,500 in catch-up contributions (unchanged from 2011).
- ◆ The annual limit for combined employee and employer contributions increased by

\$1,000 to \$50,000.

◆ Because your plan may limit the percentage of pay you can contribute, your maximum contribution may actually be less. (For example, if the maximum contribution is 10 percent of pay and you earn \$50,000, you could only contribute \$5,000.)

◆ Company-matching contributions do not count toward your maximum contribution.

Individual Retirement Accounts

The maximum annual contribution to IRAs remains unchanged at \$5,000 (plus an additional \$1,000 if 50 or older). Maximum contributions to traditional IRAs are not impacted by personal income, but if your modified adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds certain limits, the maximum you can contribute to a Roth IRA gradually phases out:

- ◆ For singles/heads of households the phase-out range is \$110,000 to \$125,000 (up from \$107,000 to \$122,000 in 2011). Above \$125,000, you cannot contribute to a Roth.
- ◆ For married couples filing jointly, it's \$173,000 to \$183,000 (up from \$169,000 to \$179,000 in 2011). Keep in mind these rules for deducting IRA contributions on your federal tax return:
- ◆ If you're single, a head of household, a qualifying widow(er) or married and neither spouse is covered by an employer-provided retirement plan you can deduct the full IRA contribution, regardless of income.

◆ If you are covered by an employer plan and are single or a head of household, the tax deduction phases out for AGI between \$58,000 and \$68,000 (up from \$56,000 to \$66,000 in 2011); if married and filing jointly, the phase-out range is \$92,000 to \$112,000 (up from \$90,000 to \$110,000 in 2011).

◆ If you're married and aren't covered by an employer plan but your spouse is, the IRA deduction is phased out if your combined AGI is between \$173,000 and \$183,000 (up from \$169,000 to \$179,000 in 2011).

For more details, read IRS Publication 590 at www.irs.gov.

Retirement Savers' Tax Credit

As an incentive to help low- and moderate-income workers save for retirement through an IRA or company-sponsored plan, many are eligible for a Retirement Savers' Tax Credit of up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 if filing jointly). This credit lowers your tax bill, dollar for dollar, in addition to any other tax deduction you already receive for your contribution.

Qualifying income ceiling limits for the Retirement Savers' Tax Credit increased in 2011 to \$57,500 for joint filers, \$43,125 for heads of household, and \$28,750 for singles or married persons filing separately. Consult IRS Form 8880 for more information.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Couture's celebrates anniversary

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — Couture's Art Gallery & Frame Shop celebrates its 15th anniversary this month.

Couture's moved to its present location, 2045 U.S. 27 North, in 1999 from its original location on North Commerce Avenue.

Couture's Gallery specializes in Florida nature and wildlife art as well as traditional art and home decor. The Gallery has the largest collection of Florida highwaymen art by Robert Butler, one of the original 26 Florida Highwaymen artists, as well as many other works by well-

known Florida artists. You'll find art by Peter Gerbert (Audubon Artist), Tom Brooks (Turkey Federation Artist), Tripp Harrison (St. Augustine and island artist), Jacque Lyn Palomaki (Ridge Wildlife and nature artist) and dozens of other local talent featured in the galleries over 4,500 square feet of showroom.

The Framing Division of Couture's has been repeatedly recognized in its 15-year existence with 10 People's Choice Awards, six Reader's Choice Awards, several First Place Framing awards by the Professional Picture Framers

Association and as a Top 100 Frame Shops in the United States five times in the five years entered in that competition.

You can visit the gallery during regular hours, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays; or on the web at www.CouturesArt.com. You can contact Dick or Allora Couture at 386-0029 or via e-mail at couture@vistanet.net.

