

NEWS-SUN

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Highlands County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1927



North nabs win

Sirk leads North All-Stars to FACA Classic blowout

SPORTS, 1B

Garbage changes

County to change days for garbage pick-up

PAGE 2A

Lights, camera, action!

Easy strategies to help you make better home movies

LIVING, PAGE 14B

Friday-Saturday, December 23-24, 2011

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Volume 92/Number 151 | 50 cents

Inside



PAGE 2A

Forecast



Partly sunny and very warm

High **83** Low **61**

Complete Forecast PAGE 14A

Online



Question: Do you decorate the outside of your home for Christmas?

Yes **58%**

No **42%**

Total votes: 81

Next question: Have you stuck to any of the new year's resolutions you made in January?

Make your voice heard at www.newssun.com

Obituaries

Daniel G. Bennett
Age 90, of Sebring

Obituaries, Page 5A

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Letters to Santa

Students from Avon, Cracker Trail elementary schools let the big guy know what they want this year

PAGE 6B



Down to the wire



Avon Park resident, Patty Scott, does some last minute Christmas shopping at Sebring's Kmart Thursday morning.

Last minute shoppers fill department stores

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR sgholar@newssun.com
SEBRING — Shoppers slowly filled the department stores in the Lakeshore Mall Thursday morning, most hunting for last minute deals and bargains.

The final days of Christmas shopping brought out mostly females shoppers, giving the old stereotype — men always wait to the very last minute to shop — a little extra

validity this year. Customers looked through racks of clothes, aisles of shoes, toys and electronics as they made their last few purchases for the holiday season.

Patty Scott of Avon Park had a cart full of toys and pet supplies Thursday when she was spotted roaming the baby toy aisle in K-Mart.

"Isn't this just the cutest thing?" asked Scott as she held up singing doll.

"I'm shopping for my daughter. She is 17; I just picked this up because it is so cute. I love this," Scott said.

Scott had just about finished up all her Christmas shopping that morning but was hoping to find a last-minute special item for her daughter

On the other side of Lakeshore Mall, Bealls manager Anthony Marley

See SHOPPERS, page 7A

Teachers have issue with budget numbers

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY christopher.tuffley@newssun.com

SEBRING — With the teacher's union and the school board at an impasse in their contract negotiations, Steve Picklesimer, president of the Highlands County Educational Association and a chemistry teacher at Sebring High School, spent time with the News-Sun recently explaining why the union was having difficulty reaching an agreement.

Every year a school board must submit a proposed budget for the coming year, Picklesimer said.

Each budget, he said, is broken down into line items, called functions, which show exactly how much money has been allotted for every cost — including teacher salaries and benefits.

"We all know that financially we're in hard times, so

I don't want to be unreasonable when I come to the table," Picklesimer said.

The union's concern, he added, is that for years the district has often missed those line item targets.

"In the 2010-2011 school year," Picklesimer said, "we asked for a better salary package than we got. Their budget for salaries was \$39.7 million. What they actually spent was \$35 million and change. There's a \$4.7 million difference between the number they budgeted and what they actually spent."

"Now, that was over budgeted in their salary package, so where inside the budget did that (\$4.7 million) sprinkle itself?"

"In '05, '06, '07 they were averaging being over \$2 million under budget; they were

See TEACHERS, page 7A

Commission seeking creative solutions for elections building

By ED BALDRIDGE ed.baldridge@newssun.com

SEBRING — Commissioner Ron Handley reported to the board on Tuesday that he was working on ideas that could trim extra costs and time from the renovations of the Kenilworth building.

Purchased in 2008 for \$1.2 million, the "shell of a building" has turned out to be a \$2 million-plus boondoggle from a public perspective, and has some commissioners looking into the diligence county staff applied before the building was purchased.

"We know that some mistakes, maybe some bad judgments were made," Commissioner Don Elwell said at the Dec. 13 meeting.

"We are all human, it happens, let's go ahead and address them and let's see what kind of corrective meas-

ures can be taken and let's move forward," Elwell said. "At the very least, we will get a good understanding of this issue so that it will never happen again."

Handley's goal is to try and use county labor to finish out the building and cut the cost for the renovations while keeping it from going through a lengthy bid process.

Handley asked for clarification on the state statute surrounding the bid process, trying to maneuver taxpayer money through the legal jargon and still accomplish the goal of having a complete and useful building.

Handley quoted state statute 255.041. "It clearly states that you can prepare separate specifications for each of following branches of work. And it's broken down exactly

See COUNTY, page 5A



Handley

Highlands Rotary to see whose chili is the best

Crazy Pepper Chili Cook Off on Jan. 21

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR sgholar@newssun.com
SEBRING — The Highlands County Rotary Club will hold its first ever Crazy Pepper Chili Cook Off on Jan. 21 at the Highlands County Convention Center.

Gates will open for vendors beginning at 8 a.m. The cook-off will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The event was thought up by members of the rotary to work as a benefit

as well as a fun event for members of the community.

Registration coordinator, Missy Golden, explained the reason behind the cook-off.

"This is our first year and we were just looking for a way to get out and mingle with the community. What better way to do that than with chili?"

Everyone likes chili," Golden said.

Entry into the cook-off is \$75 per team. Vendor space will be available at \$50 per first space and \$25 for any additional booth space.

"We will have lots of other things going on that day also. We will have door raffles and prizes, kids games and activities, there will be local

artists and craftsmen and vendors and plenty of food.

"The chili tasting and judging will start at 12," Golden said.

The Crazy Pepper Chili Cook Off will benefit the St. Jude's Hospital Foundation as well as the Highlands County Rotary Club.

Interested participants or vendor may contact Golden at 253-1360 or 386-4325 for registration or more information.

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County trash pickup changing in 2012

By ED BALDRIDGE

ed.baldridge@newssun.com
HIGHLANDS COUNTY — As the New Year approaches, county residents need to look for changes in trash pickup when they make their resolutions.

In a press release on Thursday, the County's Public Information Officer Gloria Rybinski stated that

starting on Jan. 2, residents in the unincorporated areas of the county, will have new trash pickup schedules.

Trash pickup within the city limits of Avon Park, Sebring and Lake Placid will not be affected, Rybinski said.

Rybinski stated that the new schedules will be implemented "to service our com-

munity more efficiently."

According to Rybinski, for all residents north of Hammock Road north of Lakeview Drive and all residents of Arbuckle Road, trash pickup will be on Monday and Thursday.

Yard waste pickup will be on the first and third Wednesday of the month.

For all residents south of

Hammock Road, Lakeview Drive and all residents on Kenilworth Boulevard the new trash pickup days will be Tuesday and Friday.

Yard waste pickup will be the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

Anyone seeking clarification or more information is encouraged to call Choice Environmental at 655-0005.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Blood drive today in Lake Placid

LAKE PLACID — The Lake Placid Jaycees is hosting a blood drive on the bus from 12-5 p.m. today at Highlands Independent Bank in Lake Placid.

All participants will receive two Fandango vouchers that can be redeemed for two free movie tickets!

Your blood donations saves three lives in our community.

Royal Care to cater Meals on Wheels

AVON PARK — Royal Care of Avon Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Center will begin catering the meals for Avon Park Meals on Wheels beginning Jan. 2. All routes for Meals on Wheels of Avon Park will be delivered daily, Monday through Friday from the Royal Care location at 1214 W. Stratford Road.

If you would like more information on Meals on Wheels, please call 443-1191 or 453-6674; or visit our website at www.mealsonwheelsap.org/.

'Next What's Up Main Street?' meeting Jan. 10

AVON PARK — The Avon Park Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) - Main Street District will host its next "What's Up Main Street?" meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at Eighteen East restaurant (18 E. Main Street).

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

For more information, contact Casey Wohl at Casey.Wohl@yahoo.com or by phone at (863) 224-6326. For more information about the Avon Park CRA, visit www.AvonParkCRA.com/.

Humane Society Sale-a-thon Jan. 14

SEBRING — The Humane Society will hold its second annual Sale-a-thon from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ag-Center on Jan. 14, 2012.

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

For more information, please call Pat Hoffer at 835-1491 or the Humane Society Shelter at 655-1522.

Good Dog course planned

SEBRING — Highlands County YMCA (located at 100 YMCA Lane, Sebring) will be offering a New Year's dog obedience and behavioral modification course, "Good Dog." The course is being offered to all citizens and visitors of Highlands County. You do not have to be a member of the YMCA to partake.

This is a six-week course, which will begin at 4 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012. The class meets each Saturday for approximately one hour. The classes are held under cover at the basketball courts to keep owner and dog cool along with protecting us from possible summer showers.

"Good Dog" is geared towards dogs of all ages and levels. The course will focus

on good manners, obedience and behavioral modifications. Upon completion of this course, you will have learned how to communicate better with your dog and have fun doing it. Many techniques are utilized including positive reinforcement to help motivate both you and your dog.

Some of the exercises you will be instructed in include: sit, down, stand, stay, come, heel/walking on a loose lead and more. Topics to be addressed are geared towards each indi-

Continued on page 5A

Billing issue over lighting resolved

Caddyshack was paying for lights city installed

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR

sgholar@newssun.com
SEBRING — The Caddyshack Bar and Grill at 3122 Golfview Road was the subject during Tuesday's city council meeting, but it had nothing to do with what's on the menu.

The Caddyshack's Bobby Fulcher recently discovered that the eight Progress Energy lights surrounding the Caddyshack had been billed to the establishment since the summer of 2006, and he asked the city council to pay the restaurant back for the bills.

"On December 12, 2006 Caddyshack took over the electric, which the street lights included," explained Fulcher in an e-mail to city administrator Scott Noethlich.

After a couple of street lights burned out, Fulcher contacted Progress Energy and discovered that all eight of the lights had been billed to Caddyshack and not to the city.

"Caddyshack had been paying for all eight lights that the city had installed," the e-mail stated.

The Caddyshack has been paying \$33.43 monthly for the past 59 months, Fulcher stated, for a grand total of \$1479.72.

After clarifying the exact number of months that the Caddyshack had been billed for the service (the e-mail stated 59, but the actual number of months was 51), Councilman Andrew Fells questioned Fulcher on the time frame as well as the late action taken to fix the problem.

"I wish this would've come to council 59 or 58 months ago when you realized you were paying for eight lights," Fells said.

"Well we didn't realize it until the lights were out and the city wouldn't fix them because they were under our account," said Fulcher.

After several minutes of discussion, Fulcher told council that he feels the Caddyshack should be responsible for only two of the eight lights in the Caddyshack area.

"One is facing towards our parking there is another hanging out over the street. They aren't over the parking the lot they are over the street,"

See LIGHT, page 5A

Triumph over tragedy



During a phone conversation with the parents of Maj. Megan McClung, I referred to the loss of their daughter in Iraq as a tragedy. The fallen Marine's mother, Dr. Re McClung, offered a prompt, polite correction.

"Nothing about Megan's life was tragic," Maj. McClung's mom, speaking from Coupeville, Wash., told the Unknown Soldiers. "A tragedy does not occur when you have a compelling desire to serve your country in the best possible way."

Long before she fought for freedom, Megan declared her independence.

"When she was about 2 years old, I would try to lay her clothes out on the bed," Re said. "She would take the outfit and say, 'No, mommy, I want to wear this instead.'"

"I knew she would go on to do something really important," Megan's mother concluded.

Whether it was learning to climb up the stairs, successfully arguing for admittance to an all-male strength training class, or becoming the first woman to attend the prestigious Admiral Farragut Academy in Toms River, N.J., an unjust "no" was something Megan refused to accept.

"In the military, you often hear about 'command presence,'" said Dr. Mike McClung, who served as an infantry platoon commander in Vietnam. "Megan had command presence as a young child."

As a Marine, Megan impressed her peers by sticking up for them.

"Megan was an interesting little force because she had no qualms about speaking up to a senior officer if she thought something was wrong," her father said.

McClung's military success was no accident. Her mom explained that Megan's laser-like focus on three key areas — mind, body, and spirit — helped her daughter become remarkably well-rounded.

"Megan used to collect quotes, and she'd write them on scraps of paper and stick them in a book," Re said. "One of them says, 'To give anything but your best is to waste the gift.'"

Megan gave her best as a marathon runner, gymnast and diver. She earned a master's degree in criminology from Boston University. And she was one of the most effective public affairs officers the Marine Corps had ever seen.

"She wanted to see firsthand what was going on (in Iraq)," Megan's mother explained. "She wanted people to write about the individual stories of bravery."

Determined that political divisions at home should not overshadow the heroism she



Courtesy photo
Maj. Megan McClung, 34, was the highest-ranking female Marine officer to be killed in action during the Iraq war, which ended just over five years after her death.

witnessed on the ground in Iraq, Megan brought a profound sense of purpose to her job.

"Within a month of Megan being there, the whole attitude and feeling of the base had changed," her mom said. "Megan was focusing on the good things."

Spending almost all of 2006 in Iraq's then-volatile Al Anbar Province, McClung was tasked with helping journalists embed with units on the ground.

"She wanted to make sure the writer got the story he or she was looking for," her dad said.

In dealing with the press, Megan had a motto that rubbed off on fellow Marines: "Be bold. Be brief. Be gone." Today, those six words are engraved on her headstone at Arlington National Cemetery.

Megan didn't just repeat her mantra. She lived it.

On Dec. 6, 2006, Megan was helping escort Newsweek journalists through Ramadi when an improvised explosive device detonated beneath her vehicle. McClung, 34; Army Capt. Travis Patriquin, 32; and Spc. Vincent Pomante III, 22; were killed in the attack.

For five years, Mike and Re McClung have approached Megan's death with the same passion their daughter displayed in life. They support scholarships, marathons, and charities that embody Megan's focus on mind, body, and spirit. They learn more about Megan the warrior from her fellow Marines. And when they have a bad day, Megan's collection of quotes provides comfort.

"Do something you're passionate about," one quote reads.

That saying is rarely lived to the fullest. Yet Megan spent 34 years doing the things she was passionate about, which included helping some of the Iraq war's most compelling examples of valor end up on our

kitchen tables.

After a revealing conversation with her parents, it's clear that the story of the highest-ranking female Marine officer to be killed in Iraq is not tragic. The real tragedy would be for us to forget Maj. Megan McClung's extraordinary life.

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.

	Lottery Center	Dec. 21 3 10 24 25 49 52 x:4 <i>Next jackpot \$50 million</i>
		Dec. 17 6 21 40 46 51 52 x:2 Dec. 14 1 3 4 9 33 38 x:5
		Dec. 21 (n) 7 9 0 4 Dec. 21 (d) 8 2 0 0 Dec. 20 (n) 2 3 5 2 Dec. 20 (d) 5 0 8 9
	Dec. 21 1 3 7 20 29 Dec. 20 8 19 26 35 36 Dec. 19 3 4 8 18 28 Dec. 18 14 16 17 24 36	
	Dec. 20 1 16 33 40 15 Dec. 16 4 21 28 44 9 Dec. 13 16 27 29 42 7 Dec. 9 3 6 13 34 3	
	Dec. 21 10 13 15 31 54 PB: 18 PP: 5 <i>Next jackpot \$125 million</i>	<p>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</p>
Dec. 17 13 28 49 51 59 PB: 33 PP: 4 Dec. 14 2 24 46 52 56 PB: 19 PP: 5		

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For
 God
 so loved
 the world
 that He gave His
 only begotten Son, that whosoever
 believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting
 life...for God was pleased to have
 all of his fullness dwell
 in Him (Jesus
 Christ) and
 through him
 to reconcile
 to himself
 all things
 making
PEACE
 through
H I S
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John 3:16
Colossians 1:19
NIV

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

TODAY'S EDITORIAL

Anti-tobacco or anti-freedom?

Despite the arguments that folks should have the freedom to chew tobacco when they are fishing, or the liberty to enjoy a smoke between their car and a government building, the county's tobacco-free policy is spot on.

Second hand smoke constitutes a danger to others, which means government is fulfilling its duty in protecting the public.

So far, so good. It is one thing to protect the innocent, however, and totally another to tell people how to live their lives.

We refer to a newly added paragraph in the anti-smoking ordinance: "All (county) applicants will be required to sign an affidavit stating that they have refrained from tobacco products for the 12 months preceding the application/hire."

What? We will screen potential hires, making them promise they haven't used a legal substance for a year?

Admittedly, it is a great idea to have programs to help people kick an addiction, and nice that the nicotine patches are even free for five weeks to help in that effort.

But addiction is a pernicious disease, and tobacco is one of the hardest to beat.

Requiring applicants to claim they have not used tobacco in a year is about as useful a policy as "Just Say No."

Then there is the question of why policy makers think it is okay to poke government's nose into people's private business.

Why, it is for the greater good, we are told. To lower the county's insurance rates, for example.

Right.

How much did the insurance company say it would lower the premium each year if we required applicants to sign a piece of paper stating they were tobacco free a year ago?

Really? That much.

Well, it is for a person's own good then. Maybe.

But what's next? The Twinkie police to save us from over indulging in sugar? Fast food S.W.A.T. teams to keep us from clogging with cholesterol?

Are we going to demand future county hires swear that they have flossed every day in order to get a break on dental insurance premiums? What about an affidavit stating that they eat all their vegetables every day to grow up big and strong? Mom always said that was a requirement.

Is it really necessary to infringe on personal freedoms — to oppress the village, so to speak, in order to save it?

And where does government get the right to restrict employment based on a personal habit — however self-destructive. Some of the most successful people have smoked cigarettes or chewed tobacco.

While we agree people have to be protected from secondhand smoke and lawns from discarded cigarette butts, we strongly disagree that the government has the right to protect smokers and chewers from themselves.

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Merry Christmas, welcome home and job well done

Surrounded by the protection of barbed wire fences and cement barricades, the United States Forces — Iraq flag was furled for the last time during an unpretentious ceremony in Baghdad, Iraq on December 15, 2011. It has been a long nine years.



Guest Column
Susan Stamper Brown

At the war's onset in 2003, troops were promised the only way to return home was through Baghdad. Nine years, two administrations, and multiple tours later, with mission finally accomplished, troops are headed home to celebrate Christmas.

The holiday celebrations this year should extend to include honoring the many soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who have sacrificed so much for the liberation of Iraq. Given the current political climate, it is unrealistic to expect the ticker tape parades of days-gone-by that took place to commemorate war's end.

Frankly speaking, the word "victory" is all but missing from the vocabularies of those in leadership who originally voted against the surge leading to success in Iraq. Thankfully, sound wisdom prevailed. At this point in time, it seems it is safer for those who could not militarily strategize their way out of a paper bag to err to the side of caution. After all, the mission in Iraq is as accomplished as it can be — considering the commander in chief had promises to keep with an anti-war constituency, thereby closing down operations prematurely and against the wishes of commanders with boots on the ground.

At the moment, conditions look favorable for the people of Iraq, but enduring freedom in this country bordering the saber-rattling Islamic regime of Iran is a crap shoot at best. Albeit the existence of a free Middle East devoid an American presence there may be atop our president's Christmas wish list, a wish it shall remain — until history does its part to tell us the rest of the story.

Unlike what seems to be happening in some "Arab Spring" countries, which may soon succumb to the weight of their own ineptitude, America's presence in Iraq has unequivocally contributed to the birth of a fledgling democracy in a region known for

and surrounded by deep and widespread oppression.

There is much in Iraq for America to be proud of despite the comments coming from isolationist naysayers like Republican presidential hopeful Ron Paul, who has all but spit on the graves of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for a war he recently described as "useless" during the GOP Presidential Debate in Iowa.

As nonsensical as it may be, Paul is entitled to his own opinion, but it might be much wiser to heed the voice of common sense coming from those whose boots are soiled with Iraqi desert sands — like U.S. General Lloyd Austin — who recently said America's sacrifice gave the Iraqi people "an unprecedented opportunity to live in a relatively peaceful environment."

Similarly, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta acknowledged "the cost was high in blood and treasure" but "those lives have not been lost in vain" because "they gave birth to an independent and sovereign Iraq."

As many of us pause during this busy holiday season to reflect on the birth of freedom for mankind offered to us by way of a lowly Bethlehem manger, we should offer a prayer of thanks for the birth of a sovereign Iraq and the soldiers who gave her a chance.

Susan Stamper Brown's weekly column is nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate. Email Susan at writestamper@gmail.com. Guest columns are the opinions of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun staff.

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICY

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

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

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

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

*Gabriel Read
Avon Park*



TODAY'S LETTERS

Francisco will be missed

Editor:
Please accept the following as a tribute to an upstanding Highlands County resident, Betty Francisco. All who knew her felt it a privilege to spend time with Betty. She has recently moved close to her family in Melbourne. Here is her story.

Betty Francisco and her husband, Larry, moved to Highlands County from New York by way of West Palm Beach in 1988. Betty has generously given of her time and energy for the good of us all. Her successful beauty salon, Betty Francisco Hair Designs on Ridgewood for about five years, 1988 to 1993, got her going. Betty became president of the Sebring Downtown Merchant Association for two years and launched the Roaring '20s Celebrations on the Circle. For a few years, she did the actors' make-up for Highlands Little Theatre, winning their Zenon Award for her contribution to the success of "The King and I" play.

Most cherished perhaps is her part along with Kevin Roberts bringing our Safe House for abused women into being. Betty organized two auctions to raise money for Safe House to the tune of \$27,000 from one auction.

Since 1993 to this year, Betty kept up her career by working in home from a complete salon made for her

customers in its own dedicated room and entrance. She's been an active member of the Elks and also volunteered at Florida Hospital for five years. As members, she and Larry hosted a wine judging event for the Highlands Grape Growers Association in their home.

Some of us have learned the art of stained glass making from Betty in classes she taught at the Highlands Art League and lots of us boarded buses to see plays and art museums around Florida, Betty at the helm.

We salute you, Betty Francisco.
*MK "Maggie" Hall
Sebring*

We should be concerned about the future

Editor:
I think the people of the United States should be very concerned about the future of their country. It has been slipping slowly for the past couple decades. Our schools have been dumbed down, they no longer teach American History. This leaves our kids with no idea of why their country had become the greatest and most envied country of the world.

Good penmanship is a thing of the past. Many of our children cannot write legibly, they do not think nor articulate well and more times than not speak in clichés, making it difficult to understand what they mean.

The people have elected a man whom they didn't and still don't know much about.

Since his election, we have found that his friends are usually radicals in their chosen fields of work.

He is subtly creating "class warfare" always talking about the "haves" doing more for the "have-nots" he thing that worries me most about this man is that he wants and has talked about creating a "civilian defense force" outside of our military, under his direct control to be used inside our borders. This immediately brings to my mind Hitler and his Gestapo. Sadly, the media does not tell us about these things and most of our young people do not know about Hitler.

In view of the above, I pray that this man, Obama, does not get a second term as president of our country.

*Richard Ford
Sebring*

Age of violence

Editor:
My generation of TV viewers can remember the classic models of detective work in Mission Impossible, the A Team TV programs and the movies/TV series of Sherlock Holmes in the 60s. These programs used superior human intellect and modern technology to solve crimes. Very little violence permeated them. Yet, today's TV/Hollywood movie industry has turned them into voracious, violent scenarios

because "that is what the public wants."

