

Timely tips

Advice on how to save on your taxes

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Remember

County remembers Martin Luther King Jr.

PAGE 3A

Centennial Notebook

Debut of a weekly item with details about the celebration

PAGE 2A



Sunday, January 15, 2012

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Volume 93/Number 7 | 75 cents

Forecast



Mostly sunny and nice

High **67** Low **43**

Complete Forecast PAGE 14A

Online



Question: Are there adequate services to help the homeless locally?

Yes 31.2%

No 68.8%

Total votes: **61**

Next question: Will the 'Mentors' help the Town of Lake Placid become more efficient?

Make your voice heard at www.newssun.com

Obituaries

James Carron
Age 62, of Sebring
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News-Sun photos by KATARA SIMMONS

Classics cruise the Circle

Charlyne and Peter Uznanski (above) check out classic cars Saturday during the Downtown Sebring Cruise at the Circle. This was the first cruise of the new year with new daytime hours from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Sebring cruise is scheduled for the second Saturday of every month. Antique cars line the Circle and adjoining spokes Saturday during the Sebring Cruise. Spectators check out a variety of classic cars Saturday in downtown Sebring.



Plans for elections building discussed

By ED BALDRIDGE

ed.baldrige@newssun.com

SEBRING — Local officials from Sebring and Highlands County held a meeting Jan. 6 on how to move forward with bringing the Kenilworth Building up to code.

According to Sebring City Administrator Scott Noethlich, he met with County Administrator Ricky Helms, County Sebring Building Official Ed White, County Engineer Ramon Gavarrete and County Facilities Manager David Flowers, who attended via telephone.

The City of Sebring issued a stop work order on the new Supervisor of Elections building Dec. 29, explaining that proper building permits were not in place.

Noethlich said the meeting was to get the building back on track to meet proper codes.

"The end result is that they've got some work to do," Noethlich said Friday.

See PLANS, page 7A

Heartland Idol says "See you at the Fair"

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY

christopher.tuffley@newssun.com

SEBRING — It is only a matter of weeks now before the Highlands County Fair sets up for its 75th year. In addition to special attractions and events planned in celebration, the Heartland Idol will be making a one time only appearance this year.

Diana Walker, the force behind the talent show's success, said half the available contestant slots have been filled already. She recommends interested singers not to wait any longer because registration cut-off is Saturday, Jan. 21.

This year the format will be different due to the contest taking place at the fair. There will be only one qualifying round, on Jan. 28, right before the fair opens. That starts at 11 a.m. and will continue until all singers have been heard.

The semi-final and final sessions both occur on Feb. 12, during the fair.

All portions of the contest take place at the Convention Center, which has

See IDOL, page 7A

LP 'Mentors' out to add efficiency to town processes

By ED BALDRIDGE

ed.baldrige@newssun.com

LAKE PLACID — A group of volunteers in Lake Placid presented two suggestions to the town council geared to make purchasing and council packet assembly more efficient and transparent.

Marlene Barger, chair of the group that is now called

Mentors, led the presentation along with members Rachael Osbourne, Bill Compton and Jon Draper.

Barger suggested two process improvement flow charts and explained that the group assessed the current processes, met with town employees and established their recommendations as the

first step in a more efficient government.

Mayor John Holbrook stressed that once the new processes were in place, even the council would be expected to adhere to them.

"There will be no spending outside this purchasing process," Holbrook directed. "The packet process will

apply to us as well as to the employees."

Holbrook also passed out copies of Robert's Rules of Order and stressed that he would run a better organized meeting by set time limits for input and discussion.

"The name of the game is accountability. If we are not doing our best to run this

town as efficient as we can, we need to be accountable for it," Holbrook said.

Auditors told town officials they were in a good financial position, according to Barger, but there was a need for more employee training and accountability.

See MENTORS, page 7A

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Centennial Celebration more than one event

By JEN BROWN

Centennial Marketing Chair

The Centennial Kick-Off Celebration on Jan. 6 was a huge success with a larger than expected crowd. A big thanks to all who came out for the food, fun and music.

Hundreds showed up to help kick off the year long celebration. The Circle was full of excitement, as were the spoke streets. North Ridgewood was filled with table and chairs; people sat and socialized and ate delicious food together. It was a true community event and a true delight. The celebration began at City Hall, where the parade of dignitaries, along with the vintage and new fire trucks, started their walking parade and the crowd cheered with joy once they turned onto the Circle.

The opening ceremony was fabulous. The Police Color Guard set the stage and Nellie Guzman-Ford took it and sang the national anthem beautifully. Mayor George Hensley read the proclamation, and Dr. James McCall led all in prayer. The Sebring High School Band kicked off the night filled with wonderful music. The Wings of Faith Praise and Worship band were amazing, as were the Back Porch Revival Band. The California Toe Jam Band got

people up and dancing into the night.

A special thanks to Harry Havery for running the sound system for the entire event.



Centennial Notebook

The Mountain Dew Cloggers danced in the streets and entertained the diners. Local artist James R. Hahn painted live on-site and Toby's Clowns were giving out balloons to the children.

Food was plentiful with the Sebring Firemen selling out of their delicious barbecue chicken dinners about half way through the evening. The Boy Scouts were there with hot dogs and nachos, Sebring High Culinary Club was there with chili, soups and cotton candy and the Sebring High Band Boosters had strawberry shortcake. Various food vendors had everything from burgers, wings and jalapeno poppers to fish, shrimp and gator bites. Many enjoyed the old-fashioned Draft Style root beer and cream soda,

fresh squeezed lemonade, homemade kettle corn, funnel cakes, ice cream and the very popular fried Oreos.

For those who didn't know a lot of Sebring's history, they had the opportunity to learn more from historic videos and photo slides of the earliest years of the city. Rarely seen home movies of George Sebring and slides of yester-year were shown by the Sebring Public Library on an inflatable jumbo movie screen.

We want to say thank you to all the great sponsors that are participating in our Centennial year. They are helping to move Sebring into the next 100 years.

Did you know? One hundred years ago, George Sebring founded Sebring, nicknamed "the city on the circle." Sebring was founded in 1912. It was named after George Sebring, a pottery manufacturer from Ohio who developed the city.

The village of Sebring, Ohio is also named for George E. Sebring and his family.

Our Sebring was chartered by the state of Florida in 1913, and was selected as the county seat of Highlands County when the county was created in 1921.

Continuing on through

2012, Sebring will celebrate with special people and events, with the main focus being in October, since that is the birth month.

Mayor George Hensley urges all citizens, groups, clubs, societies and businesses to join in the year-long celebration.

Go to the website, www.Sebring100.com, and follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CelebrateSebringCentennial, call 655-5554 or email events@sebring100.com to get involved.

Special thanks to the News-Sun for allowing us the opportunity to keep everyone up to date and informed on our Centennial Celebration.

Read this article every Sunday for details and upcoming events and you won't miss a thing. www.facebook.com/CelebrateSebringCentennial, call 655-5554 or email events@sebring100.com to get involved.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Change in garbage collections

AVON PARK — In observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the city of Avon Park Public Works will pick up Monday's garbage on Tuesday, and Tuesday's garbage on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday collection will remain the same.

If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Department at 452-4429.

SEBRING — There will be no changes in the city of Sebring garbage pick-up on Monday, but city offices will be closed.

Highlands Park Estates meets today

LAKE PLACID — The annual meeting of Highlands Park Estates Association will be held at 1:30 p.m. today at the clubhouse. The clubhouse is in the Beachpark on Lake Istokpoga at the end of Nichel, which becomes Deer Glen. Election of officers and directors for the next year takes place during this meeting.

The board is developing a wish list for future purchases and inclusion in the next budget. Take part in the decision making by attending the meetings. Stories from the Christmas Bird Count will be told. If you have seen any interesting birds or animals in the yard or neighborhood, come share the information with neighbors.

Everyone living in Highlands Park and guests are invited.

Blues and Jazz come to Brewster's

SEBRING — Heartland Cultural Alliance in partnership with Brewster's Coffee House will present Brewster's in Blue, an interactive evening of Blues and Jazz music at 6:30 p.m. today at Brewster's (on U.S. 27 just south of Home Depot) introducing Gabriel Colladay. This is the first of a series of special musical events. This is a free event.

For more information, contact Travis Garcia at (863) 201-3089 or by email at travisgarcia@gmail.com, or Fred Leavitt by email at info@heartlandculturalalliance.org or by calling 402-8238.

Tickets going fast for Black Tie event

LAKE PLACID — The Highway Park Neighborhood Preservation Enhancement District Council is a local non-profit organization founded in 2004 to preserve and restore the Highway Park community of Lake Placid. The group has recently re-organized and several fundraising events are planned for 2012.

All proceeds of these events will be used to revitalize Highway Park (MLK Sports Complex, historical cemetery and establish a weekend Arts and Farmers Market along U.S. 27).

Continued on page 5A

Goudge named Teacher of Month by LP Rotary, Chamber

Special to the News-Sun

LAKE PLACID — The Lake Placid Noon Rotary and The Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce presented Eric Goudge the "Teacher of the Month" at the monthly chamber meeting last week. Lake Placid Noon Rotary member Lorraine Hutchins presented the award.

Goudge grew up in northwest Missouri and attended Northwest Missouri State University and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Business Education. He moved to the Sunshine State in 2006 and accepted a job at Lake Placid High School in the Business Department. In those two years in Lake Placid he taught accounting, computer applications and supervised the "Dragon" Bank, and at the same time coached track and field.

He then moved to Tampa and worked on his Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, with emphasis on Instructional Technology.

Goudge returned to Highlands County after finishing his Master's degree and teaching at Middleton



Courtesy photo Valerie James (left), assistant principal at Lake Placid High School, was there to support Eric Goudge when he was named 'Teacher of the Month' by the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce and Lake Placid Noon Rotary. Rotarian Lorraine Hutchins made the presentation.

Magnet School in Tampa. He married his wife Erin after returning to Lake Placid.

Goudge began teaching English in 2010 and currently teaches freshman and sophomore English and coaches football, basketball and track and field. He is proud of the

school's recent "B" rating and that it is the first high school in Highlands County to receive that high of a rating.

Valerie James was present as Goudge's assistant principal for the award of \$50 and "Teacher of the Month."

Water main project on agenda

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR
sgholar@newssun.com

SEBRING — The Sebring City Council will hold its second monthly meeting Tuesday beginning at 6:30 p.m. Agenda items for the night's meeting are fewer compared to the first meeting this month, but include a few ongoing projects and ordinance changes.

A representative from Bowen & Sons will address the council in hopes of discontinuing an "exclusive franchise". Correspondence between Brad Bowen and city employees reveal a short period of time that Bowen & Sons collected and disposed of construction waste for the city.

The council will also discuss disbursing additional fees to the CivilSurv Design Group, Inc. CivilSurv is the engineering team responsible for the repaving and resurfacing projects that took place last February.

CivilSurv has been in continued correspondence with the City of Sebring requesting additional fees for the asphalt remediation and professional services provided to the city.

Council will also discuss two different change orders for the Airport Road Water Main Extension Project. Compass Construction, LLC is currently constructing the project and has requested the change

order to keep the project in motion.

The installation of a vent in the water line, as well as the import of clean fill to offset the muck material at the base of the water line, are the two projects that will be presented to the council Tuesday.

The project is funded by a grant that covers 85 percent of both projects; the remaining 15 percent of the two change orders is proposed to be funded by the city.

The two Planning and Zoning board member vacancies will be filled during Tuesday's evening. Three applicants — Kathy Doherty, Steve Swan and Nadine Tedstone — have each applied for the positions. Council will discuss and appoint two of the three applicants to the vacant positions.

City Attorney Bob Swaine will present the council with guidance regarding the right-of-way (ROW) issue and wall at 503 E. Center Ave.

The widening of Center Avenue and installation of a sidewalk in 2009 has created a ROW issue as well as an ongoing civil case with property owner Gingerlee Michellindo.

Swaine will also present the draft ordinance for residentially zoned district signage. Swaine was instructed to re-draft the ordinance during a previous council meeting.

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	Jan. 13 (n)	5 1 5 2	
	Jan. 13 (d)	3 4 3 4	
	Jan. 12 (n)	7 6 0 5	
	Jan. 12 (d)	5 6 8 1	
	Jan. 13	6 14 20 32 12	
	Jan. 10	30 41 42 43 9	
	Jan. 6	21 26 32 36 7	
	Jan. 3	11 22 31 38 9	
	Jan. 11	5 19 29 45 47 PB: 25 PP: 2	
		Next jackpot \$66 million	
	Jan. 7	3 21 24 38 39 PB: 24 PP: 5	
	Jan. 4	21 35 46 47 50 PB: 2 PP: 4	

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3 parades help mark MLK Jr. Day

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY
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SEBRING — Today Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would be celebrating his 83rd birthday — if he hadn't been assassinated on April 4, 1968. He was 39 years old and taken from his wife, Coretta Scott King, and four children.

Tomorrow Avon Park, Highway Park and Sebring are honoring the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate with commemorative parades.

The biography written by the Nobel Prize organization at the time of King's award is the foundation of this biographical article.

King was born on Jan. 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Ga. His father was pastor at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, as had his grandfather before him.

Like most black students at that time, King attended segregated schools growing up, graduating high school when he was 15.

He went to Morehouse College for his undergraduate degree, Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania to study for the ministry, and received a doctorate from Boston University in 1955.

After becoming pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala. in 1954, King became increasingly active in the civil rights movement.

A pivotal moment came in December of 1955 when he was selected to lead the Montgomery bus boycott that occurred after Rosa Parks, tired after a long day at work, refused to give up her seat to a white man.

While the boycott was a non-violent protest, the response to it was not. King was arrested, his home was bombed and he was subjected



News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS
Marvin Haynes of the Avon Park Youth Academy prepares to fry some fish Saturday during the Martin Luther King Jr. festival at Memorial Field in Avon Park.

to personal abuse.

The success of the boycott, which lasted 382 days, helped propel King into leadership roles with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

In the 11 years between 1957 and 1968, King traveled more than 6 million miles, spoke over 2,500 times and wrote five books and numerous articles.

He led a massive protest in Birmingham, Ala., many voting registration drives and organized the peaceful March on Washington Aug. 28, 1963, which attracted 250,000 people. It was during the rally he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

King was named Time magazine's Man of the Year in 1963. He was honored

with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

During those same 11 years, King was arrested more than 20 times, and assaulted at least four times. He was shot to death while standing on the balcony of his motel in Memphis, Tenn., where he was in support of striking garbage workers.

Organizers of all three local commemorative parades expressed hope that the entire community turns out to honor King, an outstanding American.

The Avon Park parade begins at the Sims Center at 100 E. Ernest E. Sims St. It lines up at 11:30 a.m. Monday and at noon will travel north up South Delaney Avenue to Memorial Field. The MLK Jr. Festival, which opened Saturday, will still be in progress with vendors, food and music.

Highway Park's parade lines up at 10 a.m. Monday at Rodney's Auto Repair and Towing at 240 Crestmore Drive. The parade starts at 11 a.m., marching to a commemorative program at the Action Revival Family Worship Center at Washington Street and Williams Avenue.

In Sebring, the Washington Heights Concerned Citizens have a memorial parade planned for Monday too.

It lines up at 1:30 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club on the corner of Center Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, then will march up MLK Boulevard to Bountiful Blessings Church of God at 820 MLK Blvd. There will be a program at the church with entertainment, speeches and free seafood, said Robert Saffold, one of the organizers.

NEWS SNAPSHOTS

National Hurricane Center chief to retire in June

MIAMI — National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read has announced plans to retire June 1.

Read says in a statement Saturday from the Miami-based hurricane center that he intended to stay on the job no longer than five years. Read has been in the post since 2008.

Read says one reason he chose June 1 is to give his successor a chance to take over just as this year's six-month hurricane season begins. Read also says he has some unspecified opportunities that will become available this summer.

The hurricane center is a unit of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA says there have been 63 tropical systems in the Atlantic Ocean basin during Read's tenure at the center.

The search for a replacement will begin immediately.

Information from Associated Press.

Winn-Dixie CEO Lynch to step down

JACKSONVILLE — The chief executive officer of Winn-Dixie is stepping down as the Florida-based supermarket chain merges with Bi-Lo LLC.

CEO Peter Lynch told employees in a letter Friday that he'll stay on for another 60 to 120 days. South Carolina-based Bi-Lo purchased Winn-Dixie for about \$560 million in December.

The combined company

will have about 690 stores and 63,000 workers in eight southern states.

Jacksonville-based Winn-Dixie Stores Inc. will become a privately held Bi-Lo subsidiary.

Replacing Lynch as Winn-Dixie's chief will be Randall Onstead, currently Bi-Lo's chairman.

Lynch has been Winn-Dixie CEO since 2005. In his letter Lynch says he helped the chain return to profitability after it emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2006.

That included remodeling more than half of Winn-Dixie's stores and new marketing campaigns.

Information from Associated Press.

NH dogs eat food laced with fish hooks, killing 1

SOMERSWORTH, N.H. — New Hampshire police say two dogs ate food that was filled with fish hooks, killing one and injuring the other.

A Somersworth woman has told police she believes someone threw a piece of food laced with fish hooks into her backyard. She thinks it was most likely a piece of meat. Her two Doberman pinschers ate it, and one died.

Capt. Russ Timmons tells Foster's Daily Democrat (<http://bit.ly/ysHLwZ>) that investigators have visited local stores that sell fish hooks to try to determine who may have recently bought some, but no suspects have been identified.

Information from: Foster's Daily Democrat.

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

TODAY'S EDITORIAL

Lake Placid's fee decision split, but the right choice

Lake Placid voted Monday to waive their upcoming recreation fees for the Chamber of Commerce's 2012 Caladium Festival, possibly setting a precedence of selective enforcement.

But the decision actually makes sense.

It does beg the question raised by Councilman Ray Royce: How can you waive a fee you have not yet enacted? Ironically, the first public hearing for the proposed ordinance was next on the agenda.

Additionally, the News-Sun is in agreement with Councilman Steve Bastardi that users should carry the burden of cost for certain recreation facilities, especially pay-for-play parks. The burden is too much for the small group of taxpayers within the town limits.

So why waive this potential fee?

Since the fees are not already in place, organizers have no idea what their costs are going to be this upcoming year. That makes it hard to budget and impossible to determine if you want to even hold an event, especially one that is as popular as the Caladium Festival.

Yes, there could come a date where a

festival as popular as this one becomes economically unfeasible without government money. But government should not be in the promotion business, just the policy one.

Agreeing with unknown fees is not a smart decision for the rest of the world, although some governments blindly trust that hired professionals will be fair. Not smart.

Everyone agrees that to every rule there needs to be an exception, or at least some practical application. An obvious example would be speeding to get to a hospital when your passenger is bleeding to death or having a baby.

Yes, those who are on the way to medical facilities are technically breaking the law, but in some instances that can be overlooked because a life is at stake.

No one will probably die if a fee is charged to the chamber, but the argument still applies. There are just times

when a rule should not be enforced.

The council made the fair decision to forego the fees until all the data was in this year. The council also made it very clear that there could be fees next year. But only after the upcoming resolution was passed and everyone had some time to make arrangements.

No one spoke of slippery slopes or about making exceptions to everyone based on this single decision. No one threw out any of the common arguments government uses when it does not want to apply just enforcement.

Each member of the council voted their own mind, which created a tie that the mayor had to break, but each still made it clear where they stood on the overall discussion.

It was open and transparent without the behind-the-scenes discussions, and the choices were reached with public deliberation. That's good government.

The decision on the value of the Caladium Festival, Lake Placid's signature tourism event, didn't happen. Rightfully so.

But it is a discussion for next year.

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The end of the world in 2012

Laura's Look

Laura Ware

You've probably heard rumors that Dec. 21 of this year marks the end of the world. There are people out there who seriously believe this, based on the Mayan calendar and that it supposedly ends then.

There is a lot of information out there about this that a serious and thoughtful writer would spend time perusing so she could write an informative column about the phenomenon. Instead, you have me, so you will have to settle for some casual commentary with a number of snarky comments.

For one thing, even if the Mayan calendar ends on Dec. 21 (and a quick search of the Internet indicates it may not) we don't know why it did. Maybe they got tired of writing out the dates. Maybe, according to one cartoon I heard about, they simply ran out of paper.

And besides, why should we get all worked up about the Mayan's calendar? What's so special about it? Does it come with pictures of cute kittens? Does it eliminate Daylight Savings Time, which I admit would be a vast improvement over ours? What?

Some say that Dec. 21 will not bring apocalypse but some sort of spiritual enlightenment. If that's the case I hereby petition Congress to move our election date to Dec. 21, because voters will need all the enlightenment they can get this year.

But there are those who are saying that we don't have to wait until December for the end of the world to come. Oh, no. According to a former Worldwide Church of God preacher, the end is coming much sooner than that — May 27.

According to an article on www.goddiscussion.com, Ronald Weinland claims that we are now in what he called the important "half a time" that has to occur before Jesus returns on May 27.

Weinland was also quoted as saying that the United States would collapse and that there would be a nuclear war before Jesus came back. According to another article on the website, he seems to get these ideas

from the book of Revelation. He also claims that God made him a prophet back in 1997.

Weinland and his church, the Church of God — PKG (Preparing for the Kingdom of God) has been preaching this date at least since the end of 2010. In a video I saw of Mr. Weinland, he warns that those who mock God and his prophet will die from a long illness, being eaten from the inside out.

I am not the kind of person who mocks God. But I have no problem poking at those who make crazy claims such as those Mr. Weinland has made.

In fact, he may be the one who needs the warning. The test of a prophet in the Bible was simple: See if what he says comes true. If it did, then yep, he was a prophet. If it didn't, he was false and not to be feared.

While the United States isn't doing as well as I or most people would like, I do not think we're in imminent danger of collapse, at least in the next five months. When it's still standing on May 27, what will Mr. Weinland say for himself? Will he admit he is a false prophet?

I bet he doesn't. The so-called modern day "prophets" never do. They say they misunderstood something, or they were misunderstood, or try to wiggle out of it in some form or fashion. I've yet to see one of these guys admit that they were simply not who they claimed to be.

My prediction? The world will still be here on May 28, 2012. And I'm not claiming to be a prophet, just a simple columnist who thinks she knows when someone is selling a load of peanut butter. We'll see who's right in a few months.

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. To make sure the editorial pages aren't dominated by the same writers, letters are limited to two per month and a guest column can be submitted once every three months.



