

NEWS-SUN

Highlands County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1927

Sunday, December 25, 2011

www.newssun.com

Volume 92/Number 152 | 75 cents

Inside



How to give a proper toast

PAGE 12B

Forecast



Times of clouds and sun

High **82** Low **62**

Complete Forecast
PAGE 12A

Online



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

Yes
39.4%

No
60.6%

Total votes: **33**

Next question: Would you be in favor of a ban on all cellphone use in vehicles?

Make your voice heard at
www.newssun.com

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Merry Christmas!



Courtesy photo

Eva (pictured) and other Lake Placid area children were entertained by Toby the Clowns and Mr. and Mrs. Claus Dec. 19. Children of members and guests had lots of smiles and fun at the Lake Placid Elks Lodge 2661.

Shopping spree shows students' giving nature

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR
sgholar@newssun.com

SEBRING — More than 100 students scammed throughout the Sebring K-Mart Friday in search of toys, jewelry and necessities during the Florida Sportsmen's Association's annual shopping spree.

Most of the younger kids purchased toys and things they wanted, but almost all of the middle and high school kids purchased necessities, not only for themselves but for loved ones.

Sebring High School sophomore Almitra Nelson split her money between herself and her mother. Nelson purchased apparel that she stated was long overdue.

"I really needed a lot of new stuff but financially I haven't been able to get it," Nelson said.

Nelson and her young cousin, fifth grader Diamond Donaldson, searched the clothing and ladies garments area before stopping on the home decor aisle.

See SHOPPING, page 5A



News-Sun photo by SAMANTHA GHOLAR
Jolen Hamilton (left) and his dad Hammer check out Nerf toys in K-Mart Friday afternoon during the Florida Sportsmen Association annual Christmas Shopping Spree. Hamilton was one of over 100 students who received a gift card to purchase items for Christmas.

Lawmakers consider school bus ads

By BILL KACZOR
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Advertising seems to be everywhere these days — on city transit buses, at sports stadiums, on airliner tray tables and even in public restrooms.

So why not on the exterior of school buses?

Florida is one of 34 states that

prohibit such advertising, but three similar bills have been filed to lift that ban and provide a new funding source for cash-strapped school districts.

"We are in such tough times financially now that we have to look at various means to raise money," Sen. Bill Montford said Friday.

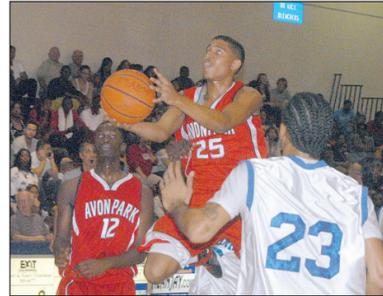
The Tallahassee Democrat is

sponsoring one of the bills (SB 344). It's scheduled for its first committee hearing Jan. 9.

Critics, though, say school bus ads could be a safety hazard and legal headache.

"If I thought it was a safety issue I would not have filed this legislation," said Montford, who's

See ADS, page 5A



Rising above

Sebring leads for three quarters, but Avon Park rallies to top rivals

SPORTS, 1B

LPPD: Victim loses over \$20,000 in family scam

By ED BALDRIDGE
ed.baldrige@newssun.com

LAKE PLACID — According to Lake Placid's Lt. James Fansler, it's the season to scam folks by playing on their sense of family.

The LPPD reported two incidents where Lake Placid residents have been scammed out of money in order to help a supposed relative out of trouble.

In one case, more than \$20,000 was allegedly stolen after several transactions.

Fansler could not go into great detail about the cases because they are currently under investigation, but he wished to inform Highlands County citizens to be on the lookout for these scams.

Fansler told the News-Sun on Friday

See SCAM, page 7A

Gov. Scott has same goals, new approach

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Rick Scott is going into his second legislative session with the same priorities — creating jobs and making the state more business friendly — and a new approach.

Scott is a conservative Republican and the Legislature is overwhelmingly conservative Republican, but the sides clashed at the beginning of the year as Scott came in as a political outsider vowing to change Tallahassee. He surrounded himself with a team also made up of outsiders, announced his proposed budget at a tea party rally in a central Florida church and set an agenda that even had other Republicans politely questioning if it was too much.

This year his goals are more realistic, he announced his budget in the Capitol without a crowd waving "Don't Tread On Me" flags and his team now includes longtime Tallahassee insiders. In other



Scott

See SCOTT, page 7A

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Making travel plans



Courtesy photo

Michael Witham (left) and Wayne Phillips of the Alan Jay Automotive Network review upcoming travel plans with Charlie Brown (right), state president of the Florida FFA Association. Charlie, along with many other state FFA officers from all over the United States, will be embarking soon on a two-week International Leadership Seminar in China. The Alan Jay Automotive Network is proud to be a sponsor of Highlands County's first-ever FFA state president for the upcoming trip.

Aktion Club brings joy to 22 children

Special to the News-Sun

The Aktion Club of Highlands County surprised 22 children in eight families this holiday season with more than 300 presents, food supplies and gift cards.

This was the fourth annual Adopt-A-Family Project taken on by the Aktion Club, which is a civic club for people with disabilities sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Sebring. The Aktion Club adopts families from Children Medical Services in Highlands County, which serves children from birth to age 3 who have disabilities. The families are very low income and need assistance during the holiday to make sure their children have something for Christmas.

"This project keeps growing and growing each year," past Aktion Club president Ralph Meyers said. Meyers also played Santa Claus as he visited each home.

The club started off with one family its first year, then grew to three families and last year took on five families. This year, the club adopted eight families with a total of 22 children. Most of the families were in Avon Park with the exception of one in Sebring.

The community stepped forward to help with this huge project. Kathi Taveniere, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Sebring, involved her business, Larson Allen CPAs, Consultants and Advisors in Sebring, to shop for two of the families. The Avon Park National Guard Armory had several toys left over from its toy drive to share with the Aktion Club. CVS in Avon Park donated bread products. News-Sun Publisher Romona Washington and South Florida Community College Volleyball Coach Kim Crawford also made a donation of food supplies and gift cards. Sebring residents Sherry Hunt, Susan Walgren, James Smith, Greta McDonald, Boots Hanson and Bobbi Donna made cash donations to purchase items. There were many

10th Heartland Harmonizers Barbershop Show Feb. 25

AVON PARK — The 10th annual Heartland Harmonizers' Barbershop Show will be held at South Florida Community College Auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$15, and may be purchased at the door or by calling 471-0706.

The Heartland Harmonizers, a chorus of 55 men under the direction of Bob Thiel, will sing a collection of four-part harmony tunes in a show entitled

"Home of the Brave," a tribute to the servicemen and women who have served our country so valiantly.

Also appearing on the show will be guest quartet "Pursuit," a former Florida Sunshine District Quartet champion, plus several chapter quartets and other special musical performances.

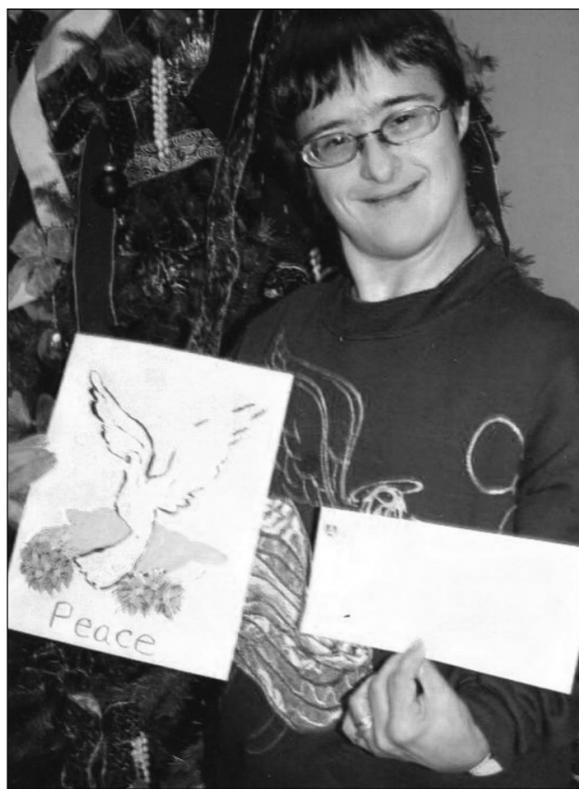
The Sebring Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society was formed in 2001, primarily through the efforts of Sounds of Sebring. It began

with a core group of 12 men, and has steadily grown to its present size.

Any man who likes to sing is invited to join them on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the chorus room of Sebring High School on Kenilworth Boulevard.

Each year a portion of the proceeds from the annual show are donated to a designated charity.

Winning artwork



Courtesy photo

Ridge Area Arc consumer Kerrie Baker of Avon Park holds her winning artwork 'Peace Dove' that took second place in The Able Trust 2011 Holiday Card Contest. This design, along with the first place and third place winners, will be used by the foundation to create holiday cards. Baker received \$75 for her work. Created by the Florida Legislature in 1990, the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, parent organization of The Able Trust is a non-profit public/private partnership. Its mission is to be a key leader in providing Floridians with disabilities successful opportunities for employment.

Gingrich attacks Virginia for keeping him off ballot

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich's campaign is attacking the system in Virginia that will keep him off the state's Republican presidential primary ballot.

The state GOP says Gingrich and Texas Gov. Rick Perry failed to submit the required 10,000 signatures to appear on the March 6 Super Tuesday ballot. It's a

setback for Gingrich, who has surged in popularity but struggled to organize his campaign.

The Gingrich campaign says Virginia has a "failed system."

Campaign director Michael Krull issued a statement Saturday saying people deserve to vote for any contender — especially leading candidates.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

U.S. Sport Aviation Expo to have food and wine pairing events for charity

SEBRING — This Jan. 19-22, attendees of Expo will have the opportunity to sample fine wines, gourmet food and exotic cheeses during five food, cheese and wine pairing events over the four-day weekend of the U.S. Sport Aviation Expo at Sebring Regional Airport.

World-renowned chefs and wine experts from Georgia and Sebring, will dazzle guests with luscious wines, cooking demonstrations and recipes for fine cuisine such as tuna tartare Napoleon with avocado and wasabi aioli, chicken cordon bleu, and tiramisu. Wine experts from Republic National Distributing Company will impart the delicacies of wine pairing with the delightful food served. Artisanal cheeses from all over the world will be sampled with specially paired wines during the gourmet-sponsored event as well.

All of the food and wine pairing events benefit Heartland EAA Chapter 1240 and Humane Society of Highlands County. Ticket information and event details are available at www.sport-aviation-expo.com or by calling Beverly at 655-6444.

Winter Fest 2012 set for Jan. 21

SEBRING — There's going to be snow...in Sebring? That's right, but not until after Christmas.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

of the Sun Coast is proud to announce its seventh annual Winter Fest Outdoor Community Festival! Presented by the Gertrude S. McGrew Charitable Trust.

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

Ian Belanger with Belanger Media Group will be there to keep the party going and the Cohan Radio Group's own 105.7 Lite FM will be on scene for a live remote broadcast. For a small \$5 entrance fee, Winter Fest will offer plenty of activities, entertainment and food the whole family will enjoy.

For more information on this exciting event, contact Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Resource Director Kiko Vazquez at 402-9001, or via e-mail at kvazquez@bbssun.org.

Decorative Painting for the New Year

LAKE PLACID — Have a New Year's resolution to spruce up your home? Decorative Painting Classes can help you and save money at the same time.

Continued on page 5A

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 <h3>Lottery Center</h3>	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. 23 7 12 19 27 28 Dec. 22 3 10 15 18 21 Dec. 21 1 3 7 20 29 Dec. 20 8 19 26 35 36
	Dec. 23 (n) 0 3 8 9 Dec. 23 (d) 8 7 2 2 Dec. 22 (n) 7 2 8 8 Dec. 22 (d) 6 7 2 7
	Dec. 23 13 19 35 42 10 Dec. 20 1 16 33 40 15 Dec. 16 4 21 28 44 9 Dec. 13 16 27 29 42 7
	Dec. 21 10 13 15 31 54 PB: 18 PP: 5 <i>Next jackpot \$125 million</i> Dec. 17 13 28 49 51 59 PB: 33 PP: 4 Dec. 14 2 24 46 52 56 PB: 19 PP: 5

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

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Social Security Disability

New Claims • Hearings by a Judge
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Romona Washington — Publisher and Executive Editor
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Price Good 12-21/12-31

Whirlpool® Super Capacity Tall Tub Dishwasher
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• SheerClean™ Wash System
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*MSRP \$379
Price Good 12-21/12-31

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

TODAY'S EDITORIAL

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of *New York's Sun*, and an editorial response was printed Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial. The *News-Sun* is happy to reprint it each Christmas.

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear Editor: I am 8 years old.
"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
"Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.'
"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?
"Virginia O'Hanlon.
"115 West Ninety-Fifth Street."

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except (what) they see. They

think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming

down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

NEWS-SUN

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Christmas just once a year?

Today is Christmas Day. All over the world, millions of people will take a break from the busyness of life and reflect on a Baby lying in a manger. They will celebrate His birth and rejoice in what God has done for His people.

Even those who don't believe in Jesus take time out during this time of year to celebrate goodwill towards their fellow man. Maybe it's just me, but people seem kinder during the holiday season. A friend of mine just told me of a person who's going around their area, anonymously paying off people's layaways. It's not something you read about every day.

Then there is the famous tale of the Christmas Truce, when in 1914 many German and American soldiers along the Western Front celebrated an unofficial cease-fire during World War I. In many places artillery fell silent, Christmas carols were raised, and soldiers from both sides even ventured into No Man's Land to exchange holiday greetings and small gifts.

I am glad that there is a time of year like this. When people are thinking more about others than themselves. And I can't object to people thinking about Jesus. At least for a few hours, more people than usual are focused on the Son of God.

Here's my question, to both sets of people: why only once a year?

Whatever you believe about Christmas, the date probably has little to do with when Jesus was actually born. Someone long ago decided this was when we'd commemorate the occasion of Jesus' birth.

Again, I have no problem with people using this time to think about when Jesus was born. But His birth, while important, is such a small part of His story. The Bible doesn't even tell us when it takes place. Why focus on this particular day and forget about Him the other 364?

There is so much more to Jesus than His birth.

Laura's Look

Laura Ware

There is the life He lived, setting an example for all men to follow. There are His teachings, precepts that all men would do well to follow. There is the death He died, giving us an opportunity for a relationship with God Himself. Don't these things deserve our attention as well?

Yes, I know there's Easter. But that only comes once a year as well. Doesn't the Savior of all mankind deserve consideration more often than twice a year? What's wrong with celebrating Him and all He's done for us every day of the year?

Then there are those who use this time to reflect on the broader Christmas message – peace on earth, goodwill to men. Why is that a message reserved for just this time of year? Does it possess some kind of expiration date?

What if we took the things we value so much during the holiday season – charity, kindness, peace – and applied them year round? What kind of world would we live in if we carried the Christmas spirit with us throughout the year?

Maybe I'm crazy. Maybe I just don't understand. Maybe something like what I'm proposing is just flat out impossible for most people.

But would it hurt to even try? To carry the Christmas spirit – whatever that means to you – for an extra day, even? Who knows what good might come from it?

A Merry Christmas to all my readers. May the holiday season bring you joy and happiness. And may 2012 be a better year for all of us.

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

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICY

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

Please keep your letters to a maximum of 400 words. We have to make room for everybody. Letters of local concern take priority.

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

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

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



TODAY'S LETTERS

Costs to law enforcement could rise

Editor:

Sebring has four prisons within 50 miles of it. There are employees at each of those facilities that live right here and spend their salaries locally. That could all be coming to a close.

The Legislature already tried to do just that but it was found to be unconstitutional in the way it was done. They will try again in January. So, if the Highlands County commissioners don't unify and send a resounding message to the Legislature that they do not want privatization, it could very well happen. This will add costs to Highlands County law enforcement, these are things the Governor and the Legislature don't want you to know.

Mark Forsyth
Sebring

County is blind to car enthusiasts

Editor:

As a long time racer (30 years) in a racing made area, Highlands County has decided that my present and future race cars are in violation of county code.

The cars in question are 95 percent complete and over 35 years old. I have been informed that

I have 10 days to remove them or the county will. There has been no hearing or face-to-face meeting where I could state my case.

I have been informed that a magistrate will hear my case four months from now (April 2012).

What has happened to due process? The SEMA Action Network has addressed this dictatorial power and is trying to correct the problem while we, the victims, are still being victimized. Is this what America has come to in 2011?

The car hobby pumps millions of dollars into Highlands County, yet the county is blind to the very people who made Sebring an internationally known city.

Weldon Corbitt
Sebring

The rest of the story

Editor:

We Americans do have short memories. Our President uses this to his benefit.

I hope you remember not so long ago, it was the Republicans who was for passing legislation to make President Bush's tax cuts permanent. Now he's representing the idea that the Republicans are against extending the tax cuts. If you heard his recent speech, you know he's for extending them temporarily. However,

he is not for extending them permanently.

If you pay close attention, you will see, he's all about doing everything to help the middle class and poor; that sounds good, but that's like purchasing all those things you have longed for so long, putting them on your credit card, knowing full well you won't be able even to make the minimum payment with the interest steadily piling up.

There are many facing this catastrophe right now. This is exactly what has happened to our deficit.

President Obama doesn't get all the credit for that, but he has certainly added to it tremendously. The Republicans' plan is to cut spending to compensate for the funds not received from tax cuts.

The President doesn't agree; he just wants to borrow more, further increasing the deficit or print more money. When he prints more money, it decreases the value of our dollar.

Have you noticed how things keep increasing in price? He talks about jobs, but he's against the pipeline to lower the price of oil and furnish many jobs. He was against the Boeing plant, unless they joined the union, which causes many problems. The union supports his campaign. His Obamacare takes thousands

of dollars from our Medicare. Republicans are for sustaining our Medicare and Social Security realizing there are many things in our government that does none of us any good other than the Washington bureaucrats. He wants to take from the wealthy and give to the poor. If you worked hard and accumulated, would you want someone to take it and give it to others?

We all have opportunities; the trick is what one does with them. There have been many who have lost property because of this eminent domain, which most of us have never heard of until this President was elected. He is behind Eric Holder, head of the Justice Department, with this "Fast and Furious"; the entire group is declaring they don't know anything about the problem. Well, if you are responsible for a thing and you know nothing about it, to me says that you are not doing your job and need to be terminated.

We have so much corruption in our government, I pray we will elect those who think like Ron Paul; he seems to represent a lot of us who may not even realize it.

Watch the news, read, listen, pray for wisdom. May our wonderful God be our guide.

Willie Clyde (Toole) Cloud
Sebring

Shopping spree helps more than 100

Continued from page 1A

"I want to get my mom a present," Nelson said. "I haven't been able to get her anything yet and this helps out so much."

For close to three decades, the FSA has provided hundreds of Highlands County's underprivileged students an opportunity to experience a different side of Christmas.

Event organizer Robert Saffold has worked to make sure each of the students is given a gift card that was used to purchase everything from underwear to food.

Nelson revealed that this was the first year that she participated in the shopping spree, however she was happy that she did.

"I think this is a very good program, but I feel like they need more different types of people. Everybody here is from the same neighborhood. It's an all black neighborhood. It would be even better to see more different types of people, not just the black kids," Nelson said.

Though the program has always seen a predominately black turnout, the FSA prides itself on helping any youth in need.

A few aisles over, sixth



News-Sun photo by SAMANTHA GHOLAR
Students wait patiently as their names are called to receive their gift cards courtesy of the Florida Sportsmen Association. Each year the FSA holds the Christmas Shopping Spree event allowing underprivileged kids to purchase necessities, toys, or whatever their hearts desire for the holiday.

grader Vanasia Pough and her mother Connie Santiago looked through bedding.

"She never buys herself anything. Never," said Santiago of her daughter. "She is always buying for others."

Santiago could be heard reminding her daughter to "get something for yourself" for several minutes, but her cart was filled with mostly items for her young cousin and of course her mom.