The world has witnessed utter destruction in the past 10 years or so, much more than the horrors of World War II, a world to save the world for democracy. A genuine war hero, Sec. of State Colin Powell, was manipulated into providing false evidence to instigate the war in Iraq and we witnessed Sec. of Defense Rumsfeld gleefully "washing his hands" observing the "Shock and Awe" destruction of Baghdad and the killing of hundreds of innocent civilians.

Powell himself opposed that war, as did President Bush I, but the damage was done. The violent destruction in Iraq and Afghanistan continues as President Obama tries to bring it to an end. Yet former V.P. Cheney is trying to rewrite history claiming Obama is following the Bush policies. What Obama is doing is cleaning up the horrific mess left by Bush II.

History will show this past decade as an Age of Violence. The whole globe is swamped in violence, as is our own national culture. Free enterprise and capitalism have wrought terrific, positive improvement for mankind, but they have wrought destructive results, too. There must be a remedy for that; pandering to the lowest level of human nature must end.

Drums and doggies help spread holiday cheer



Courtesy photo

Tuesday, Alzheimer's patients at the Kenilworth Care & Rehabilitation Center beat drums and stroked therapy dogs. Studies have shown that drums and dogs are extremely effective in calming patients, and reducing the need for medications.

County trying to find ways to solve issues with elections building on Kenilworth

Continued from page 1A

into what we want to do at the Kenilworth. You have heating, you have electric and you have plumbing. Those are broken down into three separate contracts which then you could put those separate contracts under the \$300,000 threshold," Handley said.

According to Handley, by keeping the contracts under \$300,000, the county is not required to go out for bid and could possibly use cheaper

county employee labor to bring the building up to code.

County Attorney Ross Macbeth told the commission that he thought Handley's interpretation was not correct, but warranted further investigation.

"Unfortunately, that job is partly mine to deliver bad news about statutory interpretation," Macbeth said.

Macbeth read the statute and suggested Handley's interpretation only applied to state agencies, not county or municipalities.

Board Chairman Jack Richie suggested that Macbeth and Handley continue with a scheduled meeting on Wednesday, but Handley insisted at first that the discussion happen in an open board meeting.

"Wait a second. It's still my turn. If it's no, then it's no, but I want all to hear it," Handley said.

"Basically, our hands are tied in many ways, but not in all ways. Hopefully, we can use your expertise to make some of these things more

cost effective," Macbeth suggested.

Commissioner Greg Harris suggested selling the building to the Sheriff's Office, letting them do the renovations needed, and then buy the building back when it was finished, but Handley and Macbeth agreed that was not a good avenue to take.

Handley agreed to continue and meet with Macbeth and to bring the information back to the commission at a later date.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Continued from page 2A

vidual student; i.e., calm greetings, jumping, barking, biting and other problem solving techniques. The AKC Canine Good Citizen Test will be available for those wishing to obtain said certification at the end of the course.

The instructor will be Monica with 30-plus years of experience in dog training and behavior modifications. She has titled dogs in AKC, Search and Rescue, Cadaver Dogs, Narcotics, Tracking and Evidence Indication, Personal Protection, Therapy Dogs and Registered Service Dogs.

Puppies and dogs must be current on their vaccinations. Cost is \$50. Space is limited. To pre-register, call 655-9080.

Events at local lodges, posts and clubs

AVON PARK — The Combat Veterans Memorial VFW Post 9853 in Avon Park, will host the following events:

Sunday, Dec. 18 - NFL package available on our big screens (call for time).

Tuesday, Dec. 20 - Karaoke from 5-8 p.m., call for details.

Friday, Dec. 23 - Music by Uptown Country from 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 24 - Music by Peg and Perry from 5-8 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 31, is our New Years' Eve dinner 6-7:30 p.m. Music by T.J. and the Cruisers from 8 p.m. to midnight. Call for details.

For times and details, call 452-9853.

LAKE PLACID — The Lake Placid Moose 2374, will host the following events:

Today - Music with Steve and Peggy from 6-10 p.m.

Saturday - Music with Larry Musgrave 6-10 p.m. Volunteer Christmas party (call for time).

On Saturday, Dec. 31, is our New Years' Eve party. Sign up early, (call for details).

For times and details, call 465-0131.

LAKE PLACID — The American Legion Placid Post 25 in Lake Placid, will host the following events:

Sunday, Dec. 18 - Karaoke with Naomi starting at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 21 - Drawings 3 and 4 p.m. Karaoke 4-7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 23 - Drawings 3 and 4 p.m. Entertainment 4-7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 24 - Eggnog party and Christmas caroling (details coming).

On Saturday, Dec. 31, we will have a New Years' Eve celebration (call for details).

For more information, call 465-0975.

LAKE PLACID — The Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661, will host the following events:

Saturday - Lodge will close at 5 p.m. New Years Eve Dinner/Dance on Dec. 31. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:30. Music by Don & Allen with party favors and champagne to bring in 2012. Open to members and guests.

Any questions, call 465-2661.

LAKE PLACID — The Veterans of Foreign Wars 3880 in Lake Placid, will host the following events:

Saturday - Horse races 5:30 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 31, is our New Years' Eve dinner 7 p.m. Champagne at midnight. Cost \$17 per person (call for time).

For times and details, call 699-5444.

SEBRING — The Sebring Recreation Club will host the following events:

Today - Mini-shuffleboard tournament at 1:15 p.m.

For details, call 385-2966.

SEBRING — The Sebring Elks will host the following events:

Today - Christmas dinner (call for details). Music by Buddy Canova from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday - Lodge will close at 5 p.m. For details, call 471-3557.

Romney says no to Gingrich debate

BETHLEHEM, N.H. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney on Thursday spurned chief rival Newt Gingrich's challenge for a one-on-one debate in the run up to the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses but dismissed the notion — suggested by the former House speaker — that he was afraid to participate in such a face-off.

"We've had many occasions to debate together and we'll have more, I presume quite a few more, before this is finished," Romney

told The Associated Press. "But I'm not going to narrow this down to a two-person race while there are still a number of other candidates that are viable, important candidates in the race. I want to show respect to them."

Romney also distanced himself anew from the standoff in Washington between the GOP-controlled House and the Democratic-run White House over a two-month extension of a cut in payroll taxes.

Light bill issue with restaurant settled

Continued from page 2A

Fulcher said.

Councilman John Clark added that the lights are all beneficial to the Caddyshack patrons and that the establishment should be responsible for five of the eight.

Fells then made a recommendation that all eight lights be in control of the City of Sebring. Fulcher had asked for reimbursement in the form of the \$1,479 be taken off the upcoming month's rent, but

council did not agree to the idea.

Clark made a motion that Fulcher provide evidence (bills) or proof of the eight lights being paid for by Caddyshack for however many months and the city would credit for every month of the inequity. The city will then split the billing of the lights, four lights each for city and for Caddyshack.

The motion was approved by all present members of the council.

OBITUARIES

DANIEL BENNETT

Daniel Gordon Bennett, age 90, passed away

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2011 in Sebring, Fla. Mr. Bennett was a general contractor and member of the First Baptist Church. He served in the United States Coast Guard during World War II and had been a lifelong resident of Avon Park, Fla.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia Bennett of Avon Park, Fla.; daughter, Vaunda Bennett Simpson (John) of Florida Keys; sons, Jimmy Bennett (Palmira) of Ocala, Fla., and Danny Bennett (Susan) of Avon Park, Fla.;

sister, Mary Wise of Frostproof, Fla.; nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held Friday, Dec. 23, 2011 from 10-11 a.m. (one hour prior to service) at the First Baptist Church. The funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. with Rev. Jon Beck officiating. Burial will follow in Bougainvillea Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Good Shepherd Hospice, 1110 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33870.

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Teachers' union wants answers on budget questions

Continued from page 1A

missing by that much.” Picklesimer said the district didn't always over-estimate.

In 2008-09, the district underestimated salary and benefit costs, and had to take money from their fund balance — which started the year at \$5 million and ended at \$3 million. “They really fell short,” he said.

In 2009-2010, however, the district again over budgeted salaries and benefits by \$1 million.

“Look at the numbers,” said Picklesimer, “they were off by quite a bit.

That's the numbers I'm asking about this year.

“How many questions have they answered at the table? Not one. Their answer is always the same: ‘What we can't afford you'll never know.’ What we're going to give you is what you've got. That's it. Go away. We're at impasse.”

Because of this history, Picklesimer said he feels he cannot trust the district's figures.

“Here's the 2011-2012 school year. We're only supposed to get \$73 million next year (from the state), but now they're projecting we'll get \$75 million.

So, they are actually predicting an increase. If we're at the bottom of the curve and we're starting to come back up, why are they being so cheap? “They say they don't want to give a raise to teachers because it may upset the voting public in Highlands County, but they raised our taxes, too, when they raised that levy, and the state of Florida raised our taxes by 3 percent for our retirement. Like everyone else, we're having a hard time.”

Picklesimer said he wants to reach an agreement. Last year, the district had offered returning teachers a step up and a \$500 raise in pay. This year, however, only a 1 percent bonus has been offered. This ranges from \$540 to \$340 per teacher, before taxes and deductions.

“I can't accept nothing as

an offer,” Picklesimer said. “They didn't give me enough to work with.” The teachers, he added, had already indicated they would accept a one-time bonus of \$1,000.

He said the impasse was particularly painful because the teachers have already helped lower costs.

For example, giving up individual planning periods has saved the district between \$2 and \$2.5 million. “I can show you a spread sheet they provided that shows that,” Picklesimer said.

“They cut our allocation by another 32-33 teachers,

that right there is \$1.4 million. The retirement change is \$3 million. So, when I add (those figures together) I get \$4 million saved on the backs of the teachers.”

Picklesimer added that since the 2007-2008 school year the district has cut 143 teachers. In the same years the student population dropped by 339 students. “Take that 339 kids,” he said, “divide by 20 and that's only 17 teachers. So why did we cut the (126 teacher) difference?”

He paused a moment, “We cut 126 more teachers just so they could save money in the budget, but where is that money going? When you start asking questions at the table all you get is silence. What does all this mean if this is their offer and their CFO can't answer any questions — how are we faring on line items, are we above or below on health benefits, salaries etc.?”

In his statement to the press announcing the impasse, Deputy Superintendent Rodney Hollinger, speaking for the district, said the union had raised its salary request from 2.81 percent to 4.81 percent by the end of the negotiation.

Picklesimer says that is true. “I did it for a reason. Last year they over estimated salary and benefits by \$3.5 million.

“How do I know they're not doing it this year? We never get any answers, so that's why we're at an impasse.”

Pedestrian on cell phone killed by van

DELTONA (AP) — Authorities say a woman was struck and killed by a mini-van as she walked across a busy central Florida intersection while talking on her cell phone.

Volusia County Sheriff's spokesman Gary Davidson

says the accident happened about 6:20 p.m. Wednesday in Deltona. He says an off-duty paramedic tried to revive 26-year-old Shinnique Comer, but she was pronounced dead a short time later. The driver was not injured.



Dollene Fields and Tonya Richardson dig for sizes Thursday morning during their last minute Christmas shopping.

Shoppers search for last-minute Christmas deals

Continued from page 1A

was busy straightening aisles and happily assisting customers.

“We will be having another midnight madness sale again tonight. We gave away a Kindle last night,” said Marley.

Marley made sure that customers knew of all the specials and deals going on for last-minute shoppers this holiday season.

“We want customers to know that we will be accepting all Beall's Bucks, the expired ones especially, up until Christmas Eve,” Marley said.

A few aisles over, friends Dollene Fields and Tonya Richardson rummaged through a hoodie rack searching for sizes.

Fields came over from Wauchula to shop with her friend and get away from the holiday madness in her home for just a bit.

“It's never done (shopping),” said Richardson. “There's always stuff to get and just to get away and a break from the kids is always good. They are all pretty excited about Christmas.”

Both Fields and Richardson will likely have spent several hundred dollars each after the holiday shopping is all said and done. The duo both have four kids with their spouses and have to buy items for children of multiple ages.

“I'm still shopping for my oldest one. She's graduating this year. The older they get the more things they want and the more expensive the gifts get,” said Fields.

The friends both added two hoodies to their carts as they spoke of previous holiday seasons and shopping.

“I see more deals this year than I did last year in the stores. It doesn't seem like people are spending any less,” said Fields.

“Yea,” said Richardson.

I see more deals this year than I did last year.

DOLLENE FIELDS shopper

“I'm spending about the same as I did last year.”

Inside Belks, there were several people making pricey purchases at the fragrance counters at the front entrance of the department store.

“I'm shopping for my wife,” English said, sniffing a strip of a designer fragrance.

English was one of the few men shopping Thursday morning in a sea of ladies. English showed a hint of completion as if he was ready to wrap up all his shopping and spend the holiday with his family.

Belks associate Colleen Marley assisted English with his purchase and gift wrapped the box with a smile.

Several other customers waited in line at the men's fragrance counter to smell different colognes for the special men in their lives.

Shoppers filled up the parking lots slowly outside

the mall as the lunch hour approached. Nail and hair salon chairs were all full and gift wrappers were busy cutting and taping customers purchases.

With only two more days until Christmas, shoppers are feeling the time crunch and working hard to have the task of searching for that perfect gift for loved ones wrapped up in time.



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Gov. Scott pushing lawmakers on insurance

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Rick Scott wants lawmakers to fix a pair of auto and property insurance issues that are costing Floridians hundreds of millions of dollars but have eluded resolution for more than a decade.

The issue facing the largest number of Floridians is the rising cost of personal injury protection or PIP coverage that licensed drivers must buy. In some neighborhoods in the Tampa Bay area and South Florida the coverage can add several hundred dollars annually to auto insurance premiums, a cost that's almost entirely the result of rampant fraud.

Scott, a conservative Republican, also expects lawmakers during their annual session that begins Jan. 10 to somehow reverse the runaway growth of the state-backed Citizens Property Insurance Corp., which was created a decade ago as the insurer of last resort for home and business owners. However, Citizens has mushroomed into the biggest property insurer in Florida with 1.5 million policyholders and doesn't collect enough in premiums to guarantee that is could pay off if a catastrophic storm hit the state.

While Scott's predecessors, as well as legislators, have tried to resolve these issues in recent years, the problems remain.

"We were just in an echo chamber here making ourselves feel good by passing

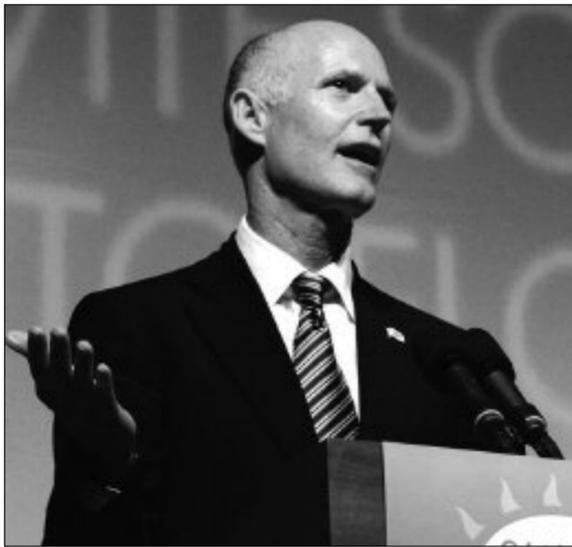
bills," said Sen. Don Gaetz, a Niceville Republican slated to become that body's next president.

And the prospect of making gains on either insurance measure, much less both, is uncertain again as lawmakers concentrate on approving new political boundaries before cranking up their re-election campaigns.

"I hope we can make progress on both, but it's too soon to tell," House Speaker Dean Cannon said in a pre-session interview. He points out that fixing the Citizens problem would likely result in higher premiums, at least in the short term, something legislators don't want to do as the state suffers from a down economy and 10 percent unemployment rate.

Both PIP and Citizens began with the best intentions — to make sure anyone injured in an auto accident would quickly get money to treat their injuries and to make sure that property owners in areas especially susceptible to hurricanes could get coverage. But both have turned into annual headaches for the Legislature, where competing interests have made resolution difficult.

Under PIP, which was adopted in 1972, a driver's own insurance company pays up to \$10,000 to cover medical bills and lost wages after an accident, no matter who is at fault. But it has been fraught with fraud, with schemers turning Florida into the No. 1 state for staged



MCT photo

Gov. Rick Scott is pressing lawmakers to fix a pair of insurance issues.

accidents.

The Insurance Information Institute predicts that fraud could approach \$1 billion in the state this year — costs that are passed on to customers. Lawmakers have even heard testimony that organized crime is involved in some areas of the state in the high-stakes swindles. Florida is one of only a dozen states that require PIP insurance.

"These excessive costs are levied on those who can afford them the least," said state Rep. Jim Boyd, a Bradenton Republican and insurance agent who sits on the House Banking and Insurance subcommittee. "It's costing our taxpayers and our citizens and our friends and

neighbors a lot of money every year."

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson tried to clamp down on PIP fraud as long ago as 15 years ago during the time he served as Florida treasurer and insurance commissioner.

"It's been so hard to fix the problem in Florida because of the influence of special interests," Nelson told The Associated Press. "You've always had trial lawyers versus the insurance companies, plus health-care providers trying to get at least some of their costs covered in car injuries."

State Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff, R-Fort Lauderdale, apologized at a legislative committee meeting earlier this year for not

solving the problem in 2007 when a bill she shepherded while in the House inadvertently led to increased fraudulent activity as questionable claims involving staged accidents increased 58 percent between 2008 and 2009. The Insurance Research Group also found that one-third of all no-fault claims closed in 2007 involved overbilling or excessive use of medical services. "We messed up," Bogdanoff said. "We need to fix it."

She believes that keeping PIP in its existing form amounts to a legislative endorsement of fraud and some lawmakers would just like to kill it — Rep. Mike Horner, R-Kissimmee, filed a bill to repeal the law effective July 1, 2014. Many people already have health and disability insurance that would cover their losses, although the first \$10,000 would not be covered in a basic health policy in Florida since PIP would pay it.

Sen. Joe Negron, R-Stuart, agrees with his colleague on many concerns about PIP, but believes changes are needed to ensure that insurance companies pay legitimate claims in a timely manner.

"Let's not go to the other extreme and act like every person involved in an auto accident is a potential crook," Negron said.

Lawmakers thought they might have had a solution in 2006, but former Gov. Jeb Bush vetoed it. Bush believed any changes should include

limits on the number of doctor visits permitted and on charges by doctors, hospitals and lawyers.

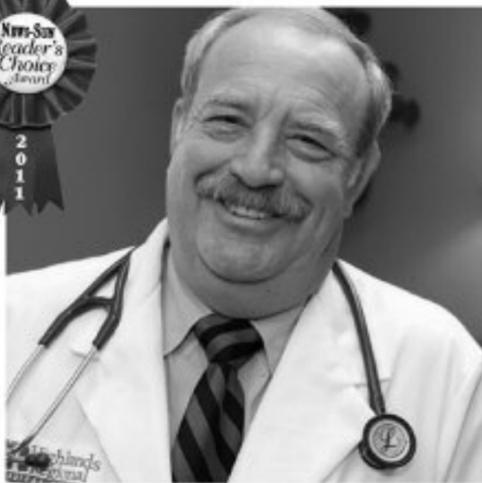
Lawmakers did allow for more than 11.3 million licensed drivers in Florida to have an option on buying PIP in the 2007 session, but after just three months it was required again.

The Citizens property insurance problem is just as complex. The state-backed insurer is supposed to be getting smaller, but instead has been adding customers at the rate of 30,000 a month.

Scott wants Citizens shrunk because of fears the insurer would suffer massive losses if a big hurricane hits. Unlike private companies, Citizens has the power to place a surcharge on nearly every insurance bill in the state if it can't cover such losses. Although industry estimates vary somewhat, Citizens could pay roughly \$20 billion, including \$6.5 billion from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe fund, before assessing policyholders. That would be a pittance if a Category 4 or 5 hurricane hit a major metropolitan area.

The company was created by the Legislature in 2002 to provide coverage for businesses and homeowners in high-risk areas and those who cannot afford coverage in the private market. It was largely an offshoot of an underwriting association formed by the state in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in August 1992.

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BUSINESS/MONEY

Economy grew more slowly in summer than thought

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy grew more slowly in the summer than previously thought because consumers spent less than the government had first estimated. But economists expect growth in the current October-December quarter to be stronger.

The Commerce Department says the economy grew at an annual rate of 1.8 percent in the July-September quarter. That was the fastest growth this year, up from 1.3 percent in the April-June quarter. But it was down slightly from last month's estimate that the economy was expanding at a 2 percent rate in the summer.

The government now estimates that consumer spending grew at a 1.7 percent annual rate last summer, instead of 2.3 percent. The updated estimate reflects data showing less spending on hospitals.

Economists think the economy is growing at an annual rate of more than 3 percent in the final three months of this year. That would be the fastest pace since a 3.8 percent performance in the spring of 2010.

Among the positive factors are a brightening job market, strong holiday shopping, further gains in factory production and cheaper gas prices, which leave consumers with more money to spend on other items.

Stronger growth would be needed to

The government now estimates that consumer spending grew at a 1.7% annual rate last summer, instead of 2.3%

significantly drive down the unemployment rate. Unemployment did fall to 8.6 percent last month after remaining around 9 percent for 2 1/2 years. The rate is now the lowest since March 2009, two months after President Barack Obama took office. Unemployment passed 9 percent that spring and had stayed there or higher for all but two months since then.

Still, Obama faces a re-election vote in less than a year and a presidential campaign that will turn on the economy. He may face voters next fall with the highest unemployment of a sitting president seeking election since World War II. Unemployment was 7.8 percent when Obama took office in January 2009.

There are also threats that could derail the economy's modest recovery. The biggest is Europe, where the 17 nations that use the common euro currency are struggling to deal with debt problems and keep their currency union together. Many economists are already worried that Europe has entered another recession, which would be bad news for U.S. companies that export to that region.

Another source of uncertainty for 2012 is what Congress will end up doing about extending the Social Security payroll tax cut. The tax cut, which benefits 160 million Americans, is set to expire Jan. 1. Also expiring on Jan. 1 will be extended unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed.

If lawmakers don't renew the tax cut and the extended benefits, it could lower economic growth by as much as a full percentage point in 2012.

Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Analytics, said that he is forecasting economic growth of 2.6 percent for 2012 if the tax cut and extended benefits are renewed. But if those programs are allowed to lapse, Zandi predicted the economy will only manage to grow by 1.7 percent next year, a lackluster pace that would match what many analysts expect for all of 2011.

The third-quarter pickup in growth came even though incomes after taxes fell at a 1.9 percent rate in the July-September period. It was the sharpest decline in two years, reflecting still-high unemployment and lower pay raises.

The government's last look at economic growth in the third quarter showed that the economy received a boost not only from a pickup in consumer spending but also from a surge in business investment on equipment and software. Such investment grew at an annual rate of 16.2 percent.



MCT photo

Deliveries of new Toyotas to dealerships has picked up since the company's low point earlier this year following the March 11 earthquake in Japan.

Toyota aims to sell 8.48 million vehicles in 2012

By YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO — Toyota is aiming for a comeback, targeting record global sales of 8.48 million vehicles in 2012 and an even bigger number in 2013, after being battered this year by the March disaster in Japan and flooding in Thailand.

Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's top automaker, relinquished its title as the world's biggest in global vehicle sales for the first half of this year, sinking to No. 3 behind U.S. rival General Motors Co. and Volkswagen AG of Germany.

Toyota's global vehicle sales for this year totaled 7.9 million vehicles, including group companies, down 6 percent from the previous year, it said in a statement Thursday.

General Motors Co. spokesman Jim Cain said it will release its full-year global sales totals in January.

The Detroit-based automaker had been at the top for more than seven decades until Toyota took the crown in 2008.

After the first three quarters, GM sold 6.788 million vehicles worldwide, accord-

ing to its filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. If fourth-quarter results are consistent with prior months, it will sell just more than 9 million vehicles in 2011. Last year, GM sold 8.39 million vehicles around the world.

Volkswagen also has not released its 2011 tally but said earlier this month it delivered 7.51 million vehicles globally during the January-November period.

Toyota's targets for 2012 and 2013 do not include group companies such as Daihatsu Motor Co. and Hino Motors, and so aren't directly comparable with numbers from GM and Volkswagen.

Toyota said its sales target for calendar 2012 is based on achieving 20 percent growth from its global sales this year and would be a record high for the company, underlining its turnaround ambitions.

The automaker's current sales record of 8.43 million vehicles was attained in 2007.

"It won't be a surprise to me if Toyota reaches a new record in global sales," said Mamoru Katou, auto analyst at Tokai Tokyo Research.

Unemployment applications lowest since April '08

By DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON — The number of people applying for unemployment benefits dropped last week to its lowest level since April 2008, extending a downward trend that shows the job market strengthening.

First-time applications for unemployment benefits fell 4,000 to a seasonally adjusted 364,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. It was the third straight weekly drop.

The four-week moving average, a less volatile gauge, fell for the 11th time in 13 weeks. At 380,250, it's the lowest since June 2008. Applications generally must fall below 375,000 — consistently — before hiring is strong enough to reduce the unemployment rate.

Unemployment applications are a measure of the pace of layoffs. Job cuts have fallen sharply since the recession, though many employers remain slow to start hiring.

The declining number of applications suggests that

the economy may finally be regaining strength, 2 1/2 years after the Great Recession ended. The nation added at least 100,000 jobs every month from July through November, the first five-month streak since 2006.

"When you fire fewer people, hiring unquestionably follows," said Dan Greenhaus, chief global strategist at BTIG LLC.

If unemployment applications continue declining, Greenhaus said, the number of jobs created each month will rise to 200,000 and the unemployment rate might fall as low as 8 percent before November's elections. In the past three months, employers have added an average of 143,000 net jobs a month. That compares with an average of 84,000 in the previous three months.

More small businesses plan to hire than at any time in three years, a trade group said last week. A separate private-sector survey found more companies are planning to add workers than at any time since 2008.

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BUSINESS/MONEY

Americans frustrated by congressional stalemates

By TAMMY WEBBER

Associated Press

CHICAGO — As Americans watch yet another political drama play out on Capitol Hill — this time over whether to extend the payroll tax cut and jobless benefits — they have a question for Congress: Can't you all just get along? For once?

"It's like, 'Kids, kids, kids,'" said Brenda Bissett, a lawyer from Santa Clarita, Calif., as she waited for coffee Wednesday at a Starbucks in downtown Los Angeles. "It's just frustrating that there's no compromise ... I do it all the time."

Around the country, people of different backgrounds, incomes and political leanings say they're angry and downright disgusted by the posturing in Washington after the House rejected a two-month extension of the payroll tax cut passed by the Senate, then both chambers adjourned for the holidays.

If lawmakers don't act by Jan. 1, payroll taxes will jump almost \$20 a week, or \$1,000 a year, for a worker earning \$50,000, and as much as \$82 a week, or \$4,272 a year, for a household with two high-paid workers. What's more, about 6 million people could lose unemployment benefits, and Medicare payments to doctors would be slashed.

"It's just another smack in our face for the working public. We just can't get ahead," said Mike Pryor, a construction worker from Aurora, Ill. "It seems like everything that Congress is doing is always against us ... I mean, I'm at a loss for words, and I just can't understand it, why they have to keep arguing."

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama urged congressional leaders to return to Washington to pass a short-term payroll tax cut extension before New Year's Day, then work later on a full-year measure.

Leaders from both chambers say they want the other



MCT photo

Thousands of unemployed men and women from around the country make the trek to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Dec. 6 to urge lawmakers to extend emergency federal unemployment insurance benefits.

side to return, too, though they still disagree on whether it should be to negotiate a two-month extension or a one-year deal favored by House Republicans.

Meanwhile, the public can only wait and wonder — and stew.

At Augie & Ray's, a popular eatery in East Hartford, Conn., the consensus among several diners Wednesday was that the partisan bickering was eroding their already shaky faith in Congress. To some, that was just as frustrating as the idea that their paychecks could shrink.

"It's us, the average Joe, that's getting caught in the middle," said Ray Ramsey, a retired utility meter technician who works part-time for a medical-supply company.

Fellow diner Richard Longo, who owns a building-maintenance business, said he worries about the effect of the taxes on himself and his 30-plus employees. But he thinks there's a lot of blame to go around.

"I truly believe that if the sides were reversed, if we had a Republican president and a Democratic Congress, we'd still be going through

the same thing," he said.

A payroll tax increase would come at a vulnerable time for some people who already have been affected by falling property values and, in some cases, state tax increases.

Some expected to spend less on non-essential things, like dining out. And others said they were willing to pay more if it means reducing the deficit. But almost all agreed that the partisan acrimony and 11th-hour crises in Washington are getting old.

"It seems they want to bring down everything to the last minute and then figure it out," said David Kaiser, an institutional researcher at Miami Dade College in Florida, who said a tax increase wouldn't affect him significantly.

Kaiser wanted "some way to send that message to them: That's not what they're hired for."

Mike Raney, a maintenance and repair worker from

Chicago, said he blames the stalemate on "misguided ideals" among politicians of both parties.

"I'd like to say they mean well, but we're talking about politicians," Raney said as he

ate a hamburger at a McDonald's in Chicago's Loop. "It's very frustrating, especially for people who are just getting by. I mean, it's not like I'm making millions of dollars, but it's affecting other people a lot harder than it's affecting me."

The tax cut lowered the Social Security tax on incomes of up to \$106,800 from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent. It's meant a maximum savings of \$2,136 for an individual.

Without a deal, Americans would begin 2012 facing a tax increase just as an election year begins. And many say the bickering has more to do with elections than economic ideals.

"The way I see it is that the Republicans want Obama to be a one-term president," said James Edwards, an Amtrak conductor from Hamden, Conn., who was in Boston on Wednesday. "They are taking their patriotism and throwing it away, and they are hurting the middle class. They want to make

sure that America is hurting while this president is sitting so they won't vote for him in 2012."

Anaiah Spencer, a property manager from Los Angeles, said the deadlock is damaging people's faith in lawmakers.

"I have never seen a government this divisive," Spencer said. "In the end, we both end up broke, and we wind up with an entire country of angry citizens who don't know who to turn to."

Greg Kirksey, a pastor in Little Rock, Ark., said a payroll tax increase would be little more than an inconvenience for him, but others are "talking about whether to buy dried beans or ground beef to get their protein."

"But I'm afraid because it's a political year ... I'm not thinking anybody's really got the guts to make the hard decisions," he said. "They just keep putting a Band-Aid on, putting a Band-Aid on, kicking the can down the road a little farther."



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NKorea economy to languish amid leader transition

SHANGHAI (AP) — Tentative reforms to North Korea's dilapidated economy that could help its people escape poverty and hunger are likely to languish as the anointed heir to the late leader Kim Jong Il consolidates his hold on power.

The 11-day mourning period following Kim's death Saturday underscores the regime's focus on uniting behind his young son and heir, Kim Jong Un.

The leadership has inched erratically toward modest reforms as it touted building a "great and prosperous nation" as part of celebrations that had been planned for the April 2012 centenary of the birth of the Kim dynasty's patriarch, Kim Il Sung, who ruled North Korea from its founding until his death in 1994.

The government's attempts to build up the economy including efforts to lure more foreign investment have not been enough to overcome decades of economic mismanagement and outdated farming methods. North Korea's determination to

keep developing its nuclear and missiles programs have also meant a loss of aid as well as strengthened sanctions.

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1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
Case No. 28-2011-CA-000744
BONY CTHOLDERS 2007-4 Plaintiff,
vs.
LUIS A. GALAN A/K/A LUIS ALBERTO GALAN, LORRAINE CALWAY A/K/A LORRAINE ELIZABETH CALWAY, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

LORRAINE CALWAY A/K/A LORRAINE ELIZABETH CALWAY CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN 556 LEAR AVE. LAKE PLACID, FL 33852

You are notified that an action to foreclosure a mortgage on the following property in Highlands County, Florida:

LOT 13, IN BLOCK 7, OF HIGHLANDS PARK ESTATES SECTION J, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, AT PAGE 41, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

commonly known as 556 LEAR AVE., LAKE PLACID, FL 33852 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Paul M. Messina, Jr. of Kass Shuler, P.A., plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 800, Tampa, Florida 33601, (813)229-0900, on or before January 17, 2012, (or 30 days from the first date of publication, whichever is later) 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.

Dated: December 12, 2011.

CLERK OF THE COURT
Honorable ROBERT W. GERMAINE
590 S. Commerce Avenue
Sebring, Florida 33870-3701
/s/ Toni Kopp
Deputy Clerk

(COURT SEAL) December 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO. PC 11-497

IN RE: ESTATE OF BETTY HUMPHREY a.k.a. BETTY LOU HUMPHREY a.k.a. BETTY L. HUMPHREY Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of BETTY HUMPHREY a.k.a. BETTY LOU HUMPHREY a.k.a. BETTY L. HUMPHREY, deceased, whose date of death was July 16, 2011, and whose social security number is xxx-xx-1707, is pending in the Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is December 16, 2011.

Personal Representative:
/s/ Robert L. Norton
6494 Sanibel Captiva Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

Attorney for Personal Representative:
/s/ David F. Lanier
E-Mail Address: lanier30@embarqmail.com
Florida Bar No. 045399
DAVID F. LANIER
P.O. Box 400
Avon Park, Florida 33826-0400
Telephone: (863)453-4457

December 16, 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDACASE NO.: 11-000474-GCS

LANSDOWNE MORTGAGE FUNDING, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, and U.S. CENTURY BANK, a Florida banking corporation, Plaintiff,
vs.
JOEY D. KOVATCH, individually, RHONDA G. KOVATCH, individually, SPRING LAKE PROPERTY ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida not-for-profit Corporation, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: JOEY D. KOVATCH

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to "enforce a lien on" or "foreclose a mortgage on" or "quiet title to" or "partition" and/or other type of action" in connection with the following property in Highlands County, Florida:

6101 SHERMAN TERRACE, SEBRING, FLORIDA 33876

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on Ryan Tables, Esq., at Stolzenberg, Gelles & Flynn, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 1401 Brickell Avenue, Suite 825, Miami, Florida 33131, on or before January 17, 2012, 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. Dated on December 9, 2011.

As Clerk of Court of HIGHLANDS COUNTY
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
As Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 28-2011-CA-000704

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff,
vs.
DOUGLAS SCHOTT A/K/A DOUGLAS J. SCHOTT SR., et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: Douglas Schott A/K/A Douglas J. Schott Sr.: 34 Dartmoor Avenue, Lake Placid, FL 33852

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in HIGHLANDS County, Florida:

Lot 6, Block 6, Highlands Park Estates Section D, according to the map or plat thereof, as recorded in plat book 4, page 86, of the public records of Highlands County, Florida, commonly known as: 34 Dartmoor Ave., Lake Placid, FL 33852

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Jacob A. Thomas, c/o Johnson & Freedman, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 400 Northridge Road, Suite 1100 M/S 27, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30350, within 30 days after the first publication date: 01/27/12, 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: December 5, 2011.

Robert W. Germaine
As Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
As Deputy
December 23, 30, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO. PC 11-497

IN RE: ESTATE OF MILTON B. WRIGHT Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of MILTON B. WRIGHT, deceased, whose date of death was November 3, 2011, is pending in the Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 430 S. 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 on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is December 23, 2011.

Personal Representative:
Gilbert P. Wright
1548 B Common
El Paso, Texas 79936

Attorney for Personal Representative:
John K. McClure
Attorney for Gilbert P. Wright
Florida Bar Number: 286958
MCCLOURE & LOBOZZO
211 S. Ridgewood Drive
Sebring, Florida 33870
Telephone: (863) 402-1888
Fax: (863) 402-2436

December 23, 30, 2011

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDACASE NO.: 11-000474-GCS

LANSDOWNE MORTGAGE FUNDING, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, and U.S. CENTURY BANK, a Florida banking corporation, Plaintiff,
vs.
JOEY D. KOVATCH, individually, RHONDA G. KOVATCH, individually, SPRING LAKE PROPERTY ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida not-for-profit Corporation, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: JOEY D. KOVATCH

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to "enforce a lien on" or "foreclose a mortgage on" or "quiet title to" or "partition" and/or other type of action" in connection with the following property in Highlands County, Florida:

6101 SHERMAN TERRACE, SEBRING, FLORIDA 33876

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on Ryan Tables, Esq., at Stolzenberg, Gelles & Flynn, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 1401 Brickell Avenue, Suite 825, Miami, Florida 33131, on or before January 17, 2012, 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. Dated on December 9, 2011.

As Clerk of Court of HIGHLANDS COUNTY
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
As Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 28-2011-CA-000704

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff,
vs.
DOUGLAS SCHOTT A/K/A DOUGLAS J. SCHOTT SR., et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: Douglas Schott A/K/A Douglas J. Schott Sr.: 34 Dartmoor Avenue, Lake Placid, FL 33852

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose Mortgage covering the following real and personal property described as follows, to-wit:

LOT 14, BLOCK 21, PLACID LAKES, SECTION 19, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, AT PAGE 14, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Mark A. Buckles, Butler & Hosch, P.A., 3185 South Conway Road, Suite E, Orlando, Florida 32812 and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court on or before 30 days from the first publication, otherwise a Judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court on the 8th day of December, 2011.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, (941)534-4690, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call (TDD) (941)534-7777, or Florida Relay Service 800-955-8770.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 28 2011 CA 000187

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff,
vs.
FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 1, 2011, and entered in Case No. 28 2011 CA 000187, of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, is Plaintiff and FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL, IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, at 11:00 a.m., on the 28th day of December, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 26A, HIDDEN CREEK VILLAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGE 49, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A 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 2nd day of December, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
As Clerk of said Court
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
As Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO. PC 11-508

Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF MILTON B. WRIGHT Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of MILTON B. WRIGHT, deceased, whose date of death was November 3, 2011, is pending in the Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Clerk of the Court, Highlands County Courthouse, 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 on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is December 23, 2011.

Personal Representative:
Gilbert P. Wright
1548 B Common
El Paso, Texas 79936

Attorney for Personal Representative:
John K. McClure
Attorney for Gilbert P. Wright
Florida Bar Number: 286958
MCCLOURE & LOBOZZO
211 S. Ridgewood Drive
Sebring, Florida 33870
Telephone: (863) 402-1888
Fax: (863) 402-2436

December 23, 30, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 28 2011 CA 000187

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff,
vs.
FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 1, 2011, and entered in Case No. 28 2011 CA 000187, of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, is Plaintiff and FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL, IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, at 11:00 a.m., on the 28th day of December, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 26A, HIDDEN CREEK VILLAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGE 49, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A 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 2nd day of December, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
As Clerk of said Court
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
As Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 28 2011 CA 000187

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff,
vs.
FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 1, 2011, and entered in Case No. 28 2011 CA 000187, of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, is Plaintiff and FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL, IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, at 11:00 a.m., on the 28th day of December, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 26A, HIDDEN CREEK VILLAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGE 49, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A 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 2nd day of December, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
As Clerk of said Court
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
As Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 28 2011 CA 000187

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff,
vs.
FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 1, 2011, and entered in Case No. 28 2011 CA 000187, of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, is Plaintiff and FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL, IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, at 11:00 a.m., on the 28th day of December, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 26A, HIDDEN CREEK VILLAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGE 49, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A 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 2nd day of December, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
As Clerk of said Court
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
As Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 2011

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO.: 11-000474-GCS

LANSDOWNE MORTGAGE FUNDING, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, and U.S. CENTURY BANK, a Florida banking corporation, Plaintiff,
vs.
JOEY D. KOVATCH, individually, RHONDA G. KOVATCH, individually, SPRING LAKE PROPERTY ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida not-for-profit Corporation, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: JOEY D. KOVATCH

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to "enforce a lien on" or "foreclose a mortgage on" or "quiet title to" or "partition" and/or other type of action" in connection with the following property in Highlands County, Florida:

6101 SHERMAN TERRACE, SEBRING, FLORIDA 33876

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on Ryan Tables, Esq., at Stolzenberg, Gelles & Flynn, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 1401 Brickell Avenue, Suite 825, Miami, Florida 33131, on or before January 17, 2012, 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. Dated on December 9, 2011.

As Clerk of Court of HIGHLANDS COUNTY
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
As Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 28-2011-CA-000704

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff,
vs.
DOUGLAS SCHOTT A/K/A DOUGLAS J. SCHOTT SR., et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: Douglas Schott A/K/A Douglas J. Schott Sr.: 34 Dartmoor Avenue, Lake Placid, FL 33852

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose Mortgage covering the following real and personal property described as follows, to-wit:

LOT 14, BLOCK 21, PLACID LAKES, SECTION 19, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, AT PAGE 14, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Mark A. Buckles, Butler & Hosch, P.A., 3185 South Conway Road, Suite E, Orlando, Florida 32812 and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court on or before 30 days from the first publication, otherwise a Judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court on the 8th day of December, 2011.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, (941)534-4690, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call (TDD) (941)534-7777, or Florida Relay Service 800-955-8770.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 28 2011 CA 000187

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff,
vs.
FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 1, 2011, and entered in Case No. 28 2011 CA 000187, of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, is Plaintiff and FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL, IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, at 11:00 a.m., on the 28th day of December, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 26A, HIDDEN CREEK VILLAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGE 49, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A 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 2nd day of December, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
As Clerk of said Court
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
As Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 28 2011 CA 000187

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff,
vs.
FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; Defendants.

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Dated this 2nd day of December, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
As Clerk of said Court
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
As Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 28 2011 CA 000187

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff,
vs.
FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FRANCINE M. BARRON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT A 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY UNIT B 2526 HIDDEN CREEK CIR, SEBRING, FL 33872; Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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1050

Legals

SPRING LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
NOTICE OF BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Supervisors of the Spring Lake Improvement District has established Board meeting dates for the remainder of the fiscal year 2012. The meetings will take place at the District Office, 115 Spring Lake Blvd., Sebring, FL 33876. The Board meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. and are open to the Public. The dates are as follows: January 11, February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, and September 12.

EACH PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING IS ADVISED THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS MADE, INCLUDING THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH SUCH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

Joe DeCarbo
District Manager
December 21, 23, 2011

NOTICE OF INTENT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT RULE 3.701 AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY intends to adopt a Rule 3.701, Visitor Identification Measure at a regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, George Douglass Administration Building, 426 School Street, Sebring, Florida. The proposed new manual shall be effective upon adoption. Pursuant to Section 120.54, Florida Statutes, any affected person has twenty-one (21) days after publication of this notice to request the opportunity to present evidence and argument to the School Board of Highlands County, Florida regarding the proposed manual. Such hearing must be requested in writing and received by Wally Cox, Superintendent, 426 School Street, Sebring, FL 33870, within 21 days after publication of this notice. If such hearing is requested, it will be held Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 5:45 p.m. Any person desiring to attend such a hearing is requested to call the Superintendent's office to verify whether such hearing has been requested. The purpose and effect of the proposed amendment is to make changes to the policy in accordance with requirements set forth in recent Florida legislation. A summary of the proposed amendment is as follows: The Superintendent shall develop guidelines to allow persons convicted of certain crimes as defined in Section 856.022, F.S., to visit a school campus or event under specific circumstances. The individual must request approval prior to the activity. If approved to be on campus or at a school event, the individual shall be under the supervision of a designated staff member at all times. The specific legal authority includes Section 1001.42, Florida Statutes. The School District believes that the proposed rule or amendment will have no effect on small business. The School District believes that the proposed rule or amendment will not result in substantial increase in costs or prices paid by consumers, individual industries or state or local government agencies, and will not result in significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation or international trade and/or alternative approaches to the regulatory objective either do not exist and/or are precluded by law. The cost to the School District of promulgating the proposed rule or amendment is estimated to be \$200. The estimated annual cost of implementing and enforcing the proposed rule or amendment is \$0. The text of the proposed rule or amendment can be obtained at the Superintendent's office (Attn: Connie Scobey), George Douglass Administration Building, 426 School Street, Sebring, Florida between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD,
BY: Wally Cox,
Superintendent & ex officio secretary

December 23, 2011

NOTICE OF INTENT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT RULE 4.15 AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY intends to adopt a Rule 4.15, Advanced Academics at a regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, George Douglass Administration Building, 426 School Street, Sebring, Florida. The proposed new manual shall be effective upon adoption. Pursuant to Section 120.54, Florida Statutes, any affected person has twenty-one (21) days after publication of this notice to request the opportunity to present evidence and argument to the School Board of Highlands County, Florida regarding the proposed manual. Such hearing must be requested in writing and received by Wally Cox, Superintendent, 426 School Street, Sebring, FL 33870, within 21 days after publication of this notice. If such hearing is requested, it will be held Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 5:45 p.m. Any person desiring to attend such a hearing is requested to call the Superintendent's office to verify whether such hearing has been requested. The purpose and effect of the proposed amendment is to update in accordance with annual review and implement statutory changes and other corrective measures as deemed necessary. A summary of the proposed rule or amendment is as follows: All elementary schools will offer an Advanced Academic class in Grades 1 through 5. Priority placement will be given to students identified as gifted. All teachers will be Gifted Endorsed or working toward endorsement by taking at least one class per year. All middle schools will offer Advanced Academic Classes in the four core content areas (Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science). Priority placement will be given to students identified as gifted. All teachers will participate in Advanced Academic staff development activities at the district level, be gifted endorsed or working toward endorsement by taking at least one class per year. The specific legal authority includes Sections 1001.41, 1001.42 and 1001.43, Florida Statutes. The School District believes that the proposed rule or amendment will have no effect on small business. The School District believes that the proposed rule or amendment will not result in substantial increase in costs or prices paid by consumers, individual industries or state or local government agencies, and will not result in significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation or international trade and/or alternative approaches to the regulatory objective either do not exist and/or are precluded by law. The cost to the School District of promulgating the proposed rule or amendment is estimated to be \$200. The estimated annual cost of implementing and enforcing the proposed rule or amendment is \$0. The text of the proposed rule or amendment can be obtained at the Superintendent's office (Attn: Connie Scobey), George Douglass Administration Building, 426 School Street, Sebring, Florida between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD,
BY: Wally Cox,
Superintendent & ex officio secretary