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TONY GORE



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FOR MORE INFO, call (863) 453-3345

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Feb 23 - Collingsworth Family

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DIVERSIONS

JANUARY FIRST

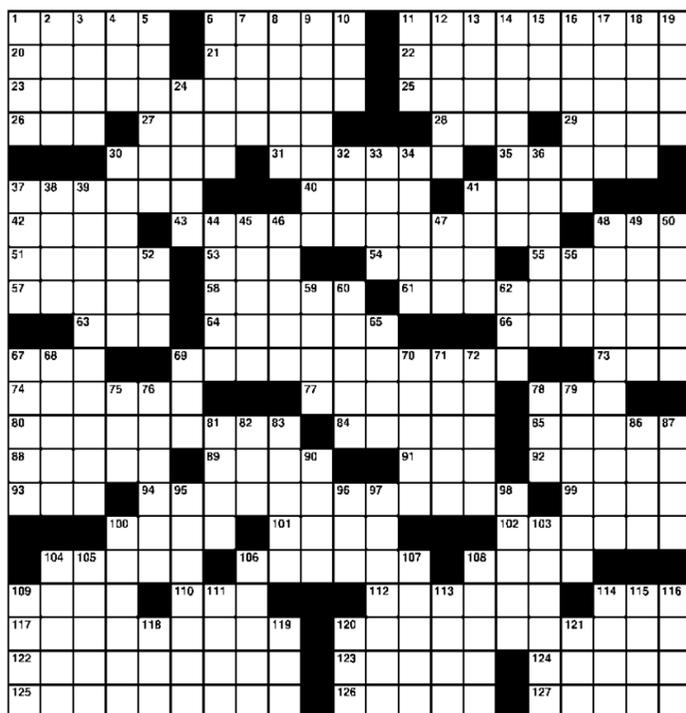
ACROSS

- 1 Office malfunction
- 6 Empty the Recycle Bin, e.g.
- 11 Hit the snooze button too many times
- 20 Campus town near Bangor
- 21 "The Bells of St. ___"
- 22 Persona non grata
- 23 Advice to a nervous skier
- 25 Hot air in the conference room?
- 26 "Don't let it get cold!"
- 27 Hi-fi component
- 28 Where a herd is heard
- 29 H.S. proficiency tests
- 30 Fashion giant
- 31 Prepares, as mussels
- 35 Crewmate of Spock and Sulu
- 37 Cheats on a test, in a way
- 40 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- 41 Flu 9-Down
- 42 Mil. mail drops
- 43 "Eat my wake!" e.g.?
- 48 Gravy, on menus
- 51 High-pitched barks
- 53 Hosp. drama locale, usually
- 54 Japanese golfer Aoki
- 55 Something in the oven
- 57 Comparatively crafty
- 58 Bath salt fragrance
- 61 Small-scale
- 63 Spokesceleb for Fiat
- 64 Post-WWI Treasury secretary
- 66 Girl in a Beach Boys hit
- 67 Menlo Park wizard, initially
- 69 "Ode on a Grecian Urn" genre?
- 73 Wee lad
- 74 Not hoodwinked by
- 77 Big name in little suits
- 78 Singer Winehouse
- 80 No longer on speaking terms
- 84 Remove paint from
- 85 D'Artagnan's chroni-
- 88 Nicholas Gage best-seller
- 89 "I ___ a loss for words!"
- 91 Urgent offshore signal
- 92 Barrel support
- 93 "___ Rosenkavalier": Strauss opera
- 94 Halloween carving of a Yankee hero?
- 99 "Sounds good to me!"
- 100 Reject as false
- 101 Geometry class calculation
- 102 Trojan War warrior
- 104 "Try to ___ my way": Beatles lyric
- 106 Like some braids
- 108 Melbourne greeting
- 109 Resistance units
- 110 Serious conflict
- 112 Eucalyptus lovers
- 114 Place to hoist a pint
- 117 First punch of an old Roman bout?
- 120 Northern African quip?
- 122 Covent Garden notable
- 123 Concrete hunks
- 124 "Storage Wars" network
- 125 Like a couch potato
- 126 Long-eared critters
- 127 Online VIP

