

# NEWS-SUN

Highlands County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1927



## Devils light it up

Avon Park runs to huge win over DeSoto

**SPORTS, 1B**

## Wheeler suit settled

County settles dispute with former Solid Waste Director

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## New Year's traditions

A look at how the new year is celebrated

**LIVING, 12B**



Friday-Saturday, December 30-31, 2011

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**Forecast**



Sunny  
and mild

High Low

**72 52**

Complete Forecast

**PAGE 12A**

**Online**



**Question:** Do you think the economy will improve in 2012?

**Yes  
31.6%**

**No  
68.4%**

Total votes: 114

**Next question:**

Will you be awake when 2012 arrives at 12 a.m. Sunday?

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[www.newssun.com](http://www.newssun.com)

**Obituaries**

Joyce Clark

Age 88, of Bonaire, Ga.

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## County told to stop work on elections building

By ED BALDRIDGE

[ed.baldridge@newssun.com](mailto:ed.baldridge@newssun.com)

SEBRING — Sebring Building Official Ed White's signature is on a stop work order issued on the new Supervisor of Elections building on Kenilworth Boulevard just before noon on Thursday.

County workers were installing sheet rock as a fire wall between the section of building set aside and already being used for storage for county document and the proposed Supervisor of Elections Offices when the notice was delivered.

The stop work order states that

the county needs to have "permits for any/all construction."

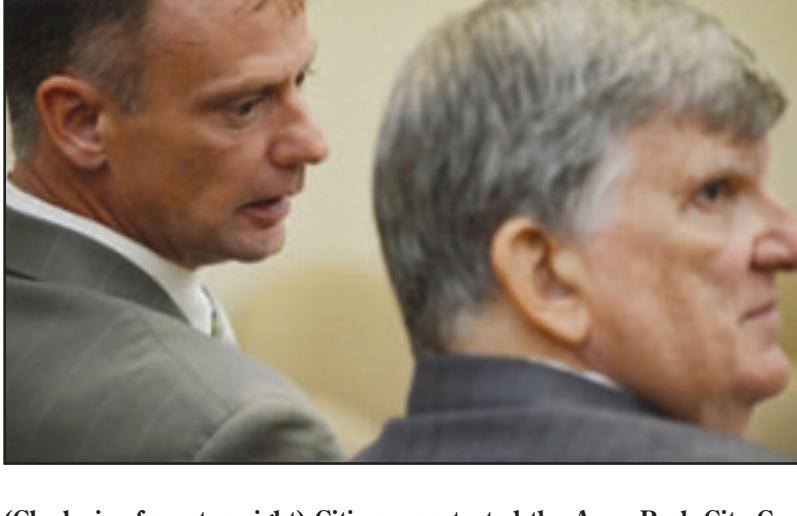
A call to the Sebring building department confirmed Thursday that the county did not have the proper permits for the work they have performed at the building already.

See COUNTY, page 6A



News-Sun photo by ED BALDRIDGE  
County Facilities Management employee Roger Dove installs a sheet rock firewall between the storage space and new Supervisor of Elections offices at the Kenilworth Building on Thursday.

## Top 11 stories of 2011



(Clockwise from top right) Citizens protested the Avon Park City Council, the county took steps to ban tobacco from all county property, PFC Joshua Jetton was laid to rest after being killed in combat in Afghanistan and Michael Rowan went to court to fight the loss of his job as Avon Park Chief of Police.

## Year was filled with controversy

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY

[christopher.tuffley@newssun.com](mailto:christopher.tuffley@newssun.com)

SEBRING — The biggest story in 2011 dealt with history-in-the-making up in Avon Park. It unwound throughout the year and will continue into 2012.

Actually there were two intertwining stories, one having to do with then police chief, Michael Rowan, and the second a shift in philosophy following radical changes in the city's leadership.

All the controversy led to an attempt at a recall election for several city council members.

But there was more going on than the fracas in Avon Park.

The year 2011 saw four out of five of the county commission seats get new people to fill them.

Those new commissioners had plenty to deal with, too, from a county tobacco policy to a proposed mud

bogging facility, a "pig in a poke" in the new elections building and how to pay for recreation in the county.

Recreation was also a big deal in Lake Placid, where the town struggled to come up with a pay-to-play policy to cover budget shortfalls.

There was also a new name revealed for South Florida Community College to reflect its growth, the saga of the Sebring fence ordinance and a hero was laid to rest in Sebring.

Here's a look at the top 11 stories from 2011:

### Rowan vs. Avon Park

Impacting the Avon Park heavily, the community split when Chief Michael J. Rowan was placed on administrative leave and then terminated.

The reasons given in several city meetings was that Rowan was inves-

tigating city council members for alleged wrongdoings, but State Attorney Jerry Hill's office stated Rowan may have overstepped his bounds by investigating his bosses.

Rowan sued over his termination, and the court case is still unresolved.

### Avon Park gets new city manager

The controversy surrounding the termination of Avon Park City Manager Bruce Behrens and the hiring of Public Works Director Julian Deleon to replace him also caused some controversy in the City of Charm in 2011.

Behrens was released after just six months at the city's helm, a move that sparked a recall effort from Avon Park citizens naming three of the five council members.

See TOP, page 7A

## Council has full agenda to open new year

*Sign ordinance, Harder Hall to be discussed*

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR

[sgholar@newssun.com](mailto:sgholar@newssun.com)

SEBRING — The city of Sebring's first city council meeting of the new year will be held Jan. 3 and the council is wasting no time getting back into the grind following the holidays.

The lengthy agenda includes nearly a dozen new business items including three public hearings, two of which involve the recent Hickory Ridge water system purchase by the city.

A third public hearing (and second reading) is an ordinance regarding the change of zoning and classifications to public property and use of land.

City attorney Bob Swaine will present the council and the public with the revised proposed ordinance that will regulate home occupation signs.

The ordinance has caused a little confusion regarding wording and specifications, however Swaine will present the first reading on Tuesday evening.

The home occupation ordinance will regulate the size and placement of signs in the yards of residents who run a business out of their home.

Council members brainstormed during previous meetings that the sign be approximately six square feet and attached to the side of the building (home) and no longer allowed in the yards of the residences/businesses.

The ordinance proposal was tabled from Dec. 20 meeting.

At the Dec. 6 meeting, the council denied the Highlands County Fair Association's proposed marquee sign being placed on the property. The news wasn't received well by fair officials.

See SEBRING, page 7A

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# County settles former Solid Waste Director's lawsuit

By ED BALDRIDGE

[ed.baldridge@news-sun.com](mailto:ed.baldridge@news-sun.com)

SEBRING — Claiming a savings if kept from a jury trial, county commissioners voted 5-0 on Tuesday to sign a settlement offer in the lawsuit filed by former Solid Waste Director Ken Wheeler.

According to County Attorney Ross Macbeth during the meeting, Wheeler and his attorneys will be paid "\$97,867.38 through the payroll system that the county has already received from its insurer."

Additionally, \$11,759.90 is to be

paid to the Florida Retirement Fund, \$7,486.86 in FICA and Medicare, \$25,000 for Wheeler's attorney fees and an undisclosed amount to the attorney's representing the county insurance company.

No mention was made of the amount, if any, County Attorney Ross Macbeth would be paid for his services.

The largest part of the settlement would be paid by county insurance and \$7,486.86 would come out of the county's pocket, Macbeth explained when asked by board



Wheeler

Administrator Michael Wright and then terminated in September of 2010 by current County Administrator Ricky Helms.

Wheeler claimed in his lawsuit he was a "whistleblower" and that he

chair Jack Richie for details.

Wheeler filed suit after he was placed on administrative leave for insubordination in August 2010 by former County

Administrator Michael Wright and then terminated in September of 2010 by current County Administrator Ricky Helms.

"If this keeps going and Wheeler prevails, he could be reinstated to his position with full pay and benefits," Macbeth said.

Macbeth also said that any future fees would also be paid out of county coffers.

"The insurer capped payments at these settlement amounts which would leave the board responsible

for all future legal fees and future judgments," Macbeth said.

"It is kinda sad that being in the right doesn't mean a lot when these decisions are made. It is an extremely bitter aftertaste," commissioner Don Elwell said.

"None of us like it, but unfortunately that's the way the legal system works when you have insurance companies involved. But this is a simple decision when you look at the numbers," Commissioner Ron

See WHEELER, page 7A

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Home and Patio Show open to vendors

SEBRING — Indoor and outdoor display spaces are still available for the upcoming Heartland Home and Patio Show on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 20-21. This event, sponsored by the Lake Placid Rotary Club, will showcase home and garden products available in Central Florida.

Vendors with home-related products and services are invited to apply for space by calling Show Coordinator Richard Bohlman at (863) 840-0691 or by visiting the website [www.LakePlacidRotary.com](http://www.LakePlacidRotary.com).

The event will be held at the Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center, 4509 George Blvd. Admission is free to all and visitors can register for door prizes. Food vendors will also be available during the show. Hours of operation are 3-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20 and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21.

Proceeds will benefit The Rotary Club of Lake Placid to support its charitable work, which includes youth scholarships, donations to local schools, disaster relief and many other community and vocational projects.

### Florida Masonic Child ID Program offered

SEBRING — District 25 Masonic Child ID Program will be offered at Wells Fargo Bank on U.S. 27 and Parkway from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 7. For further information, call Ross Canright at 452-0346.

### Movies showing at the Lake Placid Library

LAKE PLACID — The January schedule of Saturday 2 p.m. matinee films at the Lake Placid Memorial Library is as follows: "The Help" (PG13), Jan. 7 and "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows 2" (PG13), Jan. 14. No movies are scheduled Jan. 21 and Jan. 28.

The public is invited to attend these free showings. Seating is limited. Children age 9 or younger must be accompanied by an adult.

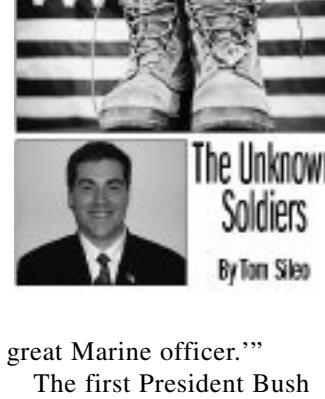
### Parkinson's support group meets Jan. 9

SEBRING — The Parkinson's disease support group for the Highlands County area will meet at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9 at First Baptist Church of Sebring (corner of



Lt. Col. Joseph Trane McCloud served in Operation Desert Storm, Bosnia, and Somalia before making the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq on Dec. 4, 2006. Image courtesy Maggie McCloud.

## Trane kept a rollin'



The Unknown Soldier  
By Tom Sileo

great Marine officer."

The first President Bush — a war hero himself — was right. Trane would go on to serve in Bosnia, Somalia and Iraq.

But first, after Desert Storm, he became a great husband.

"Meeting and marrying Trane was the best thing that ever happened to me," Maggie McCloud said.

It quickly became obvious that Maggie and Trane were meant to be together.

"They became quite the couple, I'll tell you that," Trane's dad said.

They also became quite the parents.

"He would work crazy hours when he was deployed and when he wasn't," Maggie said. "But no matter what time he got home, if the kids were up, he would run upstairs, and you would hear giggles and the sounds of joy."

Trane was a "big, tough

Marine," Maggie said, but also extremely modest.

"He let his actions speak for themselves," she said.

Before eating a meal, Trane would always bow his head in prayer. Before stating his opinion, he would always take the time to listen to other points of view.

Before deploying to Iraq in August 2006, he spent a special day with each of his three children in Hawaii. Maggie said Trane and the kids called it "Daddy day."

After Trane left the Hawaiian paradise for a combat deployment on the hellish streets of Fallujah, Maggie spoke to her husband only once.

"He had faith in me and the family that we would take care of the home front," she said.

See MARINE, page 6A

## POLICE BLOTTER

The News-Sun would like to remind the readers that the names listed below reflect those who have been charged with a crime, but they are all innocent until proven guilty by a court of law. If anyone listed here is acquitted or has charges dropped, they can bring in proof of such decision or mail a copy to the paper and the News-Sun will be happy to report that information. The News-Sun is at 2227 U.S. 27 South, Sebring, FL 33870.

The following people were booked into the Highlands County Jail on Wednesday, Dec. 28:

◆ Bryan David Bacon, 34, 2768 Treasure Cay Lane, Sebring, sexual offender failed to report change of address.

◆ Bryce Matthew Blair, 20, of Sebring, was charged for damaging property, criminal mischief; larceny or grand theft; larceny or grand theft of firearm; and burglary of dwelling, structure or conveyance.

◆ Heather Dawn Brignoni, 35, of Sebring, was charged with grand theft, two counts.

◆ Frederick Ryan Fox, 23, of Avon Park, was charged with possession of marijuana, not more than 20 grams; and possession of narcotic equipment and/or use.

◆ Demetris Lavon Gray, 37, of Avon Park, was charged for withholding support, non-support of children or spouse.

◆ Eric Vanderbilt Honors, 25, of Lakeland, was charged on an out-of-county warrant for knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked.

◆ Mark Franklin Joyce, 26, of Avon Park, was charged for larceny, petit theft, second degree, first offense.

◆ Lorrie Ann Labonnett, 23, of Lake Wales, was charged with possession of marijuana, not more than 20 grams; and possession of narcotic equipment and/or use.

◆ Chelsea Jeanne Marie Mason, 18, of Avon Park, was charged with larceny, petit theft, second degree, first offense.

◆ Britten Lane Miller, 18, of Sebring, was charged with larceny or grand theft of firearm; larceny or grand theft; burglary of dwelling, structure or conveyance; and damaging property, criminal mischief.

◆ Thomas Lee Moore, 42, of Sebring, was charged with battery, touch or strike.

◆ Leonardo Vega, 34, of Avon Park, was charged with possession of marijuana, not more than 20 grams; and possession of drug equipment and/or use.

◆ Robert Gregory Volz, 22, of Avon Park, was charged with possession of marijuana, not more than 20 grams; and possession of narcotic equipment and/or use.

◆ Katherine Elizabeth Wakeland, 18, of Avon Park, was charged with larceny, petit theft, second degree, first offense.

The following people were booked into the Highlands County Jail on Tuesday, Dec. 27:

◆ Andy Logan Anderson, 41, of Brooksville, was charged for withholding support, non-support of

Continued on page 5A

	<b>Lottery Center</b>	Dec. 28	3	14	40	42	45	51	x:2
		Dec. 24	2	11	15	19	24	26	x:5
Dec. 21	3	10	24	25	49	52	53	x:4	
Dec. 28 (n)	7	8	8	5					
Dec. 28 (d)	1	7	6	1					
Dec. 27 (n)	3	8	6	1					
Dec. 27 (d)	1	3	8	1					
Dec. 27	13	18	25	43	15				
Dec. 23	13	19	35	42	10				
Dec. 20	1	16	33	40	15				
Dec. 16	4	21	28	44	9				
Dec. 28	16	21	27	41	45	14	PP: 2		
Dec. 24	14	16	30	51	52	19	PP: 2		
Dec. 21	10	13	15	31	54	18	PP: 5		
MEGA MONEY									
FLORIDA POWERPLAY									
CASH 3									

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

## Fate of local Sears, Kmart stores unknown

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY  
[christopher.tuffley@news-sun.com](mailto:christopher.tuffley@news-sun.com)

SEBRING — While the Sears Holdings — the parent company of Sears and Kmart department stores — announced Tuesday it is closing 100 to 120 stores, according to its media center Thursday morning it has not yet determined which stores those will be.

In a written statement the company said, "We expect these store closures to generate \$140 to \$170 million of cash as the net inventory in these stores is sold and we expect to generate additional cash proceeds from the sale or sublease of the related real estate."

"Further, we intend to optimize the space allocation based on category performance in certain stores. Final determination of the stores to be closed has not yet been made."

"The list of stores closing will be posted at [www.searsmedia.com](http://www.searsmedia.com) when final determination is made."

