



NEWS-SUN

Highlands County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1927

CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

A guide to squeezing in all your holiday merry-making

PAGE 14B



Run hard ... then eat

19th Turkey Trot draws hundreds to Hammock

SPORTS, 1B



Being together

Salvation Army hosts Thanksgiving dinner

PHOTOS, 6A

Sunday, November 27, 2011

www.newssun.com

Volume 92/Number 140 | 75 cents

Forecast



Partly sunny, then breezy in the PM

High Low

82 63

Complete Forecast PAGE 14A

Online



Question: Are you planning to spend more this holiday shopping season than you did last year?

Yes 6.9%

No 93.1%

Total votes: 116

Next question:

Will you attend one of the three county Christmas parades?

Make your voice heard at www.newssun.com

Obituaries

Carolyn Howerton
Age 67, of Sebring

Engelina Kistler
Age 84, of Sebring

Robert Kurtz
Age 94, of Sebring

Josef Reis
Age 89, of Sebring

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News-Sun photo by ED BALDRIDGE
On the outside, the Kenilworth Business Center looks new and professional, but county engineer Ramon Gavarrete told commissioners the \$2.1 million taxpayer investment was "just a shell" with holes in the ceiling and needed proper permitting.

County 'throwing money' at 'shell of a building'

By ED BALDRIDGE
ed.baldrige@newssun.com

SEBRING — County commissioners showed concern over the costs of a recently purchased building on Tuesday, pointing out that staff was not diligent on protecting taxpayer money.

Just more than five hours into the seven-hour board meeting, Commissioner

Barbara Stewart took exception to an additional \$100,000 of unbudgeted requests from County Engineer Ramon Gavarrete to weatherize the building purchased at 4500 N. Kenilworth Blvd.

The building was bought to house the Supervisor of Elections offices.

County budget staff informed the board that the

total allocated funds for the project — including the purchases, expenses and an additional \$632,464 in encumbered but unspent funds — added up to just more than \$2.1 million for the property and repairs in addition to the latest \$100,000 request.

Stewart insisted that she See BUILDING, page 3A

Black Friday: 'It was wall to wall'



News-Sun photo by SAMANTHA GHOLAR

Electronics got a lot of attention during Black Friday sales as televisions and video games were deeply discounted.

Shoppers jam aisles in search of deals

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR
sgholar@newssun.com

SEBRING — Sebring's Walmart went from "dead" to jam-packed in a couple short hours according to nearly a dozen employees running the morning shift Friday.

Cars were parked everywhere possible, overflowing the large parking lot. Some people even parked across U.S. 27 and made the mad dash across six lanes of traffic.

Employees ranging in work experience from only the fourth day on the job to years in retail as said that Friday's sale brought out people from every corner of the area.

One sporting goods Walmart associate snapped a quick photo with her iPhone just after midnight Friday; as far as the eye could see were shopping carts customers waiting to get their hands discounted big ticket items.

Seasonal associate John Wotasek was overwhelmed with the number of customers in the store late Thursday and into the wee hours of Friday morning.

"I've only been working here four days," said Wotasek. "People started lining up way back here (the layaway and restroom area in the back of the store) a little after 7 (p.m.). I kept telling them that

See BLACK, page 3A

LP rec board losing patience

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY
christopher.tuffley@newssun.com

LAKE PLACID — Members of the Lake Placid Recreation Commission all serve as volunteers.

While reviewing a proposed pay-to-play ordinance at their meeting Tuesday night, they made one thing clear — the town council has to do more in resolving the problem of funding public parks.

"It's been six to eight months, and we've already passed (an ordinance) to the council," commission member Andy Russell said. "They amended it, and amended it again. We're not achieving anything. We keep on rehashing this."

Jon Million, chair of the commission, agreed. "All this has been brought up at one time or other," he said.

Mike Waldron, the newly appointed town council member replacing

'It's big six to eight months and we've already passed (an ordinance) to the council. They amended it and amended it again. We're not achieving anything.'

ANDY RUSSELL
commission member

See RECREATION, page 5A

Hundreds turn out to see surging Gingrich in Naples

By TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

NAPLES — Speaking to a standing room-only crowd in Naples on Friday, presidential candidate Newt Gingrich detailed his views on immigration, just days after breaking with what has become a

Republican hard line on the topic.

"I do not believe you can pass comprehensive legislation," Gingrich said to nearly 1,000 people gathered at the Naples Hilton.

The event, which was moved from another location

to the hotel to accommodate more people, was so crowded that some people left when they found out that they would have to listen to him from an adjacent room.

Recent polls have shown

See GINGRICH, page 5A



MCT
Newt Gingrich has surged toward the top of the Republican polls lately after lagging behind the previous months.

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Downtown shopping helps local economy

Special to the News-Sun
SEBRING — With the holidays here and gift shopping on everyone's mind, it is just as important to remember how your money is spent in addition to what you buy. How much money do you plan to spend at a local, independent business for the holidays?

The Sebring Community Redevelopment Agency's Buy Downtown Sebring program offers consumers financial savings, as well as a way to support locally-owned businesses and local jobs that helps keep more money within the community. Here are a few facts:

— Local businesses reinvest in the local economy 60 percent more than chains.

— Small businesses account for 75 percent of all new jobs in this country.

— Small business employs more than half of all U.S. workers.

As part of the CRA's mission to spur economic activity in Downtown Sebring, the goal of the Buy Downtown Sebring program is to connect Downtown Sebring with the buying power of the local community.

Consumers can pick up their free Buy Downtown Sebring card at participating merchants, the Sebring Chamber of Commerce offices, the CRA office in city hall or in the Highlands County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The savings begin immediately as each participating merchant offers discounts and savings on goods such as home decor, school supplies, art and culture, framing, dining, pottery, art, flooring, gardening/plants, pet foods, office supplies, furniture, antiques, clothing and jewelry.

For more information, visit www.DowntownSebring.org

EAA president to speak at US Sport Aviation Expo Jan. 19

Special to the News-Sun
SEBRING — Rod Hightower, president of EAA, accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker at the Light Aircraft Manufacturer's Association, dinner during the 8th Annual U.S. Sport Aviation Expo Jan. 19, 2012.

The LAMA dinner is not open to the general public. Invited guests must be LSA professionals who are members of LAMA or who may be considering joining LAMA.

Festivities for the LAMA dinner will commence at 5:30 p.m. with the dinner served buffet style at 6. Hightower will speak at 6:30 p.m. and be followed by a short question and answer period.

Peppercorns Restaurant is creating the luscious lasagna dinner for this fifth annual event. The dinner, compliments of LAMA, is on a first-come, first-serve basis and seating is limited to 300 people.

The LAMA dinner is presented with support from Aviators Hot Line.



Photo courtesy 'Hold My Hand: A Hometown Hero Tribute' Former Senate majority leader and wounded combat veteran Bob Dole meets U.S. Army Sgt. Rusty Dunagan, who lost his legs and left arm in Afghanistan last year.

Inside the envelope

Ten days after losing his left arm and both legs in Afghanistan's treacherous Arghandab River valley, Sgt. Rusty Dunagan lay in a Washington, D.C., hospital bed. After being too choked up to say much to his wife by phone from his previous hospital bed in Germany, he was about to see Angie for the first time since the explosion.

"I was so drugged up," Sgt. Dunagan told the Unknown Soldiers. "But I was calm, and (my wife and mother) were calm because they didn't want to scare me."

Shortly after the emotional reunion, a soldier brought an envelope into Dunagan's room, explaining that it contained some of the wounded warrior's personal effects. Given the violent, unforgettable chaos of the explosion, the delivery was a surprise.

Suddenly without a left hand, Dunagan asked his wife to open the envelope. What happened next may have been the most important moment of his life.

Dunagan, a native of Guthrie, Okla., said he joined the Army on Sept. 21, 2006, four years and one day before the explosion. He had spent the days since 9/11 working at Walmart, where he felt a sharp pull toward serving his country.

"My job in retail was interesting," Dunagan, 31, said. "But I wanted something more."

Though Rusty was still single when he went to Iraq in March 2008, being away from his family and friends was difficult. But as bullets flew, the deployed warrior had no choice but to adjust after deploying from Texas' Fort Hood.

"I made a lot of really good friends there, especially in infantry, because it's like a band of brothers," he said. "I missed my friends and family, but when you're (deployed), you really don't have time to think about it."

Even though the sergeant returned home safely from Iraq, he thought every day about the dozen soldiers from his unit killed during the deployment. It wasn't until his brigade relocated to Colorado's Fort Carson that Dunagan had something to smile about.

"When I met my wife, she knew I was in the military," he recalled. "I told her, you know, we are leaving within a year."

Undaunted by the unknown, they got married. Still, the newlyweds spoke frankly about the challenges Rusty's unit would face during its upcoming Afghanistan mission.

"We knew it was going to



be a tough deployment," the soldier said. "I always tried to stay upbeat and keep her positive."

On Sept. 22, 2010, Dunagan set out for the day's fourth combat patrol to help fellow soldiers establish a battlefield position. From his latest hospital bed in San Antonio, where the attack's other wounded survivors are also recovering, the triple-amputee recounted the horror that followed a minesweeper's signal that something was wrong.

"There was a pause," Dunagan said. "I was on one knee, and my buddy behind me, a guy I was bringing out there, was talking to me."

"As soon as he got up is when he hit the landmine," the soldier continued. "Forty-five pounds of homemade explosives went off and blew me into the creek."

Dunagan said he remembers being lifted out of the water and bleeding profusely all the way to the hospital. "I was conscious until I got to Kandahar Air Field," he recounted. "Then I woke up a week later in Germany."

Days later, he looked into Angie's tearful eyes at Walter Reed as she opened the envelope.

"That's when my wedding ring came out," Dunagan said. "It was really surprising to me, because it was my left arm that was blown off."

Inspired by an extraordinary moment, which the wounded warrior and his wife viewed as a new beginning, Rusty is focused on being a husband, father, and soldier. But as he trains with prosthetic legs, he still has one more battle to conquer.

"At 6-3, 225 pounds, I was my kids' protector, and now I'm in a wheelchair," Dunagan said. "I want to get up and walk with both legs."

He firmly believes that momentous day is coming. Yet when shadows of doubt inevitably loom, all Sgt. Rusty Dunagan has to do is look down at his wedding ring. He wears it tightly on the only hand he has left.

To find out more about Tom Sileo or to read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com/.

Cold and flu workshop Tuesday

SEBRING — Dr. L. John Pepper will offer an interactive workshop, "Superhero Strategies for Cold and Flu Seasons," at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at The Caddyshack.

In this workshop, participants will learn:

- Pitfalls that can crash your immune system.
- Specific natural and effective strategies to help reduce the chances of getting the flu or a cold.
- The shocking truth about some of the foods our children eat.
- How to truly help your child lead a healthy, wellness lifestyle and build healthy habits from a young age.

Pepper, a noted speaker and wellness doctor, will teach the ins and outs of raising children as healthy as possible. This workshop is packed full of useful information and will be an experience to remember.

Cost of the presentation is \$15, which includes dinner. Seating is limited. Call 386-4325 for a reservation.

Harder Hall light display to benefit Habitat

SEBRING — A local Sebring man, Ken Jorgensen, has completed the 2011 Christmas light display at his home to benefit Habitat for Humanity. The display is at 423 Sportsman Ave.

Visitors can walk or drive to the location to see more than 20,000 animated lights and music. The show lasts approximately 25 minutes and is coordinated to

holiday music on 106.7 FM. Donations can be deposited in the box in the driveway through New Year's Day. All donations benefit Highlands County Habitat for Humanity.

Last year, the musical Christmas light display raised more than \$430.

Driving directions are as follows: Travel Southwest on Golfview Road. Make first left onto Lake Drive Blvd. Make first right onto Sportsman Ave., 423 Sportsman is on the left. For additional information, call 402-2913.

Caladium Co-op has longer hours

LAKE PLACID — The Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative, 132 E. Interlake Blvd., will remain open until 9 p.m. Fridays for the convenience of their customers through Dec. 23. Shop for unique gifts and enjoy free gift wrapping.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers

SEBRING — Sebring Meals on Wheels delivers hot meals from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., including holidays, Monday-Friday. The cost is \$4.35 per meal.

There is always a need for volunteer drivers who have two hours to spare, one day a week, and are interested in driving or would like to start meal delivery.

Call 402-1818 for details.

Wacaster Family at Calvary Church

SEBRING — Calvary Church, Hammock Road will be hosting the

Wacaster Family in concert at 10 a.m. today.

This family will be sharing its fresh country gospel music. They are listed as one of America's favorite gospel groups. Darren, Hope and Matthew have wonderful music and testimony to share.

The concert is free to all. Invite your friends and neighbors.

Orchid Society meets Monday

SEBRING — The Orchid Society of Highlands County will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday. The meetings are held at the Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center, 4509 George Blvd.

This month a representative from Hicks Orchid Supplies in Orlando will be discussing the different type of potting mediums available. They will have orchid supplies for sale.

Guests are always welcome and participants do not have to be knowledgeable of orchids to attend.

The society is also sponsoring a trip to the Tamiami Orchid Show in Miami on Jan. 28; cost is \$25. For additional information, contact Ed at 465-2830 or by e-mail at oshc9@aol.com or go to the website orchidsocietyhighlands.org/.

'What's Up Downtown?' focus on goal setting

SEBRING — The Sebring Community Redevelopment Agency will host its next monthly "What's Up Downtown"

Continued on page 5A



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 Lottery Center	Nov. 23 3 10 11 20 42 43 x:5 <i>Next jackpot \$35 million</i>
	Nov. 19 3 5 17 24 34 53 x:5 Nov. 16 10 24 34 37 39 45 x:4
	Nov. 25 3 7 13 23 24 Nov. 24 3 9 11 28 33 Nov. 23 7 13 21 26 28 Nov. 22 2 9 28 29 35
 MEGA MONEY	Nov. 25 8 34 39 43 11 Nov. 22 5 18 22 43 21 Nov. 18 11 12 28 39 12 Nov. 15 3 4 12 35 13
 FLORIDA POWER PLAY	Nov. 23 4 30 35 57 59 PB: 25 PP: 2 <i>Next jackpot \$25 million</i> Nov. 19 9 16 17 28 30 PB: 11 PP: 3 Nov. 16 13 22 25 39 51 PB: 28 PP: 2

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



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Romona Washington — Publisher and Executive Editor
863-385-6155, ext. 515

GET YOUR LOCAL NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE...

NEWS-SUN

Highlands County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1927

Black Friday busy, but mostly peaceful locally

Continued from page 1A

the electronics don't go on sale until midnight, but they still stayed," said Wotasek.

More experienced customers described the event as crazy not only for customers but for the employees.

Associate Rachel Medicus, an employee for nearly a year, was busy helping customers in the electronics department Friday morning and recalled the early morning hours of the Black Friday sale.

"I came in a little early just to see what was going on. I came about 6:30 (p.m.) and it was pretty dead. Then I left and came back about 8:45 and it was so packed in here. I didn't start work until a little later, at 10. When I went to clock in later it took me 10 minutes to walk through the store. It was wall to wall. It was crazy," said Medicus.

While there was an unconfirmed report from employees of an elderly man punching an 11-year old in the face over an Xbox Kinect gaming system at the Sebring Walmart, that was a mild episode compared to other stories from around the country.

In Los Angeles, 20 people at a local Walmart store suffered minor injuries when a woman used pepper spray to gain a "competitive" shopping advantage shortly after the store opened, according to an Associated Press report.

A second AP report (also in California) stated that San Leandro Police arrested a suspect for allegedly shooting a Black Friday customer in the parking lot of a Walmart after the suspect and his family had exited the store. The shopper was attacked and shot after refusing to hand the robber his purchased merchandise. The shopper is in critical but stable condition.

Some stores experienced

calm and peaceful shoppers despite the insanely large crowds like the 10,000 customers who stood outside of Macy's store in New York's Herald Square for its midnight opening. No serious injuries or reports were made in that location according to the AP.

Rosalyn Suggs and daughter India roamed the electronic toy aisle in Sebring Friday morning, choosing between Leapfrog products to add to an already full cart of toys.

"Her father and I got here this morning at 12:15 and most of everything was already gone. The stuff we wanted anyway. It was very, very busy. We had to park across the highway at the Subway over there and we walked over," Suggs said.

Suggs had in her cart a Disney princesses table and chair set along with several other toy items.

Tracy Goodwin and her husband Sam were comparing the iPad and iPad 2 in the electronics department Friday on their second trip of the day to Walmart.

"We got here at about 8. We got a few odds and ends. We came out for Black Friday but for nothing specific, but it was a lot of people here earlier this morning. We decided to come back once it got a little less crowded," Tracy Goodwin said.

Shoppers may have gotten all they needed for themselves and their loved ones during the Black Friday, or they may still be searching for more. There were \$10.7 billion collected last year on Black Friday, and this year is shaping up to be even higher, according to reports.

With over a 3 percent increase of consumer spending, according to the National Retail Federation, and truckloads more of "must-have" products, Friday's sales will likely show an economy back on the rise and consumers ready to spend more.

Avon Park Christmas parade hits Main Street on Monday



Some of the clowns from Toby's Clowns wave to the crowd during last year's Avon Park Christmas parade. This year's parade will start on north Anoka and then run east on Main Street beginning at 7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair, since the parade is usually a big one.

News-Sun file photo

Building becoming county money pit

Continued from page 1A

was under the assumption that the building was ready to move into when the county approved the \$1.235 million for seven of the eight units in 2008.

"Our staff was not responsible for ... doing due diligence on this," Stewart said. "I don't accept that."

"Commissioner, I completely agree with that statement. I can also tell you that the purchase of that building was done on the assertions of the previous building official from the city of Sebring. That all the permits were done and everything was certified," Gavarrete said.

In 2010, the commission voted to purchase the final unit for \$182,641 from a church. Supervisor of Elections Joe Campbell will occupy 14,000 to store voting machines, records and his office.

Gavarrete further informed commissioners that the building was never built to code for office space and that the retention pond had to be repaired.

"When the building was purchased, and many of you have seen it, basically we bought a shell of a building," Gavarrete explained. "The envelope of the building is not airtight or weatherproof. You can go into the building and see light through orifices throughout the building."

The work needed includes completing the site development, a roof upgrade and impact windows, Gavarrete said.

Gavarrete also told the commissioners that the retention pond was never properly permitted or certified with the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

"We rely on our staff to do



'It was always presented to us that this was a commercial building we were buying, not that it was a mini-warehouse with holes in it.'

BARBARA STEWART
county commissioner

due diligence and advise us," Stewart insisted. "It was always presented to us that this was a commercial building we were buying, not that it was a mini-warehouse with holes in it. What is done is done, but Mr. Helms, this is unacceptable," Stewart said, addressing County

Administrator Ricky Helms. Stewart further pointed out that she knew the building was already a county building, and the money already spent was water under the bridge, but the board could not be expected to do their own inspections and diligence.

"We rely on county staff to do that," Stewart said.

"Is there anyway we could save some on this? It seems that we are just throwing money at this project," commissioner Don Elwell said.

Stewart asked if Commissioner Ron Handley would take a look at the building and make suggestions. Handley is a building contractor by trade.

The commission decided to delay any action on the request for extra funds until Handley returned with suggestions.



News-Sun photo by SAMANTHA GHOLAR
Sam and Tracy Goodwin of Sebring compare iPads Friday morning during the Black Friday sales day at Walmart.

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

TODAY'S EDITORIAL

Park user fees a necessary evil

Lake Placid faces a major, potentially emotional, discussion. At issue is how the town will fund its parks, particularly the active parks with ball fields that must be maintained with electricity bills to pay.

There are many complications confounding a solution.

At the top of the list, given falling tax revenues, is just how much funding the town and county can provide, and who will make up the difference.

There is another complication, however, with just as much impact: The differing philosophies elected officials hold regarding the role of government in providing community parks and recreation in the first place. Some feel ad valorem taxes should cover the entire cost; others feel just as strongly that park funding should be entirely private.

Addressing the second issue first: The News-Sun strongly believes that parks are in the people's best interest — from contributing to better physical health to providing a safe place our children to play, to encouraging an appreciation and respect for nature and the outdoors. We think parks are as important to our quality of life as clean drinking water and well-maintained roads. Every public dollar spent on a park is a public dollar saved on chronic health care problems, or juvenile justice. As a result, we

believe parks and recreation are a legitimate government function, and should be a guaranteed item in its budget.

Now, having stated our strong belief in public parks supported by public dollars, we come back to the first question — how to afford the cost.

Anyone reading this who has been downsized or had a pay cut knows the pain of suddenly not having enough money to cover the bills. The painful truth is there are only two options — spend less or earn more.

Spending less on parks will be difficult. Volunteers at Lake June Park, for example, already provide the bulk of the maintenance, and the organized sports leagues have sharply lowered the electric bill. As remarkable these achievements are, however, more revenue is needed. Besides, with organized sports carrying a disproportionate share of the burden, and the parents of children weighted down even more, things simply can't go on as before.

Until the economy returns, or the town grows and expands its tax base, we reluctantly have to admit that some sort

of user fee will be necessary. We want whatever fee is installed, however, to have a sunset from the start. The ultimate goal should be to have no user fees at all.

Having listened to the Recreation Commission's detailed, and heartfelt, discussions, we agree that the only equitable fee would include everyone using a park actively, including individuals, families and informal groups — this is separate from families reserving a park for a party or reception, which falls under different rules.

We are persuaded the more people buying permits, the lower the cost will be. It also seems obvious to us that wear and tear on the parks is the single biggest expense, so even a dad and his kid playing catch should help with the maintenance. The only exception would be spectators watching a game.

We totally understand how unpopular a user fee will be, how it can never be truly fair, and how it will add to a family's financial burden, but we truly feel the parks are worth the sacrifice.

One thing is undeniable — if you have an opinion (or an idea) you need to express it. Come to the Recreation Commission meeting at 4 p.m. Tuesday. It's at the town hall.

NEWS-SUN

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Company policy

There are a number of people like myself who believe that President Obama's economic policies have not been good for the country. And, like me, they believe that a good cure for the trouble would be to give someone else the job of president in 2012.

Few of us have expressed it the way Bill Looman of Georgia has. The business owner has posted signs on his trucks, that read (I am not kidding) "New Company Policy: We are not hiring until Obama is gone."

According to the article I read at www.11alive.com, Looman wants to make it clear that it's not that he doesn't want to hire more employees. He just feels he can't in the current economy. And he blames said economy on the Obama administration.

He's had the signs up for at least six months when he posted pictures of them on his Facebook page. Then, on Monday, one of the signs went viral.

Now Looman has been flooded with phone calls and had to take down his company's website because the amount of traffic it was getting was crashing the system.

The ex-Marine is cool with people expressing their opinion about what he's doing. He understands that the signs are provoking a reaction. And he has no intention of taking them down, at least at this point.

And in case you are wondering: yes, someone did report the signs to the FBI, which led to Looman being interviewed by the Secret Service. According to the employer, the agents left him in a good mood, so I think he's not in trouble.

The website where the article was posted has a comments section. I took a few minutes to skim some of them (there were over 700 when I looked, no way I could see all of them). Many posters appeared to agree with Looman, some claimed to be employers who were also not hiring at this time because of the current economy and/or Obamacare.

There is no question that

Laura's Look

Laura Ware

our economy could be in better shape.

Unemployment is high. The supercommittee that was supposed to find a way to cut a fraction — a fraction! — of our deficit is deadlocked. I don't think this group could agree on what to have for lunch, much less how to cut down our deficit.

Is it fair to blame President Obama? He's the one in charge. If the economy were humming along great, he'd get the credit for it. It isn't. The buck stops somewhere, and it is only fair that it stops on his desk.

In saying this I am not taking blame away from others, like Congress, like the Senate, who also are proving they'd rather fight than get something done.