Some inconvenient facts for Mr. Obama



Mr. President: Do you really think you are riding high with the rate of unemployment standing at a whopping 8.5 per-

Making Sense

Michael Reagan

cent? 8.5 percent! Wow!!

Perhaps we should take a real good look at the real numbers.

The rate of unemployment was 7.8 percent when you took office, and look how much money you have spent since then trying to improve it.

Remember that before you took office our deficit was about \$400 billion. Now it's well over a trillion — \$1.5 trillion, more or less, and the national debt totals \$15 trillion.

Can you even begin to count to 15 trillion, much less deal with that number?

Moreover, as of December there were 6 million fewer jobs than there were in December 2007. You know, when the younger George Bush was president. Oh, and by the way, using the best-case scenario, Mr. Obama, you will end up 4 million short at the end of this year.

By the way, let's not forget that the Congress was controlled by your party



from January 2007 to January 2011. And they held the purse strings!

There are also 170,000 fewer people looking for jobs now, and 42,000 of the new jobs end up being temporary jobs during the Christmas season only.

Also while you are touting the unemployment numbers remember that they are national numbers and elections, even though they are national, really take place at the state level; there, Mr. President, it doesn't look so good.

Let's look at the unemployment numbers in some key states:

Florida: 10 percent
Ohio: 8.5 percent
Pennsylvania: 7.9 percent
Michigan: 9.85 percent

Do those numbers worry

you, Mr. President? They should. Let's look at some more, shall we?

In Illinois, your home state, the unemployment rate stands at 10 percent. In Nevada, it is 13 percent. And California, the Bluest of the Blue, it is at 11.3 percent. Do you really think you can't be beaten with numbers like that?

Even Ron Paul's chances of winning the White House look good against these numbers!

Republicans need to take a good look at these numbers and run against them, not against each other, and if they do they will win.

Remember, it really is the economy, stupid, and when that's faltering nothing else matters.

Oh! And let's not forget

that unemployment in the black community is at a whopping 15.8 percent — that is a full point higher than when you took office. Do you expect that black voters will ignore the damage you've done to the economy and to them?

Fat chance.

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press, 2011). He is the founder and chairman of The Reagan Group and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his website at www.reagan.com, or e-mail comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun staff.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Continued from page 2A

The HPNPED Council is hosting its first Black Tie Event and Silent Auction on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Chateau Élan Hotel Conference Center. Keynote speakers will be Darnell Smith, group vice president, and Tony Jenkins, market president, of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida. There will be food, music, entertainment and a silent auction. Tickets are \$75 a couple or \$50 a single and are nearly sold out.

An Easter Gospel Concert Competition will be held April 8 at the MLK Sports Complex in Highway Park. The winner of the competition will perform at the 2012 Black Expo South in Jacksonville and compete in the expo's gospel competition for a cash prize. Black Expo hosted the 2011 Gospel's Best competition for Northeast Florida.

LPPD offers First Aid, CPR classes

LAKE PLACID — The Lake Placid Police Department will hold its next American Heart Association First Aid class at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. The American Heart Association CPR certification class will follow at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

Call the department at 699-3757 or go to www.lppd.com for further details.

'Anne Frank' show benefits cancer drive

SEBRING — As one of this year's events for the Tanglewood Residents' Cancer Benefit, the Highlands Little Theatre has graciously provided Tanglewood with a special performance of 'The Diary of Anne Frank' at 7:30 p.m. today.

Tickets are \$20 each. Half of the proceeds from ticket

sales will go to the Cancer Benefit.

Drum Circle gathers today in Sebring

SEBRING — The Primal Connection Community Drum Circle will take place behind the Sebring Civic Center, 355 W. Center Ave., overlooking Lake Jackson, from 3-5 p.m. today.

Everybody is welcome. Bring a chair or blanket. Bring an instrument if you have one. Bring something to drink. Bring a friend - all ages.

Join the Primal Connection and make a joyous sound. No experience necessary. Play along, dance or just enjoy the music. Some percussion instruments will be available for the public to use. This is a fun event for the whole family.

For more information, contact Fred Leavitt, Primal Connection, at 402-8238, or by e-mail at fred@primalconnection.org. For more information on the Primal Connection go to the website at <http://www.primalconnection.org>.

Primal Connection is sponsored in part by the state of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

NARFE meets Tuesday

SEBRING — NARFE Chapter 288 of Highlands County will meet on Tuesday at Homer's Buffet in Sebring Square. Lunch is at 11 a.m., followed by the speaker and business meeting at noon. The guest speaker will be Dale Pflug from the Tea Party speaking on the Constitution of the United States of America and the need to return to it.

All current and retired federal employees (and

spouses) are invited to attend.

For more information, call L.R. "Corky" Dabe, president, at 382-9447.

Events planned at posts, lodges

AVON PARK
The American Legion Post 69 will have karaoke with Naomi at 4 p.m. today. For more information, call 453-4553.

LAKE PLACID
The first annual Karaoke contest (first round) sponsored by Lake Placid Moose Legion 2374 will be today. Registration is at 2 p.m. The contest begins at 3 p.m. Final round is set for Sunday, Jan. 22. Cost is \$5 entry fee (90 percent pay-back), door prizes and 50/50. Burgers and hot dogs hot off the grill. Call for time of music with Firemen. The Loyal Order of the Moose meets at 6:30 p.m. Monday, followed by the Women of the Moose and the general meeting at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 465-0131.

The Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661 BPOE board meets at 7:30 p.m. Monday. The BPOE Indoctrination is at 7 p.m. Tuesday. On Saturday, Feb. 11 will be a Sweetheart Dinner/Dance. Social hour is 5:30 p.m.; dinner 6:30 p.m. Get tickets early for \$15 each. Any questions, call 465-2661. Las Vegas Casino Night at the fabulous Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661 on Saturday, Jan. 21. Social hour 6:30 p.m.; games begin 7 p.m. Cost \$10 per person, includes \$10 in chips. Enjoy Craps, horse races, Chinese auction, Texas Hold'em, roulette, door prizes every 30 minutes, over 100 prizes! End of evening - cash your winnings into prizes. Tickets available at bar. Open to the public.

Elks give helping hand



Courtesy photo

The Sebring Elks with the help of the Bingo players donated food for three needy families during the holidays. As Exalted Ruler, Dick Holmes and Wainetta had the privilege of delivering the gifts. This is just one of many ways the Sebring Elks provide community outreach.

Obama challenges Republicans on goal they embrace

By ERICA WERNER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama is promoting his efforts to make government more efficient and to persuade companies to bring jobs back to the U.S. from overseas.

He rolled out those election-year ideas this past week and used his radio and Internet address Saturday to urge Congress and the private sector to get on board.

"Right now, we have a 21st century economy, but we've still got a government organized for the 20th century," Obama said. "Over the years, the needs of Americans have changed, but our government has not. In fact, it's gotten even more complex. And that has to change."

On government reorganization, Obama wants a guarantee from Congress that he could get a vote within 90 days on any idea to consolidate federal agencies, provided his plan saves money and cuts the government. His first order of business would be to merge six major trade and commerce agencies into one, eliminating the Commerce Department, among others.

The proposal is a challenge to congressional Republicans because it embraces the traditional GOP goal of smaller government.

"These changes will make it easier for small-business

owners to get the loans and support they need to sell their products around the world," he said.

Obama is also promising new tax incentives for businesses that bring jobs to the U.S. instead of shipping them overseas, and he wants to eliminate tax breaks for companies that outsource.

"You've heard of outsourcing. Well, this is insourcing," said Obama. "And in this make or break moment for the middle class and those working to get into the middle class, that's exactly the kind of commitment to country that we need."

Obama went so far as to bring several U.S.-made products to display in his weekly video — a padlock, a candle, some socks and a pair of boots — to demonstrate his commitment to made-in-America manufacturing.

Republicans used their weekly address to promote the Keystone XL project to carry oil from Canada to

Texas Gulf Coast refineries. Under a GOP-written provision Obama signed into law just before Christmas as part of a tax bill, the president faces a Feb. 21 deadline to decide whether the \$7 billion pipeline is in the national interest.

The GOP is pounding Obama over the issue, saying it's a question of whether he wants to create jobs and import energy from a close friend and ally, or lose jobs and see Canadian oil go to Asia instead.

"If the Keystone XL pipeline isn't built, Canadian oil will still be produced and transported," said Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D. "But instead of coming to our refineries in the United States, instead of creating jobs for our people, instead of reducing our dependence on Middle Eastern oil and keeping down the cost of fuel for American consumers — that oil will be sent to China."

Obama had sought to delay the project.

4th homeless man in month killed in South California

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Police detained a man in connection with the latest stabbing death of a homeless man in Orange County as a task force investigated if there were any links to the slayings of three other homeless men, believed to be the work of a serial killer.

The dead man was found between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday near a fast-food restaurant at the intersection of La Palma Avenue and Imperial Highway in Anaheim, police said.

Witnesses followed a man who ran from the restaurant parking lot and led police to him, Anaheim police Deputy Chief Craig Hunter told the Orange County Register. He was taken to the Anaheim

Police Department for questioning.

Police set up a massive containment area at the crime scene in a search for the killer and scoured nearby neighborhoods, including a mobile home park, the Los Angeles Times reported.

A task force of law enforcement officers from Anaheim, Placentia, Brea, Orange County Sheriff's Department and the FBI was formed to investigate the killings of three other homeless men found stabbed to death in north Orange County since mid-December.

James Patrick McGillivray, 53, was killed near a shopping center in Placentia on Dec. 20; Lloyd Middaugh, 42, was found near a riverbed trail in Anaheim on Dec. 28; and Paulus Smit, 57, was

killed outside a Yorba Linda library on Dec. 30.

Police suspect all three were victims of a serial killer. It was not known if the latest death was connected to the other killings, but the Times said the task force is investigating any possible links.

Authorities did not release any information on the man they took into custody. The Register said they declined to speculate if he was behind the earlier homeless slayings, but Hunter acknowledged that "in a very general sense" he matched the physical description of person suspected in the killings.

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FH Sebring's emergency department has just completed a two-phase total renovation which increased the number of patient rooms and improved healing environment leading to better patient care and less waiting. The new Emergency Care Center has 32 private rooms, including specially-designed areas for trauma, pediatrics, and psychiatric patients.



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The Jarrett Family Blessed Beginnings Birthing Center

The Jarrett Family Blessed Beginnings Birthing Center is the newest arrival to Florida Hospital Sebring. Families are welcomed into a soothing spa-like atmosphere. Ultramodern technology like wireless fetal monitors allow mom to move around during labor. Each private suite has comforting gel beds, in-room flat screen tvs and wi-fi connectivity that makes it feel like home. Personal birth coordinator and certified lactation consultants are there to help throughout the experience.



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For more information or to find a physician, please visit www.FHHeartland.org



Friends: Florida bomb plot suspect was radical, loner

By TAMARA LUSH and NEBI QENA

Associated Press

TAMPA — The Kosovo-born American citizen accused of plotting bomb attacks around Tampa was a loner who had grown increasingly radical in his Muslim faith and publicly railed against Jews and Christians in videos he posted on the Internet, according to relatives and friends.

Sami Osmakac's life in the U.S. began about a dozen years ago, when he was 13 and his family immigrated to the U.S., according to a video he posted on YouTube. Those who know Osmakac said he mostly kept to himself as a high schooler who loved rap music and rapped about bombs and killing in a song he made with a friend. As he grew older, they said, he grew increasingly confronta-

tional: One Tampa-area activist said Osmakac physically threatened him, and Osmakac was jailed on charges that he head-butted a Christian preacher as the two argued over religion outside a Lady Gaga concert.

Osmakac, 25, is now jailed on a federal charge of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and could face life in prison if convicted. U.S. authorities say he

planned to use a car bomb, assault rifle and other explosives in an Islamist-inspired attack on various locations around Tampa, including a sheriff's office.

His family in Florida has said the charges are untrue.

Family members told the AP that Osmakac was born in the village of Lubizde in Kosovo, a tiny hamlet of scattered houses near the Cursed Mountains, a row of snowcapped peaks that divide Kosovo from Albania. The area is home to many adherents to Sufism, a mystical Islamic order whose members often pray over the tombs of revered saints. The Osmakacs are followers of a Sufi sect that has its own shrine just outside the village. Kosovo's tiny Roman Catholic minority also resides in the area, as the village next to Lubizde, Dedaj,

is comprised entirely of Roman Catholic ethnic Albanians.

Osmakac spent his early years in a home shared among his father and two uncles, but difficult living conditions and simmering ethnic intolerance sent the family searching for prosperity elsewhere. Osmakac's family, like many who fled, brought their traditional trade of baking to what are now Croatia and Bosnia, where they have remained since Yugoslavia's break-up after a series of ethnic wars in the 1990s. Osmakac's family was in Bosnia during the bloodiest of all those wars, which left more than 100,000 dead, and eventually fled to Germany and then the U.S.

As a child, Osmakac was "a quiet and fun boy," said his aunt Time Osmankaj. She said his family regularly sent

money home to relatives trying to eke out a living as the wars left those who remained extremely poor.

Osmankaj said the family returned to Kosovo, which declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, for visits during the summer months. But in recent years they noticed a change in Sami, who now grew a beard, donned religious garments, and was frequently accompanied by two devout Muslims from Albania and two from Bosnia. He also began to shun his relatives during his trips to Kosovo.

His aunt said she learned of his last visit in October 2011 through neighbors and that she did not meet with him. Authorities in Kosovo have said he used those visits to meet with Islamic radicals there.

Idol heads to County Fair

Continued from page 1A

ample seating—no need for lawn chairs. Walker said performers might be surprised at the amount of space the center's stage provides. Broad gestures will not be out of place—as long as they wow the judges.

The judges have been selected. Individual ability to analyze performances is a key quality, but even more important is the ability to give useful feedback. In addition to being fun, and

thrilling, participants benefit from professional advice.

Vickie Jones, a News-Sun ad executive, has been a judge since the Heartland Idol began.

Shannon Reed won the 2010 Idol and is an experienced singer.

Melanie Boulay has judged the contest before. She is active at the Highlands Little Theatre where she has performed, produced and directed.

Larry Moore, also a veteran judge, teaches the performing arts.

There will also be a new judge representing the Highlands County Fair Association.

Don Elwell and David Flowers will be tag-teaming as emcees.

Walker said sponsorships are still available. Rates are lower because of the differences in format.

While the Heartland Idol will not be serving, food will be available.

For more information, or to register, go to Facebook Group Heartland Idol.

'Mentors' hope to help town's efficiency

Continued from page 1A

"In the audits we analyzed over the last three years, they found there were issues with the procurement process," Barger said.

The Mentors also explained that the council packet assembly process needed refinement in order to give decision makers and the public time to participate.

"We are trying to set the

building blocks for a more efficient government. All of you need to be in the process," Barger said. "One of the problems is communications going up and going down."

Packets to the council will still be posted four days before a meeting on the website and then distributed to council, but presenters would begin putting their packets together 14 days before a meeting.

"Thanks for getting into the process. This was something that was missing when I joined the council. This is way business should be handled," council member Mike Waldron told the mentors.

Council voted 4-0 to implement the ideas and recommended that March 1 would be the target starting date for the two proposed processes.

Plans for building discussed

Continued from page 1A

Speaking of the county's next step, Noethlich said that Sebring was waiting on the "as built plans" before work could move forward.

"Once we get and approve the plan, a temporary CO (certificate of occupancy) can be issued as the work progresses," Noethlich said.

Noethlich also stated that the fire suppression system, partially installed after the county purchased the building, still had "two or three items" that needed to be repaired before it could be inspected and passed.

In response to public concerns, the commission directed Helms to give a full accounting of the series of events surrounding the pur-

chase of the building at 4500 Kenilworth Blvd. after Gavarrete described the \$2.2 million project a "shell of a building."

The building was purchased in 2008 for \$1.2 million, but Commissioner Barbara Stewart questioned the purchase because of the needs assessment for more county space conducted by former County Administrator Carl Cool. She called the due diligence process performed by county staff as "very unprofessional."

Helms' 516-page report included items like certificates for occupancy for units 102, 103 and 104, but did not include that area currently used for county paperwork storage.

Sebring building officials

claimed that the certificates, issued in 2007, were only temporary and did not allow for permanent use for elections training or storage.

Using a building to even store paperwork without a CO is against building codes.

After Helms' report, an interlocal agreement was discovered that showed the county could rely on its own inspectors to clear the building, but the permitting had to be approved by the City of Sebring.

Additionally, paperwork showing the installation of the fire suppression system and the failed fire inspections were absent from the report.

An email addressed to Helms asking about the Kenilworth building was not replied to by press time.

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Photo courtesy of MyFWC.com

Last year, 24 panthers were killed in Florida, but 32 kittens were born.

3 Florida panthers have already died this year

After 24 deaths, 32 births documented in 2011

Special to the News-Sun
Florida panthers are off to a rough start in 2012, with three deaths documented by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Last year, 24 Florida panther deaths were recorded, but FWC biologists also observed 11 radio-collared females giving birth to 32 panther kittens. Overall, the known number of newborn panthers in 2011 appears to have offset the known number of panther deaths.

Today, an estimated 100 to 160 adults of this federally endangered species live in Florida. Panthers almost disappeared from the wild in this state when their numbers fell to fewer than 30 in the 1970s. Since then, their population has been increasing.

Collisions with vehicles continues to be the greatest source of human-caused mortality to this long-tailed cat that can weigh up to 160 pounds and grow to 6 feet or longer.

Already, in just the first week of 2012, there were two documented deaths of panthers hit by vehicles on highways in Collier County, where the greatest concentration of panthers in the state is found. The third fatality was caused by a fight with another panther. Among the 24 documented panther deaths in 2011, nine deaths, or more than a third,



Photo courtesy of MyFWC.com

A panther kitten during a medical exam.

were due to collisions with vehicles.

"Florida panther deaths are most often the result of one of two things: collisions with vehicles or aggression from other panthers," said Kipp Frohlich, head of the Imperiled Species Management Section at the FWC.

"We can't control panthers fighting when they are defending their territory; that is a part of nature. But we can do something about human-caused panther mortalities."

"People who slow down and drive carefully in rural areas, especially where panther crossings are identified, can make a difference in conservation of this endangered species. It is especially important to slow down and

keep a careful lookout at dawn or dusk, when panthers are most likely to be on the move," Frohlich said.

The FWC continues to work with many partners to conserve and increase habitat available to panthers on both public and private lands. This is a critical step to ensuring the survival of panthers, the official state animal of Florida.

People are encouraged to report sightings of an injured or dead panther by calling the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or #FWC or *FWC on a cell phone. Another option is texting Tip@MyFWC.com (standard usage fees may apply).

For more information on Florida panthers, go to www.floridapanther.net.org/.

Utah man gets lost class ring back 45 years later through Facebook

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Utah man who lost his class ring six months after he bought it is getting the keepsake back 45 years later, thanks to some Facebook detective work. Brent Aguirre said his mother was disappointed when the 1966 Bonneville High School graduate lost the ring, which is gold toned with a deep blue stone.

"It's a beautiful ring," he told KSL-TV. "I remember mom and dad forked out pretty good money for it."

He assumed the ring was at the bottom of

Pineview Reservoir, not far from the Great Salt Lake, and wrote it off when he left to fight in Vietnam.

The military service turned into an Air Force career that led him through nine different moves across the world and finally back to his hometown of Ogden. It wasn't until the fall that Aguirre received a Facebook message from a couple in nearby Sandy, saying they wanted to get in touch with him.

He brushed it off, but they contacted him again, telling him they'd found a ring with his name inscribed in cursive script.

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NEWS-SUN

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BUSINESS/MONEY

Diversify your investments

Unless you raise chickens, the literal meaning of "Don't put all your eggs in one basket" probably doesn't apply. But we all know what the phrase implies: Don't deposit all your money in one investment vehicle or you may risk losing it all. Think about employees who invested their entire 401(k) balances in company stock, then lost everything when the company folded (think Enron).

So how do you make sure your money is properly diversified? Many financial experts advise using asset allocation, a financial strategy that seeks to balance risk and return by dividing your assets among different investment classes such as stocks, bonds and money market securities.

The riskier the investment, the greater its potential for financial reward over the long haul. However, riskier investments have greater short-term loss potential – just consider how the stock market got pounded in 2008.

One challenge with asset allocation is determining your appetite for risk. Would you lose sleep investing in a fund that might potentially lose money, or are you willing to risk temporary losses for the possibility your account may grow faster?

Age also plays a role: The closer retirement looms, the less time your investments have to recover from a downturn before you need them. On



Personal Finance

Jason Alderman

the other hand, if retirement is 20 years away, you've got plenty of time to recover from market blips. Diversification within risk categories is also important. Clearly it's not prudent to invest in only a few stocks. That's why mutual funds are so popular: They pool money from many investors and buy a broad spectrum of securities. Thus, if one company in the fund goes bankrupt, the overall impact is lessened.

Many folks don't have the expertise – or time – to build a diversified investment portfolio with the proper asset mix.

That's why most 401(k) plans and brokerages like Schwab and Fidelity offer portfolios with varying risk profiles, from extremely conservative (e.g., mostly treasury bills or money market funds) to very aggressive (stock in small businesses or from emerging markets in developing countries).

Typically, each portfolio is comprised of various investments that combined reach the appropriate risk level. For example, a moderately con-

servative portfolio might contain 55 to 60 percent bonds, 35 to 40 percent stocks and 5 to 10 percent cash equivalents. Usually, the more aggressive the portfolio, the higher percentage of stocks it contains (i.e., higher risk/higher reward).

Another possibility is the so-called "targeted maturity" (or lifecycle) funds offered by many 401(k) plans and brokerages. With these, you choose the fund closest to your planned retirement date and the fund manager picks an appropriate investment mixture. As retirement approaches the fund is continually "rebalanced" to become more conservative.

Although convenient, this one-size-fits-all approach may not suit your individual needs; for example, you may want to invest more – or less – aggressively, or may not like some of the funds included. Also, check the fund's prospectus to ensure fees charged are competitive.

It's wise to consult a financial planning professional when deciding the best fund mixture for your situation.

If you don't have a financial advisor, visit www.fpaforfinancialplanning.org for help locating one.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. Sign up for his free monthly e-Newsletter at www.practical-moneyskills.com/newsletter.

Jackson new director of marketing at LP Health Care

Special to the News-Sun

LAKE PLACID – Lake Placid Health Care Center welcomes Michelle Jackson as their new marketing director. Lake Placid is Jackson's hometown. She graduated from Lake Placid High School in 1993 and is looking forward to giving back to the community that she has been a part of for so long.