December 23, 2011

NOTICE OF INTENT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT RULE 4.71 AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY intends to adopt a Rule 4.71, Participation of Home Education and Private School Students in Extracurricular Activities at a regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, George Douglass Administration Building, 426 School Street, Sebring, Florida. The proposed new manual shall be effective upon adoption. Pursuant to Section 120.54, Florida Statutes, any affected person has twenty-one (21) days after publication of this notice to request the opportunity to present evidence and argument to the School Board of Highlands County, Florida regarding the proposed manual. Such hearing must be requested in writing and received by Wally Cox, Superintendent, 426 School Street, Sebring, FL 33870, within 21 days after publication of this notice. If such hearing is requested, it will be held Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 5:45 p.m. Any person desiring to attend such a hearing is requested to call the Superintendent's office to verify whether such hearing has been requested. The purpose and effect of the proposed amendment is to make changes to the policy in accordance with requirements set forth in recent Florida legislation. A summary of the proposed amendment is as follows: A private school student is eligible to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic sport at a public high school, a public middle school or a six (6) through twelve (12) public school that is zoned for the physical address at which the student resides provided the student meets all Florida Statutes, requirements and rules established by the School Board, and FHSA bylaws. The specific legal authority includes Sections 1001.41 and 1001.42, Florida Statutes. The School District believes that the proposed rule or amendment will have no effect on small business. The School District believes that the proposed rule or amendment will not result in substantial increase in costs or prices paid by consumers, individual industries or state or local government agencies, and will not result in significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation or international trade and/or alternative approaches to the regulatory objective either do not exist and/or are precluded by law. The cost to the School District of promulgating the proposed rule or amendment is estimated to be \$200. The estimated annual cost of implementing and enforcing the proposed rule or amendment is \$0. The text of the proposed rule or amendment can be obtained at the Superintendent's office (Attn: Connie Scobey), George Douglass Administration Building, 426 School Street, Sebring, Florida between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD,
BY: Wally Cox,
Superintendent & ex officio secretary

December 23, 2011

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE DIRECTORY

THE FIRM SURVEILLANCE CONSULTANTS
PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS / PROCESS SERVING

A TEAM OF QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS
12 YEARS TOTAL EXPERIENCE

Contact:
Private Investigator - Patrick Austin

Bus 863-452-5001
Fax 863-452-5000



Joe Johnson's
ALL AMERICAN
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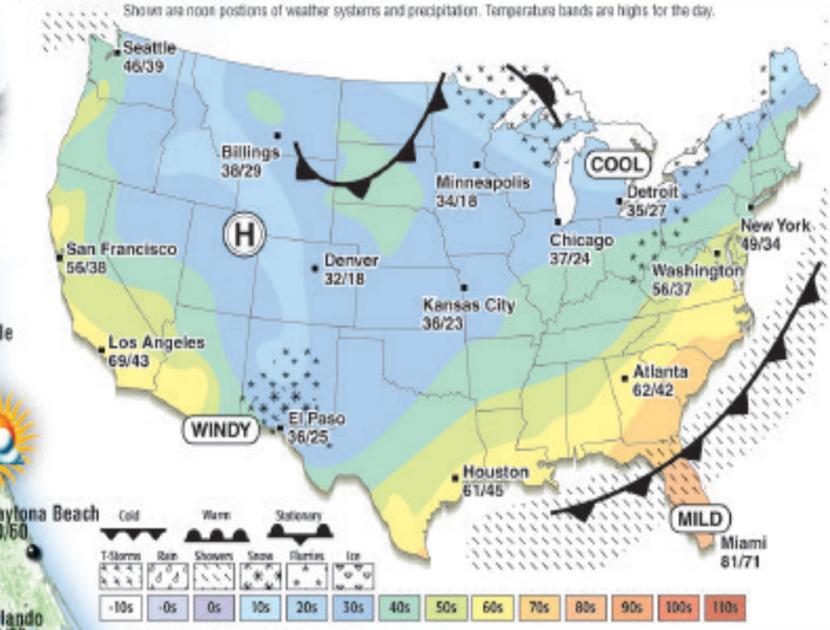
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Five-Day forecast for Highlands County

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny and very warm	Partly sunny	Chance for a couple of showers	Partly sunny with a shower possible	Chance for a couple of showers
83° / 61°	81° / 61°	80° / 61°	77° / 57°	77° / 58°
Winds: S at 4-8 mph	Winds: ENE at 6-12 mph	Winds: S at 6-12 mph	Winds: NNE at 8-16 mph	Winds: E at 7-14 mph

National Forecast for December 23



Almanac

Readings at Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid

High Sunday	73°
Low Sunday	49°
High Monday	76°
Low Monday	46°
High Tuesday	80°
Low Tuesday	48°
High Wednesday	82°
Low Wednesday	47°

Heat Index For 3 p.m. today

Relative humidity	52%
Expected air temperature	82°
Makes it feel like	84°

Barometer

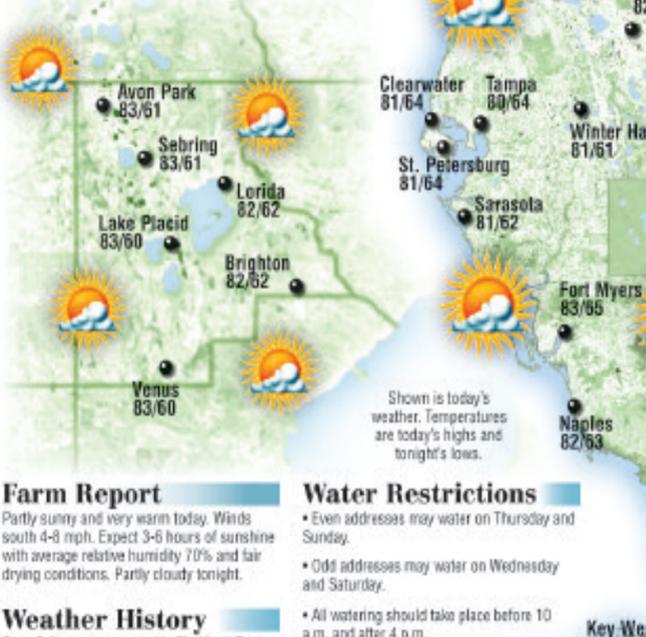
Monday	30.20
Tuesday	30.13
Wednesday	30.14

Precipitation

Monday	0.00"
Tuesday	0.00"
Wednesday	0.00"
Month to date	0.21"
Year to date	46.53"

Regional Summary

Partly sunny and very warm today. Partly cloudy and mild tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow. Sunday, variable clouds with a couple of showers possible. Monday and Tuesday: times of clouds and sun with a shower possible.



Farm Report

Partly sunny and very warm today. Winds south 4-8 mph. Expect 3-6 hours of sunshine with average relative humidity 70% and fair drying conditions. Partly cloudy tonight.

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.

Weather History

Snowflakes were reported in Florida at Tampa and Sarasota on Dec. 23, 1989. Tampa had a reading of 30 degrees, and Sarasota managed a high of 36 degrees.

Sun and Moon

	Today	Saturday
Sunrise	7:10 a.m.	7:10 a.m.
Sunset	5:40 p.m.	5:41 p.m.
Moonrise	5:57 a.m.	6:57 a.m.
Moonset	4:48 p.m.	5:51 p.m.

	New	First	Full	Last
Dec 24				
Jan 1				
Jan 9				
Jan 16				

Florida Cities

City	Today	Sat.	Sun.
Cape Coral	83/63/pc	82/63/pc	82/62/sh
Clearwater	81/64/pc	81/63/pc	79/63/sh
Coral Springs	81/68/pc	82/68/pc	81/66/sh
Daytona Beach	80/60/pc	77/62/pc	77/58/sh
Fl. Land. Bch.	82/72/pc	82/72/pc	81/68/sh
Fort Myers	83/65/pc	82/63/pc	82/63/sh
Gainesville	78/58/pc	78/56/pc	71/51/r
Hollywood	82/68/pc	82/68/pc	82/65/sh
Homestead AFB	81/68/pc	80/68/pc	80/65/sh
Jacksonville	76/56/sh	71/55/pc	70/48/r
Key West	79/71/pc	79/71/r	79/71/sh

World Cities

City	Today	Sat.	Sun.
Acapulco	91/73/s	91/73/s	89/77/s
Athens	50/43/sh	54/41/sh	52/43/sh
Bahia	82/65/pc	82/65/pc	80/61/sh
Berlin	45/39/sh	45/37/sh	41/39/r
Bermuda	74/67/pc	74/63/pc	80/62/c
Calgary	36/26/c	47/33/pc	45/28/c
Dublin	45/33/sh	46/46/c	54/50/s
Edmonton	35/23/s	31/26/s	40/15/pc
Freeport	81/63/pc	81/62/pc	80/64/sh
Geneva	50/39/s	40/28/sh	38/30/s
Havana	85/63/s	85/63/pc	84/63/pc
Hong Kong	65/50/s	61/50/s	61/52/s
Jerusalem	58/43/s	55/45/s	53/40/r
Johannesburg	78/56/r	69/57/r	78/57/r
Kiev	28/19/c	30/21/c	32/27/sf

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SEMI-FINAL & FINALE:
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*The February 12th event will be held during Fair Hours. Entrance fee will be due. Contestants will be free. Seniors will be reduced price.

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Entrées

Each entrée includes cole slaw and choice of french fries or red potatoes. No Substitutes.

6oz Top Sirloin.....\$10
8oz Cow Patty Chopped Steak.....\$9
8oz Marinated Chicken Breas.....\$8
Swai Fish (Fried or Grilled).....\$9
Shrimp (Fried or Grilled).....\$10

Pasta

Pasta Dishes include a small Garden or Caesar salad. No substitutes. Half order of Northern or Southern Pasta.

Garden Fresh.....\$8
Chicken.....\$9
Shrimp.....\$10

LUNCH MENU

Something To Poke At!

Jalapeno Poppers.....5
Fried Mushrooms.....5
Zucchini Fries.....5
Loaded Potato Wedges.....5
Fried Pickles.....6

Salads

Garden Salad.....5
Caesar Salad.....5
Add Tunda or Chicken Salad.....4
Add Grilled Chicken Breast.....4

Wings

Chicken Wings (Breaded or Naked).....8
Additional Dressing or Celery.....50¢
Ask for available wing sauces.

Sandwiches

Hamburger.....7
Philly Beef Sandwich.....8
Philly Chicken Sandwich.....8
Chicken Sandwich.....7
Fish Sandwich.....7
BBQ Pork Sandwich.....7
Tuna or Chicken Salad Wrap.....8
Italian Sausage.....7
Add cheese to any sandwich for .50¢

Extras

Sweet Potato Fries.....4
French Fries.....4
Freshly Fried Potato Chips.....4

Music Schedule!
12/30.....The Black Honkeys
12/31.....One Night Rodeo

Reservations highly recommended and last dinner seating at 8:00pm.

LIVE Music

DJ & KARAOKE FRIDAY NIGHT!

We will be closed for Christmas from Saturday the 25th through Monday the 26th. Thank You for all your support and Merry Christmas to all!

News-Sun photos by
DAN HOEHNE

Above: North MVP and Duke signee Thomas Sirk, of Baker County, makes a move on this quarterback keep on his way to a 33-yard gain Wednesday night in the North's 47-21 win at the 57th Annual FACA Football All-Star Classic at Firemen's Field. Right: Sebring's Anthony Powell gives ground to Class 7A state runner up Jacksonville First Coast's wide receiver Brandon Brooks in Wednesday's FACA Football All-Star Classic. Brooks is a Troy signee, though Powell would snare an interception in the contest.



North rolls in FACA Classic

By DAN HOEHNE

daniel.hoehne@newsun.com

SEBRING — The state playoffs over, the championship games settled, it was time for one more showcase of the cream of Florida's prep football crop at the 57th Annual Florida Athletic Coaches Association Football All-Star Classic Wednesday night at the Firemen's Field complex in Sebring.

And it was the North squad, led by MVP Thomas Sirk of Baker County, that would roll to a 47-21 win that really wasn't even that close.

After a pair of three-and-outs to start the festivities, Ocala-Forest's Mark Herndon lit the spark on a 43-

North
47
South
21

10:28 mark.

Dwayne Carter II of Navarre would score for the North again, exactly four minutes later on a 13-yard burst, but the South would cut the lead in half on an 18-play drive that bridged into the second quarter, culminating in a Billy Pavlock (Palm Harbor University), four-yard toss to Class 7A state champion Bradenton-Manatee's Leon Allen.

The South had a chance to cut into the lead a bit more,



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE

AJ Legree of Fort White hauls in this Matt Dobson pass for a 42-yard gain, after getting past South Fort Myers' Nate Dortch, in the North's 47-21 win over the South in Wednesday's FACA All-Star Classic.

but Manatee's Nick Tankersley, while on target with his 54-yard field goal attempt, left it just short.

The North, however, would then add two more touchdowns before the half, one a 12-yard, corner floater from Sirk to Brandon Brooks of Jacksonville First Coast and then a Sirk to AJ Legree, of Fort White, connection from 21-yards out for a 27-7 lead at the half.

It seemed a shift in momentum might take hold to start the second half when the South went on another extended drive, marching it to the North's 20.

But a Ladarion Young (Pensacola Catholic) inter-

ception turned the tide and it was within two plays that North Florida Christian's Matt Dobson kept it on a quarterback keeper and bolted 69 yards for a 33-7 lead.

It moved to 40-7 on a Herndon 20-yard run at the 5:42 mark of the third before Sebring's Anthony Powell picked off a Sirk pass and got the ball back for the South.

Five plays later, Pavlock scrambled out of a potential sack and found Cape Coral's Tyreece Jiles for a 46-yard score to cut it to 40-14.

But the North all but sealed it on another Herndon run, this from five yards out early in the fourth.

See FACA, Page 4B

Magic slip by Heat in preseason finale

By KYLE HIGHTOWER

Associated Press

ORLANDO — The countdown to the NBA regular season is now in its final stages for the Miami Heat and Orlando Magic.

Though it's clear after their final preseason matchup Wednesday night that both teams could use a few extra days to prepare for their Christmas Day openers.

The Magic showed some late-game toughness to secure a 104-100 victory on Wednesday night, but needed a furious comeback to erase a 14-point halftime deficit.

The Heat played well early before slowing in a

forgettable second half.

"I don't think it was that we didn't show life (early), we didn't make shots," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "...I thought

'I thought we had good life in the second half.'

STAN VAN GUNDY
Orlando head coach

we had good life in the second half."

Glen Davis, who had 13 points in the third quarter to ignite the comeback, finished with 18 points, and

Dwight Howard and Jason Richardson each added 15 for the Magic.

"It felt good," Davis said. "This is my new home, to come here and kind of show everybody what I can do — because there's a question mark."

Orlando also got a late lift from its reserves to secure the win, including strong fourth-quarter efforts by veteran Larry Hughes and rookie Justin Harper.

LeBron James had 27 points and Dwyane Wade added 21 for the Heat. Reserve Norris Cole chipped in 11 points.

Both teams open the reg-

See MAGIC, Page 4B

Patriots run defense struggling with Bush up next

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Earlier this season, the Patriots ranked among the NFL's leaders in rushing defense.

They hadn't allowed an opposing running back to surpass 100 yards in 21 straight games dating to last year.

The last two weeks, the other team has run all over them.

New England is now ranked 19th in the league against the run, allowing 117.6 yards per game.

Next up are the Miami Dolphins and Reggie Bush, who has rushed for a career-high 973 yards this season, including 203 and a 76-yard touchdown run against the

Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

Washington rookie Roy Helu exposed the Patriots two weeks ago by gashing the defense for 126 of the Redskins' 170-yard rushing total.

Then came Denver's top-ranked running game.

Tim Tebow and the Broncos amassed 167 yards rushing in the first quarter alone en route to 252 yards.

The Patriots are now even more vulnerable against the run after leading pass rusher Andre Carter was lost to a season-ending leg injury last week.

Bush brings three straight 100-yard games to New England (11-3) on Saturday

See PHINS, Page 4B



MCT photo

Having a career year, Reggie Bush is not what the doctor ordered for New England's run defense.

Avon Park hammers Hardee

By CRYSTAL MULLIKIN

Special to the News-Sun

AVON PARK — The Avon Park Red Devils regained their swagger and snapped a two-game losing streak with an 82-58 win over the Hardee Wildcats on Tuesday.

The victory improved Avon Park's overall record to 7-2 for the season after the Devils dropped both games late last week at the T-Mac Tournament in Auburndale to Ridge Community and the host Bloodhounds.

Tuesday's game had a peculiar start as Avon Park was apparently cited for a technical foul before players even got on the court.

Hardee made the foul shot, got the ball back and scored another basket for a quick 3-0 lead.

Avon Park would go on a five-point run to pull ahead 5-3.

Hardee's last lead of game would come at 6-5 as Avon Park would go on a

12-point run led by Tyrone Perry, Romeolla Roberts and Reggie Baker as each scored four points to give Avon Park a 17-6 lead.

By the time the first period ended, the Wildcats had put up a respectable 19 points.

But they were no match for the Red Devils as they scored at a blistering rate and ended the first period with 30 points and an 11-point advantage.

Surprised that his team had scored that many points in the first period, Avon Park head coach Luther Clemons attributed the difference between their two losses and this game in the way they practiced.

"Flat practices," Clemons stated, "we had flat practices and we lost two games. This time we had great practices



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE

Romeolla Roberts goes up for two of his 13 points in Avon Park's 82-58 rout of Hardee Tuesday.

and you can see the difference."

Though the pace of the game remained at a fast tempo in the second period, the scoring rate of both teams dropped considerably.

Hardee was never able to get any closer than nine points, even though the Red Devils only scored 13 in the second period.

Avon Park was able to hold Hardee to only 10 and would go into the half with a 43-29 lead.

The velocity of the game continued into the second

half, as Hardee would continue to put up respectable numbers, but they never got any closer than 12 points.

Hardee's 15 points for the third quarter was no match against Avon Park as the Red Devils added 21 points to their halftime total.

The game went into the fourth period with Avon Park holding a 20 point, 64-44 lead.

Hardee was able to score 10 points in the first two minutes of the fourth period, but they could not close the gap

See DEVILS, Page 4B

THE SCOREBOARD



LIVE SPORTS ON TV

National Football League

Table with columns: Conference, Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Includes American Conference (East, South, West) and National Conference (East, South, West).

Table with columns: Conference, Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Includes National Conference (East, South, West) and National Football League (Thursday's Game, Saturday's Games, Sunday's Game, Monday's Game).

Table with columns: Team, Att, Comp, Yds, TD, Int. Includes AFC PASSING, NFC PASSING, AFC RUSHING, and NFC RUSHING.

Table with columns: Team, Att, Comp, Yds, TD, Int. Includes AFC RUSHING, NFC RUSHING, AFC RECEIVING, and NFC RECEIVING.

Table with columns: Team, TD, Rush, Rec, Ret, Pts. Includes AFC SCORING, NONKICKERS and NFC SCORING, NONKICKERS.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Table with columns: Time, Game, Channel. Includes Friday (7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m.) and Saturday (8 p.m.) games.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Table with columns: Time, Game, Channel. Includes Saturday (8 p.m.) game.

GOLF

Table with columns: Time, Game, Channel. Includes Friday (8 p.m.) and Saturday (1 p.m., 4 p.m., 8 p.m.) games.

NFL

Table with columns: Time, Game, Channel. Includes Saturday (1 p.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 4 p.m.) games.

NHL

Table with columns: Time, Game, Channel. Includes Friday (9 p.m.) game.

Table with columns: Player, Team, Stats. Includes Transactions and Baseball American League.

National Hockey League

Table with columns: Conference, Division, Team, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Eastern Conference (Atlantic, Northeast, Southeast) and Western Conference (Central, Northwest, Pacific).

Table with columns: Team, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, and Friday's Games.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, and Friday's Games.

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Table with columns: Team, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, and Friday's Games.

LOCAL SCHEDULE



TUESDAY: Boys Basketball at Taveniere Tournament, TBA
WEDNESDAY: Boys Basketball at Taveniere Tournament, TBA
THURSDAY: Boys Basketball at Taveniere Tournament, TBA



TUESDAY, Jan. 3: Boys Basketball at Frostproof, 6/7:30 p.m.; Boys Soccer vs. Frostproof, 6/7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, Jan. 5: Boys Soccer vs. DeSoto, 6/7:30 p.m.; Girls Soccer at DeSoto, 6/7:30 p.m.



TUESDAY: Boys Basketball hosts Taveniere Tournament, 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY: Boys Basketball hosts Taveniere Tournament, 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY: Boys Basketball hosts Taveniere Tournament, 7:30 p.m.

SPORTS SNAPSHOTS

Lake Placid Senior Softball

LAKE PLACID - If you are 50 and over and want some exercise in a fun atmosphere, come to the Lake June Ballfield on Monday's and Wednesday's at 9 a.m.
Lake Placid Senior Softball is currently practicing for the 2012 season which begins in January.
Bring your glove and enjoy the camaradery.

Last Day 5K

SEBRING - The Highlands County YMCA is hosting a Last Day 5k Saturday, Dec. 31, at 9 a.m.
Enter before Monday, Dec. 26 to guarantee a duffel bag.
Any questions call 382-9622.

Sebring Senior Softball

SEBRING - A senior 70-and-over softball league will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 10.
Interested players must have been born in 1943 or before.
Games will be played at the Highlands County Sports Complex on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 10 a.m.
All interested softball players should contact Harry Bell at 382-0542 or see him at the Sports Complex on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Duffers Pool Tournament

AVON PARK - Duffers Sports Grille kicked off a double elimination pool tournament on Wednesday, Dec. 7.
Game times will be from 7-11 p.m. each Wednesday in December and will conclude with the championship game played on Dec. 28.
Everyone is guaranteed two games. All games are free.
There is a \$5 entry fee.
All fees go to prize money for first, second and third place winners.
Limited entries are being accepted.
First place wins cash, pitcher of beer (or soda) and a trophy, while second and third wins cash.
Sign up with Duffers General Manager Ross Vickers by the Monday, Dec. 5 deadline.
A tournament ladder with times will be posted at Duffers on Tuesday, Dec. 6.
A no-show is a forfeit. Pocket billiard rules apply.
Duffers is located at 2451 U.S. 27 South, Avon Park. For more details, call 452-6339.

Ultimate Frisbee

SEBRING - The Highlands County YMCA will be hosting an eight-week Ultimate Frisbee season beginning Saturday, Jan. 14.
Games will be held each Saturday at 9 a.m. at the YMCA Soccer Fields, with 5- to 10-player teams, made up of males and/or females ages 13 and up.
The focus of the season will be on positive competition, character development and having fun.
Entry fee is \$100 per team, with registration ending on Wednesday, Jan. 11 - all skill levels are welcome.
For any questions and more information, contact the YMCA at 382-9622.

SFCC Volleyball Camp

AVON PARK - The Lady Panther Volleyball program will be holding a four-day camp on Tuesday's and Thursday's Jan. 24, 26, 31 and Feb. 2 at the Panther Gym for players from grades 5-8.
Cost is \$60 and the camp runs each evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
For more information, contact SFCC Volleyball head coach Kim Crawford at 784-7037 or Kimberly.Crawford@south-florida.edu.

four-day camp on Tuesday's and Thursday's Jan. 24, 26, 31 and Feb. 2 at the Panther Gym for players from grades 5-8.
Cost is \$60 and the camp runs each evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
For more information, contact SFCC Volleyball head coach Kim Crawford at 784-7037 or Kimberly.Crawford@south-florida.edu.