According to figures released by Sears Holdings, as of Dec. 25 Kmart sales were down more than 4 percent in the last quarter, and almost 2 percent down for the year.

Sears sales slipped even more, 6 percent for the last quarter, and 3.3 percent for the year.

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REBATE

**EDITORIAL & OPINION****ANOTHER VIEWPOINT****Spending on infrastructure is key**

In Congress and legislatures across the country, less government spending is seen as the responsible path toward deficit reduction. But refusing to spend for basic needs and services can exact heavy costs, both short term and long term.

Those costs are evident in what is widely known as America's crumbling infrastructure — the roads, bridges and highways built to carry goods and people back and forth across our nation and our economy.

The dire state of the nation's transportation system is taking an increasingly high toll on the economy....

The World Economic Forum's Global Competitive

Report says the U.S. transportation system, ranked ninth in the world a decade ago, is "now 24th and falling."

Given the increasingly poor condition of the bridge and highway network, slowing the downward spiral would be expensive.

The Society of Civil Engineers estimates that the system needs \$2 trillion in repairs, upgrades and expansion.

sions.

Those are tall orders at a time when federal and state governments are looking to shrink spending, not increase it.

Yet, politicians and the public should also look at the high cost of doing nothing, and the possibility that — despite the budgetary challenges — there may be no better time than now to invest substantially more funds in infrastructure....

Doing nothing not only puts off needed improvements to roads and bridges but also leaves the nation's unemployment rate at an unacceptably high level of about 9 percent.

Millions of the nearly 14 million unemployed are con-

struction workers, many of whom could have jobs on transportation projects. And, it should be noted, these would not be "government jobs." Private companies contract for these projects and hire the workers.

Besides improving the flow of goods and services and putting a dent in the unemployment rate, infrastructure projects could benefit from the still-slumping economy.

Contractors struggling for work would offer competitive bids. Supplies and rights of way could be purchased for a fraction of what they would cost in a normal economy.

Congress could pursue funding through an infra-

structure bank, as proposed by President Barack Obama and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson, R-Texas, by which small public investments could be leveraged to attract private capital.

The sooner governments

get started repairing and upgrading our infrastructure, the sooner the economy can be speeding down the road to recovery.

*An editorial from the Gainesville Sun.*

**TODAY'S LETTERS****Certain about uncertainty**

Editor:

I agree with Mr. "Lefty" Read's article on the "Age of Violence" in a recent edition. He forgot to mention "Columbo" in his list of programs that stressed intelligence over violence.

Columbo always seemed to solve the problem just before walking out the door. Besides that, he drove an old Peugeot convertible.

The arcades are dens of violence with body parts flying everywhere on the screens. This has a devastating impact on the minds of our youth. Everything is based on violence today in order to sell. This can be changed if the society decides it wants change.

From boycotts to demonstrations in front of theaters, from the pulpits in the churches, from the PTA groups, from responsible families and the list goes on. We do not have to be a violent society.

I take exception on to General Powell being categorized as a "real war hero." He got a purple heart for stepping on a pugie stake while on a march in the jungle. General Powell was an

excellent officer who had the political instincts necessary to progress in the political realm along with other factors, such as political correctness. He was not "a real war hero" and as an officer and gentleman, he would agree.

Having personally served three tours of duty in Vietnam as a combat medic, a Green Beret Commander and an advisor to a Vietnamese airborne battalion, I can tell you about real war heroes; I saw them daily. Now if General Powell, as Secretary of State, disagreed with the request to submit questionable evidence to the U.N. according to "Lefty," then he should have resigned.

All this, minus the violence, brings up a question. What would the future be if we had not taken the action that we did? Would Iraq and Iran be nuking each other? Did our actions prevent a nuclear holocaust in the middle east, or just delay it for a time. Historians will have a field-day with this matter if they are not too radioactive.

"The only thing certain is uncertainty." Gen. Omar Bradley.

Charles S. Miller  
Avon Park

HERE'S TO THE NEW YEAR AND ALL THAT IT PROMISES!....



...LIKE ANOTHER DEBT CEILING HIKE, MORE DEMAGOGUERY, MORE CLASS WARFARE—ACK! Gag!

HOK! HOK! CHOKE!

Cartoon by Bill Watterson showing a man in a top hat and coat holding a tray with cups, with a speech bubble reading "...LIKE ANOTHER DEBT CEILING HIKE, MORE DEMAGOGUERY, MORE CLASS WARFARE—ACK! Gag!

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HOK! HOK! CHOKE!

**Nuns best examples for teaching****Guest Column**

Tom Purcell

It was expected that each student would put forth his best effort.

Anything short of trying your hardest was grounds for punishment, which included anything from a call home to a pinched earlobe or a whack on the knuckles with a wooden ruler.

I admit that this environment was especially challenging for me, as I have never functioned well within rigid structures. When I wasn't cracking jokes and disrupting the class, I was daydreaming.

Fortunately, no behavioral "experts" were around to pump me full of drugs.

One need not be an expert in education to conclude that the nuns' basic rules weren't such a bad way to go.

Adults were in charge and respected, students were disciplined and orderly, and teachers were supported by parents, who were eager for their kids to master math, science and English.

Self-esteem and other "psychological" concepts weren't part of the formal teaching plan. Our self-esteem was the result of actual accomplishment. Nobody was praised for accomplishing nothing.

All I know is that the discipline and hard work paid off, even for the most

average students. We kids from Catholic schools routinely outscored our public-school peers on tests and were well-prepared for our future endeavors.

Many of my classmates went on to greatness at top schools such as Carnegie Mellon and Notre Dame. I went to Penn State, where I was the first person in school history to graduate with a major in writing and a minor in air conditioning and heating.

In any event, for several years now, some have argued that more tax money, smaller classes, more teachers, more studies, etc., are the keys to better results in America — even though costs have soared over the past few decades and results have not improved.

What we really need is a return to the rigorous basics — good, committed teachers supported by parents — that are still common in Catholic elementary schools.

As the funnier nuns might say, our education system will only improve when we "rid ourselves of our bad habits."

Tom Purcell, a freelance writer is also a humor columnist for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, and is nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate. Email Tom at Purcell@caglecartoons.com. Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun staff.

**EDITORIAL PAGE POLICY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

We believe your viewpoints are just as important as any community leader or government official, so consider this a personal invitation to get your two cents in. The News-Sun has a long history of encouraging public discussion through letters, guest columns, and Reader's Response questionnaires.

Providing this forum for our readers is a pleasure, not an obligation.

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**ROMONA WASHINGTON**  
Publisher/Executive Editor  
Ext. 515  
editor@newssun.com

**VICKIE JONES**  
Ext. 518  
vickie.jones@newssun.com

**SCOTT DRESSEL**  
Editor  
Ext. 516  
scott.dressel@newssun.com

**DAN HOEHNE**  
Sports Editor  
Ext. 528  
daniel.hoehne@newssun.com

**BUSINESS OFFICE**  
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legals@newssun.com

get started repairing and upgrading our infrastructure, the sooner the economy can be speeding down the road to recovery.

*An editorial from the Gainesville Sun.*

# Poll: Americans think things can only get better in 2012

By JENNIFER AGIESTA  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are hopeful for what 2012 will bring for their families and the country, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll, though most say 2011 was a year they would rather forget.

Nearly seven in 10 say the year gone by was a bad one, more than double those who consider it a success, according to the poll. But 62 percent are optimistic about what 2012 will bring for the nation, and more, 78 percent, are hopeful about the year their family will have in 2012.

Jeff Wolfe, 33, of Farmington, W.Va., said 2011 treated him well because he was able to find steady work as a lineman. But for the rest of the nation, things were "pretty rough," with so many Americans looking for jobs.

"For the first time since 2009, I worked all year," he said. Wolfe said he lost work in 2008 and again in 2010. But in 2011, the father of two school-age children said he was able to catch up on bills, buy his wife a new car and renovate his home.

Overall, the poll found 68 percent of Americans described 2011 as a bad year, compared with 29 percent who felt it was a good one.

A partisan divide, much like the one that ruled Washington this year, seems the only split in public opinion on 2011. Democrats were most likely to view 2011 positively (40 percent called it good), while independents and Republicans were less effusive. Beyond that, the poll found general agreement that 2011 is best left in the past.

Mary Burke, 57, of Ridgeland, S.C., felt economic pain in 2011. She saw prices rise for all of her expenses, from her light bill to groceries. "Paying \$5 for a jar of mayonnaise is outrageous," she said.

Food and gas prices surged in 2011, but the most recent Consumer Price Index shows inflation leveling off. November statistics from the government showed a year-over-year inflation rate of 3.4 percent, the smallest such rise since April.

The poll found consumers are sensing the change. Just 18 percent of adults expect consumer prices to rise at a faster

pace in the coming year, the lowest share to say so since the poll first asked the question in March. Most (51 percent) expect prices to rise at the same rate or more slowly.

And as the nation's economic fortunes overall appear to be tilting slightly positive, the public's expectations for the economy in the coming year are at their highest point since spring. According to the poll, 37 percent expect economic improvement in the next 12 months, compared with 24 percent who think the economy will slide downhill. That's the first time since May that significantly more people said things will get better than get worse.

On a personal level, 36 percent think their household's financial situation will improve over the next 12 months, while 11 percent think it will worsen. Americans' financial ebbs and flows affect their personal outlook for 2012. Those whose households have faced a job loss in the past six months or who describe their current financial situation as poor are less optimistic about what 2012 holds for them and their families than others.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Continued from page 2A

Lemon and Pine Street).

The program this month will be Faye Kern, coordinator of the American Parkinson's Disease Association, with the latest updates on Parkinson's treatments.

All persons with Parkinson's disease and their families are welcome to attend. There is no charge.

For more information, call 453-6589 or 453-6419.

The Highlands County Parkinson's Support Group is part of the national network of support groups affiliated with the American Parkinson's Disease Association.

More than one million Americans have Parkinson's disease. Today people with Parkinson's disease and their families can find help and information from their local support group.

### Country music is back

AVON PARK — Shrine Club country music will start from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan.

5 with Country Grass with Verlin, and on Jan. 12, Fiddle and Pickin' with Peggy.

These two bands will rotate every other Thursday during the months of January, February and March. Refreshments will be available. Admission is \$4 for a single and \$7 per couple. The club is located between Avon Park and Sebring, a short distance north from the Red Barn.

### SunTrust Relay for Life Team hosting first fundraiser of 2012

AVON PARK — Avon Park Relay for Life SunTrust Team is kicking off the new year with a barbecue fundraiser.

The date has been set for 6-11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14 at the Avon Park Community Center, 310 W. Main St. The \$25 donation includes entertainment, door prizes and a barbecue chicken or rib dinner and all the fixings. Dine in or carry out. Proceeds benefit the Avon Park Relay for Life. For more information,

contact Shirley Viets at 386-1721 or Elizabeth Lee at 443-2385.

### 'Good Dog' course offered at YMCA

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

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

"Good Dog" is geared towards dogs of all ages and levels. The course will focus on good manners, obedience and behavioral modifications. Upon completion of this course, participants will have learned how to communicate better with their dog and have fun doing it. Many techniques are utilized including positive reinforcement to help motivate both you and your dog.

Some of the exercises you will be instructed in include: sit, down, stand, stay, come, heel/walking on a loose lead and more. Topics to be addressed are geared towards each individual student, i.e. calm greetings, jumping, barking, biting and other problem-solving techniques. The AKC Canine Good Citizen Test will be available for those wishing to obtain said certification at the end of the course.

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

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

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Continued from page 2A

children or spouse.

◆ Nicholas Joseph Garcia, 18, of Avon Park, was charged for possession of cannabis.

◆ Jonathon Alan Miller, 51, of Sebring, was charged for damaging property, criminal mischief; burglary of dwelling, structure or conveyance, two counts; larceny, grand theft, two counts; and larceny, grand theft of firearm, two counts.

◆ Rayford David Rodriguez, 37, of Sebring, was charged for refusing to submit to driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs test after license suspended; and DUI.

◆ Omar Jucue Rushing, 24, of Avon Park, was charged for possession of a firearm or ammo by a convicted felon; improper exhibition of dangerous weapon; carrying concealed firearm; and discharging firearm in public.

◆ Richard Delpha Sauve, 53, of Sebring, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia; and possession of cannabis.

◆ Joanna Marie Scrima, 30, of Sebring, was charged on an out-of-county warrant for failing to pay child support.

◆ Sherri Lauratt Stewart, 47, of Lake Placid, was charged with grand theft; and forgery of bank bill, promissory note, etc., eight counts.

County Jail on Monday, Dec. 26:

◆ Bobby Joe Farrell, 46, of Sebring, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia; and possession of cannabis.

◆ Markida Ranae Hawthorne, 18, of Avon Park, was charged for damaging property, criminal mischief.

◆ Leo Marshall Jr., 25, of Sebring, was charged with trespassing, failing to leave property upon order.

◆ Jeremiah Walker Smith, 34, of Centennial, Colo., was charged on an out-of-county warrant for leaving the scene of accident involving property damage.

◆ Michelle Denise Weston, 44, of Lake Placid, was charged with domestic violence or battery, touch or strike.

◆ Ericka Sykema Jakayla Wisdom, 20, of Orlando, was charged with petit, retail theft; and criminal mischief.

◆ Richard William Young, 57, of Lorida, was charged for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The following people were

booked into the Highlands County Jail on Sunday, Dec. 25:

◆ Martian Tavon Jones, 24, of Sebring, was charged with possession of cannabis; and possession of drug paraphernalia.

◆ Billaner Ruiz-Bernal, 31, of Avon Park, was charged with false identification given to law enforcement officer; and aggravated assault with deadly weapon without intent to kill.

## OBITUARIES

### JOYCE CLARK

Joyce A. Clark, 88, of Bonaire, Ga., died Monday, Dec. 26, 2011. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 13, 2011 at Florida National Cemetery.

Mrs. Clark was born in Minneapolis, Minn., on Oct. 5, 1923. She was the daughter of the late Carl A. Anderson and the late Florence Veronica Engles Anderson. Mrs. Clark was the widow of Lawrence Everette Clark.

Survivors include her daughter, Catherine Clark of Bonaire, Ga., son, Lawrence Clark (Dianne) of Bonaire, son, Edward Clark (Nancy) of Homestead, Fla., daughter, Virginia Clark (John Clem) of Duluth, Ga., son, Buddy Clark of Bonaire, daughter,

Elizabeth Yocum of Debary, Fla., and daughter, Rosemary Sisley (Brad) of Orlando, Fla.; seven grandchildren, Cathy Syracuse (Tony) of Locust Grove, Ga., Lee Clark of Acworth, Ga., Eddie Clark of Boulder, Colo., Melissa Duran (Julio) of Enfield, Conn., Catie Clark of Tallahassee, Fla., Christine Clark of Bozeman, Mont., and Brian Greene (Alissa) of Washington, D.C.; and four great-grandchildren, Isabelle Syracuse of Locust Grove, Ga., Xavier Duran of Enfield, Conn., and Madi and Logan Greene of Washington, D.C.

Register online at www.hartsmort.com. Hart's Mortuary and Crematory at the Cupola has charge of arrangements.

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# County commission gets 500-page report on Kenilworth building purchase timeline

Continued from page 1A

"There is no permit," said Sebring building and Zoning Officer Lee Tolar. "We were told they have plans, but they have not been delivered or approved by our department yet."

"We were told they have plans, but we were told they are waiting on engineering to approve the plans. Once we get the plans, the fire inspector will look at them then Mr. (Ed) White will have to approve them before they can apply for permits," Tolar said. "The county has been made aware of the order."

The controversial building was back on the commission agenda Tuesday night, but even a 500-page report left several questions unanswered.

"Why did we do this? We bought a building and we own it, so why did we do this?" Commissioner Greg Harris asked.

"(To) clear up a lot of the bad information that was out there," Commission Chair Jack Richie answered. "It was important to make it public."

