

Two up, two down

Lake Placid and Sebring fall in state playoff openers

SPORTS, B1



NEWS-SUN

Highlands County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1927



Breezy.
Low 59
High 82

Details, A14

Sunday, May 5, 2013

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Horse Haven

Mosher saves horses from abuse and neglect

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY
christopher.tuffley@newssun.com

SEBRING — To reach Hidden Creek Farms Animal Rescue, a visitor drives down a long, rutted track between walls of green overgrowth. The drive opens suddenly on acres of open pasture land.

A metal skeleton of a long abandoned nursery shed stands out against the sky to the right — only one or two plastic panels are left of the roof.

There is a wonderful surprise within that skeleton, however — resting within neatly raked, metal-rail stalls are 22 horses of varying size, color and breed. The horses are friendly and calm.

There is a deep peace, quiet enough to hear small horse noises — the soft snort, the swish of a tail, the clop of a hoof.

A true horse whisperer created this oasis — veteran horse trainer Pamela Mosher.

See MOSHER, A7

A lesson in horse sense

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY
christopher.tuffley@newssun.com

SEBRING — Pam Mosher, the heart and soul of Hidden Creek Farms Animal Rescue, has been breaking, training and caring for horses all of her life.

Over the years she has learned a great deal through experience and by listening to older trainers talking about how they solved problems or

treated horses in the past. She believes in the Native American ways that emphasize respect, consistency and compassion.

“Horses are like little kids — they have a selective attention span,” Mosher said. “In training, change tasks every 15 minutes. Notice a horse getting crabby? Give him a

See HORSE, A7



News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS

Pamela Mosher of Hidden Creek Farms Animal Rescue points to the cataracts Thursday that are causing Bullseye to go blind.

CONVICTED ARSONIST JAILED FOR MORE FIRES

Cop spotted him using cell phone to video blaze set in bar parking lot

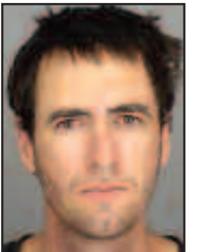
By SCOTT DRESSEL
editor@newssun.com

SEBRING — A man with a history of arson has confessed to starting two fires and trying to start another, according to the Sebring Police Department.

Jason Brandon Wagner, 32, told investigators he set fire to two vehicles in the parking lot of Yogi Bar — the second one Wednesday night — and also broke into a neighbor's house and tried to start a fire in the oven last year, SPD reports said.

He was booked into the Highlands County

See ARSONIST, A9



Jason Brandon Wagner faces one count of attempted first-degree arson, two counts of second-degree arson and three counts of burglary.



Towering tires

First Heartland Tailgate Extravaganza brings big trucks, big fun to downtown

A4

Sweet, cold treats



New frozen yogurt shop opens in Sebring

BUSINESS, A8



News-Sun photo by ROMONA WASHINGTON
Some board members of the Avon Park Champions Club look over the new grill that will be used to help raise funds for youth athletic programs in the city. From left is treasurer Ronnie Jackson, board members Amy Jackson, Monica Germaine and Penny Jahna, vice president Seth Lambert and president Charles Devlin.

A club for past, present and future champions

By ROMONA WASHINGTON
romona.washington@newssun.com

AVON PARK — When Charles Devlin was a high school freshman he quickly learned more about hard work and teamwork than he ever dreamed. He was one in a group of freshman junior varsity baseball players who were moved up to the varsity team. Not so much as players, but as observers.

The young boys watched



from the bench rather than from behind the fence and saw what it took to be a championship team. Devlin recalls

watching some of his childhood heroes like Greg Jackson, Duane Council, Duane Young, Geno Taylor and his brother Tim go on to win the 1984 state championship under the watchful eye of Coach Ronnie Jackson.

“Coach Jackson knew what he was doing, not only coaching that team to a champi-

See CHAMPIONS, A9

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Community Briefs

SFSC celebrates Commencement Monday

AVON PARK — South Florida State College will celebrate the accomplishments of its graduates during annual commencement exercises at 6:45 p.m. Monday at the SFSC Theatre for the Performing Arts, Highlands Campus, Avon Park.

Speakers will be Dr. Norman L. Stephens Jr., SFSC president, and Tami Cullens, chair, SFSC District Board of Trustees. Sebring City Councilman Andrew Fells, an SFSC alumnus, will deliver the invocation. The musical selection, "Time for Us," will be performed by Wayne Boda and Erin Sena. It was composed for the occasion by Doug Andrews, SFSC's dean of cultural programs, and David Hale, SFSC registration specialist.