SFCC Alumni Game

AVON PARK - South Florida Panther baseball will celebrate its' past with its' Alumni Game Weekend on Saturday, Jan. 21 at Panther Field.
The game will feature former Panther players making up the alumni team, squaring off with the 2012 SFCC squad at 1 p.m..
Following the game, the teams will host a BBQ dinner at 5 p.m. in the Panther Gym.
All former players, coaches and families are invited.

Hammock Half Marathon

SEBRING - The 4th Annual Highlands Hammock Half Marathon and 5K Run/Walk are set for Highlands Hammock State Park at 8 a.m on Saturday, Jan.28, 2012.
The half marathon (13.1 miles) will feature overall male and female awards, age group awards in 5-year age divisions, deluxe tee-shirts and plenty of refreshments.
There is also a team competition in the half marathon with runners forming teams of two, three or four individuals to cover the 13.1-mile distance.
The 5K Run/Walk will feature custom medals to all participants.
Entry fee for the half marathon is \$35 through January 20 and \$45 after January 21 and on race day.
Only pre-registered are guaranteed shirt size, so sign up early.
Entry fee for the 5K is \$17 prior to January 20 and \$22 after.
You may receive an email application form by contacting Chet Brojek via email cbrojek@comcast.net or by phone at 385-4736.
Mail entries to Highlands Hammock Half, C/O Chet Brojek, 3310 Par Road, Sebring, FL 33872.
Checks made payable to Central Florida Striders.
Proceeds of the race benefit Highlands Hammock State Park.
Come join the challenge of running trails in our beautiful state park.

NEWS-SUN The news is just a click away! www.newssun.com



Golf Hammock

The Ladies Association played an Even Holes 1/2 handicap event on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Taking First Flight with a 40 was Florence Towell with a 40, while there was a tie for second with dueling 41s for Ruth Kirk and Shirley Enochs.

In the Second Flight, Joyce Stanley's 38 held up for the win, with Eleanor Short next with a 39 and Carol Troup in third with a 42.

Last Monday, Dec. 19, the Mezza Group played Individual Golf at Golf Hammock Country Club using Pro-Am Points.

Mike Lajness was in first place with plus 1 in A group and Les Campbell in second place with minus.

In B group, first place was Fred Latshaw with plus 6 and Kendall Griffin in second place with minus 5.

Doug Haire scored plus 7 to finish in first place in C group while Curt Matterson was in second place with minus 1 and Pat Dell was even for third place.

Tony Frances made plus 2 in D group to take first place and David Mulligan was at plus 1 for second place.

E group first place was Dick Botelho had a plus 3 and Bob Hughes in second place with plus 1.

Roger Poulin scored plus 4 for first place, second place was Janet Regan with plus 1 and Gerry Geouque in third place at even.

Bob Morrisin was in first place in G group with plus 1 and in second place Bob Colandrea was at even and a tie in third place

at minus 2 between Jim Reed and Greg Brewer.

Don Mietz took first place in H group with plus 2 and Pete Mezza in second place with plus 1.

Tom Nelligan scored plus 8 to take the lead in I group and Trudy Perkins was plus 1 for second place.

Next Monday the Mezza Group will play at Golf Hammock beginning at 7:45 a.m.

For more information, call Pete Mezza at 382-1280.

Lake June West

A Mixed Scramble was played on Thursday, Dec. 15.

Winning first place was the team of Ron Hesson, Margaret Schultz, Ott and Maxine Wegner with 50. Tying for second/third places were the teams of Ken Rowen, Don Boulton, Pete and Mary McNamee; Joe and Joyce Swartz, Bob and Elaine Orr with 51 each.

Closest to the pin: (Ladies), No. 2, Betty Billau, 8-feet-4-inches; and No. 8, Virginia Simmons, 9-feet-9-inches. (Men), No. 4, Don Boulton, 14-feet.

The Men's League played a game on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Tying for first/second places were the teams of Orville Huffman, Butch Hall, John Simmons, Fred Neer and Norm Grubbs; Ron West, Mario Cappelletti, John Ruffo, Ott Wegner and Cal Billingsley with 39 each. Third place, John Byron, Irvin Smink, Larry Clay, Ron Vanmeter and Bill Brouhle with 42.

Closest to the pin: No. 2, Norm Grubbs, 12-feet-9-inches; No. 4, Norm Grubbs, 7-feet-10-inches; and No. 8, Larry Clay, 11-feet-9-inches.

The Ladies League played a game on Monday, Dec. 12.

Tying for first/second places were the teams of Virginia Simmons, Elaine Orr, Betty Billau and Jan Mann; Annie Hall, Mary McNamee, Verna Knishka and Charlene Schofield with 37 each. Third place, Joanne McGill, Margaret Schultz, Sylvia West and Doris Weeks with 38.

Closest to the pin: No. 2, Jan Mann,

8-feet-6-inches; No. 4, Virginia Simmons, 22-feet-3-inches; and No. 8, Virginia Simmons, 5-feet-6-inches.

Pincrest

The Men's Association played Team and Individual Pro-Am Points on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Bob Watkins, Bob Luttrell, Ed Truax and Earl Plemmons teamed up to total +19 for the team win, while there was a two-way tie for second.

The team of Nic Stafferi, Rex Waymire, Ron Taylor and Chick Regan came in with +12, as did the four-some of David Reasoner, Ron Terell, Glen Woodward and Jerry Linsley.

Individually, Don Billy won A Division with +6, one ahead of the +5 scored by Jim Underwood.

In B Division, Ray Smith's +9 took top honors with Greg Mitchell in second with +6.

Ron Taylor hit double figures with +11 to win C Division with Woodward and Bob Wimmers tying for second at +5.

And in D Division, Roger Dowe and Plemmons tied for first with dueling +10s.

Placid Lakes

The Men's Golf Association had a One Best Ball Front, Two Best Ball Back tournament on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Darrell Gardner, Bill Lockwood, Henry Shaw and Larry Kress shot a -24 for the win, with John Goble, Bruce Miseno and Jim Hays second with a -23.

Ken Burnette, Roger Thompson, Bud Snyder and Howard Tricknor were third at -18.

Tom Lacy got closest to the pin on the day, getting to 3-feet from No. 2.

The Women's Association played a One Best Ball Front, Two Best Ball Back event on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Taking first with a -16 was the team of Alice Bitzer, Joanne Shaw, Andrea Burdick and Geri Bramos.

Finishing second at -15 were Barb Lockwood, Carol Olsen, Marnie Rosettis and Barb Moriarity while Von Lacy, Linda Archambault, Pat Haas and Karen Wallin were third at -14.

Closest to the pin was Olsen, getting to 19-feet, 6-inches from No. 2 and Lockwood had a chip-in at No. 10.

The Christmas scramble was played on Thursday, Dec. 15, with 81 players.

Tying for first/second places were the teams of Roger Thompson, David Nixon and Karen Wallin; Keith Buntin, Jim Rozmarynowski and J.P. Plunkett with minus-20 each. Third place, John Goble, Henry Shaw, Geri Bramos and Cathy Raciti with minus-19.

Closest to the pin: (Men), No. 2, Gene Ransom, 14-feet-5-inches; (Women), No. 11, Alice Bitzer, 2-feet.

The Men's Association played a 3-2-1-Best Balls event on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Winning first place was the team of Bob McMillian, Bill Lockwood, Dick McArdle and Larry Kress with minus-26. Tying for second/third places were the teams of Ken Burnette, Darrell Horney, Ed Bartusch and David Raciti; John Goble, Gene Ransom, Bud Snyder and Howard Ticknor with minus-20 each.

Closest to the pin: No. 11, Bob

Senior Tip

MASTER STROKES

BY PHIL FRANK WITH 20+ MORE GOLF INSTRUCTORS

'Handy'

Strong hands and wrists are a great asset in golf. For example, deep rough will slow down and sometimes even stop the clubhead at impact, snuffing out your shot. Obviously, this is an even bigger concern for senior players. This offseason, make it a goal to build up your hands and wrists. Get yourself a hand/wrist exerciser and use it every day, working both hands. The stronger your hands and wrists are, the better you'll be able to dig out of the tall stuff next spring, and these recovery shots will be more controlled and productive, for better scores. Having that extra strength comes in handy. You'll be ready for that deep springtime, U.S. Open-type rough.

By Jim McLean, owner, Jim McLean Golf School, author of the best-selling books "The Slot Swing" and "The 8-Step Swing," illustrated by Phil Franke'

McMillian, 32-feet-11-inches.

The Ladies Association played a Women's Association Christmas Scramble on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Winning first place was the team of Rose Hunter, Lou Suthard, Gloria Ziegler and Geri Bramos with minus-16; second place, Sue Mackey, Karen Wallin, Andrea Burdick and Jeanne Ransom with minus-15; Von Lacy, Joanne Shaw, Joan Sniffen and Barb Moriarity with minus-14.

Closest to the pin: No. 11, Carol Olsen, 10-feet-8-inches.

River Greens

The Men's Association played a Men's Day event on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Winning first place was the team of Len Westdale, Cecil Lemons, J.R. Messier and Butch Smith with minus-37; and second place, Glenn Nelson, Peter Bridge, Don McDonald and Ken Brunswick with minus-36. Tying for third/fourth places were Jim Anderson, Dick Garceau, Al Farrell and Gil Heier; Bill Krug, Cliff Aubin, Neil Purcell and Johnny Wehnt with minus-30 each.

Closest to the pin: No. 3, Butch Smith, 9-feet-1-inch; No. 5, N. Purcell, 19-feet-2-inches; No. 12, C. Lemons, 2-feet-9-inches; and No. 17, Lefty St. Pierre, 11-feet-10-inches.

The Ladies Association played a pro am tournament on Thursday, Dec. 15.

Winning first place was the team of Kay Conkle, Peggy Wehnt, Karen Speaker and Anne Kelly with plus-12; second place, Ann Purdy, Anne Purcell, Nancy Long and Linda Therrien with plus-3.5; and third place, Marilyn Clauws, Dianne Stoddart, Pauline Bridge and Jody Ethan with plus-3.

Individual winners were: First place, Pauline Bridge with plus-10; second place, Anne Kelly with plus-8; and third place, Linda Therrien with plus-5.

The Morrison Group played a game on Thursday, Dec. 15.

The winners were: First place, Bob Streeter and Lefty St. Pierre with minus-15; second place, Gil Heier and Ray Delsasso with minus-13; and third place, Don McDonald and Butch Smith with minus-11.

The Men's Association played a Pro-Am tournament on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Winning first place was the team of Bob Plunkett, B.C. Roberts, John Yoder and John Hierholzer with plus-6.5; and second place, Joe Graf, Jim Cercy, John Smutnick and Russ Rudd with plus-3. Tying for third/fourth places were the teams of Fred Evans, Ron Jensen, Al Farrell and Butch

Smith; Bob Stevens, Jerry Lewis, Roman Relobradich and Vince Boever with plus-1 each.

Individual winners were: A Flight (26-over): Tying for first/second places were Butch Smith and Russ Rudd with plus-.5 each. B Flight (22-25): First place, Jim Cercy with plus-6.5; and second place, Frank Conroy with plus-5. C Flight (19-21): First place, Bob Stevens with plus-6.5; second place, Bill Krug with plus-4. D Flight (18-under): First place, Joe Graf with plus-5; and second place, Roman Relobradich with plus-4.5.

The Morrison Group played a game on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Winning first place was the team of Kenny

Brunswick, Jim Cercy, Frank Conroy and Gordon Clauws with minus-43; second place, Joe Graf, Butch Smith and Len Westdale with minus-32; and third place, Ray Delsasso, Fred Evans, Al Farrell and Dick Garceau with minus-31.

The Golfettes played a game on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

The winners were: Front 9 - First place, Marilyn Clauws and Donna Johnson with 27. Tying for second/third places were Mary Beth Carby and Pat Gower; Linda Therrien and Fran Neil with 29 each. Back 9 - First place, Nancy Long and Betty Leblanc with 27; second place, Linda Therrien and Laura Smutnick with 28; and third place, Betty Wallace and Mary Beth Carby with 29.

A Jingle Bells event was played on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Winning first place was the team of Joe and Pat Graf, Larry and Carol Roy with minus-32; second place, Kay Conkle, Tim Thomas, Dick and Gale Garceau with minus-28; and third place, Leo and Jeannine Persails, B.C. and Lucy Roberts with minus-26.

Closest to the pin: No. 3, Gale Garceau; No. 5, Dick Garceau; No. 12, Paul Johnson; and No. 17, April Stewart.

A Member/Member event was played Saturday, Dec. 10.

Winning first place were Len Westdale and B.C. Roberts with 56. Tying for second/third places were Dave Kelly and Dick Garceau; Dick Sherman and Al Farrell with 57 each.

Closest to the pin: No. 3, Tim Thomas, 13-feet-10-inches; No. 5, Don Ethan, 3-feet-3-inches; No. 12, Dick Long, 3-feet-11-inches; and No. 17, Al Farrell 3-feet-9-inches.

Closest to the Line: Clay Davis.

The Ladies Association played a Pro-Am tournament on Thursday, Dec. 8.

Winning first place was the team of Marilyn Clauws, Anne Kelly and Fran Neil with plus-6.

Individual winners were: First place, Marilyn Clauws with plus-6; and second place, Carole McClay with plus-4.5.

The Morrison Group played a game on Thursday, Dec. 8.

Tying for first/second places were Ken Koon and Lefty St. Pierre; J.R. Messier and Frank Conroy with 58 each. Tying for third/fourth places were Clark Austin and Fred Evans; Jim Cercy and Cliff Austin with 59 each.

The Men's Association played a Pro-Am tournament on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Winning first place was the team of Don Ethan, Roman Relobradich, Harold Lee and Russ Rudd with plus-10; second place, David Kelly, Cliff Steele, Keith Kincer and Al Farrell with plus-4.5; and third place, Bob Stevens, Dan Pelfrey, Russ B. and Frank Conroy with plus-2.

Individual Flights - Flight A - First place, David Kelly with plus-1.5; and Russ Rudd with plus-.5. Flight B - First place, Frank Conroy with plus-5; and second place, Russ B. with plus-3. Flight C - First place, Don Ethan with plus-5; and second place, Bob Wolf with plus-3.5. Flight D - First place, Terry Lewis with plus-10. And tying for second/third places were Roman Relobradich and Al Farrell with plus-2.5 each.

The Golfettes played a Christmas Scramble on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Winning first place was the team of Anne Kelly, Donna Johnson and Mary Beth Carby with 66; second place, Pauline Bridge, Karen Speaker and Mary Relobradich with 64; and third place, Linda Therrien, Fran Smith, Colleen Posey and Helen Ochala with 72.

The Morrison Group played Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Winning first place was the team of Cliff Steele, Keith Kincer, Butch Smith and Frank Conroy with minus-32; second place, David Kelly, Joe Graf, Russ Rudd and Larry Roy with minus-31; and third place, Fred Evans, Cecil Lemons, Gil Heier and Bob Stevens with minus-28.

SpringLake

On Wednesday, Dec. 21 the League played 4 Person Team Pro-Am Points on the Cougar Trail course.

Mary Cebula, Judy Dunn, Julia Starr and a blind draw won first place with plus 17 points over their team quota of 51.

Second and third place was a close match that was won by the team of Barbara Francoeur, Barb Stevens, Carolyn Irvine and Patty Miller who had 65 points to wind up with plus 14. Maggie Robb, Roberta Briggs, Jean Donahue and Eleanor Demitz had to settle for third with 66 points - their quota was 53 - leaving them with plus 13.

On Tuesday, Dec. 20, the SpringLake Men's Golf Association played a Four Man Team Scramble on the Panther Creek course.

Teams were evenly matched, with team handicaps between 62 and 64.

The winning team, with a score of 63, was made up of Gary Behrendt, Wayne Nelson, Vern Hoffman and Larry Colclasure.

Second place - at 65 - went to Jan Hard, Jack Hoerner, Jay Payne and Bill Rentel, while third place was awarded to the team of Bob Hinde, Bo Bohanon, Bob Berg and Ed Clay, who scored 66.

There was a tie for fourth place at 67 between Ken Kirby, Bart Bartholomy, Ken Rohr and Jim Foote and the team of Bob Rogers, John Delaney, Dale Stevens and Charlie Keniston.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, the SpringLake Women's Golf Association played a 4 Person Team - 2 Best Ball Net Tournament on the Panther Creek course.

The weather was a bit windy, the scores above normal but fun was had by all.

First place winners were: Pearl Bradford, Grace Albert, Carolyn Irvine and a blind draw who had a net score of 124.

The team of Marsi Benson, Terrie Austin, Rosie Foote and Diana Ackling came in to win second place with a 126 and Marilyn Redenbarger, Dotti Blackwell, Barbara Francoeur and Judy Dunn took third with 128.

Arc receives cart



Courtesy photo
Ridge Area Arc consumer Mark Anderson, of Avon Park, is behind the wheel of a golf cart being donated to the agency so people with learning disabilities can learn how to drive. Some of the golfers from the Bagger Vance Golf Tournament in SpringLake who presented the golf cart were (from left) John Delaney, Leon Van, Guy Brouliard, Bob Frederick and Chubby Prchal.

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FACA provides moments to shine for Streaks

Continued from 1B

The South did have an impressive goal-line stand, stopping Lake Brantley's Green on a fourth-and-goal at the one.

And the offense kicked it up for one final drive, going 99 yards on seven plays, ending in a Pavlock score on a keeper.

But at the 3:07 mark, it was far too little, too late.

"I'm an old offensive line coach so I'm real proud of what my guys did tonight," North head coach Phil Ziglar of Orlando-Boone said. "This could have gone either way a few times, but they played their hearts out. It's just fun for me to be around such great kids."

Jiles, who injured his shoulder on a 38-yard reception on the final scoring drive was named the South MVP.

For the local talent that had the chance to participate, the experience was both exciting and an eye-opener.

"I just couldn't believe how fast everyone was," Blue Streak senior Damion Thompson said. "Going from the season to the South-Central (All-Star) game, you could see a difference. Then coming here was a whole other level."

"But it was a great experience and hopefully it can increase my college options."



Above: Ocala-Forest's Mark Herndon would score twice and have a 43-yard punt return in Wednesday's FACA North-South battle, but was hauled down by Sebring's Damion Thompson on this play after just a two-yard gain. Below: Anthony Powell cradles the ball after stepping in front of Bryan LaCivita of Gainesville-St. Patrick to pick off a Thomas Sirk pass in Wednesday's FACA Football All-Star Classic.

Thompson did his part, getting a good amount of playing time, getting in on several tackles and making a nice open-field, solo-stop of Herndon.

Powell, while happy to have made the interception, knew he had to come up big.

"I had to make up for that touchdown," he said of the second-quarter connection from Sirk to Brooks, a well-timed, high-arching fade that was placed perfectly and still took a great effort from Brooks to bring it down. "But it was amazing being out here with these players. Knowing some of the schools these guys are



going to, when they were in the game I was just watching.

"But when I was in there, I saw I could play with them."

Devils dominate

Continued from 1B

on Avon Park as they also scored 10 amid the blistering pace.

With the score at 74-54 with six minutes to go in the game, some fans in the stands started chants of scoring 100.

Those thoughts were dashed away with 3:48 left in the game.

With Avon Park holding a commanding 78-58 lead, both teams substituted most of their starters with bench players.

Avon Park added four more points and the game ended with the Red Devils winning 82-58.

Reggie Baker led Avon

Park with a game high of 23 points.

Perry, Roberts, and Marcus Dewberry added 16, 13 and 11 points, respectively, for the Red Devils.

Steve Metayer and Keyon Brown each had 16 points for the Wildcats.

Back on the winning track, Avon Park was to close out the first half of the season Thursday with a rivalry game at Sebring.

"It's not a district game," added Clemons. "I don't get caught up in the rivalry, to me it is just two groups of boys playing basketball."

The Devils defeated the Streaks 64-25 in their home opener on Tuesday, Nov. 22.



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
Marcus Dewberry chipped in 16 points Tuesday night, both from the outside and on drives to the hoop, to help Avon Park top Hardee going away.

Magic cool Heat

Continued from 1B

ular season as part of the NBA's four-game Christmas Day schedule.

Miami travels to defending champion Dallas for a finals rematch and Oklahoma City hosts the Magic.

"It's upon us," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We have about three days to get ready ... Now it's all about getting healthy and ready for Sunday."

The Magic played without Hedo Turkoglu, who sat with a bruised left hip.

The Heat also were tender, with Mike Miller (hernia), Shane Battier (quadriceps), Eddy Curry (hip) and Eddie House (knee) all resting.

Whether it was just the injury bug or something

else, the rust definitely showed for both sides early on.

James badly missed on a pair of free throws in the opening minutes, including an air ball on one attempt.

Both James and his teammates were able to settle down, however, with James and Wade each scoring to push the lead to as many as 23 en route to the halftime advantage.

Orlando missed its first 12 shots from the field overall and its first 13 3-point attempts.

The Magic regrouped to make 8 of its final 14 shots from beyond the arc.

The matchup of division rivals did have a small dust-up late in the third quarter when Richardson was called for a technical after he was



MCT photo
LeBron James scored a game-high 27 Wednesday night, but new Magic arrival Glen Davis, right, added 18 in Orlando's win.

caught delivering a shoulder into James' chest. The contact came after the

pair collided while running down the court.

Phins, Bush look to run rampant

Continued from 1B

when he and the Dolphins will try to snap the AFC East champions' six-game winning streak.

"When you think of Reggie Bush, you just think

electric plays," Patriots defensive end Shaun Ellis said. "So far that's what he's been getting. So for us, we just got to pay attention to our keys, read our blocks, get off the blocks and make the tackle."

Bush rushed for just 38 yards on 11 attempts in a season-opening 38-24 loss to the Patriots.

He did catch nine passes for 56 yards and a touchdown and has 1,243 yards from scrimmage this season.

"He's a special guy," New England linebacker Rob Ninkovich said. "A guy like Reggie can do a lot of different things. ... So, you've just got to make sure you don't let him do those things."

Florida State RB Thomas ineligible for bowl game

Associated Press
TALLAHASSEE — Florida State senior running back Jermaine Thomas has been declared academically ineligible for the Champs Sports Bowl and will not play in his final college game.

Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher said Wednesday Thomas did not pass one of his classes during the fall semester.

Fisher says Thomas was the only player on the roster who is academically ineligible for the Dec. 29 game against Notre Dame.

Thomas was Florida State's second-leading rusher in 2011, gaining 279 yards and a touchdown.

He averaged 4.6 yards per carry.

Without Thomas, Florida State will likely lean more on

freshman Devonta Freeman, who has 531 rushing yards and eight touchdowns.

Either freshman James

Wilder Jr. (150 rushing yards) or senior Ty Jones (71 rushing yards) should see increased playing time.

Ex-NFL players blame league for brain injuries

Associated Press
ATLANTA — Some former NFL players say in a new federal lawsuit that brain injuries have left them struggling with medical problems years after their playing days ended.

Jamal Lewis, Dorsey Levens, Fulton Kuykendall and Ryan Stewart filed the lawsuit against the National Football League and FNL Properties LLC this week in U.S. District Court in Atlanta.