Several citizens showed concern over the past few months about what commissioners were calling "mistakes in handling" the purchase and renovations of the buildings at 4500 Kenilworth



A county truck leaves the parking lot of the building on Kenilworth Boulevard after a stop work order was issued by the City of Sebring on Thursday.

Blvd., and the purchase price of \$1.2 million for what County Engineer Ramon Gavarrete called a "shell of a building" left questions about county staff diligence.

Estimates from county staff have reached as high as \$2.2 million before the building is completed.

County Administrator Ricky Helms pointed out Tuesday how the building purchase price of \$1.2 million was close to the two appraisals the county received, and the county certainly paid close to the market value of the building in 2008.

Helms also pointed out that the real estate market has dropped since then.

"Whether or not this was a good purchase at the time can

be debated for a long time. The appraisals were close to the amount of what the property value was in 2008," Helms said.

Discussions for space needs started more than six years ago, according to Helms, but it was apparent from commission minutes that the scope of the project to get that space "changed multiple times since discussions started in 2005."

Commissioner Barbara Stewart, who requested a timeline of the building project, also attempted to answer Harris.

"I think it was important. All the different red flags and different questions that were raised. Hopefully we don't go through a process like this

again," Stewart said.

Needs were not professionally and succinctly provided, Stewart pointed out, and she stated that the "process was not clear cut and laid out."

"You think that when a project is being conceived you would put down and justify what your needs are," she said.

Stewart also took exception with the appraisal reports and recommended that staff double check that the information presented is verified the next time.

"We started in 2005 and we are still not in it," Harris said.

"Whether or not we go forward is a decision the board will make," Helms pointed out.

"I think before we go for-

ward, I am going to ask a lot of more serious questions about this. To me, it's a case of this is not the way we do things in the future," Stewart said.

"Trust but verify," Richie agreed to questions as to why county staff did not follow up phone questions with actual documents.

"This brought to light a lot of information that 80 percent of the board did not know about," Richie said.

"Did we go to the level of going and physically looking at every piece of information we requested by phone? No. But the phone calls were made," Helms said.

"Not all of the follow ups were done. If that is a level that needs to be done, certain-

ly we can go to that level to verify that information," Helms said.

"This was purchased at the top of the market, for sure," said Commissioner Don Elwell.

"We were fortunate to buy it at the very highest price possible. We got a building, we own all of it, and we've got approximately 3.99 acres of land. Hopefully we can move forward making the right decisions."

Elwell asked that the staff provide more information for future decisions.

"I am glad this happened," Elwell said pointing to the report.

Helms pointed out that some of the individuals that were involved in the timeline are no longer employed with Highlands County.

Helms also stated that the lessons learned from the mistakes on the Kenilworth building would apply to the sheriff's building the board is looking into in January.

The board still asked for direction on where to take the building next, directing Commissioner Ron Handley, who is a builder by trade, to continue to look into future plans.

Handley promised to return at the next commission meeting with recommendations.

## Marine kept rolling

Continued from page 2A

"He had a very important job — a tough job — and he wouldn't be on the phone calling home when the other guys couldn't do that too."

On Dec. 4, 2006, less than two weeks before his 40th birthday, Trane died in an Al Anbar Province helicopter crash. A fellow Marine and two U.S. Army soldiers were also killed.

For the McCloud children, even five years after the crash, every day is still Daddy day.

"Daddy made the last birthday cake for me," Meghan, who was just 2 years old when her father died, recently told her mom. "Daddy bought me chew-

ing gum on my Daddy day," Grace, who was 5, told her grandma.

Hayden, who was 7, whistles almost exactly like his dad and displays many similar traits. With each visit, Roma sees more of Trane in her grandchildren.

"It's a loss, but in their little hearts, he's there as big as life," Trane's mom said.

Trane's spirit lives on in his brother, Army Staff Sgt. Richmond McCloud, 41, who is currently deployed to Afghanistan.

"He figures that by now, his brother would have been in Afghanistan," Ron said. "He has a heartfelt desire to be of service to his country."

Maggie tries her hardest to

live every day like the man she'll always love.

"I'm a better person for having him in my life," she said.

Staying true to the name his mom called a perfect fit, Lt. Col. Trane McCloud loved his country, believed in God, and took care of his wife and children.

That's just how this Marine rolled.

"Trane was Trane," his mother said. "And he knew who he was."

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

**Dr. Nick Ausaf will be closing his office in Sebring as of December 31, 2011.**



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News-Sun file

Ron Handley is sworn in as a county commissioner, filling the seat left when Jeff Carlson was suspended. Handley was the fourth new face on the board in 2011.

## Top 11 stories of 2011

Continued from page 1A

### Recall attempt in Avon Park

Deputy Mayor Brenda Gray along with Council members Terry Heston and Paul Miller faced the ire of citizens seeking removal from office.

Over 1,800 signatures were collected in total, a lot more than the 450 needed per each council member, but a technicality about the starting date forced

Supervisor of Elections Joe Campbell to rule the recall effort invalid.

Organizers vowed to try again, but as of yet no second run at a recall has been announced.

### New County Commissioners

There was a major change at the Board of County Commissioners when four new members took office in 2011. The high turnover rate was the result of three seats becoming open in their regular rotation, and a seat left vacant when Jeff Carlson was removed in July of 2010 after being charged with boating under the influence and accidentally killing his wife. Newly elected Governor Rick Scott did not appoint a replacement until Oct. 25, when he picked Ron Handley, a local builder.

The newly elected commissioners were Don Elwell, Greg Harris and Jack Richie. Barbara Stewart served as chairperson of the commission during most the year.

### County cuts recreation funding

The county faced difficult budgetary decisions. Among changes in spending, the commission voted to cut back support for municipal recreation by tens of thousands of dollars, leaving the cities scrambling to meet shortfalls and shifting to a pay-for-play philosophy.

### Lake Placid wants pay-for-play

The pay for play policy affected Lake Placid the most. Town residents were having to pay for a major portion of park maintenance even though the vast amount of park users did not live within the town. For months the town council and recreation commission wrestled with the issue, trying to arrive at a fair solution.

It was finally agreed that organized sports would contribute to the cost of lighting and field maintenance, although the council has yet to vote on the issue.

### Mud bogging

Private property and its uses were hotly debated when private investors asked to open a business that included family recreation, like camping and fishing. Mud bogging was part of the business plan, but it drew

strong opposition from neighbors – one side arguing mud bogging is good, clean fun and the other that mud bogging attracts a hard drinking, noisy crowd. After several commission meetings became heated, the commission voted to return the issue to the planning and zoning board and county staff for review, a process that could take months.

The subject will be brought back to the commission sometime in 2012.

### County bans tobacco on its property

The commission caused controversy itself when it passed a no smoking on campus ordinance that included parks and outdoor areas. Smoking was prohibited in parked cars. The policy was then expanded to include all tobacco. The commission added to the controversy by requiring applicants for county jobs to sign an affidavit affirming the applicant did not smoke and had not used tobacco for 12 months prior to the application.

### Kenilworth building raises questions

The commission also had to deal with a building purchase gone bad. Supervisor of Election Joe Campbell's office has long since outgrown its space in the Government Center. Clerk of Courts Bob Germaine also needs more room.

The county, therefore bought a building at Kenilworth Boulevard. However, the building – designed originally as a series of mini-warehouses – was immediately discovered to need extensive renovation to be useful. As more information became available, more problems appeared, including unfit retention ponds and a lack of any occupational license. As a result Stewart ordered county staff to look into the transaction and process. The timeline of the process alone, released Tuesday, was more than 500 pages long.

This issue, too carries over into 2012.

### Mending fences in Sebring

The city of Sebring had its controversial moments as well. In attempting to update and streamline its fence ordi-

nance, the council voted to ban anchor fencing from all front yards. This led to resident uprising, with citizens complaining about over reach by government. Cost of fencing was also a part of the issue.

After several proposed ordinances were brought to the council and rewritten each time, the council backed down from banning anchor chain fences. Margie Rhodes, one of the city councilors and a force behind the changes, was defeated in the city's election, largely because of her stance against anchor chain.

Andrew Fells, a newcomer to politics, was elected to her seat.

### South Florida Community College grows

There was good news at South Florida Community College when the college's proposed bachelor of arts and science program in supervision and management was approved by the state. This means on July 1, 2012 the college's name will change for the third time – to South Florida State College. The school opened its doors in 1965 as South Florida Junior College, and became South Florida Community College in 1984.

### A hero is put to rest

There was one story that drew the community together. It was a moment of great sorrow, but also pride when Sebring High School graduate and resident Alicia Jetton received her young husband's body home after he was killed during a fire fight in Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

PFC Joshua Jetton, who graduated from high school in 2008, had been in combat for less than three months.

The entire community reached out to Alicia, 19, and pregnant with twins. Hundreds lined the streets the day Joshua arrived in Highlands County and followed Alicia through her pregnancy. Donations of diapers, clothes and car seats; everything from baby oil to mobiles poured in – enough so Alicia could concentrate without worry.

The twins, Carter Mac and Hayden Olivia, were born on Aug. 15.

## BP money buys sports towels, Christmas lights, jingles

*Associated Press*

PANAMA CITY BEACH — Sports towels and fleece blankets. A poker tournament. A \$1 million Christmas display. A prom for senior citizens. BP gas card giveaways. A "most deserving mom" contest. And advertising, lots of advertising.

Florida Panhandle officials made the mix of eye-brow-raising purchases with \$30 million BP gave them earlier this year to help tourism recover from 2010's disastrous Gulf oil spill.

The money allowed seven area tourism bureaus to try promotions they could never have afforded otherwise, and it has propelled the Panhandle's visitor counts to record numbers this year following a disastrous season right after the spill.

The question now is what happens when the BP money dries up, most likely next April. The grants doubled

and tripled the tourism-promotion budgets in these Panhandle counties, and officials worry the boost in visitors may prove fleeting.

"It is one thing to have your numbers go up when a tremendous amount of money is being put, not only in our economy, but in all of north Florida," said Curt Blair, executive director of the Franklin County Tourist Development Council.

"We will see after April whether part of this was a real recovery ... or if we see fall-off. ... Whether we've done that or if we've just propped up the market."

BP announced the \$30 million tourism grants in April. While the agreement for the \$30 million doesn't prevent

Florida from pursuing any claims against BP or others, officials there decided a week later not to join other Gulf states in a lawsuit against Transocean, the

owner of the Deepwater Horizon rig at the heart of the spill.

Florida's tourism spending spree isn't the first time that BP money has allowed government officials to snag items from their wish lists.

Separately, BP had already poured hundreds of millions of dollars into the four Gulf states in the months after the oil spill — with few strings attached.

The Associated Press documented earlier this year how some of the \$754 million given to local governments had been spent on tasers, SUVs and pick-up trucks, rock concerts, an iPad and other items with no direct connection to the oil spill.

In all, BP has given \$150 million to Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi for tourism promotion since the oil spill, with the Sunshine State getting the lion's share — \$62 million.

## Sebring council has loaded agenda

Continued from page 1A

George White of the HCFA will also address the council Tuesday. White will propose to the council the use of an LED sign at the Highlands County Fairgrounds. White's address was pulled from Dec. 20 meeting.

The city council will also reveal the new appointments to the available planning and

zoning position.

CRA Executive Director Pete Pollard will present council with a proposal for the Historic Harder Hall building and City Administrator Scott Noethlich give the council an update regarding the City Pier dredge hole issue.

The meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

## Wheeler lawsuit settled by county

Continued from page 2A

Handley said.

"I was the only one here, I believe, when Mr. Helms made this decision. I believed at the time, and he met with all the commissioners, he absolutely made the right decision on behalf of the county commission, the

county and the taxpayers," said Commissioner Barbara Stewart. "I think it is important that he realizes that this vote tonight in no way says he didn't do the right thing at the right time."

Wheeler also agreed in his settlement not to apply for employment with the county

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## STATE NEWS

## Last shuttle flight selected as state's top 2011 story

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

ORLANDO — The end of the space shuttle program after more than three decades of flights to low-earth orbit launched past Gov. Rick Scott's shakeup of state government and the Casey Anthony murder trial as Florida's top story of 2011, according to a poll of newspaper editors conducted by The Associated Press.

Atlantis' rolling stop on a Kennedy Space Center runway in July marked the end of the 30-year-old space shuttle program. It was a moment of celebration and apprehension for NASA's thousands of workers and contractors, many of whom lost jobs with the last shuttle flight. The mission itself was pro forma: Atlantis' four astronauts restocked the international space station with a year's worth of supplies and released a satellite.

But on the ground, the end of the mission ushered in an era of unprecedented uncertainty for Florida's Space Coast, the site of every shuttle launch, as well as for the nation's space agenda. U.S. astronauts must now depend on Russian Soyuz vehicles for rides to the space station in the near future, and NASA is outsourcing the logistics of sending supplies and astronauts to the space station to private companies. The three remaining active shuttles are being shipped to museums in Florida, Los Angeles and Washington. Thousands of skilled space workers are now looking for jobs in a state with a 10 percent unemployment rate.

Florida's governor played a role in half the stories chosen for the top 10.

The Florida newspaper editors voted Scott's taking over the governor's office, and his subsequent efforts to shake up state government with a pro-business agenda, as the year's No. 2 story. After becoming governor in January, Scott successfully pushed for the elimination of several state agencies dealing with growth management, labor, trade and economic development and cobbled them together into the Department of Economic Opportunity.

Environmentalists and planning advocates criticized the dismantling of the growth management agency, saying it will open the door to sprawl and pollution.

These news items rounded out the top 10 stories of the year:



Red Huber/Orlando Sentinel/MCT  
Space shuttle Atlantis, STS-135, is towed to the Orbiter Processing Facility at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, after landing July 21 concluding 30 years and 135 missions.

3. The trial and acquittal of Casey Anthony on charges of murdering her 2-year-old daughter captured the attention of the nation during the summer. National television shows provided hourly updates and round-the-clock commentary on the criminal proceedings, and Orlando's local television stations broadcast the trial live gavel-to-gavel. Even after she was released from jail and her legal saga appeared to be over, she was ordered to return to Florida to serve out a year of probation at an undisclosed location for an unrelated check fraud charge.

4. Shortly after he became governor in January, Scott pushed to shut down the main pension plan to new state employees, and he wanted public employees to contribute five percent of their salary to help cover pension costs. Legislators instead settled for a three percent contribution rate that public employee unions are now challenging in the courts.

5. After a disastrous tourism season following the Gulf oil spill in 2010, tourism along Florida's Gulf Coast rebounded to record levels. Local tourism boards were aided by millions of dollars in BP money that allowed them to try promotions they had never done before. In some Panhandle counties, visitor counts were up by 20 percent.

6. Even though Florida is regarded as "ground zero" for the nation's prescription drug problem, Scott had his doubts about a state prescription drug tracking system aimed at closing down "pill mills" that sell painkillers and other medica-

tions to drug dealers and addicts. He took office wanting the drug database scrapped, but he later relented after facing opposition from Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and some state lawmakers. The system started operating in September.

7. The beating death of Florida A&M University drum major Robert Champion after a November football game revealed a culture of hazing at the Tallahassee-based school and created a public awareness of hazing rituals at schools around the nation. In the wake of Champion's death, FAMU President James Ammons repelled two attempts to put him on administrative leave. Band director Julian White was fired by Ammons but then placed on administrative leave, and four students were dismissed by the university but then allowed to return to classes, pending the investigations.

8. Scott signed into law a

merit pay requirement for new teachers. Once the law goes into effect in 2014, new

teachers will be given one of four performance ratings, half of which will be based on student growth on tests. The ratings will be used in determining pay. The law also got rid of teacher seniority during layoffs. The statewide teachers union has filed a lawsuit claiming the law is unconstitutional because it changed the way teachers are paid and evaluated without going through collective bargaining.