Two Sebring Middle

School boys sifted through the earring counter looking for the perfect gift. When asked if they were shopping for a girlfriend both boys replied "no."

"It's for my mom," one of the boys replied.

Joy delivered to 22 children

Continued from page 2A
other groups and individuals who made donations.

The club gathered all the toys, including some larger items such as four bicycles, one battery-operated jeep, one battery-operated three wheeler, a table for cars and a tent, to start wrapping on Dec. 15. The larger items were donated by Patty Pella, Tonja Weed and Cheryl Longabaugh. The club finished the wrapping in time for delivery on Dec. 22. There were approximately 15 presents for every child on the list.

Each family also received a box of non-perishable food items and a gift card to Publix. Several clothing items were purchased as well. The club even made

sure to include a gift for the mothers.

"They really didn't have too much in their home," Aktion Club member Elizabeth Jordan said after visiting one of the families. "You can tell they really appreciated everything we did for them."

"We cried after they left," grandmother Susan Hall said. "When those children pulled up in that van and unloaded all those presents, that was the real joy of Christmas. They were like angels in disguise."

Hall is the caregiver of seven grandchildren who received gifts from the Aktion Club. "The real joy will come after my children start opening these presents."



Courtesy photo
Lamar Chester, 2, could not wait to try out the new jeep his family got from the Aktion Club while his mom, Anastasia Kidd, holds Elijah, 18 months. Aktion Club member Elizabeth Jordan sits more presents by the tree. Anastasia has five children who received gifts from the Aktion Club.

Ads on buses being considered to help state schools ease financial strain

Continued from page 1A

also CEO of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

The Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability issued a report this week that makes no recommendation but cites opposition to school bus ads from the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services and Florida Association for Pupil Transportation.

Both groups say advertising intended to catch the attention of passing motorists also could distract them so they wouldn't notice a bus has stopped or that students are getting on or off.

Montford said that shouldn't be a problem as the ads will be relatively small. A House staff analysis of a similar bill (HB 19) says there's been no specific research on the effect school bus advertising has on safety. It also notes, though, that the National Highway Safety Administration says the big, yellow school buses are eight times safer than smaller passenger vehicles.

The two pupil transportation groups also say it may be difficult to control the kinds of advertising allowed on buses and that defending a district's ad policy might cost more in legal expenses than the advertisements bring in.

"We're not going to put ads for condoms and liquor on the sides of school buses," Montford responded.

The legislation would prohibit advertising for alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, prescription drugs, parimutuel wagering and anything sexual in nature.

Also banned would be political ads, anything that's misleading or deceptive and material that's inappropriate, offensive or insensitive to children or the community. The House bill also would prohibit material "effecting the establishment of religion."

Such limitations could raise legal issues under the free speech provision of the First Amendment, the critics say. Montford, though, noted there's been advertising at public school athletic facilities for decades with similar restrictions and there have been no legal

problems.

Florida is one of five states that currently allow advertising inside school buses, but no school district has yet permitted such ads, the legislative report says. It notes there's a concern about the appropriateness of pitching products to a "captive audience" of children.

The House staff analysis says in Colorado, one of the states that allow exterior advertising, only 10 districts have chosen to put commercial messages on their buses. It's estimated they raise \$5,000 to \$10,000 per bus annually.

The Florida bills would require that half of any funds raised by such advertising in Florida be used for school transportation.

Montford said he filed his bill in desperation after the Legislature cut school spending earlier this year.

"Quite frankly, I was somewhat reluctant to do it," he said. But he added, "The need for discretionary funding for the schools is so great that this is a viable option. ... We've got to do something."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Continued from page 2A

Judy Nicewicz will begin classes at the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative on Jan. 4. Class time will be 1-4 p.m.

The first class will be painting on glass.

Nicewicz also gives classes in her home studio in Avon Park on Monday evening and Tuesday morning. For more information on classes in Lake Placid please call the Caladium Arts and Crafts Cooperative at 699-5940. For Classes in the Avon Park and Sebring area please call 273-1339 or 386-0123.

Events at local lodges, posts and clubs

AVON PARK — The public is invited to play bunco at the Highlands Shrine Club, 2604 SR 17 South, on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. The event is open to new or experienced players; cost is \$3 per person. Phone 471-2425 for information.

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

Today - Christmas dinner served for \$5, (call for details).

Tuesday - Karaoke from 5-8 p.m., call for details. For times and details, call 452-9853.

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

Today - Merry Christmas to all. Lodge closed.

Monday - Lodge open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For times and details, call 465-0131.

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

Today - Merry Christmas! Hors'd'oeuvres served at 4 p.m.

For times and details, call 699-5444.

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

Today - Post closed - Merry Christmas.

Wednesday - Drawings 3 and 4 p.m. Karaoke 4-7 p.m.

For more information, call 465-0975.

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

Today - Lodge closed - Merry Christmas.

Monday - BPOE Board meeting will be at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday - BPOE Initiation 7 p.m.

For details, call 465-2661.

SEBRING — The Sebring

Recreation Club will host the following events:

Today - Christmas Day dinner 1 p.m.

Monday - Ladies Social Club 1 p.m. Shuffleboard

scrambles at 1:15 p.m.

For details, call 385-2966.

SEBRING — The Sebring Elks will host the following events:

Today - Lodge closed. Merry Christmas.

Monday - BPOE Board meeting 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday - BPOE Initiation 7 p.m.

For details, call 471-3557.

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 life...for God was pleased to have
 all of his fullness dwell
 in Him (Jesus
 Christ) and
 through him
 to reconcile
 to himself
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Colossians 1:19
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Scott to seek different route to goals in 2012

Continued from page 1A

'I want to put us in a position that, if you think about being in business, if you're going to be in business in America, you're going to be in business in Florida'

RICK SCOTT
governor

in business in Florida," Scott said. "People like to live here. We don't have a personal income tax, if we don't have a business tax, then it will even make it even more logical that people are going to pick Florida first."

Among cuts he's proposing are 4,500 government jobs, many in the state prison system. He also wants to raise the cost of health insurance contributions for many state employees.

In all he wants to cut state spending \$1.8 billion — about 4.6 percent — mostly from Medicaid by changing the way hospitals and doctors are reimbursed for providing care. He does, though, want to boost school spending by a \$1 billion.

"It's one of these good news and bad news situations," said Democratic House Leader Ron Saunders of Key West, adding he's glad that Scott is boosting money for education, but it shouldn't come at the expense of other vital programs. He said he has had a few meetings with Scott and told him that Democrats also

support jobs, but they're encouraging spending on infrastructure needs instead of corporate giveaways.

"Those are hypothetical jobs. What I'd like to see is sewer projects and funding for roads and bridges. Those are real jobs," Saunders said.

But Saunders, too, notices a difference in Scott's approach this year.

"He's seeing the polls and if he wants to re-elected, which he says he does, 26 percent isn't where he wants to be," Saunders said.

Saunders and others credit his improved relationship with lawmakers with the arrival of his second chief of staff, Steve MacNamara, who left Senate President Mike Haridopolos' office. Haridopolos said he remembers when Scott approached him about hiring MacNamara away.

"I was like, 'Heck yeah!' It that will only improve the relationship more," Haridopolos said.

Haridopolos said there isn't really a philosophical difference between Scott, himself and Cannon, but the communication has improved.

"The difference between this year and last year is that his staff last year did not have that Tallahassee experience, understanding not only process but even some of the complexities of the issues," Haridopolos said.

"Even when we disagreed on the corporate tax — that was a high profile thing last year — he understands why we made the decision we did. And you saw this year he adjusted the corporate tax cut versus his previous request."

STARS share Christmas cheer



Courtesy photo

Santa Claus and members of the Special STARS Recreation Club present a gift to Diane Reisig, who is staying at Kenilworth Care Center in Sebring. Special STARS Recreation Club members went caroling Sunday, Dec. 18., to four different nursing homes throughout Highlands County that had members of their club residing there. The carolers started at The Oaks of Avon in Avon Park to sing to John Jones and then went to sing to Christine Frank in Lake Placid Health Care Center. They went to Rosewood Senior Care Villas in Lake Placid to sing to Kathy Mitchell and then went back toward Sebring to sing to Reisig. The carolers presented a little live Christmas tree to each of their friends staying at the nursing homes. The singers finished off at Holiday Inn Express in Sebring to sing to the staff there who then treated them to hot chocolate and cookies. Santa made a surprise visit for the carolers.

Scam uses family ties

Continued from page 1A

that the most recent incidents have happened "within the last two weeks" and that other scams are still active.

Here is how the family scams work.

An individual, usually an elderly person, will get a call that the grandchild of a recently deceased relative is in trouble and needs money.

The caller has some information about the relative, and in most cases claims they are having trouble and need cash immediately wired in order to make it home safely.

Sometimes, the fake relative claims they have been hurt in an accident and the

money is for medical attention.

Although some of the calls have originated from inside the U.S., in the two Lake Placid cases the money was transferred out of the country, according to Fansler.

"It is believed the suspects read through the obituaries looking for long lists of names. A name is usually picked from the list and a call is made to the widow/widower," Fansler explained.

"In a fragile state from the loss of a loved one, the victim is usually in a panic thinking another family member could be lost. They are usually directed to send money via Western Union,"

Fansler stated in a press release Friday.

"If anyone receives a call similar to this, please do some quick investigating before you become a victim as well. Make a call to another family member who may be close to the family member who is allegedly calling you for money. Maybe even call the family member who is allegedly calling you. This quick tip can save you some major frustration," Fansler said.

Fansler also advised that anyone who gets these calls should notify local law enforcement immediately.

Anyone with information about these cases can call the LPPD at 699-3758.

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BUSINESS/MONEY

Credit card stolen? Here's what you do

Despite high-profile media attention, the odds of having your credit or debit card number stolen by crooks remains at historically low levels. That said, it's always good to know what to do in case lightning does strike and someone fraudulently uses your card. Left unchecked, they might try to run up bills, drain your checking account or worse — steal your identity.

Here are actions to take if this happens to you:

First, contact the bank or credit union that issued your card. You'll find a toll-free number on the back of your card, on your billing statement or at the company's website. Close the compromised account and open a new one with a different account number. Change related passwords or PIN numbers and notify companies that have automatic payments tied to the closed account to make sure you don't miss a payment. Also log all calls, letters and emails you have with your card issuer about the fraud — this will be helpful if you need to file a claim or police report.

Contact one of the three major credit bureaus, Equifax (888-766-0008), Experian (888-397-3742) or TransUnion (800-680-7289), and place an Initial Fraud Alert on your credit file if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. Whichever bureau you contact will notify the other two to do the same. If you wish, you can renew these fraud alerts each quarter, free of charge. If you determine that you actually have suffered identity theft, you can also file an Extended Fraud Alert, which will stay on your reports for seven years.

Placing a fraud alert entitles you to one free credit report from each bureau. Although the alert makes it harder for someone to open new credit accounts in your name, it won't necessarily prevent them from using existing accounts. That's why it's important to close compromised accounts and to carefully review your



Metro Services

There are several steps you should take if your credit card is stolen.

credit reports for errors, fraudulent activity, or suspicious credit inquiries from an unfamiliar source. Also be aware that posting a fraud alert could delay your own ability to obtain new credit.

If you determine someone has stolen from your account or your identity has otherwise been compromised, file an identity theft report with the police. The Federal Trade Commission's "Defend: Recover From Identity Theft" website contains step-by-step instructions for completing and filing the report with local, state and federal law-enforcement agencies (www.ftc.gov/consumer).

Also send copies of the report — by certified mail, return requested — to the credit bureaus and companies whose accounts were impacted. You can also file a complaint with the FTC, which will enter the information into a secure online database shared by thousands of civil and criminal law-enforcement authorities worldwide (<https://www.ftc->

complaintassistant.gov).

Most card issuers provide "zero liability" coverage for unauthorized credit and debit card use when you promptly report the loss. Rules vary, so ask your bank or credit union for its policies.

Going forward, carefully monitor your monthly credit card and bank statements for fraudulent charges. To learn other good tips for protecting your personal and account information and preventing fraud, visit:

The National Cyber Security Alliance's www.StaySafeOnline.org.

The FBI's "Be Crime Smart" page (www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/be_crime_smart).

Visa Inc.'s VisaSecuritySense (www.visasecuritysense.com), which contains tips on preventing fraud online, in stores and at ATMs, spotting deceptive marketing practices, and more.

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

New-home sales up in November but 2011 figures dismal

AP Real Estate Writer
WASHINGTON — Americans bought slightly more new homes in November, but 2011 will likely end up as the worst year for sales in history.

The Commerce Department says new-home sales rose 1.6 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 315,000. That's less than half the 700,000 new homes that economists say should be sold to sustain a healthy housing market.

It's also below the 323,000 homes sold last year — the worst year for sales on records dating back to 1963. December would have to produce its best monthly sales total in four years for 2011 to finish ahead of last year's total.

New homes account for less than 10 percent of the housing market. But they have a big impact on the economy. Each new home

built creates roughly three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in taxes, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

Economists note that housing is a long way from fully recovering and that many people are opting to rent because they can't afford to buy or don't feel a home is a

wise investment right now. Home construction has begun a gradual comeback and should add to economic growth in 2011. But the main reason for that increase is that the rate of apartment construction is nearly twice as fast as it was two years ago. Single-family-home construction remains depressed.



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Spending, incomes show weak November gains

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Consumers spent at a lackluster rate in November as their incomes barely grew, suggesting that U.S. households may struggle to sustain their spending into 2012.

Consumer spending rose just 0.1 percent in November, matching the modest October increase, the Commerce Department reported Friday. Incomes also rose 0.1 percent. That was the weakest showing since a 0.1 percent decline in August.

Both the spending and income gains fell below expectations. Economists have said that solid increases in spending could boost economic growth in the final three months of what has been a disappointing year.

Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, called the consumer spending figure disappointing. He said it would probably mean lower economic growth than had been expected.

Rather than grow at an annual rate of up to 3 percent in the October-December quarter, the economy will

likely expand at a rate of about 2.5 percent this quarter, Ashworth says. That would still be an improvement from the 1.8 percent growth in the July-September quarter.

While the economy remains vulnerable to threats, particularly a recession in Europe, the job market has improved, lifting hopes for next year.

Ike Lee, M.D. United States Vietnam Veteran

Internal Medicine

- Former Director of Geriatrics at Mt. Sinai Hospital
- Graduate of Northwestern Medical School of Geriatric Fellowship
- Graduate of University of Illinois Medical School

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REAL ESTATE EMPLOYMENT TRANSPORTATION
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6 lines - 14 pubs
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- Please check your ad for errors the first day it appears since the News-Sun will not be responsible for incorrect ads after the first day of publication. If you find an error, call the classified department immediately at 314-9876.
- The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for errors or for omission of copy. Liability shall not exceed the cost of that portion of space occupied by such error.

Cancellations: When a cancellation is called in, a KILL number will be given to you. This number is very important and must be used if ad failed to cancel. All ads cancelled prior to scheduled expiration date will be billed for complete run unless a KILL number can be provided.

1050 Legals

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

NOTICE OF ACTION

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

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

LOT 62, BLOCK 182, UNIT 10, SUN 'N LAKE ESTATES OF SEBRING, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 60, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court on the 15th day of December, 2011.

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

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

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

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: Mark A. Biron & Unknown Spouse of Mark A. Biron
RESIDENCE: UNKNOWN
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 6504 Pioneer Road, Sebring, FL 33876
AND TO: All persons claiming an interest by, through, under, or against the aforesaid defendant(s).

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property located in Highlands County, Florida:

Lots 6, 7 and 8, Block 127, MAP OF NORTH-SIDE SUB-DIVISION, according to plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 3, page 32, Public Records of Highlands County, Florida.

has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action, on Gladstone Law Group, P.A., attorneys for plaintiff, whose address is 1499 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Suite 300, Boca Raton, FL 33486, and file the original with the Clerk of the Court, within 30 days after the first publication of this notice, either before January 17, 2012 or immediately thereafter, otherwise a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

This notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in the News-Sun.

DATED: Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
Deputy Clerk of the Court
December 25, 2011; January 1, 2012

1050 Legals

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

NOTICE OF ACTION
FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS-PROPERTY

TO: Jennifer MacBain, ADDRESS UNKNOWN BUT WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS IS: 5617 NW 42nd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33319
Residence unknown, if living, including any unknown spouse of the said Defendants, if either has remarried and if either or both of said Defendants are dead, their respective unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant(s); and the aforementioned named Defendant(s) and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants as may be in infants, incompetents or otherwise not sui juris.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced to foreclose a mortgage on the following real property, lying and being and situated in Highlands County, Florida, a more particularly described as follows:
THE SOUTH ONE HALF OF LOT 9, BLOCK 8, SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 33 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, CITY OF AVON PARK, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE EAST 90 FEET OF THE SOUTH ONE HALF OF LOT 8, BLOCK 8, SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 33 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, CITY OF AVON PARK, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
more commonly known as 14 West Pleasant Street, Avon Park, FL 33825.

This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon SHAPIRO & FISHMAN, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 4630 Woodland Corporate Blvd., Suite 100, Tampa, FL 33614, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 20th day of December, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
Circuit and County Courts
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
Deputy Clerk

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 Court Administration at 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, telephone (863)534-4690, within two (2) working days of receipt of this Notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771.

December 25, 2011; January 1, 2012

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1050 Legals

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

NOTICE OF ACTION
FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS-PROPERTY

TO: MACKENZIE M. BEHRENDT: ADDRESS UNKNOWN BUT WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS IS: 42 CLUB HOUSE LANE, SEBRING, FL 33876.
Residence unknown and if living, including any unknown spouse of the Defendant, if remarried and if said Defendant is dead, his/her respective unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant; and the aforementioned named Defendant and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendant and such of the unknown name Defendant as may be infants, incompetents or otherwise not sui juris.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property to-wit:

LOT 21, IN BLOCK 2, OF ERIN PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, AT PAGE 77, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA more commonly known as 1205 Killarney Drive, Sebring, FL 33875.

This action has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, to it on the Plaintiff's attorney, FLORIDA FORECLOSURE ATTORNEYS, PLLC, whose address is 601 Cleveland Street, Suite 690, Clearwater, FL 33755, on or before 30 days after date of first publication, response due by January 17, 2012, and file the original with the Clerk of the Circuit Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on this 14th day of December, 2011.

Clerk of the Court
Highlands County, Florida
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
Deputy Clerk
December 30, 2011; January 1, 2012

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NUMBER: 11-191 GCS
HIGHLANDS INDEPENDENT BANK,
Plaintiff,
vs.
HOLLI J. JOHNSON a/k/a HOLLI A. JOHNSON and JORGE L. PEREZ, Wife and Husband, if alive and if not, their unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, or other parties claiming by, through, under or against HOLLI J. JOHNSON a/k/a HOLLI A. JOHNSON and JORGE L. PEREZ, and all claimants under any of such party;
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a final judgment of foreclosure entered in the above-titled cause in the Circuit Court of Highlands County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Highlands County, Florida, described as:

The Property: a/k/a 1194 Henscratch Road, Lake Placid, FL 33852
Lot 28, Block 95, ORANGE BLOSSOM COUNTRY CLUB COMMUNITY UNIT 19, according to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 10, Page 6, Public Records of Highlands County, Florida.

Parcel I.D. No. C-24-35-28-190-0950-0280 at public sale, 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, in Sebring, Florida at 11:00 A.M. on the 5th day of January, 2012.

SIGNED this 9th day of December, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: /s/ Annette E. Daff
Deputy Clerk

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 Court Administrator (941) 534-4690, within two (2) working days of publication of this Notice of Sale; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD (941) 534-7777 or Florida Relay Service (800) 955-8770.

10-4502-004
December 18, 25, 2011

1050 Legals

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Forest W. Goodwill, deceased, whose date of death was September 17, 2011, and the last four digits of whose social security number are 5664, is pending in the Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 590 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870. The names and addresses of the personal representatives and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this Notice is December 25, 2011.