DOWN

- 1 Monologue bit
- 2 Bizet's "Toreador Song," e.g.
- 3 Snakes' renewal process
- 4 Like some phone nos.
- 5 Comfort food in a deep dish
- 6 Arabian chief
- 7 Rani's spouse
- 8 Skunk cabbage and philodendron
- 9 Indication
- 10 Eerie ability, for short
- 11 Transitive vb. follower
- 12 Meat-yielding calves
- 13 To be, in Arles
- 14 Measure again

By GIA CHRISTIAN



Solution on page 6B

- 15 Nestlé's ___-Caps
- 16 Chaise ___
- 17 Peak in the 59-Down
- 18 Big name in fashion
- 19 Hardy heroine
- 24 Reform Party founder
- 30 Put to rest, as rumors
- 32 Ship's hdg.
- 33 Atmospheric prefix
- 34 "Divine" showbiz nickname
- 36 "Yay!"
- 37 Low isles
- 38 European automaker
- 39 Multitalented court clown?
- 41 Quite a long stretch
- 44 Fictional Stone Age redhead
- 45 Not as friendly
- 46 Considers carefully, with "over"
- 47 ___ alai
- 48 Nattily dressed Broadway character?
- 49 Dietary std.
- 50 Stand in good ___
- 52 "No more seats" sign
- 56 Plains Indian
- 59 European peaks
- 60 Places for chickens
- 62 Certain tax shelter, for short
- 65 Nair rival, once
- 67 Rough wool cloth
- 68 Seating request
- 69 Bon Jovi of rock
- 70 Far from verbose
- 71 Village celebrity?
- 72 Small group of trees
- 75 Bird by the beach
- 76 Eastern island capital
- 78 Much junk mail
- 79 Kind of conspiracy
- 81 Like venison
- 82 Ruler of anc. Rome
- 83 Port of Senegal
- 86 Saucony rival
- 87 D.C. hundred
- 90 Fade
- 95 Work the kinks out of
- 96 Former Giants pitcher
- 97 African scavengers
- 98 Pitching coach's aid
- 100 Appetite
- 103 Undemanding classes
- 104 Mold
- 105 Nestle securely
- 106 Monastery resident
- 107 Wedding dances
- 108 "The ___ Menagerie"
- 109 Eyes, in Oaxaca
- 111 "___ girl!"
- 113 Songstress Lane
- 114 Two-thumbs-down reviews
- 115 Salon style
- 116 Answering machine cue
- 118 Bert Bobbsey's twin
- 119 Suffix with access
- 120 Webelos' org.
- 121 Loud bird

Wide open spaces

"We've got the wide open spaces!" Dad would sing out as we left a congested area and entered a road devoid of other cars.



Pause And Consider
Jan Merop

Though fellow drivers joined us from time to time, we weren't over crowded; rather, we had breathing space. It was exhilarating. It not only energized the drive; but, took away the stress that often accompanies traffic laden highways. I'd like to look at my 2012 calendar that way. Each page representing one month in the year is free and clear like a highway without cars. I have the wide open spaces and it's up to me how I will fill them.

How easy it would have been for my Dad to "gun it" and take off at higher speeds when there wasn't a hint of real traffic anywhere. But, he obeyed the speed limit anyway.

It reminds me of a Scripture in Galatians 5:13, NIV, where it says, "You, my brothers were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."

And so on the first day of this calendar year, freedom reigns.

How will I fill each day? Will I "gun it" rushing into the year and over-committing or choosing activities I may later regret?

How can we know when

to say no without feeling guilty? How can we understand that saying yes all of the time may not be healthy for us or our families? And, speaking of families, how can we best help our children

to see that we need to create margins on a page and not fill in every available space?

Perhaps the way to begin is to bring our blank calendars to God and ask him to help protect our time. We want to be productive and active without being hurried and hurried.