"I remember coming to Lake Placid Health Care as a child singing songs and making cards for the residents for Girl Scouts. It is nice to see that after all these years the staff is still just as nice, compassionate and willing to help. The facility is beautiful and has undergone a lot of changes in appearance. Even from my first interview I knew this was a team I wanted to be a part of," Jackson said.

Jackson has been in the healthcare industry for 18 years and has experience in a variety of fields ranging from marketing, social work and medical records.

Her knowledge of skilled nursing and long term care is a perfect fit for providing excellent customer service and helping families and patients adjust to the transi-



Jackson

tion of life changes.

"I understand the concerns and even fears that are associated with entering into a care facility. That is why I am here; to help with any questions patients and families may have about Lake Placid Health Care Center, community resources, insurance and advance directives," Jackson said.

The Lake Placid Health Care Center team has welcomed Jackson and is looking forward to building community relations and continuing to provide excellent care. To arrange for an informative in-service or have questions about Lake Placid Health Care Center, call Jackson at 465-7200 or email mjackson@gchc.com. Visit their website at www.gulfcoasthealthcare.com and select Lake Placid Health Care Center for a virtual tour of the facility.

Local real estate team ranks third in nation

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING – At the State of the Company address, Dave Wilde, president of Nextage Realty International, announced that local Realtors, "The Elliott Team" Norm and Mandy Elliott of Nextage Floridian Living Realty, ranked as third in the nation for most closed residential real estate transactions the last quarter of 2011, and for the month of December, they ranked fourth in Closed sides and ninth in Gross

Commission Income.

In addition, Barbara Bonasera, ranked sixth the month of December in closed sides.

"This is a hot market and more than 50 percent of the sales are cash," Mandy Elliott said.

"We don't let the news about the economy influence us from doing our job for our customers.

"We are a large family with six children so we have laser focus; sellers want to sell and buyers want to buy

regardless of the economy" Norm Elliott said.

"Almost 400 homes sold last year within 30 days, if the home is priced well, shows well, and you have a strong agent and company behind it, the house will sell," Bonasera said.

Jeff and Terri Futch own the local real estate franchise, Nextage Floridian Living Realty.

"We are proud of our entire office, we are currently small but strong. The name says it all, we are the

'next age' in the real estate industry.

"Because of the unique Nextage business model our agents are able to work in the 'we' real estate world instead of the typical 'I' real estate world."

"When agents work toward a common objective as a team, the consumer is the winner," Terri Futch said.

Nextage Floridian Living Realty is at 2031 U.S. 27 S. in Sebring. They can be reached at 658-1737.

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BUSINESS/MONEY

Hangover from housing bust still haunts the banks

By PALLAVI GOGOI
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The economy may be healing, but banks are suffering from a housing hangover.

JPMorgan Chase spent \$3.2 billion last year to fight lawsuits, almost all of them over poorly written mortgages. That was down from \$5.7 billion in 2010, but it made clear that housing still haunts the bank, five years after the bubble burst.

The bank said Friday that it set aside \$528 million in the last three months of 2011 to fight lawsuits. It also spent \$925 million in the fourth quarter to carry out foreclosures and handle mortgage defaults.

"There's still a huge drag," CEO Jamie Dimon said. "I mean, you're talking about several billion dollars a year in mortgage alone."

The expenses took a bite out of JPMorgan's quarterly profit, which fell 23 percent from a year earlier, to \$3.7 billion, and missed Wall Street expectations. Stocks across the banking industry declined as a result.

For the full year, JPMorgan, the nation's largest bank, posted a record profit of \$19 billion, up from \$17.4 billion in 2010.

JPMorgan also took a hit because of choppy financial markets. It collected \$1.1 billion in investment banking fees, down 39 percent from the year before. Its fees for underwriting debt fell 40 percent, and 65 percent for underwriting stock.

The struggles came while the economy and the job market were showing signs of a



JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon said the housing crisis is still a 'huge drag' on banks. MCT

real recovery. JPMorgan said the household finances of its customers were stabilizing, and more people paid credit card bills on time.

The customer improvements allowed the bank to book a profit of \$730 million by reducing the reserves it had set aside for credit card defaults.

JPMorgan's profit for October through December amounted to 90 cents per share. Wall Street analysts surveyed by FactSet, a financial data provider, were expecting 93 cents.

It was the first time in four years that JPMorgan fell short of expectations. Profit fell 23 percent from \$4.8 billion, or \$1.12 per share, in the same quarter in 2010. Revenue fell 17 percent to \$22.2 billion.

JPMorgan stock fell 3.4 percent to \$35.60 in early afternoon trading.

Its competitors followed: Citigroup was down 3 percent and Bank of America 2.5 percent. Wells Fargo, which

relies less on investment banking, was down 0.3 percent.

Stock market traders take their cue from the results of large banks like JPMorgan, which has 50 million customers. The results demonstrated that it remains unclear how long the mortgage problem will be a drag on the industry.

During the housing bubble last decade, the banks gave out mortgage loans without checking for documents that proved the borrowers had jobs, or could even pay their monthly bills.

The boom in so-called sub-prime lending was one of the causes of the financial crisis that erupted in the fall of 2008.

JPMorgan and other banks are being forced to buy back many of the soured loans that they sold to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government lenders, during the boom.

In the last quarter, JPMorgan lost \$390 million from the buybacks.

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6 lines - 14 pubs
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- 9000 Transportation

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<p>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.</p> <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.</p>	<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>

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO. PC 11-545

IN RE: ESTATE OF JASON EDWARD DAYMON JR. aka MICHAEL DAVID YARROW Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JASON EDWARD DAYMON JR. aka MICHAEL DAVID YARROW, deceased, whose date of death was November 30, 2011, and whose social security number is 266-84-3304, is pending in the Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 590 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. The names and addresses of the personal representative 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 January 15, 2012.

Personal Representative:
/s/ Brooke Shook
3938 Cincinnati Street
North Port, FL 34286

Attorney for Personal Representative:
/s/ Susan T. Rhodes
Florida Bar No. 321151
The Rhodes Law Firm, LLC
370 East Interlake Blvd.
Lake Placid, FL 33852
Telephone: 863-465-2899

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 28-2008-CA-327GCS

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff,
vs.
KOSTAS VASSILAKOPOULOS, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated December 15, 2011 and entered in Case No. 28-2008-CA-327GCS 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 KOSTAS VASSILAKOPOULOS; CAROLINE VASSILAKOPOULOS; SUN 'N LAKE OF SEBRING IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT; TENANT #1 N/A/KA DEAN COLFAY N/A/KA DEAN COLFAY 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 24th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT 45, IN BLOCK 281, OF SUN 'N LAKE ESTATES OF SEBRING, UNIT 13, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, AT PAGE 71, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A 5616-5620 GRANADA 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 30, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: /s/ Annette E. Daff
Deputy Clerk

Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
P.O. Box 25018
Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
F09107180 BANKAMERICA2-FNMA--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 8, 15, 2012

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 11-380-GCS

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE NOVASTAR MORTGAGE FUNDING TRUST, SERIES 2006-5 NOVASTAR HOME EQUITY LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-5, Plaintiff,
vs.
VINCENT J. ASBURY, LAWANA BROWN AND DEVON BUTLER, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated November 1, 2011, and entered in Case No. 11-380-GCS of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE NOVASTAR MORTGAGE FUNDING TRUST, SERIES 2006-5 NOVASTAR HOME EQUITY LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-5, is Plaintiff and VINCENT J. ASBURY, LAWANA BROWN AND DEVON BUTLER, are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, Basement 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on the 1st day of February, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 8 BLOCK 7 AND THAT PART OF LOT 9 BLOCK 7 DESCRIBED AS:

BEGIN AT THE NE CORNER OF SAID LOT 9; RUN SOUTH WESTERLY ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF LOT 9 A DISTANCE OF 126.89 FEET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG THE WEST BOUNDARY OF LOT 9 A DISTANCE OF 27 FEET; THENCE IN A NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF LOT 9 TO A POINT ON THE EAST BOUNDARY OF LOT 9, 27 FEET SOUTH OF THE NE CORNER OF LOT 9; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY OF LOT AND ALONG WESTERLY ROAD RIGHT OF WAY TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING ALL IN SOUTHSIDE PARK SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO AN UNRECORDED PLAT OF SOUTHSIDE PARK SUBDIVISION BY C.E. HAWKINS DATED 02/10/1948 BEING A SUBDIVISION OF ALL THE NW QUARTER AND WEST 193.0 FEET OF THE SW QUARTER OF GOVERNMENT LOT 7 SECTION 26 LYING WEST OF THE ACL R/W AND ALL OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE GOVERNMENT LOT 8 OF SECTION 27 ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY LYING EAST OF SAL R/W OF TOWNSHIP 33 SOUTH RANGE 28 EAST IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Located: 1312 Strong Avenue, Avon Park, FL 33825

and all fixtures and personal property located therein or thereon, which are included as security in Plaintiff's mortgage.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus funds 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 at Sebring, Highlands County, Florida, this 2nd day of November, 2011.

Bob Germaine
Clerk of said Circuit Court
By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
As Deputy Clerk
January 8, 15, 2012

PUBLIC AUCTION: FEBRUARY 03, 2012 AT: 9:00 AM LOCATION: AVON TOWING: 1102 KERSEY ST. AVON PARK, FL 33825

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January 15, 2012

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 28-2009-CA-001665

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE, INC. Plaintiff,
vs.
JEFFOERY SCOTT KEITH A/K/A JEFFOERY S. KEITH A/K/A JEFFOERY KEITH, SUNTRUST BANK, 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 22nd day of February, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT 7, BLOCK 6, ORANGE BLOSSOM COUNTRY CLUB COMMUNITY, UNIT 14, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 10, PAGE 6, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A 2227 PLEASANT 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 20, 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
F09107520 WELLSLPS-SPECFHLMC--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.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 11-754 GCS SECTION NO. Civil

MIDFLORIDA CREDIT UNION F/K/A MIDFLORIDA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,
vs.
ROBERT L. TANKERSLEY; LINDA TANKERSLEY; TENANT #1; TENANT #2; and ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, AND UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN-NAMED DEFENDANTS WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, AND UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN-NAMED DEFENDANTS WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose on the following real property in Highlands County, Florida:

LOTS 6 AND 7, BLOCK M, OF SPRING LAKE - VILLAGE VI, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED AT PLAT BOOK 10, PAGE 21, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Physical Address: 2816 Duane Palmer Blvd., Sebring, FL 33870

has been filed against you in the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, Highlands County, Florida, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses to the Complaint, if any, to Gregory A. Sanoba, Esq., 422 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33801, on or before February 14, 2012, 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.

DATE: December 30, 2011

BOB GERMAINE
Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
Deputy Clerk
January 8, 15, 2012

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1050 Legals

PUBLIC AUCTION: FEBRUARY 10, 2012 AT: 9:00 AM LOCATION: AVON TOWING: 1102 KERSEY ST. AVON PARK, FL 33825

YEAR MAKE VIN #
 2002 KIA KNAFB121225135144
 2008 DODGE 1B3HB48BX8D630611
 January 15, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 11-172 GCS

ESPERER, LLC, a Virginia Limited Liability Company, Plaintiff,
 -vs-
 LILLIAN PARK, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, BERNARD WINKLER, and HERITAGE BANK OF FLORIDA, a banking association, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
 Notice is hereby given pursuant to a final decree of foreclosure entered in the above-styled cause in the Circuit Court of Highlands County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Highlands County, Florida, described as:

PARCEL 1: A parcel of Land comprising of all or part of Block A, Block 65, Lots 5 to 11 inclusive and lots 27 to 30 inclusive of Block 77, a 20 foot strip of land between Blocks 65 and 77, Beach Drive and Block B; PLAT OF UNIT ONE OR LAKE LILLIAN SECTION HIGHLANDS LAKE SUBDIVISION, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 2, at Page 77, of the Public Records of Highlands County, Florida being more particularly described as follows: COMMENCE at the Northeast Corner of said Block A for a POINT OF BEGINNING; thence South 38 degrees 39'21" East along the East Line of said Block A, same line also being the Westerly right of way line of U.S. Highway 27 for 437.91 feet; (the next 3 calls are along said Westerly right of way line of US Highway 27); thence South 34 degrees 02'59" East for 400.76 feet; thence South 57 degrees 51'58" West for 38.00 feet; thence Southeasterly along a curve concave to the Southwest, having a radius of 2993.67 feet, central angle of 6 degrees 33'45", a chord bearing of South 28 degrees 51'09" East along the arc for 342.89 feet; thence North 85 degrees 50'21" West crossing Lots 11 and 27, Block 77, Beach Drive and Block B for 470 feet, more or less, to the shoreline of Lake Lillian; thence meander said shoreline in a Northerly and Northwesterly direction for 940 feet, more or less, to the intersection of a line that bears South 5 degrees 22'34" East from Lake Lillian Drive; thence North 5 degrees 22'34" West for 72 feet, more or less, to the intersection of a curve concave to the North, said curve being the Northerly Line of said Block A; thence Easterly along said curve having a radius of 651.20 feet, central angle of 29 degrees 09'22", chord bearing North 65 degrees 55'02" East along the arc for 331.38 feet to a point of tangency; thence North 51 degrees 20'39" East for 105.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder for cash, in the Jury Assembly Room located in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse located at 590 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, in accordance with Section 45.031, Florida Statutes (2008), at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on the 7th day of February, 2012.

NOTICE: 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. SIGNED this 11th day of January, 2012.

ROBERT GERMAINE
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 Deputy Clerk
 January 15, 22, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 11-706GCS

DIVISION/JUDGE: J. David Langford
 JERRY ROCCO,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 WISSAM ELZOUR,
 Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment dated January 4, 2012, entered in Case No. 2011-706-GCS of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein JERRY ROCCO, is the Plaintiff and WISSAM ELZOUR is the Defendant, I will sell, pursuant to Chapter 45, Florida Statutes, to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Highlands County Courthouse, 590 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870, on the 30th day of January, 2012, at 11:00 am, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT 59, BLOCK 74, PLACID LAKES SECTION 7, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 8, AT PAGE 72, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA; PARCEL C-14-37-29-071-0740-0590.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on January 5, 2012.

Clerk of the Circuit Court Highlands County, Florida
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 DEPUTY CLERK

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.

January 15, 22, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 28-2009-CA-000569 GCS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, as trustee, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 LUZ M. VARGAS, et al., Defendant(s).

CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE UNDER F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 28, 2011, in the above-styled cause, the Clerk of Circuit Court shall sell the subject property at public sale on the 24th day of January, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. to the highest and best bidder for cash, at the Highlands County Courthouse, in the Basement, Jury Assembly Room, 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870 on the following described property:

Lot 15, Block 1, Harder Hall Country Club II, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 13, at Page 46, of the Public Records of Highlands County, Florida.

Property Address: 4059 Santa Barbara Drive, Sebring, Florida 33875.

Dated: December 27, 2011.

BOB GERMAINE
 Clerk of Court
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk

(Court Seal) January 8, 15, 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-000096

DIVISION: AURORA LOAN SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 HENRY BARRY, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 8, 2011, and entered in Case No. 28-2011-CA-000096 of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida in which Aurora Loan Services, LLC, is the Plaintiff and Henry Barry, Joanne M. Barry, are the defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on the Jury Assembly Room in the

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1050 Legals
 basement, Highlands County Courthouse, 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870, Highlands County, Florida at 11:00 AM on the 7th day of March, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:
 LOT 4, BLOCK 50, OF PLACID LAKES SECTION SIX, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 68, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 A/K/A 228 CUMQUAT ROAD N.E., LAKE PLACID, FL 33852
 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 in Highlands County, Florida this 15th day of December, 2011.
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 Highlands County, Florida
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 Deputy Clerk
 January 8, 15, 2012

2100 Help Wanted
 DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION For the First Presbyterian Church of Sebring Florida. Competitive salary, generous benefits. Check requirements at: fpc-sebring.org.
 EXPERIENCED DIALYSIS Nurse needed for a Nurse Management Position. Please contact Mickey at (863) 382-9443 or (863) 824-0225 or email resume to mbleblanc@americanrenal.com
 IMMEDIATE OPENING For Part Time Medical Records Employee. Willing to work 20 hrs/week. Send resume in Word Format to: kjs122420@gmail.com.

4160 Commercial Prop. For Sale
 LAKE PLACID Ground Floor Efficiency Condo unit on Lake Clay, \$50,000. Sebring 6 unit Apt. Complex w/over 100' on Dinner Lake frontage, \$200,000. Lake Placid 4 unit Apt. Building w/over 100' Lake Huntley Frontage, \$180,000. For more information call: 773-868-6666

6300 Unfurnished Houses
 PLACID LAKES - 3BR, 2BA, Newer home. Quiet area, Green Belt. Near Lake June. No smoking or pets. \$850/mo. 863-699-1119 or cell 863-840-3698.
SEBRING - 2 STORY TOWN HOME 3BR, 2.5BA, 1CG \$800/mo. No Smoking, no pets. 863-402-1142

7520 Pets & Supplies
 FEMALE KITTEN free to good home, approximately 12 weeks old, lives inside, litter box trained, great personality, black & gray tortoise, 863-865-8423.
NOTICE
 Florida statute 585.195 states that all dogs and cats sold in Florida must be at least eight weeks old, have an official health certificate and proper shots and be free of intestinal and external parasites.

8400 Recreational Vehicles
 PUMA TRAVEL TRAILER 2010 32', two slide outs, air, awning, King ISLAND bed, \$17,700 Must sell! Non smoker. Will deliver. Lake Wales, Fla. 863-660-8539
9000 Transportation
9100 Motorcycles & ATVs
 2008 - SUZUKI BURGHMAN 400 with matching trunk, 3,450 miles. Very nice bike. Call 863-453-7027

1055 Highlands County Legals
 HIGHLANDS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (HCBC) GENERAL SERVICES & PURCHASING INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
 The Board of County Commissioners (BCC), Highlands County, Sebring, Florida, will receive sealed bids in the County Purchasing Department for:
 ITB 12-023 ADVERTISING "2011" DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES - NIGP COMMODITY/ SERVICES CODE: 915-71
 ITB 12-024 ADVERTISING "2011" DELINQUENT TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES - NIGP COMMODITY / SERVICES CODE: 915-71
 Specifications may be obtained by downloading from our website: HYPERLINK "http://www.hcocc.net" www.hcocc.net or by contacting: Danielle Gilbert, Interim Purchasing Manager/Highlands County General Services/Purchasing Department 4320 George Blvd., Sebring, Florida 33875-5803 Phone: 863-402-6524 Fax: 863-402-6735; or E-Mail: HYPERLINK "mailto:dgilbert@hcocc.org" dgilbert@hcocc.org
 Bid envelopes must be sealed and marked with the bid number and name so as to identify the enclosed bid submitted. Bids must be delivered to Highlands County Purchasing Department, 4320 George Blvd., Sebring, FL 33875-5803 so as to reach said office no later than 2:00 P.M., Thursday, February 16, 2012, at which time they will be opened. Bids received later than the date and time as specified will be rejected. The Board will not be responsible for the late deliveries of bids that are incorrectly addressed, delivered in person, by mail or any other type of delivery service.
 One or more County Commissioners may be in attendance at the above bid opening.
 Highlands County Local Preference Policy will apply to the award of this ITB.
 The Highlands County Board of County Commissioners (HCBC/COUNTY) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or any parts thereof, and the award, if an award is made, will be made to the most responsive and responsible bidder whose bid and qualifications indicate that the award will be in the best interest of Highlands County. The Board reserves the right to waive irregularities in the bid.
 The Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the BCC's functions, including one's access to, participation, employment or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 286.26 Florida Statutes should contact Mrs. Melissa Bruns, ADA Coordinator at: 863-402-6509 (Voice), or via Florida Relay Service 711, or by e-mail: mbruns@hcocc.org. Requests for Computer-Assisted Realtime Technology services or interpreter services should be made at least 24 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.
 Board of County Commissioners Purchasing Department
 Highlands County, Florida
 Website: HYPERLINK "http://www.hcocc.net" www.hcocc.net
 January 8, 15, 2012

LYKES CITRUS MANAGEMENT DIVISION has an immediate opening for an **Administrative Assistant** at its Lake Placid office. Qualified applicants will have at least 5 years experience in performing Administrative duties to include providing support to the General Manager and his team., manage calendars and appointments, gather data and compile reports, prepare presentations, compose correspondence, order and track agricultural and office materials, organize meetings and correspond with vendors, send out bids and compile results. In addition this position requires excellent organizational and communication skills, experience in computer network maintenance and proficiency in use of Microsoft Excel, Word & PowerPoint software. A basic working knowledge of agricultural operations is a plus but not required.

Lykes Citrus Management Division offers competitive wages and a benefit package, which includes Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, AD&D and LTD insurance, 401(k) Savings Plan plus paid vacation and holidays. Qualified applicants should email their resume to rich.hetherington@lykes.com or apply in person at the lake Placid office located at 7 Lykes Rd, Lake Placid, Fl.

Lykes Citrus Management Division is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer/Drug Free Workplace, M/F/D/V.

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT/FLOOR TECH Royal Care of Avon Park currently has a Full Time Maintenance / Floor Tech position available. The applicant **must** have experience in electrical, plumbing, heating & cooling systems, **must** also have experience using floor buffer. Perform routine maintenance repair work. Apply in person at Royal Care of Avon Park, 1213 W Stratford Rd., Avon Park. (863) 453-6674. EOE, M/F, DFWP.

TEACHERS NEEDED - Full Time For 2 yr. old. Class at a Christian Private School. Call 863-443-2344 & Leave a Message.
TREE SERVICE IS SEEKING Exp. Tree Climber & Exp. Laborer. Call Joe at 863-465-7491

2300 Work Wanted
 SEEKING EMPLOYMENT. Mature, responsible Christian Lady looking for employment in Lake Placid. Former business owner, computer & phone savvy. Retail, bookkeeping & many job skills. Please call & leave message @ 863-659-1341

3000 Financial

4000 Real Estate

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6000 Rentals

6100 Villas & Condos For Rent
 SEBRING 2/1 Villa. Wood floors, new fans. Very Nice. W/D, Fridge, tile floors, Patio, very private, newly renovated. \$500/mo. Call 561-967-7161.