9. Scott signed into law an election bill that reduces the number of early voting days, slaps new requirements on groups conducting voter registration drives, requires voters changing out-of-county addresses at the polls to cast provisional ballots and makes it more difficult to get citizen initiatives on the ballot. GOP lawmakers who sponsored the bill said the

changes will prevent voting fraud, but opponents say it will suppress turnout of minorities and others who tend to vote Democratic. The new law is facing a challenge by groups that conduct voter-registration drives and also is under review by a federal three-judge panel in Washington.

10. A federal judge in Pensacola ruled that President Obama's massive health care overhaul was unconstitutional, saying the federal government had overstepped its authority to regulate interstate commerce by requiring all Americans to carry health insurance. Three other federal judges have upheld the law and a fourth has ruled against it, leaving it up to the U.S. Supreme Court to determine its constitutionality.

## BEATLEMANIA



**\$25 tickets per person**

**Ticket proceeds benefit:**

**Special STARS**

**Ring in the New Year with the All You Need Band performing a Beatle Tribute Show**

**DUFFERS Sports Grille**

**9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 31**

**2451 U.S. 27 S., Avon Park**

Show, dancing, party favors, snacks & a toast at midnight included.  
Dinner sold separately. Call 452-6339 to make a reservation.



## Patio Furniture Sale!

You know what you like. We know how to translate your preferences into a comfortable, beautiful and balanced living space. Call or come in today to see the large selection of on-sale items in our showroom.

**Get HUGE savings on beautiful furniture!**

**Sets starting at \$499!**

**We offer furniture styles & selections.**

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Chaise Lounges and more!**

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**Family owned & operated since 1978**

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**• 90 Days Same as Cash**

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1974

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**ZENO'S**

**VOTED BEST:  
Pizza & Italian Restaurant**



**Limited Time Only!  
Buy any medium pizza or larger  
& get a 2nd medium cheese  
pizza only \$4**

Additional toppings extra • Exp 12/31/11

**471-ZENO**

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Mon 3-9 Tues-Thurs 11-9 • Fri 11-10  
Sat 3-10 • Closed Sunday

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DELIVER**

**WE  
DELIVER**



VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE AT:  
**newssun.com**  
**863-314-9876**

# classified

Free ad is limited to a 4-line ad that runs for 3 consecutive issues. Must be a non-commercial item. Asking price is \$100 or less. We offer 2 ads per month and can rerun the same ad 2 times in 30 days, only if it's the same ad. The price is allowed to change. All ads placed under the "Bargain Buys" discount rate must have 1 item with 1 asking price. The customer can list a set for 1 price, i.e. Bedroom set ... \$100 is allowed; Chairs (2) ... \$20 each is NOT allowed. The customer can list the ads as Chairs (2) ... \$40 for both. To list an ad stating "Each," the ad must be charged at the non-discounted rate, using the "Open Rate" pricing. No commercial items are allowed to be placed under our "Bargain Buys" specials. Items must be common household items. Ads for Pets, stating "Free to Good Home," are allowed to be placed under the "Bargain Buy" category.

## Index

- 1000 Announcements**
- 2000 Employment**
- 3000 Financial**
- 4000 Real Estate**
- 5000 Mobile Homes**
- 6000 Rentals**
- 7000 Merchandise**
- 8000 Recreation**
- 9000 Transportation**



### ADD A BORDER - ATTENTION GETTER - LOGO

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#### DEADLINES

Publication Place by:  
 Wednesday ..... 4 p.m. Monday  
 Friday ..... 4 p.m. Wednesday  
 Sunday ..... 4 p.m. Friday  
 All fax deadlines are 1 hour earlier.

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

#### ADJUSTMENTS

• 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  
OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY  
CIVIL DIVISION  
Case No. 28-2011-CA-000744

BONY CTHOLDERS 2007-4

Plaintiff,

vs.  
 LUIS A. GALAN A/K/A LUIS ALBERTO  
 GALAN, LORRAINE CALWAY A/K/A  
 LORRAINE ELIZABETH CALWAY, et al.

Defendants.

#### NOTICE OF ACTION

TO:  
 LORRAINE CALWAY  
 A/K/A LORRAINE ELIZABETH CALWAY  
 CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN  
 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS  
 556 LEAR AVE.

LAKE PLACID, FL 33852

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

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

commonly known as 556 LEAR AVE., LAKE PLACID, FL 33852 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Marshal C. Watson, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1800 NW 49TH STREET, SUITE 120, FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33309 on or before February 2, 2012, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in THE NEWS-SUN and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated: December 12, 2011.

CLERK OF THE COURT

Honorable ROBERT W. GERMAINE

590 S. Commerce Avenue

Sebring, Florida 33870-3701

/s/ Toni Kopp

Deputy Clerk

(COURT SEAL)

December 23, 2011

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

CASE NO.: 28-2011-CA-000704

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Douglas Schott A/K/A Douglas J. Schott SR., et al.,

Defendants).

#### NOTICE OF ACTION

To: Douglas Schott A/K/A Douglas J. Schott Sr.:  
 34 Dartmoor Avenue

Lake Placid, FL 33852

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

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

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Jacob A. Thomas, c/o Johnson & Freedman, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 400 Northridge Road, Suite 1100 M/S 27, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30350, within 30 days after the first publication date: 01/27/12, and file the original with the Clerk of this court either before service on the plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED: December 5, 2011.

Robert W. Germaine

As Clerk of the Court

/s/ Toni Kopp

As Deputy Clerk

December 23, 2011

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice of Public Sale or Auction of the contents of following storage units located at CENTURY STORAGE - BAYVIEW, 2609 BAYVIEW STREET, SEBRING, FLORIDA 33870 on 01/19/12 at 9:00 AM. Contents are said to contain Household Goods/Business Items unless otherwise specified.

A051 Daley, April - HOUSEHOLD GOODS

A092 Paedad, William Harrigan - HOUSEHOLD

A078 Paedad, William Harrigan - BUSINESS

G475 Vaught, Kimberly Sue - HOUSEHOLD

I655 Weil, Bryan L. - HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Sale being made to satisfy landlord's lien. Cash or Credit/Debit Card accepted. Contents to be removed by 5:00 p.m. on the day following the sale.

CENTURY STORAGE - BAYVIEW

2609 BAYVIEW STREET

SEBRING, FLORIDA 33870

(863) 336-0880

December 30, 2011; January 6, 2012

Robert W. Germaine  
 As Clerk of the Court  
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp  
 As Deputy Clerk

December 23, 2011

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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(863) 336-0880

December 30, 2011; January 6, 2012

Robert W. Germaine  
 As Clerk of the Court  
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp  
 As Deputy Clerk

December 23, 2011

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice of Public Sale or Auction of the contents of following storage units located at CENTURY

STORAGE - BAYVIEW, 2609 BAYVIEW STREET,

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the agency sending this notice at 434 Fernleaf Ave., Sebring, FL 33870, Telephone 863/402-7228 not later than seven days prior to the proceeding. If hearing impaired, (TTD) 1-800-955-8771, or Voice (V) 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Services.

December 16, 23, 30, 2011; January 6, 2012

# PROFESSIONAL SERVICE DIRECTORY

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Spring Lake Improvement District Board of Supervisors will conduct a public meeting on Monday, January 9, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center located at 209 Spring Lake Blvd., Sebring, Florida, 33976. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and seek input on the future of the existing community center, the tennis courts, and all parks including Arbutus Creek Park. Any further information can be secured by contacting the District Office at 655-1715.

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

Joe DeCerbo  
District Manager  
December 28, 30, 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 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 South 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 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@hcpc.org. Requests for CART or interpreter services should be made at least 24 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.

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

Jim Brooks, Chairman

December 25, 30, 2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
FILE NO. PC 11-535

IN RE: ESTATE OF  
PRESTON JAMES DUBBS,  
Deceased.

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of PRESTON JAMES DUBBS, deceased, whose date of death was October 15, 2011, and whose social security number is 164-22-8208, 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 representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this Notice is December 30, 2011.

Personal Representative:  
/s/ Karen Retherford  
1827 Sentinel Point Rd.  
Sebring, FL 33875

Attorney for Personal Representative:  
/s/ ROBERT E. LIVINGSTON  
Florida Bar No. 0031259

445 S. Commerce Avenue  
Sebring, FL 33870  
Telephone: (863) 385-5156

December 30, 2011; January 6, 2012

## THE FIRM SURVEILLANCE CONSULTANTS PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS / PROCESS SERVING

A TEAM OF QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS  
12 YEARS TOTAL EXPERIENCE

Contact:

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



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## Flea Market

Indoor & Outdoor

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Farm Raised Catfish. We sell by the pound or you can come & catch yourself in our 3 acre pond! We have two large docks you can fish from. We also have large trophy Bass and Bream that we feed twice a day. Great fun for everyone, call or come by and see us!

James L Bell, Jr., Owner

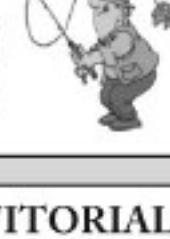
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Lake Placid, FL 33852

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**1100 Announcements**

### CHECK YOUR AD

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

If we can assist you, please call us:

**314-9876**

News-Sun Classified

**2000**

Employment

**2100**

Help Wanted

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

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Call Ed: 352-217-9937

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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:

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27 South, Sebring FL 33870.

STANLEY STEEMER now accepting applications for CLEANING TECHNICIAN.

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**2300**

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**3000**

Financial

**4000**

Real Estate

**4040**

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**4060**

Homes for Sale

AVON PARK LAKES 2385 West Cavalier Rd. 2/2/2, Very Nice Home on 3 lots, near Lake Olivia. \$84,500. Call 863-453-0034 or 863-399-9268

**4320**

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Mobile Homes

**5050**

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\$800/mo.

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SEBRING 2/1 New Carpet, 2 Family rooms, Game room, Fenced yard, Carport. \$475/mo. Call 863-385-4690

**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

**6100**

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**6200**

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SEBRING - Apartment with Balcony Overlooking Lake Verona and City Park. 100 E. Main St. Laundry Facilities.

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## Five-Day forecast for Highlands County

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Sunny and nice	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Sunshine and patchy clouds	Partly sunny and pleasant	Breezy with times of clouds and sun
72° / 52°	76° / 52°	76° / 55°	71° / 43°	65° / 42°
Winds: SSE at 3-6 mph	Winds: NNE at 4-8 mph	Winds: NNW at 6-12 mph	Winds: N at 8-16 mph	Winds: N at 10-20 mph

Pensacola 70/54

## Almanac

Temperature Readings at Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid

High Sunday .....	83°
Low Sunday .....	54°
High Monday .....	82°
Low Monday .....	60°
High Tuesday .....	79°
Low Tuesday .....	46°
High Wednesday .....	85°
Low Wednesday .....	41°

## Heat Index

For 3 p.m. today

Relative humidity .....

31%

Expected air temperature .....

72°

Makes it feel like .....

69°

## Barometer

Monday .....

30.06

Tuesday .....

30.19

Wednesday .....

30.15

## Precipitation

Monday .....

0.00"

Tuesday .....

0.00"

Wednesday .....

0.00"

Month to date .....

0.31"

Year to date .....

46.53"

## Tides

Readings at St. Petersburg

High .....

4:54 a.m.

Low .....

11:44 a.m.

High .....

6:22 p.m.

Low .....

none

Readings at Palm Beach

High .....

12:14 a.m.

Low .....

6:13 a.m.

High .....

12:32 p.m.

Low .....

6:44 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.

10 a.m.      Noon      2 p.m.      4 p.m.

0-2 Low; 3-5 Moderate; 6-7 High;

8-10 Very High; 11+ Extreme

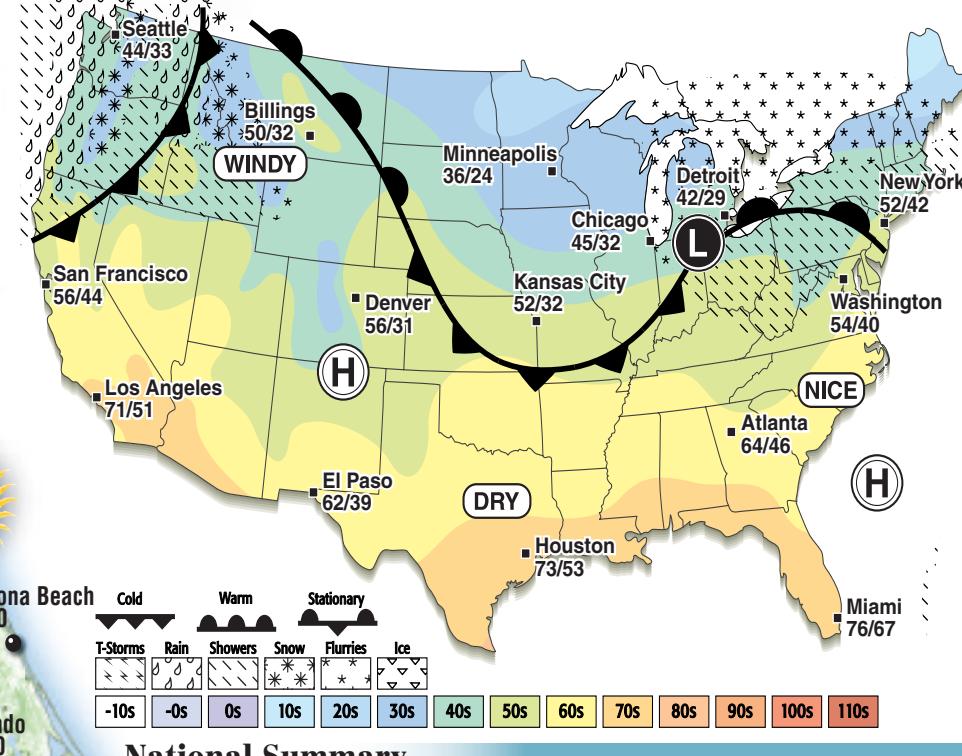
Forecasts and graphics provided by

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## National Forecast for December 30

## National Forecast for December 30



## Regional Summary

Sunny and nice today. Clear to partly cloudy tonight. Mostly sunny and pleasant tomorrow. Sunday: sunshine and patchy clouds. Monday: pleasant with times of clouds and sun.

## Farm Report

Sunny and nice today. Winds west-southwest 3-6 mph. Expect a full day of sunshine with average relative humidity 50% and good drying conditions. Clear to partly cloudy tonight.

## Weather History

A storm that brought snow to the Deep South a few days earlier brought record-breaking cold to the East on Dec. 30, 1880. The low was 7 degrees below zero in Washington, D.C.

## Sun and Moon

	Today	Saturday
Sunrise	7:13 a.m.	7:13 a.m.
Sunset	5:44 p.m.	5:45 p.m.
Moonrise	11:08 a.m.	11:40 a.m.
Moonset	11:38 p.m.	none

First

Full

Last

New

Jan 1      Jan 9      Jan 16      Jan 23

## 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			Sat.			Sun.		
	Hi/Lo/W								
Cape Coral	74/56/s	77/55/s	78/56/s						
Clearwater	72/53/s	76/57/s	77/59/s						
Cooper Springs	75/64/s	77/63/s	79/63/s						
Denton Beach	70/50/s	73/54/s	74/52/s						
Fl. Lauderdale	76/67/s	79/66/s	79/65/s						
Fort Myers	74/58/s	79/57/s	78/57/s						
Gainesville	70/46/s	73/50/s	75/46/s						
Hornell Haven	72/49/s	75/53/s	76/56/s						
Key West	74/68/s	77/68/s	78/68/s						

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partially cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow

flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

## National Summary

Milder air will filter into the Northeast today as a fast-moving clipper system delivers a bit of rain and snow to New England and the Great Lakes. Any snow will cause more of a nuisance than severe disruptions. On the clipper's southern edge, gusty winds will also whip the mid-Mississippi and Ohio valleys. Meanwhile, sunshine and unseasonable warmth will continue to dominate the South and southern Plains. The Southwest will also stay mild with high pressure in control.