Personal Representatives:
/s/ Joan Judd Britt
630 Norway Rd
Chadds Ford, PA 19317
/s/ Ida Merritt
12288 E. Bates Circle
Aurora, CO 80014

Attorney for Personal Representatives:
/s/ Charlotte C. Stone
Attorney for Personal Representatives
Florida Bar Number: 21297
Stone & Walder, P.L.
3200 US Hwy 27 S., Suite 304
Sebring, FL 33870
Telephone: (863)402-5424
Fax: (863)402-5425
E-Mail: Charlotte@StoneandWalder.com
December 25, 2011; January 1, 2012

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 11-675 GCS
HIGHLANDS INDEPENDENT BANK,
a Florida corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
HAROLD J. FINCH and MARICA L. FINCH, His Wife, if alive and if not, his unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, or other parties claiming by, through, under or against HAROLD J. FINCH and MARICA L. FINCH, and all claimants under any of such party;
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT-PROPERTY

TO: HAROLD J. FINCH and MARICA L. FINCH, His Wife, if alive and if not, his unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, or other parties claiming by, through, under or against HAROLD J. FINCH and MARICA L. FINCH, and all claimants under any of such party;

3217 Hicks Road, Florida, FL 33857.

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

Lot 7 of T.A.S. ACRES, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 8, Page 1, of the Public Records of Highlands County, Florida.

Together with: 1969 Budd Single Wide Mobile Home VIN BF 1709C.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to John K. McClure, Esquire, JOHN K. MCCLURE, P.A., 211 South Ridgewood Drive, Sebring, FL 33870, the Plaintiff's attorney, and file the original with the Clerk of the above styled court on or before January 5, 2012; otherwise a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court on the 9th day of December, 2011.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: /s/ Toni Kopp
Deputy Clerk

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration at Highlands County Courthouse, 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870; telephone (863)402-6591, not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding. If hearing impaired, (TDD) 1-800-955-8771, or Voice (V) 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.

December 18, 25, 2011

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 28-2009-CA-000098
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
ARIEL RICARDO A/K/A ARIEL D. RICARDO, et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated November 9, 2011 and entered in Case No. 28-2009-CA-000098 of the Circuit Court of the TENTH Judicial Circuit in and for JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, is the Plaintiff and ARIEL RICARDO A/K/A ARIEL D. RICARDO; SONIA RICARDO; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INCORPORATED AS NOMINEE FOR COUNTRYWIDE FINANCIAL CORPORATION; are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE at 11:00 AM, on the 4th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT 931 AND 932, OF AVON PARK LAKES UNIT NO. 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 90, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A 2112 W. COLUMBINE ROAD, AVON PARK, FL 33825

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

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Court on December 9, 2011.

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

Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
P.O. Box 25018
Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
F0900331-WMFIDELITY-SPECFNMA--Team 3
**See Americans with Disabilities Act
In accordance with the Americans Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending the notice at Echevarria & Associates, P.A., P.O. Box 25018, Tampa, FL 33622-5018, telephone (813) 251-4766, not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding. If hearing impaired, (TDD) 1-800-955-8771, or voice (V) 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.

December 18, 25, 2011

Attorney for Personal Representative:
/s/ David F. Lanier
E-Mail Address: lanier30@embarqmail.com
Florida Bar No. 0453399
DAVID F. LANIER
P.O. Box 400
Avon Park, Florida 33826-0400
Telephone: (863)453-4457

December 18, 25, 2011

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT CIVIL COURT
OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA,
IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 28-2009-CA-001374
Division Civil

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.
Plaintiff,
vs.

NORMAN JACKSON and FLORENCE SMITH MINTER, LORIDA COUNTY ESTATES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF NORMAN JACKSON, AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause on December 9, 2011, in the Circuit Court of Highlands County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Highlands County, Florida described as:

A PORTION OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 24; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 55'39" WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 24 A DISTANCE OF 668.85 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 41'23" WEST A DISTANCE OF 1990.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 41'23" WEST A DISTANCE OF 663.65 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 24; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 59'42" WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE A DISTANCE OF 667.65 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 39'50" EAST A DISTANCE OF 663.85 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 58'41" EAST A DISTANCE OF 667.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

and commonly known as: 205 Spaniel Rd., LORIDA, FL 33857; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, Sales are held in the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse located at 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, on January 4, 2012 at 11 a.m.

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

Dated this 9th day of December, 2011.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
Deputy Clerk
December 18, 25, 2011

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT YOUR HOMETOWN PAPER THE NEWS-SUN

1050 Legals

IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 11-428-GCS
SUNTRUST BANK,
a Georgia banking corporation
Plaintiff,
vs.
TAMMY SUEPPEL, individually;
WILLIAM SUEPPEL, individually;
CFRA, INC., a Florida corporation;
UNKNOWN TENANT COLUMBUS and
UNKNOWN TENANT LONDON
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an order for Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 2, 2011, entered in Civil Case Number 11-428-GCS of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, that on January 4, 2012, at 11:00 a.m., a sale will be held at the Highlands County Courthouse, 430 S. Commerce Ave., Jury Assembly Room, Sebring, FL 33870; The undersigned Clerk will offer for sale the following real property described as:
LOT 27, BLOCK 18, HIGHLANDS PARK ESTATES, SECTION B, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 68, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
AND
LOT 10816, LOT 10817, LOT 10818, LOT 10819 AND LOT 10820, AVON PARK LAKES, UNIT NO. 33, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 37, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
together with all structures, improvements, fixtures, appliances, and appurtenances on said land or used in conjunction therewith.
DATED: December 9, 2012.
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
As Deputy Clerk
December 18, 25, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT CIVIL COURT
OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA,
IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 28-2009-CA-001392
Division Civil
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY
F/K/A BANKERS TRUST COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR VENDEE MORTGAGE TRUST 2001-2, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, GUARANTEED REMIC PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES
Plaintiff,
vs.
DONALD R. VANDYGRIF AND BETH A. VANDYGRIF, SUNTRUST BANK, AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause on December 9, 2011, in the Circuit Court of Highlands County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Highlands County, Florida described as:
LOTS 13 AND 14, BLOCK 21, UNIT B, AVON PARK LAKES RED HILL FARMS ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 49 AND 51, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, and commonly known as: 2892 W. ALBATROSS ROAD, AVON PARK, FL 33825; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, Sales are held in the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse located at 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, on January 4, 2012 at 11 a.m.
Any persons claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
Dated this 9th day of December, 2011.
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
Deputy Clerk
December 18, 25, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
Case No.: 11-000134-GCS
HIGHLANDS INDEPENDENT BANK,
Plaintiff,
vs.
DAVID WILLIAM SIMONS, CITICAPITAL COMMERCIAL LEASING CORP., CITICAPITAL COMMERCIAL CORP., ROYAL'S INC. a/k/a ROYAL'S FURNITURE, INC., U.S. BANK, N.A. d/b/a ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the "Final Judgment on Verified Complaint" (the "Final Judgment"), entered in the above-styled action on August 4, 2011, the Clerk of Highlands County will sell the property situated in Highlands County, Florida, as described below at a Public Sale, to the highest bidder, for cash, at 590 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, on January 4, 2012, at 11:00 a.m.
SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"
EXHIBIT "A"

Parcel 1:
Lot 7 and Lot 8, in Block 2, of VACATION ESTATES, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 11, of the Public Records of Highlands County, Florida.
Parcel 2:
Lot 589, SYLVAN SHORES ESTATES, SECTION D, according to the Plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 7, Page 13, of the Public Records of Highlands County, Florida.
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
BOB GERMAINE
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Highlands County, Florida
/s/ Priscilla Michalak
Deputy Clerk
December 18, 25, 2011

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR A VARIANCE REQUEST
HEARING NO. 1710**
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the HIGHLANDS COUNTY Board of Adjustment on the 10th day of January, 2012, beginning at 3:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the County Commissioners' Board Room, Highlands County Government Center Building, 600 South Commerce Ave., Sebring, Florida, to consider a variance to allow for a 5.6 foot and 5.7 foot side yard setback instead of the required 7.5 foot side yard setback for an existing dwelling, within the area described as follows: approximately 1/3 acre located east of Sebring on Honeysuckle Drive between Blazing Star Road and Blossom Drive; the address being 7200 Honeysuckle Drive, Sebring, Florida; and legally described as follows: Portion Q: A portion of Lots 10 and 11, Block R, Spring Lake - Village II, according to the plat recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 43, Public Records of Highlands County, Florida, described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Lot 11, also being the Southwest corner of said Lot 10; thence North 88 degrees 53'15" West, along the Southerly line of said Lot 11, a distance of 30.00 feet to a line parallel with and 30 feet Westerly from the Easterly line of said Lot 11; thence North 01 degrees 06'45" East, along said parallel line, a distance of 220.00 feet to the Northerly line of said Lot 11; thence South 88 degrees 53'15" East, along said Northerly line, a distance of 30.00 feet to the Northeast corner of said Lot 11, and the Northwest corner of said Lot 10; thence continue South 88 degrees 53'15" East, along the Northerly line of said Lot 10, a distance of 35.00 feet to a line parallel with and 35 feet Easterly from the Westerly line of said Lot 10; thence South 01 degrees 06'45" West, along said parallel line, a distance of 220.00 feet to the Southerly line of said Lot 10; thence North 88 degrees 53'15" West, along said Southerly line a distance of 35.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.
Any person or persons interested or affected by

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE DIRECTORY

THE FIRM SURVEILLANCE CONSULTANTS
PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS / PROCESS SERVING

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12 YEARS TOTAL EXPERIENCE

Contact:
Private Investigator - Patricia Austin
Bus 863-452-5001
Fax 863-452-5000



Lic. A1100042

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James L Bell, Jr., Owner
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1050 Legals

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

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

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, should contact Mrs. Melissa Bruns, ADA Coordinator at: 863-402-6509 (Voice) or via Florida Relay Service 711, or by e-mail: hr@hcbcc.org. Requests for CART or interpreter services should be made at least 24 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.

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

December 25, 30, 2011

1055 Highlands County Legals

HIGHLANDS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (HCBCC) GENERAL SERVICES & PURCHASING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The Board of County Commissioners (BOC), Highlands County, Sebring, Florida, will receive sealed proposals in the County Purchasing Department for the following services:

RFP No. 12-017 PROFESSIONAL EXTERNAL AUDITING SERVICES

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting proposals from qualified Independent Certified Public Accounting firms for its 2012 thru 2015 year-end auditing requirements, in accordance with Chapter 11.45 of the Florida Statutes on Local Government Reporting Regulations. The purpose of the audit is to express an opinion as to the fair presentation of the County's basic financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. An opinion on the fair presentation of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, any discretely presented component unit(s), each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information should be expressed based upon the auditing procedures applied and in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements.

The audit shall be conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards as set forth by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; the standards set forth by the Government Accounting Standards Board; Financial Accounting Standards Board; the U.S. General Accounting Office's Government Auditing Standards; Section 218.39 Florida Statutes; the Florida Department of Banking and Finance; the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133; the Rules of the Auditor General; the Single Audit Act of 1984 as revised in 1996; the Florida Single Audit Act; Chapter 270-1, Rules of the Executive Office of the Governor, Florida Administrative Code and any other applicable standards as set forth by Generally Accepted Governmental Auditing Standards and Florida Statutes.

Determination of firm qualifications will be based on the firm's written proposal which is to be completed and submitted in accordance with the RFP specifications. The contract, if awarded, shall incorporate the RFP specifications and the firm's proposal.

Specifications may be obtained by downloading from our website: www.hcbcc.net or by contacting: Danielle Gilbert, Interim Purchasing Manager, Highlands County General Services / Purchasing Department, 4320 George Blvd., Sebring, FL 33875-5803 Telephone: 863-402-6524, E-Mail: dgilbert@hcbcc.org

Mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting will be held Wednesday January 11, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at Highlands County Government Center, Board Room, 1st Floor, 600 South Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870.

Proposal submissions must be sealed and marked with the name of the proposer and the RFP number and title "RFP 12-017 PROFESSIONAL EXTERNAL AUDITING SERVICES."

1055 Highlands County Legals

so as to identify the enclosed proposal. Each submittal shall include one (1) original and fourteen (14) copies of the proposal. Proposals must be delivered to Highlands County Purchasing Department, 4320 George Blvd., Sebring, FL 33875-5803, so as to reach said office no later than 2:00 P.M., Thursday February 9, 2012 at which time they will be opened. Proposals received later than the date and time as specified will be rejected. The Board will not be responsible for the late deliveries of proposals that are incorrectly addressed, delivered in person, by mail or any other type of delivery service.

One or more County Commissioners, Constitutional Officers, and Committee Member designees may be in attendance at the proposal meeting and proposal opening.

Highlands County Local Preference Policy will apply to the award of this RFP.

The Highlands County Board of County Commissioners (HCBCC / COUNTY) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals or any parts thereof, and the determination of this award, if an award is made, will be based on the ranking of each firm's proposal which is to be completed and submitted in accordance with the RFP Specifications. The Board reserves the right to waive irregularities in the proposal.

The Board reserves the right to waive irregularities in the bid. The Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the Board's functions, including one's access to, participation, employment or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 286.26 Florida Statutes should contact Mrs. Melissa Bruns, ADA Coordinator at: 863-402-6509 (Voice), or via Florida Relay Service 711, or by e-mail: hr@hcbcc.org. Requests for CART or interpreter services should be made at least 24 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.

Board of County Commissioners Purchasing Department Highlands County, Florida Website: [HYPERLINK "http://www.hcbcc.net"](http://www.hcbcc.net) www.hcbcc.net

December 18, 25, 2011

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 282008CA000649XXXXX DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF MORGAN STANLEY ABS CAPITAL I INC. TRUST 2006-HE6, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-HE6, Plaintiff, vs ROBERT L. WELLS, et al., Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Summary Final Judgment of foreclosure dated May 10, 2010 and an Order Reseting Sale dated December 15, 2011, and entered in Case No. 282008CA000649XXXXX of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF MORGAN STANLEY ABS CAPITAL I INC. TRUST 2006-HE6, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-HE6,

is Plaintiff and ROBERT L. WELLS; GINA G. WELLS; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at in the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse, 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, at Highlands County, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 11th day of January, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Order of Final Judgment, to-wit: LOT 8, BLOCK 5, A REPLAT PORTION OF A PORTION OF FRANSVILLA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 8, PAGE 9, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Clerk of the Court not later than five business days prior to the proceeding at the Highlands County Courthouse. Telephone 863-386-6565 or 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.

DATED at Sebring, Florida, on December 15, 2011.

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

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314-9876 News-Sun Classified

2000 Employment

2100 Help Wanted

FITNESS CENTER TRAINER (PT). Must have current CPR and AED certifications, as well as related exp. Certified Personal Trainer preferred. 10.00-\$12.00/hr. 32 hrs/wk. Typical schedule: Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 am - 3:30 pm & Friday, 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Deadline: 1/3/12. Note: The College will be closed from Dec. 19 through Jan. 2 for Winter Break. Visit <http://sfcc.interviewexchange.com> for application instructions. (863) 784-7132. EA/E.O.

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REAL ESTATE PARALEGAL Full time position immediately available for an experienced real estate paralegal. Candidates should have HUD-1 preparation and real estate litigation experience. Please respond with cover letter and resume to: Box 112, The News-Sun, 2227 U.S. 27 South, Sebring FL, 33870.

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4000 Real Estate

4040 Homes For Sale

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4080 Homes For Sale Sebring

LAKE JACKSON, near boat ramp, west side, best view of lake. 2 BR/2 BA home on 1 acre lot, zoned for 2 additional homes, \$385,000. 863-385-7237.

4320 Real Estate Wanted

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SEBRING FRANCIS 1. 1/1, Carport w/lot. Furnished. Reduced \$20,000 obo. Call 561-202-4087.

SEBRING MOBILE Home 55+ Sebring Village. 2/2. \$6500. Good Cond. 863-471-6728 or 863-446-0815

6000 Rentals

6050 Duplexes for Rent

LAKE PLACID - Placid Lakes, Unfurnished 2BR, 2BA. \$450/mo. + 1st. mo. & security. 863-699-0897 or 863-840-2013

6200 Unfurnished Apartments

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

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

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

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6250 Furnished Houses

BRYSON CITY. 3/1, Cottage nestled in the Mountains of North Carolina. Dining/Kitchen/Utility Room all in one & cozy Den w/fireplace which opens to a newly added 600 sq. ft. deck. Close to Smoky Mountain Nat'l Park. Recreation Mecca, from riding the river, to hunting & fishing. Call 214-717-3096 for details!

6300 Unfurnished Houses

AVON PARK RENT SUBSIDIZED 1,2,3,& 4 BR Apts in a Central Location, Separate Family & Elderly/Disabled properties; Ridgedale Apts, Lakeside Park & Delaney Hgts. Based on household income. **No Application Fee!**  **Please Call 863-452-4432 TTY 800-955-8771**

SEBRING - 2 STORY TOWN HOME 3BR, 2.5BA, 1CG \$800/mo. **No Smoking, no pets.** 863-402-1142

6320 Seasonal Property

LAKE PLACID Covered bridge. Beautiful 2/2. Sun Porch, 1 block to Club House, heated pool, fully equipped kitchen. Available Jan. 1st. \$1100/mo. Call 239-821-4730

6550 Warehouses for Rent

SEBRING - STORAGE RENTALS 12' X 30' with 10' X 10' Doors. 602 Park Street, Sebring, FL Call 863-385-7486

6750 Commercial Rental

STORE FRONT FOR RENT! 1600 sq. ft. Excellent Location. Downtown Avon Park. Asking \$800 per mo. Call John @ 863-453-5600.

7180 Furniture

NEW STEARNS & FOSTER MATTRESS SETS All queen \$995 * all King \$1295 Compare to any mattress gallery Lamps \$19, Barstools \$39up, Desks \$297up, Recliners \$247up Over 50 styles Ent. Centers \$167up Double Reclining Sofa \$587 **HIGHPOINT FURNITURE** 2346 U.S. 27 N, SEBRING across from Home Depot

7300 Miscellaneous

SEBRING FREE room in exchange for work & company. Non-Smoker, references required. Call 863-385-1806

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7310 Bargain Buys

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BISSELL UPRIGHT VAC. Excellent / reconditioned / like new. Guaranteed for 30 days. \$20 863-402-2285

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SWIVEL ROCKERS (2), 1 Tan & 1 green - blue. Excellent cond. Pair \$70 863-385-7762

7520 Pets & Supplies

DACHSHUND ENGLISH Creme, Black & Cream, long or short hair w/health cert., and all shots. \$390 Call 863-243-0713

JACK RUSSELL 11 mo. female, fixed, house broke, all shots. Small & cute! \$250 obo. Call 863-441-2792.

NOTICE

Florida statute 585.195 states that all dogs and cats sold in Florida must be at least eight weeks old, have an official health certificate and proper shots and be free of intestinal and external parasites.