But what about these signs? Looman has an absolute First Amendment right to put up the signs. And he has the right to run his business as he sees fit. I don't know anything about his business (U.S. Cranes LLC) so I can't tell you if he can afford to hire people or not.

If a business is genuinely unable to hire at this time, then they have my sympathy. However, if a business is deliberately not hiring to make political points — ah, there we might have issues.

Hurting the economy to hurt those you disagree with politically isn't good company policy — it's bad business. It's not helpful. And just because folks in DC do it as a matter of course is no reason to pull it in the private sector.

I wish Looman well with his business. And his signs. May the economy improve to the point he can take them down.

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. We have to make room for everybody. 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.

Opinions expressed in letters or columns are solely the opinion of that author and not necessarily the opinion of the staff or editors of the News-Sun.

All items will run on a first-come basis as space permits, although more timely ones could be moved up.



TODAY'S LETTERS

All are consumed with illegal procedure

Editor: Our president has been under pressure from Hispanics and other illegal immigration groups, holding a conference with dozens of advocacy groups spelling out the benefits that would be provided. The responsibility to keep the administration from carrying out the amnesty plan now rests with Congress. House Judiciary Committee chairman Republican Lamar Smith has introduced legislation with clear objectives to prevent these policies from being carried out.

The Obama administration filed suit to prevent Alabama from enforcing the state's immigration policies. Alabama immigration law would allow local police to inquire about immigration status in the course of legal stops where reasonable suspicion occurred; also mandates the use of E-verify for all employers and impose penalties against businesses employing illegals. Schools would be required to provide K-12 education, school districts would be required to determine the immigration status of students....

On the White House website and in letters to the leading members of Congress, the Obama administration declared what amounts to nearly all illegal aliens without criminal records. It would review some 300,000 pending cases

against deportable aliens with the intent of dropping these cases and cease to initiate new proceedings without criminal convictions.

The website lists broad categories of illegals who are likely to be dismissed in letters to Harry Reid and other democrats who support the Dream Act.

This policy takes dead aim at the integrity of the United States' immigration law. Congress has exclusive authority to make immigration policies. It is the constitutional responsibility of the executive branch to enforce the laws Congress passes whether they agree or not. These illegals will not only be relieved from deportation, but also will be eligible to apply for work authorization with almost certainty of receiving it...

No one disputes the need to prioritize to remove violent criminals first. No other legitimate law enforcement would suggest they should stop enforcing other laws. Department of Homeland Security has the responsibility of enforcing all of the immigration laws enacted by Congress. Amnesty is clearly tied to the president's re-election.

Obama's message is clear; fall in line with his policies of non-enforcement or face the cost of a federal lawsuit. It is becoming necessary for states across the United States to stand firm and take necessary steps to deter this problem before we are all consumed with this illegal procedure. May the

good Lord lead us through this tragic dilemma.

Willie Clyde (Toole) Cloud
Sebring

The 'Collective We'

Editor: I am getting tired of the media repeatedly using the "Collective We" in blaming the American people for the severe recession. The "Collective We" allowed this, accepted that, did or didn't do something else. Well, I strongly reject that charge. There is a criminal segment of the population (fortunately small) prone to exploit any situation for its own selfish gain, but there are at least 150 million Americans who have done the right thing.

Like my generation, the children of the Greatest Generation now passed on and children's generation the Baby Boomers. We benefited from the post World War II economic prosperity and pursued the American Dream. We went to school, developed skills, got jobs, earned decent wages, paid taxes, bought homes, cars, furniture and subsequent electronic devices which kept the economy humming.

These two generations also contributed to many organizations designed to assist the less fortunate among us. And following retirement we volunteered our time, energy and professional skills to insure success in that assistance. Thus, it is irksome to read about and listen to media pundits

that we caused this disastrous economy today. The current working and unemployed people did not cause this recession either. They have been pawns of that one percent, who have greatly prospered these past four or five years.

Corporate America, big business, bankers and Wall Street, manipulated the U.S. Congress to loosen or eliminate economic regulations that businesses were to comply with and federal state agencies were to enforce. They succeeded in reducing the personnel who were to implement said regulations and even eliminated key government officials whose professional expertise was well suited for that goal. The reason? Lack of revenue! Really?

Again, Corporate America could have helped the economy by providing banks that \$2 trillion it is hoarding to lend small businesses the funds to expand facilities, purchase supplies and equipment; hire people to produce commodities here in the states, who in turn would buy those commodities and essential goods to support their families. But no, they chose to keep those billions of dollars of profits and refused to pay any taxes on them. And, the statement they pay the highest corporate tax in the western world is a lie. There is a long list of corporations that paid no American taxes the last two years.

Gabriel Read
Avon Park

Cub Scouts 'Go See It'



News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS

Cub Scout Pack 846 visits Leisure Lakes Volunteer Fire Department on Tuesday evening during a 'Go See It' outing in Lake Placid. The pack learned fire safety tips and met with a puppet firefighter who sprayed water at the boys. The pack had an opportunity to get hands-on inside a real fire truck, spray a fire hose and watched Aeromed land at the station.

Gingrich talks immigration during Naples campaign stop

Continued from page 1A

the former house speaker at or near the top of the Republican presidential field, along with Mitt Romney. During a televised debate Tuesday, some Republicans and pundits thought Gingrich may have risked that status when he said he favored pathways to legal status for illegal immigrants who have lived peaceful, law-abiding, tax-paying lives in the United States for many years.

Other Republican candidates were quick to condemn his remarks. But his ideas didn't seem to alienate the folks in Naples — the crowd was enthusiastic with his appearance and wildly applauded many of his remarks, including his outline on how to handle illegal immigration in the U.S.

"It's an extremely difficult question," said Patrick

Moody, a 57-year-old Baptist minister from West Palm Beach who said he will likely vote for him in the important Florida primary. "He's got a measured, realistic view of the situation. His views make sense."

Gingrich promised that if elected, he would "control the border" by Jan. 1, 2014. He also declared that he would require an American history test in order to become a citizen and make English the nation's official language.

"You can't sustain a civilization if you can't talk to each other," he said to applause.

He stressed that he wants to make it "simpler and easier" for people to obtain legal visas, especially for science, technology and mathematics professionals.

"I am for an importation

of talent," he said.

People who are criminals or "undesirable" — for instance, gang members — should be swiftly deported, he said.

He said he favors a "World War II model of the selective service program" to decide on who gets to stay in the country, adding that "25 years and family and total legality," would be a good guideline — although those people would not have the right to citizenship or the ability to vote.

"I think the vast majority (of illegal immigrants) will go home and should go home," he said.

Gingrich said his opponents' criticism of his statements has been incorrect and unfair.

"I have not suggested amnesty for 11 million people," he said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Continued from page 2A

meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Sebring Civic Center with a focus on Goal Setting for Downtown Sebring for the 2012 year.

These informative meetings are open to the public. Anyone who has an interest in Downtown Sebring is encouraged to attend.

For more information, visit www.DowntownSebring.org.

VFW hosts Chippendale's Live

AVON PARK — Chippendale's Live will be at VFW Post 9853, 75 N. Olivia Drive, on Thursday,

Dec. 8. Showtime is from 7:30-10 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$12 (includes dinner from 6-7 p.m.) and tickets at the door are \$18.

Limited tickets are available. For more information, or directions, call 452-9853.

Jim Duke in concert at library

LAKE PLACID — The Friends of the Lake Placid Memorial Library invite the public to a free concert at the Lake Placid Library, 205 W. Interlake Blvd., at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11. The guest performer is Jim Duke.

Duke is a multi-talented musician — singing as well as playing the keyboard, sax-

ophone, trumpet and guitar. He enhances his sound with recorded background accompaniment. Originally from Indiana, he has lived in Highlands County for four years.

With a music education background, Duke opted out of the classroom and has been a professional performer for 40 years. He will treat the audience to a variety of music from country to pop and then some. He has been the featured performer at the Lake Placid Saturday Morning Market in downtown Lake Placid.

Call the library at 699-3705 for reservations or sign up on your next visit to the library.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT KURTZ

Robert "Bob" Dale Kurtz, 94, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011 in Sebring, Fla. He was born on Nov. 24, 1917 in Peru, Ind., to Arthur George and Arba Gertrude (Schraeder) Kurtz. He owned and operated Kurtz's Machine and Welding in Sebring. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean Conflict, for a total of 14 years. On Nov. 12, 1949 he received a commendation for repairing the Catapult System on the USS Philippine Sea, stating "Your energy, resourcefulness, initiative and knowledge of matters pertaining to your rate have been outstanding during this period." His design became important for ships all over the world. He was a resident of Sebring since 1965 coming from

Duluth, Minn. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Kurtz of Sebring, and several nephews.

Remember Bob by using your talents and gifts by helping someone who needs you.

Cremation arrangements have been entrusted to: Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home Sebring, Florida www.stephensonnelsonfh.com

Nelson Funeral Home, Sebring.

Engelina G. Kistler, 84, of Sebring, died Nov. 23, 2011. Dowden Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Josef J. Reis, 89, of Sebring, died Nov. 22, 2011. Dowden Funeral Home, Sebring, is in charge of arrangements.

Death notices

Carolyn Lenor Howerton, 67, of Sebring, died Nov. 23, 2011. Arrangements have been entrusted to Stephenson-

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Recreation commission wants action from town council

Continued from page 1A

Cheryl Brantley-Davis, is now the council liaison to the commission. "Give me an overview I can take back to the council," he said, asking if the commission had yet sent a proposal to the council. When told it had, Waldron wanted to know what had happened.

"The council has done nothing," Russell replied. "It may take a room full of angry people to make the council act."

Laura Teal, another commissioner, said she has lost patience. ("We should tell them) here's what we're recommending and be done with it," she said. "We should be really assertive, adopt this or I'm done.")

Million added that a recent comment by the council that it would find people to come up with a solution if the commission couldn't had been an insult.

"We've put a lot of time into this, a lot of time," he said. "We have a lot of proposed responsibility," he added, "but no power."

Town council member Debra Worley sympathizes with the commission. Reached by telephone Friday, she said they have really tried to find a solution.

"They're the ones in the trenches, we need them to come to us and be honest and open, but it is our responsibility," Worley said, adding that the commission had never been tasked with policy decisions like this before.

At the same time she saw



News-Sun photo by CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY
Lake Placid Recreation Commission member Laura Teal has lost patience with the town council.

not been at the commission's meeting and couldn't comment on its specific frustrations, town council member Ray Royce said he was aware of the "tremendous amount of sweat equity it has contributed."

Regarding the amount of time the discussion has taken, Royce said, "It's just the way things work. (The commissioners) are the ones involved, which is why we made sure they had input and could help develop a system they could be comfortable with. Our goal is to make it as simple as possible, but they're dealing with several council members who have different perspectives and opinions."

For example, Worley does not believe in user fees, and Royce believes they have become necessary, although he opposes an across the board fee that would affect every park user.

"I don't think you'll ever see a fee for walking your dog in the park, a family playing catch, or two or three guys shooting baskets — more like 10 on 10 men playing soccer for 60 to 90 minutes," Royce said. "There's a lot of gray area, that's the hitch."

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Travel Fair

Thanksgiving at the Salvation Army

Mud bogs on county agenda

Proposed ordinance would limit events

By ED BALDRIDGE
ed.baldrige@newssun.com

AVON PARK – County Commissioners will take another look at the restrictions to be placed on outdoor recreational events during their night meeting on Tuesday.

But those seeking discussion will have to address a proposed ordinance that will limit the amount of activity and yearly events for all outdoor events with motorized vehicles.

The ordinance, prepared in advance by County Attorney Ross Macbeth to “expedite the process” requires any future outdoor events to have a permit.

The ordinance is broad in its definition of off-road motorsports events and possibly restricts other ongoing recreational activities such as lawn mower racing and motocross.

“Off-road motorsports even means any commercial event at which motor vehicles race, compete or are driven on unpaved tracks,” the proposed ordinance states.

The ordinance is also clear that the list includes tractor pulling contests and mud bogging.

The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. at the Government Center in Sebring.

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News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS

Jenavive Gonzalez, 3, of Polk City and her mom Jenny help clear the tables Thursday for Michelle Fulton and Edward Bradford during turkey dinner at the Salvation Army in Sebring. Fulton and Bradford have been laid off from their jobs working in construction, but still maintain a thankful attitude. ‘It will all get better, I am just grateful for a roof over my head and the caring people in this community,’ Bradford said with a smile.



News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS
Andy Anderson of Zolfo Springs mans the kitchen Thursday with the help of Highlands County Commissioner Don Elwell during a Thanksgiving feast at the Salvation Army in Sebring. Anderson, a disabled veteran, spent much of his Thanksgiving day doing dishes, wiping countertops and helping wherever he was needed.



News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS

About 40 volunteers helped prepare and serve free Thanksgiving meals Thursday at the Salvation Army of Highlands County in downtown Sebring. According to Salvation Army Major Bruce Stefanik, the organization was prepared to feed 300-400 people during the holiday luncheon.



News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS

Ben Rhoades, 11, of Polk City, spends a portion of his holiday volunteering at the Salvation Army on Thursday in Sebring. According to Rhoades’ mom Jennifer (background), the family makes time to give back each Thanksgiving.

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BUSINESS/MONEY

To smartphone, or not to smartphone?

My wife decided to upgrade her dinosaur cell phone to a "smartphone" and enlisted my help. Initially, we ran into the brick wall of decisions smartphone shoppers frequently face: How to choose among hundreds of available phones, pick the right service provider and predict which calling and data plan and other options would best fit her needs without breaking the bank?



Personal Finance

Jason Alderman

Here are a few things we learned:

What's a smartphone? These all-in-one devices generally let you: send and receive phone calls and text, email and instant messages; surf the Internet; shoot photos and video; manage and synch-up your calendar; run applications such as weather and traffic conditions, games, social networking and maps; play music and video, and much more.

Reception. Reception in your home, commute and work is a critical component when choosing a service provider. Unfortunately, signal strength, data download speed and other factors can vary significantly from block to block.

Ask friends and neighbors how pleased they are with their service. Also, remember carriers offer a grace period (generally 30 days) before an early plan termination fee kicks in, so try out all features extensively wherever you plan to use the phone.

No apples to apples. Many variables complicate the selection process, including:

Some models are only available with particular service providers.

Most smartphones use some variation of the standard "QWERTY" keyboard, as a touch screen and/or raised keys located below the display or on a slide-out keyboard. Key size, spacing and sensitivity vary widely, so try several types for comfort and ease of operation, especially if you have large hands.

Screen size, handset shape, weight and battery life vary considerably, so visit carrier showrooms or an electronics store to compare phones, even if you end up purchasing online. Ask to make a few test calls and evaluate sound quality at both ends.

If you want to receive

work emails and open documents, make sure the OS is compatible with your employer's system and that you'll be allowed to access your work network.

Cost considerations. Although the smartphone itself is pricey, to determine the true cost of ownership factor in how much you'll pay for a standard two-year carrier contract. Depending on whether you opt for limited or unlimited plans for voice minutes, text messaging and Internet data transfer, you could rack up \$80 to \$150-plus in monthly operating costs.

Other expenses to consider: accessories (vehicle charger, Bluetooth earpiece, home charging dock and external memory card); various monthly plan taxes and fees; software applications such as ring tones, games, on-demand TV or radio, GPS navigation; additional fees for international calls; and replacement insurance.

These additional more online resources may help you decide:

CNET (www.cnet.com) has a helpful Cell Phone Buying Guide, a Cell Phone Coverage Map tool for comparing cell reception in certain cities, product reviews and other tools.

BillShrink has a cell phone service Price Comparison Tool (www.billshrink.com).

TeleBright has an online tool that compares cellular plans and phones available in the top 70 U.S. markets (https://wireless.telebright.com).

As for my wife, a friend let her borrow an LG Ally and now she's hooked. The Ally is sleek, powerful and runs Google's Android. Now I've got phone envy.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Jason Alderman on Twitter go to www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney

Panera Bread's last cooking class of season is Monday

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR
sgholar@newssun.com

SEBRING — Frequent customers are raving about a unique and tasty cooking course at Sebring's Panera Bread over the last several weeks.

Patty Lloyd of Sebring is one of many customers who have become frequent guests at the bakery's tasty courses each week.

"I am not affiliated with Panera in any way. I am just a customer who enjoys cooking," says Lloyd.

Lloyd visited the bakery last week for an early dinner and found herself among nearly 100 people packed into the seating area of the establishment.

"At first I didn't know what was going on then I realized there was a class going on so I joined them," said Lloyd.

With only standing room left in the building, Lloyd squeezed in where she could.

"There are two things that



Courtesy photo
Rich Appenzellar and wife Debbie were one of the lucky guests who won door prizes at Panera's weekly cooking course. Appenzellar went home with a Babka last week after the cooking course.

make this cooking class so special. First, Mary Wagener and her assistant Dorinda put on a great show. They teach us tips for cutting costs, tell us what has and hasn't worked for them, teach us some interesting trivia and give us samples of each recipe — not little sample, it is a huge plate of food," said Lloyd. "I was

already full from my soup and dinner, but I was really full and everything was so good and they are generous with the helpings."

The second thing Lloyd finds unique about Panera's fall cooking course is that the store is the only Panera in the U.S. that does a cooking class of this caliber, according to Lloyd.

"There is hardly any standing room in there. They have raffles where you can win some of their fantastic desserts and breads," Lloyd said.

On the menu at last week's course were buckeyes, Italian bread salad, turkey stroganoff, orange French toast, breakfast bread pudding and banana Dutch baby.

Assistant manager Dorinda Sixton welcomed customers and guest to the next cooking course.

"Our last course is this Monday evening. It's open to the public and anybody can come," said Sixton.

This will be Panera's last course of the fall season. The class will begin at 5 p.m. Monday. The course will feature more delicious recipes, door prizes and lots of opportunity to meet fellow cooks.

"You don't have to come; you can just take my word for it," Lloyd said.

Dutch, Finns back stronger IMF role

Associated Press

BERLIN — The Dutch and Finnish finance ministers advocated a stronger role for the International Monetary Fund in helping stem Europe's debt crisis as they met Friday with their German counterpart.

The three ministers, whose countries are among the eurozone's healthiest financially and have taken a hard line in the crisis, consulted ahead of a meeting next Tuesday of the 17-nation bloc's ministers.

They stressed the need to press ahead with implementing month-old decisions by European leaders aimed at

shoring up the eurozone, particularly by increasing the firepower of the bloc's (euro) 440 billion (\$588 billion) rescue fund — the European Financial Stability Facility.

In addition to that, "We are convinced that we also need an enhanced and strengthened role of the IMF as well to ensure enough funds for the firewall," Dutch Finance Minister Jan Kees de Kager said.

Bilateral loans from countries inside and outside Europe could "increase the effective size of the IMF; and the IMF could play a bigger role in this crisis through this," De Kager added.

His Finnish counterpart, Jutta Urpilainen, said that "one option" to build up Europe's firewall further is to strengthen the IMF's role.

As market tensions spiral higher, there has been increasing talk of a massive bond-buying drive by the European Central Bank to bring down troubled countries' borrowing costs — something that Germany, in particular, opposes.

Finland's Urpilainen said that "if there is nothing else left, then we can think about the strengthening of the role of the ECB, but we prefer the IMF and then also leveraging the EFSF."

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BUSINESS/MONEY



Courtesy photo

Jennifer Seeber, Diane Stahl, Chanea Turner, Erin Edmonds and Dona Beck of Poshe Day Salon have moved to a new, larger location at Banyan Plaza in Sebring

Poshe Day Salon relocates and expands

Special to the News-Sun
SEBRING — Poshe Day Salon is on the move. They recently moved their business and expanded their facilities into the center of Banyan Plaza in the old Keller Williams Realty office. Still offering great services by some of the best stylists and providers, they feature services such as hair, nails, massage, skincare and permanent make-up to make Poshe Day Salon your one-stop beauty need.

along the way and I'm proud to say my salon is a very skilled and talented group that I'm lucky to have. We are committed to offering our clients not only great services, but great experiences as well. Whether young, old, male, or female, we have something to offer everyone. Erin Edmonds, Dona Beck, Chanea Turner, Jennifer Seeber, Amanda Armentrout and Maria Fabella round out the talent at Poshe Day Salon.

Changing up the norm a little, each stylist and service has its own individual room providing privacy and comfort for the clients while still maintaining a centralized shampoo/dryer area and waiting room to allow for the socializing and camaraderie that is such an important part of the salon business.

"The salon offers a complete menu of services with a full line of support products and Jane Iredale make-up to help the client maintain their good looks between visits. We welcome everyone to come by and visit us. We would be your salon," Stahl said.

Owner Diane Stahl has 25 years experience in the business having spent 10 of those years as a salon owner also. "I love the business" she said, "it's always been a passion of mine to make people look and feel better. I've been very fortunate to work with great people and talent

Located at 2359 U.S. 27 South in the Banyan Plaza, the telephone number is 382-1170 or visit the website at Poshedaysalon.com where gift certificates are available. "We view our clients as ambassadors of our salon, that's why we strive to make sure they are happy and look beautiful all the time."

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GET YOUR LOCAL NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE...

NEWS-SUN

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BUSINESS/MONEY

Drought puts damper on tree farmers' Christmas

By RAMIT

PLUSHNICK-MASTI

Associated Press

NEW CANEY, Texas — Dry, brown grass crunches underfoot as David Barfield walks through his 45-acre Christmas tree farm pointing at evergreens covered with brittle, rust-colored needles.

"Dead tree, dead tree, dead tree," he says, shaking his head at dry timber he hoped would be chopped down by parents with excited children.

Instead, Mother Nature delivered the Grinch in the form of a historic drought that has killed thousands of trees across Texas and Oklahoma. Some died of thirst. Others were destroyed by wildfires, whose breadth and intensity were magnified when wind swept the flames across parched landscape.

Most farmers plan to import trees from North Carolina to supplement any they have left, said Marshall Cathey, president of the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association.

They say they aren't planning to raise prices because consumers are reluctant to pay more than \$40 or \$50 for a Christmas tree, especially in the poor economy.

But families hoping for a homegrown tree to cut down will have a harder time finding one, and dozens of farmers are struggling.

Possibly most painful for these growers are the deaths of the youngest saplings, which guarantee the drought's effect will be felt for years to come.

"It's depressing, it really is," said Barfield, 53. "This was going to be our retirement."



Many Christmas tree farmers in Texas are planning to import trees from farms like this one on the east coast due to the drought in Texas that has thinned their crop this year.

MCT photo

He and his wife, Karen, 49, bought the farm about six years ago with dreams of retiring from Texas' oil fields and spending their final years peddling the Christmas spirit with fresh-cut trees, marshmallow roasts and hayrides in a red-and-white sleigh.

They planted 20 acres of evergreen trees.

Now, barely two years after Karen Barfield retired to work the farm, she has returned full-time to her job selling explosion-proof enclosures to the oil industry.

David Barfield has increased his hours doing part-time electronic work. Instead of selling some 400 homegrown trees as they do

in a good year, they will be lucky to sell 100 — nearly all Frasier firs brought in from North Carolina.

And they're not certain that will be enough to cover their property taxes. Barfield says he can only charge \$50 for a North Carolina fir — just \$10 more than he pays for them.

"Eight (trees) died within the last week," Barfield said, continuing his walk through his farm in New Caney.

"These were all green a week ago. The drought has been hurting us real bad." But at least he and his wife have other income. Others have not fared as well.

"We lost probably 90 percent of our trees," said Jean

Raisey, 79, who's run a 10-acre Christmas tree farm in Purcell, Okla., with her husband since 1985. The other 10 percent are dying now, she said.

"We've had to hire a contractor and pull all the dead and all the live trees," she said.

"And we're out of business."

Cathey, who owns the 50-acre Elves Farm in Denison, Texas, a town about 75 miles north of Dallas, said he has spoken to many of Texas' 120 Christmas tree farmers in recent months.

Long stretches of triple-degree heat, he said, harmed the trees as much as the lack of rain.