## U.S. Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	55/35/s	58/32/s	50/29/s	Los Angeles	71/51/pc	76/52/s	83/52/s
Atlanta	64/46/s	62/47/s	58/32/c	Louisville	56/39/pc	55/39/s	48/28/c
Baltimore	54/34/c	51/31/pc	54/35/pc	Memphis	65/42/s	64/44/s	58/30/c
Birmingham	65/44/s	66/45/s	58/29/c	Milwaukee	40/25/c	41/28/c	29/17/sf
Boston	46/39/c	46/34/sh	48/35/c	Minneapolis	36/24/pc	41/18/c	21/8/sf
Charlotte	60/42/s	61/37/s	62/31/c	Nashville	60/39/pc	60/41/s	56/27/c
Cheyenne	54/36/p	42/20/c	36/18/s	New Orleans	73/51/s	71/55/p	68/42/c
Chicago	45/32/c	47/32/pc	40/24/sf	New York City	52/42/c	48/37/c	50/35/c
Cleveland	46/33/r	43/34/c	40/23/c	Norfolk	62/46/c	60/38/s	63/41/c
Columbus	51/35/r	48/37/c	41/24/c	Oklahoma City	64/35/s	67/30/s	51/25/s
Dallas	66/42/s	69/42/s	61/31/s	Philadelphia	52/38/c	50/34/c	52/36/c
Denver	56/31/c	49/19/c	46/21/s	Phoenix	68/48/s	72/48/s	
Detroit	42/29/c	41/32/c	37/22/c	Pittsburgh	47/36/sh	43/34/c	46/25/c
Harrisburg	48/34/c	48/29/c	48/29/c	Portland, ME	36/30/sn	40/27/sn	40/28/c
Honolulu	80/67/s	80/66/s	80/66/s	Portland, OR	44/36/r	41/32/c	42/33/m
Houston	73/53/s	74/57/c	68/39/pc	Raleigh	63/41/s	64/38/s	65/38/c
Indianapolis	50/33/c	50/33/s	41/21/c	Rochester	44/35/c	41/31/sn	49/29/c
Jackson, MS	68/44/s	72/47/c	63/32/c	St. Louis	56/34/pc	58/33/s	42/24/c



# Taveniere Holiday Tournament action

## Devils kick into high gear

By DAN HOEHNE

daniel.hoegne@newsun.com  
SEBRING — One might look at the gaudy point totals, such as Wednesday night's 96-59 win over DeSoto on the second night of the Taveniere Holiday Tournament, and figure Avon Park thrives on its' offensive firepower.

And while there is some truth to that, with the Devils fast-paced, mis-direction, precision passing leaving their opponents heads spinning.

But their scoring opportunities, or rather the multitude of them, originate from the defense.

A defense that, when it is on, utilizes the teams overall speed and quickness to trap at every turn, flash into passing lanes and knock the ball free to let the offensive stampede get underway.

It wasn't quite so "on," however, in the early going Wednesday night against the district foe Bulldogs, against whom Avon Park struggled with just over two weeks ago.

"We did not play well at all against them the last time we played," head coach Luther Clemons said, though the Devils did come out with a 76-61 win in that match-up on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

And it seemed DeSoto knew to be wary this time around, taking better care of the ball and slowing down the action.

Then again, it's not as if Avon Park can't put up points when the pace slows, as Reggie Baker's 11 points had the Devils up 20-16 after the opening eight minutes.

Marcus Dewberry would shoulder the scoring load in the second period as the defense began to ratchet it up a bit more and increase the pace.

Dewberry would pour in 11 of his own in the quarter, getting help from six Alfred Brown points and four from



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE

**Reggie Baker and the Red Devils are 2-0 in the Taveniere Holiday Tournament after wins over Lincoln Park and DeSoto Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively. Baker scored a game-high 27 in the win over the Bulldogs.**

### 'Scoring 96 points, that's a lot of running.'

LUTHER CLEMONS

Avon Park head coach

Travis Lawton, to push the lead up to 44-30 by the half.

"I told them that we had not played well against them the last time," Clemons said. "And it just took a while before they could see the whole floor and really get it going. Then, I think, we tired them out. Scoring 96 points, that's a lot of running."

And it was in the third period where Avon Park really kicked it into gear, wreaking havoc with the defense and spreading the scoring around.

Baker hit two threes as part of his 12 points in the frame, with Jarviel Hart adding six and Lawton four more.

Dewberry scored six in the third and capped it off with a three at the buzzer to bring the team total to 32 in the quarter and a now command-

ing 76-48 lead for the game.

And though the dogs would be relatively called off in the fourth, the Devil bench followed the starters' lead and poured in 20 more points to flirt with the 100 mark.

Brown and Therasis Godfrey would each hit a three pointer and score seven and five, respectively, over the final eight minutes as Avon Park cruised to the win.

This came off a similarly dominant win in Tuesday's opening round against Lincoln Park Academy out of Fort Pierce.

And it seemed to be a lesson learned from the Devils last foray into tournament action when the team took its only two losses of the season at the T-Mac Tournament in Auburndale Dec. 16 and 17.

"We didn't practice well before that," Clemons had said. "If you don't practice well, you won't play well."

Since then, Avon Park had taken a rousing win over Hardee before Sebring pushed them to the limit in a

See AP, Page 4B

# THE SCOREBOARD

## National Football League

### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	.464	321	
N.Y. Jets	8	7	0	.533	.360	344	
Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	.351	385	
Miami	5	10	0	.333	.310	296	

### South

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

### North

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

### West

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

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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

### South

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

### North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	14	1	0	.933	.515	318
x-Detroit	10	5	0	.667	.433	342
Chicago	7	8	0	.467	.336	328
Minnesota	3	12	0	.200	.327	432

### West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	12	3	0	.800	.346	202

### Seattle

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	7	8	0	.467	.289	328

### St. Louis

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-clinched playoff spot	2	13	0	.133	.166	373

### y-clinched division

#### 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.

#### End of Regular Season

#### LEAGUE LEADERS

##### AFC PASSING

	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	Int
Brady, NE	576	378	4897	36	11
Schaub, HOU	292	178	2479	15	6
Rthlsbrgr, PIT	473	301	3856	21	14
Moore, MIA	316	189	2375	15	7
Rivers, SD	556	343	4314	24	19

##### NFC PASSING

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

##### AFC RUSHING

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

##### NFC RUSHING

	Att	Yards	Avg	TD
McCoy, PHI	273	1309	4.8	17
Gore, SF	275	1202	4.4	8
Turner, ATL	284	1168	4.1	9</td

**Golf Hammock**

The Golf Hammock Ladies played a Best Nine Holes event on Wednesday, Dec. 28.

In the First Flight, Florence Towell took first with a 31, with Carol Troup and Trudy Stowe tied for second at 34.

Second Flight saw Mary Cripps come out a winner with a 32, Cindy Dall finish in second at 33 and Marge Pederson in third with a 35.

**Harder Hall**

The Ladies League played a Pro-Am Points event on Monday, Dec. 26.

The winners were: First place, Pat Rowbotham with plus-9; and second place, Mary Ryan with plus-7. Tying for third/fourth places were Arlene Glendenning and Pat Chance with plus-4 each.

The Ladies League played a Low Putts game on Thursday, Dec. 22.

The winners were: First place, Helen Sayre. Tying for second/third places were Mary Hayes and Barb Ebert.

The Ladies League played a Pro-Am Points event on Monday, Dec. 19.

First place, Helen Sayre with plus-4; second place, Liz Reinhardt with plus-2; and third place, Pat Rowbotham with plus-1.

The Ladies League played a Guess Score Before Play event on Thursday, Dec. 15.

First place, Helen Sayre with even. Tying for second/third/fourth/fifth/sixth/seventh/eighth/ninth places were Mary Hayes, Pat Rice, Jackie Christopher, Marilyn Armstrong, Elaine Hellinga, Kay Maher, Joyce Himler and Pat Chance with under by 1 each.

**Lake June West**

A Scramble was played on Thursday, Dec. 22.

Winning first place was the team of Frank Gallagher, Joanne McGill, Cal Billingsley and Jean Westerfield with 52. Tying for second/third places were the teams of Ron and Sylvia West, Bob and Doris Weeks; John and Virginia Simmons and Joe Swartz with 55 each.

The Men's League played a game on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Winning first place was the team of Ron West, John Simmons, Cal Billingsley, Dick Reaney and Fred Neer with 34. Tying for second/third places were the teams of Orville Huffman, Art Schmeltz, Ott Wegner, Bob Knishka and Bob Williams; Ron Hesson, Pete

McNamee, Mario Cappelletti and Don Boulton with 40 each.

Closest to the pin: (Ladies), None. (Men), No. 2, Fred Neer, 5-feet-2-inches; No. 4, Don Boulton, 4-feet-2-inches; and No. 8, Norm Grubbs, 2-feet-7-inches.

The Ladies League played an event on Monday, Dec. 19.

Winning first place was the team of Virginia Simmons, Verna Knishka, Kay Kalusniak and Clara Wisman with 36; second place, Joyce Swartz, Eva Huffman, Sylvia West and Nancy Reaney with 37; and third place, Mary Malone, Margaret Schultz, Jan Mann and Pat Asmus with 38.

Closest to the pin: No. 2, Betty Billau, 7-feet; No. 4, Clara Wisman, 16-feet-4-inches; and No. 8, Verna Knishka, 6-feet-9-inches.

**Pinecrest**

The Men's Association played Team and Individual Pro-Am Points on Wednesday, Dec. 28.

Taking the team win were Nic Staffieri, Ron Johnston, Wayne Meyer and J.W. McCamic with a +14 total.

Taking second were John Scott, Rex Waymire, Carl Sachetti and Bill Jennings with +4.

Individually, Tom Rockola won A Division with +3 over Staffieri and Murray Campbell, who each scored +2.

B Division went to Bill Baker, at +4, with Johnston and Norm Deminna tying for second with +3 apiece.

Meyer scored a +8 to top C Division with Sachetti second at +3, while Vern Gates and Mike McCarville, Jr. were tied atop D Division with each totaling +3.

**River Greens**

The Morrison Group played a game on Monday, Dec. 26.

The winners were: First place, Bob Stevens and Gil Heier with minus-23; second place, Cliff Steele and Leo Persails with minus-22; and third place, Bill Mountford and Mike

**Senior Tip**

# MASTER STROKES

**Seniors  
Losing  
Their  
Grip?**


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

Some seniors like to have thicker grips to ease the hurt caused by stiffness in their hands. Be aware that grips that are too thick can hurt your game. First of all, most seniors benefit from being able to draw the ball from right to left for added distance. Not only do thicker grips limit your ability to hit a draw they can contribute to slicing the ball, because they can impede your wrist release through impact. To see if your grips are too thick, hold your club in your left or glove hand, then look to see if the tips of your middle and third fingers are brushing against the pad of your thumb. If they don't and there is a visible space, it means the grip is too large. You should have your clubs re-gripped this offseason to find the right fit for you that you can grip without pain and will give you better results to enjoy. Be well.

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

Mountford with minus-17.

A Limited Member event was played Monday, Dec. 26.

Winning first place was the team of John Lemek, Kay Lemek and Ed Ward. Individual winners: First place, John Lemek; and second place, Dennis Delisle.

The Men's Association played a Men's Day event on Saturday, Dec. 24.

Winning first place was the team of Ken Brunswick, Len Westdale, J.R. Messier and John Smutnick with minus-42; and second place, Fred Evans, Bill Krug, Johnny Wehunt and Leo Persails with minus-37.

Closest to the pin: No. 3, Ken Brunswick, 4-feet-2-inches; No. 5, Ken Koon, 2-feet-7-inches; No. 12, Jim Anderson, 16-feet-8-inches; and No. 17, Russ Rudd, 5-feet-10-inches.

A Morning Scramble was played on Friday, Dec. 23.

Winning first place was the team of Jack Sayre, Romy Febre, Ray Belobradich and Mary Belobradich.

The Ladies Association played a Pro-Am tournament on Thursday, Dec. 22.

Winning first place was the team of Betty Leblanc, Jeannine Persails, Nancy Long and Kay Conkle with plus-7.5; and second place, Michele Koon, Ann Purdy, Laura Smutnick and Gale

Garceau with plus-7.5.

Individual winners were: First place, Ann Purdy with plus-6.5. Tying for second/third places were Kay Conkle and Marybeth Carby with plus-5.5 each.

The Morrison Group played a game on Thursday, Dec. 22.

Winning first place was the team of Warren Herendeen, Johnny Wehunt, Butch Smith and Gil Heier with minus-38; second place, Gerry Page, Russ Rudd, Paul Johnson and Joe Graf with minus-30; and third place, Jim Cercy, Jim Anderson, Al Farrell and Ray Delsasso with minus-29.

The Men's Association played a Pro-Am tournament on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Winning first place was the team of Tim Thomas, Paul Johnson and Dave Stoddart with plus-9.5; second place, Dick Garceau, Peter March and Gordon Clauws with plus-9; and third place, John Smutnick, Jim Cercy, Len Westdale and Johnny Wehunt with plus-1.

Individual winners were: Flight A -

First place, Dave Stoddart with plus-6. Flight B - First place, Tim Thomas with plus-.5. Flight C - First place, Len Westdale with plus-5.5; and second place, Peter March with plus-5.

The Morrison Group played a game on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Winning first place was the team of Gil Heier, Ken Koon, Don McDonald and Ray Delsasso with minus-29; and second place, Bob Stevens, Kenny Brunswick, Len Westdale and Paul Johnson with minus-28.

The Golfettes played a Gross and Net Front, Gross and Net Back game

Tuesday, Dec. 20.

The winners were: Gross Front -

First place, Anne Kelly with 40; and

second place, Linda Therrien with 43.

Net Front - First place, Gale Garceau with 31. Tying for second/third places were Patti Wedge and Peggy Wehunt with 33 each. Gross Back - First place, Linda Therrien with 45; and second place, Anne Kelly with 46. Net Back -

Tying for first/second/third places were

Nancy Long, Peggy Wehunt and Mary Beth Carby with 36 each.

The Morrison Group played a game on Monday, Dec. 19.

Winning first place was the team of John Smutnick, Cliff Aubin, Gerry Page and Frank Conroy; and second place, Jim Anderson, Kenny Brunswick, Jim Cercy and Cecil Lemons.

A Limited Member Group event was played on Monday, Dec. 19.

Winning first place was the team of Dennis DeLisle, Sherry DeLisle and Roy Bessett with minus-2.

Individual winners: First place, Ed Ward with plus-4.5.

**SpringLake**

As the last event of the 2011 year, the SpringLake Women's Golf League played an Individual Low Gross/Low Net Flighted Tournament Wednesday, Dec. 27 on the Panther Creek course.

The day was windy and cold but gave us a "warm up" taste for the weather to come in the following months.

The Low Gross winners were, in A Flight, Maggie Robb with an 88, Barbara Francoeur in B Flight with a 99, Rosie Foote in C Flight at 98 and Patty Miller in D Flight at 106.

Low Net winners were Linda Pfleger at 75 in Flight A, Donna Ryan with 76 in Flight B, Carolyn Irvine at 78 in Flight C and Diana Ackling with a 79 in Flight D.

On Tuesday, Dec. 27, the SpringLake Men's Golf Association held an Individual Points Competition on the Cougar Trail course.

This was flighted and Net of Handicap.

In Flight A, Edd Vowels took first place with 58 net points, including 1 net eagle and 9 net birdies.

Bob Hinde won second place with 47 points, which included 1 net eagle and 7 net birdies.

Bart Bartholomew placed third with 46 points and Bill Lawens took fourth with 44 points.

Flight B was won by Dale Stevens with 53 net points, which included 1 eagle and 7 birdies.

Bob (Birdie) Berg took second with a net 48 that included 3 birdies (net eagles).