7560 Medical Supplies & Equipment

HOVEROUND "MERTS" Extra Large Wheelchair. Excellent condition. \$795 Call 863-699-1911

LIFT CHAIR - LUXURY Power Recliner with 6 motion / massage / heat. Great condition! \$500 863-414-4436

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Five-Day forecast for Highlands County

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Times of clouds and sun	Partly sunny with a shower in spots	Variably cloudy, t-storms possible	Intervals of clouds and sunshine	Mostly sunny and pleasant
82° / 62°	78° / 63°	78° / 56°	73° / 53°	74° / 53°
Winds: E at 6-12 mph	Winds: ESE at 7-14 mph	Winds: SW at 10-20 mph	Winds: N at 6-12 mph	Winds: NW at 6-12 mph



Almanac

Temperature
Readings at Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid

High Tuesday	80°
Low Tuesday	48°
High Wednesday	82°
Low Wednesday	47°
High Thursday	81°
Low Thursday	47°

Heat Index
For 3 p.m. today

Relative humidity	58%
Expected air temperature	81°
Makes it feel like	83°

Barometer

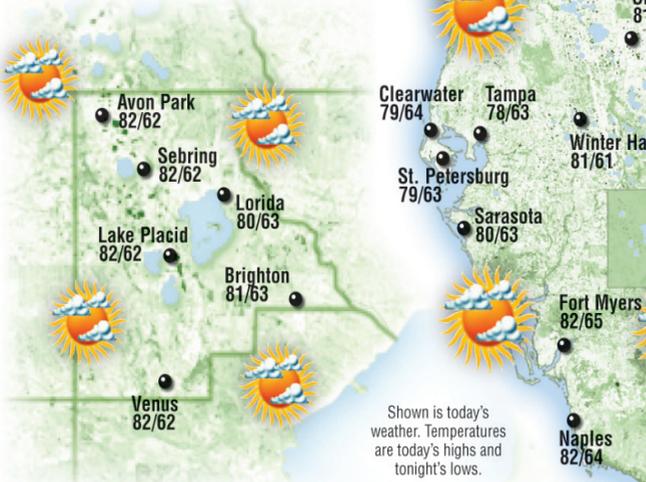
Tuesday	30.13
Wednesday	30.14
Thursday	30.15

Precipitation

Tuesday	0.00"
Wednesday	0.00"
Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	0.31"
Year to date	46.53"

Regional Summary

Times of clouds and sun today. Partly cloudy and mild tonight. Times of clouds and sun tomorrow with a shower in spots. Tuesday: variable clouds with thunderstorms possible; breezy. Wednesday: clouds and sun. Thursday: mostly sunny.



Farm Report

Clouds and sun today. Winds east 6-12 mph. Expect 2-4 hours of sunshine with average relative humidity 75% and fair drying conditions. Partly cloudy and mild 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.

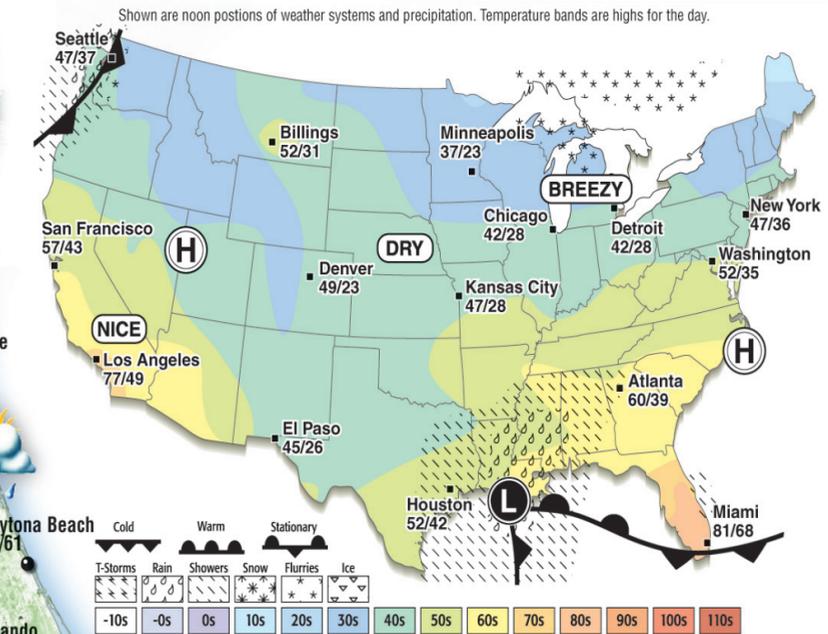
Florida Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Cape Coral	82/63/pc	83/65/pc	80/60/t
Clearwater	79/64/pc	78/66/pc	76/57/t
Coral Springs	81/68/pc	79/69/pc	81/65/t
Daytona Beach	77/61/sh	75/65/pc	76/52/t
Ft. Laud. Bch	81/71/pc	80/72/pc	81/68/t
Fort Myers	82/65/pc	83/65/pc	80/61/t
Gainesville	73/55/pc	73/61/pc	72/42/t
Hollywood	82/67/pc	81/69/pc	82/65/t
Homestead AFB	80/67/pc	79/69/pc	80/64/t
Jacksonville	68/54/sh	69/59/pc	74/42/t
Key West	79/71/pc	78/70/pc	80/70/t

World Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Acapulco	90/76/pc	89/75/s	89/74/s
Athens	50/42/pc	47/44/c	50/44/sh
Beirut	59/50/s	59/52/pc	61/53/s
Berlin	40/33/sh	48/43/c	48/37/c
Bermuda	68/59/s	67/61/sh	68/64/pc
Calgary	45/26/c	36/28/pc	42/32/pc
Dublin	55/45/pc	55/48/pc	50/47/pc
Edmonton	38/21/pc	25/15/s	31/17/pc
Freeport	80/62/sh	79/61/pc	80/67/c
Geneva	38/32/s	44/37/s	51/37/s
Havana	84/63/pc	83/63/pc	79/61/sh
Hong Kong	58/51/s	63/56/s	66/59/s
Jerusalem	53/42/r	54/42/pc	57/42/s
Johannesburg	78/57/t	74/57/t	71/59/t
Kiev	34/33/pc	34/33/c	40/34/c

National Forecast for December 25



National Summary

A weak area of low pressure will push through southern Ontario and Quebec today, bringing snow showers to the Great Lakes and far interior sections of the Northeast. Temperatures will not feel as cold as Saturday, however a fresh batch of cold air looms to the northwest. A storm system will develop over the western Gulf of Mexico and will produce periods of rain for the Deep South and central Gulf Coast. Spotty showers will pop up over the eastern Florida coast.

U.S. Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Albuquerque	45/25/s	47/27/s	49/30/s
Atlanta	60/39/r	57/45/r	56/36/r
Baltimore	50/34/pc	48/34/s	48/32/r
Birmingham	60/39/r	63/45/r	54/38/r
Boston	42/34/c	44/30/pc	47/37/c
Charlotte	60/35/pc	58/37/pc	58/37/r
Cheyenne	46/28/s	49/24/pc	48/28/pc
Chicago	42/28/pc	41/32/s	41/28/sn
Cleveland	44/28/c	40/33/pc	40/28/sn
Columbus	45/23/pc	43/34/pc	41/27/sn
Dallas	48/37/r	49/34/c	45/38/s
Denver	49/23/s	52/24/pc	52/25/pc
Detroit	42/28/sf	40/29/pc	39/26/sn
Harrisburg	48/30/pc	43/30/s	41/32/r
Honolulu	81/69/s	81/69/s	80/70/s
Houston	52/42/r	55/39/r	64/41/pc
Indianapolis	45/27/s	42/33/s	42/27/sn
Jackson, MS	53/40/r	55/40/r	56/34/c
Kansas City	47/28/s	46/26/c	45/26/s
Lexington	49/28/s	46/37/pc	46/30/r
Little Rock	54/40/c	43/36/r	56/34/pc

World Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
London	50/45/pc	55/42/pc	48/44/pc
Montreal	30/25/sn	28/25/pc	36/27/sf
Moscow	22/19/sf	29/28/pc	37/22/t
Nice	59/45/s	60/49/s	58/47/s
Ottawa	30/23/sf	29/24/pc	34/19/sf
Quebec	21/16/sn	25/10/pc	32/27/c
Rio de Janeiro	82/71/t	80/71/r	81/71/r
Seoul	20/7/s	27/11/s	32/18/pc
Singapore	81/75/r	82/76/r	83/75/r
Sydney	77/64/pc	79/64/t	73/61/pc
Toronto	38/26/c	42/33/pc	38/28/sf
Vancouver	47/41/r	43/41/r	47/41/r
Vienna	38/37/sh	44/39/sh	48/38/s
Warsaw	34/30/c	39/38/r	41/34/r
Winnipeg	36/28/pc	40/12/sn	24/6/pc

Tides

Readings at St. Petersburg

High	12:44 a.m.
Low	8:52 a.m.
High	4:18 p.m.
Low	6:56 p.m.

Readings at Palm Beach

High	8:52 a.m.
Low	2:09 a.m.
High	9:03 p.m.
Low	2:40 p.m.

Lake Levels

Readings as of 7 a.m. yesterday

Lake Jackson	78.36'
Lake Okeechobee	13.74'
Normal	14.51'

UV Index Today

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



Sun and Moon

	Today	Monday
Sunrise	7:11 a.m.	7:11 a.m.
Sunset	5:41 p.m.	5:42 p.m.
Moonrise	7:51 a.m.	8:39 a.m.
Moonset	6:55 p.m.	7:57 p.m.

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1912 - 2012
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Celebrating 100 Years!

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- Hot Soft Pretzels!
- Funnel Cakes!
- Old Fashioned Root Beer & Cream Soda!
- Fried Oreos!
- Ice Cream!
- Fresh Squeezed Lemonade!
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News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS

All-Highlands Player of the Year Rhoni Gavagni served it up aplenty this season as the Lake Placid setter, leading the county in assists. Joining her on the All-Highlands first team are, from left to right, Avon Park's Teresa Devlin, Sebring's Kaley Walter and Bianca Nortelus and Lake Placid's Brittany Collison and Alana Nielander.

Player of the Year all set up for Gavagni

By DAN HOEHNE

daniel.hoehne@newsun.com

The hitters get the kills, the defenders and Libero's get the digs – the front and back of the volleyball court.

But it is in the seams where a volleyball team is made, with the setter.

The engine, the quarterback, the cog around which everything revolves.

And in a season with outstanding performances from so many different positions, it was the consistently superior setting from Lake Placid's Rhoni Gavagni that set her up as the All-Highlands Player of the Year.

"She's worked so hard over the years to get better at the setter position, which she did," Lady Dragon head coach Linette Wells said. "But it wasn't good enough for her. She's such a hard worker, energetic and just

continued to get even better."

Her court awareness and hustle got her in position to receive passes from the back row, with her quick hands and deft touch delivering the ball into prime kill zones for her hitters.

In all this season, Gavagni dished out 338 assists for a Lake Placid team that reached the playoffs and achieved at least one goal of getting a game win during their first-round match against eventual Class 4A state champion Berkeley Prep.

And while her ability at the demanding position set her apart, Gavagni was very versatile in helping her team, adding 129 digs, 45 service aces, 31 kills and 10 blocks to her impressive stat sheet.

"I remember seeing her in seventh grade and think-

ing how great of a player she was," Avon Park outside hitter Teresa Devlin said. "She was always all over the floor, diving for everything and I remember thinking, 'wow, how does she do it?'"

The plaudits kept coming.

"She made a big difference for them," Sebring head coach Venessa Sinness said. "She really made that team go."

Sinness, actually, recommended Gavagni for a scholarship to her own alma mater, Valley City State University in North Dakota.

But the setter who lofts volleyballs into the air has her mind's eye in the sky as well, looking to major in Aerospace Engineering, which has her mulling over a chance to play Libero at Embry Riddle or as a setter at the Florida Institute of

Technology.

"My goal was to go out this season, play as a team and have fun," Gavagni said. "The setter has to be a leader and encourage the team. To do that, you have to play your hardest. To me it's the most fun position."

To succeed at something, it helps to have a passion for it, as it makes it fun.

Rhoni Gavagni put her passion on display all season long and certainly succeeded.

As for the rest of the All-Highlands Volleyball team for the 2011 season, there was plenty of passion for the game and stats to back it up.

Forming the back line of defense are Lake Placid Libero Brittany Collison and Lady Blue Streak defensive specialist Bianca Nortelus.

See COUNTY, Page 4B

Red Devils steal it from Streaks

By DAN HOEHNE

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SEBRING – The Red Devils pulled a Tim Tebow Thursday night in a rematch with county rival Sebring.

After muddling through for three quarters, looking out of sync and trailing most of the way, Avon Park got things clicking late in the third and had one final push late in the fourth to secure a 53-48 win.

Though it was a marked difference from the two teams' last meeting, a 64-25 Devil blowout, which prompted Sebring head coach Princeton Harris to vow that things would be different the next time around.

"We had to play their

game," Red Devil head coach Luther Clemons said. "We wanted to get out and run, but we couldn't, we had to play a half-court game. Princeton said it would be different and he had his guys ready to play."

That seemed to be the key early on as the run-and-gun Devils were, more often than not, walk it up the court as Sebring was more careful with the ball, more crisp with its passing and keeping the turnovers and breakout opportunities to a minimum.

And though Reggie Baker scored seven for Avon Park in the opening period, Matt Taylor matched him and

Avon Park
53
Sebring
48

See AP, Page 4B



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE

Reggie Baker was hitting from everywhere on the court and had a game-high 26 in Avon Park's 53-48 win over Sebring Thursday.

Wade, James say time has made them closer

By TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

MIAMI — Dwyane Wade and LeBron James are known to bicker like brothers.

They screamed at one another more than once during Miami Heat playoff games last season.

And when they're on opposite teams in practice, they attack the other like they would any opponent – now they're closer than ever.

And on the cusp of entering Year 2 together with the Heat, Wade and James opened up about their friendship Friday in an interview with The Associated Press.

"I don't think many players that have the similar games as we have or have done the things that we did in the league can come together this fast and make it work," Wade said. "That communication is there. I don't mind him saying something to me. I don't mind when I have to say something to him. We know how to make it work."

They have so much in common that both find it almost funny sometimes.

Forget the obvious stuff: They're both among the NBA's highest-paid players, then make another truckload of money annually in endorsements.

They're both among the league's best scorers, perennial All-Stars, among the most recognizable athletes in the world.

What's often forgotten is the ties that really bind, like both having difficult times as kids, relying on one parent at a time and soon understanding that basketball was the vehicle for changing their lives.

James is 6-foot-8, Wade is 6-foot-4.

James is from Akron, Wade from Chicago.

James loves tattoos, Wade doesn't have any.

James went to the NBA straight out of high school, Wade went to college first.

Nonetheless, Wade and James basically look at each other as mirror images.

"That had a lot to do with me coming down here," James said. "There's nothing

See WADE, Page 3B



Teresa Devlin



Kaley Walter



Alana Nielander



Bianca Nortelus



Brittany Collison



Rhoni Gavagni

All Highlands First Team

Setter

Rhoni Gavagni

Lake Placid

OH

Teresa Devlin

Avon Park

OH

Alana Nielander

Lake Placid

MH

Kaley Walter

Sebring

DS

Bianca Nortelus

Sebring

Libero

Brittany Collison

Lake Placid

All Highlands Second Team

Setter

Dino Lower

Sebring

OH

Stephanie Struck

Sebring

OH

Taylor Miller

Lake Placid

MH

Marissa Baldwin

Lake Placid

DS

Ashley Chacon

Avon Park

Libero

Jamie Wirries

Avon Park

THE SCOREBOARD



LIVE SPORTS ON TV

National Football League

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	11	3	0	.786	437	297
N.Y. Jets	8	6	0	.571	346	315
Miami	5	9	0	.357	286	269
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	311	371

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	5	0	.667	359	255
Tennessee	7	7	0	.500	279	278
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	207	293
Indianapolis	2	13	0	.133	230	411

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	334	236
x-Pittsburgh	10	4	0	.714	285	218
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	305	283
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	195	274

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	6	0	.571	292	343
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	317	382
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	358	313
Kansas City	6	8	0	.429	192	319

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	348	296
N.Y. Giants	7	7	0	.500	334	372
Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429	342	311
Washington	5	9	0	.357	252	300

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	11	3	0	.786	457	306
Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	341	281
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	341	368
Tampa Bay	4	10	0	.286	247	401

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	1	0	.929	480	297
Detroit	9	5	0	.643	395	332
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	315	293
Minnesota	2	12	0	.143	294	406

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	11	3	0	.786	327	185
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	284	273
Arizona	7	7	0	.500	273	305
St. Louis	2	12	0	.143	166	346

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Thursday's Game

Indianapolis 19, Houston 16

Saturday's Games

Oakland at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
 Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
 Denver at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Minnesota at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Cleveland at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
 Miami at New England, 1 p.m.
 N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
 Arizona at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
 San Diego at Detroit, 4:05 p.m.
 San Francisco at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.

Sunday's Game

Chicago at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.

Monday's Game

Atlanta at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 1

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

LEAGUE LEADERS

AFC PASSING

	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	Int
Brady, NE	530	351	4593	35	11
Schaub, HOU	292	178	2479	15	6
Rhlsbrgr, PIT	473	301	3856	21	14
Rivers, SD	503	319	4015	23	17
Moore, MIA	283	172	2081	12	6
Tebow, DEN	220	107	1484	11	2

NFC PASSING

	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	Int
Rodgers, GB	473	322	4360	40	6
Brees, NO	583	417	4780	37	11
Romo, DAL	483	317	3895	29	9
Stafford, DET	568	356	4145	33	14
Manning, NYG	529	326	4362	25	15

AFC RUSHING

	Att	Yards	Avg	TD
Jnes-Drew, JX	294	1334	4.5	7
Rice, BAL	244	1086	4.5	10
Foster, HOU	255	1066	4.2	9
Mathews, SD	211	1033	4.9	6
McGahee, DEN	206	990	4.8	4
Bush, MIA	194	973	5.0	6
Benson, CIN	244	959	3.9	6

NFC RUSHING

	Att	Yards	Avg	TD
McCoy, PHI	260	1274	4.9	17
Turner, ATL	273	1129	4.1	9
Gore, SF	234	1054	4.5	6
Lynch, SEA	245	1011	4.1	11
Forté, CHI	203	997	4.9	3
Wells, ARI	231	994	4.3	10
Jackson, STL	220	966	4.4	5

AFC RECEIVING

	No	Yds	Avg	TD
Welker, NE	104	1380	13.3	9
Gronkowski, NE	75	1141	15.2	15
Rice, BAL	71	648	9.1	2
Marshall, MIA	70	1021	14.6	5
Bowe, KC	69	986	14.3	4

NFC RECEIVING

	No	Yds	Avg	TD
Graham, NO	87	1171	13.5	9
White, ATL	85	1100	12.9	8
Johnson, DET	81	1335	16.5	14
Sproles, NO	79	659	8.3	5
Gonzalez, ATL	74	826	11.2	7
Cruz, NYG	73	1194	16.4	7
Smith, CAR	72	1299	18.0	6
Harvin, MIN	72	787	10.9	5
H. Nicks, NYG	70	1096	15.7	6

AFC SCORING, NONKICKERS

	TD	Rus	Rec	Ret	Pts
Gronkowski, NE	16	1	15	0	96
Rice, BAL	12	10	2	0	72
Foster, HOU	11	9	2	0	66
Jones-Drew, JX	10	7	3	0	60
Decker, DEN	9	0	8	1	54
Green-Ellis, NE	9	9	0	0	54
Tolbert, SD	9	7	2	0	54
Welker, NE	9	0	9	0	54

NFC SCORING, NONKICKERS

	TD	Rus	Rec	Ret	Pts
McCoy, PHI	20	17	3	0	120
Johnson, DET	14	0	14	0	84
Newton, CAR	13	13	0	0	78

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

SUNDAY

7:30 p.m. Diamond Head Classic, 3rd Place. . . . ESPN2
 9:30 p.m. Diamond Head Classic, Final. ESPN2
 11 p.m. Diamond Head Classic, Semifinal. . . . ESPN2

TUESDAY

7:30 p.m. Pittsburgh at Notre Dame. ESPN2
 9 p.m. Wisconsin at Nebraska. ESPN2

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

MONDAY

8 p.m. Independence Bowl – Missouri vs. North
 Carolina. ESPN2

TUESDAY

4:30 p.m. Little Caesars Bowl – Purdue vs. Western
 Michigan. ESPN
 8 p.m. Belk Bowl – Louisville vs. N.C. State ESPN

GOLF

SUNDAY

11 a.m. RE/MAX Long Drive Championship ESPN2
 4 p.m. ADT Skills Challenge NBC

NBA

SUNDAY

Noon Boston at New York Knicks ESPN/TNT
 2:30 p.m. Miami at Dallas ABC
 5 p.m. Chicago at Los Angeles Lakers. ABC
 8 p.m. Orlando at Oklahoma City ESPN/SUN
 10:30 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Golden State ESPN

MONDAY

7 p.m. Houston at Orlando SUN
 10:30 p.m. Chicago at Golden State WGN

TUESDAY

8 p.m. Boston at Miami. TNT
 10:30 p.m. Utah at L.A. Lakers TNT

NFL

SUNDAY

8:15 p.m. Chicago at Green Bay. NBC
 8:30 p.m. Atlanta at New Orleans ESPN

MONDAY

NHL

SUNDAY

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

TUESDAY

7 p.m. Tampa Bay at Toronto. SUN

PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER

TUESDAY

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

Times, games, channels all subject to change

Lynch, SEA	12	11	1	0	0	72
Peterson, MIN	12	11	1	0	0	72
Nelson, GB	10	0	10	0	0	60
Wells, ARI	10	10	0	0	0	60

National Hockey League

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	21	8	4	46	99	72
Philadelphia	21	9	4	46	118	91
Pittsburgh	20	11	4	44	114	91
New Jersey	19	14	1	39	95	99
N.Y. Islanders	11	16	6	28	77	108

Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	23	9	1	47	119	63
Toronto	18	13	4	40	110	113
Ottawa	17	14	5	39	111	122
Buffalo	16	15	3	35	92	101
Montreal	13	16	7	33	88	101

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	18	11	7	43	94	98
Winnipeg	16	14	5	37	96	104
Washington	17	14	2	36	98	101
Tampa Bay	14	17	3	31	90	116
Carolina	11	19	6	28	91	121

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	22	9	4	48	118	102
St. Louis	20	10	4	44	87	74
Detroit	21	12	1	43	111	78
Nashville	18	13	4	40	95	99
Columbus	9	21	4	22	85	117

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	20	11	5	45	86	82
Vancouver	21	12	2	44	115	85
Calgary	17	15	4	38	90	98
Colorado	18	17	1	37	96	105
Edmonton	15	16	3	33	93	91

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	19	10	3	41	95	77
Dallas	20	13	1	41	92	96
Phoenix	18	14	3	39	92	92
Los Angeles	16	14	5	37	76	85
Anaheim	9	19	6	24	80	113

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

Thursday's Games

Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 2, SO
 Toronto 3, Buffalo 2
 N.Y. Rangers 4, N.Y. Islanders 2
 Ottawa 4, Florida 3, OT
 Nashville 6, Columbus 5
 Winnipeg 4, Montreal 0
 Calgary 3, Detroit 2
 Edmonton 4, Minnesota 1

Friday's Games

New Jersey 4, Washington 3, SO
 San Jose 2, Los Angeles 1, SO
 Boston 8, Florida 0
 Toronto 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
 N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 2

Carolina 2, Ottawa 1, OT
Pittsburgh 4, Winnipeg 1
Dallas 6, Nashville 3
Colorado 2, Tampa Bay 1, OT
St. Louis 3

New Air Jordans cause US-wide shopping frenzy

By DOUG ESSER

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Fights, vandalism and arrests marked the release of Nike's new Air Jordan basketball shoes as a shopping rush on stores across the United States led to unrest that nearly turned into rioting.