And the drought has been

bad. In Texas, less than 11 inches of rain fell this year compared to an annual average of almost 24 inches. In Oklahoma, there has been about 18.7 inches of rain this year compared to a long-term average of 30 inches. All trees have been hard-hit by the lack of rain.

"There's hundreds of thousands of trees dying," said Travis Miller, a drought expert at Texas A&M University.

"We're looking at a ... one-in-a-500-year kind of drought, and so it's weeding out the ones that can't survive this kind of extreme conditions," he added.

For evergreens, which usually prefer wetter, more temperate climates, the

struggle may be greater than for drought-resistant plants, such as the juniper brush, although it too is dying in Texas this year.

Farmers who planted evergreens native to Afghanistan — and accustomed to a desert climate — have had greater success than those who planted trees from the northeast United States.

Those who irrigated also are having more modest success, although that costs — about \$1,200 a month on a mid-sized farm.

Jan Webb, owner of the Double Shovel Christmas Tree Farm in West Texas — one of the driest areas of the state — said her Afghans have done well. Of the 400 she planted last year, only about 50 died. On the other hand, none of the 400 Leyland Cypress she planted survived.

It takes three to five years to grow an evergreen to a marketable size.

Webb planted her first tree about three years ago and was hoping to open for the first time next Christmas, but with the drought, it will be at least two years before she has a homegrown tree to sell.

"We can't sell what's from our farm right now because they're too small," she said.

Yet the farmers are determined children will be able to see trees cut for Christmas — even if they're North Carolina firs liberally placed in Texas soil.

There will be hayrides and picnics. Christmas carols will ring out and colorful lights will cover the bare branches.

Bah humbug to the drought, they say.

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6 lines - 14 pubs
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- ### Index
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1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 28-2011-CA-000520
 FINANCIAL FREEDOM ACQUISITION LLC, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 EUGENE SNOOK, AS TRUSTEE OF THE BRUCE S. SNOOK REVOCABLE TRUST DATED THE 22ND DAY OF JUNE 2005, et al, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO:
 UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF THE BRUCE S. SNOOK REVOCABLE TRUST DATED THE 22ND DAY OF JUNE 2005
 Last Known Address: Unknown
 Current Residence: Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

LOT 3, BLOCK S, SPRING LAKE, VILLAGE II, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 43, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Marshall C. Watson, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1800 NW 49TH STREET, SUITE 120, FT. LAUDERDALE FL 33309 on or before December 22, 2011 a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in THE NEWS SUN 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.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4686, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Court this 8th day of November, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: /s/ Annette E. Daff
 As Deputy Clerk
 November 20, 27, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 282008CA0001463A000XX
 COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC., Plaintiff,
 vs.
 RICHARD J. BRILHANTE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RICHARD J. BRILHANTE; JOHN DOE; JANE DOE AS UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Resetting Foreclosure Sale dated the 9th day of November, 2011, and entered in Case No. 282008CA0001463A000XX, of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC. is the Plaintiff and RICHARD J. BRILHANTE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RICHARD J. BRILHANTE; JOHN DOE; JANE DOE AS UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL 33870 at the Highlands County Courthouse in Sebring, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 11th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:
 LOT 24, BLOCK 255, 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.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
 Dated this 10th day of November, 2011.
 Robert W. Germaine
 Clerk Of The Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 Deputy Clerk
 November 20, 27, 2011

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1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 282011CA000459A000XX
 FINANCIAL FREEDOM ACQUISITION LLC, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 UNKNOWN HEIRS AND OR BENEFICIARIES OF THE ESTATE OF HOWARD I. USEMAN, et al, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO:
 BOB USEMAN
 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 8856 Fordham Street, Fort Myers, FL 33907
 Also Attempted At: 2040 Beacon Manor Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33907
 CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN

DENNIS USEMAN
 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 4004 Yeager Drive, Great Lakes IL 60088
 Also Attempted At: 10009 West Nippersink Drive, Richmond, IL 60071
 CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND OR BENEFICIARIES OF THE ESTATE OF HOWARD I. USEMAN
 Last Known Address: Unknown
 Current Residence: Unknown

UNKNOWN CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF HOWARD I. USEMAN
 Last Known Address: Unknown
 Current Residence: Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

LOT 9-A, OF CORMORANT POINT SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 13, PAGE 47, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Marshall C. Watson, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1800 NW 49TH STREET, SUITE 120, FT. LAUDERDALE FL 33309 on or before December 23, 2011 a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in THE NEWS SUN 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.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4686, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Court this 10th day of November, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: /s/ Annette E. Daff
 As Deputy Clerk
 November 20, 27, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO: 11-469 GCS
 SULLIVAN D. CURRAN, Plaintiff
 vs.
 NORTH RIDGEWOOD, INC., a Florida corporation, MARIA E. DUGARTE, INDIVIDUALLY, EUGENE O'STEEN, INDIVIDUALLY, REPUBLIC NATIONAL DISTRIBUTING COMPANY LLC, a Florida limited liability company, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION, DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO, and DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
 TO: EUGENE O'STEEN, whose address is 4933 West Bay Dr., Tampa, Hillsborough County, FL 33629.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a lien on the following property in Pasco County, Florida:
 Highlands County, Florida alcoholic beverage license #: 38-01283 4 COP
 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Scott C. Tepper, Esq., the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 120 East Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach, Florida 32176, on or before December 27, 2011, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.
 DATED ON November 21, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 As Clerk of Court
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 As Deputy Clerk
 November 27; December 4, 2011

1050 Legals

SUN 'N LAKE OF SEBRING IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
 INVITATION TO BID #11-023
 The Board of Supervisors of the Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District will receive sealed bids at the Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District Office for:
 BID #11-023 EDGEWATER DR./SUNRISE DR. SIDEWALK PROJECT
 A Scope of Work, Plans, Specifications and other Bid Documents are available at Polston Engineering, Inc., 2925 Kenilworth Blvd., Sebring, Florida 33870, 863-385-5564, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 11:30 A.M. and between the hours of 1:30 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. Bid Bond, Payment and/or Performance Bonds will not be required for this project.

Bid envelopes must be sealed and marked with the bid number and name as to identify the enclosed bid. Bids must be delivered to the Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District: Attention Board Secretary, 5306 Sun 'n Lake Blvd., Sebring, Florida 33872, so as to reach the said office no later than 2:00 P.M., Tuesday December 13, 2011. Proposals received later than the date and time specified will be rejected. The Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District will not be responsible for the late delivery of any bids that are incorrectly addressed, delivered in person, by mail, of any other type of delivery service.

The submitting firm will be required to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, rules and ordinances of local, state and federal authorities having jurisdiction, including, but not limited to: all provisions of the Federal Government Equal Employment Opportunity clauses issued by the Secretary of Labor on May 21, 1968 and published in the Federal Register (41 CFR Part 60-1, 33 F.2 7804); all provisions of the Public Entity Crimes (Fla. Stat. §287.133, et seq, as amended) and the provisions in Fla. Stat. §68c2-287.134, et seq, as amended, regarding discrimination.

The Board of Supervisors 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 responsible bidder whose bid and qualifications indicate that the award will be in the best interest of the Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District. The Board of Supervisors reserves the right to waive irregularities in the bid.

Michael Wright, General Manager
 Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District
 5306 Sun 'n Lake Blvd.
 Sebring, Florida 33872

November 27; December 4, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO.: FC11-1032
 DIVISION: FAMILY
 VIOLET L. WILLIAMS, Petitioner
 and
 DAN A. WILLIAMS, Respondent.

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
 TO: Dan A. Williams
 Fort Stewart Army Base
 First Battalion, Forty-first Infantry, Building 631
 Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Violet L. Williams, whose address is 336 E. Camphor Street, Avon Park, FL 33825, on or before December 15, 2011, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, before service on petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Courts of Florida. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Courts office notified of your current address. (You may file a Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the Clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
 Dated: /s/ Robert W. Germaine, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 By: /s/ Kathy Whitlock
 Deputy Clerk
 November 13, 20, 27; December 4, 2011

NOTICE OF PLANNING WORKSHOP TIME CHANGE
 The time of the planning workshop of the South Florida Community College District Board of Trustees scheduled to be held Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the SFCC Highlands Campus at 600 W College Drive, Avon Park, FL 33825, has been changed to 3:00 p.m. The general public is invited.
 For additional information, interested parties may visit the college website at www.southflorida.edu/trustees, or contact the Office of the President, South Florida Community College at 600 West College Drive, Avon Park, FL 33825.
 IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING, THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.
 November 25, 27, 2011

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
 FILE NO. PC11-414
 IN RE: ESTATE OF STEVEN PATRICK WOOD, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of STEVEN PATRICK WOOD, deceased, File Number PC11-414, is pending in the Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 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, including unmaturred, contingent, or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE 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, including unmaturred, contingent, or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
 ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
 The date of first publication of this Notice is November 20, 2011.

Personal Representative:
 /s/ Amanda Knox
 Attorney for Personal Representative:
 /s/ Michael L. Keiber
 MICHAEL L. KEIBER, ESQUIRE
 Law Office of Michael L. Keiber, P.A.
 129 South Commerce Avenue
 Sebring, FL 33870
 V. (863)385-5188 F. (863)471-1111
 Florida Bar No. 620610

November 20, 27, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION
 CASE NO.: 28-2010-CA-000068
 CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 DANIEL K. SMITH A/K/A DANIEL KEITH SMITH, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated October 18, 2011 and entered in Case No. 28-2010-CA-000068 of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida wherein CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC is the Plaintiff and DANIEL K. SMITH A/K/A DANIEL KEITH SMITH; SHANNON N. PRESCOTT A/K/A SHANNON NICOLE PRESCOTT A/K/A SHANNON SMITH; 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 7th day of December, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:
 LOT 15 AND 16, IN BLOCK 201, OF LEISURE LAKES, SECTION THREE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 25, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 A/K/A 946 GARDENIA STREET, 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 sixty (60) days after the sale
 WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Court on November 10, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk
 Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
 P.O. Box 25018
 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
 FI0001572 CHASEDIRECT-CONV--Team 3
 **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.
 November 20, 27, 2011

1050 Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON THE SPRING LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT CHARTER REVISION PROCESS
 The Spring Lake Improvement District will conduct a Public Meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 p.m. at the Spring Lake Community Center, 209 Spring Lake Blvd., Sebring, Florida, 33876. The purpose of the meeting is to review and discuss the proposed District Charter Revision Process.

EACH PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT MEETINGS IS ADVISED THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, INCLUDING THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH SUCH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.
 Joseph DeCarbo
 District Manager
 November 27, 2011; December 4, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
 CASE NO. 08-1505-GCS
 VELOCITY HOLDINGS, LLC, a California limited liability company, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 OLIVET TAYLOR LONG and HAROLD LONG, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated November 16, 2011, entered in Civil Case No. 08-1505-GCS of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Highlands County Courthouse located at 430 South Commerce Avenue, Jury Selection Rm., Sebring, Florida 33870, at 11:00 a.m. on the 13th day of December, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:
 Lots 1 to 12, both inclusive and Lots 27, and 28, Block 26, TOWN OF DESOTO CITY, sub subdivision plat also being referred to as DESOTO CITY SECOND SUBDIVISION, according to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page(s) 39, Public Records of Highlands County, Florida. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
 Dated this 16th day of November, 2011.

BOB GERMAINE
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk
 November 20, 27, 2011

CLERK OF THE COURT
 /s/ Annette E. Daff
 By: Robert W. Germaine Deputy Clerk
 November 20, 27, 2011

INVITATION TO BID
 The Town of Lake Placid, Highlands County, Lake Placid, Florida, will receive sealed bids at the Town of Lake Placid Municipal Building Office of Gary V. Freeman, Director of Utilities, located at 311 W. Interlake Blvd, Lake Placid, Florida 33852 for:
 PUBLIC MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER COLLECTION I and I STUDY

This Infiltration and Inflow Study requires written reports, video recordings, possible phone and solutions on work which includes jetting, vacing and tele-spection of sixty (60) sewer manholes including eleven thousand (11,000) feet of ten (10) inch diameter gravity lines and six thousand six hundred and fifteen (6,615) feet of eight (8) inch diameter gravity lines. There are no other specifications other than this paragraph. If needed, a site visit may be scheduled by calling Gary V. Freeman at the phone number below.
 Bid envelopes must be sealed and marked, on the outside, with the project name so as to identify the enclosed bids. Bids must be delivered to the Town of Lake Placid at the Town of Lake Placid Municipal Building office of Gary V. Freeman, Director of Utilities, located at 311 W. Interlake Blvd, Lake Placid, Florida 33852 so as to reach said office absolutely no later than 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 21, 2012, at which time the bids will be opened. Bids received later than the date and time as specified will be rejected. The Town 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. Office hours for questions (forward to Gary V. Freeman) regarding this Bid are Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 3:30 pm. The phone number is 863-699-3747, extension 106, and the fax number is 863-699-3749. This bid is also published at the Town's website which is at: [HYPERLINK "http://www.lakeplacidfl.net"](http://www.lakeplacidfl.net)
 www.lakeplacidfl.net
 The town of Lake Placid reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in bidding. Local businesses and/or drug free workplaces shall be given preference in the evaluation and award of purchases and contracts.
 Gary Freeman
 Director of Utilities
 Town of Lake Placid
 Printed in the News-Sun Newspaper, Sebring, FL 33870
 1-800-955-8771
 Sunday, November 27, 2011
 Also Posted on the Town of Lake Placid Website
 November 27, 2011

1050 Legals

Request a Notice of Lien Sale be published on the following listed units.
 James Dyer
 Misc Items - Household Items Unit No. 17
 178 Marina RV Drive
 Lake Placid, FL 33852

LIEN SALE WILL BE HELD:
 Date: Wednesday December, 7th 2011
 Time: 10:00 AM
 Location: 1548 CR 621 East, Lake Placid, FL 33852 (Canevari Warehouse Rentals) Unit # 17
 November 20, 27, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO. 09001399GCS
 THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CWABS, INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff(s),
 vs.
 STACEY KOWALSKI; et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE
 PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Summary Judgment. Final Judgment was awarded on September 30, 2010 in Civil Case No. 09001399GCS, of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida, wherein THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CWABS, INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1 is the Plaintiff and STACEY KOWALSKI; AND UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION are Defendants.

The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash IN THE JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, BASEMENT, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL 33870, at 11:00 A.M. on December 13, 2011, the following described real property as set forth in said Final Summary Judgment, to wit:
 LOT 5 BLOCK 5, GOLFVIEW ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 8, PAGE 94, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
 WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on November 16, 2011.

CLERK OF THE COURT
 /s/ Annette E. Daff
 By: Robert W. Germaine Deputy Clerk
 November 20, 27, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT CIVIL COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 03-00479
 Division Civil
 MIDFIRST BANK Plaintiff,
 vs.
 DANNY SHANNON AND GWENDOLYN CAROL SHANNON, COMMERCIAL CREDIT CONSUMER SERVICES INC. N/A/CITIFINANCIAL EQUITY SERVICES, INC., HOUSEHOLD FINANCE CORPORATION III, AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause on November 22, 2006, in the Circuit Court of HIGHLANDS County, Florida. I will sell the property situated in Highlands County, Florida described as:
 LOT 63, OF RIDGEWOOD ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 11, PAGE 27, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, and commonly known as: 102 NORTH KING DRIVE, SEBRING, FLORIDA 33870; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash. Sales are held in the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse located at 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, on January 9, 2012 at 11 a.m.

Any persons claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
 Dated this 18th day of November, 2011.
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Annette E. Daff
 Deputy Clerk
 November 27; December 4, 2011

1050

Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR A VARIANCE REQUEST
HEARING NO. 1702

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the HIGHLANDS COUNTY Board of Adjustment on the 13th day of December, 2011, beginning at 3:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the County Commissioners' Board Room, Highlands County Government Center Building, 600 South Commerce Ave., Sebring, Florida, to consider a variance to allow for a front yard setback of 10.5 feet instead of the required 25 feet to attach a carport, within the area described as follows: approximately 1/6 acre located south of Sebring and northwest of Lake Placid on Woodside Drive, between Venetian Parkway and Oak Grove Street; the address being 176 Woodside Drive, Lake Placid, Florida; and legally described as follows: Lot 48, Block 1, Venetian Village Revised, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 11, Page 12, of the Public Records of Highlands County, Florida.

Any person or persons interested or affected by this change are invited to attend this hearing. You may submit comments in writing to the attention of Linda Conrad, Zoning Supervisor, P.O. Box 1926, Sebring, Florida 33871-1926, or you may call (863) 402-6638, for further information. Please reference the above hearing number when calling or writing.

ANY PERSON WHO MIGHT WISH TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT IN PUBLIC HEARING OR MEETING IS HEREBY ADVISED THAT THEY WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THEY MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH SUCH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

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: hr@hcboc.org. Requests for CART or interpreter services should be made at least 24 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.

ONE OR MORE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

Jim Brooks, Chairman

November 27; December 2, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION

CASE NO.: 28-2010-CA-001373
CENTRAL MORTGAGE COMPANY,
Plaintiff,

vs.
ANA L. BAEZ A/K/A ANA BAEZ, et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated August 29, 2011 and entered in Case No. 28-2010-CA-001373 of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida wherein CENTRAL MORTGAGE COMPANY is the Plaintiff and ANA L. BAEZ A/K/A ANA BAEZ; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AS NOMINEE FOR CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES LLC; SUNSET POINTE ON DINNER LAKE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.; 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 4th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT FORTY, OF SUNSET POINTE ON DINNER LAKE, A SUBDIVISION AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 16, PAGE 55, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A 3038 CEDORA TERRACE, SEBRING, FL 33870

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Court on August 30, 2011.

ROBERT W. CERMAINE
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
F10099332
CENTRAL-CONV-R-UNASSIGNED-Team 3

*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.

November 20, 27, 2011

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1100 Announcements

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AD**

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

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News-Sun Classified

**2000
Employment**

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2100 Help Wanted

KITCHEN ASSISTANT Part Time for Assisted Living Facility, must have basic cooking abilities, exp. preferred. Apply in person at Crown Pointe, 5005 Sun N' Lake Blvd., Sebring, FL 33872

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.

MAINTENANCE WORKER THE ANDERSONS, INC.

The Andersons, Inc. has an opportunity for a **Maintenance Worker** position based in our Lake Placid, Florida facility. This position is responsible performing a variety of maintenance, fabrication and operations tasks, including but not limited to, mechanical, electrical, pneumatic and hydraulic troubleshooting and repair of production equipment.

- Qualified applicants will possess:**
- o High school diploma or GED; further technical training preferred.
 - o 2 or more years experience with troubleshooting, repair and maintenance of production equipment and machinery.
 - o General mechanical, welding and heavy equipment repair skills.
 - o Good customer service and verbal communication skills.
 - o Ability to lift 50-100 pounds periodically and to work at heights of 40 feet.

The Andersons, Inc. supports a drug free workplace and administers pre-employment drug testing. This is a full-time position with an attractive benefits package. Please submit resume and/or application, no later than November 28, as follows:

Online application is available at: www.andersonsinc.com

Email resume to: careers@andersonsinc.com

Mail resume to: The Andersons Inc. Attn: AF/Human Resources P.O. Box 119 Maumee, OH 43537

Drop off resume at: The Andersons Inc. 211 S.R. 70 West Lake Placid, FL 33852 EOE

2100 Help Wanted

ADVERTISING SALES ASSISTANT

We Are Expanding!

We have a new position available, in Sebring Florida for a **ADVERTISING SALES ASSISTANT**

Responsibilities: Scheduling client appointments. Maintaining advertising schedules. Client relations and assist Multi Media Account Executive.

Salary + Commission.

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Send reply to
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2227U S 27 South
Sebring FL 33870
EOE

MEDIA ADVERTISING MULTI-MEDIA ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

We are a Sebring Florida Newspaper is accepting resumes for a qualified OutsideSales Representative that values teamwork and has a desire to succeed.

The successful candidate must have at least 6 months to 1 year sales experience. Is highly motivated and enjoys building client relationships, not afraid to ask for a sale, professional, enthusiastic, and exhibit a high level of integrity.

This position is the perfect choice for anyone loving to sell a product you believe in.

We offer base salary plus commission; excellent benefits to include medical, dental, life, 401k and more; paid time off; and training.

Send reply to
Adsalesjobs@newssun.com
2227 US 27th South
Sebring, Florida
33870
EOE

MEDICAL ASSISTANT - Immediate opening for an experienced Medical Assistant for a busy Pediatric Practice. Experience in phlebotomy, EMR and Bi-lingual a plus. Attractive benefits and an opportunity for career growth. Fax resume to (863) 471-9340 or email cfmsonni@gmail.com

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Then shop till you drop!

2100 Help Wanted

HIGHLANDS COUNTY OUTSIDE SALES

If 150-\$200 A Week will help you Part Time, I need people who need And want to work. Easy Sales. Good for Students and Retirees. Call Ed: 352-217-9937

MEDICAL OFFICE MANAGER Exp. Only with references. Willingness to work varied hours. Responsible team player who can perform all aspects of practice. Fax resume to 863-299-4352.

SEBRING - Mature Male, with references, drivers license and car, to care for older son who cannot drive. A companion that likes cards, play pool, movie, etc. Someone with fishing gear & boat a plus. For more info. Call 863-655-1068

SEEKING PARALEGAL PART-TIME MINIMUM 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE E-mail resume to: officetalent@yahoo.com or Fax 863-471-2565

SUNSHINE PAYDAY LOANS Full time office position Must be organized & responsible. Cash handling experience a plus Fax Resumes to: 863-453-6138

TELEVISION REPAIR TECH - Must have one year experience. Pay depending on experience. Contact Musselman's Appliances and TV. Email resume: mussapp@earthlink.net 863-386-0898

TREE SERVICE Seeking EXPERIENCED TREE CLIMBER, With Valid Drivers License. Call Joe at 863-465-7491

2300 Work Wanted

CNA SEEKING EMPLOYMENT! 30 years experience in health care. Have references. CPR certified training. Will work weekends. Call Debra 863-465-2088.

3000 Financial

4000 Real Estate

4040 Homes For Sale

SEBRING VANTAGE POINTE
By Owner Large 2/2/2
Furnished or Unfurnished.
Call 863-471-2666

4100 Homes for Sale Lake Placid

LAKE PLACID "Leisure Lakes" Completely Furnished, 3BR, 1BA, Liv. rm, Din. rm, FL. rm, attached workshop. 2 adjoining lots w/ 20'X20' & 12'x12' storage sheds. \$59,900 obo. 608-566-5628

LAKE PLACID 2/2 on corner lot. Water Access. Lots of tile. Cathedral Ceilings in living & dining area. Assoc. fees only \$30 monthly. Boat space rental only \$10 monthly. \$129,900 Call 772-321-4984

4320 Real Estate Wanted

ATTENTION: CASH for your Home, Duplex, Apartment, Commercial Property. Rapid Closing, "As Is" Condition. 863-441-2689. **STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**

5000 Mobile Homes

5050 Mobile Homes For Sale

OKEECHOBEE MOBILE HOME 2/2. 1400sq.ft. Furnished, ceramic tile throughout, new counter tops, new flat top stove, new washer & dryer, just installed new A/C. Large shed & parking for 2 vehicles & boat. \$14,900 obo. Call 772-597-1130 ask for Fay.