By choosing those activities that please God, enhance relationships and take others into consideration as well as our own balanced well-being, we may be able to learn to say "No" so that others are freed to say "Yes."

In this way, we don't see ourselves as the solution to every need. We get out of God's way and allow him to work in and through others and ourselves, leaving room for spontaneity and God's surprises.

Let the wide open spaces on your calendar invite you to an exhilarating and energizing year of prayerfully planned and thought out commitments. Selah

Jan Merop of Sebring is a News-Sun correspondent. Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun staff.

A new year gives each of us the opportunity to start anew

Dear Readers: Welcome to 2012! While the last year has been tumultuous for many of us, a new one is here, bringing with it our chance for a fresh start.

Today is the day we discard destructive old habits for healthy new ones, and with that in mind, I will share Dear Abby's often-requested list of New Year's Resolutions, which were adapted by my mother, Pauline Phillips, from the original credo of Al-Anon:

JUST FOR TODAY: I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all of my problems at once.

I know that I can do something for 24 hours that

would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things that I can correct and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not



Dear Abby

talk ill of others. I will improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

JUST FOR today, I will refrain from improving anybody but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I am overweight, I will eat healthfully - if only for

today. And not only that, I will get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will gather the courage to do what is right and take the responsibility for my own actions.

And now, Dear Readers, I would like to share an item that was sent to me by I.J. Bhatia, a reader who lives in New Delhi, India:

Dear Abby: This year, no resolutions, only some guidelines. The Holy Vedas say: "Man has subjected himself to thousands of self-inflicted bandages. Wisdom comes to a man who lives according to the true eternal laws of nature."

The prayer of St. Francis (of which there are several

versions) contains a powerful message:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved, as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. And so, Dear Readers,

may this new year bring with it good health, peace and joy to all of you. - Love, Abby

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. To order 'How to Write Letters for All Occasions,' send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Aries, look to a stranger inspiration

Metro Services

Aries (March 21-April 20) — Aries, you need a little inspiration and you could find it in the way of a stranger who wanders across your path this week. Changes are in store.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) — Take a rest from pouring over the books, Taurus. Although your finances are a bit shaky, you have gotten things in order, so take a short hiatus.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) — Gemini, it is hard to keep a secret, especially when you could be the bearer of really good news. Hold out just a little longer, and then you'll have your chance.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Cancer, when you're approached for advice, you look like a deer caught in headlights. Others will assume you're hiding something if you look afraid.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 23) — Leo, you're in someone's thoughts and your ears may be ringing because this person is talking about you so much. Now could be the time for visiting family.

Horoscope

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 22) — Virgo, there are many things to get done but you have to put yourself first. Otherwise burnout could mean you won't accomplish anything on your list.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Libra, instead of always taking the advice of others when something important arises, trust your own instincts on what to do. You might be surprised how well it works.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Scorpio, despite excitement about getting away somewhere, you have some reservations, too. It's hard to leave responsibilities behind even when you deserve a break.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You tend to gravitate to leadership roles, Sagittarius. That puts a lot of pressure on you at all times. Maybe this week you will be satisfied with standing on the sidelines.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Capricorn, there's a lot to accomplish, but little distractions seem to crop up at every turn. Diverting your energy to each of these issues is not the way to go.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18) — It's time you made a big change, Aquarius. Think about stepping out of your comfort zone and the results may be surprising. Or, a big adventure could be in store.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Unless you try something, Pisces, you won't know if you like it. Something different could be just what you need this week.

Notable birthdays

Jan. 1 - Verne Troyer, actor, 43; Jan. 2 - Taye Diggs, actor, 41; Jan. 3 - Eli Manning, athlete, 31; Jan. 4, Julia Ormond, actress, 47; Jan. 5, Bradley Cooper, actor, 37; Jan. 6, Nancy Lopez, athlete, 55; and Jan. 7, Jeremy Renner, actor, 41.



Did You KNOW?