6150 Furnished Apartments
 SEBRING - Downtown on the Circle. 1BR, 1BA, & Studios. 2nd. floor walk up. No pets. Starting at \$400 mthly. Background check a must! Call 863-386-9100

6200 Unfurnished Apartments
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6300 Unfurnished Houses
 AVON PARK GUEST HOME Lake Front Estate, Private Setting. 2/1 All Appliances, Water, Garbage & Lawn Care. \$600/mo. 863-452-2299
 AVON PARK LAKES - 3BR, 2BA, 2Car garage, Fenced in back yard. \$800 per month. Call 863-453-9544 Leave message.

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CALL: TTY 800-955-8771 863-452-4432
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SEBRING CANAL Home. Great Location! 2/2, 1 car garage w/screen porch. Fenced yard. Appliances incl. \$675/mo. + security. No Smoke. 1 Year lease. Call 863-381-3990
6550 Warehouses for Rent
 SEBRING - STORAGE RENTALS 12' X 30' with 10' X 10' Doors. 602 Park Street, Sebring, FL. Call 863-385-7486

6750 Commercial Rental
 SEBRING 640 Park St. 6400 sq ft, \$1600/mo: A/C, office, BA, 8 overhead doors, 3 phase electric, fenced yard, near Sebring Parkway. Call Chip Boring 863-385-0077 or Cell 863-381-1298
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7000 Merchandise

7040 Appliances
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NEW STEARNS & FOSTER MATTRESS SETS
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USED - Sofas, bdrm. sets, misc. chairs, dining sets, hutches, bar stools, end tables & art work. Fri 10am-4pm & Sat 10am-3pm. Pieces of the Past. Downtown 313 Circle Park Dr.. Other appt. time call 863-386-9100

7300 Miscellaneous
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BERKLEY FUSION ROD & Reel (3). \$60 Call 863-273-1846
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CHEST - Diamond plate, aluminum, 48" long, good for pickup or trailer. Very Nice! \$90. 863-453-7027
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 CRAFTSMAN 10" RADIAL ARM SAW \$100. Call 863-314-9854.

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GOLD FRAMED MIRROR 28" x 40". \$45 obo. 863-699-1119
 MINIATURE HORSE Gelding \$45 obo. 863-699-1119
 OAK - Drop leaf table (40" oval), 4 chairs w/ padded seat, excel. cond. \$95. 863-465-5866 / 231-590-6535

PILLOW TOP TWIN SIZE BED w/mattress cover, like new. Very firm. \$50 863-458-2047
 PRODIGY- BRAKE Controller. This i in good condition. \$45. 863-453-7027
 SHAKESPEARE UGLY STICK Rod & Reels, New 4 for \$100 Call 863-273-1846

SHARP ENTERTAINMENT CENTER \$40 Call 863-453-3104
 SPORT COAT - size 40 short. \$10 863-699-0352
 WASHER & DRYER Kenmore set. Heavy Duty. Large capacity. Runs great. \$100 Call 863-458-2047
 WINTER COAT LADIES, off white, small petite, worn once. New \$90. Now \$30. Must sell! 863-446-0972

7320 Garage & Yard Sales
 SEBRING - 1327 Sudan Mission Rd.(off Sparta Rd) Fri & Sat, Jan 13 & 14, 7am -1pm. DVD Collection being sold, man's clothing (50-54), woman's clothing, household items. Too Much To List!
 SEBRING SAT. 8 - ?. 107 Tortoise Rd. TV's, Furn., toys, kids clothes & misc.

7380 Machinery & Tools
 POWER WASHER DeWalt Commercial DP 3750, 2 different power settings, 4 wheel trailer and manual included. Perfect condition, used very little, \$1,000. Call 863-453-0921.

8000 Recreation
8050 Boats & Motors
 INFLATABLE BOAT - 9 ft. / Oars / Foot pump / Electric pump /Trolling motor / Battery / Trailer / Cover. \$450 863-382-6741

Contact Us...

By Phone (863) 385-6155


By Mail 2227 US Hwy 27S Sebring, FL 33870


By E-Mail www.newssun.com/contact/


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 or visit us on our website at: www.mysebring.com
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Interested parties should stop in our Sebring office and complete an application or call 385-6155 ext. 522.

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Five-Day forecast for Highlands County

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly sunny and nice	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Partly sunny and pleasant	Times of clouds and sun	Some sun with a shower possible
67° / 43°	73° / 53°	78° / 56°	76° / 59°	76° / 53°
Winds: N at 7-14 mph	Winds: E at 7-14 mph	Winds: SSE at 8-12 mph	Winds: SW at 4-8 mph	Winds: N at 6-12 mph



Almanac

Temperature
 Readings at Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid
 High Tuesday 80°
 Low Tuesday 53°
 High Wednesday 76°
 Low Wednesday 46°
 High Thursday 82°
 Low Thursday 49°

Heat Index
 For 3 p.m. today
 Relative humidity 25%
 Expected air temperature 67°
 Makes it feel like 66°

Barometer
 Tuesday 29.90
 Wednesday 29.97
 Thursday 30.11

Precipitation
 Tuesday 0.00"
 Wednesday 0.00"
 Thursday 0.00"
 Month to date 0.00"
 Year to date 0.00"

Tides

Readings at St. Petersburg
 High 8:06 a.m.
 Low 12:16 a.m.
 High 6:20 p.m.
 Low 11:53 a.m.

Readings at Palm Beach
 High 12:46 a.m.
 Low 6:33 a.m.
 High 1:00 p.m.
 Low 7:06 p.m.

Lake Levels

Readings as of 7 a.m. yesterday
 Lake Jackson 78.36'
 Lake Okechobee 13.52'
 Normal 14.51'

UV Index Today

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

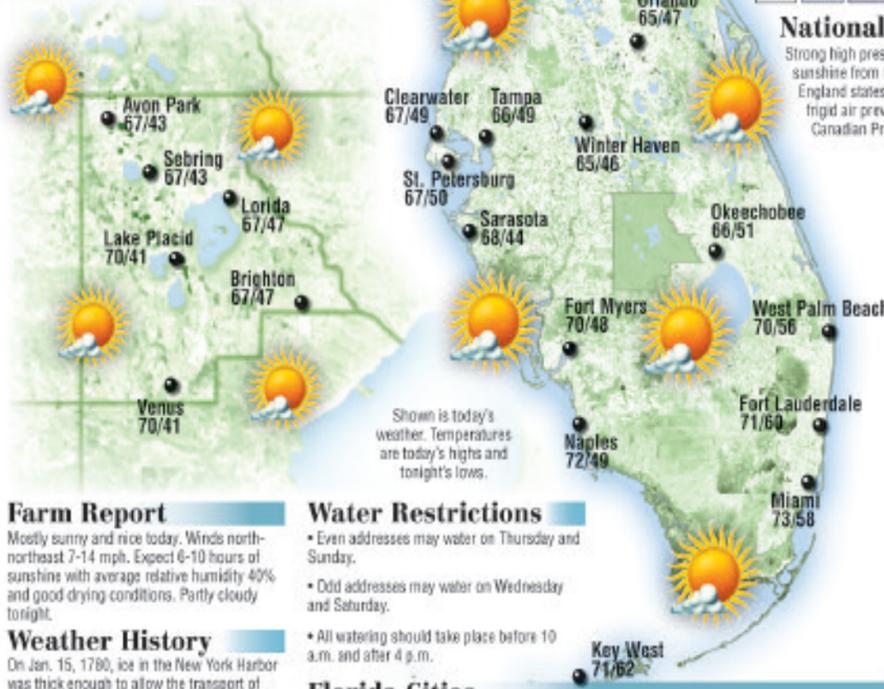


10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m.
 0-2 Low; 3-5 Moderate; 6-7 High; 8-10 Very High; 11+ Extreme
 Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2012

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Regional Summary

Mostly sunny and nice today. Partly cloudy tonight. Mostly sunny and pleasant tomorrow. Tuesday: partly sunny and pleasant. Wednesday: times of clouds and sun. Thursday: times of clouds and sun with a shower possible.



Farm Report

Mostly sunny and nice today. Winds north-northeast 7-14 mph. Expect 6-10 hours of sunshine with average relative humidity 40% and good drying conditions. Partly cloudy tonight.

Weather History

On Jan. 15, 1780, ice in the New York Harbor was thick enough to allow the transport of heavy cannons. While river ice can stop boat traffic, it may create possibilities.

Sun and Moon

	Today	Monday
Sunrise	7:15 a.m.	7:15 a.m.
Sunset	5:56 p.m.	5:56 p.m.
Moonrise	none	12:33 a.m.
Moonset	11:18 a.m.	12:01 p.m.



Water Restrictions

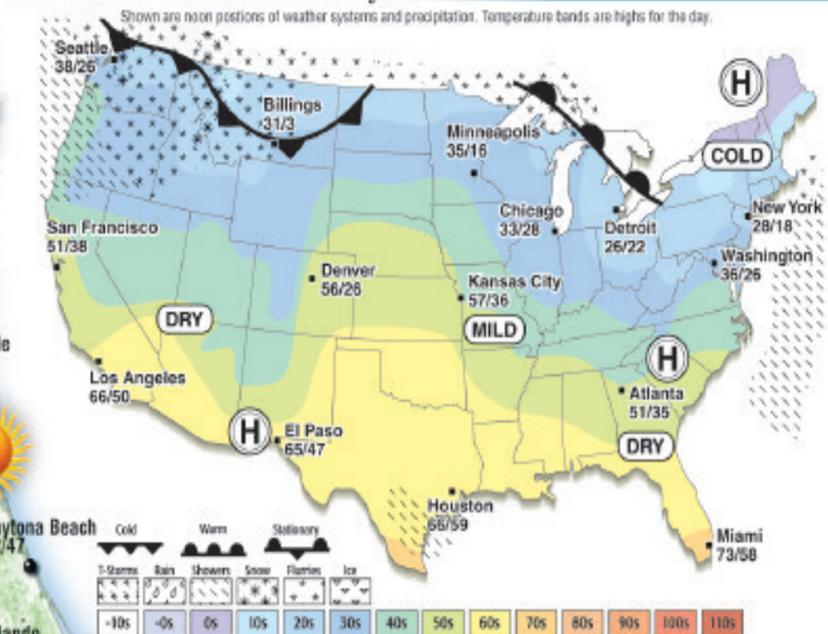
- Even addresses may water on Thursday and Sunday.
- Odd addresses may water on Wednesday and Saturday.
- All watering should take place before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m.

Florida Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Cape Coral	70/46	75/53	80/57
Clewiston	67/49	74/57	77/60
Clearwater	70/59	73/63	77/82
Daytona Beach	62/47	70/55	75/58
Fl. Land. Bch.	71/60	74/67	77/86
Fort Myers	70/48	77/55	79/58
Gainesville	62/38	71/46	74/54
Hollywood	70/57	74/63	78/82
Homestead AFB	72/55	72/63	76/81
Jacksonville	60/37	67/45	72/54
Key West	71/62	73/65	78/88

Weather (W): s-sunny, ps-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sl-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

National Forecast for January 15



National Summary

Strong high pressure will build into the eastern half of the U.S. today, providing tranquil weather and plenty of sunshine from Maine to Florida. A cold day is in store for the Northeast as a northerly breeze flows into the New England states. In the Plains and Midwest, southwesterly flow will pump mild air into the region, vanquishing the frigid air previously in place. A storm system in the northern Plains will produce a few snow showers across the Canadian Prairies and northern Rockies.

U.S. Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.	City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Albuquerque	54/34	53/28	48/26	Los Angeles	68/50	69/46	58/45
Atlanta	51/26	55/45	63/37	Louisville	40/32	48/47	51/25
Baltimore	35/21	43/33	50/38	Memphis	54/44	60/57	69/28
Birmingham	59/37	58/50	68/33	Minneapolis	34/28	38/21	28/0
Boston	23/17	34/28	44/30	Nashville	40/33	53/51	57/27
Charlotte	50/25	52/37	61/40	New Orleans	68/53	72/61	72/49
Cheyanne	51/29	53/12	51/18	New York City	28/19	38/35	49/36
Chicago	33/28	39/32	30/8	Norfolk	40/25	48/35	66/43
Cleveland	26/22	45/36	42/20	Oklahoma City	62/45	68/29	43/23
Columbus	30/24	42/39	42/23	Philadelphia	30/19	39/34	56/44
Dallas	67/53	73/43	53/28	Phoenix	68/44	68/44	65/42
Denver	56/28	56/13	39/15	Pittsburgh	26/19	43/37	48/20
Detroit	26/22	39/31	37/18	Portland, ME	19/4	27/24	39/28
Harrisburg	31/18	39/32	47/32	Portland, OR	41/29	40/34	43/38
Honolulu	79/63	80/63	79/63	Raleigh	48/24	52/41	64/40
Houston	68/53	74/63	72/41	Rochester	21/17	38/35	44/20
Indianapolis	38/28	46/35	49/17	St. Louis	46/38	59/30	36/14
Jackson, MS	63/47	67/57	71/34	San Francisco	51/38	52/37	53/30
Kansas City	57/36	49/17	29/14	Seattle	38/26	37/31	35/30
Lexington	39/29	42/41	48/23	Wash., DC	38/29	43/39	53/26
Little Rock	61/44	67/53	59/28				

World Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.	City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Acapulco	90/76	89/75	88/74	London	41/30	41/30	48/43
Athens	48/34	46/33	46/11	Montreal	0/-11	14/14	30/28
Bahia	80/53	80/53	80/53	Moscow	24/19	22/14	20/11
Berlin	34/27	36/20	37/22	Mexico	65/40	68/43	65/40
Bermuda	65/50	58/58	61/60	Ottawa	13/5	29/26	37/38
Calgary	11/-12	-7/-12	-9/-15	Quebec	0/-13	9/8	29/25
Dublin	43/36	45/41	50/48	Rio de Janeiro	88/76	99/73	89/73
Edmonton	2/-14	-9/-21	-16/-24	Seoul	30/19	39/33	39/23
Freeport	71/58	70/62	74/68	Singapore	88/77	90/77	88/77
Geneva	40/25	43/25	43/27	Sydney	75/64	79/64	81/66
Havana	76/59	76/60	83/88	Toronto	21/9	38/31	38/12
Hong Kong	66/59	63/59	66/61	Vancouver	35/28	38/30	43/32
Jakarta	90/40	90/38	90/40	Yankee	33/23	32/25	36/30
Johnsburg	78/53	81/55	78/53	Warsaw	30/21	31/23	37/16
Kier	30/24	28/23	26/19	Winnipeg	24/-1	4/-1	-9/-15

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News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
Brittany Collison added her 30th and 31st goals of the season in the Lady Dragons' 6-0 win over Ft. Meade Friday.

Lake Placid buries Lady Miners

By DAN HOEHNE
daniel.hoehne@newsun.com

LAKE PLACID – Senior night is meant for hopefully, fond memories as another outgoing class of student-athletes take their home field for one final time.

Such memories were made Friday night as the Lady Dragons stormed past Fort Meade by a 6-0 score.

Senior Brittany Collison added to her impressive goal total of the season, pushing it to 31 for a near-

ly two-goal-per-game average for the now 14-1-2 Dragons.

Collison also picked up an assist for a fellow senior when her cross from the right zipped past a mass of Miner defenders and found the foot of Kayla DiDominico, who redirected it to the back of the net.

Sophomore Jenna Blount somewhat crashed the senior celebration with two goals of her own, but

See LP, Page 4B

Sebring Senior Night success

By LAUREN WELBORN
News-Sun correspondent

Nothing makes a win sweeter than when it is accomplished on the prestigious and long-awaited Senior Night.

For Blues Streaks Josh Bowyer, Marcelo Gori, Francisco Hidalgo, Jordan Poulos, Donavon White and Adam Younes, topping Lake Placid Thursday night 2-1 would make a bittersweet memory for their last game played on Fireman's Field.

Things would start off in Lake Placid's favor, scoring the first and only goal of the opening half.

As play resumed, however, control of the ball shifted as Hidalgo, determined to go out with a bang, scored the first goal

for Sebring.

Not long after, Lake Placid had a penalty kick opportunity that fell short and was blocked by goalkeeper Ethan Smith.

Joseph also saw himself soon toe-to-toe with the Lake Placid keeper as he attempted a penalty.

Although his shot was deflected, Joseph quickly recovered and was able to score the goal to put Sebring in the lead.

The Streaks were at Hardee Saturday afternoon and finish out the regular season at Frostproof Friday.

The Green Dragons also end their regular season Friday, hosting Moore Haven at Roger Scarborough Memorial Stadium.



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
Green Dragon Vicente Barajas shows his foot control Thursday against Sebring.

Lady Streaks cap off season

By LAUREN WELBORN
News-Sun correspondent

SEBRING – The Sebring Lady Streaks said their sad good-byes to senior starters Brittany Birdsall, Jennifer Cochran, Jayme Faircloth, Mekenzie Hargaden, Justus Martin and Meghan Williams on Fireman's Field Friday night as they hosted Frostproof in a non-district soccer game.

Although things started off early for Sebring, with

Faircloth putting early pressure on the Bulldog goalie after just four minutes of play, it was Sebring's defense, lead by Williams' total of six saves for the night, that would hold down the fort for the first half.

Despite Sebring's stellar defense, the Frostproof forwards had come with determination and put the first ball in the net after a free kick in the

See SEBRING, Page 4B



News-Sun photo by LAUREN WELBORN
Meghan Williams goes airborne to make one of many saves Friday night against Frostproof.

Blue Devils too much for Streaks

By DAN HOEHNE

daniel.hoehne@newsun.com
 SEBRING – It was one week ago that Sebring found itself in a similar position with the Blue Devils of Winter Haven.

"We told them in the locker room at halftime, we're in the same place we were last week," head coach Princeton Harris said. "It was 35-30 at the half last game, 25-20 this game."

What the Streaks hoped to avoid, however, was the second-half meltdown that saw them get outscored 41-13.

And while they did put up a much better fight, it wasn't quite enough in Friday's 61-45 loss to the district-leading Devils.

Central Florida signee DeVon Walker started the nights' scoring with a put-back, but Jared Cannon and Josh Austin both scored and Matt Taylor split a pair at the line for a 5-2 Sebring lead.

Winter Haven tied it on a Kendrick Holland three-point play and, after Taylor made one-of-two from the charity strip, the Devils struggled at the line, making just one-of-six to keep things even.

Decaris Jones then made a spinning lay-up, but Winter Haven scored twice to take the lead.

Jones got the lead back with a trey and Michael Weston bulled inside for a score to push the lead to 13-

10.

The Devils got a long two to close the gap, but on an in-bounds play with 2.6 seconds left, Jonathan Tookes got off a three-pointer that found nothing but the bottom of the net as the buzzer sounded for a 16-12 lead after one.

But the Streaks offense would go cold in the second quarter, not getting their first basket until the 3:05 mark with a Jones jumper.

Prior to that, Winter Haven got a free throw each from

Holland and Walker, with a Demetrick Jordan three-point play and a Chance McSpadden drive to regain the lead at 19-16.

After Jones J cut it to one, Jordan got inside again and Holland hit a short jumper in the lane.

Taylor scored inside but so did Darius James to make for the 25-20 Blue Devil lead at the half.

The Streaks would cut it down to two, at 27-25 on another Jones three, but this was where Winter Haven started to pull away, scoring 13 straight points to push it to 40-25.

Two straight scores, however, cut into the lead before the end of the period as Jones connected again from downtown and put back an offensive rebound to make it 40-30 heading into the fourth.

See HOOPS, Page 4B



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
Matt Taylor tries to convert a reverse Friday night in Sebring's loss to visiting Winter Haven.

Sebring Seniors off and swinging

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING – The Sebring Senior Seventy Softball League began the winter season Tuesday, Jan. 10, at the Highlands County Sports Complex.

Six teams comprise the league and there was plenty of bat contact the first day.

Highlands Ridge ran over Buttonwood Bay, 27-7, with Bobby Fox going 3-for-4 including a home run.

Harry Bell was 4-for-4 with a triple while Glenn Wearsh and Dick Ostreck each had 4-for-4 including a double.

Buttonwood Bay's "Moose" Tom Morrisette and Bob Myers were each 3-for-3.

Royal Palms had a 22-12 win over Allstate Insurance.

Palms' Bob MacCarrick was 2-for-5 including a triple, Don Cunningham went 4-for-4 and Shaun Kildorff was 3-for-4.

Allstate's Ross (Stiver) Mimm had 5-for-5 and Rudy Pribble, Gene Hanford and Billy Todd each reached 3-for-5.

To start the season, the Silent Salesman and Millers Heating and Air Conditioning played a good, low-scoring game with the Salesman coming out on top 12-4.

Fred Moore started the season off with a bang collecting three hits, including a home run.

Helping the team effort with a double and triple each were Kyle Saunders and Bob Roth.

Jerry Murphy had a good game going 3-for-3.

Gary Vanthournout led off the first inning with a triple and Richard Godfrey contributed a double.

Millers Heating and Air's Doug Hammond, Dave Crotser and Jim Quartier each had a double with three times at bat.

On Thursday, Royal Palm had a 24-15 victory over Highlands Merchants, with Cal Bready's 4-for-4 included a triple.

Don Cunningham was 4-for-4 and Moe Pier had 4-for-5 with a double.

Highlands Ridge had a real 3-for-5 hayday for Harry Bell, Marvin Knutilla, Glenn Wearsh, Ross Anderson and Bobby Fulcher.

Thursday the Rebels and Silent Salesman had a real shootout, combing for 44 runs.

The lead changed sides several times until the Rebels slacked off in the last four innings.

The Salesman prevailed in the end 25-19.

Fred Moore was perfect at the plate going 5-for-5.

Bob Roth connected for four hits including a double. Banging out three hits each were Gary Vanthournout, Ken Filppula and Lloyd

Noaker.

Kyle Saunders tripled and Jerry Murphy rapped out a double.

Buttonwood Bay had Charlie Murowski hitting 4-for-5.

Jack Grosso and John Detnen each were 4-for-4. Diz Jones and Rollie Carlson each had 3-for-4.

Millers Heating and Air had a 10-8 win over Allstate Insurance with Doug Hammond going 3-4 with a double.

Victor Rodriguez and Ray Concepcion each were 3-for-3.

Everyone is invited to come and watch the games every Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m.

Bleachers are furnished at the Highlands County Sports Complex just behind the train station in Sebring.