PALM HARBOR HOMES NEW HOME STIMULUS 5K For Your Used Mobile Home Any Condition 800-622-2632 ext 210

5150 Mobile Homes For Rent

SEBRING NICELY Furnished 2/2. Split bedroom plan. 4 - 6 month seasonal or longer. Located off of Thunderbird Rd. No pets. Room for car & boat parking. Cable, internet incl. Call 863-414-1450

VENUS - New 4BR, 2BA (jacuzzi in master BA) A/C, tile, W/D, porch, w/option of 20 acres. 8 horse barn, privacy fence, 1 block from Hwy 27. 731 CR 201. 305-725-0301

6000 Rentals

6050 Duplexes for Rent

SEBRING NICE 2/1 & 3/1 Duplex for rent. 2004 & 2006 Fernway St. Convenient location. Ready to move in. Washer & Dryer in each. \$550 (2/1) \$600 (3/1), Call Pat (954) 410-8844 or Stan (863) 451-1030

6200 Unfurnished Apartments

AVON PARK ** Highlands Apartments 1680 North Delaware Ave. 1BR, 1BA & 2BR, 2BA Available. Central Heat & Air. Extra insulation. 1st & Sec. Call 863-449-0195

AVON PARK - Apartment with Balcony Overlooking Lake Verona and City Park. 100 E. Main St. Laundry Facilities. SPECIAL: \$325/mo. 863-453-8598

AVON PARK - LEMONTREE APTS 1BR \$495 mo. + \$200 Sec. Deposit, available immediately. Washer/Dryer & WSG included. Call Alan 386-503-8953

BEAUTIFUL APTS SEBRING - 2BR, 1BA, tile floors, screen back porch, beautiful landscaping, building 5 yrs. new. Pets OK. \$595 month. Medical Way. - 863-446-1822

SEBRING - DINNER LAKE AREA 1BR, 1BA Apartments for Rent. \$395/mo. Includes water. Large rooms, fresh paint & tile floors. Call Gary Johnson @ 863-381-1861.

6300 Unfurnished Houses

LAKE PLACID 3/2 Gem w/pool on Lake Carrie. 1500 sq. ft. w/large pool deck, central A/C, 2 car garage, dock and boathouse. Annual lease incl. pool, lawn and water treatment. \$1150/mo. First, last & security. Non smoker please. Avail. 12/1. Call 954-481-8095

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North Central Heights Homes, a new "Rent Restricted" single family home development in Avon Park. Call to see our model today 863-873-1815! Rents average in the low to mid 500's & 600's! Going Fast! **DON'T DELAY APPLY TODAY! NO APPLICATION FEE!**

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
CALL:
TTY 800-955-8771
863-452-4432, Ext. 2201

AVON PARK AFFORDABLE RENT Ridgedale Apartments

1, 2, 3 & 4 Br Apts Central Location, water & trash included Rent subsidized - Based on household income. No Application Fee **Call 863-452-4432 TTY 800-955-8771**

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
Get Noticed Advertise Today!



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 Call 863-381-1298

7000 Merchandise

7040 Appliances

KITCHEN FOR SALE! Electric Stove, Microwave, Dishwasher, Refrigerator all white. Asking \$1500 obo. Call 517-902-6175

7180 Furniture

NEW STEARNS & FOSTER MATTRESS SETS

All queen \$995 * all King \$1295

Compare to any mattress gallery
Lamps \$19, Barstools \$39up,
Desks \$297up, Recliners \$247up

Over 50 styles
Ent. Centers \$167up

Double Reclining Sofa \$587

HIGHPOINT FURNITURE
2346 U.S. 27 N, SEBRING
across from Home Depot

7280 Office & Business Equipment

SHOP CLOSING Equipment for Sale! Display cases, hair dryers, sink, hydraulic chair & supplies. Would prefer to sell everything for \$600, however I will separate. Call 863-471-1452.

7300 Miscellaneous

STAINED GLASS EQUIPMENT Lots of glass, Mosaic's, lead grinders, all tools needed, books, came bender, elec. glass cutter, good deal on everything. \$800 obo Call 863-471-1452.

7310 Bargain Buys

10" DELTA POWER Miter Saw, older model, but works excellent. Blade just sharpened. \$20 863-402-2285

Classified ads get fast results

7310 Bargain Buys

3 ATTACHMENTS for Ryobie 30cc line Trimmer curved shaft. Trimmer, Bagger & edger. All work excellent. \$30. 863-402-2285

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NEWS-SUN
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Five-Day forecast for Highlands County

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly sunny; breezy in the p.m.	Not as warm with a thunderstorm	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny and nice
82° / 63°	73° / 51°	70° / 47°	71° / 46°	72° / 45°
Winds: SE at 8-16 mph	Winds: W at 8-16 mph	Winds: NW at 7-14 mph	Winds: NW at 6-12 mph	Winds: NNW at 8-16 mph



Almanac

Temperature
Readings at Archfield Biological Station in Lake Placid

High Tuesday	86°
Low Tuesday	61°
High Wednesday	84°
Low Wednesday	54°
High Thursday	N.A.*
Low Thursday	N.A.*

Heat Index
For 3 p.m. today

Relative humidity	45%
Expected air temperature	80°
Makes it feel like	80°

Barometer

Tuesday	30.00
Wednesday	30.10
Thursday	N.A.

Precipitation

Tuesday	0.65"
Wednesday	0.00"
Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	0.97"
Year to date	46.16"

Tides

Readings at St. Petersburg

High	1:33 a.m.
Low	9:47 a.m.
High	5:29 p.m.
Low	7:33 p.m.

Readings at Palm Beach

High	9:58 a.m.
Low	3:15 a.m.
High	10:09 p.m.
Low	3:47 p.m.

Lake Levels

Readings as of 7 a.m. yesterday

Lake Jackson	78.36'
Lake Okeechobee	13.85'
Normal	14.51'

UV Index Today

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



Weather History

On Nov. 27, 1898, the famous "Portland" storm formed off Cape Cod, causing the loss of 200 lives. Many others were lost to the raging sea in 50 small vessels.

Sun and Moon

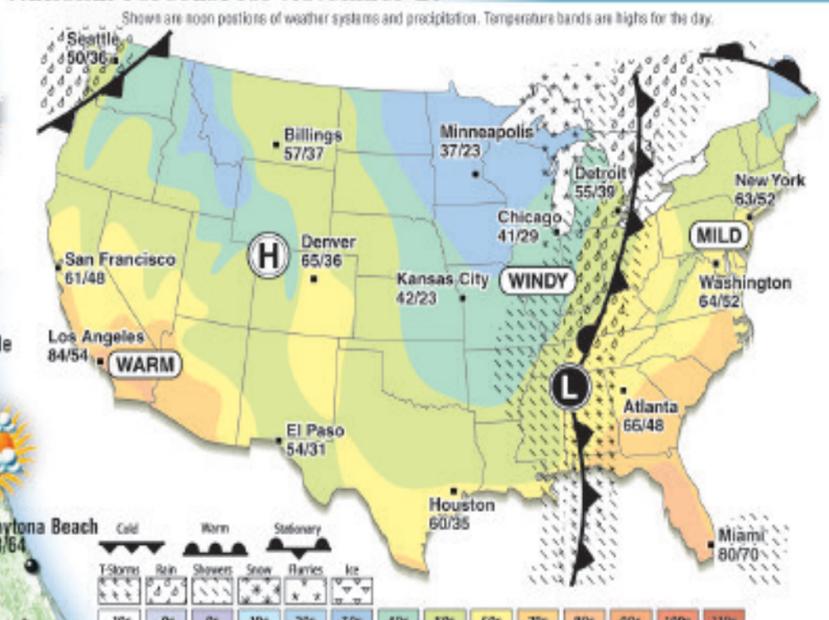
	Today	Monday
Sunrise	6:53 a.m.	6:54 a.m.
Sunset	5:34 p.m.	5:34 p.m.
Moonrise	9:14 a.m.	10:04 a.m.
Moonset	8:12 p.m.	9:14 p.m.

Florida Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Cape Coral	83/64/pc	76/54/1	73/49/pc
Clearwater	83/67/pc	71/56/1	68/54/pc
Doral Springs	80/70/pc	81/58/pc	73/54/pc
Daytona Beach	78/64/pc	71/49/1	65/45/pc
Fl. Laud. Bch	82/72/pc	82/61/pc	74/56/pc
Fort Myers	83/65/pc	76/56/1	74/50/pc
Gainesville	80/60/pc	64/39/1	62/37/pc
Hollywood	81/69/pc	82/58/pc	75/54/pc
Homestead AFB	80/68/pc	80/58/pc	72/53/pc
Jacksonville	78/60/c	64/37/r	60/37/pc
Key West	81/71/1	78/65/pc	73/63/pc

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

National Forecast for November 27



National Summary

A soaking rain is in store for communities from central Tennessee through Ohio and portions of lower Michigan today as a storm shifts eastward. The rain may be heavy enough to cause flooding in a few poor-drainage areas. Farther to the south, some locally heavy showers and thunderstorms will develop across the Gulf states, where milder and humid air will be in place. Some spotty showers will streak across the Carolinas and the interior Northeast as the day progresses. Cold air will continue to pour into the midsection.

U.S. Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.	City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Albuquerque	51/33/c	60/37/c	51/32/c	Los Angeles	84/54/c	80/54/c	84/55/c
Atlanta	66/48/r	52/36/r	52/36/sh	Louisville	58/45/r	47/37/r	47/30/r
Baltimore	65/48/pc	65/52/c	58/36/r	Memphis	51/34/c	47/33/sh	51/29/pc
Birmingham	63/42/r	47/33/sh	54/52/pc	Minneapolis	40/30/c	42/30/pc	39/25/sn
Boston	59/51/pc	63/51/c	57/47/r	Nashville	37/23/pc	41/22/pc	31/20/pc
Charlotte	68/55/c	64/38/r	52/36/r	New Orleans	60/42/pc	55/38/pc	62/42/pc
Cheyenne	58/38/c	53/20/pc	48/31/c	New York City	63/52/pc	63/53/c	57/42/r
Chicago	41/29/sn	43/30/c	38/26/sh	Norfolk	68/54/pc	68/57/c	58/42/r
Cleveland	58/44/pc	52/48/c	51/30/r	Oklahoma City	50/27/c	60/33/c	50/24/c
Columbus	57/46/r	53/45/r	47/30/r	Philadelphia	64/50/pc	64/52/c	57/40/r
Dallas	52/33/c	63/38/c	59/30/c	Phoenix	78/51/r	78/51/r	78/51/r
Denver	65/36/c	61/23/c	51/33/c	Pittsburgh	61/47/c	56/47/c	52/30/r
Detroit	55/39/r	46/42/c	44/28/r	Portland, ME	50/42/pc	59/45/c	57/42/r
Harrisburg	62/46/pc	60/32/c	57/37/r	Portland, OR	53/39/r	49/32/c	48/35/c
Honolulu	81/67/c	81/66/c	82/66/c	Raleigh	70/56/c	70/48/c	55/38/r
Houston	60/35/c	62/40/c	68/42/c	Rochester	58/47/c	58/49/c	58/37/r
Indianapolis	52/38/c	44/25/c	44/25/r	St. Louis	45/31/c	45/30/c	40/24/pc
Jackson, MS	53/35/c	53/32/c	60/32/pc	San Francisco	61/48/c	63/47/pc	63/47/pc
Kansas City	42/23/c	59/28/pc	41/19/pc	Seattle	50/36/r	44/33/pc	43/34/r
Little Rock	61/43/r	49/37/r	45/30/r	Wash., DC	64/52/pc	66/53/c	58/40/r
Lexington	48/32/c	54/31/c	59/28/pc				

World Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.	City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Acapulco	90/75/1	88/75/c	89/76/c	London	57/37/sh	52/41/pc	57/37/sh
Athens	59/46/pc	63/51/c	56/48/pc	Montreal	52/45/c	48/41/r	50/36/r
Beirut	62/33/c	63/34/c	63/34/c	Moscow	34/32/c	38/28/r	31/16/c
Berlin	50/37/sh	48/37/pc	52/41/pc	Nice	65/49/pc	63/49/pc	64/47/pc
Bermuda	74/70/r	74/72/c	76/72/c	Ottawa	54/42/c	47/35/c	54/30/r
Calgary	56/17/c	36/30/pc	45/23/c	Quebec	50/41/c	46/41/r	43/24/r
Edmonton	45/15/pc	27/23/c	38/15/c	Rio de Janeiro	79/72/r	89/71/r	82/71/r
Fredericton	79/63/pc	81/63/pc	76/55/pc	Seoul	57/45/r	59/48/pc	57/45/r
Geneva	55/41/pc	52/41/pc	52/46/pc	Singapore	86/77/r	86/78/r	86/77/r
Havana	85/82/c	83/84/c	78/54/sh	Sydney	81/64/pc	82/66/pc	84/66/pc
Hong Kong	75/68/c	77/70/c	77/70/c	Toronto	54/42/r	49/37/c	40/28/r
Jerusalem	55/41/c	56/40/c	57/42/c	Vancouver	52/33/r	45/33/pc	43/30/r
Johannesburg	76/56/1	74/55/r	74/55/r	Vienna	54/44/pc	46/40/pc	50/42/pc
Kiev	49/32/c	42/27/pc	42/28/pc	Warsaw	42/35/sh	44/31/pc	42/31/pc
				Winnipeg	27/24/c	38/17/1	33/19/pc

Regional Summary

Clouds and sun today; breezy during the afternoon. Becoming cloudy tonight. Variable cloudiness tomorrow with a shower or thunderstorm; not as warm. Tuesday: partly sunny. Wednesday and Thursday: mostly sunny and pleasant.

Farm Report

Partly sunny today; breezy during the afternoon. Winds southeast 8-16 mph. Expect 3-6 hours of sunshine with average relative humidity 60% and fair-drying conditions.

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.	City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Miami	80/70/pc	81/60/pc	74/56/pc	Ocala	82/67/pc	78/53/c	70/48/pc
Okeechobee	80/67/pc	78/53/c	70/48/pc	Orlando	81/62/pc	73/50/1	67/47/pc
Pembroke Pines	82/68/pc	82/58/pc	75/54/pc	St. Augustine	77/65/c	68/44/r	60/43/pc
St. Augustine	77/65/c	68/44/r	60/43/pc	St. Petersburg	82/67/pc	71/56/1	67/55/pc
St. Petersburg	82/67/pc	71/56/1	67/55/pc	Sarasota	82/67/pc	71/55/1	70/51/pc
Sarasota	82/67/pc	71/55/1	70/51/pc	Tallahassee	78/54/c	80/25/r	62/36/pc
Tallahassee	78/54/c	80/25/r	62/36/pc	Tampa	80/65/pc	71/55/1	68/54/pc
Tampa	80/65/pc	71/55/1	68/54/pc	W. Palm Bch	79/70/pc	81/56/pc	71/52/pc
W. Palm Bch	79/70/pc	81/56/pc	71/52/pc	Winter Haven	81/63/pc	71/51/1	68/48/pc

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

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NBA owners, players reach tentative deal

By BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — After nearly two years of bickering, NBA players and owners are back on the same side.

“We want to play basketball,” Commissioner David Stern said.

Come Christmas Day, they should be.

The sides reached a tentative agreement early Saturday to end the 149-day lockout and hope to begin the delayed season with a marquee tripleheader Dec. 25.

Most of a season that seemed in jeopardy of being lost entirely will be salvaged if both sides approve the handshake deal.

Barring a change in scheduling, the 2011-12 season will open with the Boston Celtics at New York Knicks, followed by Miami at Dallas in an NBA finals rematch before MVP Derrick Rose and Chicago visiting Kobe Bryant and the Lakers.

Neither side provided many specifics about the deal, and there are still legal hurdles that must be cleared before gymnasiums are open again.

“We thought it was in both of our interest to try to reach a resolution and save the game,” union executive

‘All I feel right now is ‘finally.’

WAYNE WADE
Miami Heat guard

director Billy Hunter said.

After a secret meeting earlier this week that got the broken process back on track, the sides met for more than 15 hours Friday, working to save the season.

Stern said the agreement was “subject to a variety of approvals and very complex machinations, but we’re optimistic that will all come to pass and that the NBA season will begin Dec. 25.”

The league plans a 66-game season and aims to open training camps Dec. 9, with free agency opening at the same time.

Stern has said it would take about 30 days from an agreement to playing the first game.

“All I feel right now is ‘finally,’” Miami Heat star Dwyane Wade told The Associated Press.

Just 12 days after talks broke down and Stern declared the NBA could be headed to a “nuclear winter,” he sat next to Hunter to announce the 10-year deal, with either side able to opt out after the sixth year.

“For myself, it’s great to be a part of this particular moment in terms of giving our fans what they wanted and wanted to see,” said Derek Fisher, the president of the players’ association.

A majority on each side is needed to approve the agreement, first reported by CBSSports.com.

The NBA needs votes from 15 of 29 owners. (The league owns the New Orleans Hornets.)

Stern said the labor committee plans to discuss the agreement later Saturday and expects them to endorse it and recommend to the full board.

The union needs a simple majority of its 430-plus members.

That process is a bit more complicated after the players

See NBA, Page 4B

Record field takes on Turkey Trot



And they’re off! Nearly 600 runners head up the trails of Highlands Hammock State Park Thursday morning during the 19th Annual Turkey Trot 5K.

By DAN HOEHNE
daniel.hoehne@newsun.com

SEBRING — Thanksgiving is a holiday of getting together with family and close friends.

That sentiment seemed to extend to the greater community as a record field of nearly 600 runners took part in Thursday’s 19th Annual Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk at Highlands Hammock State Park.

Perhaps looking to burn off the soon-to-be ingested calories later in the day, the massive throng of racers enjoyed mild and sunny, if not crowded conditions, as they set off along the wooded trails.

“To say that we had a tremendous turnout for our race would be an understatement,” race organizer Jill Willingham said. “The only thing Chet (Brojek) and I can figure out is that folks want to burn off a few calories before the holiday feast.”

Whatever the reasons or rationale, the day turned out to be a huge success, raising thousands of dollars for projects at the state park.

Lake Placid cross country runner, and state qualifier, Dalton Shelton paced the men’s field, coming in with a blistering time of 17:20 for the win.

Sebring girls cross country coach Krista Schult gave her runners a heads up, a lead-by-example moment, by winning the women’s side of the event in 20:59.

The Master’s titles went to Michael Quigley and Claudia Mele, with times of 19:11 and 22:35, respectively.

Terry Engle, a veteran runner from Indiana, won the Male Grand Master title for the second consecutive year with a time of 22:26 and Janis Barret claimed the Female Grand Master prize with her time of 29:05.

19th Annual Turkey Trot 5K results

Overall Male: Dalton Shelton 17:20
Overall Female: Krista Schult 20:59
Master Male: Michael Quigley 19:11
Master Female: Claudia Mele 22:35
Grand Master Male: Terry Engle 22:26
Grand Master Female: Janis Barrett 29:05

Female Age Groups: Top Three Win Awards
(9 & under) KerryAnne Farrell 28:57, Megan Cooper 35:41, Kylie Acevedo 36:11
(11-14) Laura Eshelman 25:29, Kathleen Brewster 27:13, Stephanie Farrell 27:53
(15-19) Linsay Poule 21:37, Blair Walz 24:34, Theresa Dash 27:07
(20-24) Mary Rose Heston 22:33, Bridget Blyth 26:20, Shannon Blyth 27:16
(25-29) Anna Peschel 24:39, Chelsi Graham 24:49, Danielle Aeder 26:30
(30-34) Nicole Glazer 22:30, Lori Kapalko 22:37, Allyson Collar 23:48
(35-39) Kelly Griffin 24:59, Pam Dicks 25:05, Teri Henderson 25:56
(40-44) Vicki Musselman 25:20, Melanie Boyd 25:28,

See TROT, Page 3B



Above: Lake Placid state qualifier Dalton Shelton won the overall men’s 5K run at Thursday’s 19th Annual Turkey Trot, with a time of 17:20. Below: A determined Krista Schult heads toward the finish line of Turkey Trot at Highlands Hammock. The Sebring girls cross country coach won top female honors with her time of 20:59.



Murray, Central Florida rout UTEP

Associated Press

ORLANDO — A disappointing season is over for both Central Florida and Texas-El Paso, but it ended on decidedly different notes for the two Conference USA schools.

UCF (5-7, 3-6) routed UTEP 31-14 to finish the season Friday night, and the Knights had a few more reasons to smile when it was over.

The win stopped a three-game losing streak; junior tailback Latavius Murray ran for a career-high 233 yards and scored three times; and freshman reserve Blake Bortles ran for one touchdown and threw for another.

“It was a tough season as far as reaching expectations,” said UCF coach George O’Leary, whose team started the season as defending C-USA champion and was expected to contend for the title again. “But I like the fact our younger kids got better and we’ve got a very good nucleus to work with coming back.”

UTEP (5-7, 2-6) needed a win against the Knights to become bowl eligible.

Instead, the Miners trailed 31-0 at one point before scoring twice in the fourth quarter to avoid a shutout.

Jordan Leslie caught a 2-yard pass from Nick Lamaison on a fourth-and-goal play and Joe Banyard added a 7-yard scoring run.

“We wanted this game really bad, but they stuffed us on both offense and defense,” UTEP coach Mike Price said.

Murray had scoring runs of 40 and 38 yards and grabbed a 6-yard touchdown pass from Bortles.

The 6-foot-2, 225-pound junior has been third on the Knights’ depth chart most of the season, but tied his sea-

See UCF, Page 4B



Racing legend Bobby Rahal will be in town Thursday, Dec. 1, for a meet and greet, autograph session leading into next weekend’s Legends of Motorsports event at Sebring International Raceway.

Courtesy photo

Rahal meet and greet

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING - Bobby Rahal, one of the most recognizable and influential figures in motor sports, will be greeting the citizens of Highlands County at a free autograph session and “meet and greet” event this coming Thursday, Dec. 1 at the Alan Jay GM Superstore at 441 U.S. Highway 27 in Sebring.

The two-hour, open-to-the-public event will begin at 5:30 p.m.

As a race car driver, Rahal has won two dozen professional Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART)-series races, three CART championships, 2-time Driver of the Year honors, as well as the famed Indianapolis 500 and 12 Hours of Sebring races,

among many others. After his retirement from competitive racing, Rahal joined with late-night talk show host David Letterman to form Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing.

Starting as just a one-car program, Rahal has helped build the organization to be a winner with multiple vehicles across multiple disciplines. His team won the 2010 and 2011 GT Division and manufacturers championships in the American Le Mans Series with BMW as well as sweeping the top two spots in last year’s Mobil 1 12 Hours of Sebring.

As a mentor, Rahal has discovered or developed some of the best young talent in open-wheel racing, includ-

ing: Ryan Hunter-Reay, Buddy Rice and Danica Patrick.

Additionally, it was Rahal who was responsible for bringing Honda into North American open wheel racing in the early ‘90s, an involvement as a manufacturer that has produced eight championships and over 100 victories, including three Indy 500 triumphs.

Recently, Rahal has been the driving force behind the Legends of Motorsports racing series.

The Legends of Motorsports series is making its second annual visit to Sebring this coming weekend.

See Rahal, Page 3B

THE SCOREBOARD



LIVE SPORTS ON TV

National Football League

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	7	3	0	.700	293	203
N.Y. Jets	5	5	0	.500	228	217
Buffalo	5	5	0	.500	237	253
Miami	3	8	0	.273	12	206
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	7	3	0	.700	273	166
Tennessee	5	5	0	.500	203	195
Jacksonville	3	7	0	.300	125	180
Indianapolis	0	10	0	.000	131	300
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	272	182
Pittsburgh	7	3	0	.700	220	179
Cincinnati	6	4	0	.600	236	195
Cleveland	4	6	0	.400	145	193
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	6	4	0	.600	235	254
Denver	5	5	0	.500	205	247
San Diego	4	6	0	.400	236	259
Kansas City	4	6	0	.400	144	252

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	270	225
N.Y. Giants	6	4	0	.600	228	228
Philadelphia	4	6	0	.400	237	213
Washington	3	7	0	.300	160	205
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	7	3	0	.700	313	228
Atlanta	6	4	0	.600	235	213
Tampa Bay	4	6	0	.400	182	268
Carolina	2	8	0	.200	225	286
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	11	0	0	1.000	382	227
Chicago	7	3	0	.700	268	207
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	316	246
Minnesota	2	8	0	.200	200	271
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	9	2	0	.818	262	161
Seattle	4	6	0	.400	168	209
Arizona	3	7	0	.300	190	236
St. Louis	2	8	0	.200	120	247

Thursday's Games
 Green Bay 27, Detroit 15
 Dallas 20, Miami 19
 Baltimore 16, San Francisco 6

Sunday's Games
 Arizona at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Cleveland at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
 Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
 Houston at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Carolina at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
 Minnesota at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Chicago at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
 Washington at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
 Denver at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
 New England at Philadelphia, 4:15 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Kansas City, 8:20 p.m.