The players maintain the NFL knew as early as the

1920s of the potential for concussions to harm its players.

The court documents say the league concealed the dangers from coaches, trainers, players and the public until June 2010, when it publicly acknowledged the health threats and warned players and teams.

NFL representatives did not immediately return phone calls from The Associated Press.

All four ex-players live in metro Atlanta.

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HEALTHY LIVING

'Tis the season to be healthy

Dear Pharmacist: The cold weather is upon us, and I'm worried about cold and flu. What are some simple steps to keep my immune system healthy?

— L.F., Alexandria, Va.

Answer: Preventing the spread of germs is job one. If you feel any symptoms of a cold, please stay home and delegate your errands to a friend or relative. Also, consider the other individuals around you, such as your husband or child, who could potentially fall ill before making close contact with sick people. Being mindful of this could have lasting benefits if you consider the fact that their cold could turn into pneumonia should they have a weak immune system.

If you have to cough or sneeze, please do so into the crook of your elbow. Wash your hands with soap and water frequently for 30 seconds. While shopping for bargains at the mall, or waiting in airport security lines, or anywhere for that matter, keep your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth. I'll tell you to make sure your kids do the same, but I know they put their little fingers in all the wrong places, so I also recommend keeping antibacterial lotion or wipes handy.

With that, here are some of my top vitamin recommendations to help support immunity:

- Probiotics – These are beneficial bacteria that naturally help maintain immune system wellness. They also aid in proper digestion.

- Vitamin C – The human's body doesn't make vitamin C, so it's important we get it from other sources such as supplements, citrus fruits, or vegetables including bell peppers. It's a strong antioxidant that does 'house-keeping' on your cells and helps support the immune system.

- Vitamin D – Getting your Vitamin D from sunlight isn't always reliable, especially if you use sun block to protect your skin or live in a state with a long winter. Most people don't realize that Vitamin D is mostly obtained from fortified foods. A Vitamin D supplement can provide added support, try 1,000-5,000 IU but ask your doctor to make sure. You want the bio-active



Metro Services

There are many natural ways to help prevent colds and flu.



Dear Pharmacist
Suzy Cohen

form, "vitamin D3" and high-quality supplements say that on the label.

- Zinc – This mineral is a strong antioxidant best known for supporting prostate health, but it also happens to neutralize free radicals; it may affect the duration of a cold.

- Elderberry extract – This herb has been revered for centuries and is best known for its anti-viral effects. Two separate studies have found that it can

inhibit influenza if taken during the first 48 hours of symptoms.

- Echinacea – Related to daisies, this herbal supplement is thought to rev up the immune system thereby lowering risk of infection. Recommended dosage is usually in cycles, not every single day.

When choosing dietary supplements, seek out brands that are committed to science-based protocols for product development and testing. Be sure to ask your health care professional or pharmacist what supplements are best for you, especially if you take medications.

Suzy Cohen is a registered pharmacist and the author of 'The 24-Hour Pharmacist' and 'Real Solutions.' For more information, visit www.DearPharmacist.com. This information is not intended to treat, diagnose or cure your condition.

Gout for the holidays

Have you been awoken during the middle of the night by a hot, extremely painful feeling in your big toe or ankle?

Gout (gouty arthritis) is a condition caused by a buildup of uric acid called hyperuricemia. The uric acid forms crystals that collect in the joints, bringing on a gout attack.

A single big toe joint is commonly the affected area, possibly because it is subject to so much pressure in walking.

Historically, it has been referred to as "the king of diseases and the disease of kings" or "rich man's disease."

The first documentation of the disease is from Egypt in 2,600 BC in a description of arthritis of the big toe.

Gout attacks happen without warning, causing joint swelling, tenderness, redness, heat and pain. Men are much more likely to be afflicted than women, but women can also be affected after menopause. Gout is strongly associated with obesity, hypertension, hyperlipidemia and diabetes.

Because of genetic factors, gout tends to run in some families. Gout rarely affects children, and can go away (even without treatment) after three to 10 days.

During the holiday season rich foods and alcohol are commonly served at Christmas and New Year's parties. Alcohol such as beer and red wine should be avoided by people prone to gout attacks. Also diets that contain lots of red meat, rich sauces, and shellfish are associated with gout. These include processed meat, organ meats, and shellfish such



Footprints
Dr. Olga Garcia-Luepschen

as shrimp, lobster and scallops.

Do not make the mistake of thinking that once a gout attack passes, you are home free. Approximately 60 percent of patients suffering from gout will experience a second attack within one year. An estimated 78 percent of patients will have another attack within the next two years.

The good news is that gouty arthritis is manageable. The initial aim of treatment is to settle the symptoms of an acute attack. Your doctor will likely order a blood test to check your uric acid level. Xrays may be taken to check for tophi or changes in the bones.

Tophi are large deposits of uric acid crystals that form in the joints after many gout attacks.

A cortisone injection may be given for the inflammation.

Your doctor may start you on anti-inflammatory medicines as well as a daily long-term control medication to reduce levels of uric acid.

Dr. Olga Garcia Luepschen and the Gentle Foot Care Center are on U.S. 27 and can be reached at 314-9255. For more information visit www.Gentlefootcarecenter.com. This information is not intended to treat, diagnose or cure your condition.

Blood cancer may be more common than realized

Special to the News-Sun

GAINESVILLE — A group of life-threatening blood disorders collectively called myelodysplastic syndrome, or MDS, may occur four times more often than reported by national cancer registries, according to new research from the University of Florida based on data from Medicare claims.

MDS occurs when the body's blood factory does not produce healthy red or white blood cells or platelets. Getting a more accurate picture of the disease could lead to earlier diagnosis for patients and better guidance for public health policy. The findings, reported in the November issue of the journal Leukemia Research and in an earlier issue of the journal Blood, indicate that more women than men are overlooked.

"The data from the cancer registry is showing us a partial picture of MDS," said Christopher R. Cogle, M.D., an associate professor of hematology and oncology in the UF College of Medicine's department of medicine. "State cancer registries, which feed the national registries, need more resources so they can more comprehensively capture this disease and others, such as skin and gastrointestinal cancers."

MDS is a hard-to-diagnose disease that presents itself in a wide range of ways. On the less severe end of the spectrum, it shows up as a low blood cell count, and, at the other extreme, as leukemic growths inside the bone marrow.

Seventy percent of people with MDS die of complications related to a low blood cell count. Even with

low-grade disease, the average person's survival after diagnosis is about five years.

"For those diagnosed in their 60s, we know we can do better than that," said Cogle, a member of the UF Shands Cancer Center whose clinical and research program has been designated a Center of Excellence by the MDS Foundation.

Cogle and colleagues at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa noticed that their clinical practices received many referrals from local physicians trying to figure out the cause of low blood cell counts. MDS diagnoses in those cases occurred almost exclusively on an outpatient basis. But such cases are not captured by registries, which get most of their data from hospitals and laboratories.

Community outreach events planned

Ace Homecare community outreach events scheduled for next week include:

- Tuesday – 9 a.m., Health Fair, Groves, behind Sebring Diner, U.S. 27, Sebring; and 10:30 a.m., Health Fair, Lake Placid Meal Site, Interlake Boulevard, Lake Placid.

- Wednesday – 9 a.m., Health Fair, Avon Park Meal Site, Main Street, Avon Park; and 1 p.m., Health Fair, Tanglewood, U.S. 27, Sebring.

SHINE Program seeks volunteers

TAMPA – The Florida Department of Elder Affairs, along with the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging, invites residents to join the award-winning SHINE team of volunteers.

This program helps elders make informed decisions about Medicare, health insurance and prescription

Snapshots

drug plans.

SHINE volunteers provide individual counseling and assistance to elders and their caregivers about Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare plan choices, long-term care planning and prescription discount drug programs.

Volunteers may also make educational presentations to community groups and participate in local health fairs, senior fairs and other outreach and educational events.

For additional information about this exciting opportunity and to become a SHINE volunteer in Hillsborough, Hardee, Highlands, Manatee and Polk Counties, call the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging at (813) 740-3888, ext. 5593.

The West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging's Elder Helpline offers support for the growing numbers of caregivers and their aging parents.

The Elder Helpline pro-

vides information for older adults and their caregivers by helping callers make informed decisions about available assistance.

It is the starting point in getting connected with programs or services that can meet the needs of the older adult or caregiver.

For more information, contact (800) 96Elder or (800) 963-5337 or visit www.AgingFlorida.com/.

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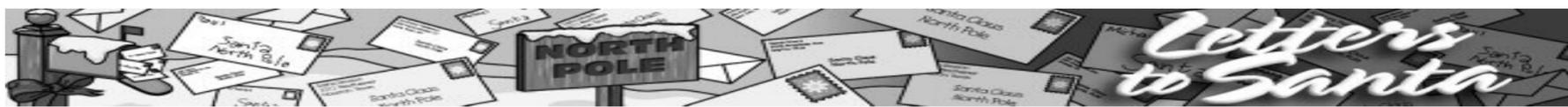
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Letters are printed as they were written by students. No editing needed for Santa to understand.

Avon Elementary Ms. McNamara's class

Dear Santa,
I have some things I like for Christmas. I would like a puppy dog, a laptop, a paint set, a ping-pong set, and some sillybands.

Love, Cadence
Age 7

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Christmas. I would like a orby srr, a drum set, giter, a microphon and a peano.

Love, Cassie
Age 8

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Cristmas. First, I will like Super Mario 3D land. Next, I want a wii. I also want Super Mario galixey. Can I also get Mario Krqt7 and Mario kart. Last I want Rabbits taval in time 3D.

Love, Bradley
Age 7

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Christmas. First, I would like brat's on the mike, Next, brat's clothes, Also, brat's barbies, Last brat's shoes.

Love, Daneris
Age 8

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Christmas. First, I would like more S. D. S. Games. Next, I would like a recaler. Last, I would like to see you. I hope I get my chrismas gifts.

Love, Joshua
Age 8

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Christmas. One thing I wish I can have is a xbox. The next thing that I wish I could get is the new Hess car and truck.

Love, Shawn
Age 8

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Christmas. I would like money, new DSI games, Clothes, a new bike, a ipod.

Love, Shaira
Age 7 years old

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Christmas. I would like aDs, Wii games, shoes, computer, and some books chapter books.

Love, Magaly
Age 7 years old

Dear Santa,
I had some things I would like for Christmas. I would like a pool a kickball candy land sorry and a Ripstick.

Love, Joshua
Age 7

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Christmas. I would like a hot pink DSI, remember hot pink. What I also want for Christmas is a Lolaloopsy doll the big one Bea-spells-a-lot. There's something else I want for Christmas it's a Ugly Doll named Ket in pink. That what I want for Christmas.

Love, Sarai
Age 7

Dear Santa,
I have some Things I would like for Christmas. what I want for Christmas is a 3DS, Mario kart, Mario kart, supper Mario Bros, call of duty 4, hairy potty 5-7.

Love, Christian
Age 7

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Chistmas. I want gogos, all the burnout games, bade blades let it rip, video games, and a work out set.

Love, Blake
Age 7

Dear Santa,
I have some thingsI would like forChristmas. I want aIPod superslugger baseball newsuper-mario a new bat aIPadandaspywatchan daspyPhone.

Love, Dillon
Age 8

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Christmas. Wrestling mulch DSI 3d, Nerf Gun, wrestlers, dsi game.

Love, Caleb
Age 7

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Christmas. I would like board games, new teneshoes, White board with 4 markers, Ds games, and a art set.

Love, Saleen
Age 8

Dear Santa,
I have some things I would like for Christmas. I would like a loip top, a hot wheel s10 pick or solid figures, a toy dumptruck and a toy filretrack. those are-thethings I want for Christmas. So can I get those things?

Love, Walher
Age 7



Ms. Hall's class

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. I want a fence. for a trampoline len. I help my mom with my brother. I want to get a lemor shreddre. I help my dad with stuff. I want to get him colon. I help my brother get dressed. I want to get him a baseball tractor.

your friend, Jenson.

Dear Santa,
I would like a super mario borthers 3ds. I would like you to get my mother a car. I would like you to get-mydad anew washer machine. I would like you to get my little baby brother toy train.

From Marco

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. I want a movie. I help my mom make herbed. I want for my mom is a perfume and for my dad is a laptop.

Your friend, Bridget

Dear Santa,
I've have beeng good I help my mom claening my bed up I take care of my littel baby I would like my mom to have a phone and I would like for my dad a laptop, and for me I would like everyone to have a good Christmas.

Your friend, Agustin

Dear Santa,
I have been good in school. I want more Thomas sets and some Hello Kitty stuff for my room. Give my dad some yankees stuff.

Your best friend,
Rachel

Dear Santa,

I would like a water Slide for Christmas. and lip stick for Christmas anda pool. and I been good. my mom wood like money for christmas. and makeup for Christmas.

your friend,
Cherdean

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I have donen the dishir and clend the litrbox. I think you shod get my sistr rolrdlade and me. I think you shod get my Mom pajomus and my dad a mug

your friend, Alana

Dear Santa,
I've been good in class helping people read. I would like to have my real own babydoll. I would want you to get my mom a new phone. I would like you to get mydad a computer. I would like my whole family to have a good Christmas dinner.

your friend, Janelle

Dear Santa,
I have been good I've helpd my mom to water the flowrs and clean up the hose. I would like you to bring me a doll. I would like you to bring my mom a phone and my DaD a phone too. I would like you to bring my bruther a laptop.

You friend, Johanna

Dear Santa,
I like green sticks I would like a toycar and my mom would like lip gloss and my dad would like a laptop and my brother would like a new toy truck on Christmas Eve.

your friend, Patrick

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I help my mom take care of her baby. I want a Mario cart seven and a toy pumpkin. For my mom I want a star and for my dad I want a new screw driver. And for my baby brother or sistr a toy teddy bear.

Your friend, Britney

Dear Santa,
I did my home work every day. I would like a watch for my Dad and a book for me and a bracee for my mom.

Your friend,
Kimberly

Dear Santa,
I've been good. can you get me Harry Potter. Can you get my dad a neckles. An can you get my brother A X box E 60.

your friend, Stacey

Ms. Whidden's class

Dear Santa,
I wish I had Jenga. I love you Santa. I wish I had a basketball. I wish I had a laptop. I wish I had a ds games. I wish I had a wii games. I I have been good. I wish I had a MP3 player I wish I had a Eash Bake oven. I Love you Santa I have cookies and milk and pudding for you.

Love, Layla

Dear Santa,
I want the EasyBakeOven. I wish to see your efs. I am good at school. I have 5 strw every day. My little sisry want bob. I am good at math. I Love Santa.

from Jessica.

Dear Santa,
try to begood. I help my mom clean. Something I would like for Christmas is a KeyBoard.

love, Blaise.

Dear Santa,
I tried my best. What I want for Chritmas is a piano, drum set keyboard and skteboard. I halp Alyssa opin up her mallk.

Love Jaxon.

Dear Santa,
I try to be good at School. I wish I had a Barby house. I wish I had Scootr. I have cookes and milk Foryou. I take awt The trash. I wash The sliding dors.

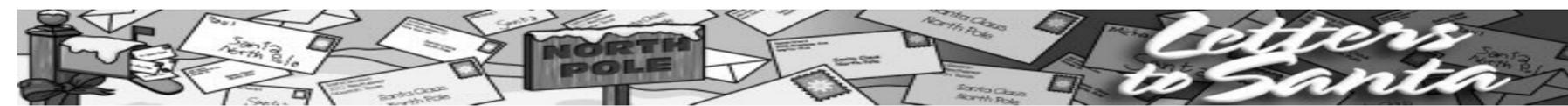
Luve, Hannah.

Dear Santa,
I try tomake good choicesat shool. I choose to be a good stood?I wont laptop and Mario CartDS7

Love, Myron Ford.

Dear Santa,
DearSanta, Ich to Begood. I wot a BoShuc I wot a i qod!

Luf Steven



Dear Santa,
I wish for a Flat guitar.
I wish for a Lego batmen.
I wish for a new gps.
I tried to be good a little. I helped mom.
Love, Clinton

Dear Santa,
I bin good. I did not move my name. I have 5 stars all week. I wish I had a doll.
Love, Jasmine

Dear Santa,
I tried to be good at school and then after school. I tacked the trash at home. I want for Christmas a robot and a hex big set and a teddy bear.
Love, Zachary

Dear Santa,
I try to be good. I would like a 3DS. I would like a Xbox360. I would like three ripsticks. I would like a ball. I would like a playstation and the game Marocart7 for the wii. I helped my Dad clean the house.
Love, Gabe

Dear Santa,
I try to do my longli at home. I want a skateboard and my baby brother wants a scooter. And I want a Ds. I always do my homework.
Love, Tori Hester Est-ik

Dear Santa,
I try to be good. I have too many toys. I want a cat for Christmas. I tacked the trash from home.
From Carlos

Dear Santa,
I try to be good. I help my gap I want the Ds Lego Batman game and the Ds Mario vs Danke Kame Game.
Love, Jaidyn

Dear Santa,
I wish for a crown. I wish for a lego.
Love Alyssa

Dear Santa,
I was good. I sent computer hot wheels Scooter flat guitar turbo pyk
Your friend, Andon

Ms. Foster's class
Dear Santa,
My name is Lexi. I am seven years old. I would like a cotton candy machine and a monster High doll for Christmas. My mommy would like a ring with diamonds in the middle.
Love Lexi

Dear Santa,
I want to give my mom a car. I want it to be pink. I want a shiny pink bike with red hot wheels. My mom wants to go to Jamaica for Christmas and I want a motor scooter, for Christmas.
Your friend, Emma

Dear Santa,
My name is Laura. I'm 7 years old. For Christmas I want a PSP, a doctor kit, and a drum set. Every Christmas I always give you 3 toys. This Christmas I'm going to give you a candy cane. My birthday is on January 25.
Love, Zarra

Dear Santa,
I want a bike and I want a puppy. What are you getting for Christmas Santa? I am eight years old. But for Christmas I want to see you. I always see you at the mall. I like to see you Santa.
Hezikah

Dear Santa,
Can you bring me and my mom and my dad a present? Please Santa. How many elves do you have Santa? How do you bring the presents in a big storming snow Santa? I will tell you what I like to do play soccer. How do you make your toys Santa? How can you fly in your sled Santa? How is Rudolph? Please tell me Santa. How can you make the deers fly Santa?
Love Guadalupe

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a bike, boots and a toy. Christmas is fun. On Christmas we are going to church. We are going to my Grandma's house to open presents. I am going to wear my new clothes. I am going to wear to my Grandma's house. Is Christmas your favorite holiday?
Kelitza

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Alexandra. For Christmas I want a cotton candy machine. I am 8 years old. I Love Christmas. My birthday is May 4. What do you want for Christmas? Christmas is fun.
Love, Alexandra

Dear Santa,
My name is J and I go to Avon Elementary school. I would like two snakes and a cotton candy machine. I want my dad to not work on Christmas. I hope that you could make my mom well.
Your friend, J.

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is a PS3 and a PS3 Mario. What do you or you want for Christmas? I will bring it to you. What is it? What is it? Write me back to tell me.
Love Jair S.



Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Shatterria. I want a pool thing because I like to swim and I am 8 years old. I want my mom and dad to get a car and Job and we need a bigger house. My mom needs baby clothes and toys but I don't know what she is having. I like to do exercise and go to recess.
Love, Shatterria

Dear Santa,
I am going to tell you something about me and it is that I like to draw. I want a computer because I can hear music and play games. I want to know why snow does not come here.
Love, Saray

Dear Santa,
My name is Osiris. I'm eight years old. I'm in second grade. I got S's on handwriting. This is what I

want for Christmas Eve. I want a xbox Kinect playstation, Ipad 2, iPhone, Mac Laptop, Box Blad a bike, drum set, and good health. Christmas is my favorite holiday. I want to be on the nice list.
Love Osiris

Dear Santa,
I love you very much. Do you know that I like unicorns and I like horses? Do you eat just cookies? Do you eat candy too? How do your elves make the presents? How do you get all your presents delivered so fast? What I want for Christmas is

Dear Santa,
My name is Jakaiyah. I'm seven years old. I'm in second grade. I got A's and B's on my report card. I am excited for Christmas. I would like lipstick for Christmas. How many elves do you have? How many gifts do you wrap?
Your friend, Jakaiyah

Dear Santa Claus,
I am seven years old. How do you get the reindeers flying. All I want for Christmas is a bike because I learned how to ride with no training wheels. Could you please let my mom's off of work?
your friend, Isis.

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Jacqueline. I am 8 years old and my birthday is almost coming. It's on December the 16. It's on Friday. For Christmas, I want a teddy because they are very soft. I won't forget to put you a cup of milk and some cookies. Could you bring a toy car for my little brother but a little one because my little brother likes those but bring a blue one.
Love, Jacqueline

Cracker Trail Elementary

Ms. Hall's class
Dear Santa, what I want most is star wars the force unless 2 on wii. And I know I been good. One more thing I love you Santa.
Remi

Dear Santa Claus,
I've been good at school. I've been getting straight A's. I even decorated my own tree. But what I want for Christmas is a phone, a horse, a trampoline. That is all the things I want for Christmas.
Sincerely, Alexis

Mary Christmas And Aall To Good Night!
Dear Santa Claus,
How is Rudolph, danner, comit, vixin, cupit, doner, pranser, and dixin. I have been some good moths. I want a Rudolph be jomus, stuff Rudolph, toy Rudolph, Rudolph courtum, blahblan let it rip, blan blan let it

rip moleculonhole and buckelgon sets.
From: Jonathan
To: Santa Claus.

Dear Santa Claus
I have been good this year. I want a doll house and a phone and a stuffed animal and a puppy dog and a big big stuffed animal and a computer that I can pickup and a big bucket of love please and Thank you. Lily

Dear Santa Claus, I have been good. Me and my sister Charlotte. I want 10 Barbie dolls, a makeup set and some jewelry and I want money for me and my family and for the poor love Isabelle EA Charlotte. My sister wants heels and whatever she wants to do! love, Isabelle

Dear Santa, I have been good all year long. I haven't hurt anybody or said bad words to anybody. I think I deserve some presents from you. I deserve a phone, a computer, and a puppy.
Love, Kash

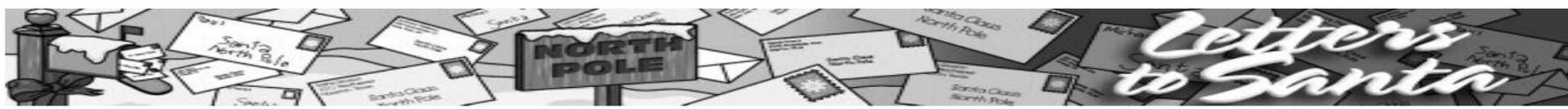
Dear Santa,
I want a dirt bike because I have been good at home because I do my chores and bin good at school too. That's why I want a dirt bike!!!
Sincerely, Fernando

Dear Santa,
I know I have been a little naughty this year but I want a reindeer because I can fly on it to school and a big bucket of love please thank you!
Sincerely, Naomi

Dear Santa Claus
I had been good this year. I want a remote control and a toy truck and a remote control toy crane.
Sincerely, Tony Miyares and a dirt bike.