In Florida, the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle. Bicyclists using a public roadway are considered operators of motor vehicles and are responsible for observing all traffic laws.

With few exceptions, there is only one road and it is up to motorists and bicyclists to treat each other with care and respect. Adherence to the law is the foundation of respect.

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(Amy Adams, Jason Segel)
2:00 - 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:30

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(Amy Adams, Jason Segel)
2:00 - 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:30

J. Edgar R
(Leonardo DiCaprio, Naomi Watts)
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Shed 10 pounds this year

Small changes in diet can lead to weight loss

BY AMY BERTRAND
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Sometimes simple changes can bring about big results.

When it comes to losing weight, more often than not, it's all about numbers.

"Simply think of your body like a machine," says Beth Mueth, a dietitian at Belleville (Ill.) Memorial Hospital. "Calories in have to equal calories out in order to maintain your weight. The majority of us have calories in more than out. But all it takes is a little change to turn that the other way around."

It takes 3,500 calories to build a pound. If you have a deficit of 100 calories every day for a year — either by eating less or exercising more — you can lose 10 pounds in a year.

But going on a diet where you give up everything you love is not going to work forever. Katie Duggan, a dietitian at St. Louis University School of Public Health, says that teaching people to make small changes is often the only way to bring about results.

"A lot of people want weight loss to be their New Year's resolution," she says. "It's a constant struggle for most Americans. At any given time millions of people are trying different diets to lose weight, but most of the weight is regained as people return to their old eating habits."

"The key is to make small changes that are reasonable, achievable and realistic to maintain."

Duggan says she often tells her clients to write down everything they eat and drink; then they start looking at small changes they can make in that pattern.

"Over the course of a year, a small change can easily add up to 5, 10, even 15 pounds," she says.

"You don't have to give up everything. I believe people get stuck because all of these things. If you have a favorite food, you don't have to give it up."

So, with the help of health experts and our own experiences, we've come up with a list of 25 ways you can lose 10 pounds this year.

1 Switch from whole-milk products to skim-milk products. If you consume three servings a day, you can save up to 200 calories a day. That's 20 pounds you can lose next year.

2 When you go to a restaurant, ask for half of your portion to be put in a doggie bag right away. Even if you only go out twice a week, you'll easily save enough calories to lose 10 pounds a year.

3 Reduce the use of butter and margarine. Use applesauce in recipes instead of oil. Try fat-free, butter-flavored spreads or sprinkles (unless you're watching your salt). Just eliminating a pat of butter on your morning toast will let you drop 10 pounds.

4 Chill soups, gravies and stews, then skim off the fat that floats. Doing this can save you up to 100 calories a serving.

5 Use extra-lean ground beef, ground chicken or ground turkey. Instead of bacon, use Canadian bacon or prosciutto, a lean Italian ham. Buy beef labeled "select," instead of "choice" or "prime" (select meats have less fat, Duggan says). Trim all fat from meat cuts.

6 Is a tall glass of juice your morning ritual? Swap that 20-ounce OJ for a real orange and you not only save more than 100 calories, you also get some fiber while you're at it.

7 Meatless products, such as imitation hot dogs, bacon, burgers and sausage, are easily available at the market. They often have half the calories of their meat counterparts.

8 Eliminate that daily coffeehouse run. Switching from a 16-ounce cappuccino to regular coffee with artificial sweetener can save you well over 10 pounds a year.

9 Switch from fried potato chips to the baked ones. Doing so saves 90 calories. If you do this every day, that's your 10 pounds.

10 Learn how to add 10 minutes of exercise a day. The goal is 30 minutes a day. If you walk for just 30 minutes — even just three 10-minute walks a day — you will lose 13 pounds this year.

11 Switch from 100-plus-calorie sandwich bread to the light whole-wheat bread. You save 100 calories per sandwich, and you get the benefit of good-for-you whole grains.

12 Swap out your cheese. Replace the 1½ ounces of cheddar or American cheese on your sandwich with 1 ounce of nonfat mozzarella and lose 11 pounds next year.