Monday's Game
 N.Y. Giants at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 1
 Philadelphia at Seattle, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4
 Oakland at Miami, 1 p.m.
 Kansas City at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Denver at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Tennessee at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 N.Y. Jets at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
 Indianapolis at New England, 1 p.m.
 Atlanta at Houston, 1 p.m.
 Carolina at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Baltimore at Cleveland, 4:05 p.m.
 Dallas at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
 Green Bay at N.Y. Jets, 4:15 p.m.
 St. Louis at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
 Detroit at New Orleans, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 5
 San Diego at Jacksonville, 8:30 p.m.

LEAGUE LEADERS

AFC PASSING

	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	Int
Brady, NE	387	253	3266	25	10
Schaub, HOU	292	178	2479	15	6
Rhlsbrgr, PIT	354	224	2877	16	9
M. Moore, MIA	219	138	1607	8	5
Hsslbc, TEN	337	206	2357	14	8

NFC PASSING

	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	Int
Rodgers, GB	361	260	3475	33	4
Brees, NOR	422	299	3326	23	11
Romo, DAL	380	245	3026	21	9
Manning, NYG	355	220	2952	18	9
A. Smith, SNF	298	186	2116	13	5

AFC RUSHING

	Att	Yards	Avg	TD
Jnes-Drew, JA	212	941	4.4	5
F. Jackson, BUF	170	934	5.5	8
A. Foster, HOU	171	740	4.3	4
R. Rice, BAL	179	722	4.0	5
Be. Tate, HOU	122	686	5.6	3

NFC RUSHING

	Att	Yards	Avg	TD
L. McCoy, PHL	188	1019	5.4	10
Forde, CHI	186	926	5.0	3
Gore, SNF	203	909	4.5	5
M. Turner, ATL	200	888	4.4	8
Peterson, MIN	186	872	4.7	11

AFC RECEIVING

	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Welker, NE	74	1028	13.9	99t	6
Marshall, MIA	59	850	14.4	46	3
Gronkowski, NE	56	805	14.4	52t	10
R. Rice, BAL	54	537	9.9	52	2
M. Wallace, PIT	53	922	17.4	95t	6

NFC RECEIVING

	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Johnson, DET	63	1023	16.2	73t	12
J. Graham, NO	62	873	14.1	59	6
Sproles, NO	60	448	7.5	36	3
Jennings, GB	58	835	14.4	79t	8
St. Smith, CAR	56	992	17.7	77t	5
Witten, DAL	56	713	12.7	64	5

AFC SCORING, NONKICKERS

	TD	Rus	Rec	Ret	X2	Pts
Gronkowski, NE	10	0	10	0	0	60
R. Rice, BAL	10	8	2	0	0	60
Decker, DEN	8	0	7	1	0	48
A. Foster, HOU	8	6	2	0	0	48
V. Jackson, SD	7	0	7	0	0	42

NFC SCORING, NONKICKERS

	TD	Rus	Rec	Ret	X2	Pts
Johnson, DET	12	0	12	0	0	72
McCoy, PHL	12	10	2	0	0	72
Peterson, MIN	12	11	1	0	0	72
Nelson, GB	9	0	9	0	0	54
Newton, CAR	9	9	0	0	0	54

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	13	6	4	30	73	66
Philadelphia	13	6	3	29	80	66
N.Y. Rangers	11	5	3	25	54	43
New Jersey	12	8	1	25	55	55
N.Y. Islanders	5	11	4	14	38	66

Northeast Division

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

SUNDAY

4:30 p.m. Old Spice Classic, Third Place Game . . . ESPN2
6:30 p.m. Old Spice Classic, Final ESPN2
9 p.m. 76 Classic, Final ESPN2

MONDAY

7 p.m. Xavier at Vanderbilt ESPN2
7 p.m. Stetson at Florida SUN
9 p.m. Jackson State at Memphis SUN

TUESDAY

7 p.m. Michigan at Virginia ESPN2
7:30 p.m. Illinois at Maryland ESPN
9 p.m. Miami at Purdue ESPN2
9:30 p.m. Duke at Ohio State ESPN

GOLF SUNDAY

9 a.m. EuroPGA – South African Open GOLF
Noon Australian PGA Championship GOLF
3 p.m. Omega Mission Hills World Cup, Day 1 GOLF
7:30 p.m. American Century Championship GOLF

NFL SUNDAY

1 p.m. Buffalo at N.Y. Jets CBS
1 p.m. Tampa Bay at Tennessee FOX
4 p.m. New England at Philadelphia CBS
8:15 p.m. Pittsburgh at Kansas City NBC

MONDAY

8:30 p.m. N.Y. Giants at New Orleans ESPN

SKATING SUNDAY

2 p.m. ISU Grand Prix NBC

TENNIS SUNDAY

12:30 p.m. ATP – Barclays World Tour Finals ESPN2

SKIING SUNDAY

1 p.m. USSA Aspen Winternational NBC

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

SUNDAY

2 p.m. Baylor at Tennessee ESPN

TUESDAY

7 p.m. Middle Tennessee St. at Tennessee SUN

Times, games, channels all subject to change

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	13	8	2	28	74	73
Boston	13	7	1	27	71	45
Buffalo	12	9	1	25	62	60
Montreal	10	10	3	23	58	56
Ottawa	10	10	2	22	65	76

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	12	6	4	28	63	54
Washington	12	8	1	25	69	68
Tampa Bay	10	9	2	22	57	68
Winnipeg	9	9	4	22	64	70
Carolina	8	12	4	20	57	79

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	13	7	3	29	77	73
Detroit	13	7	1	27	61	48
St. Louis	12	8	2	26	55	48
Nashville	10	7	4	24	57	57
Columbus	6	13	3	15	53	73

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	13	6	3	29	52	47
Edmonton	12	8	2	26	62	53
Vancouver	12	9	1	25	66	57
Colorado	9	12	1	19	56	68
Calgary	8	12	1	17	45	58

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	13	5	1	27	58	43
Dallas	13	8	1	27	59	61
Los Angeles	11	7	4	26	54	53
Phoenix	11	7	3	25	58	56
Anaheim	6	12	4	16	48	71

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

Wednesday's Games

Boston 4, Buffalo 3, SO
 New Jersey 2, Columbus 1, SO
 Montreal 4, Carolina 3, SO
 Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT
 St. Louis 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT
 Washington 4, Winnipeg 3, OT
 Detroit 5, Calgary 3
 Florida 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
 Minnesota 3, Nashville 2
 Dallas 3, Los Angeles 2, OT
 Phoenix 4, Anaheim 2
 Vancouver 3, Colorado 0
 San Jose 1, Chicago 0

Thursday's Games

No Games Scheduled

Friday's Games

Detroit 3, Boston 2, SO
 Toronto 4, Dallas 3, SO
 New Jersey 1, N.Y. Islanders 0
 Philadelphia 3, Montreal 1
 Edmonton 5, Minnesota 2
 N.Y. Rangers 6, Washington 3
 Chicago 6, Anaheim 5
 Pittsburgh 6, Ottawa 3
 Winnipeg 3, Carolina 1
 Columbus 5, Buffalo 1
 Tampa Bay 2, Florida 1, OT
 St. Louis 2, Calgary 0
 Vancouver 5, Phoenix 0

Saturday's Games

N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey, late
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers, late
 Edmonton at Colorado, late
 Winnipeg at Boston, late
 Washington at Buffalo, late
 Pittsburgh at Montreal, late
 Florida at Tampa Bay, late
 Nashville at Detroit, late

Dallas at Phoenix, late
 Vancouver at San Jose, late
 Chicago at Los Angeles, late

Sunday's Games

Carolina at Ottawa, 5 p.m.
 St. Louis at Columbus, 6 p.m.
 Calgary at Minnesota, 6 p.m.
 Toronto at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Player	Team	G	A	PTS
Kessel	TOR	16	14	30
Giroux	PHI	13	16	29
Lupul	TOR	11	16	27
Versteeg	FLA	12	14	26
Vanek	BUF	12	13	25
Backstrom	WAS	7	18	25
D. Sedin	VAN	6	19	25
Smyth	EDM	12	12	24
Toews	CHI	12	12	24
Kopitar	LA	10	14	24
Nugent-Hopkin	EDM	10	14	24
Pominville	BUF	8	16	24
Seguin	BOS	12	11	23
Fleischmann	FLA	10	13	23
Hossa	CHI	9	14	23
Eberle	EDM	7	16	23
H. Sedin	VAN	7	16	23
Kane	CHI	7	16	23
Benn	DAL	6	17	23

Transactions

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL—Fined Seattle S Kam Chancellor \$40,000 for unnecessary roughness against St. Louis TE Lance Kendricks. Fined Denver LB Von Miller \$25,000 for roughing New York Jets' QB Mark Sanchez in a Nov. 17 game. Fined San Francisco S Dashaun Goldson \$25,000 for punching Arizona WR Early Doucet and fined Doucet \$10,000 for unnecessary roughness when he struck Goldson in the helmet area in a Nov. 20 game. Fined Miami S Tyrone Culver \$20,000 for unnecessary roughness in a Nov. 20 game against Buffalo. Fined Philadelphia WR-KR DeSean Jackson \$10,000 for unsportsmanlike conduct and Philadelphia DT Trevor Lawns was fined \$7,500 for unnecessary roughness in a Nov. 20 game at the New York Giants.

Detroit Lions—Placed RB Jahvid Best on injured reserve.
Jacksonville Jaguars—Placed CB Derek Cox on injured reserve. Signed QB Dan LeFevour off Indianapolis' practice squad.
New York Jets—Signed OT Austin Howard from Baltimore's practice squad.
St. Louis Rams—Placed WR Mark Clayton and OT Jason Smith on injured reserve. Signed WR Nick Miller.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

New York Rangers—Recalled F Carl Hagelin and F John Mitchell from Connecticut (AHL).
Tampa Bay Lightning—Reassigned F Blair Jones to Norfolk (AHL)

COLLEGE

MIAMI—Agreed to terms with football coach Al Golden to a four-year contract extension, through Feb. 1, 2020.

LOCAL SCHEDULE



TUESDAY: Girls Basketball vs. Sebring, 6/7:30 p.m.; Boys Soccer vs. Hardee, 8 p.m.; Girls Soccer vs. Hardee, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY: Boys Basketball at Kathleen, 7:30 p.m.; Girls Basketball at Kathleen, 6 p.m.; Boys Soccer vs. Frostproof, 8 p.m.; Girls Soccer vs. Frostproof, 6 p.m.



MONDAY: Girls Basketball vs. Sebring, 6/7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY: Girls Basketball vs. Frostproof, 6/7:30 p.m.; Boys Soccer at Frostproof, 6/7:30 p.m.; Girls Soccer vs. Frostproof, 6/7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY: Boys Soccer vs. Mulberry, 6/7:30 p.m.; Girls Soccer at Mulberry, 6/7:30 p.m.



MONDAY: Girls Basketball at Lake Placid, 6/7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY: Boys Basketball at Hardee, 6/7:30 p.m.; Girls Basketball at Avon Park, 6/7:30 p.m.; Boys Soccer vs. Lake Wales, 6/7:30 p.m.; Girls Soccer at Lake Wales, 6/7:30 p.m.

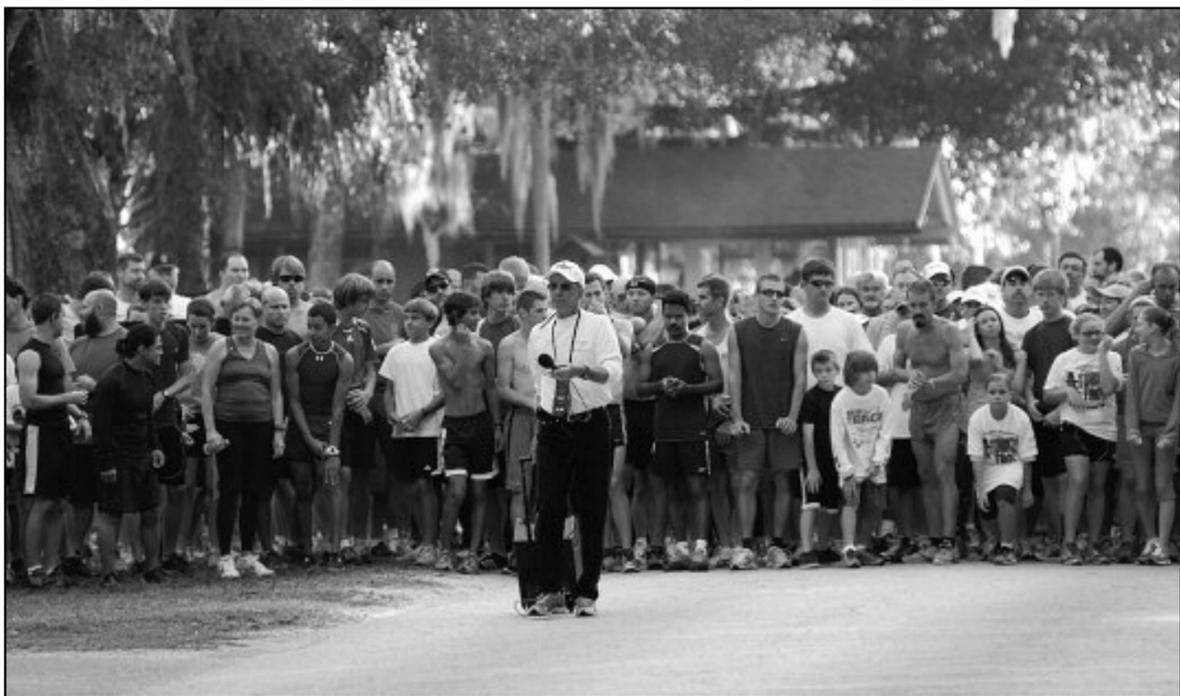
Trot results continued

Continued from 1B

Cynthia Cottrill 26:59
 (45-59) Marie Hiline 22:50, Olga Luepschen 23:15, Pam Farr 27:38
 (50-54) Penny Quinn 28:58, Anita Travis 28:59, Becky McIntyre 29:06
 (55-59) Laura Griffin 25:04, Lori Brown 30:21, Leesa Skipper 31:48
 (60-64) Becky Cleveland 30:00, Peggy Essex-Klammer 31:26, Virginia Okie 33:05
 (65-69) Barbara Schroeder 35:18, Mary Carol Plott 40:31, Janice Stevens 47:50
 (70-74) Lois Hotchkiss 30:25, Sandy Brosius 35:20, Allison Popham 35:23
 (75-79) Jan Coyle 44:53.

Male Age Groups: Top Three Win Awards

(9 and under) Connor Farrell 27:48, Reed Forsee 29:33, Wesley Gilbert 29:38
 (10-14) Eric Foster 17:59, Damian Foster 18:02, Jeremy Farrell 18:06
 (15-19) Renee Marin-Gomez 17:46, Clay Pratt 18:52, Jacob Cook 20:34
 (20-24) Matt Schult 17:41, Quinlon Wolfe 17:44, Timothy Wheaton 19:29
 (25-29) Nathan Skipper 20:12, Chris Aul 22:47, Justin Aeder 24:36
 (30-34) Stewart Skipper 20:08, Daniel Johnson 22:23, Gladstone Coke 22:41
 (35-39) Jayson Bass 18:34, Jeremy Freeze 21:22, Mark Boyer 22:55,
 (40-44) Rod Brewster 20:21, Chris Doty 20:34, Ken Bazzel 21:09
 (45-49) Thomas Meade 20:27, David Bazzel 23:34, Loren Nations 24:56
 (50-54) Roger Travis 20:05, Tim Williams 20:18, David Poole 22:16
 (55-59) Chuck Best 21:12, Randall Sykes 21:20, Lee Pearson 22:53
 (60-64) Danny Glenn 24:25, Charlie Potter 25:00, Michael Stewart 25:04
 (65-69) Rodrick Matthew 28:12, Earl Bosley 29:04, Richard Godfrey 30:08
 (70-74) Stephen Popham 34:55, Gary Walker 43:13, David Cutler 47:03
 (75-79) Mac Perkins 48:06, 49:10
 (80+) Ken Filppula 44:14, Bill Kramer 50:24, Harward Waymon 59:38.



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
 Above: Race director Chet Brojek finishes his pre-race address of the near-600 runners, before clearing the way for the start of the 19th Annual Turkey Trot Thursday morning.
 Courtesy photo

Left: Like mother, like daughter - like granddaughters. Three generations took part in Thursday's Turkey Trot as, from left, Lindsey Griffin worked around an injury to do the 5K walk, while mother Kelly Griffin won the women's 35-39 bracket, grandmother Lori Brown took second in the women's 55-59 and sister Meghan was in the top five of the girls' 10-14 age group.

Hoehne 5: From sue to Suh

When word came out over the wire upon my arrival at the office Saturday morning, I was anxious to read more details about the apparent 'handshake deal' that had been reached between the NBA owners and players.



And Another Thing...
 Dan Hoehne

Talks had broken down in recent weeks and the players had resorted to decertifying as a union and filing suit against the league.

Apparently seeking to avoid the drawn-out process of litigation and the likely loss of the entire season, the two sides met quietly later this week to try to hash out a last-minute agreement.

That goal was allegedly accomplished, though they are being very hush-hush about it at the moment.

The sides, while not necessarily worlds apart in their stances, had seemed to reach a point where neither was going to budge.

The owners seemed set and well prepared to write this season off in order to get a system in place that would benefit all teams.

Meanwhile, the players had given up a lot in the way of the over-the-top

compensation they had grown accustomed to and weren't willing to give up more, in the way of contract lengths, guarantees and mobility.

But when the first paychecks were missed, it was thought that the players might cave, rather than miss a whole seasons' worth.

So what happened? Did the players, in fact, cave?

Given the bitter sounds we'd been hearing from their side throughout the negotiations, that seems unlikely at this stage.

And I find it hard to imagine the owners settling, at this point, for anything much less than what they were aiming for.

The fact that no details

have yet been made public leaves me wondering - and somewhat skeptical.

The league needs approval from 15 owners and while the likes of Mark Cuban and Jerry Buss, along with owners of the bigger market teams, were likely to approve a deal long before this, there are still a good number of hardliners, small market owners who have been yearning for an overhaul in the system to even the financial playing field, that I can't imagine would be in favor of much less than their ultimate goal.

I'll take more of a 'believe it when I see more details' approach.

Though I saw all the details I needed Thursday afternoon, in the Packers-Lions slugfest.

Or in the case of Ndamukong Suh, a helmet-grabbing, stomp-fest.

Now, I understand the heat of the moment, especially for defensive players.

As mild-mannered as I am, when I played defense in my youth, oh, I became unleashed.

The fervor of making the hard hits, the crunching

tackles - it is certainly an adrenaline rush.

And so I can see where Suh, as well-thought and endearing as he can be in conversation, can lose it from time to time amid the action on the field.

Had that been included in his initial explanation after the game, I would have cut him a lot more slack.

Had he merely said, "It was a big game for us, it was intense, it was fierce and I just lost it in that moment. I was wrong, I hurt my teams' chances and I apologize," I would have had no issue.

But defending himself in saying that he didn't stomp on the Green Bay lineman, Evan Dietrich-Smith, he had been vehemently wrestling with moments before but, rather, was trying to regain his balance and walk away - well, that is about as ridiculous as thinking that the NBA labor situation is something that has been completely smoothed over.

Dan Hoehne is the Sports Editor of the News-Sun. He can be reached at daniel.hoehnene@newssun.com.

Rahal here Thursday courtesy of Alan Jay

Continued from 1B

"As a racing enthusiast myself, I cannot tell you how thrilled I am to be able to host a legend like Bobby Rahal at an event like this," a proud Alan Jay Wildstein said. "This is a tremendous opportunity for the people of Highlands County to be able to meet a true giant in the world of American motorsports."

Pete Blake, General Manager of the Alan Jay GM Superstore, agreed.

"We'll have some light snacks and beverages available for those attending as well," he said. "What better way is there to kick off the Legends of Motorsports weekend than meeting and talking with a champion like

Bobby Rahal?"

The Alan Jay GM Superstore is south central Florida's only full-line GM dealer, featuring hundreds of Chevrolet, Buick GMC and Cadillac cars, trucks and SUVs.

Located just south of the Lakeshore Mall in Sebring at 441 U.S. Highway 27 N., the GM Superstore is one of ten dealerships belonging to the Alan Jay Automotive Network.

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For more information, contact Don Elwell at 314-5334.

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NBA season may be salvaged

Continued from 1B

dissolved the union Nov. 14. Now, they must drop their antitrust lawsuit in Minnesota and reform the union before voting on the deal.

Because the union disbanded, a new collective bargaining agreement can only be completed once the union has reformed.

Drug testing and other issues still must be negotiated between the players and the league, which also must dismiss its lawsuit filed in New York.

"We're very pleased we've come this far," Stern said. "There's still a lot of work to be done."

The sides will quickly return to work later Saturday, speaking with attorneys and their own committees to keep the process moving.

When the NBA returns, owners hope to find the type of parity that exists in the NFL, where the small-market Green Bay Packers are the current champions.

The NBA has been dominated in recent years by the biggest spenders, with Boston, Los Angeles and Dallas winning the last four titles.

"I think it will largely prevent the high-spending teams from competing in the free-agent market the way they've been able to in the past. It's not the system we sought out to get in terms of a harder cap, but the luxury tax is harsher than it was. We hope it's effective," deputy commissioner Adam Silver said.

"We feel ultimately it will give fans in every community hope that their team can compete for championships."

The league hopes fans come right back, despite their anger over a work stoppage that followed such a successful season.

But owners wanted more of the league's \$4 billion in annual revenues after players were guaranteed 57 percent of basketball-related income in the old deal.

Participating in the talks for the league were Stern, Silver, Spurs owner Peter Holt, the chairman of the labor relations committee, and attorneys Rick Buchanan and Dan Rube.

The players were represented by executive director Billy Hunter, president Derek Fisher, vice president Maurice Evans, attorney Ron Klempner and economist Kevin Murphy.

Owners locked out the players July 1, and the sides spent most of the summer and fall battling over the division of revenues and other changes owners wanted in a new collective bargaining agreement.

They said they lost hundreds of millions of dollars in each year of the former deal, ratified in 2005, and they wanted a system where the big-market teams wouldn't have the ability to outspend their smaller counterparts.

Players fought against those changes, not wanting to see any teams taken out of the market when they became free agents.

"This was not an easy agreement for anyone. The owners came in having suffered substantial losses and feeling the system wasn't working fairly across all teams," Silver said. "I certainly know the players had strong views about expectations in terms of what they should be getting from the system. It required a lot of compromise from both parties' part, and I think that's what we saw today."

Even the final day had turbulent patches.



MCT photo

Though the deal is expected to be approved, there are hardliners on both sides, including Charlotte Bobcat owner Michael Jordan, who likely won't be happy with it.

It required multiple calls with the owners' labor relations committee, all the while knowing another breakdown in talks would mean not only the loss of the Christmas schedule but possibly even the entire season.

"We resolved, despite some even bumps this evening, that the greater good required us to knock ourselves out and come to this tentative understanding," Stern said.

He denied the litigation was a factor in accelerating a deal, but things happened relatively quickly after the players filed a suit that could have won them some \$6 billion in damages.