The outbursts of chaos stretched from Washington state to Georgia as shoppers — often waiting for hours in lines — converged on stores Friday in pursuit of the shoes, a retro model of one of the most popular Air Jordans ever made.

In suburban Seattle, police used pepper spray on about 20 customers who started fighting at the Westfield Southcenter mall.

The crowd started gathering at four stores in the mall around midnight and had grown to more than 1,000 people by 4 a.m., when the stores opened, Tukwila Officer Mike Murphy said.

He said it started as fighting and pushing among people in line and escalated over the next hour.

Murphy said no injuries were reported, although some people suffered cuts or scrapes from fights.

Shoppers also broke two doors, and an 18-year-old man was arrested for assault after authorities say he punched an officer.

"He did not get his shoes; he went to jail," Murphy said.

The mayhem was reminiscent of the violence that broke out 20 years ago in many cities as the shoes became popular targets for thieves.

It also had a decidedly

Black Friday feel as huge crowds of shoppers overwhelmed stores for a must-have item.

In some areas, lines began forming several hours before businesses opened for the \$180 shoes that were selling in a limited release.

As the crowds kept growing through the night, they became more unruly and ended in vandalism, violence and arrests.

A man was stabbed when a brawl broke out between several people waiting in line at a Jersey City, New Jersey mall to buy the new shoes, authorities said. The 20-year-old man was expected to recover from his injuries.

In Richmond, California, police say crowds waiting to buy the Air Jordan 11 Retro Concord at the Hilltop Mall were turned away after a gunshot rang out around 7 a.m.

No injuries were reported, but police said a 24-year-old suspect was taken into custody.

The gun apparently went off inadvertently, the Contra Costa Times reported.

Seventeen-year-old Dylan Pulver in Great Neck, New York, said he's been looking forward to the release of the shoes for several years, and he set out at 4:30 a.m. to get a pair.

After the first store he tried was too crowded, he moved on to a second location and scored a pair.

"I probably could have used a half a size smaller, but I was just really happy to have the shoe," he said.

The frenzy over Air Jordans has been dangerous in the past.

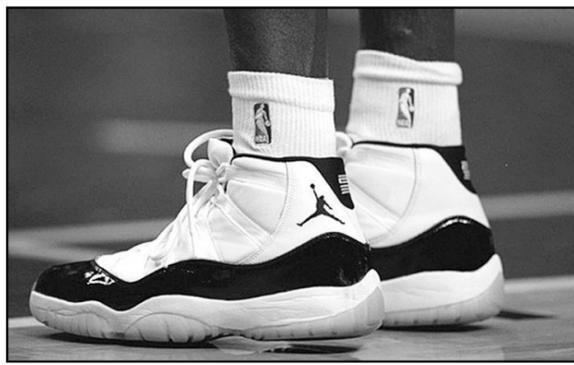


Photo courtesy of Allsport

The original Air Jordan 11s. A retro version of the iconic shoe line was released Friday and wreaked havoc at malls and stores around the country.

Some people were mugged or even killed for early versions of the shoe, created by Nike Inc. in 1984.

The Air Jordan has since been a consistent hit with sneaker fans, spawning a subculture of collectors willing to wait hours to buy the latest pair.

Some collectors save the shoes for special occasions or never take them out of the box.

A new edition was launched each year, and release dates had to be moved to the weekends at some points to keep kids from skipping school to get a pair — but the uproar over the shoe had died down in recent years.

These latest incidents seem to be part of trend of increasing acts of violence at retailers this holiday shopping season, such as the shopper who pepper-sprayed others at a Wal-Mart in Los Angeles on Black Friday and crowds looting a clothing store in New York.

Nike issued a statement in response to the violence that said: "Consumer safety and

security is of paramount importance. We encourage anyone wishing to purchase our product to do so in a respectful and safe manner."

The retro version of the Air Jordan 11 was a highly sought-after shoe because of the design and the fact that the original was released in 1996 when Jordan and the Bulls were at the height of their dominance.

Pulver said they were a "defining shoe in Jordan's career."

Other disturbances reported at stores in places like Kentucky and Nebraska ranged from shoving and threats to property damage.

In Taylor, Michigan, about 100 people forced their way into a shopping center around 5:30 a.m., damaging decorations and overturning benches.

In Toledo, Ohio, police said they arrested three people after a crowd surged into a mall.

In Lithonia, Georgia, at least four people were apparently arrested after customers

broke down a door at a store selling the shoes.

DeKalb County police said up to 20 squad cars responded.

In Northern California, two men were arrested at a Fairfield mall after crowds shoved each other to get in position for the Nikes, police said.

In Stockton, Detective Joe Silva said a person was taken into custody at Weberstown Mall on suspicion of making criminal threats involving the shoes.

Police also were investigating an attempted robbery in the mall's parking lot.

The victim was wrongly believed to have just purchased Air Jordans.

In Tukwila, Officer Murphy said the crowd was on the verge of a riot and would have gotten even more out of hand if the police hadn't intervened.

About 25 officers from Tukwila and surrounding areas responded.

Murphy said police smelled marijuana and found alcohol

containers at the scene.

"It was not a nice, orderly group of shoppers," Murphy said. "There were a lot of hostile and disorderly people."

The Southcenter mall's stores sold out of the Air Jordans, and all but about 50 people got a pair, Murphy said.

Shoppers described the scene as chaotic and at times dangerous.

Carlisa Williams said she joined the crowd at the Southcenter for the experience and ended up buying two pairs of shoes, one for her and one for her brother.

But she said she'll never do anything like it again.

"I don't understand why they're so important to people," Williams told KING-TV. "They're just shoes at the end of the day. It's not worth risking your life over."

AP Business Reporter Sarah Skidmore contributed to this report from Portland, Oregon. AP Writer Michelle Price contributed from Phoenix.

Wade, James have many ties that bind

Continued from 1B

that I've seen that he hasn't seen, and vice versa. To be able to be alongside him, be with him every day and basically go through the same things on the court and off the court, it's great. Sometimes you're able to sit back and see things from a different perspective instead of everybody watching you."

They take their cues from each other, whether it is fashion, workout regimens or just where to sit sometimes.

For Friday's post-practice interview, Wade slid his body down a wall in a room adjacent to the Heat training facility, slumping to the floor.

"Tired," Wade said.

Two minutes later, James entered the room.

Even though he didn't see how Wade took his seat, he did the same thing, putting his back to the wall and sliding to the red carpet.

"Tired," James said.

Maybe it's more than a coincidence.

"What's the saying? Iron sharpens iron. Greatness breeds greatness," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "So you see an example of that next to you. Those guys want to be challenged. Those guys like to be challenged. They do not accept the success that they've had and where they are right now. They're always trying to push to go to the next level. And there's no better way for them to do that than to have an equal peer next to them, pushing them."

The biggest question when Wade, James and Chris Bosh teamed up in July 2010 was will it work?

There have been bumps in the road, and likely there will be a few more — but they are making it work.

James finished second in the league in scoring, Wade finished fourth.

Since 1965, the only other time two teammates were among the NBA's top four

scorers, and played for a team that went to the NBA finals was 2001, when Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal did it for the Lakers.

Bryant and O'Neal won the title; Dallas beat Miami in last season's finals.

And James and Wade will get yet another reminder of that defeat Sunday when the Heat open their season against the Mavericks — and watch the new champs raise their title banner.

"For us, getting better is not necessarily going to show in our numbers," Wade said. "It's going to show in our leadership. It's going to show in those moments where we get in those games like the finals where we're up 10 in the fourth quarter, how do we help our team get that win no matter what's going on in the game. It's moreso that, not just how we score the ball, rebound, pass. We're going to have those numbers. It's the other things."

Last year in training camp, Wade and James wanted to be on separate teams in practice, trying to set a tone.

This year, with an abbreviated training camp and the core of last year's Eastern Conference championship team back, the mano-a-mano matchups haven't happened much, their preference being to keep Miami's first unit together as much as possible to get sharp for the season.

"I'd rather not go against him," James said. "We're two competitors. We go against each other at practice at times. But I've found it's definitely better to have him by my side."

When the Heat got James, the team got a two-time MVP, and both players got child-care help.

An interesting perk, for certain, but it's just another tie that binds. James has two sons, Wade has two sons, and the kids are all of relatively similar ages.

They hang out often, overnighting and playing together, sometimes going so late that the dads are still a bit sleepy when they arrive for work the next day.

It speaks to the level of trust James and Wade have with each other as well.

The way they see it, if you can trust a teammate with your kids, you probably can trust him with the basketball with the game on the line.

"There's things we knew from afar," Wade said. "Our moms struggled. We both played this game at a high level. We knew that. But when you're around each other every day, you get to really learn the ins and outs. I understand him. And he understands me."

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AP moves to 9-2 on season

Continued from 1B

Decaris Jones added four as Sebring ended the first eight minutes up 19-14.

It was Marcus Dewberry's turn to take over the Devil scoring reins in the second as, though his outside shot wasn't falling, he began driving the lane with abandon and scored 10 in the period.

But the Streaks got three's from Jones, Jared Cannon and Kenoi St. Louis too help offset Dewberry's drives and hold the lead at 34-28 at the half.

Avon Park started to dig back into it in the third with Travis Lawton scoring inside and Baker driving for two after Taylor split a pair at the line.

Sebring seemed to regain momentum when, after Dewberry went one-of-two at the stripe, Cannon hit another from beyond the arc and Taylor hit two free throws.

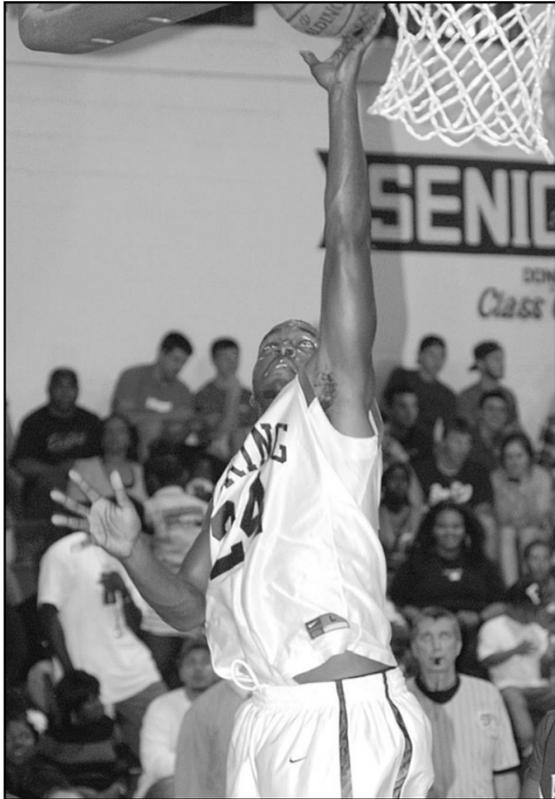
Michael Rhoden then came off the bench and hit a three from the corner, though Davaris Faulk answered with a baseline drive to make it a 42-36 Blue Streak lead.

But that would be the last score of the quarter for Sebring as Baker scored three straight buckets to tie the game and Rhoden hit another trey in the waning seconds for a 45-42 Red Devil lead heading into the fourth.

Now holding a lead, Avon Park decided to hold the ball to start the final eight minutes, in an effort to pull Sebring out of their zone defense.

"We wanted to bring them out in a man-to-man," Clemons said. "I figure my guards are going to be able to take your guards so we tried pulling them out of the zone."

For nearly three-and-a-half minutes nary a point was scored as the Devils



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
Davaris Faulk goes in for two, giving Sebring it's last substantial lead in Thursday's game with Avon Park.

just kept it out on the perimeter as the Blue Streak zone stayed packed in.

But a shot attempt then missed and Sebring got back on track with Taylor scoring five straight to put the Streaks back up, 47-45.

Tyrone Perry scored on a put-back for Avon Park to tie it and Taylor hit one at the line to give Sebring its final point and lead.

Because Baker, who had a game-high 26 points, would score off a turnover on the full-court press, Lawton hit one at the line, as did Dewberry, before Baker sealed it with two free throws for the final margin.

"It was just those little things that got us in the fourth," Harris said. "We played great for three quarters, but as I just told the guys in the locker room, you have to play all four."

"The hustle plays went

'It was a big step from the last time we played them.'

PRINCETON HARRIS
 Sebring head coach

their way and we started making more turnovers and missing free throws," Harris continued. "But it was a big step from the last time we played them and we're just looking to keep improving for when we get into our district schedule."

Both the Streaks and Devils will have a chance over the break to continue their work toward districts at the Taveniere Tournament in Sebring this week.

The action will run from Tuesday, Dec. 27 through Thursday, Dec. 29 in a six-team, shoot-out format.

County boasted plenty of All-Highlands candidates

Continued from 1B

Both seniors were the backbone of their respective defenses, lending experience, leadership and ability to get the job done.

Collison, out for a good portion of her junior season with a back injury, came back with a vengeance, getting an eye-popping total of 273 digs for the season.

Solidifying the middle of the front row, Sebring senior Kaley Walter had 127 kills to go along with 18 solo blocks.

And the six-footer showed her skills behind the line as well, serving up 30 aces on

the season.

Of course, Gavagni would need a pair of capable outside hitters to set the ball to, and this team has Lake Placid's Alana Nielander and Lady Red Devil Teresa Devlin to fill those high-flying shoes.

Devlin, the lone junior on the squad, helped propel Avon Park on its steady rise upward this season, swatting 84 kills and adding 101 digs, 28 service aces, as well as 21 assists.

Nielander was the county's kill queen, racking up 133 of them, but also showed her versatility in compiling 183

digs, 8 blocks and 29 service aces.

Each of these young ladies earned their All-Highlands spots through their hard work, ability and passion for the game.

And there were tough choices as any of the All-Highlands second team members were very worthy candidates as well, with Sebring's Stephanie Struck and Dino Lower, Lake Placid's Taylor Miller and Marissa Baldwin and Avon Park's Ashley Chacon and Jamie Wirries all put together standout seasons.

21 former players sue NFL over concussions

Associated Press

MIAMI — Nearly two dozen former NFL players are suing the league over severe and permanent brain damage they say is linked to concussions suffered on the job.

The complaint filed Thursday in Miami follows a similar one in Atlanta earlier this week.

It is the latest in a series of recent lawsuits against the NFL by ex-players.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of ex-Miami Dolphins teammates Patrick Surtain, Oronde Gadsden and 19 other players.

It accuses the NFL of deliberately omitting or concealing years of evidence linking concussions to long-term neurological problems.

The NFL denies the charges and says player safety has long been a priority.

The players claim the NFL made misrepresentations

about the seriousness of their injuries "with the intent of inducing NFL players, including Plaintiffs, to return to play as soon as physically possible after having suffered a football-related concussion and to promote an aggressive style of football that would attract viewers."

According to the lawsuit, following numerous studies

on the risks of concussions, the NFL created a committee of researchers and doctors in 1994 to study concussions.

The committee was supposed to be independent, but members were affiliated with the NFL, the lawsuit said, and the group did not include a doctor specializing in neurology or other brain research.

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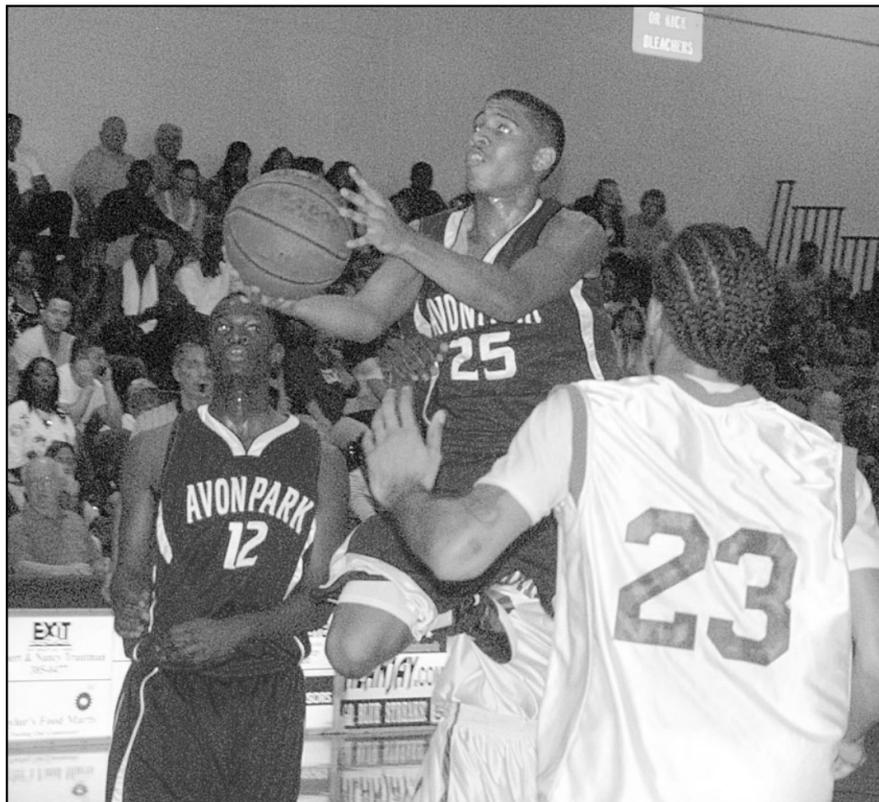
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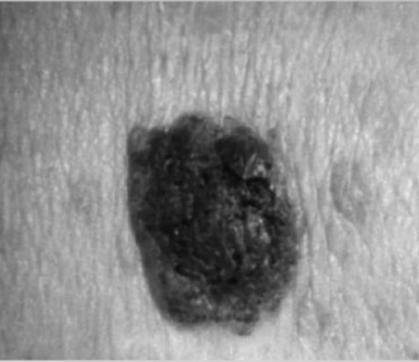




News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
His outside shot not falling on the night, Marcus Dewberry took his game inside for scores.