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a spark electric scooter so I can ride with my friends. Thank you. Andrew Marcy

Dear Santa, my behavior has been so-so this year and I think I should get presents but it is up to you and I would like legos and toy tractors for Christmas.
Michael DuLA



Dear Santa,
I want a electric scooter and I am a believer and I think I deserve it. I want a bariedoll, barie house, barie phone and a dog I Like reindeer Rudolph the Red nosed reindeer is my favrite.

Love, Jade

Dear Santa
I Want a four wheel-er and a dirt bike E Spark electric scooter plone electric car 500000! Computer love Blaze

Dear Santa Claus,
santa I'm good in school and at home. My brother been bad. Thhis is what for christmas a puppy, boot, highheel boot, a pink scarf and Justin Beiber pillow.

Love, Hayli

Dear SantaClaus,
I have been so good this year and i can't wait intill christmas because i can decorate the christmastree andi sawyou at the circle christmas parade for christmas i want a Phone and acamra and a xbox with games.

Sincerely, Piper Nicole Ieslin

Ms. McGuire's class

Dear Santa,
It is your Dear friend Cavin. Are you and Mrs. Claus allright? I liked the video you sent me last year. I bet Rudolph's doing all-right to. Santa the three toys I want is a electric drifton trash pack, and a jet pack. I will give you something special more than cookles and milk. And only a few more days then you will find out what it is. I hope you enjoy having Christmas. Because I enjoy Christmas. If you dont like Christmas we can switch jobs. The elves and the reindeer are as special asyou. Because the Elves make the toys and the Reindeer can fly you and all the toys all around the world? But you know that you can give a boy or a girl as many toys as you want. And the last thing I want to say is MERRY CRISTMAS SANTA!

Love, Cavin

Dear Santa Claus
How are you, Mrs. Claus and the elves and the reindeer Of course. Thank you for

all your hard work. I've been good this year only a Few bad things. I've helped my moMMY, DaDDy and mimi and papa. You have worked so hard so may I have a furry Frinzie a bunny I perFur. A bike with-out trainingwheels and joy, family and friends, and happiness. Thank you sooo much I hope you have a Merry Christmas From my family and friends Thank you sooo very much.

Love Alexis

Dear. Santa how have you been? I have been good. I picked up my room the other day, and I put up my cloths. How are the elves? Thank you for all that you do! How have the reindeer been? I want a new bike.

your friend, Beau R.

Dear Santa Claus how are you today? How has Mrs. Claus been?I, ve been fine. All I want from you is a mps player. That's all. I could think of, but if you can't find one its ok. I would love to see your reindeer. Does Rudolph really have a bright red nose?

If I could see Rudolph, I would pay you \$200 for it! I hope you have a very, very good Christmas your Friend, Sharon S.

Dear Santa,
I want to thank you for keeping me on the good list and not on the bad list. And the best thing is I always get presents. Every thing is going well and I want to ask Mrs. Claus some thing. How are you doing Mrs. Claus? Please write. . . . I have been really good because I have been helping my mom. Please can you fix my four-wheeler???

Thank you your friend Ashton G.

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How are the elves doing? Ive been nice to my sister and brother. I hold the door open for them. Thank You for putting me on the nice list and not the bad list. I want a new Back-pack and a new bike.

your friend, Hannah R.

Dear Santa,
How have you been? How are Mrs. Claus and reindeer doing? I'm been good by helping my Sisters clean their rooms and also I have helped my mom and dad. I have entertained my sister's for my mom, dad, papaw, Beth, Mimi, papaw tom so my mom and dad could talk. Santa Claus, may I please have a bike with a kick Stand and can it be 18 inches. Thank you Santa Claus.

your friend, Sydney P.

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I would like to know how the reindeer and elves and of course Mrs. Claus are doing. I hope I am on the nice list but if I am not I will try my best next year I have done a lot



of good thigs but a Few bad I do know one thing ive done good can you guss what it is? Well if you guessed singing in the church you guessed really! For Christmas I would like a nook color and thats it!

your friend, Ethan A.

Dear Santa,
This is Brock. F writing this letter. How have you been?Santa good or not that good. I have been good not bad because I have not got wipon's or time out. I want the whale set of Skylanders with Skylanders for the three DS Gost roosters with the stuff on Skylanders.

your freind, Brock. F
Dear Santa
Hello my namei s Jordan. B. How have

Dear Santa Claus,
I am Diya u. I have been very good this year. I gave money to poor people in India. I also said lots of nice words to people like thank you and your Welcome. By the way how are feeling?I am just curious are you feeling good or bad. you worked very hard lately for Christmas I only want two things a remote control airplane, but if you don'twant to give me that get me an artset or any thing you want please.

your friend, Diya u.

Dear Santa Claus
How have you bee'n good or bad? I am Ethan A. I have been good this year. I will like MW3 and I will like a dumebuggy and I will like football for the Xboxsthreesixty. I

you, Mrs. Claus, and the elves been? Did you eat lots of sweets this year? Has Mrs. Claus been doing all thework? Has Rudolph been laughed at? And I have been on your nice list right? I do all my push ups and sit up's, got good grades, I listen to my parents part of the time. Last, will you please get me skylan- ders, Rediki anda pogo stick.

Sincerly Jordan B.

Dear Santa
I was just wondering how you've been and so on and so forth. And do you know I only want two most important things for christmas. And they are joy and family:I bet the elfs are making you a present because you are so great. Well at least I think you are so so so so so great! Well great talking to ya.

Best wishes, love Savannah

Dear Santa,
How have you been?I wonder is my sister and I are on the nice list. I hope you have a great year!I made a special present for you. All I want for Christmas is joy, family time, and love. Oh! I for got, I love you! Your my favorite person ever! Your g r e a t ! M e r r y Christmas!

Love, Emma R. and Katelyn R.

Dear Santa Claws
How is it in the North Pole?I have been good this year you saw me right?It's very cold in the North Pole. What I would like for Christmas is a new base ball bat, sky landers and the game 21. I hope you come soon!have a great Christmas!

your firend, Cole

Dear Santa
This is Michael. I've been good by helping my mom babysit Madison. I've took care of two dogs. Santa how are you? How are the reindeer? How are the elves?Do you really have a son named Arthur? I want a beetle sord, Octopus sord, Sord fish sord. That's wat I want please. How long does it take to bring all the presents?

from, Michael to, Santa.

Dear Santa,
How is your day ?, I hope it was good. By the way I'm Kyla C. . I can tell a few of the good things I've done, I've fixed Breakfast, for Griffin, I've helped others, I've done Operation Christmas Child. What I want the most for Christmas is for every one to have a Merry Christmas and you too plus I hope the Reindeer like the car- rets. Am I on the nice list?Tell Mrs. Claus I wish her a Merry Christmas too and the Reindeer. I hope you like the tree and cook- ies? I hope Mrs. McGuire is on the nice list.

Your friend, Kyla C.

Ms. Labarr's class

Dear Santa
Can I getone papy please a puf ball please and Thank you ifyou gave me a fluf- ball I want to gave My mom the flufbaLL arlL Love
Love charlene

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want Barbies. Can I have the Barbies glowstick.
Love Chloe.

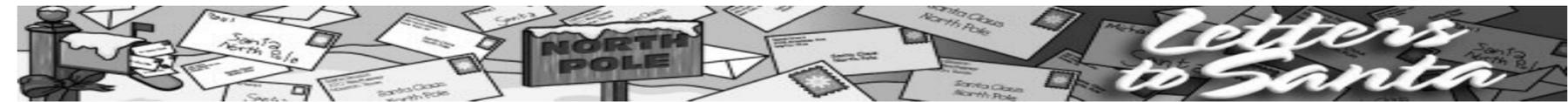
Dear Santa,
Howold are you When Christmas, is over What do youdo I wan't a Bike end a lap top for Chistmas
Love Jamiyah

Dear Santa Claus,
I love you. I want a KamuFlo I wunt a Tint looks likea haos. I want a little fowelr that is ril a jump hops a ril bred and a do. I wunt gis dos I wunt KensBrBe I wont 3 just
Faith

Dear Santa,
I Love You. How Does Your Raderv fly.
From Auriana

Dear Santa Claus.
how old are you Santa. I wanta kid sized fourwheeler. and toys.
from Bansford to Santa

Dear Santa Claus
For Christms I wunt HiyHzis and A BootFLDres with Boots and Shoots and a Shrt I Love Santa
Love Kiera



Dear Santa Claus
I love you for
christms I want
KamElot clos and
CamFlot bebe gun and
tevs tree howes and to
masle des 3D 2S
3Ddsglasis PS3
Daxtvthree labe
skevde vobos tomp
howes a rele sragen
Nit sote PSP
love luis.

Dear Santa Claus,
How Old are You? I
Love You Santa. Wat
Do You Do Wen
Christmas Is Over
Love Logan

Dear Santa,
I wish you a Merry
Chistmas Santa claus I
Love You Santa and I
wish every one a
merry christmas. in I
hope you have a Good
Christmas and Iwon't
a lap top And a com-
puter in that's all I
want Howoldare you
When Christmas is
over What do you do I
wan't a bike any a lap
top for Chistmas.
Jamiyah Fields

Dear Santa,
How do the randeer
fliy? Maye i ples have
for Christmas a Mi3ac
puter a i Pada Monster
highdolls a
BarbioeDrem hose
Barbie car a Barbie
Dolls a dvdPlayer a
dvd uav tow Bruther
and flipper. I love you
very very much. I rile
rile rile hoop you
mack it arad the word
very very very much.
JorjaMoni Smith

Dear Santa
How randear fiy? I
wox a Toy SPS
By Garrett

Dear Santa,
how Do your ren
Der Fliy I wot Gems

For the Dees 3.
Arturo
Ms. Vermyle's class

Dear Santa Claus,
What I want for
Christmas is a elf ona
shelf. I will leave you
another note on
Christmas Eve in West
Virginia. I have tried
with all my might tobe
good. Can you tell
Mrs. Claus that I wish
her a very Merry
Christmas. Also, Can
you tell the elves that
if there cooking that
they can have some
cookies or some hot
cocoa. I think it
would be fun to have a
elf on a shelf. I wish
you a very Merry
Christmas. Is it fun
being Santa? How do
you go down the
chimneys if they don't
have one? Please write
back.

Love,
Sydney
Christina Carter
Mrs. Vermyle class

Dear Santa,
All I want is a
puppy. A golden
rechever puppy. I like
ther fur. It is so exit-
ing. I love
puppys!Ther so soft. I
will ask my mom if I
can leave some cocoa.
I hope you have room.
The puppy I want is
very smart. I want it to
be black.
love, Jayssa

Dear Santa,
North pole
I want for christmas
is Hot wheels kidpics
store N racecase car it
fitinthe sliagh. my
cookies will taste
good. How does your
reindeer fly bymaigh.
How do you get ever
county orstate.
your friend, Joshua

Dear Santa,
All Iwant isall the
lego ninjago. for

christmas theyare
socool. I got theblue-
andblackone. And a
darknessguy. They
areawesome logos. I
needthe redand white
havea great christmas.
That's my only
request, look forthe
cookies. By the table
merry christmas Santa
and hot cocoa!
Love, Cole

DearSanta,
AllI want for crist-
mas is my sister
Coutney. I will play



with her.
Love, Maredith

Dear Santa Claus,
I wish you a merry
Christmas. don't for-
get to eat the cookies.
My wish for this
Christmas, Is lego
Mario kart. I wish for
it because it looks fun
to play with. I hope
you have a great
Christmas ever.
Love, Tyler

Dear Santa,
I am writing to wish
you a Merry
Christmas. I hope you
are enjoying getting
ready for the big day!
How do you feel diliv-
ering I bet you take a
long napwhen you are
done delivering all
those toys. I would
like a elf onthe shelf
because I think it
would be funny for it
to come move around
at night. I hope you
have room on your
sleigh for my request.

Dear Santa,
All I want for
Christmas is a
Monster high collect.
And my favidrit one is
Kleoy; Do you still
want me to put the
cookies under the
tabel. So just tell me.
I hope you have a
merryChristmas.
love, Arianne

Dear Santa,
I wanta Coundputer
For Christmas please.
Canyou I hope you are
going to give me a
coundputer. how do yo
get down the chim-
ney? I f they don't
have a chimeny So
how do yo get in? I
hopeyou have room
for my request. I
would play it all the
time.
love Daymien

thank you for always
being nice to all of the
nice children around
the world. I hope you
have the best
Christmas ever!
your friend, Selena

Dear Santa,
I want a ipod touch
witha camo case. So
when I am board. I
will play a game on it.
At my house. How do
you travel so far to get

here? Youtravelall
around the world. I
hope you love
yourChristmas. I hope
you have a nuff on
your sleigh. Look by
thee fireplace and you
will find the cookies.
loveReid

Dear Santa,
I am writing this let-
ter to wish you a
Merry Christmas. I
would like a Iphone!
thank you For being
nice to everybody.
Sincierly, Mikayla
P. S. Can you give
me just one eIF please

Dear Santa,
All I want for
Christmas is a
Monster high collect.
And my favidrit one is
Kleoy; Do you still
want me to put the
cookies under the
tabel. So just tell me.
I hope you have a
merryChristmas.
love, Arianne

Dear Santa,
I wanta Coundputer
For Christmas please.
Canyou I hope you are
going to give me a
coundputer. how do yo
get down the chim-
ney? I f they don't
have a chimeny So
how do yo get in? I
hopeyou have room
for my request. I
would play it all the
time.
love Daymien

Dear Santa
allI want for
ChristmasisaMonster
High collect. I am
wundring, how do you
eat all those cookies
inthe wholeworld?
Ihoep you havea real-
lygratechristmas
andtellallof the
reindeerI said, I love
themexpeshle radof. I
want the monster
Highcollect becus they
lookso cute.
Love, Delaney

Dear Santa,
I would like a ipod
touch with a purple
case. Its ok if you
can't get it. I have
wanted it for a long
time.
Love, Katie

Dear Santa,
I'm writing to you
because you arevery
very nice! May you
please get me atable
ora kinlle I don't real-
ly care because you
can real off of both of
them. I would want
this because then I
would always real off
of it. I hope you hav
room on your Sleigh
for my request.
Thankyoufor always
being nice to all the
nice children all
around the world. I
hope you have the best
Christmas ever! By
the way What do you
feed your reindeer?
Please write a request
back to me.
love, Elianna

Dear Santa claus,
I wanta air sivismaler
sobody Plus I love this
toy andI hope you can
bring it. I just love it!
S i n c e r e l y ,
Alexander

Dear, Santa
I am writing you this
letter because I want to
wish you a Merry
Chistmas. you are eat-
ing so much cookies
do you feel sick after
eating all of those
cookies?becase you
are eating so much and
I forgot to tell you I
would like for
Chistmas a Lalalopsy
house and onthe mag-
zine itcame with a
Lalalopsy sillyHair
doll I hope you have
the best Chistmas.
S i c i l e r l y ,
Mackenzie

*From our family to yours,
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year.*

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RELIGION

Atonement Lutheran Church, ELCA

SEBRING — The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be titled “Lessons and Carols” will be led by Rev. Jefferson Cox at the 7 p.m. service. Lector/assistant will be Ron Fitzpatrick. There will be special music one-half hour prior to the service.

Christmas Day service will be led by Deacon David Thoresen with Communion.

Avon Park Church of Christ

AVON PARK — “The Shepherds” (Luke 2: 9) will be the Sunday morning message presented by Larry Roberts, minister.

There will be no Sunday evening service.

Avon Park Church of Christ is at 200 S. Forest Ave. For information, call 453-4692.

Christ Lutheran Church, LCMS

AVON PARK — This Christmas Eve, Pastor Scott McLean will preach a ser-

mon titled “God With Us.” Christmas carols and Candlelight service of Divine Worship is celebrated is the evening.

This Christmas Day, Pastor Scott McLean will preach a sermon titled “The Great Surprise: The Word Among Us.” No adult Bible study.

The church is at 1320 County Road 64, east the Avon Park High School. For more information, call 471-2663 or search the Internet for christlutheranavonpark.org.

Christian Science Church

SEBRING — The lesson sermon on Sunday morning is titled “Christian Science”. The keynote is from Romans 10:15 “. . . How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

The church is at 146 N. Franklin St., Sebring.

Christian Training Church

SEBRING — The regular

services for Sunday, Dec. 25 and for Wednesday, Dec. 28 are canceled. The next meeting will be Jan. 1.

Eastside Christian Church

LAKE PLACID — All are invited to attend the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Our Christmas Day Service will be at the regular time.

There is no Lunch Bunch scheduled for December; the next one will be Jan. 26 at the Olive Garden in Sebring.

Eastside Christian Church is at 101 Peace Ave. in Lake Placid, two miles east of U.S. 27 on County Road 621. The phone number is 465-7065.

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

SEBRING — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 7 p.m. Rev. George Miller will deliver the sermon, “Between Emperors and Angels.” Scripture will be taken from Luke 2:1-20.

Rev. George Miller will lead Christmas Day worship

services. Scripture readings will be taken from Luke 1:26-38; Luke 1:39-45; Luke 2:1-7; and Luke 2:8-21.

The church is 1.7 miles west of U.S. 27 on County Road 634 (Hammock Road). Call 471-1999 or visit sebringemmanuelucc.com.

Faith Lutheran Church

SEBRING — There will be two Christmas Eve (Saturday) services:

- The early service on Christmas Eve will start at 7 p.m. There will be a children’s service with a Christmas play being presented. The play is titled “Christmas in Bethlehem” and is being performed by the children of Faith Lutheran Church.

- There will also be an 11 p.m. candlelight service on Christmas Eve; this service is also offering communion.

Christmas Day (Sunday) will have one service at 10 a.m. Sunday; there will be no Sunday school.

New Year’s Eve (Saturday, Dec. 31) will be offering Communion Service at 7 p.m.

New Year’s Day (Sunday, Jan. 1) we will be offering Communion Service at 10 a.m.; there will be no Sunday school.

First Baptist Church of Avon Park

AVON PARK — First Baptist Church of Avon Park is at 100 N. Lake Ave. with Rev. Jon Beck, pastor.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service begins at 6 p.m. Christmas Day service begins at 10:45 a.m. There will be no Sunday evening service.

Call 453-6681 for details.

Primera Mision Bautista, 100 N. Lake Ave., Avon Park, Johnattan Soltero, Pastor. No Christmas Day service.

First Baptist Church of Sebring

SEBRING — First Baptist Sebring welcomes all to their Christmas Eve service, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. in the church sanctuary and on Christmas Day, Sunday Dec. 25. There will be only one service at 10:30 a.m.; no Sunday school or Sunday

evening service.

New Year’s Day, Sunday, Jan. 1, will have regular services.

The church is at 200 E. Center Ave.

First Christian Church of Avon Park

AVON PARK — The Christmas Eve service will be held at 6 p.m. Christmas morning worship is at 10 a.m.

First Christian Church of Avon Park is at 1016 W. Camphor (behind the Wachovia Bank). Call 453-5334 or email firstchristianap@embarqmail.com with any questions or to request information. The church website is www.firstchristianap.com/.

First Christian Church of Sebring

SEBRING — At the Lord’s Table this Sunday morning will be Bob and Betty Harcourt. Communion will be served by Catherine Baker, Chris Baker, Mike and Carol Graves.

Continued on page 11B

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 Catelyn class (20’s+) begin at 6:30 PM. The adult Bible and Prayer Time begins at 7 p.m. For more information go to www.bethanybaptistap.com or call the church office at 863-452-1136.

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

■ **Fellowship Baptist Church**, 1000 Maxwell St., Avon Park, FL 33825. Sunday: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: Evening Service, 7 p.m.; Children/Youth, 7 p.m. Telephone: 453-4256. Fax:

453-6986. E-mail: office@apfellowship.org; Web site, www.apfellowship.org.

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

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

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

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

■ **First Baptist Church, Sebring**, 200 E. Center Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. Telephone: 385-5154. Dr. David E. Richardson, senior pastor; Rev. Joe Delp, associate pastor, minister of youth and activities; and Rev. Nuno Norberto, associate pastor, minister of music and senior adults. Group Bible Studies, 9:15 a.m.; Blended Service, 10:30 a.m.; Mision Bautista Hispana, 2 p.m.; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday night programs at the ROC begin 5:30 p.m., at church begin 6:30 p.m. Preschool and Mother’s Day Out for children age

6 weeks to 5 years old. Becky Gotsch, director. Call 385-4704.

■ **Florida Avenue Baptist Church**, 401 S. Florida Ave., Avon Park. Mailing address is 710 W. Bell St., Avon Park, FL 33825. Telephone, 453-5339. Rev. John D. Girdley, pastor. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; 11 a.m. Children’s Church; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday night programs for children, youth and adults at 7 p.m. ■ **Independent Baptist Church**, 5704 County Road 17 South, Sebring, FL 33876. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening, 6 p.m. Wednesday service, 7 p.m. Fundamental, soul-winning, mission-minded, King James Bible Church. Larry Ruse, pastor. Phone 655-1899. Bus transportation.

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

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

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

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

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

■ **Spring Lake Baptist Church**, “Where the Bible is Always Open.” Pastor Richard Schermerhorn, 7408 Valencia Road; 655-2610. Assistant Pastor Ronald Smith, 386-1610. On U.S. 98 at the Spring Lake Village II entrance. Sunday

School, 9:45 a.m. for all ages; Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday Mid-week Bible Study and Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m. Nursery available for all services.

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

CATHOLIC

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

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

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

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.

RELIGION

Continued from page 10B

Greeting the congregation this morning are Howard Woodruff and Sherry Kunsak. The readers for the Christmas Meditation and re-lighting of the Advent Candles and lighting of the Christ Candle will be done by Noel and Juanita Roberts and Kateland Altersburger.

A Christmas message, Luke 2:1-20, will be brought by Pastor Juanita Roberts.

The church is at 510 Poinsettia Ave.

First Presbyterian Church of Avon Park

AVON PARK — On Saturday, Dec. 24, there will be a Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. The Christ candle, which stands for "Proclaim," will be lit in addition to the other four candles. Kathleen Richards will be the Litany Reader, Savannah Oldfield will light the candles and Stephen Brown will be the candle lighting reader. There will be a dramatic presentation called "Cloud of Witnesses." Guest organist will be Emily Hayner. Special music dur-

ing the offertory will be April Garcia at the piano playing "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and "Little Drummer Boy." The public is invited.

On Sunday there will be no Sunday school. Pastor Bob Johnson's sermon is titled "The Birth of Jesus" based on Matthew 1:18-25. Special music will be provided by the Johnson family.

The church office will be closed from Dec. 26 through Jan. 2.

The church is at 215 E. Circle St. (with two entrances on Lagrande Street). Call 453-3242.

First Presbyterian Church of Sebring

SEBRING — Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight service at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day sermon title will be "Hope in a Dark Hour," given by the Rev. Darrell A. Peer.

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Placid

LAKE PLACID — First Presbyterian Church of Lake Placid is at 117 N. Oak Ave.; phone num-

ber is 465-2742; and website is www.fpclp.com.

The Christmas Eve Worship Service will have two special candlelight services at 6 and 8 p.m. A nursery will be open for the 6 p.m. worship service.

There will be just one Christmas Day Service in the church sanctuary. There will not be Sunday school on that morning.