"For us the litigation is something that just has to be dealt with," Stern said. "It was not the reason for the settlement. The reason for the settlement was we've got fans, we've got players who would like to play and we've got others who are dependent on us. And it's always been our goal to reach a deal that was fair to both sides and get us playing as soon as possible, but that took a little time."

It finally yielded the second shortened season in NBA history, joining the 1998-99 lockout that reduced the schedule to 50 games.

This time the league will miss 16 games off the normal schedule.

Though the deal's expected to be approved, it may not be unanimous as there are factions of hard-liners in both camps who will be unhappy with substantive portions of the deal.

"Let's all pray this turns out well," Pacers forward Danny Granger wrote on Twitter.

But getting what the own-

ers wanted took a toll.

Stern, after more than 27 years as the league's commissioner, hoped to close a deal much sooner but was committed for fighting for the owners' wishes even at the risk of damaging his legacy.

Hunter dealt with anger from agents and even questions from his own players about his strategy, wondering why it could so long for the players to use the threat of litigation to give them leverage that had otherwise eluded them.

The sides met just twice in the first two months of the lockout before stepping up the pace in September, when it was already too late to open camps on time.

The sides tried meeting in small groups, large groups and even mediation, but nothing sparked compromise.

Things changed this week with the entrance of Jim Quinn, a former NBPA counsel who had good relationships on both sides.

The meeting Friday was held at the office of his law firm, though he did not take part.

Hunter said the terms of the deal would come out shortly, preferring to keep them private until they could be shared with the players.

They might not like the deal, but it will be better than what many of them feared.

Resigned to possibly missing the season, some had signed deals overseas so they would have some paycheck.

Instead, they're a step closer to returning home.

AP Sports Writer Tim Reynolds in Miami contributed to this report.

Florida Football Playoff Scores

<p>Class 8A Regional Semifinal East Lake 33, Palm Harbor University 26 Fletcher 24, DeLand 7 Miami Southridge 21, Coral Reef Senior 3 Miramar 23, Cypress Bay 7 Palm Beach Gardens 14, Seminole Ridge 6 Plant 49, Dr. Phillips 13 Timber Creek 17, Olympia 6</p> <p>Class 7A Regional Semifinal Dwyer 45, Oakland Park Northeast 14 East Ridge 34, Evans 26 First Coast 31, Fleming Island 24 Fort Pierce Central 31, Martin County 7 Gaither 17, Tampa Bay Tech 14 Lakeland 20, Kissimmee Osceola 7 Manatee 34, Venice 21 St. Thomas Aquinas 27, Cooper City 10</p> <p>Class 6A Regional Semifinal Armwood 23, Hillsborough 0 Bartram Trail 27, Columbia 24 Gainesville 21, Sunlake 14 Mainland 23, Winter Haven 20 Miami Central 49, Belen Jesuit 19 Naples 41, Fort Myers 0 Pace 20, Pensacola 10 Palm Bay 34, Melbourne 24</p> <p>Class 5A Regional Semifinal Glades Central 35, Merritt Island 0 Immokalee 54, Cape Coral 7</p>	<p>Jesuit 35, Robinson 20 Miami Norland 59, Miami Jackson 40 Palmetto 27, Hardee 9 Pasco 31, North Marion 28 Ponte Vedra 21, Creekside 7 Wakulla 20, Godby 14</p> <p>Class 4A Regional Final Bolles School 24, Raines 6 Cocoa 55, Dunbar 0 East Gadsden 24, Yulee 16 Miami Washington 48, Gulliver Prep 13</p> <p>Class 3A Regional Final Berkeley Prep 21, Fort Meade 0 Delray American Heritage 31, University School 20 Madison County 42, Trinity Christian-Jacksonville 0 Ocala Trinity Catholic 35, Fort White 3</p> <p>Class 2A Regional Final Admiral Farragut 38, St. Petersburg Canterbury 24 Glades Day 43, Jupiter Christian 36 North Florida Christian 40, Eagle's View 14 Warner Christian 49, St. John Lutheran 18</p> <p>Class 1A Regional Final Chipley 27, Holmes County 6 Jefferson County 56, Trenton 19 Northview 43, Freeport 13 Union County 17, The Villages 0</p>
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UCF ends season with win

Continued from 1B

son high with 21 carries.

"Coach said this game was about program pride and we definitely accomplished that tonight," Murray said.

Bortles took over for sophomore starter Jeff Godfrey on the last possession of the first quarter and played the rest of

the game.

He completed 9 of 12 passes for 158 yards, giving the Knights a productive alternative to Murray's rushing.

"I looked at Blake as giving us the best opportunity to win the game," O'Leary said.

"I think it's a good thing to have competition (with Godfrey). I wish we had that

at every position."

UCF dominated both sides of the ball in the first half on its way to a 24-0 halftime lead.

The Knights' defense controlled the action, limiting UTEP to five first downs and 94 yards total offense in the first two quarters.

Stamkos gives Lightning win over Panthers

Associated Press

SUNRISE — Steven Stamkos scored a power-play goal 2:29 into overtime, lifting the Tampa Bay Lightning past the Florida Panthers 2-1 on Friday night.

Florida's Tomas

Fleischmann and Tampa Bay's Vincent Lecavalier scored in regulation.

Mathieu Garon stopped 23 shots for Tampa Bay, which snapped a two-game losing streak.

Jose Theodore made 29

saves for the Panthers, who were seeking a fourth straight win for the first time since a seven-game streak March 2-16, 2008.

They hadn't won four straight in regulation since Feb. 10-19, 2001.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY

American Legion Post 25 Lake Placid has lounge hours from 1-9 p.m. Live music is from 5-8 p.m. For details, call 465-7940.

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

Inerstate chapter of A.B.A.T.E. meets the last Sunday of every month at The Blue Crab, 825 Ridgewood Dr., Sebring at 11 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Sebring Eagles Club 4240 serves lunch at 2 p.m. at the club, 12921 U.S. 98, Sebring. For details, call 655-4007.

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

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

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

MONDAY

Al-Anon - LET IT BEGIN WITH ME family group meets at 10:30 a.m. every Monday at the Heartland Christian Church on Alt. 27 in Sebring. The church is behind Southgate Shopping Center where Publix is. For more information call 385-5714.

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 8-9 p.m. at Episcopal Church, Lakeshore Drive, Sebring. For more details, call 385-8807.

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

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

Alanon meets at 8 p.m. at St. Agnes Episcopal Church, 3840 Lakeview Drive, Sebring. For details, call 202-0647.

American Legion Placid Post 25 Lake Placid has shuffleboard at 1 p.m. Lounge hours are 12-9 p.m. For details, call 465-7940.

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

AmVets Post 21 plays darts at 7:30 p.m. for members and guests. For details, call 385-0234.

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

BALANCE Dual Diagnosed (Addiction and Mental Health) Support Group meets the second and fourth Monday of the month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Florida Hospital Sebring, Conference Room 1. Qi-Gong to follow at 7 p.m. Call 386-5687.

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

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

Diabetes Support Group meets the second and fourth Monday from 1-2:30 p.m. in Florida Hospital Conference Room 3 in Sebring. Call 402-0177 for guest speaker list.

Dual Diagnosed (Addiction and Mental Health) Support Group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. the fourth Monday at 4023 Sun 'N Lake Blvd., Sebring. Call 386-5687.

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

Garden Club of Sebring meets noon, fourth Monday, Sebring Civic Center.

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

Harmony Hoedowners Square Dance Club meets the second and fourth Monday at the Sebring Country Estates Civic Association clubhouse, 3240 Grand Prix Drive (down the street from Wal-Mart). Dancing will be held every month until April 2008. Classes are being started now in the Sebring and Lake Placid area. For more information, call Sam Dunn at 382-6792 or visit the Web site at www.samdun.net.

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

Heartland Pops rehearses at 7 p.m. Mondays at Avon Park High School Band Room, 700 E. Main St., under the direction of Anthony Jones. Musicians of all ages are welcome. For information, call 314-8877.

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

Highlands County Democratic Executive Committee meets 7 p.m. fourth Monday in the Democratic Party Headquarters, 4216 Sebring Parkway, Sebring. For details, call 699-6052.

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

Highlands Sertoma Club meets noon, Takis Family Restaurant, Sebring.

Highlands County Senior Squadron, Civil Air Patrol the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary meets the second and fourth Monday nights at the Sebring Airport Terminal Building. All

are welcome. For further information, call 471-1433 between 4 and 7 p.m.

Lake Placid American Legion Post 25 meets 8 p.m., Legion hall.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Orchid Society of Highlands County meets 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring. Call Ed Fabik at 465-2830 for details.

Placid Lakes Bridge Club meets 12-4:30 p.m. second and fourth Monday in Placid Lakes Town Hall, 2010 Placid Lakes Blvd. No meetings from end of May to October. For details, call 465-4888.

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

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

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

Sebring Eagles Club 4240 has pizza and darts at 7:30 p.m. at the club, 12921 U.S. 98, Sebring. For details, call 655-4007.

Sebring Elks Lodge 1529 has the lounge open from 12-7 p.m. For more details, call 471-3557.

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

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

Sebring Moose Lodge 2259 plays Texas Hold 'em at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday at 11675 U.S. 98, Sebring. Beef franks and Italian sausages from 1 p.m. to closing. For details, call 655-3920.

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary Post 4300 meets 2 p.m. fourth Monday, 2011 SE Lakeview Drive, Sebring.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3880 euchre, 6:30 p.m., 1224 County Road 621 East, Lake Placid. For more details, call 699-5444.

Volunteers of America of Florida is a nonprofit organization in Sebring that specializes in assisting person's with mental illness. We are pleased to announce our Drop in Center is open to individuals with a mental illness 6 days a week from 11am to 3 pm. The center offers a welcoming environment where individuals are accepted and feel comfortable. For more information please contact Wendy at 863-382-2022.

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fletcher Music Club meets every Thursday and Tuesday at Fletcher Music Center in Lakeshore Mall, Sebring. For more details, call 385-3288.

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

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

Highlands County Quilt Guild meets first and third Tuesday, St. Agnes Episcopal Church, Sebring. Call Lynn Ullinn for meeting times at 314-0557 or e-mail luckyduck@mymailstation.com.

Highlands Senior Center Bingo every Tuesday 6-9

p.m. at 3400 Sebring Parkway. Doors open at 4 p.m. Cards on sale at 5 p.m.; games start at 6 p.m. Great snack bar. For more information, call 386-0752.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lake Placid Moose has euchre at 7 p.m. Food available. Open to members and qualified guests only.

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

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

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

Nar-Anon Support Group for family members or friends of someone with a drug problem or addiction. Nar-

Anon helps attain serenity and a more normal life for those affected by the addictions of loved ones, regardless of whether or not he/she has stopped using. 6 p.m. every Tuesday at First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine, 111 Lake Josephine Drive, Sebring.

Overeaters Anonymous meets from 9-10 a.m. every Tuesday at Avon Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1410 W. Avon Blvd. No dues, fees or weigh-ins. Visit www.FloridaRidgeIntergroup.com. For details, call 382-7731.

Rotary Club of Sebring (Noon) meets at noon at the Sebring Civic Center, near the library in downtown Sebring. For information, call 385-3829 or 471-9900.

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

Sebring Elks Lodge 1529 plays darts, beginning with sign in at 6 p.m. Games start at 6:30 p.m. No experience necessary. Cost is \$2. For more details, call 471-3557.

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

Sebring Recreation Club plays bridge at 12:30 p.m. and table tennis at 4 p.m. at 333 Pomegranate Ave., Sebring. For details, call 385-2966 or leave a name, number and message.

Sertoma Club meets at 7 a.m. at Dee's Restaurant, Sebring. For details, call Scott Albritton at 402-1819.

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

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3880, plays darts 6:30 p.m., 1224 County Road 621 E., Lake Placid. For more details, call 699-5444.

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

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

JK Rowling: UK press left me feeling under siege

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON — Writer J.K. Rowling and actress Sienna Miller gave a London courtroom a vivid picture on Thursday of the anxiety, anger and fear produced by living in the glare of Britain's tabloid media, describing how press intrusion made them feel like prisoners in their own homes.

The creator of boy wizard Harry Potter told Britain's media ethics inquiry that having journalists camped on her doorstep was "like being under siege and like being a hostage." Miller said years of car chases, midnight pursuits and intimate revelations had left her feeling violated, paranoid and anxious.

"The attitude seems to be absolutely cavalier," Rowling said. "You're famous, you're asking for it."

The pair were among a diverse cast of witnesses — Hollywood star Hugh Grant, a former soccer player, a former aide to supermodel Elle Macpherson and the parents of missing and murdered children — who have described how becoming the focus of Britain's tabloid press wreaked havoc on their lives.

Rowling said she was completely unprepared for the media attention she began to receive when her first book, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," became a sensation. The seven Potter books have sold more than 450 million copies, spawned a hit movie series and propelled Rowling from struggling single mother to one of Britain's richest people.

"When you become well-known ... no one gives you a guidebook," she said.

Prime Minister David Cameron set up the inquiry amid a still-unfolding scandal over illegal eavesdropping by the News of the World tabloid. Owner Rupert Murdoch closed down the newspaper in July after evidence emerged that it had illegally accessed the mobile phone voice mails of celebrities, politicians and even crime victims in its search of scoops.

More than a dozen News of the World journalists and editors have been arrested, and the scandal has also



Harry Potter writer J.K. Rowling said the media attention she received has been overwhelming, leaving her feeling like a "hostage."

MCT

"The attitude seems to be absolutely cavalier. You're famous, you're asking for it. When you become well-known, no one gives you a guidebook."

J.K. ROWLING
author

claimed the jobs of two top London police officers, Cameron's media adviser and several senior Murdoch executives.

It has also set off national soul-searching about the balance between press freedom and individual privacy.

Rowling, 46, said media interest in her began shortly after the publication of her first novel in 1997 and soon escalated, with photographers and reporters frequently stationed outside her home. She eventually moved after stories and photographs revealed the location of her house.

"I can't put an invisibility cloaking device over myself or my house, nor would I want to," Rowling said. But, she added, "it feels threatening to have people watching you."

Rowling said she had always tried to keep her

three children out of the media glare, and was outraged when her eldest daughter came home from primary school with a letter from a journalist in her backpack.

"I felt such a sense of invasion," Rowling said. "It's very difficult to say how angry I felt that my 5-year-old daughter's school was no longer a place of complete security from journalists."

By the time her younger children were born in 2003 and 2005, Rowling said, the scrutiny was "like being under siege and like being a hostage."

She also described how, early on in their relationship, her now-husband Neil Murray gave personal details over the phone to a reporter who was pretending to be a tax official. An article about him duly appeared in a

tabloid paper.

"That was a not-very-nice introduction to being involved with someone famous," Rowling said.

Rowling told the inquiry she had gone to court or to Britain's press watchdog more than 50 times over pictures of her children or false stories, which included a claim by the Daily Express that unpleasant fictional wizard Gilderoy Lockhart had been based on her first husband.

Before the final Potter book appeared in 2007, a

reporter even phoned the head teacher of her daughter's school, falsely claiming the child had revealed that Harry Potter died at the end, in an apparent bid to learn secrets of the plot.

Miller, who became a tabloid staple when she dated fellow actor Jude Law, said the constant scrutiny left her feeling "very violated and very paranoid and anxious, constantly."

"I felt like I was living in some sort of video game," she said.

"For a number of years I was relentlessly pursued by 10 to 15 men, almost daily," she said. "Spat at, verbally abused."

"I would often find myself, at the age of 21, at midnight, running down a dark street on my own with 10 men chasing me. And the fact they had cameras in their hands made that legal."

The 29-year-old actress told the inquiry that a stream of personal stories about her in the tabloids led her to accuse friends and family of leaking information to the media. In fact, her cell phone voice mails had been hacked by the News of the World.

Miller, the star of "Layer Cake" and "Alfie," was one of the first celebrities to take the Murdoch tabloid to court over illegal eavesdropping. In May, the newspaper agreed to pay her 100,000 pounds (\$160,000) to settle claims her phone had been hacked.

The newspaper's parent company now faces dozens of lawsuits from alleged hacking victims.

Also testifying Thursday was former Formula One boss Max Mosley, who has

campaigned for a privacy law since his interest in sadomasochistic sex was exposed in the News of the World.

Mosley successfully sued the News of the World over a 2008 story headlined "Formula One boss has sick Nazi orgy with five hookers." Mosley has acknowledged the orgy, but argued that the story — obtained with a hidden camera — was an "outrageous" invasion of privacy. He said the Nazi allegation was damaging and "completely untrue."

Mosley said he has had stories about the incident removed from 193 websites around the world, and is currently taking legal action "in 22 or 23 different countries," including proceedings against search engine Google in France and Germany.

"Invasion of privacy is worse than burglary," Mosley said. "Because if somebody burgles your house ... you can replace the things that have been taken."

High-profile witnesses still to come include CNN celebrity interviewer Piers Morgan, who has denied using phone hacking while he was editor of the Daily Mirror newspaper.

The inquiry, led by Judge Brian Leveson, plans to issue a report next year and could recommend major changes to Britain's system of media self regulation.

Rowling said that she supported freedom the press, but that a new body was needed to replace the "toothless" Press Complaints Commission.

"I can't pretend that I have a magical answer," she said. "No Harry Potter joke intended."

The Artists' Group at SFCC sets spring class lineup

Special to the News-Sun

AVON PARK — The Artists' Group (TAG) at South Florida Community College announces an exciting lineup of workshops for the spring term.

In Creations in Clay workshop, students will work with self-hardening clay and learn coiling techniques in order to create forms. This workshop is taught by Betty McCarthy and is from 9 a.m. to noon Fridays, Jan. 13-27. The course number (CRN) is 21370 and costs \$60.

In the Acrylic Painting II workshop, instructor Louise Weis will teach students the principles of acrylic painting. Students will have the opportunity to complete two paintings. This workshop is for beginning and intermediate students. It will be held from 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 15. The course number (CRN) is 20628 and costs \$95.

Students in the Paint Your Own Oil Masterpiece are encouraged to create a painting of their choice. Some experience with oil paints will be required. The instructor is Nancy Adams and will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays, Jan. 11 - Feb. 15. The course number (CRN) is 20727 and costs \$95.

In the Watercolor Painting workshop, instructor Betty Heim will teach students compositional concepts and techniques for creating in this medium. The workshop will be held 1-4 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 12-Feb. 16. The course number (CRN) is 20796 and costs \$95.

Want to learn how to create your own jewelry? Instructor Kathleen Morgan will teach students how to create a beaded ring, bracelet and a necklace in the Jewelry, Rings, and Things Workshop. This workshop will be held

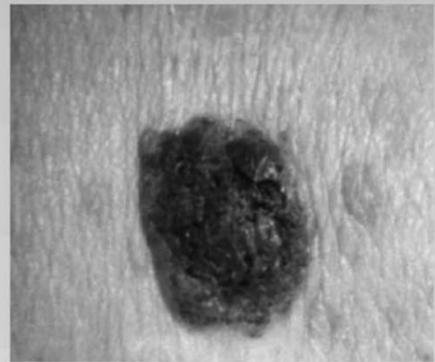
from 9 a.m. to noon Thursdays, Jan. 12-26. The course number is 20788 and costs \$60.

In the Drawing Animals workshop, students will explore important principles of drawing and sketching that are crucial in accurately depicting an animal. This workshop is taught by Louise Weis and is from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4. The course number (CRN) is 21371 and costs \$35 with a \$2 material fee

All of these classes will take place in the TAG studio, inside The Hotel Jacaranda. Register for any of these classes at the TAG Studio, in Building B at the SFCC Highlands Campus, or any other SFCC campus. For more information, call TAG Studio at 784-7346 or SFCC Community Education at 453-6661, ext 7388.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Art & Music Fest planned for Lakeshore Mall Dec. 2-4

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — The Heartland Cultural Alliance (HCA) is producing a three day Art & Music Fest at Lakeshore Mall. This second annual event will take place in a special art gallery and music venue inside the mall located by the east entrance (between Belks and JC Penny), Dec. 2-4.

This event is a fundraiser for HCA designed to spotlight the power and diversity of the creative community in Highlands County. Bands will be performing from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Artists, photographers and sculptors will be exhibiting new work. There will also be exhibits of unique jewelry made by local artists and book signings by local authors.

There will be an artist's reception and opening celebration at the HCA Galley in the mall Thursday, Dec. 1, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.. There will be classical guitar by Kenny Summers, wine and goodies. Admission is free. This Fest offers a look at the creative side of Highlands County. It also offers a chance to find that special gift made in Highlands County.

Musicians scheduled to appear include Mark Manley, Matthew Turner, Gladd Hatters, Uptown Country, James & K Hahn, Legacy, A2J, Steve Jones, Gabriel Colliday, Remnant, Gratitude, Andrea Mapis, LaQuandra, Tiffany Contreras and more.

There will be artists from Caladium Arts & Craft, Focus Photography Group, Heartland Cultural Alliance, Highlands Art League, Lake Placid Art League, Tanglewood Fine Art League and The Artists Group.

Contact Fred Leavitt at info@heartlandculturalalliance.org or 402-8238.



Courtesy photo
Art and music will fill Lakeshore Mall Dec. 2-4 as the three-day Art & Music Fest is presented by Heartland Cultural Alliance.

Behind the scenes of 'The Crazy Ladies'

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — When the house lights are dimmed, the audience is hushed and the actors appear on stage, the hundreds of hours of preparation by cast and crew is quickly forgotten. When the cast hits the stage for opening night of Tanglewood's "Those Crazy Ladies in the House on the Corner" on Dec. 7, the work of the set designers, builders and decorators will be there for all to view, but few will know how many labored long hours to achieve the desired effects.

The actors took the play home after auditions in April to learn lines, needing to be "off book" (all lines memorized) by Nov. 1. Once rehearsals started, the director, Suzanne Schilffarth started "blocking" to determine where each actor should be and how they are to move about the stage. With the help of a stage manager and two assistant stage managers, the cast rehearsed daily to perfect all aspects of the production. Next, the technical crew started to work adjusting lighting and sound for maximum enjoyment of the audience.

Meanwhile, many other Tanglewood residents were busy lining up sponsors, creating the program, selling tickets and planning the intermission dessert. Once the doors open, another batch of volunteers will be on hand to greet the audience members, show them to their seats and make sure they are served promptly.

No sooner will the play's final performance be completed than a horde of volunteers will take apart the set and return the Tanglewood clubhouse to its normal appearance.

There are still tickets available for the performances of "Those Crazy Ladies in the House on the Corner" on Thursday, Dec. 8 and Friday, Dec. 9. For tickets, call 382-9507.

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Foxes have an unflattering reputation



News From The Watershed

Corine Burgess

Foxes have played a part in human culture and history for more than 2,000 years. Literature is full of references to the furry critters. The Holy Bible, "Aesop's Fables," "Canterbury Tales," "The Gingerbread Man" and "Fantastic Mr. Fox" are all books that mention foxes. Myths and folklore are full of fox tales. The Achumawi Indians believed that a fox assisted a coyote in preparing the world for the coming of the first people. The aurora borealis (Northern lights) are known as revontulet (fox fires) in Finland and it is believed that the lights were produced by a fox, painting the sky with its tail as it ran through the sky. Foxes have a reputation that is not always flattering. In reality, foxes are beautiful creatures that are just trying to survive and find food.

The Red Fox, which is the most common species in Highlands County, is a very shy, secretive creature. Their reputation as sly

and out-foxing prey may have a bit of truth to it. These foxes are very fast, which makes the excellent hunters. They have a keen sense of hearing and can locate a rustling sound within one degree of its location. Like a cat, they sneak up on their prey, creeping low to the ground and stretching their head high to spot the unfortunate animal. Then they pounce and grab it with their forefeet. They also have excellent vision and sense of smell.

Red foxes are usually reddish in color, but can be deep brown, black, silver or sandy blond. They have black legs and feet and their bellies are white.