13 Switch from two tablespoons of regular mayonnaise to two tablespoons of low-fat mayonnaise on that sandwich.

14 Cut back on egg yolks. It's the yolk that contains virtually all of the fat and cholesterol. Try using egg substitutes. Or, in most recipes, you can use two egg whites instead of one whole egg.

15 If you love microwave popcorn, you don't have to give it up. Just switch to the light kind and save tons of fat and calories, enough to lose 10 pounds if you eat it every night.

16 Use sugar substitute instead of sugar in all your baking. If you use a couple of teaspoons in your iced tea and a couple on your morning cereal, you could easily lose 10 pounds by switching to a substitute.

17 Switch your afternoon soda to a diet soda to save 150 calories (per 12-ounce can) a day.

18 If you can't take diet soda, just downsize your soda portions. If you usually pick up a 44-ounce soda in the morning, switch to a 24-ounce size and save about 200 calories a day. That's about 20 pounds this year.

19 Portion control is essential when it comes to eating meat. A portion of meat is 3 ounces — about the size of a deck of cards. Most people eat two to three times this. Try putting just a portion on your plate at meals.

20 Replace your regular beer with light beer and save about 50 calories per bottle.

21 Take the stairs every day at work. If you go up and down often enough (say up and down five flights three or four times a day) you've got your 100 calories.

22 Forgo regular bottled salad dressing (2 tablespoons, about 150 calories) for an equal portion of fat-free dressing (about 40 calories) for a net savings of at least 100 calories.

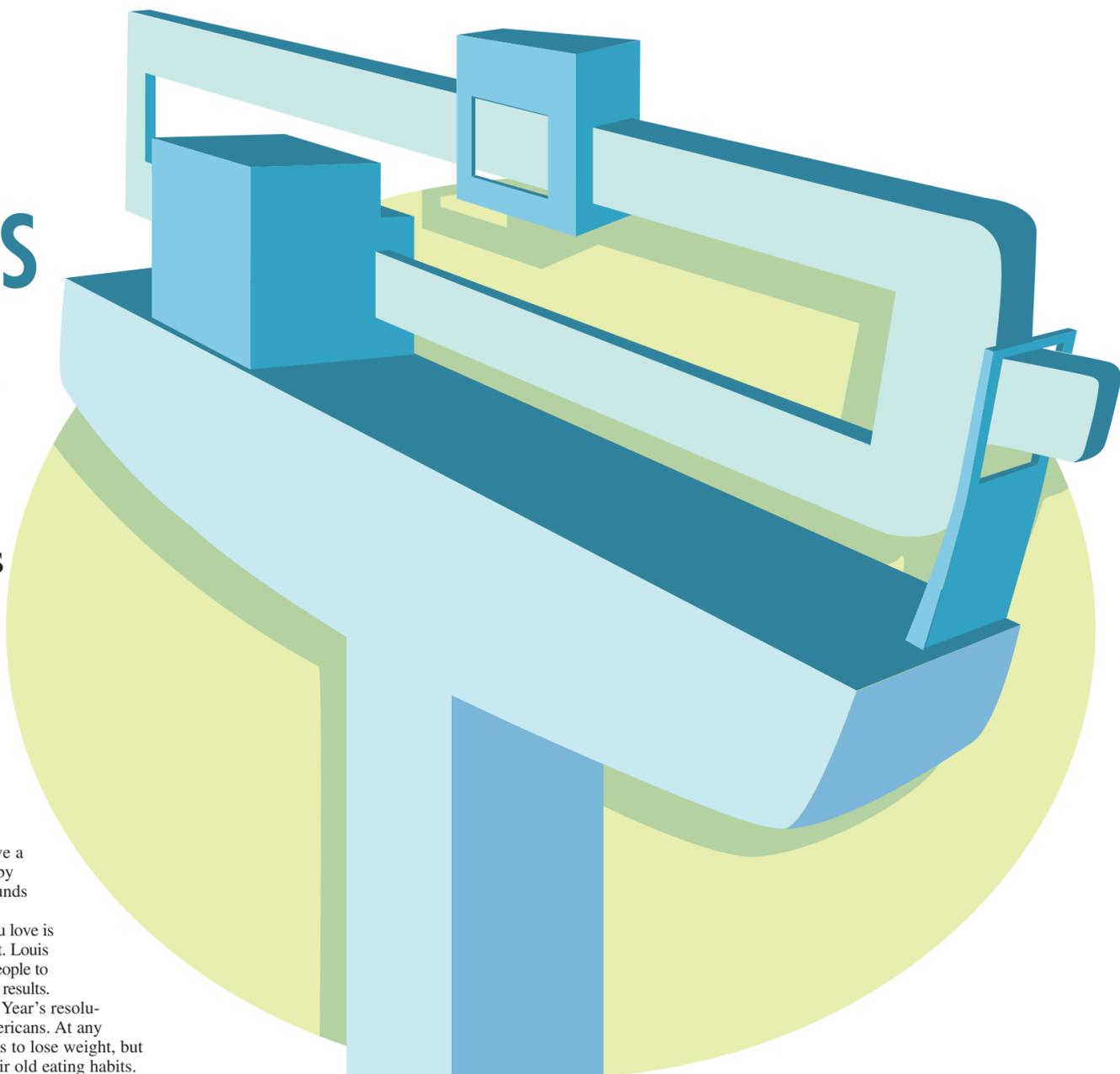
23 Don't super-size anything. Switching from the 6-ounce fries at McDonald's to the 2-ounce size saves you about 300 calories. So doing that just twice a week can lead to a big weight loss.