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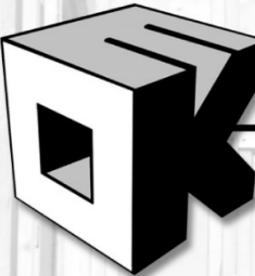
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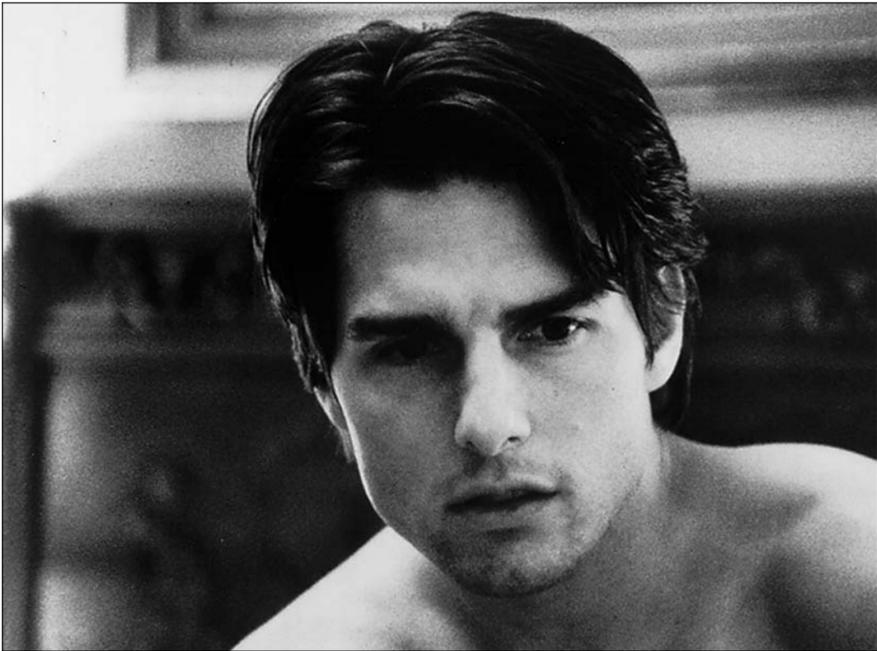
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MCT

Tom Cruise starred as Dr. William Hartford in Stanley Kubrick's 1999 film 'Eyes Wide Shut' also starring Nicole Kidman, from Warner Bros.

5 movies that may not seem like Christmas movies

By **CHRISTY LEMIRE**
AP Movie Critic

LOS ANGELES — Alonso Duralde literally wrote the book on Christmas movies: It's called "Have Yourself a Movie Little Christmas." So who better to guest-program the Five Most space this week?

Only Duralde — a film critic for The Wrap and (full disclosure) my co-host on the YouTube review show "What the Flick?!" — did it with a twist. He chose five movies that may not initially seem like Christmas movies yet have that Christmasy vibe. After all, anyone can pop "It's a Wonderful Life" or "Elf" into the DVD player on Dec. 25, but we've got the expert, in his own words:

Eyes Wide Shut (1999)

You may remember the notorious orgy sequence — or the scenes of then-married couple Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman speaking frankly about their sexual fantasies — but Stanley Kubrick's final film is set squarely in the Christmas season, with almost every scene involving twinkle lights or wrapping paper or a decorated tree. The delights of the Yuletide season make the perfect innocent counterpoint for this tale of marital discord.

Metropolitan (1990)

Whit Stillman's charming and witty directorial debut uses its debutante ball setting as the perfect excuse to capture the beauty of Manhattan

at Christmastime, bedecked in both decorations and a coating of snow. As Stillman pointed out, his low-budget indie movie got millions of dollars' worth of free art direction from the city of New York.

The Lion in Winter (1968)

"What shall we hang — the holly, or each other?" asks Henry II (Peter O'Toole) in this brittle and banter-filled comedy-drama that plays like a cross between "Game of Thrones" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" Henry brings his long-imprisoned wife Eleanor of Aquitaine (Katharine Hepburn) down from her tower to choose his successor from among their three sons, resulting in treachery, intrigue and swordplay.

And you thought your family get-togethers were argumentative.

Less Than Zero (1987)

Robert Downey Jr. gave his breakthrough performance as a spoiled Beverly Hills teen losing himself to drug addiction in this white-washed adaptation of the Bret Easton Ellis best-seller. The story's lead character (played by Andrew McCarthy) somehow got changed from a jaded hedonist to an earnest do-gooder, but Downey's performance — and the film's candy-colored, neon-tinged version of a decadent 1980s Christmas — still endure.

Steve Jobs to receive Grammy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Apple co-founder Steve Jobs is receiving a posthumous Grammy for his technological innovations in the arts.

Jobs will receive an honorary award Feb. 11, the day before the Grammys.

The Grammys are honoring Jobs with one of the group's Trustees Awards, citing the late Apple boss' advancements that "transformed the way we consume music, TV, movies, and books."



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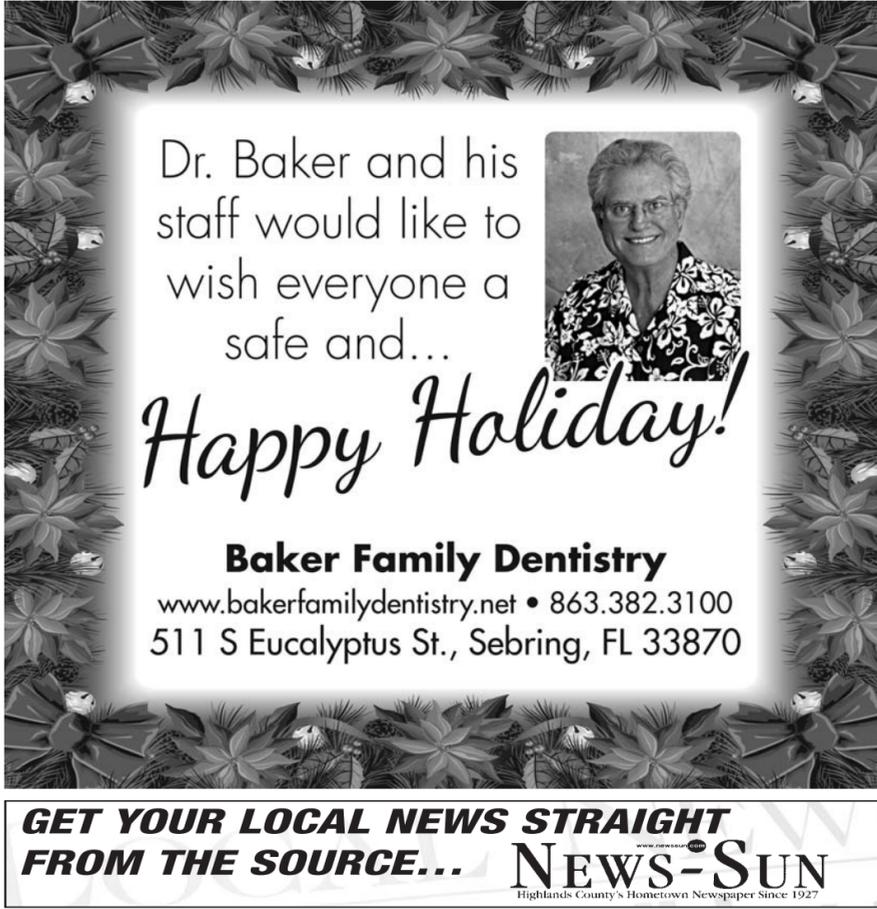
Die Hard (1988)

Some people find it hard to think of this action classic as a holiday staple, but many is the household where it's just not Christmas until Officer John McClane (Bruce Willis) blasts his way through a group of Eurotrash terrorists (led by the spectacularly viperfish Alan Rickman) at Nakatomi Plaza. It's a movie that set the tone for the next decade's worth of shoot-'em-ups, but it's a holiday tale, down to the redemption of the hero's rocky marriage and his use of gift wrap in the final gun battle.

Think of any other examples? Share them with Alonso Duralde through Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ADuralde>.

"Have Yourself a Movie Little Christmas": <http://amzn.to/b444F8>

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Where your live Christmas tree comes from



News From The Watershed

Corine Burgess

In Highlands County, when folks think of agriculture they usually think of crops, cows and citrus groves. But did you know that Christmas trees are a huge part of the agricultural industry? Christmas tree cultivation is considered an agricultural, forestry and horticultural practice. Generally pine, spruce and fir trees are grown specifically for the special holiday.

The most popular varieties of these trees include the Douglas fir, Scots pine and Fraser fir; all considered good sellers in the United States. Approximately 98 percent of all live Christmas trees sold worldwide were grown on tree farms.

In the 1800s and early 1900s when families wanted a Christmas tree, they would go out in the woods and chop one down. The first Christmas tree farm was established in 1901, but the "purchasing" of a tree didn't really catch on until the 1930s and 1940s.

Today, most folks consider it part of the Christmas festivities to go to the local business selling trees and pick one out. In many parts of the country, consumers can pick their own tree on the farm and cut it down themselves.

Christmas tree farms are generally located on level land. Like any other plant, they require a certain set of criteria such as nutrients, water, soil type, pH balance and drainage. Weather also plays a huge role in the success of these trees. It is an extremely labor intensive type of farming. The land must be completely free of obstacles such as rocks, trees and any other objects before planting can begin.

All weeds must be removed before the trees are planted and often the soil is treated with various herbicides and fertilizers before the planting



The first Christmas tree farm was established in 1901, but the 'purchasing' of a tree didn't really catch on until the 1930s and 1940s. Today, most folks consider it part of the Christmas festivities to go to the local business selling trees and pick one out.

process begins. Similar to many other types of crops, the outcome of the quality of the Christmas trees depends on this preparation work.

The life cycle of a Christmas tree from the seed to harvesting takes many years. The first step in the process is extracting the seed from the cone. The cones come from the older trees that have already been harvested. Generally, nurseries grow the seeds and sell the trees to Christmas tree farms once they have reached about three to four years old. Once the farmer receives the tree, it is planted in the ground and cared for until it is ready for harvest.

Once the trees have been planted in the ground, work continues for the Christmas tree farmer. Pests and diseases must continually be controlled as well as the weeds that sprout up. Many of these shapely trees require

pruning and shearing while they are growing. Once the trees are grown, which can take anywhere from five to 11 years, depending on the size, they must be harvested.

There are different methods for the harvest of these special trees. As stated above, some farms select the "choose-and-cut" procedure. Customers travel to the farm and walk through the tree forest and select the tree they desire. Once they find it, they cut it down themselves. Obviously, this saves the farmer a lot of labor. Wholesale operations that sell to side-of-the road vendors that we see every Christmas season, must cut, bale, load and move the trees to the buyer. There is a very short turn-around time in November for this process. Some growers go so far as to dig up the trees and sell root and all for those customers that want to

reuse their tree year after year.

There is some debate about the environmental impact of Christmas tree farming. Those that grow natural or live trees would argue that artificial trees are more environmentally harmful than the living kind. Live trees are completely biodegradable.

They can be recycled and used for mulch or to prevent erosion. An independent Life Cycle Assessment study concluded that a natural tree will generate 3.1 kg of greenhouse gases every year whereas the artificial tree will produce 48.3 kg over its lifetime. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, "every acre of Christmas trees in production produced the daily oxygen requirement for 18 people; with 500,000 acres in production in the U.S. alone, that amounts to oxygen for nine million people per day."

They also state that these farms help stabilize the soil, protect water supplies and provide wildlife habitat.

On the other hand, critics of Christmas tree farming claim that the use of fertilizers and pesticides are a concern. They maintain that the average Christmas tree receives roughly a half of an ounce of pesticide over its lifetime. In addition, these critics say that large-scale tree farming operations have huge effects on bio-diversity. Research and studies are continually underway to determine the environmental effects of Christmas tree farming.

When you pick out your Christmas tree this holiday season, keep in mind all the hard work and tender loving care that went in to your tree.

Whether you choose to purchase a live tree or use the artificial type, may you and yours have a very Merry Christmas.

Christmas tree trivia

— The first record of Christmas trees in America was for children in the German Moravian Church's settlement in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Christmas 1747. Actual trees were not decorated, but wooden pyramids covered with evergreen branches were decorated with candles.

— The custom of the Christmas tree was introduced in the United States during the War of Independence by Hessian troops.

— The market for natural Christmas trees declined since the 1980's. In the early 21st century nearly 98 percent of all natural Christmas trees sold worldwide were grown on tree farms

— The practice of cultivating evergreens specifically to sell as Christmas trees dates back to 1901, when a 25,000 tree Norway Spruce farm was sown near Trenton, New Jersey.

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

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ONLINE

Review: Take the time to curate Facebook Timeline

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — I've often joked that if something's not on Facebook, it didn't happen. Facebook's new Timeline feature makes that adage even more apparent.

Timeline is Facebook's new way of presenting you to the world. It replaces your traditional profile page — the one with your headshot and a smorgasbord of personal musings, photos and other items to share with friends. Instead of just a snapshot of you today, Timeline is supposed to be a scrapbook of your whole life.

But these highlights are culled from what Facebook sees as important — the stuff you and your friends have chosen to write or post photos about over the years. So it's crucial to spend time curating it, so your life doesn't come across as vain. If you're not careful, you also might reveal skeletons from your past to more recent friends.

Once you're ready for Timeline, you have a week to airbrush your life before it replaces your current profile. That's not a lot of time when you have (cough, cough) years of your life to go through. I suggest focusing on the years since you joined Facebook. You can always add photos from childhood later.

To set up Timeline, visit http://facebook.com/timeline. Facebook will force you to switch within a few weeks, so don't procrastinate.

Making a splash

Start by choosing a cover photo, the image that will splash across the top. You can choose a sunset, your dog, a hobby, anything that reflects who you are. Keep in mind the dimensions are more like a movie screen than a traditional photo. A close-up portrait of your face won't work well, but one of you lying horizontally will.

Your old profile photo will still be there, but it'll be smaller.

If you haven't done so already, you can add where you've worked, lived and went to school. If you specify years — such as when you started a job — those items will be added to Timeline's stream of life events, even if they took place before Facebook's founding in 2004.

You can also add other life events to the stream, such as when you broke your arm and whom you were with then, or when you spoke your first word or got a tattoo. By adding them to Facebook, you signal that those things really did happen.

More on the stream

The timeline stream is your life on Facebook in reverse chronological order.

At the top are your recent status updates, comments from family and friends, photos you're in and events you've attended. As you scroll down, you'll get high-

lights from last month, then earlier in the year. Scroll down even further for last year, the year before that and so on. Click one of the "Show" links to get all posts from a particular month or year.

Posts will be more sporadic the further you go back. You'll see when you joined Facebook and the first post you ever made — mine was "Anick Jesdanun is wasting a lot of time on facebook."

Beyond that, you may see details about high school or college. A colleague even saw the birth of her younger brother listed, after having told Facebook which of her friends were her siblings.

The bottom simply says "Born" with your birth date and birthplace, if you've chosen to share that.

This may come across as a big privacy breach, but keep in mind that people could have seen many of those posts before by continually hitting "Older Posts." The difference is most people wouldn't bother. With Timeline, you can jump more quickly to older posts.

Another thing to consider: Although your privacy settings remain the same, your list of friends has likely grown over the years, and your definition of friends has probably broadened to include parents, bosses and random flings at weddings. Someone you didn't know in 2008 would suddenly have easier access to something you posted then.

Curating your lifez

You can change who has access to which posts. Perhaps you'd want to narrow an embarrassing photo from Thanksgiving to family members who were there. You might want to delete other posts completely or hide them so that only you can see them.

You can change the date on a post. For example, if you had waited a week to tell the Facebook world that you broke up with someone, you can change the date to reflect when all the screaming and crying took place. You can also add where you were, retroactively using a location feature that Facebook hadn't offered until recently.

For major events in your life, you can click on a star to feature them more prominently.

You'll likely feel overwhelmed when you see your Timeline for the first time. Years-old posts made by people you're no longer friends with are still there. Musings on a trip or a long-forgotten event suddenly lack context. Your life may also come across as duplicative, such as when multiple friends post similar photos from the same party.

Here are a few tips: — Start with your older posts. You were probably experimenting with Facebook then, and most of those could go into hiding. Plus, those are the ones you'd need to be most careful about because you had reason to believe only a few

friends would see them.

— Find the button for Activity Log. Click that to see all of your posts at a glance and make changes to them one by one. Open Facebook in a new browser tab first, though. Every time you switch between the log and the timeline stream, Facebook resets to a default view rather than let you return to where you were. So have one tab for the log and the other for the stream.

— Think carefully about what you want to highlight when people scroll through your past. Facebook has a secret formula for determining which items are included in your highlights, using such factors as how many friends commented on a post. That may not necessarily be what you want to showcase.

Unfortunately, getting the stream to look right is diffi-

cult.

There's no easy way to highlight something Facebook's formula didn't pick, without starring it such that it gets splashed across the page. I also couldn't find a good way to remove something from the highlights without hiding or deleting it completely.

There are events I wouldn't consider major, but would want people to see if they took the time to browse through my past.

There also ought to be a way to star or hide posts in batches.

And oddly, Facebook includes stuff posted by others, but it doesn't include items you've posted on other profiles. Older posts come across as one-sided without the back and forth for context.

MOVING FORWARD

Overall, I like the concept

behind Timeline. I got a nice stroll down memory lane, and I enjoyed stalking my friends and uncovering their pasts, too.

I just wish it were easier to customize, and I don't appreciate being rushed. Facebook spent months developing Timeline and rolling it out to its 800 million users. Why give us just seven days?

If you're not ready to start Timeline, you can still view Timelines your friends have

already activated. Just keep in mind that Facebook eventually will force you to switch, so you might as well do it now if you have the time.

You might also want to take this as an opportunity to clean up your presence on Facebook.

Review your privacy settings and get rid of friends who don't need to be there.

Anick Jesdanun can be reached at njesdanun@ap.org.

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Table with 2 columns: AVON PARK and SEBRING. Lists dates and events such as 8th Annual US Sport Aviation Expo, Music in the Park, SFCC Theatre Play, and Sebring's Centennial Celebration.

Table with 2 columns: LAKE PLACID. Lists dates and events such as Miss and Junior Miss Lake Placid Pageant, Saturday Morning Market, US Sport Aviation Expo, Annual Home & Patio Show, WinterFest Outdoor Community Festival, 1st Annual "Crazy Pepper Chili Cook Off".

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Logos for Avon Park Chamber of Commerce, Greater Sebring Chamber of Commerce, and Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce. For information about supporting your Chamber of Commerce on this page, contact us at: 863-385-6155

Staying out of the ring: Barely half of adults wed

By LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK — As a 20-something, Erin Turner feels she made all the right moves dating wise. She graduated from college and spent three and a half years with a boyfriend before they moved in together.

Their cohabitation bliss lasted only eight months.

"We broke up because when you live with someone, everything comes to the surface," said Turner, who remains single in Chicago as her 30th birthday approaches in March.

"You start to see how people handle confrontation, financial realities, challenges, the housework load. If we had been married we would have been divorced, or fully on our way."

While Turner hopes to marry one day, she's not sweating it at the moment. Her parents divorced when she was young and she doesn't want marriage badly enough to settle. She'd be sad if she never married, but she wouldn't "implode."

Heading into 2012, trend watchers note that barely half of all adults in the United States are married, and the median age at the

'We as a society have to recognize that people do still get married but cycle into marriage later and may cycle out of marriage. I think marriage is perceived as a very desirable good but no longer a necessity.'