One feature remains constant though and that is that the tail always has a white tip. They are small creatures usually about three feet long from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. They weigh about ten pounds. Foxes are built to be long-distance runners. They have tough toe pads and hard nails that stay out all the time. They are in the same family as dogs, coyotes and wolves (Canidae). They don't bark like dogs, but may howl or whine.

Foxes are opportunistic eaters, which mean that they will eat whatever they can find. Their food of preference is the cottontail rab-



Courtesy photo

Fox kits will fight with each other when they are about 3 weeks old. These fights are not play time, but serious enough that the weakest of the litter may be killed.

bit or field mice, but depending on the time of year, their diets may change drastically. In the summer they feast on bugs, fruits, berries, nuts and grains.

In the winter, when there aren't many fruits or bugs, they eat small animals such as mice, birds, turtles, eggs and even dead animals. They have a home range of five miles and will enjoy garbage if it is available and in their territory.

Breeding takes place in late fall or early winter. A pair will generally mate for life. The mother fox usually has from three to five pups,

which are born completely helpless and blind. The den where the babies are born is underground and usually made from a dug out burrow from another animal such as a gopher tortoise or armadillo.

The dens are usually 20-40 feet long and 3-4 feet deep. The fox expands the tunnel and makes about five exits for a fast get a way if needed. The pups stay with mom for about six months and then they are on their own.

Fox kits will begin fighting with each other when they are about three weeks old. These fights are not play time, but serious enough that the weakest of the litter may be killed. The dominant kit will get all the food it wants, but if food is scarce, the runt may not get enough and die from starvation. This sounds cruel, but it is nature's way of keeping the population in check.

The parent foxes will visit the pups less and less as they grow. The kits will begin to venture out of the den to explore, play and hunt on their own. Foxes will often have more than one den and move the young from den to den while they are growing up. This enables them to have more hunting opportunities as well as safety.

Red foxes only use dens to have

their babies. Any other time, if they need rest, they will find an opening in the grass or brush. Having their quiet time in open spaces makes it easier for them to spot prey that may be passing by.

The red fox was brought to the United States in colonial times. The British were fond of fox hunts and were tired of the native gray foxes climbing trees to escape. Unlike its relative, the red fox does not climb trees, therefore it made hunting more sporting for those chasing them.

Foxes have been hunted for sport, their fur and just because they have been thought of as nuisance animals. The term "fox" is thought of as sly or crafty, tricky or cunning.

However, these tiny little creatures do not deserve the reputation that has been bestowed upon them. They are simply one of nature's creatures that is trying to survive against some pretty big odds. Red fox are cautions, smart, and are extraordinary animals in their own right.

Corine Burgess is an 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.

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 Catylian 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, senior pastor; Scott King, interim youth minister; Joy Loomis, music director; and Rev. Johnattan Soltero, Primera Mision Bautista pastor. Regular Sunday schedule: 9 a.m. Library open; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship; 10:45 a.m. Children's Church; 6 p.m. Evening Service. Nursery provided for Sunday morning service. Regular Wednesday schedule: 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting; 6 p.m. children's choirs; 6 p.m. youth activities; 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal; 7 p.m. Mission Programs. Call 453-6681 for details. Spanish Sunday services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school; 11 a.m. Sunday worship; 7 p.m. evening worship. Spanish Wednesday Service: 7 p.m. Bible study. Spanish Friday Meeting: 7 p.m. Family Night Visitation. "In the heart of Avon Park. For the hearts of Avon Park."

■ **First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine**, 111 Lake Josephine Drive, Sebring (just off U.S. 27 mid-way 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 Street. (2 blocks south of Interlake Blvd) Lake Placid, FL 33852 (863) 465-3721, Email: www.fbclp.com. Pastor Brett Moresy, senior pastor. 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 and Sunday Evening Bible study at 6 p.m. Wednesday Activities: Family dinner at 5 p.m. (\$4 per person, reservations required). Adult-LifeSource classes, prayer meeting, Youth Intersections, and Kids K-5-MaxKidz Extreme meet at 6:15 p.m. Men meet at 8 a.m. every Tuesday for prayer breakfast and women's prayer breakfast is at 8 a.m. every Wednesday, both at the Family Restaurant.

■ **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 pas-

tor, 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. The Rev. Ronald Smith, assistant pastor, 386-1610. On U.S. 98 at the Spring Lake Village II entrance. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. for all ages; Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday Mid-week Bible Study and Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m. Nursery available for all services.

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

CATHOLIC

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

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

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

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; Marco Gallardo, 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 p.m. Wednesdays. Alzheimers Caregivers Support Group meets at 1 p.m. Thursdays. Office hours, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday. Phone 382-6676.

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

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

CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

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

CHURCH OF BRETHREN

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF NAZARENE

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

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

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN CHRISTIAN UNION

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

BOOKS

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "Kill Alex Cross" by James Patterson (Little, Brown)
2. "11/22/63" by Stephen King (Scribner)
3. "V is for Vengeance" by Sue Grafton (Putnam Adult)
4. "The Litigators" by John Grisham (Doubleday)
5. "The Best of Me" by Nicholas Sparks (Grand Central Publishing)
6. "Zero Day" by David Baldacci (Grand Central Publishing)
7. "Devil's Gate" by Clive Cussler and Graham Brown (Putnam Adult)
8. "IQ84" by Haruki Murakami (Knopf)
9. "The Alloy of Law" by Brandon Sanderson (Tor)
10. "The Prague Cemetery" by Umberto Eco (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
11. "The Snow Angel" by Glenn Beck and Nicole Baart (Threshold Editions)
12. "Star Wars" The Old Republic: Revan" by Drew Karpyshyn (LucasBooks)
13. "The Christmas Wedding" by James Patterson, Richard DiLallo (Little, Brown)
14. "Hotel Vendome" by

Danielle Steel (Delacorte Press)

15. "Dollhouse" by Kourtney, Kim & Khloe Kardashian (William Morrow)

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. "Steve Jobs: A Biography" by Walter Isaacson (Simon & Schuster)
2. "Throw Them All Out" by Peter Schweizer (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
3. "Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard (Henry Holt and Co.)
4. "Imperfect Justice: Prosecuting Casey Anthony" by Jeff Ashton and Lisa Pulitzer (William Morrow)
5. "Back to Work" by Bill Clinton (Knopf)
6. "Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero" by Chris Matthews (Simon & Schuster)
7. "Gabby: A Story of Courage and Hope" by Gabrielle Giffords, Mark Kelly and Jeffrey Zaslow (Scribner)
8. "Nearing Home" by Billy Graham (Thomas Nelson)
9. "Then Again" by Diane Keaton (Random House)

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BEST SELLERS

10. "Catherine the Great" by Robert K Massie (Random House)
11. "Spontaneous Happiness" by Andrew Weil (Little, Brown)
12. "No Higher Honor" by Condoleezza Rice (Crown)
13. "How I Got This Way" by Regis Philbin (It Books)
14. "SEAL Target Geronimo" by Chuck Pfarrer (St. Martin's)
15. "The New New Rules: A Funny Look at How Everybody but Me Has Their Head Up Their Ass" by Bill Maher (Blue Rider Press)

MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

1. "Smokin' Seventeen: A Stephanie Plum Novel" by Janet Evanovich (Bantam)
2. "The Guardian" by Sherrilyn Kenyon (St. Martin's Paperbacks)
3. "Secrets to the Grave" by Tami Hoag (Signet)
4. "Bring Me Home for

- Christmas" by Robyn Carr (Mira)
5. "Crescent Dawn" by Clive Cussler and Dirk Cussler (Berkley)
 6. "The Perfect Christmas" by Debbie Macomber (Mira)
 7. "What the Night Knows" by Dean Koontz (Bantam)
 8. "Miracle Cure" by Harlan Coben (Signet)
 9. "The Valcourt Heiress" by Catherine Coulter (Jove)
 10. "Game of Thrones" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)
 11. "Gideon's Sword" by Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child (Vision)
 12. "Secondhand Bride" by Linda Lael Miller (Pocket)
 13. "Not Your Ordinary Faerie Tale" by Christine Warren (St. Martin's Paperback)
 14. "Cross Fire" by James Patterson (Vision)
 15. "Touched by Angels" by Debbie Macomber (HarperPaperbacks)

TRADE PAPERBACKS

1. "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)
2. "The Next Always" by Nora Roberts (Berkley)
 3. "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett (Putnam Adult)
 4. "Sarah's Key" by Tatiana de Rosnay (St. Martin's Griffin)
 5. "Sing You Home" by Jodi Picoult (Atria/Emily Bestler Books)
 6. "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson (Vintage)
 7. "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot (Broadway)
 8. "The Tiger's Wife" by Tea Obreht (Random House)
 9. "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese (Vintage)
 10. "The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel" by Garth Stein (Harper)
 11. "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen (Algonquin)
 12. "Moneyball" by Michael Lewis (Norton)
 13. "Assholes Finish first" by Tucker Max (Gallery)
 14. "Room: A Novel" by Emma Donoghue (LB/Back Bay)
 15. "An Object of Beauty: A Novel" by Steve Martin (Grand Central Publishing)

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: redeemeravon.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 Kindel, 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 Faily of Faith.

■ **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (AALC) American Association of Lutheran Churches,** 4348 Schumacher Road, Sebring, one mile west of Wal-Mart. James Weed, pastor. Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Bible Study, 9 a.m. Nursery provided. Social activities: Choir, Missions, Evangelism. Phone 385-1163.

■ **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 Preschool 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, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Children ages 4 years through fifth grade, 6 p.m.; Youth, 6-7:30 p.m.; Prayer time, 6:15 p.m. Todd Patterson, pastor; Andy McQuaid, associate pastor. Web site www.bfcsebring.com. Church office 385-1024.

■ **Calvary Church,** 1825 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33872; 386-4900. An independent community church. Sunday morning worship, 10 a.m.; Bible study, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday evening service, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. Pastor Lester Osbeck. A small friendly church waiting for your visit.

■ **Christian Training Ministries Inc.,** on Sebring Parkway. Enter off County Road 17 on Simpson Avenue. Sunday service is at 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study at 7 p.m. A nursery and children's church are provided. The church is part of Christian International Ministries Network, a full gospel, non-denominational ministry. Linda M. Downing, minister, lindadowning@live.com. Casey L. Downing, associate minister, caseydowning@hotmail.com. Church phone: 314-0482. Web site: www.ctmforme.com

■ **Grace Bible Church,** 4541 Thunderbird Road, (second church on left) Sebring, FL 33872. Phone, 382-1085. Andrew Katsanis, senior pastor. Saturday Worship, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, 9 and 11 a.m. Tuesday 6 p.m. Grace Bible Academy Adult Investigating Truth; first and third Tuesday, Prayer Gathering, 7:15 p.m.; Wednesday, Children's & Youth Programs, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., College Ministry. www.GBCconnected.org

■ **Highlands Community Church,** a casual contemporary church, meets at 3005 New Life Way. Coffee at 9:30 a.m.; Worship at 10 a.m. Nursery and Kid's World classes. Small groups meet throughout the week. Church phone is 402-1684; Pastor Bruce A. Linhart.

■ **The Lord's Sentinel Fellowship Church,** 148 E. Interlake Blvd., Lake Placid (at Lake Placid Christian School), Pastor Juanita Folsom. Sunday morning service, 10:30 a.m.; Monday, Sentinel School of Theology, 7 p.m.; Church service, Tuesday, 7 p.m. More information at www.juanitafolsomministries.com.

■ **Union Congregational Church,** 106 N. Butler Ave., Avon Park, FL 33825. Sunday worship services are at 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Millennium Church. Sunday school for all ages is at 9:15 a.m. We also offer a Saturday service at 6 p.m. with Pastor Tiger Gullett in the Millennium Church. Nursery/child care is available for all services. Senior Pastor is Bill Breylinger. Office: 453-3345. Web page at www.weareunion.org. All teachings are taken from the Manufacturer's Handbook - The Holy Bible. Come join us.

■ **Unity Life Enrichment Centre,** new location, 10417 Orange Blossom Blvd. S., Sebring, FL 33875; 471-1122; e-mail unity@vistanet.net. Web site, www.unityofsebring.org. 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Celebration Service, Nursery and Children's Church. Weekly Classes, Christian Bookstore and Cafe, Prayer Ministry, Life Enrichment Groups. Rev. Andrew C. Conyer, senior minister transforming lives from ordinary to extraordinary.

■ **The Way Church,** 1005 N. Ridgewood Drive, Sebring. Sunday school and worship service at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Youth activities, 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The Way is a church family who gathers for contemporary worship, teaching of God's Word, prayer and fellowship. Come early and stay after for fellowship time. Child care and children's church are provided. Reinhold Buxbaum is pastor. The Way - A place for you. Office Phone:471-6140, Church Cell Phone:381-6190. Email: thewaychurch@hotmail.com. Web site: www.TheWayChurch.org

PRESBYTERIAN

■ **Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA),** 4500 Sun 'N Lake Blvd., Sebring, 33872-2113. A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America. Sunday morning worship: Informal service, 8 a.m.; traditional service, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:15 a.m.; evening service, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting, 6 p.m.; Children's/Youth Group, 5:30-7 p.m.; choir practice, 7:15 p.m. Phone: 385-3234; Fax: 385-2759; e-mail: covpres@strato.net; Web site: www.cpcsebring.org. Rev. W. Darrell Arnold, pastor. Office hours: 8:30-12:30 a.m. Monday-Friday.

■ **First Presbyterian Church ARP,** 215 E. Circle St., (two entrances on LaGrande), Avon Park, FL 33825. Phone: 453-3242. The Rev. Robert Johnson is the pastor. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study, 10:30 a.m.; Potluck dinner, 6 p.m. third Wednesday; choir practice, 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday; Mary Circle business meeting, 1 p.m. second Wednesday; Sarah Circle business meeting, 4 p.m. second Thursday; Women's Ministries Combined Bible study, 4 p.m. third Thursday. Be a part of a warm, caring church family with traditional services, following biblical truth.

■ **First Presbyterian Church, ARP,** 319 Poinsettia Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. 385-0107. Sunday School, all ages, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m.; Tuesday: Grief Support Group, 1 p.m.; Youth Group (middle and high school), 3:30-6:30 p.m.; Wednesday: Adult Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m. Nursery available during worship. Call the church office for more information and other classes. Rev. Darrell A. Peer, pastor.

■ **First Presbyterian Church, ARP,** www.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 Praise meeting and lunch, noon. Tuesday: Bible study, 6:30 p.m.; and Women's Ministries, 7 p.m. Wednesday:

Youth Ministries, 4 p.m. All 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.

■ **Memorial United Methodist Church,** 500 Kent Ave., (overlooking Lake Clay) Lake Placid, FL, 33852. The Rev. Fred Ball, pastor. Claude H.L. Burnett, pastoral assistant. Sunday schedule: Heritage Worship Service, 8:30 a.m.; Sunday School for all ages, 9:30 a.m.; Celebration Worship Service at 10:45 a.m.; New Song worship service at 10:45 a.m. Loving nursery care provided every Sunday morning. Middle School Youth, 4 p.m.; High School Youth, 5:30 p.m. We offer Christ-centered Sunday school classes, youth programs, Bible studies, book studies and Christian fellowship. Church office, 465-2422 or www.memorialumc.com. Lakeview Christian School, VPK to grade 5; 465-0313. ■ **St. John United Methodist Church,** 3214 Grand Prix Drive, Sebring, FL 33872. The Rev. Ronald De Genaro Jr., Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Adult Sunday School, 11 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery provided for all services. Phone 382-1736. www.stjohnsebring.org

■ **Spring Lake United Methodist Church,** 8170 Cozumel Lane, (Hwy 98) Sebring. The Rev. Clyde Weaver Jr., Pastor. Worship service starts at 9:55 a.m. Bible Study meets at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Choir Practice at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday. Church office phone: 655-0040.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

■ **Emmanuel United Church of Christ,** Jesus didn't reject people, neither do we. Join us for worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and you'll be embraced by a compassionate congregation that is all-inclusive. We're at the corner of Hammock and Hope. Choir and Bell Choir practice on Wednesday; Bible studies throughout the week. 471-1999; sebringemmanuelucc.com.

For the holiday season, teaching teens to be charitable

Call it entitled child syndrome, the chronic gimmes or just plain spoiled ... especially among older kids who crank up gift demands but can't be coaxed off the couch to give back.

By **LEANNE ITALIE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As the daughter of a minister, Jennifer James traveled frequently while her family served the less fortunate, from the rural heartland to the inner city. A lot of the time, she went without as a kid.

"My earliest memories are of working among the homeless in downtown Los Angeles, dipping ice cream for drunks," she said. "I learned a lot and I was a better person for it, but there was a lot of pain along the way."

In her zeal to spare her own three kids, the 44-year-old mom in Oklahoma City, Okla., has given them a world she didn't know — braces on their teeth and cushy furniture for their rooms, fancy computers and private schooling. But now, at 14, 6 and 4, she realizes something is missing.

"Pretty soon it's like the kids just expect it and think you're giving so much because they're just that fantastic and not because you're making sacrifices," James said. "They have no paradigm for sacrifice. Now I'm trying to wind the skein of yarn back up and it's not easy."

Call it entitled child syndrome, the chronic gimmes or just plain spoiled. The lament is a familiar one for many well-meaning parents year round but intensifies at the holidays, especially among older kids who crank up gift demands but can't be coaxed off the couch to give back.

Can you force a teen to lose all the push back in favor of a little charity?

"Parents need to get into the WHY behind why teens are not wanting to give," said Tammy Gold, a parenting coach in Short

Hills, N.J.

Is it selfishness never outgrown or volunteer fatigue after years of forced participation? Did you forget to "model" charity at home, or at least check in to figure out whether your own good deeds were rubbing off? Does your teen anticipate a material reward in return, or a bribe beforehand?

It may be one or all of the above, but Gold and other experts urge parents not to give up — or give in to foreboding that selfish teen equals grown-up sociopath.

It could be your reluctant volunteer just hasn't found the right cause or has been mismatched in the past, said dad David Levinson, a Hollywood screenwriter who founded the Los Angeles community service organization Big Sunday (Bigsunday.org).

"Everyone, even the youngest kids, has something that speaks to them, whether it's homelessness, literacy, the environment, seniors, veterans, AIDS, animals, children," he said. "At the same time, everyone has things that don't speak to them, scare them, or turn them off. For me, it's cats. For others it might be, say, homeless people. And, while they might be embarrassed to have that reaction, that's OK."

If your teen has no interest in cooking, forget the food kitchen as a way to wake up your sleeping giver. If he's not a people person, working closely with the homeless or the infirm might bring out the shy and awkward in him instead.

"Personally, I hate paperwork, and I was stunned to discover that some people actually enjoy it and are good at it," Levinson said.

He suggests projects that have a clear beginning, middle and an end, like cleaning up a single block



Metro Services

or repainting a room at a shelter rather than pitching in on long-term problems with intangible solutions.

No matter how much nudging, a demand to participate isn't the way to go.

"If you persist there's a reasonable chance that they might actually do it, but there also is a chance that they won't," said Suffield,

Conn., psychologist Anthony Wolf, who wrote a guide for parenting teens, "I'd Listen to My Parents if They'd Just Shut Up."

Wolf added: "Have in your head, 'Well, what happens if I don't get them to do it? Should I punish them?' That's a singularly terrible idea."

Encourage teens to look for volunteer opportunities on their own,

said Donna Henderson, a professor of counseling at Wake Forest University. And remember, they're not babies anymore. "Because teens have more capacity for action, they can do more," she said.

Disaster fatigue touches adults and kids alike, but parents should recognize and build on natural moments of empathy, said Michel Tvedt, the teen engagement expert for the aid group World Vision.

"Begin to give them a voice in family giving," she said. "Let your teen know you would like to give a charitable gift as a family but that you'd love to let them be the final decision maker."

As the holidays draw closer, Tvedt said, suggest that teens give loved ones charitable gifts instead of material gifts.

"Teens will not respond well to guilt," she said, and should be encouraged to "find their own identity as givers."

Linda Cohen, whose blog 1000mitzvahs.org is loaded with suggested acts of kindness, unknowingly stumbled on that strategy with her 13-year-old daughter.

She felt deflated as a charitable-minded mom when she couldn't get her own teen to decide on a mitzvah project last summer, ahead of her bat mitzvah.

The push back, she said, was startling, until they found just the right project. The teen decided to collect gift cards with money left over on them to cash in and benefit an organization that provides art supplies to hospitalized kids.

Is she eager? "That might be a bit of a stretch," mom said, "but at least she thinks the project is worthy of some of her time and attention. She's 13, which means we needed to find something that speaks to her at this age."

Wolf said parents shouldn't lose sight of the end game if they fail to budge an intransigent teen.

"Whether they do or don't participate," he said, "the big picture is: 'What I really care about is that they basically become a good person.'"

NBC apologizes to Bachmann for song

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — GOP Presidential candidate Michele Bachmann received an apology from an NBC executive after an off-color song was played during her appearance on Jimmy Fallon's "Late Night," her spokeswoman said late Wednesday.

The Minnesota congresswoman received a personal letter from NBC's vice president for late night programming, Doug Vaughan, a day after she appeared on the show. As Bachmann walked onstage, the show's band had played a snippet of a 1985 Fishbone song entitled "Lynin' Ass B----."

Vaughan wrote that the incident was "not only unfortunate but also unacceptable," Bachmann spokes-

woman Alice Stewart told The Associated Press. She said Vaughan offered his sincerest apologies and said the band had been "severely reprimanded."

Fallon also apologized to Bachmann when they spoke earlier Wednesday, she said. He'd tweeted earlier, saying he was "so sorry about the intro mess."

"He was extremely nice and friendly and offered his apology, and she accepted it," Stewart said, adding that the comedian said he was unaware the band planned to play the song. "It's just unfortunate that someone had to do something so disrespectful."

Bachmann lashed out earlier Wednesday at NBC for not apologizing or taking immediate disciplinary action. In

her first comments on the flap, Bachmann said on the Fox News Channel that the Fallon show band displayed sexism and bias by playing the song.

"This is clearly a form of bias on the part of the Hollywood entertainment elite," Bachmann said. She added, "This wouldn't be tolerated if this was Michelle Obama. It shouldn't be tolerated if it's a conservative woman either."

She went further on a national radio conservative radio show hosted by Michael Medved, calling the incident "inappropriate, outrageous and disrespectful."

On Fox, Bachmann expressed surprise that she's heard nothing from the TV network. She suggested that discipline for the show's

band, The Roots, was in order. She said she believed Fallon's comments to be sincere.

One of Bachmann's congressional colleagues, New York Democrat Nita Lowey, had called on NBC to apologize for its "insulting and inappropriate" treatment of its guest. An NBC spokeswoman didn't return a phone message from The AP.