More than 837 students will have met SFSC graduation requirements by the May commencement. Of these 555 will receive associate in arts degrees, associate in science degrees, or associate in applied science degrees, 166 will receive occupational certificates, or college credit certificates, and 116 will graduate from SFSC's Adult Education program. Approximately 256 plan to walk across the stage during commencement.

Also participating in commencement will be Lynn MacNeill, bearing the college mace, and marshals Elizabeth Andrews, Robert Hampton, Dr. Theresa James, Cheryl John, Tanna Markel, Ricardo Pantoja, Bob Scaryo, and Walteria Tucker.

A reception for graduates and their families will be held in the Catherine P. Cornelius Student Services and Classroom Complex (Building B) immediately following the commencement exercises.

DSAC meets Monday

SEBRING — The Highlands County District School Advisory Council will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. Monday in the Garland Boggus Board Room at The School Board of Highlands County, 426 School St. The primary agenda item for this meeting is the District Parent Involvement Plan, District Strategic Plan and the Student Code of Conduct.

If you are a person with a disability who requires reasonable accommodations in order to attend a District School Advisory Council meeting, call 471-5608 three days prior to the scheduled meeting date and time.

YMCA offers swim lessons

SEBRING — Swim lessons are back in full swing at the YMCA and just in time for summer, which is right around the corner. Classes are \$35 for members and non-members are \$45. Classes will be twice a week for four weeks, Monday through Thursday evening.

For a listing of the classes, call 382-9622.

Continued on A5

Today's veterans: Where do they go from here?

Final in a series

By CAROL KLINE

News-Sun correspondent

In 2009, women made up 8 percent of the total veteran population in this country. Today the ratio of more than 50,000 wounded soldiers is believed to be that one in 10 are female. That being said, the Veterans Administration now has five regional Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers (PRCs) across the country.

The new Polytrauma Rehab Center adjacent to the Audie Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio is part of that system. It offers an immediate solution for care for our wounded veterans returning

from overseas or from devastating injuries received during service time here at home.

More newly developed programs, such as that found in the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) in Bethesda, Md. is yet another example of immediate trauma care. It offers cutting-edge treatment, research and technology for military men and women suffering from traumatic brain injuries and other psychological health disorders. Still, long-term care is the concern that must be addressed.

Here in America, we have come a long way toward acute care for veterans, but

not without complications. Bureaucratic oversight, funding and construction snafus make deadlines hard to hit. Our daughter served as a pediatric intensive care unit nurse at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, and was on her way home at the time of her car accident.

After more than a year in rehab facilities, she was scheduled to be admitted to the new PRC in San Antonio. Because of delays in its opening, she was sent to a nursing facility and an 8-month stay caused almost irreparable damage. When she was finally admitted to the San Antonio-based PRC for a six-week rehab and



Courtesy photo
Retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Kristine Ratliff, RN, wearing her official Iraq War Veteran cap proudly.

evaluation program, it did a nursing home setting. wonders to bring her back, Continued care is the con- but it has taken months for her to regain what she lost in See VETERANS, A9

SFSC Graduation: Monday, 6:45 p.m.

Not your typical student



Courtesy photo
Jacob 'Jake' Jordan, 36, will graduate summa cum laude from SFSC on Monday and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering

Jake Jordan, 36, is building a new future for himself

Special to the News-Sun
AVON PARK — Jacob "Jake" Jordan does not fit the typical mold of an undergraduate student.

Jordan has a complex life. He is 36 years old, works full-time running his business Jlj Construction and Development Inc., is responsible for a family, and is a full-time student in the honors program at South Florida State College.

Originally from West Palm Beach, Jordan and his family moved to Highlands County to be close to his grandparents. He earned his high school diploma through SFSC's General Education Development (GED) program in 1995 and then pursued what he thought would be his lifelong career, construction.

Jordan's decision to go to college was simple for him. "The construction business was going downhill, and I was putting all my time and effort into my business without receiving anything tangible in return," he said. "Finally, I was not willing to gamble anymore."

"The economy made it extremely difficult to do business," he said. "Personally, I never asked for advanced payment from my customers and I was

using my personal money upfront to purchase all building expenses and materials. People stopped paying me in a timely manner when I finished a job. Times were bad. The difficulties progressed, and I had to put a lien on someone's property."