THE SCOREBOARD



LIVE SPORTS ON TV

National Football League

WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS
Saturday, Jan. 7
 Houston 31, Cincinnati 10
 New Orleans 45, Detroit 28
Sunday, Jan. 8
 New York Giants 24, Atlanta 2
 Denver 29, Pittsburgh 23, OT

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS
Saturday, Jan. 14
 New Orleans at San Francisco, late
 Denver at New England, late
Sunday, Jan. 15
 Houston at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
 N.Y. Giants at Green Bay, 4:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sunday, Jan. 22
 TBD

PRO BOWL
Sunday, Jan. 29
 At Honolulu

NFC vs. AFC

SUPER BOWL
Sunday, Feb. 5
 At Indianapolis

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
N.Y. Rangers	27	10	4	58	118	86
Philadelphia	26	12	4	56	142	124
New Jersey	24	17	2	50	119	124
Pittsburgh	22	17	4	48	128	113
N.Y. Islanders	15	20	6	36	98	129

Northeast Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	28	11	1	57	148	77
Ottawa	24	15	6	54	143	144
Toronto	22	16	5	49	137	134
Buffalo	19	19	5	43	110	125
Montreal	16	20	7	39	110	119

Southeast Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Florida	21	14	8	50	110	120
Washington	23	17	2	48	123	123
Winnipeg	20	18	5	45	112	126
Tampa Bay	17	22	4	38	118	150
Carolina	15	23	7	37	118	150

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Chicago	26	13	5	57	144	127
St. Louis	25	12	6	56	112	92
Detroit	27	15	1	55	138	101
Nashville	24	15	4	52	118	117
Columbus	12	26	5	29	105	145

Northwest Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vancouver	28	14	3	59	147	110
Minnesota	22	16	6	50	103	110
Colorado	23	20	2	48	117	127
Calgary	21	19	5	47	110	127
Edmonton	16	23	4	36	112	126

Pacific Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
San Jose	24	11	5	53	118	94
Los Angeles	21	15	8	50	97	100
Dallas	24	17	1	49	119	123
Phoenix	20	18	7	47	114	118
Anaheim	14	22	7	35	109	136

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

Thursday's Games

Detroit 3, Phoenix 2, SO
 Dallas 5, Los Angeles 4, SO
 Boston 2, Montreal 1
 Philadelphia 3, N.Y. Islanders 2
 Ottawa 3, N.Y. Rangers 0
 Carolina 5, Tampa Bay 2
 Vancouver 3, St. Louis 2, OT
 Nashville 3, Colorado 2, OT
 San Jose 2, Winnipeg 0
 Chicago 5, Minnesota 2
 Calgary 1, Anaheim 0, OT

Friday's Games

Washington 4, Tampa Bay 3
 Columbus 4, Phoenix 3
 Buffalo 3, Toronto 2
 Pittsburgh 4, Florida 1
 Anaheim 5, Edmonton 0

Saturday's Games

Chicago at Detroit, late
 Colorado at Dallas, late
 New Jersey at Winnipeg, late
 N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, late
 Ottawa at Montreal, late
 Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders, late
 Boston at Carolina, late
 San Jose at Columbus, late
 Minnesota at St. Louis, late
 Philadelphia at Nashville, late
 Los Angeles at Calgary, late

Sunday's Games

Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Carolina at Washington, 5 p.m.
 N.Y. Rangers at Montreal, 7 p.m.
 San Jose at Chicago, 7 p.m.
 Los Angeles at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
 Anaheim at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Player	Team	G	A	PTS
H. Sedin	VAN	11	41	52
Stamkos	TB	30	19	49
D. Sedin	VAN	19	30	49
Giroux	PHI	18	31	49
Kessel	TOR	24	24	48
Lupul	TOR	19	28	47
Malkin	PIT	18	28	46
Spezza	OTT	18	28	46
Hossa	CHI	17	29	46
Pominville	BUF	15	29	44
Datsyuk	DET	13	31	44

4 tied with 43 pts.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	8	3	.727	—
New York	6	5	.545	2
Boston	4	6	.400	3½
Toronto	4	8	.333	4½
New Jersey	3	9	.250	5½

Southeast Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Orlando	8	3	.727	—
Atlanta	8	4	.667	½
Miami	8	4	.667	½
Charlotte	2	10	.167	6½
Washington	1	10	.091	7

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	11	2	.846	—
Indiana	8	3	.727	2
Cleveland	5	6	.455	5
Milwaukee	4	7	.364	6
Detroit	3	9	.250	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
San Antonio	8	4	.667	—
Dallas	7	5	.583	1
Memphis	4	6	.400	3
Houston	4	7	.364	3½
New Orleans	3	8	.273	4½

BOWLING SUNDAY

1 p.m. PBA – World Championship Finals. . . . ESPN

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SUNDAY

4 p.m. Georgia Tech at Maryland. 44
 4:30 p.m. Indiana at Ohio State CBS

MONDAY

3:30 p.m. Louisville at Marquette. ESPN
 5:30 p.m. Texas A&M at Missouri ESPN
 7:30 p.m. Pittsburgh at Syracuse ESPN
 9:30 p.m. Baylor at Kansas ESPN

TUESDAY

7 p.m. Michigan State at Michigan ESPN
 7 p.m. Georgetown at DePaul ESPN2
 9 p.m. Arkansas at Kentucky. ESPN

GOLF SUNDAY

9 a.m. EuroPGA – Joburg Open. GOLF
 2:30 p.m. PGA Tour Q School. NBC
 7 p.m. PGA – Sony Open in Hawaii. GOLF

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SUNDAY

4 p.m. Brewster Academy (NH) vs. Tilton (NH). ESPN

NBA SUNDAY

9 p.m. Phoenix at San Antonio ESPN

MONDAY

1 p.m. Chicago at Memphis. ESPN
 1 p.m. Orlando at N.Y. Knicks SUN
 8 p.m. Oklahoma City at Boston TNT
 10:30 p.m. Dallas at L.A. Lakers TNT

NFL SUNDAY

1 p.m. Houston at Baltimore CBS
 4:30 p.m. N.Y. Giants at Green Bay FOX

NHL SUNDAY

1 p.m. Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay SUN
TUESDAY
 7:30 p.m. Boston at Tampa Bay SUN

TENNIS SUNDAY

6:30 p.m. Australian Open ESPN2

MONDAY

9 p.m. Australian Open ESPN2

TUESDAY

Noon Australian Open ESPN2
 9 p.m. Australian Open ESPN2

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL SUNDAY

2 p.m. Vanderbilt at Tennessee 38
 2 p.m. Temple at Dayton ESPN2
 4 p.m. Ohio State at Michigan State ESPN2
 9:30 p.m. Baylor at Texas SUN

MONDAY

6:30 p.m. North Carolina State at Wake Forest SUN
 7 p.m. North Carolina at Connecticut ESPN2
 8:30 p.m. Virginia at Maryland SUN

Times, games, channels all subject to change

Northwest Division				LEAGUE LEADERS				
W	L	Pct	GB	Scoring				
Oklahoma City	10	2	.833	Bryant, LAL	149	94	406	31.2
Denver	8	4	.667	James, MIA	119	84	325	29.5
Portland	7	4	.636	Durant, OKC	108	71	308	25.7
Utah	6	4	.600	Anthony, NYK	94	74	280	25.5
Minnesota	4	7	.364	Ellis, GOL	82	45	221	24.6
Pacific Division				Rebounds				
W	L	Pct	GB	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	
L.A. Lakers	9	4	.692	Howard, ORL	44	123	167	15.2
L.A. Clippers	5	3	.625	Love, MIN	55	107	162	14.7
Phoenix	4	7	.364	Varejao, CLE	53	70	123	11.2
Sacramento	4	8	.333	Gasol, MEM	21	88	109	10.9
Golden State	3	7	.300	Griffin, LAC	28	58	86	10.8
Thursday's Games				Assists				
W	L	Pct	GB	Rondo, BOS	AST	AVG		
Atlanta 111, Charlotte 81				Nash, PHX	101	10.1		
Memphis 94, New York 83				Lowry, HOU	84	9.3		
Milwaukee 102, Detroit 93				Calderon, TOR	108	9.0		
Cleveland 101, Phoenix 90				Paul, LAC	70	8.8		

Friday's Games

Detroit 98, Charlotte 81
 Indiana 95, Toronto 90
 Philadelphia 120, Washington 89
 Houston 103, Sacramento 89
 Minnesota 87, New Orleans 80

Saturday's Games

Chicago 88, Boston 79
 Dallas 102, Milwaukee 76
 San Antonio 99, Portland 83
 New Jersey 110, Phoenix 103
 L.A. Lakers 97, Cleveland 92
 Denver 117, Miami 104

Sunday's Games

Minnesota at Atlanta, late
 Golden State at Charlotte, late
 Boston at Indiana, late
 Philadelphia at Washington, late
 Toronto at Chicago, late
 Portland at Houston, late
 New York at Oklahoma City, late
 New Orleans at Memphis, late
 New Jersey at Utah, late
 Sacramento at Dallas, late
 L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, late

BASEBALL American League

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with OF Ryan Sweeney on a one-year contract.
 CLEVELAND INDIANS—Named Adam Everett special assistant to baseball operations. Agreed to terms with INF Chin-lung Hu, INF Argenis Reyes and RHP Willy Lebron on minor league contracts.

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES—Agreed to terms with INF Jack Wilson and OF Martin Prado on one-year contracts.
 CHICAGO CUBS—Agreed to terms with RHP Kerry Wood on one-year contract.
 NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with INF Ronny Cedeno on a one-year contract.
 PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Agreed to terms with RHP Kyle Kendrick on one-year contract.



Avon Park

MONDAY: Boys Basketball vs. Lake Placid, 6/7:30 p.m.; Girls Soccer at District Tournament, Frostproof, TBD, 6 p.m.
TUESDAY: Girls Basketball at Lake Placid, 6/7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY: Boys Basketball at DeSoto, 6/7:30 p.m.; Girls Basketball vs. DeSoto, 6/7:30 p.m.



Lake Placid

MONDAY: Boys Basketball at Lake Placid, 6/7:30 p.m.; Girls Basketball vs. LaBelle, 6/7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY: Girls Soccer at District Tournament, Frostproof, TBD, 6 p.m.
FRIDAY: Boys Basketball vs. Mulberry, 6/7:30 p.m.; Girls Basketball at Mulberry, 6/7:30 p.m.



Sebring

TUESDAY: Girls Soccer hosts District Tournament, vs. McKeel, 8 p.m.
THURSDAY: Girls Soccer hosts District Tournament, vs. Auburndale, if necessary, 8 p.m.; Wrestling at Avon Park, 7 p.m.
FRIDAY: Boys Soccer at Frostproof, 6/7:30 p.m.; Girls Soccer hosts District Tournament, title game, 7 p.m.

SPORTS SNAPSHOTS

LP Spring Ball Sign-ups

LAKE PLACID – Lake Placid Youth Baseball is accepting registrations for T-Ball, Baseball and Softball for children ages 5-10.

The deadline for registration is Thursday, Jan. 19.

Please contact Sheri Griffin with any T-ball or baseball questions at 441-1955 and Todd Moore with any softball questions at 214-5894.

AP softball registration

AVON PARK — Avon Park Girls Softball will be holding registration for girls, ages 4-15, on Saturdays, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the girls' field on Anoka Street.

Need to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate.

Any questions, please call Kim Bennett at 443-1043.

Barajas Foundation 5K

LAKE PLACID – The inaugural Alex Barajas Foundation 5K Run/Walk will take off on Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Lake Placid Christian School at 148 E. Interlake Blvd.

The Alex Barajas Foundation was established by family and friends to honor the way the former Dragon lived his life.

He faced cancer twice during his young life, doing so with strength that inspired all those around him.

Through the adversity, his faith and determination shone through.

The Foundation is dedicated to supporting education so that others can achieve their dreams through a college education.

It is also dedicated to the research to finding a cure for brain tumors.

For more information, call the Lake Placid Chamber at 465-4331.

Sebring Senior Softball

SEBRING - A senior 70-and-over softball league began Tuesday, Jan. 10.

Interested players must have been born in 1943 or before.

It will be a drafted league.

Games will be played at the Highlands County Sports Complex on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 10 a.m.

All interested softball players should contact Harry Bell at 382-0542 or see him at the Sports Complex on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

SFCC Volleyball Camp

AVON PARK – The Lady Panther Volleyball program will be holding a four-day camp on Tuesday's and Thursday's Jan. 24, 26, 31 and Feb. 2 at the Panther Gym for players grades 5-8.

Cost is \$60 and the camp runs each evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

For more information, contact SFCC Volleyball head coach Kim Crawford at 784-7037 or Kimberly.Crawford@south-florida.edu.

SFCC Alumni Game

AVON PARK – South Florida Panther baseball will celebrate its' past with an Alumni Game Weekend on Saturday, Jan. 21 at Panther Field.

The game will feature former Panther players squaring off with the 2012 SFCC squad at 1 p.m.

After the game, the teams will host a BBQ dinner at 5 p.m. in the Panther Gym.

All former players, coaches and families are invited.

Hammock Half Marathon

SEBRING – The 4th Annual Highlands Hammock Half Marathon and 5K Run/Walk are set for Hammock State Park at 8 a.m on Saturday, Jan. 28.

The half marathon (13.1 miles) will feature overall male and female awards, age group awards in 5-year age divisions, deluxe tee-shirts and plenty of refreshments.

There is also a team competition in the half marathon with runners forming teams of two, three or four individuals to cover the 13.1-mile distance.

The 5K Run/Walk will feature custom medals to all participants.

Entry fee for the half marathon is \$35 through January 20 and \$45 after January 21 and on race day.

Only pre-registered are guaranteed shirt size, so sign up early.

Entry fee for the 5K is \$17 prior to January 20 and \$22 after.

You may receive an email application form by contacting Chet Brojek at cbrojek@comcast.net or 385-4736.

Mail entries to Highlands Hammock Half, C/O Chet Brojek, 3310 Par Road, Sebring, FL 33872.

Checks made payable to Central Florida Striders.

Proceeds of the race benefit Highlands Hammock State Park.

Packers, Giants get boost from history

By BARRY WILNER

Associated Press

Athletes and coaches don't live in the past.

They do get enlightened and, sometimes, uplifted from it.

The Green Bay Packers and New York Giants have good memories from recent postseasons.

Green Bay went from sixth-seeded NFC wild card to Super Bowl champion a year ago.

New York used a similar route to win the 2007 NFL championship — winning at Lambeau Field on the way.

They meet Sunday in the final game of the divisional round.

In going 15-1, including winning all eight home games, the Packers established themselves as the cream of the NFL this season.

They have gotten healthy during their bye. They beat the Giants 38-35 in the Meadowlands on Dec. 4.

Most significantly, they discovered how to win in last year's surge to the title.

"I think we learned a lot last year being a six seed and having to go on the road," star quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "You take on a different attitude as a team as the road team going into a hostile environment. I think that prepares us for the mindset that the opposing team is going to have. It is a different feeling, and last year we just got in and this year we had a run and got a bye. So it is a different feeling, but last year really helped."

Just as 2007 certainly helped the Giants.

They fell to New England in the season finale that year, completing the Patriots' undefeated record, but gained so much confidence from that loss that they were not intimidated when they met up with the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

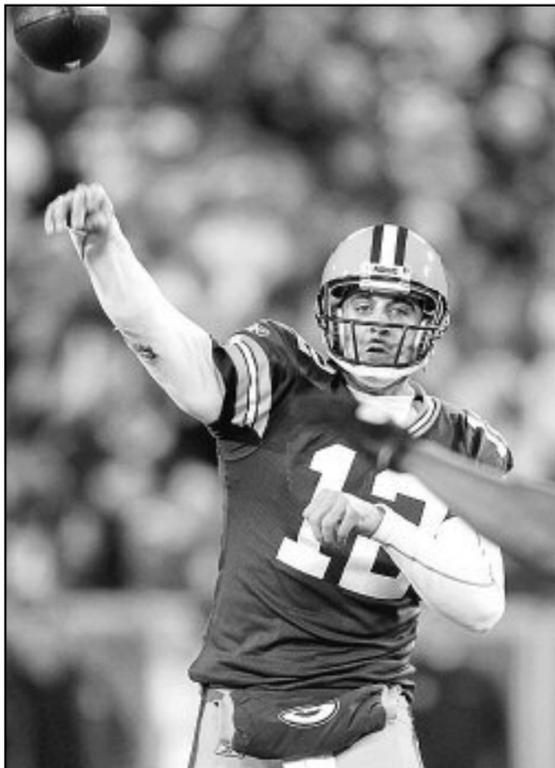
The Giants won 17-14.

That defeat five weeks ago to the Packers also brought confidence.

New York fell to 6-6 with that fourth straight loss, but won three of its last four to take the NFC East, then easily handled Atlanta 24-2 in the wild-card round last Sunday.

"We're extremely excited to have all of our key guys intact that we're going to ride with going through this postseason," safety Antrel Rolle said, noting that defensive end Osi Umenyiora and linebacker Michael Boley didn't play against Green Bay but will this time.

"We're excited. We're excited about the opportunity that's ahead of us and we're excited about playing



MCT photo

Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers learned a lot from last year's playoff run.

'It is a different feeling, but last year really helped.'

AARON RODGERS

Green Bay quarterback

together and understanding the defense, understanding each other, understanding that this guy is going to be next to us and he's fighting with everything he has."

No visitor has won at Lambeau Field since Miami managed the feat on Oct. 17, 2010.

The Giants were blown out 45-17 in Game 15 of that season when they were in position to make the playoffs.

But coach Mike McCarthy knows there is more to be learned from this edition of the Giants, the team that challenged his Packers as much as anyone in 2011.

"There is a reason why we are both playing in this game. We are two of the last four teams in the NFC," McCarthy said. "They are playing well and they wouldn't be here if they were not, so to me, that is to be expected. I think they are playing better than when they played us and earlier in the season they had some tough defeats also. It is playoff football and they are a very good football team."

Before the Giants and Packers renew their rivalry, Houston (11-6) will be at Baltimore (12-4) on Sunday.

Baltimore has been very good in each of John Harbaugh's four seasons as

coach, but this is the first time the Ravens are playing a home game after three successive wild-card appearances.

The Ravens were 8-0 at home, including a 29-14 victory over Houston in October.

"If you look at wild card weekend, I don't think that there was one home team that lost the whole weekend," Lewis said. "When you get into that, it plays a big momentum. It's a big momentum swing for you. It's just hard to win on the road. I don't care who you are, I don't care how good you are, it's hard to win on the road."

"For us to work as hard as we did, get 12 wins, do the things we were supposed to do, and now get this home playoff game, we have positioned ourselves to be in the right place. Now we have to go finish it."

Houston is 0-5 in meetings with Baltimore, but its first postseason game, in its 10th season, was a strong victory over Cincinnati last Saturday.

"It's been pretty one-sided so, we've got to get on the board," tackle Eric Winston said. "At the same time, you've got to look back on it and I don't think a lot of that stuff is going to have a lot of bearing on this game either, though."

"So, there's different guys, there's a different situation and we all know from past experiences that playoffs, funny things happen in the playoffs and games turn out a lot different than they did in the regular season. So hopefully we can hold true to that."

Nuggets hand Heat third straight loss

Associated Press

DENVER — The Denver Nuggets pressed the pace and then turned it up a notch in the fourth quarter.

And the Miami Heat couldn't keep up, especially once Dwyane Wade was injured.

Ty Lawson scored 24 points in his return to the lineup, and the Nuggets sent the Heat to their third straight loss with a 117-104 victory on Friday night.

"When they crashed our defense, they got 3s and when we tried to stay home, they got layups," said LeBron James, whose 35 points led the Heat. "They just broke us down too many times. They broke our defense down too many times and they were able to pretty much get anything they wanted."

Nene added 17 points for the Nuggets, who won their 10th in a row against the Heat in Denver.

Rudy Fernandez and Al Harrington each had 15 points.

Lawson, who was held out of Wednesday's game against New Jersey because of a right foot sprain, also had nine assists.

"My emphasis at every timeout was don't stop running," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "Try to run every possession. I don't know if they didn't want to play that pace, but Wade getting hurt probably helped us."

Wade scored 12 points before landing awkwardly on his right ankle after trying to block a shot with 7:24

remaining.

He lay on the floor for several moments before gingerly making his way to the bench.

He did not return and remains questionable for the Heat's next game Tuesday at home against San Antonio.

"I hope I can play. It's my birthday," Wade said as he soaked the foot in a bucket of ice.

Wade said X-rays were negative but he described the sprain as very painful.

"Unfortunately, when the bug hits you, it hits you," said Wade, who also strained a calf during an overtime loss to the Los Angeles Clippers two nights ago. "I'll just continue to get therapy. Nothing I can do. Stuff like that happens in sports."

Chris Bosh added 17 points for Miami, which was outscored 31-23 in the fourth quarter.

The Nuggets led by as many as 19 points in the period, the largest deficit Miami has dealt with this season.

"This was a tough one tonight," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Sometimes you're never quite as good as you think you are or as bad as you think you are. They play well here. They're relentless in the open court. But we'll get better. We'll go home, get healthy and get ready for an inspirational game on Tuesday."

Harrington hit a bank shot and connected on a 3-pointer on successive possessions before Udonis Haslem made a pair of free throws for Miami near the end of the third, and Denver took an 86-

81 lead into the final period.

From there, the Nuggets took control, scoring the first nine points of the fourth to go in front 95-81.

The run included a breakaway dunk by Fernandez and three points on free throws after Wade drew a technical for arguing over a charging call and then fouled Nene in the lane.

James made one of two free throws to break up the string but the Nuggets kept up the pressure, as Andre Miller converted a three-point play and Nene drove in for a layup around a dunk by Bosh.

"It was huge," Lawson said of the Nuggets' strong finish. "'Dre running the offense, getting everybody involved, getting easy shots from steals to rebounds, that's what we need to keep doing. Get stops and then run out. That probably sparked our team winning."

Trailing by as many as 14 points in the first quarter, Miami pulled within 55-53 at halftime when James swished a 3-pointer over Danilo Gallinari with 31 seconds left in the second period.

NOTES: Nene matched a season high with 12 rebounds. ... Wade went without a blocked shot, ending a career high-tying string of 11 consecutive games with at least one. ... Miami last won at the Pepsi Center on Jan. 29, 2002, 100-94 in OT. ... James has scored more than 30 points in his last five games against Denver but he's 2-3 in that span.

USF rallies to beat No. 24 Seton Hall

Associated Press

TAMPA — Given the chance to make a good impression, South Florida capitalized.