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Inspirational Thoughts
by Patricia Valentine

Psalm 95:2 says, "Let us come before his presence with Thanksgiving". We're preparing to celebrate a

day with our families and friends as a day of Thanksgiving. This day should be celebrated everyday according to the above scripture. Each day is another day we want to welcome the presence of the Lord with Thanksgiving. As we give thanks to God, we are showing him how much we love and honor him. God is so delighted in hearing our Thanksgiving. Let's be reminded to express our thanks to God daily. He waits every morning just to hear his children's expression of thanksgiving. So, let's not disappoint him. **Be Blessed!**

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CHALK TALK

Breakfasts and lunches being served in the Highlands County School District for the upcoming week of Nov. 28 to Dec. 2 include:

HIGH SCHOOLS

Monday

Breakfast — French toast sticks, sausage patty, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, fruit cocktail cup, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Spaghetti, meat sauce, garlic breadstick, chicken patty on bun, Mama Sofia's cheese pizza, Mama Sofia's pepperoni pizza, tacos, taco toppers, salsa, ham sub meal, turkey sub meal, dill stack, Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich meal, chef salad meal, baked french fries, corn cobbettes, mixed vegetables, Colby Jack cheese stick, glazed berries and cherries, diced pears, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Tuesday

Breakfast — Chicken biscuit, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, applesauce, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Homestyle turkey roast, dinner roll, burger, cheeseburger, chicken patty on bun, Mama Sofia's cheese pizza, Mama Sofia's pepperoni pizza, ham sub meal, turkey sub meal, dill stack, PBJ sandwich meal, turkey Cobb salad meal, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, green beans, carrots and dip, dried blueberries, cut fresh fruit, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Wednesday

Breakfast — Breakfast pizza, hash brown patty, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, apricot cup, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Pressed Cuban sandwich, hot and spicy chicken sandwich, Mama Sofia's cheese pizza, Mama Sofia's pepperoni pizza, tacos, taco toppers, salsa, ham sub meal, turkey sub meal, dill stack, PBJ sandwich meal, chef salad meal, baked buffalo chips, tossed salad, carrots and dip, Smart cookies, fruit cocktail cup, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Thursday

Breakfast — Breakfast frittata, hash brown patty, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, diced peaches, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Taco salad, salsa, yellow rice, burger, cheeseburger, chicken patty on bun, Mama Sofia's cheese pizza, Mama Sofia's pepperoni pizza, ham sub meal, turkey sub meal, dill stack, PBJ sandwich meal, grilled chicken salad plate, refried beans, cheddar cheese stick, strawberry applesauce, cut fresh fruit, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Friday

Breakfast — Sausage biscuit, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, string cheese, strawberry cup, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Asian chicken nuggets, dinner roll, Mama Sofia's cheese pizza, Mama Sofia's pepperoni pizza, chicken patty on bun, PBJ sandwich meal, ham sub meal, turkey sub meal, dill stack, chef salad meal, baked french fries, corn, carrots and dip, string cheese, chocolate chip cookie, diced peaches, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

ACADEMY SCHOOLS

Monday

Lunch — Spaghetti, meat

sauce, garlic breadstick, corn cobbettes, mixed vegetables, glazed berries and cherries, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Tuesday

Lunch — Homestyle turkey roast, dinner roll, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, green beans, dried blueberries, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Wednesday

Lunch — Pressed Cuban sandwich, baked buffalo chips, carrots and dip, Smart cookies, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Thursday

Lunch — Taco salad, salsa, yellow rice, refried beans, strawberry applesauce, cut fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Friday

Lunch — Asian chicken nuggets, dinner roll, Sun Chips, carrots and dip, chocolate chip cookie, diced peaches, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Monday

Breakfast — French toast sticks, sausage patty, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, fruit cocktail cup, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Spaghetti, meat sauce, garlic breadstick, chicken patty on bun, tacos, taco toppers, salsa, ham sub meal, turkey sub meal, dill stack, Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich meal, chef salad meal, corn cobbettes, mixed vegetables, Colby Jack cheese stick, glazed berries and cherries, diced pears, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Tuesday

Breakfast — Chicken biscuit, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, applesauce, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Homestyle turkey roast, dinner roll, burger, cheeseburger, chicken patty on bun, ham sub meal, turkey sub meal, dill stack, PBJ sandwich meal, turkey Cobb salad meal, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, green beans, carrots and dip, dried blueberries, cut fresh fruit, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Wednesday

Breakfast — Breakfast pizza, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, apricot cup, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Pressed Cuban sandwich, hot and spicy chicken sandwich, tacos, taco toppers, salsa, ham sub meal, turkey sub meal, dill stack, PBJ sandwich meal, chef salad meal, baked buffalo chips, tossed salad, carrots and dip, Smart cookies, fruit cocktail cup, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.



School Menus

white milk, strawberry milk.

Thursday

Breakfast — Breakfast frittata, hash brown patty, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, diced peaches, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Taco salad, salsa, yellow rice, burger, cheeseburger, chicken patty on bun, ham sub meal, turkey sub meal, dill stack, PBJ sandwich meal, grilled chicken salad plate, refried beans, cheddar cheese stick, strawberry applesauce, cut fresh fruit, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Friday

Breakfast — Sausage biscuit, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, string cheese, strawberry cup, assorted juice, assorted fresh fruit, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Mama Sofia's pepperoni pizza, Mama Sofia's cheese pizza, chicken tenders, dinner roll, ham sub meal, turkey sub meal, dill stack, chef salad meal, PBJ sandwich meal, corn, carrots and dip, string cheese, chocolate chip cookie, diced peaches, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday

Breakfast — French toast sticks, sausage patty, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, strawberry cup, assorted fresh fruit, apple juice, orange juice, fruit blend juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Breakfast in the Classroom: Blast Jump Start kits, white milk.

Lunch — Chicken nuggets, dinner roll, Uncrustable Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich, turkey chef salad, mashed potatoes, chicken gravy, green peas, strawberry applesauce, very berry juice bar, apple juice, orange juice, fruit blend juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Tuesday

Breakfast — Chicken biscuit, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, applesauce, assorted fresh fruit, apple juice, orange juice, fruit blend juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Spaghetti, meat sauce, garlic breadstick, Uncrustable PBJ sandwich, ham chef salad, green beans, Smart cookies, cut fresh fruit, very berry juice bar, apple juice, orange juice, fruit blend juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Wednesday

Breakfast — Breakfast pizza, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, apricot cup, assorted fresh fruit, apple juice, orange juice, fruit blend juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Breakfast in the Classroom: Very berry bread, apple juice, chocolate milk, white milk, chicken biscuit, strawberry cup.

Lunch — Homestyle turkey roast, dinner roll, Uncrustable PBJ sandwich, turkey chef salad, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, broccoli, fruited Jell-O, very berry juice bar, apple juice, orange juice, fruit blend juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Thursday

Breakfast — Breakfast frittata, hash brown patty, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, cheese filled breadstick, peach cup, assorted fresh fruit, apple juice, orange juice, fruit blend juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Breakfast in the Classroom: Breakfast burrito, orange juice, chocolate milk, cinnamon oatmeal, Ultimate Breakfast Round, fresh apple slices.

Lunch — Tacos, taco toppers, salsa, yellow rice, Uncrustable PBJ sandwich, ham chef salad, corn, refried beans, fruit cocktail cup, very berry juice bar, apple juice, orange juice, fruit blend juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Friday

Breakfast — Sausage biscuit, Cheerios, Trix cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, string cheese, strawberry cup, assorted fresh fruit, assorted juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

fruit, apple juice, orange juice, fruit blend juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Lunch — Mama Sofia's cheese pizza, Mama Sofia's pepperoni pizza, Uncrustable PBJ sandwich, turkey chef salad, carrots and dip, chocolate chip cookie, diced peaches, very berry juice bar, apple juice, orange juice, fruit blend juice, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

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Monday

Lunch — Chicken nuggets, dinner roll, Uncrustable Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich, mashed potatoes, chicken gravy, green peas, strawberry applesauce, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Tuesday

Lunch — Spaghetti, meat sauce, garlic breadstick, Uncrustable PBJ sandwich, green beans, Smart cookies, cut fresh fruit, chocolate milk,

white milk, strawberry milk.

Wednesday

Lunch — Homestyle turkey roast, dinner roll, Uncrustable PBJ sandwich, mashed potatoes, brown gravy broccoli, fruited Jell-O, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Thursday

Lunch — Tacos, taco toppers, salsa, yellow rice, Uncrustable PBJ sandwich, corn, fruit cocktail cup, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

Friday

Lunch — Mama Sofia's cheese pizza, Uncrustable PBJ sandwich, carrots and dip, chocolate chip cookie, diced peaches, chocolate milk, white milk, strawberry milk.

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MOVIES



MCT photo
Harvey Weinstein, pictured with actress Helena Bonham Carter, hopes to grow his movie production company into a household name.

Weinstein desires to become recognized film brand

By JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press
NEW YORK — While Harvey Weinstein has no plans to roar like the MGM lion before each of his movies, the Oscar-winning producer wants to turn the film studio bearing his family's name into a recognizable brand. His wish list includes branding on par with Facebook's F, Twitter's T and Apple's, well, apple.

While he says he will continue to use the "the black and white logo that looks like it's from high school in 1954," he's letting his films this week do the talking — or at least one of them.

Already in theaters is "My Week with Marilyn," starring two-time Oscar nominee Michelle Williams as Marilyn Monroe. It's based on the writings of Colin Clark, who spent a week with the iconic actress in 1957 while she was filming "The Prince and the Showgirl" in the United Kingdom.

Weinstein, who heads The Weinstein Co. with his brother, explained the subject matter's appeal to him.

"I wanted to be that 23-year old boy and spend a week with Marilyn Monroe and go skinny-dipping," Weinstein said Wednesday. "Haven't we all dreamed of being with someone that gorgeous?"

But this is not another Monroe biopic. Weinstein calls it "a snapshot movie about one episode in her life." He equates the film's tone with his 2010 Oscar winner for best picture, "The King's Speech," about a speech therapist who helps King George VI.

With production credits in such Broadway hits as "Billy Elliot," "The Producers" and

'With a script or a book I try to do what would appeal to me. I'm not here to do the mainstream movies.'

HARVEY WEINSTEIN
producer

"God of Carnage," Weinstein always has his eyes on Broadway. He admits it's a dream to bring "My Week with Marilyn" to the great stage in "five to 10 years." And when that happens, he has his heart set on seeing Monroe played by singer Katy Perry, whom he met while taking his daughters to the annual Jingle Ball concert at Madison Square Garden last year.

"I think Katy would be perfect to play Marilyn Monroe," Weinstein said, adding: "She would knock it out of the universe."

Weinstein's other new film, "The Artist," which comes out Friday, is a modern homage to the silent film era and was the darling of the Cannes and Toronto International film festivals. It was shot in black and white using the original 4:3 aspect ratio.

While the film is not your typical studio release, Weinstein doesn't concern himself with such things.

"With a script or a book I try to do what would appeal to me," he says proudly. "I'm not here to do the mainstream movies."

And the results are promising. Weinstein likes the buzz both films are getting, but his source isn't what you'd expect: It's the RottenTomatoes.com web-

site, which compiles reviews and assigns percentage scores based on the average.

"I just go to Rotten Tomatoes to check on who's writing, and I read some of the reviews on Rotten Tomatoes," he said. "I like the site. It's fun. I like the interviews on the site."

Weinstein was proud to report Wednesday the Monroe film was at 85 percent. And "The Artist" was trending a bit higher, based on reviews going back to April, when it played at Cannes.

"I wish I could brand the movies in a way so they would just look at the page and trust me rather than a critic or anything else," Weinstein said.

Weinstein has been seeking advice from firms like Christian Dior and Louis Vuitton about how consumers recognize their products. Oddly enough, he's not expecting to recreate that Columbia Pictures lady with the torch. The iconic Leo the Lion has become synonymous with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Weinstein says that while the lion is a powerful symbol, he's not seeking that type of message. Nor is he shy about the brand.

"The thing about MGM and why it doesn't work at the end of the day is because they would make great musicals and then they would make Andy Hardy movies, or they would make Tarzan movies, so you never know what you got at MGM.

"I'm pretty consistent, at least on my side of the fence, with making a certain, you know, they call it artistic, it's really not, but something that is just a little more literary in its approach."

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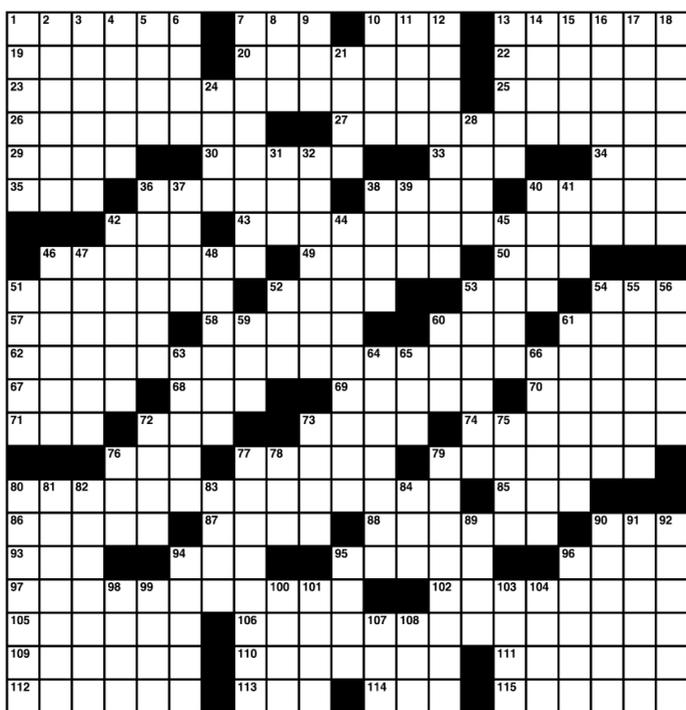
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By R. NORRIS & J. NICHOLS LEWIS



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- 21 Exam for jrs.
- 24 Light source: Abbr.
- 28 Lady of La Mancha
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- 36 Mealtime pleasure
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- 39 Scrip writers
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- 44 Bony-plated forager
- 45 Forecast word
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- 47 Happy as a lark?
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- 52 Coach Parseghian
- 53 What trees may keep you from seeing?
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- 60 It's placed
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- 66 Gave a heads-up
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- 75 Slice at a party
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- 77 Diagonally
- 78 R relatives
- 79 Big blasts
- 80 Old TV tubes
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- 82 Adaptable
- 83 China starter
- 84 Funny Bill, familiarly
- 89 Butcher's cut
- 90 Gentlemen's home?
- 91 Ilsa's request to Sam
- 92 Dos
- 94 Xerography material
- 95 "Son of Frankenstein" role
- 96 Rumble in the jungle?
- 98 "__ la vie!"
- 99 Entire: Pref.
- 100 One who may eat her words?
- 101 March Madness org.
- 103 Pepper & Preston: Abbr.
- 104 Resting upon
- 107 Tractor-trailer
- 108 Biological marker

Open the box



Pause And Consider
Jan Merop

The years of single parenting held sorrows; for sure. I ached when I thought of how my failed marriage hurt my son and how it changed all of the hopes and dreams I'd held so close to my heart.

But, those years also held many joys; not the least of which was the precious child entrusted to me to raise. Joys and sorrows bring the challenges that help us grow in faith, character and hope.

How easy it would have been to have seen my life as confined to a box that hemmed us in on every side; that restricted us from having hope for the future.

And, for a little while, I did. I let Satan's darts pierce me with disillusionment and discouragement. Until one day, I tore open that box and released the flaps that darkened the spaces inside. At last, the contents could look upward.

And, when they did, light poured in through the open flaps and dispelled the darkness. In that box resided a sacred trust from God. From that box faith would be launched. By God's grace and in his strength, I would climb out and soar.

As we approach this holy season in which we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will find ourselves easily boxed into traditions, expectations and

philosophies that would have us abandon the truth. It is time to open the flaps, let the light shine in and soar.

We can be a people who declare with Isaiah of old in chapter 9, verse 2,

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined."

Jesus is that light. He came into the world so that we might see the light and come out of the darkness caused by sin. He invites us into his glorious light of truth, salvation, hope and peace.

Some boxes are dull brown cardboard showing the signs of shipping and handling. Other boxes are brightly wrapped and beribboned.

As the Christmas season quickly approaches, let's determine to take our box — no matter how small or big; no matter how humble or grand — and present it to the eternal One who is limitless. He willingly confined himself to the box of time and space so that we might receive him and be released from sin's confinement into eternity with him.

Open the box! Selah.

Jan Merop is a News-Sun correspondent. Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun staff.

Aries should fight against the current

Metro Services

Aries (March 21-April 20) — Aries, fight against the current rather than give into the situation and let the waves wash you away. Unexpected events arise late in the week, and you can handle them all.

Taurus (Taurus (April 21-May 21) — Aquarius, you can't put your finger on it, but something seems to be out of sorts. The truth will be revealed in the next few weeks. Keep your eyes on the horizon.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) — Burning the candle at both ends is not the right way to get things done, Gemini. The easiest path is not the best path to take, so think on things a little more.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Cancer, take a few days off and get all of your affairs in order. With so many changes occurring rapidly, you can take the time to sort through everything and feel more confident.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 23) — Leo, it can be difficult to contain your frustrations, but expressing all of them can be problematic at this juncture. Find another outlet to vent.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 22) — Virgo, if you don't have the answers to everything you can seek help from others. Relationship problems may leave you feeling tired, but it's a temporary bump in the road.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Give yourself a much-deserved break, Libra. With big events on the horizon, it's best to take this opportunity to rest and recharge.

Horoscope

Take a vacation or a short jaunt.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Scorpio, sometimes you have to be able to laugh at yourself. It's not always easy, especially when the task at hand is no laughing matter.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Sagittarius, you don't know where to start on big projects, but as always, it's at the beginning. Make a list of your work to put it all in perspective and tackle each task individually.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Don't allow your confidence to wane this week, Taurus. If you need a morale boost, turn to your closest friends for the inspiring words you need to hear.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18) — Certain things have to get done in the next few days, Aquarius. But that doesn't mean you can't try to delegate some of these tasks to other people to free up your schedule.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Be the leader you know you can be this week, Pisces. It can be difficult to take charge, but you can handle the pressure.

Famous birthdays

- Nov. 27: Kathryn Bigelow, Director, 60; Nov. 28: Jon Stewart, Comic, 49; Nov. 29: Jeff Fahey, Actor, 55; Nov. 30: Kaley Cuoco, Actress, 36; Dec. 1: Bette Midler, Actress, 66; Dec. 2: Monica Seles, Athlete, 38; Dec. 3: Julianne Moore, Actress, 51.

Daughter's rejection adds to terminally ill man's pain

Dear Abby: I am married to the most wonderful husband and father a woman could ask for. He has been diagnosed with a terminal illness and may not have long to live. Ever since I met "John" he has searched for his daughter who was given up for adoption years ago. We recently found her. It took him some time to find the courage to send her a message, and when he did she rejected him.

"Patty" met her birth mother a few years ago and decided to have contact only with her. This has caused John so much pain that I sometimes cry myself to sleep at night. Our daughters were raised knowing they have an older sister. They also know we found Patty and she doesn't want to get to know us. I don't know how to explain what's happening without them thinking they're not good enough.

My husband was raised in foster homes. He had no family, so family is the most important thing in the world to us and he could die at any moment. I don't know what I can do to ease the sadness or make his daughter see that she may not have another chance. Abby, please help.

— *Blindsided in Bend, Ore.*

Dear Blindsided: I'll try. Write Patty a letter and tell her that her father loves her and searched for her for many years before he was able to locate her. Tell her that he is now terminally ill and would like to see her before he dies — and that it could be healing for both of them. Of course, it is her right to refuse.

As to what you should tell your daughters, explain that Patty's reason for not want-



Dear Abby

ing to meet them may be that her birth mother has poisoned her against the paternal branch of the family, and not to take it personally. It may very well be the truth.

Dear Abby: My identical twin sister "Gwen" and I were close our whole lives. She married and had two children, while I stayed single. Because our lives took different directions, we have not been as close over the past couple of years because Gwen was busy raising her family.

She has recently gone through a divorce and is the primary caregiver of her children. She doesn't have a job. I feel like I'm walking on eggshells around her. She has threatened several times to kill herself, and she starts horrible arguments with our parents and me.

I have tried to help out and watch her kids when I could, but I have a full schedule and need to make time for my other relationships. After being threatened a couple of times, I finally stopped talking to her because I was tired of turning the other cheek to her outrageous, violent behavior.

I love my twin and miss our close relationship. I understand the stress of being an unemployed, single mother of two, but I can't continue putting up with the weekly arguments. Is there any hope we can be close again? Gwen was in counseling for a while. What can I do to help resolve things without turning into a doormat again?

— *Mirror Image in South Carolina*

Dear Mirror Image: Your sister's violent outbursts and threats of suicide are indications that she is suffering from some significant emotional problems. Until and unless she gets more professional help, nothing you can do will "resolve things." The best thing you and your family can do is encourage her to get more counseling and remain close enough to her

to be sure her children are safe.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in 'The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.' To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby — Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

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CELEBRATION SCHEDULE



Squeeze in all the merry-making you can handle with our guide to holiday to-dos

When you think about it, 31 days aren't nearly enough to pack in all the shopping, baking, wrapping, hosting and mailing required to celebrate the winter holidays. But

every year, we try to cram it all in between Dec. 1 and New Year's. Here, we offer a monthlong guide to help you plan your schedule, and wring every last moment of joy

(and stress) from the holiday season. Hang it on the fridge so you can check it every time you go for another gulp of eggnog.

— *Becky Sher, McClatchy-Tribune*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Make a giant to-do list. Include everything you can possibly think of: gifts to buy, parties to attend (or host), cookies to bake. Don't leave anything off; just assume if it's not on the list, it won't get done.</p>	<p>Edit your holiday card list. Get rid of the college roommate you haven't talked to in a decade, and add the couple you met at the block party. Email people for address updates. Buy stamps at usps.com.</p>	<p>Watch the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting on NBC. "The Carpenter's Gift: A Christmas Tale about the Rockefeller Center Tree" by David Rubel and Jim LaMarche is a picture book about how the tree is used by Habitat for Humanity after Christmas.</p>	<p>1 Support the troops. Send holiday priority mail to service members overseas, especially those in Iraq and Afghanistan, by Dec. 3, if you want them to arrive by Dec. 25. See usps.com for a complete calendar of military shipping dates.</p>	<p>2 3</p>	<p>COOKIES! Search "Christmas cookies" on marthastewart.com to find dozens of recipes. Make several varieties and freeze some to enjoy throughout the season.</p>	<p> 3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Decorate the tree. Make or buy a new ornament for each child in your family.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" on ABC.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Dig out your family's favorite holiday books, or head to the library or bookstore for a new supply. A few to try: "Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree," by Robert Barry, or the Mary Engelbreit illustrated "The Night Before Christmas."</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Take the day off to do some shopping when the stores aren't quite as packed.</p> <p>Gather the family's holiday outfits.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Finish your online shopping in the next day or two to ensure gifts arrive on time without paying outrageous shipping fees.</p> <p>Finish any sewing or craft projects.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Gather some friends and go caroling. Find lyrics to holiday songs online and make song lists for your group.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Volunteer in a soup kitchen, wrap gifts at the mall or find another charitable cause to help as a family.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Host a holiday open house for the neighbors. Serve cookies, fudge and hot apple cider.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Visit containerstore.com for tips on wrapping boxes and making bows.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Start wrapping.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Make a menorah to celebrate the Jewish Festival of Lights, which begins Tuesday. Search "menorah" on familyfun.com for options, including an easy paper-cup menorah, and an elegant nature menorah made from</p>	<p>16</p> <p>a tree branch.</p> <p>Double-check your gift list — this is the final weekend for shopping before Christmas.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Watch "Christmas Vacation."</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Buy batteries. Make sure you have proper batteries for toys and gadgets you're giving.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Santa's gone high-tech. Check out his website at www.northpole.com.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>חַפּוּץ חַנּוּכָּה</p> <p>Hanukkah begins at sundown. Read about the holiday's history and traditions at www.history.com/topics/hanukkah/.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Get those last minute packages out. It's the last day to send priority mail if you want it to arrive for Christmas. (You can send express mail until Dec. 22.)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Create amenity baskets for your overnight guests. Include a small bar of soap, travel-size shampoo, a bottle of water, late-night snacks like granola bars and nuts, a nail file and Tylenol or Advil.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Make sure your camera batteries are fully charged.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Leave out cookies and milk for Santa. Put together the toys after the children go to bed. Then play with them while you can. Fill the stockings.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p>	<p>26</p> <p>חַפּוּץ קְוַנְזָאָה</p> <p>Kwanzaa begins. Shop the after-Christmas sales for wrapping paper and cards for next year.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Put your feet up and do absolutely nothing!</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Research tree pickup or recycling in your town so you'll be prepared when it's time to take down your decorations.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bone up on the basics of chilling, serving and storing Champagne at www.champagne.us.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>חַפּוּץ 2012</p>	<p>31</p>