Jordan said he primary motivation to go back to college was to pursue a career that provided worthy income, benefits, and stability — "what you don't really get out of construction," he said.

"During my first semester of college, I was advised to take one class to see if I could handle being a student. Little did I know that I could handle and surpass my original expectations. My son and wife were even surprised at my success."

From there, Jordan made it a personal goal to take on a full load of classes and earn a 4.0 grade point average.

"I think some traditional students have the skills, mentality, and time, but do not have the drive to excel," he said. "My determination, maturity, and experience have been beneficial to my college involvement."

Jordan managed school,

See JORDAN, A5

'Bully' documentary to show today

News-Sun staff

SEBRING — A special showing of the highly acclaimed documentary "Bully" is being shown at no charge by Peace of Highlands County at 4 p.m. today at the Church of the Brethren, 700 Pine St.

"The film is informational as well as a call for action," said Paul Ferrell, president of

Peace of Highlands County. The national Bully Project makes the film available to interested communities.

Ferrell said, "I emphatically urge teachers to attend." He has invited county commissioners, school board members, school administrators, and the president of the teacher's union to the screening.

Online



This week's question: Should the legislature pass a bill that would streamline the death penalty process?



This week's question: Should the county raise the tourism tax from 2 percent to 3 percent?

Poll open through Friday. www.newssun.com
Make your voice heard at

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Lottery Center



May 1 4 9 17 21 35 51 x:5
Next jackpot \$5 million

April 27 10 12 17 28 38 44 x:5
April 24 12 14 27 30 36 44 x:3



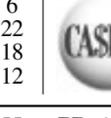
May 3 2 4 12 14 28
May 2 6 12 17 34 35
May 1 10 13 15 24 35
April 30 2 10 12 20 22



May 3 (n) 3 2 7 1
May 3 (d) 0 9 1 8
May 2 (n) 4 4 3 6
May 2 (d) 6 3 1 0



May 3 13 17 31 41 6
April 30 19 25 28 43 22
April 26 8 11 20 41 18
April 23 15 17 28 41 12



May 3 (n) 4 6 3
May 3 (d) 9 5 9
May 2 (n) 6 9 5
May 2 (d) 7 5 4



May 1 22 26 31 54 55 PB: 18
Next jackpot \$191 million
April 27 3 23 48 54 55 PB: 5
April 24 9 19 31 56 59 PB: 2

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



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Editorial & Opinion

TODAY'S EDITORIAL

Don't forget Mother's Day, or you'll hear about it the rest of the year

One day not long ago, a grown son confessed to his mother that when he was a teen he used to go to Port Everglades, put on Scuba gear and ride the propeller wash from the cruise ships.

His mother turned white and smacked him on the back of his head.

Mothers never stop worrying. In fact, worrying is a mother's main job.

Are the children eating healthy food? Are they working up to their potential? Will they jump off a cliff if everyone else does? Will they write thank-you notes to their grandparents? Ignore the five-second rule? Wear clean underwear every day in case they're in a car crash?

Raising fulfilled and self-confident children takes courage, effort and a strong stomach. It helps to have a sense of humor.

That's because it's usually mothers who end up feeding the dog the children

promised they'd care for, who learn to score baseball games when they find the game boring, who allow tweens to have slumber parties and (at least try to) help with algebra homework.

It never ends, as the ladies said. Mothers loan grown children money, babysit their grandchildren for free and freely give their children the benefit of their experience and opinions — often having to deal with protests and sarcasm while they do.

No mother is perfect, but each of our mothers is most likely the most important, the wisest, most supportive, most frustrating, most infuriating person each of us know.

Mostly they make us feel loved.

Next Sunday is Mother's Day. We're reminding you early so you won't forget.

If you want to take your mother out for a family meal together, make reservations now — Mother's Day is traditionally the busiest day of the year for restaurants.

Send your mother a card to let her know you're thinking of her. Let her know how much, looking back, you are grateful she didn't kill you.

If you're at least 40, it's probably safe to tell her how you used to drag race down Henscratch road or skinny-dip in Lake Denton with friends or how you hitchhiked to Clewiston when you were 13.

You also might get smacked on the back of your head, but it makes an unexpected gift your mother will really enjoy.