Ron Anderson scored 14 points and helped the Bulls come back to make No. 24 Seton Hall's return to the rankings look like a short one with a 56-55 win Friday night.

Anderson had six points in a game-ending 14-3 run, Jawanza Poland made a long 3-pointer to tie it at 53 and Toaryln Fitzpatrick's three-point play put the Bulls (10-8, 3-2 Big East) ahead for good with just under a minute to go.

"It says a lot about our team," Anderson said. "We really wanted this win. I think everybody could see that."

Seton Hall, ranked for the first time in 11 years, trimmed its deficit to one on its only field goal in the final six minutes.

Jordan Theodore led the Pirates (15-3, 4-2) with 16 points but missed the front end of a 1-and-1 opportunity with a chance to put his team ahead with 3.8 seconds remaining.

"I think they're a top-tier (Big East) team, especially at

home," Seton Hall coach Kevin Willard said. "They're going to be in every game because of their size."

South Florida outscored Seton Hall 14-2 on second-chance points.

Poor offensive execution against USF's 1-3-1 zone doomed Seton Hall down the stretch.

Coming out of a timeout during the crucial stretch in which Anderson made a layup and Poland followed with his 3-pointer that wiped out the remainder of what had been a 10-point lead, the Pirates had two turnovers and a shot clock violation.

"Our guys really hung tough," USF coach Stan Heath said. "There's a lot of

big plays made offensively and defensively."

Heath added it was huge to beat a top-25 opponent.

"We knew Seton Hall was on a roll," Heath said. "In our league you're going to get a lot of opportunities with so many good teams. It's something that we need to do because we want to have a good year."

Patrik Auda's putback with 24 seconds remaining was Seton Hall's only field goal after Aaron Cosby's 3-pointer put the Pirates up 52-42.

Fuquan Edwin scored a career-high 28 points Tuesday night to help the Pirates cruise past DePaul in their first game as a ranked team since 2001.

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Brouwer's hat trick leads Caps

By JOSEPH WHITE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Troy Brouwer got his first career hat trick, and Alex Ovechkin also scored Friday night as the Washington Capitals took a 4-3 victory that handed the Tampa Bay Lightning a sixth straight loss.

Brouwer scored in each period for the Capitals, who have won six straight at home and six of eight overall to move back into playoff position in the Eastern Conference.

Tomas Vokoun made 28 saves to follow up his 1-0 shutout of the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday.

Washington is 11-9-1 since Boudreau as coach in late Dale Hunter replaced Bruce November.

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News-Sun photo by LAUREN WELBORN
Jayme Faircloth makes a sliding attempt to wrest the ball away from Frostproof's Cathrine Kincaid Friday night.

Sebring hosts district tournament this week

Continued from 1B
11th minute.

However, these forwards were a bit too eager and saw an offside call that would take away the point.

The Blue Streak defense was able to clear the ball to their offenders and some more pressure was put on Frostproof as the last 15 minutes wound down, however, this would not be enough to score before the end of the first half.

Heather Bloemsma took the first shot on goal for Sebring in the second half, but it would be yet another block by the Frostproof goalie.

As they sent the ball back up field to the Bulldog offense, they would take a shot of their own minutes later that also wouldn't see its way past Williams.

A foul in the box allowed for Bloemsma to approach a penalty kick opportunity.

Again, the Bulldog goalie stood her ground and would not let the ball find its way to the back of the net.

Frostproof soon spoiled the night with the first and only goal of the match, barely squeaking one in through the corner of the goal beyond the reach of Williams.

Haylee Peters and Martin challenged the Bulldog

defense one last time before the final whistle, but would fall just short.

"We could have had a better last game, but we had a good season. Something just lacked tonight but we're looking ahead to Districts," said Cochran of her last regular season game as a Blue Streak.

Standing next to her was Martin, who added "We grew together and had a lot of heart; I thank God for these girls and the amazing season we had."

Captain Ashley Longabaugh agreed, "We improved a lot and hung with teams we didn't expect we could. We're set for districts and looking forward to improving even more next year."

Head coach Paul Brown had the same sort of opinions for the night and the season as a whole.

Regarding Sebring's total of seven shots on-goal that couldn't sneak past Frostproof, he said, "You can't win games if you don't score goals and we missed a few opportunities to do so."

Brown credits the girls' hard work as they prepare to take on McKeel Academy in the first round of the District playoffs Tuesday night at Fireman's field.

LP ladies get top district seed

Continued from 1B

senior Taylor Miller got into the act as well with a score to end the regular season on a high note for Lake Placid.

Undefeated in district play, the Lady Dragons now head to the District 10-2A Tournament in Frostproof where they will take the field Tuesday at 6 p.m.



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
Taylor Miller gets a leg up on this Lady Miner for control of the ball in Lake Placid's Senior Night win Friday.

Hoops sees Streaks with district hopes

Continued from 1B
Jones would hit another three to cap off his scoring for the night with a game-high 18, and Tookes would hit another buzzer-beating three at the end of the game, but a six-point margin over the final eight minutes provided for the final score.

Still, it was a far cry from the 33-point loss seven days earlier.

"You see signs of us being able to play with them," Harris said. "Tonight I didn't have to say much before the game, because I could see they were more focused. We had 13 turnovers in the first half and were still only down

five. But I keep telling them, just take care of these next few district games and we can get a second or third seed and face these guys again in the championship on a neutral court.

"As a coach I can see that we're still getting better, I see a lot of positives," he continued. "I'm telling you, if we can fix just a couple of things, we could end up district champions."

The next step toward that is a home match-up with Lake Gibson Friday before facing Kathleen Tuesday, Jan. 24, in district games that will go a long way to determine tournament seeding.



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
Decaris Jones hit four three-pointers as part of his game-high 18 points Friday night.

Sun N Lake golfers donate to Charity

Special to the News-Sun
SUN 'N LAKE - When golfers get together over a game, sometimes there's a little money "on the line" for the winners.

For the month of December, two informal men's golf groups at Sun 'N Lake Golf Club played for charity, donating their daily "bets" on Tuesday and Saturday mornings to The Salvation Army in Highlands County.

Participation varies by week, but between one and two dozen players joined in each Tuesday and Saturday.

On Saturday, the group presented a check for \$1,142 to Major Bruce Stefanek at the Sun 'N Lake Clubhouse. Sun 'N Lake staff pro Andy Kessling made the presentation on behalf of all the participants.



Courtesy photo
Pictured presenting the check with Kessling are group members (left to right): Larry Reno, Bruce Chapman, Tuesday group leader Gene Beuth, Saturday leader Larry Krick, Stefanek, Bill Feasby, Kessling, Bob Butz, Neal Roche, Tom Kosty and Tom Butler.

Tough Thursday for Lady Streaks, Green Dragons



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
After keeping it close through the first eight minutes, April Wallace and the Lady Streaks had a hard time keeping up with Winter Haven in Thursday's 75-32 loss to the district leaders. Lake Placid's boys basketball struggled as well, falling 58-34 to visiting Okeechobee Thursday night.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Artist' wins 4 Critics' Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Artist" waltzed away with its first wins of Hollywood's awards season.

The black-and-white ode to the silent-film era directed by Michel Hazanavicius led winners with four honors at Thursday's 17th annual Critics' Choice Awards, presented by the 250 members of the Broadcast Film Critics Association.

"The Artist" took the top prize, best picture, as well honors for best score, costume design and director.

"I made a silent movie," French director Hazanavicius joked in English while accepting the award for best picture. "I don't like to speak so much."

"The Help," the adaptation of Kathryn Stockett's best-selling novel about black maids speaking out about their white employers during the civil-rights movement, followed behind "The Artist" with three wins in the ceremony's acting categories: Viola Davis as best actress, Octavia Spencer as best supporting actress and the film's cast as best acting ensemble.

"I absolutely knew I wanted to be an actor because I wanted to be somebody," an emotional Davis said.



Kathy Kosins presents "Ladies of Cool" at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, in the SFCC University Center Auditorium. Courtesy photo

Kosins to present 'Ladies of Cool' for SFCC Jazz Series

Special to the News-Sun
AVON PARK — Kathy Kosins presents "Ladies of Cool" at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, in the SFCC University Center Auditorium. This is the third performance of the Jazz Series, which is held in the intimate 245-seat auditorium.

Kosins, a native of Detroit, Mich., has explored the vocal jazz idiom of the west coast "cool school" with particular emphasis on those extraordinary singers of the 1940s and '50s that were household names to jazz and pop fans alike. Kosins is an accomplished interpreter of jazz and has a voice and style that shares that intimate and alluring quality found in "The Ladies of Cool."

In addition to her extremely busy touring performance schedule, Kosins

is equally in demand as a clinician in collegiate vocal jazz programs throughout the country. Education is a passion to her, but so is bringing fresh interpretations to some remarkable music that resonates with all audiences.

The four women Kosins pays tribute to are Anita O'Day, June Christy, Chris Connor, and Julie London.

O'Day is known for her career with Gene Krupa's band, followed by stints with Woody Herman and Stan Kenton before embarking on a solo career. Christy also became famous in the Stan Kenton Orchestra and is best remembered for her interpretations of "Something Cool" and "Midnight Sun." Connor was discovered by Christy and is best known for her signature song "All About

Ronnie." London is best remembered for her interpretation of the ballad "Cry Me A River."

The SFCC Jazz Series Season Sponsors are Tom and Nancy Mitchell, John and Evelyn Mills, an anonymous donor, Lake Placid Journal and Agri-Leader by Highlands Today. The performance sponsor is Charles and Anne Reynolds.

Ticket prices are \$23 and \$25 and may be purchased online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at <http://performances.southflorida.edu>. Tickets may also be purchased by calling the SFCC Box Office at (863) 784-7178 or by visiting the SFCC Box Office Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., located in the front of the SFCC Theatre for the Performing Arts, 600 West College Drive, Avon Park.

Creative Studies Group to explore life's purpose at PMoA

Special to the News-Sun
LAKELAND — Polk Museum of Art will be host to a Creative Studies Series session titled "Igniting Your Passion and Purpose: Activating It into Community" from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21. The cost for the program is \$10 for Museum members and \$15 for non-members. The presenter is Rick Zalanka.

From the time of ancient Greek philosophers, the contemplation of man's purpose as evidenced by his passion has inspired and confused many. The question "Why are we here?" ignites debate on how best to live a meaningful life. In this discussion, the group will explore the obstacles to finding one's passion and purpose, the reasons for getting off the intentional path, and how activation becomes a key element in our sense of productivity.

The group will address questions such as: How do

our beliefs play roles in helping or hindering our progress? How do we recognize reactivity vs. intention in the activation of community? Is it possible to release long-held thoughts and emotional roadblocks that hinder our progress? How do we create a mindset of productivity? Why do we lose humor when we need it the most?

Zalanka has been a licensed mental health counselor for more than 20 years, and much of his practice includes being a life coach and consultant to businesses regarding employee relationships and productivity.

The Center for Creative Studies is a group of adults who get together on the third Saturday of every month to share an evening of intellectual stimulation while enjoying wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Call 863-688-5423, or visit www.PolkMuseumofArt.org/events/.

PMoA offers art classes

Special to the News-Sun
LAKELAND — Polk Museum of Art will offer art classes for students of all ages and experience levels from Jan. 30 to March 6. Pre-registration is required. Fees vary by class.

Classes include digital photography, pastel portraiture, ceramics, paper coiling, knitting, silk painting, Asian brush painting and more.

Spring Art classes give students the opportunity to associate with others with like

interests and learn new skills in a laid-back atmosphere. Whether you're a beginner or a longtime artist, we base our course offerings on the underlying belief that most individuals want to be lifelong learners. As such, we offer classes and instruction for all ages and experience. All Museum instructors are certified art teachers and/or art professionals.

For more details visit www.PolkMuseumofArt.org/classes/.

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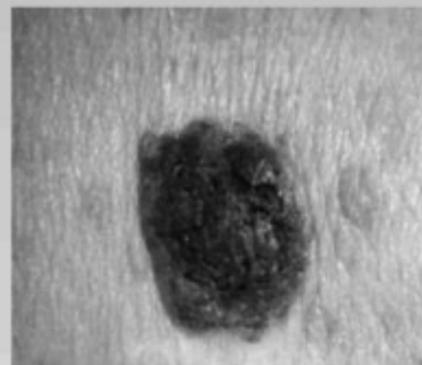
**The February 12th event will be held during Fair Hours. Entrance fee will be due. Contestants will be free. Seniors will be reduced price.*

We are only taking the **FIRST 20** applicants in each age division. Must pre-register at Highlands County Fair Convention Center or Alan Jay Kia or you can request an application online at Heartland Idol's Facebook Page.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SFCC plans pair of Wayside Shrine workshops

Special to the News-Sun

AVON PARK — South Florida Community College's Community Education will hold a Wayside Shrine Nature Writing Workshop from 9-11 a.m. on Tuesday in Building T, Room 20, at the SFCC Highlands Campus.

Using selections from a wide range of Florida authors, Instructor Carol Mahler will discuss and illustrate the various strategies of nature

writing.

Participants will tour the Wildflower Wayside Shrine Trail and view the shrine boxes, created by artist Mollie Doctrow, that showcase some endangered scrub plants. Afterwards, participants will experiment with nature writing. Formats will include considerations of short readings, close observations of nature, and writing exercises.

The registration fee is \$20.

Participants may register in Building B on the Highlands Campus or at any SFCC campus or center. For more information, contact Lauren Redick, Community Education at 784-7034.

SFCC is also offering a Wayside Shrine Visual/Literacy Workshop from 9-11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24 in Building T, Room 20.

Participants in this workshop will

make simple journals and tour the Wildflower Wayside Shrine nature trail. Participants will learn journaling techniques that they can use on the trail. Mollie Doctrow, curator, SFCC Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC), will present strategies for recording visual observations of nature. She will also explain how to "build" a visual/literary journal page, so that it includes both art and literary ele-

ments. Participants should bring their own cameras and wear comfortable shoes.

All supplies for making the journals will be provided.

Register in Building B on the SFCC Highlands Campus or at any SFCC campus or center.

For more information, call Lauren Redick, Community Education specialist, at 453-6661 or 784-7388.

Graceland: The rock 'n roll estate



Art & Antiques

Dr. Lori

inspire many fans to this day. In addition to his mansion, Graceland, his mountain of hit records and his popular movies, Elvis still connects with collectors decades after his untimely death. Beloved by millions, Elvis was a star among stars.

Recently, I made my way to Memphis, Tenn. to pay homage to the King of Rock 'n Roll. Visiting Graceland was a truly moving experience.

Elvis' famous home is both a museum and a memorial. While the living room and kitchen certainly were throwbacks to the 1970s, the

upstairs bedrooms were off limits in keeping with Elvis' tradition of only meeting guests on the main floor of the home. Graceland visitors are only allowed to tour the main floor and lower areas of the main house.

The most interesting room was the famed Jungle Room located just off of the kitchen. Decorated in typical late 1960s/early 1970s era exotica furniture and accessories, this room was Elvis' informal music room where he played the guitar and sang with his friends.

My visit was met with a few surprises. For instance, I did not realize that Elvis was a twin. I did not know that he was born in Tupelo, not Memphis. At Graceland, there were significant yet respectful crowds. The staff members were true professionals; helpful in every way.

Collectors are devoted to Elvis and what some call "Elvis-abilia," in a manner that differs from that of

other celebrities or rock stars. Elvis was an icon, and while his hit records are valuable on today's secondary market, it is his global appeal that has attracted so many collectors to Elvis objects.

Elvis made a career out of connecting with his audiences. What's more, his personal decisions to serve in the military and to support American causes contribute to his widespread popular appeal. Elvis raised funds to help construct Hawaii's famed U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, assisted in the fight against drug abuse, and helped underprivileged children. He was immortalized on a U.S. postage stamp in 1992. The Elvis stamp remains the most publicized stamp in U.S. history, yet its collectible value is rather low since so many — over 500 million — were distributed.

Many Elvis collectibles are quite pricey. His bejeweled stage costumes are on



Graceland's famed 'Jungle Room.'

Courtesy photo

view at Graceland and some have sold to collectors ranging from \$30,000 to \$300,000. An early career leather jacket brought \$37,000 from one collector at a sale.

In the costume exhibition area at Graceland, fans can see Elvis' gold records, movie costumes, Priscilla Presley's wedding gown, and daughter Lisa Marie's infant clothes.

Elvis was an avid collector of American automobiles, namely Cadillacs dating

from the 1950s thru the 1970s. His classic cars are on display in a special exhibit at Graceland.

In addition, Elvis recordings continue to bring high prices. A Sun Record 45 rpm recording of "That's All Right" in its original paper sleeve sold for \$1,100.

Major fine artists also helped to further immortalize Elvis. Andy Warhol's pop art masterpiece of Elvis Presley from 1963 entitled, "Single Elvis," in silkscreen ink on a silvered background

sold at auction for \$3.3 million. It's good to be King. It's even better to collect the King.

Celebrity Ph.D. antiques appraiser, author, and award-winning TV personality, Dr. Lori presents antique appraisal events nationwide. As seen on NBC's The Tonight Show and Comedy Central's The Daily Show, Dr. Lori appears on Lifetime Television. Visit www.DrLoriV.com, www.Facebook.com/DoctorLori, or call (888) 431-1010.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Birthday bash set for Ali

Boxing legend turns 70 on Tuesday

By **BRUCE SCHREINER**
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Muhammad Ali's wife says the boxing great is still a "big kid" who enjoys his birthday parties.

The three-time heavyweight boxing champion will celebrate a milestone birthday Tuesday when he turns 70. Ali will be surrounded by friends who are gathering Saturday evening for a private birthday party at the Muhammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville.

"Muhammad likes celebrations that involve him and are centered around him," Lonnie Ali said. "He's still a big kid in that area. He loves birthdays."

Lonnie Ali said it's the first of five parties for Ali over the next couple of months.

Lonnie Ali says the champ will be surrounded by close friends and people who have been fixtures in his life at the party Saturday night, including his trainer

Angelo Dundee.

The party is doubling as a \$1,000 per person fundraiser for the center, which is seen as a legacy to Ali's humanitarian causes.

"The lessons this man knows innately ... are the things we're trying to pass on to future generations, to encourage them to be great and find greatness within like Muhammad as a young man here in Louisville," Lonnie Ali said.

The party will include performances by Grammy Award winners David Foster and John Mellencamp and others.

The guest list includes NBC journalists Matt Lauer, Ann Curry and Bryant Gumbel, Academy Award winning director Leon Gast, three-time heavyweight boxing champion Lennox Lewis, University of Louisville basketball coach Rick Pitino and University of Kentucky coach John Calipari.

Also invited to the celebration were Josh Fattal, Shane Bauer and Sarah Shourd, three American hikers who were imprisoned in Iran.

Ali sent a letter to the Iranian government asking for the trio's release.

Lonnie Ali said the boxing legend has mixed feelings about the landmark birthday.

"He's glad he's here to turn 70, but he wants to be reassured he doesn't look 70," Lonnie Ali said.

The couple chose Louisville and the Ali Center for the first party because, "this is his home. This is where he started. These are the people who supported him," Lonnie Ali said.

Even with all the planning for the birthday celebration, Lonnie Ali is still unsure what to get her husband.

"It's hard to get something for someone who has everything," she said.

Colbert preps prez run, transfers PAC to Stewart



Stephen Colbert (left) transferred control of his Super PAC to Comedy Central colleague Jon Stewart Thursday night.

MCT

Forming 'an exploratory committee to lay the groundwork for my possible candidacy for the president of the United States of South Carolina'

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK — Stephen Colbert isn't running for president — at least not yet.

During Thursday night's episode of "The Colbert Report," Colbert legally transferred his super political action committee to his friend and Comedy Central cohort Jon Stewart. Dropping by from "The Daily Show," Stewart happily signed the documents and accepted the post, which was ceremonially observed by the two holding hands and bodily transferring the PAC powers.

The move potentially paves the way for Colbert to enter the Republican presidential primary in South Carolina, his home state. Campaigning politicians are prohibited from simultaneously running super PACs.

But Colbert only hinted at such a decision, which he had grandly hyped ahead of Thursday's show. In flirting with the nation's candidate style, he announced that he is forming "an exploratory committee to lay the groundwork for my possible candidacy for the president of the United States of South Carolina."

Patriotically colored balloons were released in the studio while a graphic screamed "I'm Doing It!"

Stewart and Colbert hashed out the peculiar legalities of their arrangement. With Colbert's lawyer (and former chairman of the Federal Election Commission) Trevor Potter on hand, they spelled out that while Colbert was legally forbidden from participating in strategy and advertising with the super PAC, he could still talk about his plans on his TV show and even volunteer for the super PAC.

Stewart declared Colbert vice president of youth outreach for the super PAC, which was renamed The Definitely Not Coordinated with Stephen Colbert Super PAC. Along with Potter, the three joined hands like a sports team and — with thick irony — cheered in unison: "Non-coordination!"

In 2007, Colbert attempted to enter the South Carolina primary but was stymied by filing fees. The super PAC could very well eliminate any such financial concerns. Colbert hasn't publically revealed the amount raised from viewer contributions by the PAC, but on Thursday he

repeatedly hinted that it was a shockingly large amount.

Colbert has otherwise been very transparent about the PAC's workings, using it to parody the current system's contradictions and potential conflicts of interest. Political action committees stem from a 2010 Supreme Court decision that changed the rules of corporate political donations.

A Public Policy Polling survey released Tuesday found that Colbert is polling ahead of former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman in South Carolina. According to the survey, Colbert has 5 percent of the vote and Huntsman has 4 percent.

Upon reading those results on "The Report" on Wednesday, Colbert said: "This just got real."

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- Karen Catarelli
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Movie Scores: How the critics rated the new movies

The Associated Press

Mark Wahlberg plays a master smuggler in "Contraband," but he couldn't steal great reviews from the nation's critics this week.

The action thriller is opening to a lukewarm response. AP Movie Critic Christy Lemire was on the generous side, saying: "This is a solid genre picture that knows exactly what it is, has no delusions of grandeur and carries out its task in entertaining and occasionally even suspenseful fashion." She gave the movie two and a half stars out of four.

Faring even worse was "Joyful Noise," starring Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton as rivals fighting for creative control of a small-town church choir.

Lemire gave the film one and a half stars out of four, writing: "If some incarnation of 'Glee' were to be developed for the Christian

Broadcasting Network, it would probably look a lot like 'Joyful Noise.'"

Here's a look at how these movies fared on the top review websites as of Friday afternoon.