STEPHANIE COONTZ

author, professor

time of a first marriage has never been higher — slightly more than 26 years old for women and nearly 29 for men.

In 1960, 72 percent of those 18 or older were married. The percentage fell to 57 percent in 2000, and today it's just 51 percent, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of census data.

The share of marrieds could dip below half in a few years as single-person households, single parents and couples living together outside the bounds of legal marriage multiply. The number of new marriages in the U.S. fell 5 percent just from 2009 to 2010, a wrinkle that may or may not relate to the bad economy, Pew researcher D'Vera Cohn said.

The decline is spread among age groups but is most dramatic among Turner's generation. Nearly three out of every five adults ages 18 to 29 were married in 1960, but now only one in five is.

Marriage also is on the decline in other developed countries, especially those in Europe, and the trend is starting to take root elsewhere around the globe.

In Mexico City, for instance, a recent proposal would allow couples to "test drive" marriage with a two-year contract, said Ann Mack, a trend watcher for JWT Intelligence, an arm of the marketing giant. If the trial marriage didn't work out, the parties could walk away without lengthy divorce proceedings.

Women, in particular, are experiencing a mass marriage rethink, Mack said. "A growing number of women are taking an alternate life route that doesn't include marriage as an essential checkpoint," she said.

Retreat, maybe. But not outright abandonment, said Cohn and Stephanie Coontz, who wrote "Marriage: A History" and teaches family studies at Evergreen State

University in Olympia, Wash.

"We as a society have to recognize that people do still get married but cycle into marriage later and may cycle out of marriage," she said. "I think marriage is perceived as a very desirable good but no longer a necessity."

There's a lot to like about living single, said Bella DePaulo, who wrote the book "Singled Out."

"We're so used to, as a society, thinking about life in terms of what it means to be coupled and married that we miss out on all the ways in which living single has some real attractions, like having your own space," said DePaulo, who at 58 is happily single herself.

Among the more dramatic developments is a 17-point marriage disparity along education lines.

Nearly two-thirds of all adults with college degrees, or 64 percent, are married, compared with 47 percent with high school degrees or less, according to the

Pew snapshot released Dec. 14. Fifty years ago, college graduates and those who had not gone beyond high school were about equally likely to be married.

For less educated and lower earning women in particular, Coontz said marriage is riskier than it used to be.

"Men's real wages have fallen and they face a lot of job insecurity, so a woman who would have found a high school graduate a pretty damn good catch in 1960 now has to say to herself, 'Would it really be smart of me to marry this guy?' She's choosing to focus on her own earning power."

A separate Pew survey released last year found that while nearly 40 percent of respondents said marriage is becoming obsolete, 61 percent of those who were not married would like to be someday.

"I need to support a future family," said Vince Tornero, a 23-year-old senior at Ohio State University in Columbus. "I want to have kids but I can't have kids if I don't have money."

Pew also found that marriage statistics vary by race, with 55 percent of whites, 48 percent of Hispanics but just 31 percent of blacks married.

PLACES TO WORSHIP

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

APOSTOLIC

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

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

■ **Fellowship Baptist Church**, 1000 Maxwell St., Avon Park, FL 33825. Sunday: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: Evening Service, 7 p.m.; Children/Youth, 7 p.m. Telephone: 453-4256. Fax: 453-6986. E-mail: office@apfellow

ship.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 Altvrer leads the youth in their quest to become more like Christ. Sunday night worship at 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer meeting at 7 p.m. along with youth worship in the youth facility, and missions training for all children. Call the church at 655-1524.

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

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

■ **First Baptist Church, Sebring**, 200 E. Center Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. Telephone: 385-5154. Dr. David E. Richardson, senior pastor; Rev. Joe Delph, associate pastor, minister of youth and activities; and Rev. Nuno Norberto, associate pastor, minister of music and senior adults. Group Bible Studies, 9:15 a.m.; Blended Service, 10:30 a.m.; Mision 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 Gardena St., Lake Placid (just off of Miller at the west end of Lake June) "Where the old fashion gospel is preached." Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship service at 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 7 p.m. Call the church at 699-0671 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday Mid-week Bible Study and Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m. Nursery available for all services.

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

CATHOLIC

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

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

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

CHRISTIAN

■ **Eastside Christian Church**, 101 Peace Ave., Lake Placid, FL 33852 (two miles east of U.S. 27 on County Road 621), 465-7065. Ray Culpepper, senior pastor. Sunday: Bible classes, 9 a.m.; Worship Celebration with the Lord's Supper each week 10:15 a.m. Thelma Hall, organist; and Pat Hjort, pianist. Wednesday: Praise and Prayer, 6:30 p.m.; "Building God's Kingdom for Everyone," "Jesus Christ, the Way, Truth and Life!" "Alive and Worth the Drive!" ■ **Sebring Christian Church**, 4514 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33872. Tod Schwingel, Preacher;

Marco Gallardo, Youth Pastor. Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m.; Sunday Youth Service, 6 p.m.; Evening service at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night meals, 5:30 p.m. followed by classes at 6:30 p.m. Changing Seasons, a men's grief support group, meets at 1 p.m. Wednesdays. Alzheimers Caregivers Support Group meets at 1 p.m. Thursdays. Office hours, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday. Phone 382-6676.

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

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

CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

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

CHURCH OF BRETHREN

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

■ **Avon Park Church of Christ**, 200 S. Forest Ave., Avon Park, FL

33825. Minister: Larry Roberts. Sunday Worship Services, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Nursery facilities are available at every service. Bible Study: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, 7 p.m. Bible centered classes for all ages. Church phone: 453-4692.

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

CHURCH OF NAZARENE

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

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

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN CHRISTIAN UNION

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

BOOKS

HARDCOVER FICTION

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

- Michael Crichton and Richard Preston (Harper)
13. "IQ84" by Haruki Murakami (Knopf)
 14. "The Art of Fielding" by Chad Harbach (Little, Brown)
 15. "Zero Day" by David Baldacci (Grand Central Publishing)

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. "Steve Jobs: A Biography" by Walter Isaacson (Simon & Schuster)
2. "Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard (Henry Holt and Co.)
3. "Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption" by Laura Hillenbrand (Random House)
4. "Go the F--k to Sleep" by Adam Mansbach (Akashic)
5. "Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero" by Chris Matthews

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BEST-SELLERS

- (Simon & Schuster)
6. "Nearing Home" by Billy Graham (Thomas Nelson)
 7. "Being George Washington: The Indispensable Man, As You've Never Seen Him" by Glenn Beck (Threshold Editions)
 8. "Paula Deen's Southern Cooking Bible" by Paula Deen with Melissa Clark (Simon & Schuster)
 9. "Guinness World Records 2012" (Guinness World Records)
 10. "Through My Eyes" by Tim Tebow with Nathan Whitaker (Harper)
 11. "Thinking, Fast and Slow" by Daniel Kahneman (Ferrar, Straus & Giroux)
 12. "Cook's Illustrated Cookbook" by Cook's Illustrated Editors (Cook's Illustrated)
 13. "Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman" by Robert K. Massie (Random House)
 14. "The Circle Maker" by

- Mark Batterson (Zondervan)
15. "Then Again" by Diane Keaton (Random House)

MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

1. "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson (Vintage)
2. "Toys" by James Patterson and Neil McMahon (Vision)
3. "The Girl Who Played with Fire" by Stieg Larsson (Vintage)
4. "The Land of Painted Caves" by Jean M. Auel (Bantam)
5. "Lawe's Justice" by Lara Leigh (Berkley)
6. "Storm of Swords" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)
7. "Smokin' Seventeen" by Janet Evanovich (Bantam)
8. "A Game of Thrones" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)
9. "The Shack" by William P. Young (Windblown

- Media)
10. "Crescent Dawn" by Clive Cussler and Dirk Cussler (Berkley)
 11. "The Perfect Christmas" by Debbie Macomber (Mira)
 12. "Learning to Love: Sugar/Love by Degree" by Debbie Macomber (Mira)
 13. "The Confession" by John Grisham (Dell)
 14. "A Feast for Crows" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam)
 15. "Don't Look Behind You: Ann Rule's Crime Files Number 15" by Ann Rule (Pocket Books)

TRADE PAPERBACKS

1. "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett (Putnam Adult)
2. "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson (Vintage)
3. "Heaven is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back" by Todd Burpo, Sonja Burpo, Colton Burpo and Lynn Vincent (Thomas Nelson)
4. "The Tiger's Wife: A

- Novel" by Tea Obreht (Random House)
5. "The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel" by Garth Stein (Harper)
 6. "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot (Broadway)
 7. "The Next Always" by Nora Roberts (Berkley)
 8. "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese (Vintage)
 9. "The Zombie Survival Guide: Complete Protection from the Living Dead" by Max Brooks (Three Rivers)
 10. "Unlikely Friendships" by Jennifer S. Holland (Workman)
 11. "Sing You Home" by Jodi Picoult (Atria/Emily Bestler Books)
 12. "Born to Run" by Christopher McDougal (Vintage)
 13. "Outliers" by Malcolm Gladwell (LB/Back Bay)
 14. "Moneyball" by Michael Lewis (Norton)
 15. "The Girl Who Played with Fire" by Stieg Larsson (Vintage)

PLACES TO WORSHIP

EPISCOPAL

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

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

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

GRACE BRETHREN

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

INTERDENOMINATIONAL

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

LUTHERAN

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

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

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

■ **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (AALC) American Association of Lutheran Churches,** 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.ctmforme.com

■ **Grace Bible Church,** 4541 Thunderbird Road, (second church on left) Sebring, FL 33872. Phone, 382-1085. Andrew Katsanis, senior pastor. Saturday Worship, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, 9 and 11 a.m. Tuesday 6 p.m. Grace Bible Academy Adult Investigating Truth; first and third Tuesday, Prayer Gathering, 7:15 p.m.; Wednesday, Children's & Youth Programs, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., College Ministry. www.GBCconnected.org

■ **Highlands Community Church,** a casual contemporary church, meets at 3005 New Life Way. Coffee at 9:30 a.m.; Worship at 10 a.m. Nursery and Kid's World classes. Small groups meet throughout the week. Church phone is 402-1684; Pastor Bruce A. Linhart.

■ **The Lord's Sentinel Fellowship Church,** 148 E. Interlake Blvd., Lake Placid (at Lake Placid Christian School), Pastor Juanita Folsom. Sunday morning service, 10:30 a.m.; Monday, Sentinel School of Theology, 7 p.m.; Church service, Tuesday, 7 p.m. More information at www.juanitafolsomministries.com.

■ **Union Congregational Church,** 106 N. Butler Ave., Avon Park, FL 33825. Sunday worship services are at 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Millennium Church. Sunday school for all ages is at 9:15 a.m. We also offer a Saturday service at 6 p.m. with Pastor Tiger Gullett in the Millennium Church. Nursery/child care is available for all services. Senior Pastor is Bill Breylinger. Office: 453-3345. Web page at www.weareunion.org. All teachings are taken from the Manufacturer's Handbook - The Holy Bible. Come join us.

■ **Unity Life Enrichment Centre,** new location, 10417 Orange Blossom Blvd. S., Sebring, FL 33875; 471-1122; e-mail unity@vistanet.net. Web site, www.unityofsebring.org. 10:30 a.m. Sunday Celebration Service,

Nursery and Children's Church. Weekly Classes, Christian Bookstore and Cafe, Prayer Ministry, Life Enrichment Groups. Rev. Andrew C. Conyer, senior minister transforming lives from ordinary to extraordinary.

■ **The Way Church,** 1005 N. Ridgewood Drive, Sebring. Sunday school and worship service at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Youth activities, 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The Way is a church family who gathers for contemporary worship, teaching of God's Word, prayer and fellowship. Come early and stay after for fellowship time. Child care and children's church are provided. Reinhold Buxbaum is pastor. The Way – A place for you. Office Phone:471-6140, Church Cell Phone:381-6190. Email: thewaychurch@hotmail.com. Web site: www.TheWayChurch.org

PRESBYTERIAN

■ **Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA),** 4500 Sun 'N Lake Blvd., Sebring, 33872-2113. A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America. Sunday morning worship: Informal service, 8 a.m.; traditional service, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:15 a.m.; evening service, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting, 6 p.m.; Children's/Youth Group, 5:30-7 p.m.; choir practice, 7:15 p.m. Phone: 385-3234; Fax: 385-2759; e-mail: covpres@strato.net; Web site: www.cpcsebring.org. Rev. W. Darrell Arnold, pastor. Office hours: 8:30-12:30 a.m. Monday-Friday.

■ **First Presbyterian Church ARP,** 215 E. Circle St., (two entrances on LaGrande), Avon Park, FL 33825. Phone: 453-3242. The Rev. Robert Johnson is the pastor. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study, 10:30 a.m.; Potluck dinner, 6 p.m. third Wednesday; choir practice, 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday; Mary Circle business meeting, 1 p.m. second Wednesday; Sarah Circle business meeting, 4 p.m. second Thursday; Women's Ministries Combined Bible study, 4 p.m. third Thursday. Be a part of a warm, caring church family with traditional services, following biblical truth.

■ **First Presbyterian Church, ARP,** 319 Poinsettia Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. 385-0107. Sunday School, all ages, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m.; Tuesday: Grief Support Group, 1 p.m.; Youth Group (middle and high school), 3:30-6:30 p.m.; Wednesday: Adult Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m. Nursery available during worship. Call the church office for more information and other classes. Rev. Darrell A. Peer, pastor.

■ **First Presbyterian Church, ARP,** www.fpcpl.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.

HOME

The old-fashioned light bulb's phaseout: a primer

By JESSICA MINTZ
For The Associated Press

These are confusing days to be shopping for a light bulb.

New federal standards were to kick in after the New Year requiring 100-watt bulbs to be more energy efficient. Then Congress, in a bill passed this month to keep the government running, blocked enforcement of the new law until October 2012.

So, is January the beginning of the end for the warm incandescent glow as we know it?

Here's what you need to know about the phase-out of today's standard light bulb:

— **First of all, what federal standards are we talking about?**

The Energy Independence and Security Act became law in December 2007. It is wide-ranging, tackling topics from vehicle fuel economy and alternative automobile technologies to industrial energy efficiency, solar power and more. The law has a section that amends or tries to set new efficiency standards for appliances including furnaces, air conditioners, battery chargers, clothes washers, dishwashers and refrigerators. It also sets energy-efficiency standards for "general service incandescent lamps."

— **What's that?**
It's code for everyday-use incandescent light bulbs — the kind you screw in to the lamp in the living room. The law doesn't cover specialty bulbs such as black lights, bug lamps or plant lights; it also doesn't affect the 40-watt-or-less light bulbs you'd find in the refrigerator or oven.

— **What do the new rules demand?**

Four of today's commonly purchased incandescent bulbs are targeted: 100-watt, 75-watt, 60-watt and 40-watt. Those numbers refer to the amount of power the light bulbs draw; they're in the crosshairs because much of the power they consume is released as heat, not light.

On Jan. 1, 2012, a bulb that puts out the same amount of light as today's 100-watt bulb will be required to draw only 72 watts of power. In January 2013 and January 2014, similar new standards will go into effect for the other three light wattages.

— **Without funding for the Department of Energy to enforce the law, won't it just be business as usual for**



the 100-watt incandescent bulb?

Terry McGowan, director of engineering for the American Lighting Association, an industry trade group, doesn't think the last-minute politicking will change what the consumer sees on shelves come January. Major light-bulb makers started planning for this transition after the law passed in 2007, and have already invested in upgraded or new factories and technologies to meet the more stringent specifications.

— **So, does that mean incandescent bulbs will suddenly disappear from store shelves?**

Not quite. Retailers will be able to keep selling their supply of 100-watt incandescent until they're out of stock. Manufacturers can't import or make more bulbs that draw the same amount of energy as the existing models, but they are continuing to make a new version of incandescent bulbs that meet the stricter standards.

— **What do I need to know when I go shopping to replace an existing 100-watt bulb?**

The most useful new vocabulary word is "lumens," a measure of the amount of light a bulb produces. An existing 100-watt bulb gives about 1,600 lumens. The Federal Trade Commission has started requiring light-bulb makers to adorn packages with a new "Lighting Facts" label that lists brightness in lumens, so you can compare.

The package label also specifies how "warm" or "cool" the bulb's light will be. Many consumers have only a vague idea what those really mean. The Department

of Energy has a useful chart online that can help you figure out whether the bulb you really like is warm or cool: <http://www.energysavers.gov/your-home/lighting/day-lighting/index.cfm/mytopic12030>

Another phrase to watch for is "halogen incandescent." These are the light-bulb makers' answer to the new standards. Halogen bulbs, like regular incandescent bulbs, use a tungsten filament, so the light quality and color are intended to be similar. But in halogen bulbs, the filament is encased in a halogen gas-filled capsule that lets the filament burn hotter and more efficiently.

College kids gave halogen torchiere floor lamps a bad rap, but these newer bulbs look like regular incandescent bulbs, and they're safer and cooler because the inner halogen tube is tucked inside a second bulb.

— **Does this mean I can forget about compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other new kinds of light bulbs?**

You might not want to. The Department of Energy says the new halogen incandescent bulbs are about 25 percent more energy-efficient than today's bulbs. Compact fluorescent bulbs are 75 percent more efficient, last 10 times longer and, while they're more expensive, can pay for themselves in nine months.

And while some CFLs still take a while to reach full brightness after you turn them on, the technology is improving. It's possible to find instant-on and dimmable models that don't bathe your living room in a glow reminiscent of the office bathroom.

Light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, are about 75 percent to 80 percent more efficient and are meant to last 25 times longer than a regular incandescent light bulb. They're still much more expensive — \$25 for a single 60-watt-equivalent bulb recently on Home Depot's website, compared with about \$5 for a five-pack of CFLs — but prices are expected to drop as more people start using them.

— **Excuse me, did you say \$25 for a light bulb?**

Yep. The upfront costs, even for certain compact fluorescent bulbs, can be hard to swallow if you're used to paying less than \$1 for incandescent bulbs, even if you know the investment will pay off down the road.

In the new era of energy-efficient lighting, we need to wrap our heads around the fact that shopping for a new light bulb is no longer akin to restocking the milk in the fridge — it's more like purchasing an appliance, says McGowan. He keeps track of light bulb purchases, with

receipts, in a file drawer right alongside repairs to his home furnace. He also recommends

buying Energy Star-qualified bulbs, because they have a replacement program if the bulbs fail.

Online

Smartphone app for choosing light bulb replacements: <http://www.light-bulbfinder.net/>
Lumen, an industry coalition: <http://lumennow.org/>
Department of Energy sites about light bulbs: <http://www.lightingfacts.com/>
<http://www.energysavers.gov/lighting>
Environmental Protection Agency summary of the 2007 law: <http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/eisa.html>

the Y MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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Inspirational Thoughts
by Patricia Valentine

St. John 3:16-17, says, "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. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." As we are celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, let's remember the greatest gift we have been given, and that is the gift of a living Savior. The scripture tells us whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. What is really being said, is everyone who believes in Jesus will be given new and eternal life. My encouragement to you, use the time of celebration to present back to Jesus the greatest gift you have to offer. What would you say that gift is? I will help you in answering that question. Give Jesus your heart. So let's keep in mind what we are really celebrating today. The birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; because of his birth we can have everlasting life.