Third place went to Gale Monda with a net 47 and fourth place went to Larry Colclasure with a 46 that included 2 net eagles, 4 net birdies, and 7 net pars.

# Jones-Drew: Suits fuel NFL's concussion changes

By MARK LONG

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE —

Jacksonville Jaguars running back Maurice Jones-Drew wonders how much of the NFL's efforts to prevent or properly treat concussions have to do with lawsuits brought by former players against the league and its teams.

The NFL's leading rusher spoke out about the issue again Wednesday, nearly a week after telling The Associated Press he would hide a possible head injury so he could stay in a game.

"I've had concussions before, and it wasn't this big deal about concussions," Jones-Drew said. "The only reason they're making a big deal about concussions right now is because the league is getting sued over it. Before this, you never heard about it. A couple of years ago, you didn't hear anything about it."

After NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell was grilled about his sport's concussion policies at a congressional hearing in October 2009, the league made several significant changes.

Those moves have continued, including this month's addition of certified athletic

trainers sitting in booths during games to keep an eye out for possible head injuries and alert teams' medical staffs.

Starting this summer, at least eight lawsuits have been filed against the NFL by dozens of retired players who say they have medical problems related to brain injuries from their time in professional football.

The NFL's stance, in part, is that players knew there were risks of injury, and there was no misconduct or liability on the league's part.

Jones-Drew called the possibility of serious injury in football an "occupational hazard."

He was one of 44 players the AP interviewed recently about concussions.

Slightly more than half — 23 — said they would try to hide a concussion and stay in a game rather than pull themselves out.

Players generally indicated they are more aware now of the possible long-term effects of jarring hits to the helmet.

Five said that while they would have tried to conceal a concussion during a game in 2009, now they would seek help.

Players also said they should be better protected from their own instincts:

More than two-thirds of the group the AP talked to would like to have independent neurologists on sidelines during games.

"You know playing football you're going to get hurt, right?" Jones-Drew said Wednesday. "In the back of your mind, you've got to know that the worst that can happen is you can break your neck and be paralyzed for the rest of your life, right? You have to go into every game knowing that could be what happens. Any given play that could happen to you, right? So there it is. When you sign these deals, you know in the back of your mind, that's what can happen."

"Now basketball, on the other hand, it's a different sport. Race car driving, you know that when you get in that car, there can be an

opportunity for that thing to flip over and catch on fire. You see what I'm saying? It's an occupational hazard, simple as that, and you have to be willing to accept it, and I am."

Jones-Drew reiterated that he takes the risk because of his family and said he strongly believes NFL teams would be hesitant to sign players with a history of concussions.

So he would hide a concussion to stay in a game, even if it meant increased potential for long-term health issues.

"I would do anything for my kids," he said. "If they're happy, I'm happy. I think they would appreciate it. As long as my kids' kids would be happy with what I did, that's what this life is about: sacrifice. It's not about you anymore, you know?"



MCT photo  
Jaguars running back Maurice Jones-Drew know the risk he signed up for.

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## AP taming Taveniere

Continued from 1B

53-48 win Thursday, Dec. 22. But the practices must have improved as the Greyhounds stood little chance against the swarming Devil defense Tuesday.

Which, of course, lead to numerous scoring opportunities that were made the most of in scoring 35 in the opening quarter and building a 53-25 first-half lead.

The team then coasted to a 75-51 win.

The tournament action finished up Thursday, though too late for press time. See Sunday's News-Sun for a rundown of the final day of games.



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE  
Travis Lawton goes up strong for the bucket for two of his nine points in Avon Park's 96-59 win over DeSoto Wednesday.



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE  
Blue Streak Michael Weston scores on this put-back Wednesday night against Lincoln Park Academy in the Taveniere Holiday Tournament.

## Sebring close, but no cigar

Continued from 1B

in the nightcap of the tournament's opening day.

Facing the Broncos of Miami-area Homestead, the Streaks again had a narrow halftime lead and pushed it up to as many as eight in the third.

But by the end of the frame, the Broncos had cut it back down to two.

A frenetic, back-and-forth final eight minutes saw Homestead inch into the lead and hang on for a 70-69 win.

"Another close one," Harris said of the contest. "We have five losses by a total of 10 points."

Sebring closed out the final day of the Taveniere Thursday, see Sunday's News-Sun for a recap.

## Miami saved by Wade

Continued from 1B

95-94.

Augustin finished with 20 points, while center Boris Diaw turned in another terrific game with 16 points, 16 rebounds and eight assists.

James said he wasn't upset Wade got the last shot.

"I guess that's why they give him the big bucks," laughed James.

"Hey, they deserved to take my money today," Wade said. "But I earned my money toward the end."

Said James: "D-Wade said he finally earned it. He didn't play well tonight but, hey, nobody cares about what else you do after you hit a game-winner like that. That was a big shot by him."

But it was James who brought the Heat back, taking his team on his shoulders in the third quarter.

"I feel good and this is the best I've felt in a while," James said. "I'm back to having fun playing the game and doing what I do best and that's attacking and getting to the free throw line."

James was 9 for 9 from the foul line.

The Heat needed to dig deep after a sluggish first half in front of a crowd of 19,614 fans, the largest ever to see a Bobcats game at Time Warner Cable Arena.

They had plenty of help from the Bobcats, who turned the ball over 12 times on 25 third-quarter possessions.

"In the third quarter, we turned it over too many

times," Bobcats coach Paul Silas said. "It got them back in the game. Once they got back in the game, we played tough. They're just too good."

Said Diaw: "I think they adjusted to what we did in the first half and made a conscious effort to be in the line of passes and really focusing on stealing the ball in the second half."

Still, it was an encouraging game for the young Bobcats, who are clearly in a rebuilding mode.

They seemed to feed off the crowd early on and certainly weren't intimidated by the Eastern Conference champions jumping out to an 11-0 lead.

They led by as many as 16 points in the first half against a Heat team that hadn't trailed for more than 14 seconds in their first two games.

"I think we surprised by playing so aggressive," Diaw said. "And shots were falling and we were really committed defensively."

The Bobcats got plenty of open looks in the first half,

using a pick-and-pop to free up center Diaw for 3-pointers from the top of the key. Augustin was fearless in the first half, showing no signs of a sprained ankle from Monday night by hitting on 3 of 4 3-pointers in the first half for 16 points as the Bobcats took a 60-45 lead into the locker room.

"In order for us to be successful, we're going to have to defend better than that," James said.

Even without an established big man, the Bobcats outrebounded the Heat 53-30.

The Heat looked out of sync and frustrated early on.

James got pickpocketed by Derrick Brown in the half-court set and later threw up an air ball — one of two in the game — on a turnaround jumper after posting up low against Corey Maggette.

The other two-thirds of Miami's Big Three also struggled, with Bosh getting rejected in the paint by rookie Bismack Biyombo and Wade hitting just 2 of 8 from the field.

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## Historic Orange Blossom opens Centennial Year

Special to the News-Sun

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prize money is one of the largest in the state thanks to local sponsors, including the Palms of Sebring, Lampe & Keifer Hearing Center, Blue Crab Restaurant, Highlands Independent Bank, Sebring Animal Hospital, Heartland Periodontics (Dr. Kirsch), Dell Realty Team and Heartland Real Estate.

This year Inn on the Lakes is the host hotel.

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

Even though the Orange Blossom Classic is a pro

tournament, amateurs may participate and are welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

## Taylor set to retire

Continued from 1B

Year.

That season he had 13 1/2 sacks, forced 10 fumbles and returned two interceptions for scores.

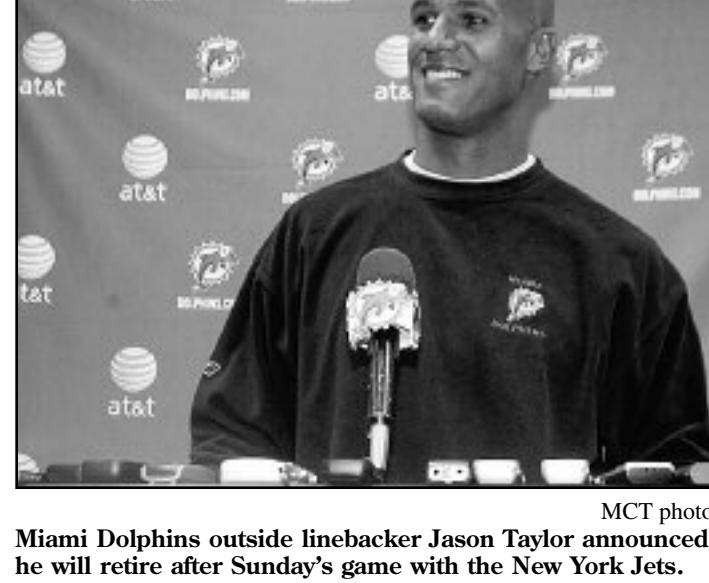
Taylor has scored nine touchdowns, the most by any player whose primary position was the defensive line and who entered the league after 1970.

He has four safeties, which ties him for fourth in NFL history.

Taylor holds a Dolphins record with 27 fumble recoveries.

He has been honored many times for his work in the community, and his South Florida foundation has contributed more than \$2 million in grants and services to help children.

"He's a tremendous role model," teammate Kendall



MCT photo  
Miami Dolphins outside linebacker Jason Taylor announced he will retire after Sunday's game with the New York Jets.

Langford said. "He is always giving, giving, giving."

The foundation will help keep Taylor busy in retirement.

He has also dabbled in acting, and earned runner-up honors on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars" in 2008.

"I look forward to the future. There are a few irons

in the fire," Taylor said. "Nothing is going to replace professional football. You can't find it on the golf course or anywhere. There's no place like an NFL locker room. Those guys become your family for seven months of the year. You won't replace that. But I'll find something else."

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## ENTERTAINMENT

## 'W.E.L.D.E.R.' leads parade of iPad gems

By LOU KESTEN

*Associated Press*

So you just got an iPad for Christmas. You already have all the essentials loaded — Facebook, Twitter, iBooks, whatever news app you prefer.

Now it's time to get serious and start learning what the iPad was really built for: games.

There are more than 26,000 iPad games available from Apple's App Store, with something for every imaginable taste. And the prices are so low you can build an impressive library for less than the cost of a single Xbox game. Here are some of my favorites from the last few months.

— "W.E.L.D.E.R." (Highline Games, \$3.99): For the record, it stands for "Word Examination Laboratory for Dynamic Extraction and Reassessment," but never mind the strained acronym. What "W.E.L.D.E.R." really stands for is the iPad's most addictive word game, a clever combination of "Bejeweled," "Boggle" and "Scrabble." The object is to slide letter tiles around an 8-by-8 grid, forming words of four or more letters. However, you won't get far unless you figure out how to combine score-multiplying gold tiles with the limited number of moves you're given. If you're burned out on "Words With Friends," let this provide your new crossword puzzle fix.

— "Infinity Blade II" (Chair Entertainment, \$6.99): If you want to show off your new toy, there are few better demonstrations than this sword-fighting epic. It's a series of one-on-one battles in which dodging, parrying and blocking attacks are just as important as slashing your foes. This sequel adds some role-playing elements and more alternate paths to the goal, but the core attraction remains the same: bone-crunching combat in breathtaking environments.

— "Chocolate Fix" (ThinkFun, \$2.99): Take nine candies — three shapes, each in three colors — and arrange them in a 3-by-3 box. If you're a Sudoku maven, that probably sounds simple. But at the expert level, the clues to which candy goes where are more abstract, making this innocent-looking brainteaser devilishly



MCT

**There are plenty of new iPad apps to keep you entertained wherever you are.**

challenging. It's another elegant treat from the creators of "Rush Hour."

— "Bag It!" (Hidden Variable Studios, \$1.99): It's another adventure in food packaging! This time, you're a clerk cramming groceries into a paper bag. The goal is to fill each bag as tightly as possible without breaking anything; if you put a watermelon on top of a carton of eggs, you're asking for trouble. The groceries themselves are endearingly anthropomorphized, making "Bag It!" one of the cutest puzzle games around.

— "Blueprint 3D" (FDG Entertainment, 99 cents): Each screen in this game is a seemingly random assortment of lines floating in three dimensions. When you rotate the space, you can see how some lines might fit together. Eventually, they snap in place to create a 2-D image of a familiar object — a house, perhaps, or the Eiffel Tower. The 200-plus puzzles here

aren't terribly demanding, but they're undeniably satisfying.

Finally, some essential games from earlier in 2011:

— "Jetpack Joyride" (Halfbrick Studios, 99 cents): Keep your hero airborne while avoiding lasers, missiles and other obstacles in this breathless race from the creators of "Fruit Ninja."

— "Superbrothers: Sword & Sworcery EP" (Capybara Games, \$4.99): The old-school point-and-click adventure gets a postmodern makeover.

— "Where's My Water?" (Disney, 99 cents): Help an alligator take a bath in this adorably goofy physics puzzler.

— "Ticket to Ride" (Days of Wonder, \$6.99): The best board-game translation on the iPad is this suspenseful race to build cross-country railroads.

## Marvel wins NYC dispute over Ghost Rider rights

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Comic book publisher Marvel Entertainment owns the rights to the Ghost Rider character in the fiery form that originated in the early 1970s, a federal judge ruled Wednesday as she rejected the claims of a former Marvel writer seeking to cash in on lucrative movie rights.

U.S. District Judge Katherine Forrest tossed out 4-year-old claims brought by Gary Friedrich, who said he created the motorcycle-driving Ghost Rider with the skeletal head that sometimes had fire blazing from it. A Ghost Rider of the 1950s and '60s was a Western character who rode a horse.

The judge said Friedrich gave up all ownership rights when he signed checks containing language relinquishing all rights to the predecessor companies of Marvel Entertainment LLC.

"The law is clear that when an individual endorses a check subject to a condition, he accepts that condition," the judge wrote.

Forrest said her finding made it unnecessary to "travel down the rabbit hole" to decide whether the character was created separate and apart from Marvel, whether the company hired Friedrich to create the character and whether he had thoughts about what rights he wanted to retain from the outset.

## Looking For A Primary Care Physician?



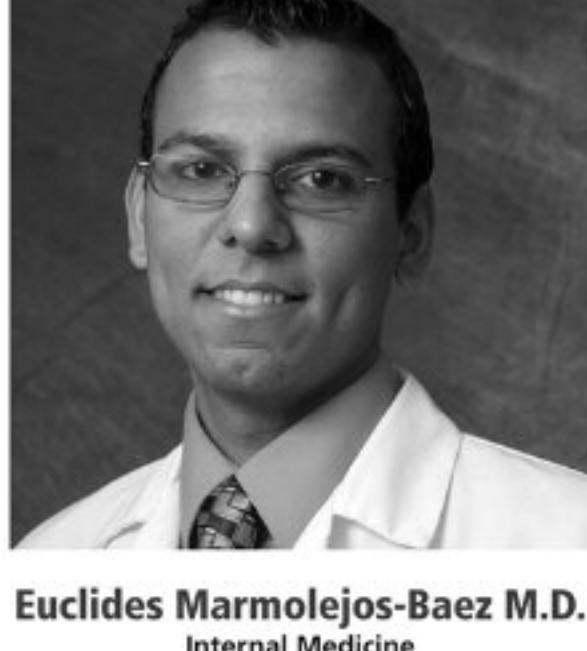
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## HEALTHY LIVING

## How to snack smart in 2012

## ARA Content

Snacks: they can either be your worst dieting enemy or your new weight-loss best friend. The difference is all in the choices you make. This year, make it your resolution to learn how to snack smarter. To help, here are some tips to develop a healthier relationship with snacking.

## Portion control

Hand someone a bag of chips and ask them to eat just 100 calories. Sounds impossible, right? Well for most people, it is. Not only is it hard to calculate quickly, our willpower alone will fail us. Soon a few chips become half the bag and the guilt sets in.