24 Remove the skin from a chicken breast after cooking and save 100 calories each time.

25 Instead of topping ice cream with crumbled cookies, crushed chocolate candy or hot fudge, top it with 2 tablespoons of fresh berries and save about 100 calories.

ILLUSTRATION BY BRADENTON HERALD
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Long-term strategies

Forget all the latest fads, gimmicks and "miracle" diets. The only way to lose weight — and keep it off — is to eat less and exercise more. It sounds simple, but requires discipline.

GETTING STARTED

- **Ask** yourself why you want to lose weight. Successful dieters shed pounds for themselves, not for a significant other (such as a wife or boyfriend) or a special event (such as a reunion).
- **Before** you begin, keep a diary for a few days of what you eat and drink and how much you exercise; this will help you learn what your fattening habits are.

GETTING ACTIVE

- **Start moving:** Walk more, take the stairs, park farther away in the parking lot — do whatever it takes to get more exercise.
- **Begin an exercise program:** Walking, swimming, whatever you like; aim for 30 minutes a day.



CRISSEY PASCUAL/BOULDER DAILY CAMERA

Walking for 30 minutes a day can help you burn fat and lose weight.

CHOOSING FOODS

- **Cut** back on fats AND calories; don't think you can eat more of a food just because it's fat-free.
- **Choose** plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy products, lean meat, poultry and fish, few sweets.
- **Drink** six to eight glasses of water a day.
- **Don't** dismiss your favorite high-calories foods; simply plan for them. Allow yourself to have a treat once in a while. Remember, you're in the driver's seat; you control what you eat.
- **Read** food labels carefully.

PORTION CONTROL

Controlling portion size is one of the most effective ways for shedding excess weight and keeping it off.

- **Small plates:** Use a salad plate instead of a dinner plate; a fuller plate makes it seem that you are eating a lot.
- **Do a monthly portion check-up:** Use a scale to make sure your portion size has not increased.
- **Eat fiber-rich, high-water, low-calorie foods:** Feel full without consuming too many calories.
- **Eat slowly:** Prevent overeating.

SOURCES: AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, LADIES' JOURNAL ONLINE, MCT