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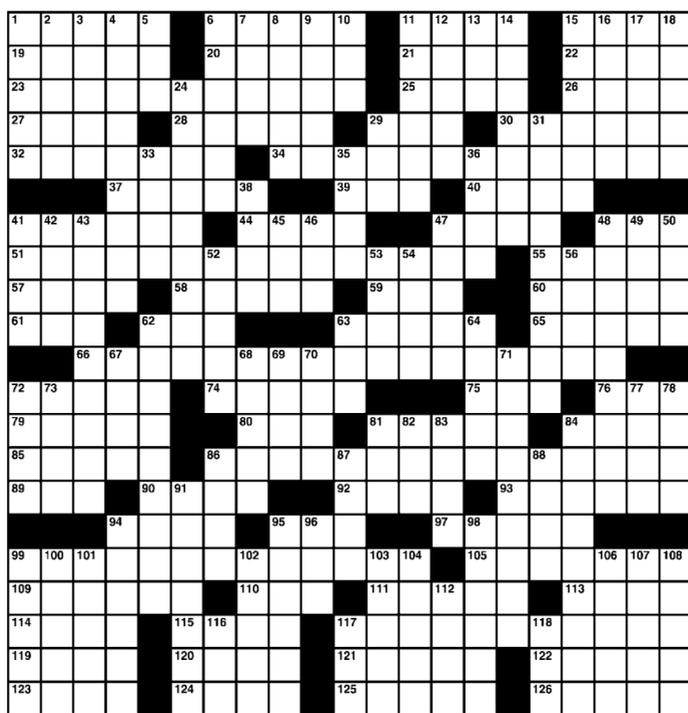
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DIVERSIONS

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

- ACROSS**
- 1 Enjoy a home-cooked Christmas dinner, say
 - 6 Linear opening
 - 11 "Don't leave!"
 - 15 Pretense
 - 19 "Funny Girl" subject
 - 20 Midnight follower
 - 21 2011 Home Run Derby winner Robinson
 - 22 Dustin's "Tootsie" co-star
 - 23 The Little Drummer Boy brought ___
 - 25 "The stockings were ___"
 - 26 Barrel of laughs
 - 27 Come by honestly
 - 28 War hero Murphy
 - 29 Baby barker
 - 30 In the thick of
 - 32 Kerbside container
 - 34 Tiny Tim brought ___
 - 37 81-Down scanners
 - 39 Bosox legend
 - 40 See-through piece
 - 41 Easily influenced
 - 44 In a frenzy
 - 47 1974 Peace Nobelist from Japan
 - 48 Smartphone component, for short
 - 51 Cupid the reindeer brought ___
 - 55 "___ Theme": "Doctor Zhivago" tune
 - 57 Military assignment
 - 58 Drums out
 - 59 Scuff, say
 - 60 Song title words before "music" or "rock 'n' roll"
 - 61 Santa ___
 - 62 Fire starter?
 - 63 Serving to punish
 - 65 Prominent landmark
 - 66 Jack Frost brought ___
 - 72 Three-line verse
 - 74 Point-and-click shopping
 - 75 Videotape format
 - 76 Groovy
 - 79 Orange-skinned Muppet
 - 80 Word of unanimity
 - 81 "Of ___ Sing"
 - 84 Carter of "Gimme a Break!"
 - 85 Runs through a sieve
 - 86 The Nutcracker brought ___
 - 89 "A Christmas Carol" epithet
 - 90 Brickmaker's oven
 - 92 Verdi villain who sings "Era la notte, Cassio dormia"
 - 93 Display deference
 - 94 "Bossypants" author Fey
 - 95 Humanities degs.
 - 97 One-horse carriages
 - 99 Rudolph brought ___
 - 105 Get comfortable with
 - 109 1992 Wimbledon champ
 - 110 Kitty, maybe
 - 111 Dinero
 - 113 Illegal USMC status
 - 114 Attention
 - 115 Glittery mineral
 - 117 The Salvation Army volunteer brought ___
 - 119 Change one's story?
 - 120 Period of prosperity
 - 121 Followers of various animals?
 - 122 "Four Christmases" actress Witherspoon
 - 123 HR dept. data
 - 124 Inning sextet
 - 125 2001 bankruptcy filer
 - 126 "What the Butler Saw" playwright
- DOWN**
- 1 Drew away
 - 2 Horowitz contemporary
 - 3 Fan belts?
 - 4 Kid's Christmas Eve cry
 - 5 Marge's TV neighbor
 - 6 Like Kris Kringle
 - 7 Seat of Oklahoma's Garfield County
 - 8 Director DeMille
 - 9 He played Sulu in "Star Trek"
 - 10 Facebook exchanges, briefly
 - 11 "A Charlie Brown Christmas" writer
 - 12 Hosiery hue
 - 13 Raggedy redhead
 - 14 Pad for posers?
 - 15 Light, as a match
 - 16 Temple title role
 - 17 Developed
 - 18 Hands, slangily
 - 24 Nick's status?
 - 29 Sch. meeting group
 - 31 Yosemite's El Capitan and others
 - 33 French bench
 - 35 Trike rider
 - 36 Getaway destinations
 - 38 The shoe department in its flagship store has its own zip code
 - 41 Storybook bear
 - 42 Scientology guru Hubbard
 - 43 "No sweat!"
 - 45 Encountered
 - 46 Noncommittal comments
 - 47 Manger bedding
 - 48 Squinter's lines
 - 49 Cover with concrete
 - 50 Icon clicker
 - 52 Gold unit
 - 53 Mass conclusion
 - 54 Mapmaker ___ McNally
 - 56 Itch soother
 - 62 What are "smiling at me" in an Irving Berlin classic
 - 63 Amigo
 - 64 Subsisted (on)
 - 67 Route 66 migrant
 - 68 Many a Jazz fan
 - 69 "The Gift of the Magi," e.g.
 - 70 Threshold
 - 71 Songbird with an onomatopoeic name
 - 72 Basil or rosemary
 - 73 Teatro Rossini highlight
 - 77 "And don't forget ..."
 - 78 Cooled, in a way, with "on"
 - 81 Bag-checking agcy.
 - 82 "Macbeth" trio member
 - 83 Grandson of Eve
 - 84 Times, at times
 - 86 Balkan native
 - 87 Grace's "Rear Window" role
 - 88 The ___: Georgetown University 84-Down
 - 91 Left hanging
 - 94 Sports bar array
 - 95 Second-string squads
 - 96 Charade
 - 98 Obsess over
 - 99 Olympic events
 - 100 Old-school oath
 - 101 "Mack the Knife" singer
 - 102 Lake Buena Vista attraction
 - 103 Anne or Calvin of couture
 - 104 Swiss mathematician
 - 106 Message since 2006
 - 107 Statue subject
 - 108 Pal of Kent and Lane
 - 112 Adman's award
 - 116 Broke poker player's note
 - 117 Blossom buzzer
 - 118 Debate side

By DOUG PETERSON



Solution on page 5B

- 11 "A Charlie Brown Christmas" writer
- 12 Hosiery hue
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Through the eyes of a child



Pause And Consider
Jan Merop

Stars twinkled above as the shepherds watched over their flocks. Dangers lurked in the darkness. Their keen eye and quick response would ward off danger to a tiny lamb.

So, the shepherds settled in for the expected...

When suddenly the unexpected happened!

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified," says Luke in the second chapter, verse 9 of his gospel account.

Wouldn't you be? Terrified, that is?

Everywhere in Scripture when an angel appears to a man or woman, they immediately assure the person with the words, "Do not be afraid." These messengers of God must make quite a stunning appearance when a mortal's response is to fall flat on his face in terror.

When the angel assured the shepherds they need not fear, they proceeded to bring them "good news of great joy."

Though God the Son appeared in the "box" of humanity and was placed in the "box" of a feeding trough for his first bed, no box could contain God's exuberance.

He burst the heavens with his glory and angelic appearances announcing the birth of the Messiah while a host of angelic voices sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Wouldn't you love to hear the shepherds' first-hand account of that night? Imagine the adrenaline that pumped through their veins as they eagerly anticipated finding the child.

But, sometimes, when we retell this story, we forget to respond with wonder. That's why it is so precious to hear wonder in the voice of a child who sees with tender, fresh eyes of faith.

Our youngest grandson recently remembered having seen the live reenactment of the nativity scene last year. The evening he first saw it, he was beyond himself with joy having considered that he had just seen the real baby Jesus.

I wondered if his memory would still hold that same joy and awe. He didn't disappoint me with his comment.

"O Gramma, Jesus is the most beautiful baby ever born!"

That He is. He can't be boxed in — for all of heaven declares his glory — yet, he allowed himself to be contained in time so that he might live within the hearts of all who receive him.

This Christmas, fling wide open the door of your heart and invite him to manifest his glory through you. Selah.

Jan Merop of Sebring is a News-Sun correspondent. Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun staff.

Trust your instincts, Cancer

Metro Services

Aries (March 21-April 20)

— Aries, sometimes you just have to let a person go. If there's no getting this person to come around to your way of thinking, it's best to devote your energy elsewhere.

Taurus (April 21-May 21)

— Taurus, you have nothing to hide, so speak your mind when a family member asks for your two cents this week. Just keep in mind he or she may not be ready for what you have to say.

Gemini (May 22-June 21)

— Gemini, you don't have to be asked twice to lend a hand when someone needs help. That's what so many of your friends admire about you — your selflessness.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

— Cancer, trust your instincts because they often do not let you down. You have a feeling about someone close to you and what you will discover is how on target your gut can be.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 23)

— Leo, instead of making things more difficult than they have to be, simply put out the word that you're looking for some help and you'll likely find a bunch of takers.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 22)

— Virgo, you may have to cut a trip short because something that is high priority comes up unexpectedly. You may want to reschedule your plans for next week.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

— Libra, this week you may find yourself as the center of attention, and frankly, you will probably love every moment of it. Just don't let all the attention go to your head.

Horoscope

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

— Scorpio, sometimes it can be difficult for you to express the things that are in your heart, but this week you further your relationship with some much-needed conversation.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

— Sagittarius, take a chance on something you thought you couldn't master. You just may be surprised at what you can accomplish when you put your mind to it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

— Capricorn, think about how you want the week to go and then focus your energy in that direction. It's amazing what a little mental energy and some help from the stars can do.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18)

— Lately it seems like you're working very hard at not being happy, Aquarius. All it takes is a little change in perspective to turn it all around. Capricorn plays a key role.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

— Pisces, go on an old-fashioned date if you've been in a relationship for some time. It could add a spark that you need.

Notable birthdays

- Dec. 25 Dido, Singer (40)
- Dec. 26 Jared Leto, Actor/Musician (40)
- Dec. 27 Gerard Depardieu, Actor (63)
- Dec. 28 John Legend, Singer (33)
- Dec. 29 Jon Voight, Actor (73)
- Dec. 30 Eliza Dushku, Actress (31)
- Dec. 31 Joe McIntyre, Singer (38).

Proof of a mother's love is found in simple treasures



Dear Abby

Dear Abby: After a long battle with cancer, my beloved mother died. After we got over the initial shock of Mom's passing, we were looking through her room. It had always been ingrained in us not to snoop through Mom's things, so there were some feelings of guilt when we did it.

On her dresser was an old jewelry box one of us had given her for Christmas years ago. It was a ratty old thing covered in white vinyl, its embossed gold paint long gone. The latch was rusty, but we finally managed to get it open. There was no jewelry inside. Instead, nestled in the threadbare red velvet, were the treasures of a lifetime of loving.

There were the hospital bracelets each of us had worn as infants, a lock of my baby hair, the first Mother's Day card ever given to her, an old school photo of me framed in popsicle sticks, a gift card written to her by my father before we were born along with other items that probably wouldn't be worth 50 cents to anyone else. But they were priceless to our mother.

My sister and I were amazed. Our mom knew that love isn't something you wait for or something that comes to you from elsewhere, but rather that it's a behavior, a way of being in the world. Her personal treasures were evidence not of the love she'd

received, but tokens of the love she had given.

We decided to assemble a scrapbook of these treasures, to be kept for a year by each of us then passed along to the others as a Christmas gift each holiday.

Please tell your readers that in the end, all that matters is the love you give. That is our mother's legacy to us, and it will ultimately be her legacy to her great-grandchildren.

This Christmas, while missing our mother, we will smile through our tears, remembering how her face would be alight with love on Christmas morning at the sight of us opening the gifts she'd left under the tree. And isn't that the greatest gift we could ask for?

— Grateful Son in Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Grateful Son:

Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your mother. She must have been a wonderful woman to have raised such a sensitive son. It's obvious that she knew — and taught each of you — that the most important gift we can give each other isn't one that's tangible. The most important gift is love.

Dear Abby: I'm a 13-year-old girl and my mom's having a baby. No, I'm not an only child — I have two half-brothers and one soon-to-be stepbrother. My mom has been let down so many times in her life by so many men. She has told me to wait to have sex until I'm married, and now this happens — and before they get married.

Abby, I feel so disappointed in her. I don't think my mom "gets" how let down by her I feel. How do I tell her?

— Confused in Chicago

Dear Confused: I suspect your mother already knows on some level what you're thinking and that she didn't set a good example. If you feel it's necessary to vent, then tell her just the way you told me.

You appear to be an intelligent young woman. So take this as an opportunity to learn from the pain you have seen her suffer from her poor choices.

It will keep you from making the same mistakes you have seen her make, and it will serve you well — now and in the future.

To My Christian Readers:

I wish each and every one of you a joyous and meaningful Christmas. Merry Christmas, everyone.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at

www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 to: Dear Abby — Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

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The Muppets	PG
(Amy Adams, Jason Segel)	
2:00 - 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:30	
Jack and Jill	PG
(Amy Adams, Jason Segel)	
2:00 - 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:30	
J. Edgar	R
(Leonardo DiCaprio, Naomi Watts)	
2:00 - 5:00 - 8:00	
Moneyball	PG-13
(Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill)	
7:30 - 9:30	
The Ides of March	R
(Ryan Gosling, George Clooney)	
2:15 - 4:15	

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Mastering the art of the perfect toast

When raising a glass, make your words memorable — for the right reasons

BY ART CAREY
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Still recovering from the disastrous toast you delivered at that holiday dinner party? Tipsy from too many mai tais, you rambled on in a bibulous blather, insulted your best friend's fiancée, and topped it all off with an infelicitous remark about the host's cooking.

The silence was thundering, punctuated by a few embarrassed titters.

Cheer up! Everybody makes mistakes. And besides, New Year's Eve is approaching, which means you have a dandy chance to redeem yourself by delivering a toast worthy of your noble nature.

Performed with style and panache, a toast can approach art. It can distinguish you as clever, suave and sophisticated. The trick, as in many endeavors of this sort, is to strive for grace — the achieving of something splendid with beauty and seeming ease.

In this regard, heed the wisdom of Baldassare Castiglione, the 16th-century diplomat and author of "The Book of the Courtier." He advocated "sprezzatura," an Italian word that means the art of effortless mastery or, more accurately, the appearance of effortless mastery.

This should be your goal — nonchalant excellence — not just when you raise your glass, of course, but in all aspects of life.

Toasting's origins are shrouded by the proverbial mists of antiquity. Ancient Greeks and Romans hoisted their chalices to ward off divine hissy fits and pay tribute to egomaniacal emperors. Early Christians were wont to clink glasses to keep Satan at bay.

In the Middle Ages, when scores were settled with poison, toasting was a polite way of proving the wine was safe. Vikings quaffed mead from the skulls of fallen foes (hence the modern Scandinavian toast "skål"). Freaky Brits stabbed themselves in the arm and mixed their blood in the wine. Oxford lads saluted a fair maiden by grabbing her shoe and using it as a toasting vessel.

The term derives from the quaint custom of dropping a piece of toast into a wine goblet. Why this was done is unclear. Some theories: to soften the bread, to make a tasty treat, to filter the wine and/or improve its taste by soaking up the dregs.

The early decades of the 20th century were toasting's golden age, some savants contend. The art of the toast inspired contests, regular newspaper columns, and guides aplenty. In recent times, alas, the toast has become rude, perfunctory, vulgar and banal, reflecting a general decline in manners, civility and eloquence.

Luckily, you can help stem this devolutionary tide. Herewith, some suggestions for toasting the new year in a distinctive, memorable way.

■ **Put some effort into it.** "If someone asks you to make a toast, it's really a big compliment and you ought to do a little homework. You ought to take it seriously because it takes a lot of preparation to make anything look easy."

So says Mary Mitchell, author of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Etiquette," which devotes two pages to the subject.

"Use your words wisely because people really are listening," she says.

A toast is a small speech; it should have an opening, a body and a conclusion, says Mike Nettle, president of Main Line Toastmasters, a chapter of Toastmasters International, which publishes the booklet "Mastering the Toast."

"The best toasts are original and heartfelt. It's too easy to get caught up in clichés."

■ **Keep it short and sweet.** "People don't want you dragging out last year while they're trying to get on with the new year," says John Bridges, co-author with Bryan Curtis of "Toasts & Tributes: A Gentleman's Guide to Personal Correspondence and the Noble Tradition of the Toast." "They're holding their glasses in the air. They want to sip the champagne. You don't want the bubbly to go flat while you drone on. A gentleman knows that a well-planned or well-phrased toast should never last longer than 60 seconds."

And never, ever, read your toast, Mitchell says. If it's too long to memorize, it's too long, period.

■ **Don't turn it into a contest.** "This is not a round robin," Bridges says. "You're not out to top the other guy." A toast from the host and a designated toastmaster is sufficient. Also, this is not your opportunity to show your chops as a stand-up comedian.

■ **Make sure the toast is appropriate for the audience and the occasion.** Though the sentiments may be akin, the toast one might raise to Harley-riding bikers in the Pagans' clubhouse will differ, certainly, from the one offered to blueblood swells at the neighborhood country club, if only in the resort to four-letter diction.

"What is the goal?" says Debbie Wolf, vice president of education at SmithKline Beecham, the Toastmasters chapter at Glaxo SmithKline. "Is the goal to be clever and entertaining? Or meaningful and thought-provoking?"

As occasions for toasting go, New Year's Eve is special.

"People are in a festive mood, an alcoholically enhanced festive mood," Bridges says. "There's more latitude to be rowdy, naughty and bawdy. It's a time when people are expected to get loud — tastefully loud, for a gentleman — or gentlewoman — "is never raucous."

A proper New Year's toast, like Janus, the double-faced Roman god of beginnings and endings, looks backward and forward.

"The main thing is to express high hopes for the new year and happy memories of the past year rather than anything dolorous," says Bridges. "Keep it upbeat and joyous. Salute the friends who are with you, remember those who aren't, and be grateful you're alive for another turn of the calendar."



Some do's and don'ts

For a toast with the most, Mary Mitchell offers this advice from her Irish grandfather: "Toasts should be like a woman's skirt — short enough to be interesting, yet long enough to cover the subject." Here are a few additional do's and don'ts from her book, "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Etiquette":

- **Don't ever toast yourself.**
- **If you're the one being toasted, just listen quietly and then say a quick thank-you.** Don't even put your hand on the glass, much less drink.
- **Do toast more than one person.** For example, you might toast an entire family that has come to visit, or a whole team.
- **Do not tap the rim of your glass to get everybody's attention** — it's tacky.
- **Do make a toast even if you're not drinking alcohol.** Anything will do. It's the thought that counts.
- **Do not preempt.** The host should be the first one up.

A sampling of toasts

Still at a loss for words? Try one of these gems on New Year's Eve:

Here's to the present. The hell with the past! A health to the future, and joy to the last!

Then fill the bowl — away with care! Our joy shall always last. Our hopes shall brighten days to come, and memory gild the past.

In the new year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship, but never in want.

Here's to turkey when you're hungry, champagne when you're dry, a lover when you need one, and heaven when you die.

Here's to those who love us well — those who don't may go to hell.

Here's a toast to the future, a toast to the past. And a toast to our friends, far and near. May the future be pleasant, the past a bright dream. May our friends remain faithful and dear.

Another year is dawning. Let it be true, for better or for worse, another year with you.

Be at war with your vices. At peace with your neighbors. And let every new year find you a better man.

— Benjamin Franklin

Three be the things I shall never attain: envy, content and sufficient champagne!

— Dorothy Parker

SOURCES: "CRISP TOASTS" BY WILLIAM R. EVANS 3D AND ANDREW FROTHINGHAM; "TOASTS & TRIBUTES" BY JOHN BRIDGES AND BRYAN CURTIS; "TOASTS: OVER 1,500 OF THE BEST TOASTS, SENTIMENTS, BLESSINGS, AND GRACES" BY PAUL DICKSON; AND "TOASTS FOR EVERY OCCASION" BY JENNIFER RAHEL CONOVER.