Don't even give yourself the opportunity to overeat and instead think portion control. Replace full size snack bags with 100-calorie snack packs. They are the perfect way to know you're only eating 100 calories and resist the urge to eat more. Snyder's of Hanover offers a variety of 100-calorie Pretzel snack packs.

Available in mini, snap or pretzel sticks, they're sold in the snack aisle of local grocery store. They are quick and easy and perfect for kids or adults. Plus the best part is, once the snack pack is gone, you're done.

## Smart snacks

Making smart snack choices doesn't mean you have to give up flavor or your favorite foods. There are a number of products that are low in fat, and can help satisfy your cravings. Here are some ideas to get you started:

1. Raisins: One ounce equals 85 calories. You could even cover them with chocolate. Chocolate can be healthy when consumed in small portions.

2. Graham crackers: Eight small rectangles is equal to 100 calories.

3. Celery with peanut butter: Five pieces of celery with 1 tablespoon peanut butter is equal to 100 calories. This is a very satisfying snack packed with protein and is also gluten-free.

4. Dried fruits and nuts: A small amount of dried fruits with a small amount of nuts is a snack kids love to eat.

5. Pretzels: One ounce equals 100 calories. You can even include cheese with your pretzels for something different with added protein.

6. Unsweetened applesauce: One cup is equivalent to 100 calories, and is a great snack idea for younger children.

7. Air-popped popcorn: Three cups or 1 ounce equals 95 calories. Popcorn is also gluten-free.

8. Fruit: All types of fruit are full of valuable nutrients and they also contain no gluten.

9. Baked corn tortillas with dip: Corn tortillas are a great alternative to potato chips. You can eat them with salsa



Image Source

and/or guacamole for a healthy treat.

10. Rice cakes: Rice cakes by themselves aren't really nutritious, but they are gluten-free. Try topping them with cottage cheese and fruit, peanut butter with banana slices, or cheese and tomatoes for a more nutritious snack.

11. Fat-free sugar-free pudding: One serving contains approximately 80 calories. Another treat kids really enjoy.

12. Lettuce wraps: Fill a big lettuce leaf with tuna, hummus and your favorite vegetables and roll it up. You could even use a ham slice with hummus and vegetables for a change in variety. This is also a gluten-free snack.

## Make it simple

Put healthy snacks out so they're easy to grab. Take a bowl and make sure it's filled with fresh fruit. For cold snacks create a healthy snack drawer in your refrigerator. Stock it full of baby carrots cut up veggies and low fat dip or puddings. To give your kids incentive to make healthier choices, give them permission to take any snack from these locations without asking.

## HEALTH NEWS SNAPSHTOS

## Free diabetes class offered

SEBRING —The Highlands County Health Department (HCHD) is offering Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) classes as part of its Wellness and Diabetes Education Program. This program serves Highlands County residents of all ages, especially those with diabetes or at risk for developing diabetes. These classes are free of charge and provided by a Certified Diabetes Educator.

Classes in English are scheduled in Sebring on Jan. 9-11 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Highlands County Health Department (located at 7205

S. George Blvd. conference room A). Enrollment is limited and registration is required. To register and for more information, contact the HCHD Wellness and Diabetes Education Program, at 863-382-7228 or 863-382-7294.

## Good Shepherd Hospice seeks volunteers

SEBRING — Have you made a New Year's resolution to volunteer? Then consider volunteering your time with Good Shepherd Hospice. Attend a free, two-hour orientation session to learn more about the fulfilling experience of volunteering with Good Shepherd

Hospice. Hospice needs volunteers at all levels — from providing companionship for a hospice patient to supplying office help to facilitating a children's grief support group to supporting families at the Somers Hospice House.

Good Shepherd Hospice will hold a two-hour volunteer orientation session on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Somers Hospice House, 1110 Hammock Road in Sebring.

All training is free and volunteers do not need any type of prior experience. Contact Regina Merrick at 863-551-3943 or merrickr@chaptershealth.org for more information or to register.

## Traumatic brain injury group plans meeting

SEBRING — New Beginnings, a support group for people dealing with traumatic brain injury and their family members, will be meeting on Thursday, Jan. 5, at noon at the office of H.A.L.L.O., 112 Medical Center Ave. in Sebring.

This meeting will be a pot luck lunch in celebration of the New Year. Please

Continued on page 7B

## Avastin disappoints against ovarian cancer, too

Associated Press

Avastin, the blockbuster drug that just lost approval for treating breast cancer, now looks disappointing against ovarian cancer, too. Two studies found it did not improve survival for most of these patients and kept their disease from worsening for only a few months, with more side effects.

The Genentech drug won approval in Europe last week for advanced ovarian cancer.

But its maker has no immediate plans to seek the same approval in the United States. After talking with the Food and Drug Administration, "we do not believe the data will support approval" although no final decision has been made, said Charlotte Arnold, a spokeswoman for Genentech, part of the Swiss company Roche.

Results of the studies are in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

In November, the FDA revoked Avastin's approval for breast cancer because it did not meaningfully extend life and can have serious side effects.

Without approval, doctors can prescribe the drug but insurers may not pay. Treatment with it can cost \$100,000 a year.

Avastin can still be sold for some colon, lung, kidney and brain cancers.

The new research was aimed at adding ovarian cancer to the list.

One study, led by Dr. Robert Burger of Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, involved nearly 1,900 women with advanced ovarian cancer given one of three treatment combinations.

The time until the disease got worse was a median of 10 months in those given just chemotherapy; adding Avastin improved that by just one to four months for the other two groups.

Survival was similar among the groups, and side effects were higher among those on Avastin — mostly high blood pressure but also some stomach and gut problems that needed treatment.

In the other study, led by researchers from England, more than 1,500 ovarian cancer patients were given chemo with or without Avastin.

The drug kept cancer at bay just one to two months longer than chemo alone did, with more cases of high blood pressure.

There was a trend toward improved survival for those on Avastin, but the difference was too small to say the drug was responsible.

Genentech helped pay for the studies and some of the researchers consult for the company.

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# HEALTHY LIVING

## Health story of the year: salt vindicated

### ARA Content

Paul T. Meagher sometimes gets disapproving stares when people see him sprinkle his food with salt as he has done since he was a young lad growing up in Ireland. He has a response for such people.

"I tell them you can take my blood pressure right now, or we can have a run around the block, and I guarantee you I'm in better shape than you," said Meagher, 68, who now lives in Westport, Mass. "I'm fit, at least for my age, and I use salt every day in volume. Hasn't done me a blind bit of harm, which is the way we put it from where I come from."

Recent research quantifies Meagher's experience. In 2011, half a dozen medical studies showed the health benefits of salt or revealed the significant risks of low-sodium diets -- providing vindication for this essential nutrient and the people, like Meagher, who love it.

"The vindication of salt is probably the biggest health and nutrition story of the last year," says Lori Roman, president of the Salt Institute. "Everyone knows salt tastes good, but the latest research published in leading medical journals confirms that salt is good for you, too. The medical studies underline what we have been saying for years: science is on salt's side."

The new data raises questions about the federal government's effort to put Americans on a low-salt diet. The Food and Drug Administration is inviting online public comments about ways to reduce sodium consumption. In the past, such invitations have foreshadowed the rollout of new regulations.

The six peer-reviewed medical studies documented:

Type 1 Diabetes risk: In a study of patients with type 1 diabetes, low sodium intake was associated with renal disease and premature death.

Type 2 Diabetes risk: In an Australian study of type 2 diabetes patients, lower sodium was associated with increased risk of death from cardiovascular disease.

No benefit to salt reduction: A study published in the American Journal of Hypertension showed eating less salt will not prevent heart attacks, strokes or early death. On the contrary, low-sodium diets increase the likelihood of premature death.

Risk of death: A study published in the Journal of the American Medical



Association concluded that lower salt intakes resulted in higher death rates.

Other negative effects of low-salt intakes: An analysis published in the American Journal of Hypertension showed individuals placed on the U.S. Dietary Guidelines-recommended salt levels experienced significant increases in cholesterol and other risk factors for diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Risk with current U.S. Dietary Guidelines: An analysis published in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that people who ate salt at the levels recommended by the U.S. government were at greater risk of cardiovascular events.

The research has prompted new scrutiny of the government's attempts to put all Americans on a low-salt diet. Scientific American reviewed medical studies over several decades and concluded in a headline: "It's time to end the war on salt." The respected magazine also said, "The zealous drive by politicians to limit our salt intake has little basis in science."

Meagher remembers when the federal government told him eggs could be bad for his health. He ignored that advice, too.

"I would rather the federal government stay well away from my kitchen altogether," Meagher says. "I will continue to eat my boiled eggs from an egg cup, with an egg spoon, and with plenty of salt."

## Mistletoe has more benefits than just getting holiday kisses



### Dear Pharmacist

Suzy Cohen

Even more exciting, are mistletoe's immune-enhancing benefits.

Many of you have heard of celebrity and author Suzanne Somers who used European mistletoe when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2000.

A study in October 2007 Archives of Pharmacal Research, and another in November 2011

Phytotherapy Research confirmed some anti-cancer benefits.

Chinese medicine herbalists have used Mistletoe for centuries to support the female reproductive system;

it seems to improve libido, fertility, uterine bleeding and

erratic (or absent) menstruation. A research brief was published in Fertility and Sterility (2002) indicating that Mistletoe extracts resulted in pain reduction of post-hysterectomy patients with endometriosis.

Apparently, mistletoe inspires more than the urge to kiss in men, as studies suggest it can improve libido and erectile dysfunction.

Don't eat your Christmas decoration, that is harmful. You can buy purified commercial dietary supplements of European Mistletoe in the United States. It's sold as a liquid extract at health food stores nationwide and you just mix the drops in water. There are oral supplements sold at health food stores. It may be slightly relaxing or sedating. If you are reading my translated column overseas, I should tell you mistletoe goes by the brand name Helixor and Iscador, and is usually given via injection by oncologists.

The German Commission E (German equivalent of our

FDA) has approved European Mistletoe as a treatment for degenerative and inflamed joints (think arthritis) and also for malignant growths like cancer. German physicians have read various animal and human studies that show how mistletoe increases our NK (natural killer) cells which go after viruses and tumor cells.

Mistletoe extracts stimulate activity of T cells (which are your bodies policemen), and increase cytokines, a good thing because these build up red and white blood cells, especially in the bone marrow. If you have cancer, I would not self-treat, seek a physician who uses mistletoe routinely and knows how to treat you.

*Suzy Cohen is a registered pharmacist and the author of 'The 24-Hour Pharmacist' and 'Real Solutions.' For more information, visit www.*

*DearPharmacist.com. This information is not intended to treat, diagnose or cure your condition.*



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## SNAPSHOTS

Continued from page 7B

R.S.V.P. to HALLO at 385-1196 and leave a message or email to halloinc@embarqmail.com and tell us what food item you would like to bring to share.

Also, a guest speaker from the Program "FAAST" (Florida Alliance for Assistive Services & Technology) Lindsay Dapp, B.A., program specialist, will tell the group about FAAST Services.

The goal of the group is to create a positive, supportive setting and experience in which the traumatic brain injured person can address physiosocial and adjustment issues related to their injury. Patient fellowship, self-improvement, education and social activities will be stressed.

New Beginnings is hosted by Handicapped Americans Love of Life Organization. The group meets every first Thursday of the month through April 2012. Guest speakers and special outings will also be planned. For any other information please call H.A.L.L.O. at 385-1196, email: halloinc@embarqmail.com or write to H.A.L.L.O., P.O. Box 7082, Sebring, FL 33872. Also join them on FaceBook at Handicapped Americans Love of Life Organization.

### Heartland Amputee group to meet Jan. 12

SEBRING — The next meeting for the Heartland Amputee Group will be Thursday, Jan. 12 at the Sebring Chamber of Commerce, Village Fountain Plaza, at 11:30 a.m.

This meeting will be a brown-bag lunch and beverages will be provided. On the agenda will be more discussion and planning for the "One-day Clinic.

The Heartland Amputee Group has reached out to people who live with amputations with its lecture series and support group meetings for many seasons. It is important to know that people who are experiencing this loss are not alone. The group's main purpose is to give support, encouragement and exchange information and news regarding living with an amputation. This information can be very helpful and educational. Anyone who is interested in sharing information that may help others is welcome to attend.

For any other information about the group, or if you would like to be on the mailing list for notification of the meetings and guest speakers, please call 385-1196, email: halloinc@embarqmail.com or write to H.A.L.L.O., P.O. Box 7082, Sebring, FL 33872. Also join them on FaceBook at Handicapped Americans Love of Life Organization and www.halloinc.org

# RELIGION

## Atonement Lutheran Church, ELCA

**SEBRING** — This Sunday is Epiphany of our Lord Sunday. The worship service with Communion will be led by Deacon David Thoresen. Lector/assistant will be Jim Fiedler.

Immediately following the worship service, everyone is invited to gather in the fellowship hall to honor and celebrate January birthdays of members and visitors.

Tuesday at 6 p.m., there will be a Council meeting in the counting room.

Bible study will resume Thursday, Jan. 12.

## Avon Park Church of Christ

**AVON PARK** — “The New Life” (Romans 12:1-2) will be the Sunday morning message presented by Larry Roberts, minister.

There will be a dinner following the morning worship for all members and their

guests.

Avon Park Church of Christ is at 200 S. Forest Ave. For information, call 453-4692.

## Christ Lutheran Church - LCMS

**AVON PARK** — This Sunday morning, Pastor Scott McLean will preach a sermon titled “Beginning with Bloodshed.”

The church is at 1320 County Road 64, east the Avon Park High School. Call 471-2663 or search the Internet for christlutheranavonpark.org.

## Christian Training Church

**SEBRING** — Rev. Linda M. Downing will bring the message titled “Witnesses of Truth: Part 6” at the Sunday morning service. The Wednesday night Bible study will continue the book of Hebrews.

## Emmanuel United Church of Christ

**SEBRING** — Guest preacher Nancy Beatty will deliver the Sunday morning sermon, “Praying Through Violent Storms and Seas,” with Scripture taken from Jonah 2:1-10.

The church is 1.7 miles west of U.S. 27 on County Road 634 (Hammock Road). Call 471-1999 or visit sebringemanuelucc.com.

## First Baptist Church of Sebring

**SEBRING** — On Sunday, there will be 9:15 a.m. Sunday school/Bible study classes and a 10:30 worship service. There will be no evening service.

Monday, the church office will be closed but there will be Upward Basketball and cheerleading practice at the ROC (Recreational Outreach Center) on Pine Street.

On Wednesday, there will be no supper, but there will

be adult Bible study in the Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m.

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**SEBRING** — At the Lord’s Table this Sunday morning will be Bob and Betty Harcourt. Communion will be served by Carol Chandler and Teresa Williams.

Greeting the congregation the first day of the new year 2012 is Bill and Carolyn Hineline.

Guest minister the Rev. Dr. Desmond M. Walker will give the sermon Sunday morning. His sermon is titled “Living in God’s Favor.” Scripture is taken from Luke 1:26-38.

Walker was baptized and grew in discipleship as a member of the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman (Congregational, Disciples, Presbyterian). Ordained as minister of the word and

sacrament in 1964, he has served in ministry and mission on a national and international scale for more than 45 years. Engagement in ministry has been Walker’s journey and call to commitment and radical obedience to God’s plan of salvation for humanity in community and the world. He is married to Barbara Walker and retired as a member of Savannah Presbytery in August 2009.

Call 385-0352. The church is at 510 Poinsettia Ave.

## First Presbyterian Church of Avon Park

**AVON PARK** — On Sunday morning, Pastor Bob Johnson’s sermon is titled “Newness of Life,” based on Romans 6:1-14.

The choir’s introit will be “The Lord, He is God” and the anthem “Renew Us” with flute solo by Kathleen Richards and Stephen Brown on drums. Guest organist will be Emily Hayner.

The adult Sunday school class is continuing their study of David in II Samuel 19 in which David returns to Jerusalem.