Each score is the percentage of positive reviews for the film:

— "We Need to Talk About Kevin": Metacritic, 71; Movie Review Intelligence, 76.2; Rotten Tomatoes, 83. Average: 76.7.

— "The Iron Lady": Metacritic, 54; Movie Review Intelligence: 58.9; Rotten Tomatoes, 54. Average: 55.6.

— "Contraband": Metacritic, 52; Movie Review Intelligence: 55.6; Rotten Tomatoes, 46. Average: 51.2.

— "Joyful Noise": Metacritic, 44; Movie Review Intelligence: 51.1; Rotten Tomatoes, 39. Average: 44.7.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Branson's Denny Yeary takes SFCC stage Jan. 24

Special to the News-Sun

AVON PARK — Branson, Mo. native Denny Yeary and Friends bring variety to the third performance of South Florida Community College's Matinee Series at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24, in the SFCC Theatre for the Performing Arts, Highlands Campus.

Yeary is known as "Mr. Entertainer" and Branson's best and lowest bass singer, having spent over 26 years with the infamous Blackwood Quartet and the Foggy River Boys singing hits "Big Bad John," "Ghostriders in the Sky," and "Elvira," Yeary's voice will shake the rafters.

With more than 20 years of performing in Branson, Yeary has become a Branson legend. He plays guitar, banjo, fiddle, keyboards, and records back-up vocals on many of Branson's stars recordings. He does voice-overs for the Promenade of Stars Christmas Parade and other television and radio productions.

Joining Yeary on stage is Brad Baer. Originally from Chicago, Baer gives Yeary all he can handle on stage in Branson and on concert tours. As a great side man, he has a humor and personality that crowds love, and he plays the keyboard.

Also joining Yeary is comedian Pat Capuzzi. His credits include conven-

tions, concerts, charity roasts, golf tournaments, special events, comedy clubs, night clubs and cruise ships. He has appeared with such celebrities as Al Martino, Bobby Rydell, Jerry Vale, Julius LaRosa, and the Four Aces, to name but a few. He is also a popular face in Las Vegas and recently appeared at Caesars Palace.

Also taking the stage is Trey Dees. He was born and raised in rural south central Arkansas, in the same area where legends such as Glen Campbell, Jim Ed Brown, Johnny Cash and Charlie Rich were born and raised. Dees was raised on the music of the great days of Vegas, The Grand Ole Opry, and Southern gospel. He spent 10 years performing around Arkansas before moving to Branson, where he currently performs his own show at the Branson Mall Entertainment Complex. After six seasons, Dees has performed more than 500 shows in dozens of theaters, resorts, and festivals in Branson.

The show is a must-see for anyone who enjoys rich laughter and great singing like the Oak Ridge Boys and the Statler Brothers. Enjoy a stroll down memory lane with harmonies and vocal styles ranging from golden oldies to classic country and gospel.

The 2012 Matinee Series is sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Bassetti,



Courtesy photo
Branson, Mo. native Denny Yeary and Friends bring variety to the third performance of South Florida Community College's Matinee Series at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

Lampe and Kiefer Hearing Aid Center, Inc., and The Palms of Sebring Retirement Community

Tickets range from \$13 to \$17 and may be purchased online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at <http://performances.southflorida.edu>. Tickets may also be purchased by calling the SFCC Box Office at 863-784-7178 or by visiting the SFCC Box Office Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., located in the front of the SFCC Theatre for the Performing Arts, 600 West College Drive, Avon Park.

SFCC MOFAC plans docent meeting

Special to the News-Sun

AVON PARK — Do you love the visual arts? Do you have an interest in Florida history, archaeology, or culture?

For an enriching, educational experience become a docent for South Florida Community College's Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC).

SFCC MOFAC will hold a docent meeting and lunch for new and returning MOFAC docents at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 26, in the SFCC Theatre for the Performing Arts Lobby, SFCC Highlands Campus.

SFCC MOFAC docents greet visitors and provide an entertaining and educational aspect to the viewing experience.

Docents also have the opportunity to attend training workshops, learn about exhibits, and visit other regional art museums.

They volunteer one hour or more a week during regular museum hours.

"Docents experience a

variety of educational and social opportunities," said Mollie Doctrow, SFCC MOFAC curator.

"They get a behind the scenes look at how exhibits are put together and often get to meet and work beside the artists.

"They also get to work with a community of people who are interested in art and history."

SFCC MOFAC provides an exhibition venue for contemporary Florida regional artists and preserves Florida's history and heritage through its art.

The museum also serves as a repository for the discoveries unearthed by members of the Kissimmee Valley Archaeological and Historical Conservancy. SFCC MOFAC also offers a variety of educational programs including its Third Thursdays series and hands-on art workshops.

Contact Doctrow, curator, SFCC MOFAC, at 863-784-7240 or by e-mail at doctrow@southflorida.edu.

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. "Worshipping 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's "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 Bautista 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@stcathe.com; website, www.stcathe.com. Very Rev. José González, V.F., frjose@stcathe.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 through 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; 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.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "Private: Number 1 Suspect" by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro (Little, Brown)
2. "Love in a Nutshell" by Janet Evanovich and Dorian Kelly (St. Martin's)
3. "Death Comes to Pemberley" by P.D. James (Knopf)
4. "77 Shadow Street" by Dean Koontz (Bantam)
5. "11/22/63" by Stephen King (Scribner)
6. "The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest" by Stieg Larsson (Knopf)
7. "Locked On" by Tom Clancy with Mark Greaney (Putnam)
8. "The Litigators" by John Grisham (Doubleday)
9. "The Best of Me" by Nicholas Sparks (Grand Central Publishing)
10. "Kill Alex Cross" by James Patterson (Little, Brown)
11. "Red Mist" by Patricia Cornwell (Putnam Adult)
12. "A Dance with Dragons" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)
13. "Explosive Eighteen" by Janet Evanovich (Bantam)
14. "The Drop" by Michael Connelly (Little, Brown)
15. "A Devil is Waiting" by Jack Higgins (Putnam)

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BEST-SELLERS

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. "Steve Jobs: A Biography" by Walter Isaacson (Simon & Schuster)
2. "American Sniper: The autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History" by Chris Kyle, Jim DeFelice and Scott McEwen (Morrow)
3. "Real Marriage: The Truth About Sex, Friendship, and Life Together" by Mark Driscoll and Grace Driscoll (Thomas Nelson)
4. "Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard (Henry Holt and Co.)
5. "Taking People with You: The Only Way to Make Big Things Happen" by David Novak (Portfolio)
6. "Thinking, Fast and Slow" by Daniel Kahneman (Ferrar, Straus & Giroux)
7. "The 17 Day Diet" by Dr. Mike Moreno (Free Press)
8. "The Dash Diet Action Plan: Proven to Boost Weight Loss and Improve Health" by Marta Heller (Grand Central Publishing)
9. "Unbroken: A World War II

- Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption" by Laura Hillenbrand (Random House)
10. "Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman" by Robert K. Massie (Random House)
11. "Through My Eyes" by Tim Tebow with Nathan Whitaker (Harper)
12. "The Dukan Diet" by Dr. Pierre Dukan (Crown)
13. "Heaven Is for Real" by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent (Thomas Nelson)
14. "Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World" by Michael Lewis (Norton)
15. "How Do You Kill 11 Million People?: Why the Truth Matters More Than You Think" by Andy Andrews (Thomas Nelson)

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. "Spirit Bound" by Christine Feehan (Jove)
4. "A Game of Thrones" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)

5. "The Jefferson Key" by Steve Berry (Ballantine)
6. "Whispers in the Dark" by Maya Banks (Berkley)
7. "Hidden Summit" by Robyn Carr (Mira)
8. "On Lavender Lane: A Shelter Bay Novel" by JoAnn Ross (Signet)
9. "You...Again" by Debbie Macomber (Mira)
10. "A Clash of Kings" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)
11. "Mr. and Miss Anonymous" by Fern Michaels (Zebra)
12. "Smokin' Seventeen" by Janet Evanovich (Bantam)
13. "Minding Frankie" by Maeve Binchy (Anchor)
14. "Toys" by James Patterson and Neil McMahon (Vision)
15. "Moonlight in the Morning" by Jude Deveraux (Pocket Star)

TRADE PAPERBACKS

1. "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson (Vintage)
2. "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett (Putnam Adult)
3. "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" by Jonathan Safran Foer (Mariner)

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 Kurtz, 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, 8 a.m. and 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.fpclp.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 handbells, 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 Prayer meeting and lunch, noon. Tuesday: Bible study, 6:30 p.m.; and Women's Ministries, 7 p.m. Wednesday:

4. "Bossypants" by Tina Fey (Back Bay Reagan Arthur)
5. "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)
6. "The Girl Who Played with Fire" by Stieg Larsson (Vintage)
7. "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot (Broadway)
8. "The Tiger's Wife: A Novel" by Tea Obreht (Random House)
9. "The Zombie Survival Guide: Complete Protection from the Living Dead" by Max Brooks (Three Rivers)
10. "A Discovery of Witches" by Deborah Harkness (Penguin)
11. "The Next Always" by Nora Roberts (Berkley)
12. "Assholes Finish First" by Tucker Max (Gallery)
13. "God Is Not Great" by Christopher Hitchens (Twelve)
14. "Outliers" by Malcolm Gladwell (LB/Back Bay)
15. "The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement" by David Brooks (Random House)

Youth Ministries, 4 p.m. All meetings 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.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Frank Sinatra (left) and Justin Timberlake both used music stardom to launch successful movie careers. MCT

5 music stars who became movie stars

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP Movie Critic

LOS ANGELES — Everyone wants to be a multi-hyphenate. No one wants to be pigeonholed. And so basketball players try to be rappers and rappers try to be basketball players. Jessica Simpson sells shoes and Jennifer Lopez sells perfume.

But while actors often try to be singers — Eddie Murphy's "Party All the Time," anyone? — singers also frequently venture into acting. Sometimes they carve out impressive second careers for themselves; sometimes, they're Britney Spears in "Crossroads."

This week, we see several musicians who've made the transition from the recording studio to the big screen. Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton co-star in the gospel comedy "Joyful Noise," while Mark Wahlberg plays a master smuggler in "Contraband." So here's a look at five great music stars who became great actors. For sake of argument, performers like Barbra Streisand, Liza Minnelli and even the aforementioned J.Lo, who had their roots in both art forms simultaneously, don't count. We're talking about people who were primarily known as singers (or rappers, etc.) and made the leap:

Frank Sinatra

The Chairman of the Board was, of course, a major pop star who caused a frenzy among screaming bobbysoxers in the 1940s before crafting a major movie career for himself. Sinatra won an Academy Award for best supporting actor in 1953's "From Here to Eternity" and earned a best-actor nomination for 1955's "The Man With the Golden Arm." Early film roles naturally were in musicals, including "Anchors Aweigh" (1945) and "On the Town" (1949) with Gene Kelly. The original "Ocean's

Eleven" (1960) allowed him to play it smooth as master thief Danny Ocean, while the political thriller "The Manchurian Candidate" (1962) probably provided him with his greatest performance.

Bette Midler

The Divine Miss M forged her career belting out tunes on Broadway, at nightclubs and in bathhouses (with a then-unknown Barry Manilow as her accompanist) — a petite woman with a larger-than-life stage presence. But she wowed the world with her acting abilities in her first major film role in 1979's "The Rose," playing a self-destructive, drug-addicted rock star inspired by Janis Joplin. The performance earned her an Oscar nomination for best actress; a second nomination would come for 1991's "For the Boys." Standout comic roles include "Down and Out in Beverly Hills," "Outrageous Fortune" and "The First Wives Club." And just try to watch "Beaches" without crying.

Cher

She's a diva who's had highs and lows and been around forever. But Cher was a singer and variety television star (with then-husband Sonny Bono) known for her big, flamboyant personality before putting together a string of strong, eclectic film performances in the '80s and '90s, including "Mask," "The Witches of Eastwick" and "Tea With Mussolini." She won a best-actress Oscar as the hard-headed Loretta in 1987's "Moonstruck" (and before that was nominated for best supporting actress for 1983's "Silkwood"). Her last film role was ... well, it was providing the voice of a lioness under Kevin James' care in 2011's "Zookeeper." But Cher is always full of surprises, so — as her "Burlesque" ballad goes — we haven't seen the last of

Will Smith

The former Fresh Prince of Bel-Air transformed himself into a two-time Oscar nominee, going from catchy rap tunes and sitcom laughs to heavyweight roles in "Ali" and "The Pursuit of Happyness." Smith is the epitome of a movie star, with talent and charm for days. He's proven he can do it all, from comedy (the "Men in Black" movies) to action (the "Bad Boys" movies) to romance ("Hitch") to sci-fi ("I Am Legend") to serious dramas ("Seven Pounds"). But his first major role, in 1993's "Six Degrees of Separation," showed he was confident enough to juggle multiple genres within the same film. At this point, I would say he's crossed over so completely, he's known more for his acting than for his music.

Justin Timberlake

I was very tempted to put Dwight Yoakam in this spot. Or Mos Def, or even Ice Cube. But JT is just too powerful. He has long since transcended his "Mickey Mouse Club" and boy-band origins to become not just a formidable solo performer but also an actor of surprising range. Following dramatic supporting roles in "Alpha Dog" and "Black Snake Moan," he was charismatic as hell as the ambitious Sean Parker in "The Social Network." This year, he proved he can be both a romantic lead ("Friends With Benefits") and an action star ("In Time"), while reinforcing his strengths as a comedian ("Bad Teacher"). And then there are his "Saturday Night Live" appearances, which — granted — spoof his pop-star youth, but they also allow him to show off that sharp comic timing.

Think of any other examples? Share them with AP Movie Critic Christy Lemire through Twitter: <http://twitter.com/christylemire>.

Showtime making Cheney doc

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The Showtime television network says it is preparing a new documentary on former Vice President Dick Cheney.

Showtime said Thursday that filmmaker R.J. Cutler, who made "The War Room" about Bill Clinton's presidential campaign in 1992, will make the film. Cutler called Cheney, who was George W. Bush's vice president, "perhaps the single most influential non-president in the nation's political history." He promised a balanced and multi-

dimensional look at Cheney. Last weekend, Cutler placed ads in the Casper Star-Tribune newspaper asking residents if they had any footage or still pictures of Cheney. The former vice president lived in Wyoming as a teen and attended the University of Wyoming. He represented Wyoming in Congress from 1979 to 1989. "Maybe somebody has a home video somewhere that we haven't heard about that we'd just like to see," said Ryan Gallagher, associate producer at Actual Reality Pictures.



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Inspirational Thoughts
by Patricia Valentine

Romans 8: 18-19, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." That is a powerful scripture. There is a time coming when God will so possess his children that we will manifest his glory to the whole world. We all await the day that we become like Christ. It is waiting for the day we become God's holy love revealed to a world that desperately needs that love. Suffering is part of the human experience. In life there will always be times of pain, sickness and misery. In a fallen world they're unavoidable. But that suffering, as the scripture reads, is nothing compared to the glory God has prepared for us. We have to share in Christ's sufferings in order to share in his glory. As the song writer wrote the words, no cross, no crown. You can know with an assurance the glory has always far eclipsed the suffering. Go back and read Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Seasons have a beginning and an end. No season lasts forever. You may be experiencing some pain today, but remember, the suffering we endure is nothing compared to the glory God has prepared for us.

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ENVIRONMENT

A delicate balance: the Everglades snail kite and the Florida apple snail



News From The Watershed
Corine Burgess

The Everglades snail kite, a hawk that soars through our southern marshes, has a diet that consists mainly of the Florida apple snail. This medium-sized hawk has a wing span of about 45 inches and a slender, hooked beak. Preferring an area that is a relatively open freshwater marsh, its diet requires adequate populations of apple snails.



The Everglades snail kite has a diet that consists mainly of the Florida apple snail. Exotic species of snails have moved in to many marshes and taken over, leaving declining numbers of this important creature. The well being of both creatures is vital to their survival.

In addition, they require some brush and trees where they can perch and nest. The water level must be sufficiently stable to prevent loss of the food supply through drying out of the surface. Unfortunately, drainage of some of the marshes has destroyed many of the areas that the hawk and apple snails would normally dwell.

Another problem for the Everglades kite is that many of the marshes are covered with water hyacinth. The kites feed by sight and must be able to visually see the snails in the water. Therefore, when the water is covered by these invasive plants, the area is useless to the hawk that is so dependent on these snails for food.

The Florida apple snail is the largest freshwater snail in North America and gets its name from the large, rounded shell that houses it. These snails are unique in that they have both a gill and an air sac that functions as a lung. They lay their eggs in clusters on a solid object above the waterline usually in April or May. In order for the apple snail to reproduce, they require water depths of 4-8 inches. So if the water level is low, the reproduction process could be eliminated for the year.

Although, there are three species of apple snails in Florida, only one is

native. The Florida apple snail is distinguished from the others by its low, rounded shell spike.

In contrast to the native snails, the invasive varieties feed on many types of aquatic and terrestrial plants. One of the favorite foods of channeled apple snails (the exotic kind) is rice and it is considered a serious problem in many areas. In addition, they can host the rat lung worm that can be problematic to humans. These species can survive out of water and can hibernate in the mud during the cold months.

As you can imagine, this is a problem for the Florida apple snail, since the invasive variety is in competition for food and space. To complicate matters further, these exotic snails have few if any natural enemies. In addition, the channeled apple snail will continually eat the native vegetation in an area, even until it is gone, leaving little for the native snail to feast on.

The Florida apple snail also contributes as a food source for other creatures such as turtles, fish, alligators and wading birds. The value of this snail is not only its uniqueness, but that it is the favorite food of the Everglades kite.

Like everything else in nature, it is all a delicate balance. One species depends on another for its survival. Thus, just looking at the scenario of the Everglades snail kite and the Florida apple snail, we see that in order for both to survive, we must conserve our marshes for their habitat, their food sources and their feeding grounds.

Who would have thought that a snail the size of golf ball could be so important?

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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Nuke plant opponents voice concerns

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

CRYSTAL RIVER — Opponents of two proposed nuclear power reactors in west-central Florida told a Nuclear Regulatory Commission panel on Thursday that the units will upset the delicate balance of the rural area's water system and present a health risk.

Supporters of Progress Energy's plan to build the electricity-generating reactors in Levy County, about 10 miles northeast of the utility's existing nuclear plant in Crystal River, said the company has a good environmental track record and that the new plant will bolster the area's meager tax base.

The hearing before a three-judge panel of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board — the judicial arm of the NRC — addressed a legal challenge to Progress Energy's application to license the plants. The NRC is expected to complete an environmental impact statement this spring and a formal trial on the challenge could happen as early as October.

“This project would take Florida back 100 years, when we viewed wetlands as worthless”

LEE BIDGOOD JR.
environmental activist

The Nuclear Information and Resource Center, as well as two Florida environmental groups, formally challenged Progress Energy's assertion that the reactors at the 3,000-acre site would have only a small impact on area wetlands, the floodplain, ground-water and wildlife.

“This project would take Florida back 100 years, when we viewed wetlands as worthless,” said 90-year-old Lee Bidgood Jr., who described himself as a longtime environmental activist.

“Let's save some wetlands.”

Progress Energy said the plant will pump water for its cooling towers three miles from the Cross Florida Barge Canal. Only 1 percent of the water for the plant would be pumped from the delicate Floridan Aquifer, mostly for drinking and other uses, utili-

ty spokesman Tim Leijedal said. Water will be expelled to the Gulf of Mexico via another pipeline. The site includes 722 acres of wetlands from a former timber-harvesting area.

While supporters see nuclear energy as a way to reduce dependence on foreign fuel and cut climate-changing air pollution, critics cite such problems as ever-increasing construction costs, the still unsolved issue of spent-fuel disposal and potential radiation hazards if something goes wrong, such as Japan's nuclear disaster following an earthquake and tsunami.

Dr. Lynn Ringenberg, representing Physicians for Social Responsibility, said the new nuclear units just aren't worth the risk. It's been proven, she said, that even low levels of radiation can cause cancer.

“Nuclear power is not the answer to global warming,” Ringenberg told the judges. “It is not clean, it is not green, it is not safe and it is not renewable.”

Many of the 50 or so people who attended the hearing at a Crystal River hotel said they supported the project, including two commissioners from Levy County, population 41,000, whose tax base and economy would benefit. Also, Progress Energy has been a good corporate neighbor and “major participant in protecting the environment” around the existing Crystal River plant, said John Siefert of the Citrus County Economic Development Council.

Robert Smith, who said his home near Inglis would be just over a mile from one of the proposed reactors, complained that Progress Energy has been slow to answer his questions about how the plant will affect his family's health, quality of well water and other issues.

“Any of you people who want to live 6,800 feet from a nuclear site, come on up and hurrah for it,” Smith said.

Judge urges progress on Everglades pollution fixes

MIAMI (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday urged federal and state environmental officials to take real, concrete steps toward reducing pollution in the Everglades and move away from the court battles that have stalled progress for more than two decades.

Saying he is committed to holding government's “feet to the fire,” U.S. District Judge Alan Gold pressed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Florida to work out the differences in competing Everglades restoration plans and come up with a guaranteed way to pay for the costly work.

“Elsewise, what we're doing is going around in circles, again, trying to fine-tune something without the ability to implement

it,” Gold said. “We ought to be able to state clearly what we can do and can't do.”

The hearing was the latest of many in a lawsuit originally filed in 2004 by the Miccosukee Indian tribe — whose reservation is in the Everglades — claiming state and federal agencies have repeatedly failed to enforce Clean Water Act standards in the vast wetlands. An even older lawsuit over many of the same issues dates to 1988.

Last year under Gold's watch, the EPA proposed a new \$1 billion restoration plan focused on expanding huge manmade, buffering marshes used to filter phosphorous from the water before it flows into the Everglades. The phosphorous comes from fertilizer used on farms such as sugar plantations.

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CHALK TALK

Highlands County teachers awarded Splash! grants

Special to the News-Sun
Six Highlands County teachers were awarded Splash! school grants through the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Mary Margaret Hull, District lead communications coordinator, attributes the effectiveness of the grant program in Highlands County to the strong partnership with Highlands County Schools. Dorothea Strickland, Highlands County science curriculum specialist, serves as the District's liaison to teachers and helped get the word out.

"The District recognizes the critical role STEM education — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — plays in preparing students for the future," said Hull. "With the help of the grant program, students will learn the importance of protecting and conserving Florida's water resources through STEM-based education projects."