First United Methodist Church of Sebring

SEBRING — Christmas Eve candlelight services will be at 5 and 7 p.m. in the sanctuary with communion being served in the chapel following the services. A contemporary service with communion will be at 9 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Rev. A.C. Bryant will bring the message on Christmas Sunday, "Bethlehem - Out of You Shall Come a Ruler" at the one service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. No Sunday school.

Listen Live on WITS-AM 1340 each Sunday to hear the Worship Service.

Call the church office at 385-

5184. The church is downtown at 126 S. Pine St. Visit the website at www.sebringfirstumc.com.

Grace Pointe Church

SEBRING — Grace Pointe Church is at 200 Lark Ave., Sebring Hills Association Clubhouse.

No Tuesday night Bible study this week.

Sunday join members for coffee, sweets and fellowship. The pastor brings a special Christmas message celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Visit www.gracepointeministries.net for upcoming events. Ustream available (live or 24/7) of all services in Sebring. Log on to ustream.tv and then enter gracepointetv in the search box.

Friday Night Bible study with GoToMeeting. Let the pastor know if you would like to participate; call 658-2534.

Heartland Christian Church

SEBRING — Christmas Eve Candle Light service begins at 7

p.m. with The Little Family, The Bernardo Family, The Niemiec Family, The Armentrout Family, and The Cribb Family telling the Christmas Story.

Abby Bernardo will sing "Silent Night;" Roland Bates sings "Mary's Little Child;" and Vic Anderson plays "O Holy Night."

Pastor Ted Moore's sermon this Sunday will be "The Peace of Christmas," with Scripture from Luke 2:1-4.

The service will also include Beverly LeBeck, David Nuske and Flossi Moore singing "Go Tell it on the Mountain," and Vic Anderson's trumpet solo of "The Carol."

Starting Jan. 8 there will be two services - 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

The church is at 2705 Alternate Route 17 South (behind Publix); phone number 314-9693.

Memorial United Methodist Church

LAKE PLACID — Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m., (pre-service music begins at 6:30

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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 concretion 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,** 3240 Grand Prix Drive, Sebring, FL 33872. James Weed, pastor. Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Bible Study, 9 a.m. Nursery provided. Social activities: Choir, Missions, Evangelism. Phone 385-2346.

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

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

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

■ **Bible Fellowship Church,** 3750 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33872. Sunday: American Sign Language: First Worship sermon, songs signed first and second Worship services. First Worship service, 9 a.m.; Second Worship service, 10:45 a.m. Nursery (up to 2 years old) and Sunday school classes both hours. BFC Youth, 6 p.m.; Evening Service, 6:30 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.ctm-forme.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 hand-

bells, 3:15 p.m. Bible Counseling available by appointment, 699-0132. Call the church office for more information about the classes offered. Nursery is provided for babies and toddlers; while young children up to second grade have a special Children's Church offered during the worship service to help them grow in their spiritual knowledge.

■ **Spring Lake Presbyterian Church (USA),** 5887 U.S. 98, Sebring, FL 33876. Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship Service, 10 a.m. Session meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of the month, September through June. Board of Deacon's meet at 5:30 p.m. first Monday of the month. Choir rehearses at 7 p.m. each Wednesday, September through April. Presbyterian Women meet at 10 a.m. the third Thursday of the month. Organist: Richard Wedig. Choir Director: Suzan Wedig. Church phone, 655-0713; e-mail, springlakepc@embarqmail.com, Web site, <http://slpc.embarqspace.com>.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

■ **Avon Park Seventh-day Adventist Church,** 1410 West Avon Blvd., Avon Park. Phone: 453-6641 or e-mail: avonparksda@embarqmail.com, Sabbath School, 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Church Service 10:45 a.m. Saturday. Wednesday prayer meeting 7 p.m. Community Service hours on Tuesday and Thursday is from 9:00 a.m. till 2 p.m. A sale takes place the first Sunday of each month. Senior Pastor Paul Boling. Walker Memorial Academy Christian School offering education for kindergarten through 12th grades. ALL ARE WELCOME. Website is www.discoverjesus.org

■ **Sebring Seventh-Day Adventist Church,** 2106 N. State Road 17, Sebring; 385-2438. Worship Services: 9:15 a.m. Worship hour, 11 a.m. Prayer meeting, Tuesday, 7:15 p.m. Community service: every Monday 9-11 a.m. Health Seminar with Dr. Seralde, every Friday, 10:00 a.m. Pastor Amado Luzbet.

THE CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

■ **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,** 3235 Grand Prix Dr., Sebring, FL 33872; (863) 382-9092 Steve Austin, Bishop; Mark Swift, 1st Counselor; Del Murphy, 2nd Counselor. Family History Center (863) 382-1822. Sunday Services: Sacrament Meeting, 10-11:10 a.m.; Gospel Doctrine, 11:20 a.m. to noon; Priesthood/Relief Society, 12:10-1p.m.; Primary for children, 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Youth Activities: Wednesdays, 7-8:20 p.m. Scouts: first and third Wednesday, 7-8:20 p.m. Activity Days: 8-11 yr old Boys and Girls, second and fourth Wednesdays, 7-8:20 p.m.

THE SALVATION ARMY

■ **The Salvation Army – Center for Worship.** Sunday: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Holiness meeting, 11 a.m.; and Praise meeting and lunch, noon. Tuesday: Bible study, 6:30 p.m.; and Women's Ministries, 7 p.m. Wednesday: Youth Ministries, 4 p.m. All meet-

ings are at 120 N. Ridgewood Ave., Sebring. For more information, visit the Web site www.salvationarmy-sebring.com or call Major Bruce Stefanik at 385-7548, ext. 110.

UNITED METHODIST

■ **First United Methodist Church,** 105 S. Pine St., Sebring, FL 33870. The Rev. A.C. Bryant, pastor. Traditional Worship Service at 8:10 and 10:50 a.m. in the sanctuary, Contemporary Worship in the FLC at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Methodist Youth Fellowship at 5:30 p.m. Sundays with Rick Heilig, youth director. The 10:55 a.m. Sunday worship service is broadcast over WITS 1340 on AM dial. There is a nursery available at all services.

■ **First United Methodist Church,** 200 South Lake Avenue, Avon Park, FL 33825. (863) 453-3759, R. James Weiss, Pastor, Sunday School - 9 a.m., Worship - 10:30 a.m. Bible study third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry on the second and fourth Friday of the month at 2 p.m. for women who love God and crocheting. Visit us at our church Web site: www.fumcap.org.

■ **Memorial United Methodist Church,** 500 Kent Ave., (overlooking Lake Clay) Lake Placid, FL, 33852. The Rev. Fred Ball, pastor. Claude H.L. Burnett, pastoral assistant. Sunday schedule: Heritage Worship Service, 8:30 a.m.; Sunday School for all ages, 9:30 a.m.; Celebration Worship Service at 10:45 a.m.; New Song worship service at 10:45 a.m. Loving nursery care provided every Sunday morning. Middle School Youth, 4 p.m.; High School Youth, 5:30 p.m. We offer Christ-centered Sunday school classes, youth programs, Bible studies, book studies and Christian fellowship. Church office, 465-2422 or www.memorialumc.com. Lakeview Christian School, VPK to grade 5; 465-0313.

■ **St. John United Methodist Church,** 3214 Grand Prix Drive, Sebring, FL 33872. The Rev. Ronald De Genaro Jr., Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Adult Sunday School, 11 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery provided for all services. Phone 382-1736. www.stjohnsebring.org

■ **Spring Lake United Methodist Church,** 8170 Cozumel Lane, (Hwy 98) Sebring. The Rev. Clyde Weaver Jr., Pastor. Worship service starts at 9:55 a.m. Bible Study meets at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Choir Practice at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday. Church office phone: 655-0040.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

■ **Emmanuel United Church of Christ,** Jesus didn't reject people, neither do we. Join us for worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and you'll be embraced by a compassionate congregation that is all-inclusive. We're at the corner of Hammock and Hope. Choir and Bell Choir practice on Wednesday; Bible studies throughout the week. 471-1999; sebringemmanuelucc.com.

RELIGION

Merry is as merry celebrates

Although I may look a little stodgy on the outside with a few gray hairs blossoming on the top, I still know how to celebrate, and this is the time of the year to do that sort of thing. I love a good Christmas celebration.

For the last few years, I have never had to check my calendar to know when it is time to celebrate the Christmas season. It seems that the Thanksgiving turkey always gives rise to what I shall refer to as the Holiday Turkey. No sooner is my Thanksgiving turkey resting snugly inside of me when the Holiday Turkeys begin their assault on Christmas.

Do not let this get out, but I love it.

Some people are quite offended when these Holiday Turkeys begin their assault on Christmas. I would be insulted if they did not. I expect them to attack anything to do with Christmas. It just goes to show that the Christmas story has not lost its offense.

Those of us who celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ embrace this time of the year with a great deal of joy and praise. After all, we are celebrating the fact that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. What better message to celebrate at this time of year when most people are having a difficult time.

Don't get me wrong here. I believe in celebrating Jesus Christ every day. There is something special about setting aside one day out of the year to recognize his birth. I do not worship the manger nor do I venerate the three wise men. I do, however, appreciate the fact that Jesus Christ came into this world and it certainly is my privilege once a year to celebrate His birthday. I know He was not born on December 25, but it is the thought that counts.

Even those who do celebrate Christmas sometime celebrate the wrong thing. People who do not have much money spend themselves poor getting

Guest Column

Rev. James L. Snyder

Christmas presents for their family, and then they spend the rest of the year trying to pay off those purchases.

That is a nice gesture but that is not the reason for the season. Instead of spending money this year for your family, why not spend a little time with them. That will do more good than something you buy in the store that will be obsolete by the time they open it Christmas morning.

Then there are those who take this time of the year to do nothing but party, party, party. By party, I mean getting so inebriated they have no idea what they are doing or saying. Many people will die during the celebration of Christ's birth because of some intoxicated driver.

This is not the reason for the season.

You can always tell the quality of a person by what they celebrate and how they celebrate. Of course, the Holiday Turkeys will accuse me right here of being judgmental. Perhaps they are right.

What is wrong with a little bit of being judgmental? Why is it we can be judgmental in every area of our life except those areas that are matters of life and death.

My doctor is so judgmental that sometimes I would like to punch him in the nose. What right does he have to tell me that I have something wrong with me? Well, he's the doctor. How many people have shortened their life by not listening to their judgmental doctor?

Some alcohol-saturated person will challenge me and say, "You have no right telling me what to do. I'm going to have a good time. Don't you judge me." Then they get smashed, jump in their car and end up killing some young family coming home from a Christmas party.

That certainly is not the reason for the season.

The Christmas season is

not the season to get so drunk you do not know what you are doing that you hurt other people and it is not the season to spend yourself into the poor house for the next year or so.

The Christmas season is the season to celebrate God's answer to man's incurable dilemma. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 KJV). The answer to all of man's problem is Jesus Christ.

The Christmas season is the season to join with family and neighbor and sing of God's amazing Grace. Go ahead. Deck your halls with Holly but in the midst of it all, give God the glory in the highest. This is the season for our streets to echo with the joyous celebration of Christ coming into this world.

Then there are those who object.

I have a proposition for all of the Holiday Turkeys who object to me celebrating Christmas or trying to call it something other than what it really is.

You do not have to celebrate the Christmas season; just allow me to celebrate it in a way that I see fit. Then, I will not celebrate April 1 or Halloween but will allow you to celebrate your holidays anyway you want to. I think that is fair. It is a two-for-one deal I am not sure anybody could ever pass up.

Celebrate your holiday, and I will celebrate the Christmas season and wish all my friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com/. Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun staff.

SNAPSHOTS

Tanglewood plans Christmas Eve services

SEBRING — Saturday there will be a candlelight service held at 7 p.m. at Tanglewood Community Church, 1600 Tanglewood Circle, in the center hall. Pastor Ken Thoreson will present his "Parables in Chalk."

Any questions, call 471-0321. The public is invited.

Royal City puts on Christmas Eve concert

SEBRING — Christmas Eve Concert with Royal City, "Keeping Christ in Christmas," is set for at 9 p.m. at the Whisper Lake Mobile Community Clubhouse, 1429 Whisper Lake Blvd.

This event is open to the public. Use the Memorial Drive entrance. (enter the park, straight to first stop sign, turn left, clubhouse straight ahead).

Free will offering will be taken to show gratitude to this group coming here on Christmas Eve.

First Presbyterian plans Communion, Candlelight service

SEBRING — A Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight service will be held at 6:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church ARP in

Sebring, 319 Poinsettia Ave. Everyone is invited for this special, heart-warming service.

Christmas services at First Baptist Church

LAKE PLACID — Saturday will be the Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. No childcare.

Sunday's Christmas Day service will be one service at 10 a.m. No childcare or Link Groups.

First Baptist of Lorida sets services

LORIDA — First Baptist Church of Lorida activities will be as follows:

- Saturday - Christmas Eve will be a candlelight service with communion at 6:30 p.m.

- Sunday - Christmas - no Sunday school - worship at 10:30 a.m. No evening service this date. Regular schedule resumes on Jan. 1.

- Sunday, Jan. 22 the Wine Family will perform their gospel music at 6:30 p.m. Worship in music with this inspiring family. A love offering will be taken.

The church is just off U.S. 98 in Lorida, at 1927 Blessings Ave. For more information, call 655-1878.

Don't sit home alone on Christmas Day

LAKE PLACID — The First Presbyterian Church

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from page 11B

taken from Luke 1 (King James Version). Pastor Jim Scaggs will bring the message in the morning and evening worship services.

Spring Lake United Methodist Church

SEBRING — Spring Lake United Methodist Church is at 8170 Cozumel Lane. The Rev. Clyde Weaver's sermon is "Christmas - 1784." No fellowship following service.

St. John United Methodist Church

SEBRING — "Great Joy for All!" with biblical reference from Luke 2:1-20 will be the topic for the Candlelight Christmas Eve services at 5 and 7 p.m. On Christmas Day the message at all three services will be "The True Light has Come!" with reference from John 1:1-14. Nursery is provided at all services.

Parkway Free Will Baptist Church

SEBRING — There will be a Christmas Eve service Saturday at 6:30 p.m. There will be morning and evening services on Christmas Day. The morning Bible lesson, "According to God's Promise - Christmas," is

Spring Lake Presbyterian Church

SEBRING — Sunday morning's sermon will be "Gifts?" by the Rev. Don Davis.

There will be a candlelight service at 6:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

will have a free Christmas dinner in its fellowship hall, 118 N. Oak Ave., at 4 p.m. The "12 Words of Christmas" DVD will be showing at 3 p.m.

This event is open to all in the community wanting a healthy, friendly Christmas experience. The menu includes ham, scalloped potatoes, cranberry relish, corn and broccoli, rolls and desserts.

For more information, call 243-4177.

Grief Group begins Jan. 6

SEBRING — Grief Group will meet at 1 p.m. Fridays in January at Emmanuel United Church of Christ fellowship hall chapel. The church is at 3115 Hope St. (off Hammock Road). The first one is Friday, Jan. 6.

For more information, call 471-1999 or email pastormiller224@aol.com.

Flotas celebrate 19 years at Church of Buttonwood Bay

SEBRING — On Monday, Jan. 15 at 2 p.m., there will be an open house in the Buttonwood Bay recreation hall for Rev. Howard and Bea Flota to celebrate 19-plus years of service to the Church of Buttonwood Bay. He retired from the ministry in the fall.

Spring Lake United Methodist Church

SEBRING — Spring Lake United Methodist Church is at 8170 Cozumel Lane. The Rev. Clyde Weaver's sermon is "Christmas - 1784." No fellowship following service.

The Way Church

SEBRING — "The Birth of Jesus" is the message that Pastor Reinhold Buxbaum will bring on Christmas Day.

There will be a fellowship hour at 9:30 a.m. Sunday with breakfast food and videos.

A Candlelight Service will be held Saturday at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 31 there will be a campfire on the church grounds at 6:30 p.m.

The Way Church is at 1005 N. Ridgewood Drive, Sebring. The church phone is 471-6140; the pastor's cell is 273-3674. For church information and the pastor's messages go to www.thewaychurch.org.

RELIGION NEWS GUIDELINES: The News-Sun publishes religion news on Fridays.

The submission deadline is 5 p.m. Monday to be considered for publication in the following Friday's paper.

Submit items to the News-Sun's from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays; fax to 385-2453; send e-mail to editor@newssun.com; or mail to Lifestyle Editor, News-Sun, 2227 U.S. 27 South, Sebring, FL 33870. For information, call 385-6155, ext. 516.

'Idol' runner-up Archuleta to serve Mormon mission

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — "American Idol" runner-up David Archuleta will take a break from his singing career to serve a two-year proselytizing mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The contestant from the 2007-2008 season made the announcement during a Christmas concert Monday in downtown Salt Lake City, according to KSL.com. The 20-year-old Miami native, who grew up in Murray, Utah, said he's not quitting music, but feels a strong call to serve the church.

A video of the concert on Archuleta's website shows him overwhelmed with emotion and crying as he talks about his plans. The crowd screams wildly with the news and gives him a standing ovation.

"It's not because someone told me that I'm supposed to do it, and not because I no longer want to do music, but because it's the feeling that I've felt I need to do this with my life," Archuleta told the crowd.

Archuleta was 16 and one of the youngest contestants when he competed on the sev-

enth season of "American Idol." The runner-up has since released three albums, one of which debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 chart.

In 2010, he performed with the Grammy-winning Mormon Tabernacle choir at the group's annual Christmas concert.

Church spokesman Eric Hawkins confirmed that Archuleta had been called on a mission by the faith. Hawkins said he didn't know when Archuleta was scheduled to report for missionary training.

The location of Archuleta's mission has not been disclosed.

Statistics released in April show the church has more than 52,200 members currently are serving full-time proselytizing or service missions worldwide. About 75 percent of missionaries are men between 19 and 21. Single women over 21 and retired couples make up the remaining 25 percent.

Single men typically serve for two years, and women and couples serve for 18 months.

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1 SEE the LIGHT

A good shot is often dictated by the direction and quality of light, and for most situations that means a soft, warm light on your subject's face. One rule to remember is to always keep the light source behind your camera, even when shooting outdoors. Indoors, turn on all the lights or open all the shades. Lembeck also stresses the importance of the light's quality. "Natural light is always the best light, anytime you can get it," he says.

2 RECORD WHOS TALKING



Anyone who has a video camera knows that home movies are too often dominated by the sound of the camera operator's voice, fingers fumbling with controls — everything but what's being shot. That's because the built-in microphones record the sounds in the immediate vicinity of the camera, not necessarily what you see in the viewfinder. The solution? A good, external directional microphone you can aim at what you are filming. Check your camera manufacturer's Web site for a recommendation or try a universal, panoramic microphone (prices start at around \$75).

Capture your family's best side with these easy strategies for better home movies

Lights! Camera! Action!

With today's video cameras, recording your family gatherings is a snap. But creating genuinely entertaining, watch-'em-again-and-again home movies requires more than just pointing and shooting. Never fear. With our 10 tips and a bit of advice from director Michael Lembeck ("The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause" and a veteran of years shooting his two kids), we'll help you earn a star on your family's own Hollywood Walk of Fame.

— Gregory Lauzon, *FamilyFun* magazine

3 QUIT SHAKIN'!



If there is one golden rule about improving your home videos, it's stop jiggling. Brace your camera against your body or a solid object. For specific shots like a child's play or concert, a tripod can't be beat. Look for a lightweight, compact model with a three-way head (available for \$50 and up). "A tripod is especially terrific for standing group shots and fast action," Lembeck says.

4 PLAN AHEAD

Put a little forethought into your video shoots, and make the process easier and the results better. Charge up all your batteries. Position your subjects in front of an uncluttered background. Adjust your background music. "But most important," Lembeck says, "is to figure out where you want to be and make sure you are there when it happens. You want to place yourself so you see the kids' faces as they run into the room with the presents — not their backs. You don't want to miss a moment of their experience."



5 FRAME the SCENE

When possible, frame your subjects off center. "When you shoot a movie, it's rare to see a close-up right through the goalposts, right on center ice, as we say. We're always leading the audience to the left or right ... it's more cinematic," Lembeck says. That said, be careful not to do too much panning with the camera — a habit sometimes referred to as "firehosing." Try to stay focused on your subject.



6 TELL a STORY

The best home videos tell a tale. Take the camera outside for an "establishing" shot — a few moments of your house decorated for the holidays. Get some footage of the kids huddled excitedly at the top of the stairs; include a shot of a clock. Be sure, though, to avoid "snaphooting" (filming just a few seconds in each clip). In general, let the story tell itself. "Don't try to make anyone behave. It ruins the spontaneity," Lembeck says. "Just photograph. That's photojournalism — being in the middle of the experience when a gift is being opened. That's what you love looking at when you play it back."

7 ZOOM with DiSCREtIOn

Using the zoom feature when you shoot can be pretty tantalizing, but remember: the more you zoom in, the shakier your picture gets, and the action of zooming in and out can make viewers motion sick (too much, in fact, is called "motorzooming"). One solution is to get physically closer to your subject and not use the zoom. Another is to use the feature sparingly and do it slowly. "You can get nice and close without being obtrusive if you zoom a bit," Lembeck says. "You can get in there without spoiling the moment."

SHARE your MOVIES

In addition to making copies of your movies on DVDs and sending them to friends and family, a great way to share videos is by posting compressed clips on the Web. A number of sites now offer video sharing. Some, like YouTube (youtube.com), are free, but have ads. Others, like Phanfare (phanfare.com), charge a fee but have a more family-friendly interface and feel. Phanfare also lets you upload still pictures.



APPLY the FiNiSHiNG TOUCh

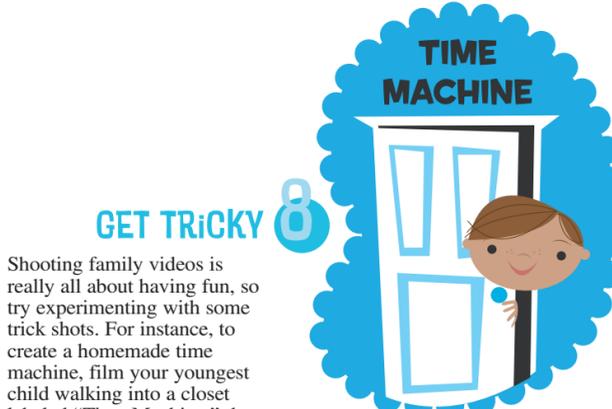
Many new home computers come with easy-to-use video editing software that lets you turn the roughest digital footage into Oscar-worthy material. It's especially

good for cutting down long, drawn-out scenes and focusing on the most entertaining moments. You can also:

- Create title and credit frames
- Add transitions
- Overlay sound tracks
- Change the order of scenes

For the most watchable results, though, resist the temptation to use every special-effect transition in the book; the best ones are usually subtle. You want your viewers to focus on the subject matter, not the software wizardry. (For other tips on editing home videos, check out videomaker.com.)

9



GET TRiCKY

Shooting family videos is really all about having fun, so try experimenting with some trick shots. For instance, to create a homemade time machine, film your youngest child walking into a closet labeled "Time Machine," then hit Pause. Without moving or changing anything else, have your eldest child swap places with the youngest, then film him walking out. Use a similar technique to shoot, say, an endless stream of family exiting a door of a relative's car that's just pulled up.