Members are asked to bring non-perishable items for the Church Service Center.

The Family Gathering has a special event planned. Check with leader Dave Blackmon for details.

The church office will be closed on Monday.

On Tuesday, Sarah Circle meets at 4 p.m.

On Wednesday, Bible study titled “The Basics of the Faith” will be led by Pastor Bob Johnson.

The church is at 215 E. Circle St. (with two entrances on Lagrange Street). Call 453-3242.

## First Presbyterian Church of Sebring

**SEBRING** — “Bad News John” is the title of Sunday

**Continued on page 9B**

# PLACES TO WORSHIP

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

## APOSTOLIC

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

## ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

## BAPTIST

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

**Bethany Baptist Church (GARBC)** We are located at the corner of SR17 and C-17A (truck route) in Avon Park. Join us Sunday morning at 9:00 AM for coffee and donuts, 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 Catalyst 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](http://www.bethanybaptistap.com) or call the church office at 863-452-1136.

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

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

453-6986. E-mail: [office@apfellowship.org](mailto:office@apfellowship.org); Web site, [www.apfellowship.org](http://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; 6:30 p.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,

Johannatt 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 Altavater 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](http://www.fbclp.com). Email: [information@fbclp.com](mailto: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](http://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 pas-

tor; Rev. Joe Delph, associate pas-

tor, minister of youth and activities;

and Rev. Nuno Norberto, associate

pastor, minister of music and senior

adults. Group Bible Studies, 9:15

a.m.; Blended Service, 10:30 a.m.;

Mision Bautista Hispana, 2 p.m.;

Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m.

Wednesday night programs at the

ROC begin 5:30 p.m., at church

begin 6:30 p.m. Preschool and

Mother’s Day Out for children age

6 weeks to 5 years old. Becky Gotsch, director. Call 385-4704.

**Florida Avenue Baptist Church**, 401 S. Florida Ave., Avon Park. Mailing address is 710 W. Bell St., Avon Park, FL 33825.

Telephone, 453-5339. Rev. John D.

Girdley, pastor. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; 11 a.m. Children’s Church;

Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday night programs for

children, youth and adults at 7 p.m.

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

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

**Maranatha Baptist Church (GARBC)**, 35 Maranatha Blvd., Sebring, FL 33870 (A half mile east of Highlands Avenue on Arbuckle 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.

**Pathway 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

# RELIGION

## Continued from page 8B

morning's sermon given by the Rev. Darrell A. Peer.

Tuesday, Ruth Circle meets 10 a.m. (call for location). Wednesday is a meeting of the Search Committee at 4 p.m. Thursday, Bonclarken Gift Workshop will be at 9:30 a.m. in fellowship hall. Retreat Committee meets at 5:30 p.m.

## First United Methodist Church of Sebring

SEBRING — Rev. A.C. Bryant's sermon Sunday will be "A New Message for a New Year" with the scripture taken from 1st Kings 18:36-40.

The youth will be involved in a "Sweet Sleep Lock-In" this weekend.

Listen Live on WITS-AM 1340 each Sunday to hear the worship service. Call the church office for information at 385-5184.

The church is downtown at 126 S. Pine St. Visit [www.sebringfirstumc.com](http://www.sebringfirstumc.com).

## Grace Pointe Ministries

SEBRING — Grace Pointe Church is at 200 Lark Ave., Sebring Hills Association Clubhouse.

Tuesday the pastor will be starting a new series for home Bible study for the new year.

Friday night Bible study with GoToMeeting. Let the pastor know at (863) 658-2534 if you would like to participate. Ustream available (live or 24/7) of all services in Sebring. Log on to [ustream.tv](http://ustream.tv), and then enter gracepointetv in the search box. Visit [www.gracepointeministries.net](http://www.gracepointeministries.net).

## Heartland Christian Church

SEBRING — Pastor Ted Moore's sermon this Sunday will be "New Beginning" with Scripture from II Corinthians 5:4-6 and 17.

The service will also include Gayle Brockton, Karla Morissette and Flossi Moore singing "New Start," and Heartland Singers singing "I Saw the Light."

Starting Jan. 8 there will be two services on Sunday morning.

Adult Bible study this week is "Living on the Edge" taught by Pastor Ted Moore.

The church is at 2705 Alternate Route 17 South (behind Publix); phone 314-9693.

## Memorial United Methodist Church

LAKE PLACID — Pastor Fred Ball, senior pastor, will preach in the Heritage (Traditional) and Celebration (Blended) Worship Services in the Sanctuary. His sermon, "About My Father's Business," uses

Luke 2:41-52. Pastor Claude Burnett will preach "Leftovers Again" in the New Song Contemporary Service in Rob Reynolds Fellowship Hall. There will be no evening youth activities. The church is behind the tower at 500 Kent Ave. Call 465-2422.

## Parkway Free Will Baptist Church

SEBRING — The Sunday morning Bible lesson, "A Man of Integrity," is taken from Genesis 39 (King James Version). Pastor Jim Scaggs will bring the message.

The Wednesday evening service will be praise, prayer and Bible study.

## St. John United Methodist Church

SEBRING — "The Wise Still Seek Him!" with biblical reference from Matthew 2:1-12 will be the message at all three Sunday services. Holy Communion will be served. Nursery is provided at all services.

## Southside Baptist Church

SEBRING — The Rev. David Altman will start a new series on the book of Philippians in the morning worship service Sunday. Children's church and a nursery are avail-

able. He will speak in the 6 p.m. worship service also. The church is at 379 S. Commerce Ave. Call 385-0752.

## Spring Lake Presbyterian Church

SEBRING — "A Fun-filled Faith" is the title of Sunday morning's sermon given by the Rev. Don Davis. Scripture will be taken from John 15:7-11.

## Spring Lake United Methodist Church

SEBRING — Spring Lake United Methodist Church is at 8170 Cozumel Lane. The Rev. Clyde Weaver's sermon will be "My Covenant."

## The Way Church

SEBRING — Youth Director Zac Tsai will preach on New Year's Day.

Saturday, Dec. 31 there will be a campfire on the church grounds at 6:30 p.m.

The Difference Makers Youth meet Wednesday and Sundays.

The Way Church is at 1005 N. Ridgewood Drive. The church phone is 471-6140; the pastor's cell is 273-3674. The church website is [www.thewaychurch.org](http://www.thewaychurch.org).

# 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 [redeemer1895@aol.com](mailto:redeemer1895@aol.com) Web site: [redeemeravon.com](http://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](http://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](http://christlutheranavonpark.org).

**■ Faith Lutheran Church - LCMS,** 2740 Lakeview Drive, Sebring. Church phone: 385-7848, Faith Child Development Center, 385-3232. Rev. Gary Kindle, pastor. Traditional Worship service, 8 a.m. Sunday; Sunday Praise Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Communion is served the first, third and fifth Sunday of the month. Sunday school and Bible classes: 9:15 a.m. Sunday. Worship service is broadcast at 8 a.m. on WITS 1340 AM each Sunday. Educational opportunities include weekly adult Bible studies. Faith's Closet Thrift Store (385-2782) is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. All are warmly welcome in the 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](http://www.newlifesebring.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 33823; 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](http://www.Trinitylutheranlp.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](http://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@vianet.net](mailto:unity@vianet.net). Web site, [www.unityofsebring.org](http://www.unityofsebring.org). 10:30 a.m. Sunday Celebration Service,

**■ 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, 6:30 p.m.; Prayer time, 6:15 p.m. Todd Patterson, pastor; Andy McQuaid, associate pastor. Web site [www.bfcsebring.com](http://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](mailto:lindadowning@live.com). Casey L. Downing, associate minister, [caseydowning@hotmail.com](mailto:caseydowning@hotmail.com). Church phone: 314-0482. Web site: [www.ctmforme.com](http://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](http://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: 314-0482. Web site: [www.ctmforme.com](http://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](http://www.GBCconnected.org)

**■ 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, 7:15 p.m. Phone: 385-3234; Fax: 385-2759; e-mail: [copres@strato.net](mailto:copres@strato.net); Web site: [www.cpcsebring.org](http://www.cpcsebring.org). Rev. W. Darrell Arnold, pastor. Office hours: 8:30-12:30 a.m. Monday-Friday.

**■ First Presbyterian Church ARP,** 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.juanitafolsomministry.com](http://www.juanitafolsomministry.com).

**■ 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. Peart, pastor.

**■ First Presbyterian Church, ARP,** 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-

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](mailto:thewaychurch@hotmail.com). Web site: [www.TheWayChurch.org](http://www.TheWayChurch.org)

**■ 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 Deacons 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](mailto:springlakepc@embarqmail.com), Web site, <http://slpc.embarqspace.com>.

**■ 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

## RELIGION

## If you can't resolve 'em, perfect last year's mistakes

## Guest Column

Rev. James L. Snyder

the coming New Year.

Look back over the old year and make a list of all of the mistakes you have made. If you are a husband, solicit help from your wife, who will be able to remember all of those mistakes you have forgotten. (Not to mention one or two you did not make.)

Go over each mistake on your list and determine if it needs repeated for the New Year. It does not make sense in doing new mistakes if you are not finished with the old ones. Nothing is more disheartening than a half-baked mistake.

For every mistake from the previous year not needing repeated, place a nice red star in front of it. That mistake can now go into your Hall of Blame, which you will never have to repeat again.

Of course, you will have some mistakes, even though they have been perfectly executed are well worth repeating. You know which ones they are. Don't you?

Now look at all of those mistakes listed for repeating during the New Year. Prioritize them so you can begin the New Year with a good plan.

As you prioritize this list, think of ways in which you can improve on your mistakes over the past year. No satisfaction compares with doing something as good as you can. One man's blunder is another man's gaffe.

Everyone generates mistakes, which is healthy. What is unhealthy is thinking you have not made any mistakes, which is a mistake. Some people have the strange idea that they live a completely mistake free life.

A mistake well executed is a mistake never needing repeating. During the New Year, execute as many mistakes as your conscience will allow.

The Bible, an authority on mistakes, says this; "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 John 1:8-10 KJV.)

The great hope we have is that there is no mistake bigger than God's ability to forgive.

*The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail [jamesnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com/](http://www.whatafellowship.com/). Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun*

Some mistakes take lots of time to fully mature, but when its time comes, I want to make sure it is implemented as smoothly and as perfectly as possible. I refuse to execute any mistake before its time.

If I am any judge of character, the majority of people will not make any new mistakes this coming New Year. Oh, they think they are making new mistakes but in reality, they are dusting off old ones and re-dating them for the current year. What a waste of time, in my opinion.

For those who take mistake-making seriously, allow me to offer some help to guide this pursuit in

## FRAMES and IMAGES

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# New Year's traditions

New Year's is creeping ever closer, so it's time ask yourself the question: What are you going to do? No, seriously, what are you doing to do? It's hard to keep track of all the traditions that have sprung up around the world, for one thing, and it's even harder to figure out if you'll end up going full American this year or spicing up your New Year's party with some exotic traditions (like eating grapes). Below are some of the more interesting variations on New Year's Eve celebrations.

— Jon Wolper, McClatchy-Tribune

## A brief history of the Times Square ball drop

**1907:** At the request of Adolph Ochs, then-publisher of The New York Times, the paper's chief electrician built a 700-pound ball out of wood and iron.

He fitted it with 100 25-watt light bulbs, and it was lowered from a flagpole atop One Times Square as midnight hit.

**1920:** The ball received its first of many upgrades, changing to a 400-pound model made of wrought iron.

**1942-1943:** The ball-dropping ceremony in Times Square continued uninterrupted until these two years, when there was no event due to the World War II-era "dim-out" of the New York City

skyline.

**1955:** The iron ball was upgraded again. This time it was one made from aluminum, which weighed only 200 pounds. Versions of the same aluminum ball with different sorts of lighting configurations were dropped until 1998.

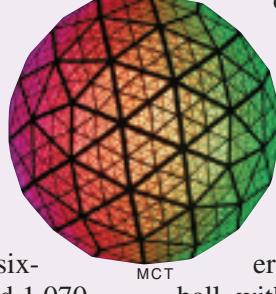
**2000 to present:** The ball made the first of what would become a flurry of changes over the next decade.

The 2000 iteration of the ball was built by Waterford Crystal, had a six-foot diameter and weighed 1,070 pounds. And the spectacle has

continued to increase — the 2009 version of the ball had a 12-foot diameter and weighed more than 11,000 pounds.

Despite the weight, the many lights on the ball had become dynamic and computer controlled. No longer was the ball a beacon; now it was a dazzling light show.

That combination of tradition and technology has ushered the Times Square ball, without hiccup, into the second decade of this century.



## Unique New Year's traditions from around the globe

If you were born and raised in the U.S., you might think our insistence on having fireworks and dropping glass spheres on New Year's Eve is downright normal. But you're just used to it. Here are some of the stranger traditions for the holidays — or at least strange when seen through an American lens.

**Brazil.** In Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city, New Year's Eve is all about the lucky underpants. People go for red if they're looking for love and yellow if they're after some extra cash.

**Finland.** To celebrate the New Year, some Finnish people cast molten tin into containers of water and, when the tin hardens, take its perceived shape as an indicator of how the coming year will go. For instance, a heart or ring shape signifies a wedding, and a pig shape (which is a very specific shape to glean from hardened tin, but we digress) stands for lots of food.

**Panama.** Panama gets a bit more violent with its celebration, burning effigies of public figures, called munecos. The idea is the effigies stand for the old year; destroying them leads the way into

the new one. But it's still pretty creepy (at least to us) to disfigure a model of, say, Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera, and then dance around it, celebrating.

**Belarus.** Who would have thought this little landlocked country would have the granddaddy of all unusual traditions? On New Year's Eve, unmarried women participate in a game in which piles of corn are placed in front of each one. A rooster is released, and whichever girl's corn pile it goes to first will be the first to marry in the coming year. Meanwhile, the entire population of Brazil looks down at its red underpants and heaves a sigh of great disappointment.

## Want good luck? Watch what you eat

The traditions don't end there. You'd be amazed by how many foods, in different parts of the world, signify good luck, long life or personal fortune. Here are a few of the most interesting.

**The Grape-Monger.** If you want good luck in the coming year, you better like bite-sized fruits. As per tradition, Spaniards gorge on 12 grapes as midnight approaches to ensure prosperity over the next 12 months.

**Let's Get it Started.** Decide to celebrate in the American



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In the American South, black-eyed peas are eaten for good luck on New Year's Day.

South and you'll probably be given some black-eyed peas either on New Year's Eve or Day. Eating the peas is supposed to bring good luck to the consumer, but they're an acquired taste, so make sure they're at home in a good recipe before chowing down.

**The Cabbage Patch.** In Germany, Ireland and some parts of the U.S., cabbage is eaten because it's green, much like money is green, and so it resembles good fortune. Yum!

SOURCES: GOOD HOUSE KEEPING; TRAVEL AND LEISURE; GO SOUTHEAST; WWW.TIMESQUARENYC.ORG

## Auld Lang Syne lyrics

Everyone who's anyone knows the melody to "Auld Lang Syne," the 200-plus-year-old Scottish poem by Robert Burns that has become synonymous with ringing in the New Year. But do you know the words? If not, throw your arms around your nearest neighbor's shoulders and start singing these lyrics as soon as the countdown ends.

*Should old acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should old acquaintance be forgot,  
And old lang syne?*

**CHORUS:**

*For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.*

*And surely you'll buy your pint cup!  
And surely I'll buy mine!  
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.*

**CHORUS**

*We two have run about the slopes,  
And picked the daisies fine;  
But we've wandered many a weary foot,  
Since auld lang syne.*

**CHORUS**

*We two have paddled in the stream,  
From morning sun 'til dine;  
But seas between us broad have roared  
Since auld lang syne.*

**CHORUS**

*And there's a hand my trusty friend!  
And give us a hand o' thine!  
And we'll take a right good-will draught,  
For auld lang syne.*

**CHORUS**

ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL TRAP/MCT