The Highlands County awardes are:

— Cedric Bullard, Avon Park High School, will receive \$1,416. Students will

conduct in-class and field investigations to learn what impacts water quality.

— Cheryl Moffat, Career Academy, will receive \$864. Students will conduct field studies, learning about the effects of agriculture on water quality.

— Tanya Koehler, Cracker Trail Elementary School, will receive \$2,973. Students will conduct water tests, learning about the water cycle, watersheds, water conservation and water quality.

— Kathy Robinson, Lake Country Elementary School, will receive \$2,999. Students will build a hydroponic garden and visit a local commercial farm to see water-conserving farming on a large scale.

— Lydia Tubbs, Lake Placid Middle School, will receive \$2,999. Students will conduct a field study of the Peace River through the Hardee County Outdoor Classroom, observing aquifer modeling.

— JoLynne Crout, Park Elementary School, will receive \$3,000. Students will investigate the cause-and-effect relationships of natural systems and build mock

water ponds in and out of the classroom.

This year 157 Splash! grants were awarded across the District's 16-county region to educate students on Florida's water.

The goal of the Splash! school grant program is to provide teachers with funding to enhance student knowledge of freshwater resources issues. Splash! school grants provide up to \$3,000 per school on a reimbursement basis and are available to public, charter and private school teachers.

Past Splash! grant projects include student monitoring of local water quality, environmental field studies and outreach campaigns designed to encourage water conservation.

In addition to Splash! grant funding, the District offers free teacher professional development workshops and curriculum materials. The publications are correlated to Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Science Standards and can also be ordered on the District's website at WaterMatters.org/publications/.



Nomvuyo Mzamane, a South African native, speaks to girls at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls that opened recently in South Africa. Mzamane resigned as assistant head of operations at Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia to become the academy's permanent head.

Winfrey celebrates 1st graduates from South Africa girls' academy

Associated Press
HENLEY-ON-KLIP, South Africa — Oprah Winfrey makes no apologies for spending millions on an elite school for underprivileged South African girls. But she's also looking for ways to make her money stretch further to help more struggling Africans.

Winfrey spoke Friday on the eve of the first graduation at her school. Of the 75 students who started at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in 2007, 72 who will graduate Saturday.

All are headed to universities in South Africa and the United States to pursue such studies as medicine, law, engineering and economics.

Across South Africa, more than half a million members of the class of 2011 disappeared before the 496,000 remaining took their final exams. Only a quarter of those who gradu-

ated did well enough to qualify for university study.

"We're taking a victory lap here, for transformation," Winfrey said. "Every single girl is going to leave here with something greater to offer the world than her body."

South Africa is struggling to overcome the inequalities of apartheid, which ended in 1994. The country has too few schools at all levels, and many lack such basics as libraries and are staffed by undereducated teachers.

Earlier this week, a stampepe at a Johannesburg university campus killed a mother who had accompanied her son to an in-person application day. Thousands were vying for a few hundred spots at the university.

Winfrey, who spent \$40 million on her campus, said her focus was "just to change one girl, affect one person's life." But she acknowledged hers "is not a sustainable model for most

people in most countries."

Another new class starts at Winfrey's school next week. But to help more young Africans, Winfrey said she would be working with established philanthropies to identify schools around the developing world that can be strengthened with money.

She hopes to adapt some of the practices of her school, including creating strong support networks for students.

"It takes a lot of support, it takes a whole team," she said, saying teachers and communities would have to be active participants.

Her focus on girls was not among the strategies she would change. Winfrey said studies have shown helping girls helps entire communities, in part because girls and women give back so much.

"I know what it's like to be a poor girl with your heart's desire to do well in the world," she added.

Wesson graduates from Texas A&M

Special to the News-Sun
Snyder High School graduate J.W. Wesson graduated summa cum laude from Texas A&M University on Dec. 16 with a major in computer science.

Wesson, who was the SHS Valedictorian, will attend Texas Mays

Business School to complete his master's degree in management information systems. He is a software developer for Capsher Technologies in College Station. He is the son of Jay and Tammy Wesson, and the grandson of Judy and Frank Welch of Avon Park.



Archaeologist Ryan Murphy to speak at SFCC on Thursday

Special to the News-Sun
AVON PARK — Archaeologist Ryan Murphy will present "The Cottage Hill Midden: A Late Archaic Shell Ring in Sarasota," during the Kissimmee Archaeological and Historical Conservancy's Speaker Series at 7 p.m. on Thursday in Building G, Room 102, South Florida Community College Highlands Campus. The presentation is free and open to the public.

The Hill Cottage Midden is a Late Archaic Shell Ring that is part of the Palmer Site in Sarasota County. The site is significant and has been studied by a number of professional archaeologists

including Dr. Adeline Bullard, Dr. George Luer, and Marion Almy. It was concluded that the site had been abandoned around 1275 B.C. and was repopulated several hundred years later by the early Manasota Culture. Shell rings dating to the Late Archaic can be found along the coast in the Southeastern United States between South Carolina and Florida.

These unique features provide archaeologists with some of the earliest examples of monument construction within the region, suggesting an increasing social complexity.

Murphy graduated from the University of Central Florida majoring in anthro-

pology. He is a candidate for a master's in arts degree in humanities with a concentration in history from California State University.

Murphy also holds certificates in museum studies, non-profit management, grant proposal writing, and business administration.

Currently, he is the curator for Historic Spanish Point in Osprey, responsible for the management and care of a nearly 20,000 object collection, the preservation of several historic buildings, as well as the ongoing conservation of the Palmer Site (8S502).

For more information, call Anne Reynolds at 863-441-3966.

THE DIARY OF

ANNE FRANK

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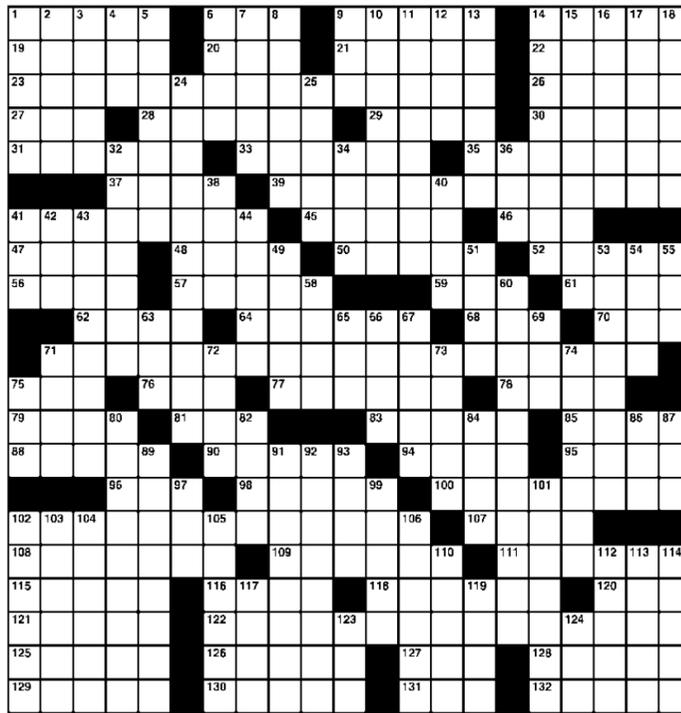
Donation \$7.00 - Students \$3.00 • Tickets Available from band members or at the door.

DIVERSIONS

STOUT AND THIN

- ACROSS**
- 1 See-through dessert
 - 6 "It's just ___ said ..."
 - 9 Rite site
 - 14 Shooter's setting
 - 19 Oriole-related, e.g.
 - 20 Pugsley, to Gomez
 - 21 Carried
 - 22 "That's ___!": mom's admonition
 - 23 "My priest has met Pulitzer-winning playwright Henley?"
 - 26 Hull parts, often
 - 27 Gator tail?
 - 28 Secant's reciprocal
 - 29 Princess from Alderaan
 - 30 Have a blast, with "up"
 - 31 Outcome
 - 33 Greenish-yellow fruit
 - 35 Gonzaga University city
 - 37 Goofballs
 - 39 Dinner served on a wooden strip?
 - 41 Blast from Babe?
 - 45 New York Harbor's ___ Island
 - 46 Suffix with Carmel
 - 47 Edible green pod
 - 48 She walked Asta
 - 50 Graceful woman
 - 52 Made a jumper, maybe
 - 56 Tide during the moon's first quarter
 - 57 Star in Virgo
 - 59 Member of the fam
 - 61 Polynesian drink
 - 62 Protect, as during a gym routine
 - 64 Relieved remark
 - 68 Neat time
 - 70 Bill's "excellent adventure" partner
 - 71 Compliment to a young genius?
 - 75 Efron of "High School Musical"
 - 76 What Nixon and Kennedy have in common?
 - 77 Insect with eyespots on its wings
- 78 Black, to Balzac
- 79 Pitching stats
- 81 Sushi fish
- 83 Risky meeting
- 85 Lobster meat source
- 88 Bits of progress
- 90 Uses a Kindle
- 94 Key with three sharps: Abbr.
- 95 Premium coffee variety
- 96 One-eighty
- 98 Turn ___ ear
- 100 Small compartment for lifting self-esteem?
- 102 Nonsense talk from an inner city?
- 107 Son of Isaac
- 108 Verbena family plant
- 109 Like magma
- 111 Big house locale
- 115 Columbia et al.
- 116 First light
- 118 Workshop grippers
- 120 Novelist Buntline
- 121 Pola of the silents
- 122 Reason for foggy coop windows?
- 125 Caused to submit
- 126 Guadalajara-to-Puerto Vallarta dirección
- 127 ___ later date
- 128 Hollywood's Hayek
- 129 Focused look
- 130 Director of the last four Harry Potter films
- 131 "Can't Help Lovin' ___ Man"
- 132 Lock on top?
- DOWN**
- 1 "Aladdin" heavy
 - 2 Skirt
 - 3 Beers for dieters
 - 4 ___-di-dah
 - 5 Bridge opening
 - 6 More than wonders
 - 7 Drive-in chain with carhops
 - 8 Complicit
 - 9 Crunched muscles
 - 10 Southeastern pine
 - 11 Shipbuilding dowel
 - 12 No voter

By PETER A. COLLINS



Solution on page 11B

- 13 Go over and over
- 14 Deceptions
- 15 Preview
- 16 Dancer's technique
- 17 Surfing, say
- 18 Word with board or boy
- 24 Powdered rock used as an abrasive
- 25 "___ people ..."
- 32 Bummed
- 34 Kinfolk: Abbr.
- 36 Omega preceder
- 38 Sty fare
- 40 Rx amts.
- 41 Friend of Harry and Hermione
- 42 Mandolin kin
- 43 Source of an alley racket
- 44 Court event
- 49 When the Sugar Plum Fairy appears in "The Nutcracker"
- 51 Fan setting
- 53 1815 battle site
- 54 Even once
- 55 Senior, to Junior
- 58 Guy who's high in a loft?
- 60 Patron of workers
- 63 Santana's "___ Como Va"
- 65 Buck passer, briefly?
- 66 65-Down feature
- 67 Aquarium denizen
- 69 ___-cone
- 71 Share ending
- 72 Manual reader
- 73 Culinary herb
- 74 Oust
- 75 Athens : omega :: London : ___
- 80 Speech therapy candidate
- 82 Sharon of "Boston Public"
- 84 Wise
- 86 Pantry annoyance
- 87 Nursery cry
- 89 Save for later
- 91 '60s Batman por-trayer
- 92 Set off
- 93 Satirist Mort
- 97 Over there, old-style
- 99 Retrieve
- 101 McCartney, notably
- 102 Flashes
- 103 Attack, as one's work
- 104 Puzzle
- 105 Record label founded by Diddy
- 106 Insert more rounds
- 110 1990s treaty acronym
- 112 Electronic monitor site
- 113 Crawls (with)
- 114 Writer Ferber and others
- 117 Region
- 119 Aspiring GP's exam
- 123 Some NFL receivers
- 124 One in a jam, maybe

Our answer in troubling times



Pause And Consider
Jan Merop

Things were not easy then. I felt unprepared to handle the untold responsibilities and decisions of single parenting.

"Lord, if you would sit here beside me and tell me what to do, I'll do it," I prayed.

He must have calmly smiled as he reminded me that he would never leave me or forsake me; was changeless; and, had my best interests at heart.

But, sometimes when my plate overflowed, my flesh cried out for his physical presence and immediate deliverance.

However, God's assurances usually came through his peace that passes understanding; unexpected provisions; words of encouragement and faithful presence of family and friends; and, the extraordinary joy of motherhood.

Jesus draws us closer to him because he is the answer to our every need. How often the Lord waits so he can show us his grace.

Recently, I was reading in Isaiah 55:6-7, NKJV, where it says, "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake His way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

The economic woes of our day, the unsettled international scene, the joblessness, hopelessness and expectation

that government apart from God can somehow fix it all, seem far more overwhelming than any individual concerns; yet they are equally important to our God.

However, the answer is the same. Imagine him saying,

"Come to me. Give me my rightful place in your life and in your nation and trust me with the outcome. I'm all sufficient, all powerful, all knowing and almighty. My thoughts are higher than yours."

We have tunnel vision and focus on our problems instead of our problem solver. He will accomplish his purposes according to his sovereign knowledge.

In light of the extraordinary national and world events that have us sitting on the edge of our seats, let's remember to seek the Lord while he may be found.

Jesus' promised return may be closer than we think.

In the meantime, his words in Isaiah 55 and 2 Chronicles 7:14 parallel each other. He promises that he will hear from heaven and heal our land if those called by his name will humbly pray, seek his face and turn from their wicked ways.

God may still be found. He invites us to come with our whole hearts. He is our answer in troubling times; in fact, all the time. Selah

Jan Merop is a News-Sun correspondent. Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun

Energy is high this week, Leo

Metro Services

Aries (March 21-April 20) — Aries, you're in a good mood, and you begin to express your inner child this week. You want to participate in as many activities as you can.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) — Taurus, your idealistic view of work this week may win you extra points with the boss. This is especially true if you continue to put your head down and work hard.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) — Gemini, although the week proves to be very busy, somehow you're able to sail through without a worry. That's ideal for keeping stress levels at a minimum.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Cancer, things seem to be even keel at home, but there is something that will pop up this week that will catch you off guard. Stay alert and you will handle it effectively.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 23) — Leo, your physical energy is high this week, and that gives you a little more hop in your step. It also enables you to get a lot of things accomplished.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 22) — Virgo, you like to work behind the scenes and not be the center of attention. But this week you may be even more out of the limelight than ever. Others may wonder if you're there.

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.

Horoscope

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Scorpio, you could have a series of very productive days this week. You are at the top of your professional game and are actually enjoying the feeling of power.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Sagittarius, getting together with a few coworkers or friends and having a night out could be just what you need this week. It's time to relax and kick back.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — You have specific goals, Capricorn. But you can't let ambition rule your life. Sometimes it is best to just enjoy the moment and the people around you.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18) — Aquarius, others may want you to explore uncharted territory. While momentarily sceptical, you soon could realize this is an opportunity that does not come along too often.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Pisces, though you may try to keep your feelings to yourself this week, it won't be hard for others to discern your mood.

Notable birthdays

Jan. 15: Chad Lowe, Actor (44); Jan. 16: Debbie Allen, Choreographer (42); Jan. 17: Michelle Obama, First Lady (48); Jan. 18: Megan York, Actress (19); Jan. 19: Katey Sagal, Actress (58); Jan. 20: Rainn Wilson, Actor (46); Jan. 21 Emma Lee Bunton, Singer (36).

Man busy in retirement gets no respect from working wife

Dear Abby: I retired two years ago at age 50 after working for 30 years. My wife and I are financially secure and I'm enjoying every day of my retirement. However, my wife — who is younger — won't be eligible to retire from her job for another five years. She is becoming more and more abrasive toward me. I suspect it's because she's jealous of my retirement status.

She constantly accuses me of being lazy. Abby, I don't sit around all day. In addition to doing the yard work, house upkeep, and repair and maintaining our cars, I do all the grocery shopping, help with the laundry, dishes, general cleanup and take care of our pets. Despite all this, my wife still bemoans my sleeping late in the morning (9 a.m.) and not going to a regular job like she does.

I'm still young enough to get another job. Should I go back to work until she retires?

— *Should Be Happy in Tampa*

Dear Should Be Happy: That's not a bad idea, but don't start looking until your wife has told you plainly why she has become "abrasive." Wouldn't it be interesting if all she wanted was for you to have a cup of coffee with her in the morning? It would be a shame if you went back to work only to realize that something else



Dear Abby

was causing her change in attitude. You deserve to know what's going on because you do not appear to be lazy — quite the contrary.

Dear Abby: I'm an adult woman, working full time for my parents as their store manager. I do a lot of office work for my dad, who hates computer work. He has an eBay business on the side, which I manage for him.

My problem is, eBay shows me what Dad has shopped for every time I log on. Some of the items are of a personal, intimate nature, and I'm not comfortable knowing about them. I'm glad my parents have a healthy marriage, but it's WAY too much information for me. As a family, we don't communicate well, so I don't know how to handle this. My husband had no suggestions, so I turn to you.

— *Really Don't Want To Know*

Dear Really: Try this: Send your father an email telling him that you feel some of the items he is buying online are not things that a daughter should be seeing.

Include as an attachment your letter to me. That should do the trick.

Dear Abby: My grandmother recently bought me a plane ticket to go visit her. In the airport on the way back home, the flight was overbooked and I agreed to be bumped to another flight in exchange for a free ticket to be used or given to someone else within a year.

My mother says the free ticket belongs to my grandmother because she paid for it. I say I should use it for myself because it is compensation for the lost time and trouble of switching flights. What do you think?

— *Minnesota Traveler*

Dear Traveler: Your mother has a point. Offer the ticket to your grandmother. If you're lucky, she'll tell you to keep and enjoy it. If she doesn't, at least you'll know you did the right thing. (When you give in the true spirit of giving, it will come back to you — or so it implies in Ecclesiastes.)

Dear Abby: I sneeze a lot at work. I don't know if it's the dust or what. When I do, someone always says "bless you" afterward. I don't care to be blessed, but I think people would be insulted if I told them it isn't necessary. Should I tell them not to?

— *Already Blessed in Iowa*

Dear Already Blessed: If

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Tips for Saving Money on Taxes

FAMILY FEATURES

Who isn't looking to save a little money these days? Here are some easy ways you can save money on preparing your taxes, as well as ways you might be able to pay out a little less.

IRS Free File: More Savings, Less Taxing

Looking for a fast, easy and free option to do your taxes? IRS Free File allows everyone to prepare and e-file their federal tax returns for free. And, the step-by-step, brand-name software offered by IRS' commercial partners helps you find the tax breaks you are due.

Each of the approximately 20 private-sector partners tailor their offerings based on criteria such as income, age or state residency. If you need help finding a Free File match, just select the "get help finding a Free File company" as your option. Simply enter a little information about yourself and the matches will appear. Some also offer state returns for free or for a fee.

- While all the companies have different criteria, if you made \$57,000 or less in 2011 — and that's 70 percent of us — you will be eligible for at least one free tax software program.
- If your income was higher than \$57,000, you can still prepare and e-file your return for free by using Free File Fillable Forms. This is the electronic version of IRS paper forms. It's more basic and is probably best for people comfortable preparing their own paper tax returns. It does not support state tax returns.

Just go to www.irs.gov/freefile to get started.



Organize Records

The IRS recommends keeping all tax-related documents for three years, in case of an audit. Keeping track of income-related documents can help you take full advantage of deductions available to you. If you don't have the information, you might be losing out on money.

What should you have handy when it's time to fill out this year's returns? Records such as:

- A copy of last year's tax return
- Valid Social Security numbers for yourself, spouse and children
- All income statements, i.e. W-2 forms, from all employers
- Interest/dividend statements, i.e. 1099 forms
- Form 1099-G showing any state refunds
- Unemployment compensation amount
- Social Security benefits
- Expense receipts for deductions
- Day care provider's identifying number

Did You Know?

- Because of a holiday, the 2012 tax deadline is April 17.
- Everyone can do their taxes for free with IRS Free File.
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is for working families, yet 20 percent overlook it.
- Eighty percent of taxpayers get a refund.
- IRS2GO is a new smartphone app that lets you track your refund.
- No phone? Visit "Where's My Refund?" at www.irs.gov.
- The official website, www.irs.gov, has a new look, and the latest info.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

If you need personal assistance to prepare your tax return, there are 12,000 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites nationwide. These sites offer free help to those earning around \$50,000 or less. To locate the nearest VITA site, search for "VITA" on IRS.gov.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), which is supported by AARP, offers free tax help to people who are age 60 and older. To locate the nearest AARP Tax-Aide site, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit AARP.org.

Find Out if You are Eligible for the EITC

No tax benefit offers a greater lifeline to working families than EITC. Yet, one out of every five eligible taxpayers fails to claim it, according to the IRS. Because of the economy, even more people may be eligible if they have had changes in their earned income. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- The amount of qualifying income depends on your situation. For example, married workers, who earned \$49,078 or less from wages, self-employment or farm income last year, are filing jointly, and have two qualifying children, could be eligible. The maximum credit for 2011 tax returns is \$5,751 for workers with three or more qualifying children.
- Eligibility for the EITC is determined based on a number of factors including earnings, filing status and eligible children. Workers without qualifying children may be eligible for a smaller credit amount.
- You must file a tax return, even if you do not have a filing requirement, and specifically claim the credit. Those who typically fail to claim the EITC include rural workers and their families; non-traditional families, such as grandparents or foster parents raising children; taxpayers without qualifying children; individuals with limited English proficiency; and taxpayers with disabilities.
- If you claim EITC, it can be complex so try to avoid the common errors such as mistakes on income amounts, filing head of household when you should file as married, or claiming children who have not lived with you for more than half the year.
- If you use a paid tax return preparer, make sure to seek out a reputable one. Tax professionals must sign returns they prepare and use their Preparer Tax Identification Numbers.

To learn more about EITC, go to www.irs.gov/eitc and use the EITC Assistant, or ask your tax professional.

All EITC claimants are eligible for free tax help from the 12,000 volunteer sites nationwide or to use Free File at www.irs.gov/freefile.



EITC Rules: Are You Eligible?

Rules for Everyone

- Your adjusted gross income cannot be more than the limit.
- You must have a valid Social Security number.
- Your filing status cannot be "Married filing separately."
- You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year.
- You cannot file Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ.
- Your investment income must be \$3,150 or less.
- You must have earned income.