TODAY'S LETTERS

Another monument to hubris

Editor:

The dedication of George W. Bush's "Presidential Center" is yet another monument to hubris and a "rewrite" of history. Featured exhibits include a piece of the World Trade Center buildings brought down on 9/11, together with his bull horn, which he held while draping himself over a New York fire chief to demonstrate his supposed camaraderie. Modestly omitted is the "Mission Accomplished" banner from the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln visited in 2003 and his flight suit and the S-3 Viking aircraft, emblazoned with his name as if an air-crew member, to a ship which was 30 miles offshore before his "historic hop." Why not? Reagan's has an Air Force One as well as a piece of the Berlin Wall.

What should have been included was the erroneous data fed to Congress and country to induce us to invade Iraq, all later contained in Congress joint resolution of Oct. 2, 2002. Perhaps also his faux modesty and humor about not finding weapons of mass destruction.

Now he pride fully postures and declares it was still a good thing to have done; history will judge him, etc.

For the family another occasion to put forward JEB for 2016, his sterling record in dismantling schools in Florida by advancing testing over teaching, with no mention of the family's heavy investment in testing companies by JEB.

Just what we need, another Bush to add laurels to the



litany of the family creds. Invasion of Panama to arrest one man. Invasion of Iraq based on faulty information. What would JEB like to invade? Perhaps Cuba to mollify his Miami Crazy Constituency.

Yeah! Just what we need, another Bush.

Randy Ludacer
Lake Placid

Examine the statements

Editor:

OK, here we go on Guantanamo bay and the prisoner of war holding facility for enemy combatants, or as our president calls it, a recruitment facility for extremists.

First of all let's define enemy combatants, let's see, that would be someone who is waging war against a people they hate. Al-Qaeda declared war on the United States in August of 1996, and again in Feb. 23, 1998. This last declaration contained the following instructions to Muslims everywhere: "The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies — civilians and military — is an individual duty for

every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it ... Every Muslim who believes in God and wishes to be rewarded to comply with God's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it."

Second, is the president right about Gitmo being a recruitment facility for extremist, well everyone in there is there because they are Islamic extremist caught at planning or committing an act of terror? I'm not sure, but it seems to me they had already been recruited before they got there. However, in prisons throughout our country men are being converted to Islam, and extremist views.

Our president wants to reinforce this by transferring those in Gitmo to prisons in our country. Please tell me, where is the logic in that?

The above statement to Muslims on Feb. 23, 1998 must be examined in light of our Christian heritage. First their god is a lower case g, not upper case G, the Muslim god is an Arab tribal moon god, not the God of the Bible. How do I know this? Well the God of the

Bible tells us to love our enemy, to give them water when they are thirsty, to give them food when they are hungry, and to bind their wounds. I'm not sure but I believe that is what we are doing in Gitmo.

On the other hand, the enemy tortures, starves, and removes the heads of those they capture. Nuff Said.

Larry J. Overfield
Sebring

Bouquet

Tanner family thankful for support

Editor:

On April 5 our lives were changed forever. Sometimes we wonder why God would let this tragedy happen. Our faith has taught us not to question.

Jonny (JT) would be so overwhelmed with all the love being poured out on his behalf. He would not believe or understand the impact he has made on so many.

People keep telling me how strong I am; my strength, our strength comes from you and our loving savior Jesus Christ. All of your love, support and generosity and most of all prayers are so greatly appreciated.

Our prayer is that through this storm, deeper relationships with God will be formed especially with all the young people JT liked and touched.

Please continue to pray for God's healing, grace and mercy. We hope someday to pay it all forward.

With love and appreciation,

Candace, Kalea, Kelsey,
Maria, Sean,
Gavin and James
Family of Jonny
(JT) Tanner

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Hacking up (cough) a lung

I have spent the last week suffering from a rather nasty cold. It has been very unfair; it has made me sick enough to be miserable but well enough to go on with my life, more or less.

Not that going on with my life has won me any brownie points. When people learn I have a cold, their first reaction is pretty much, "Stay away!" I have felt like I needed to cry "unclean, unclean!" as I go about my day to warn the healthy to give me a wide berth.

Actually, I don't need to say anything — this cold has come with a deep cough that has done a decent job of alerting people to my health status. And I have to admit it sounds pretty impressive, like I am trying to hack up a lung. Though all I seem to bring up is a never-ending supply of mucus. Trying to sleep with such a cough is an exercise in frustration.

And yes, I do cover my mouth when I cough and carry around hand sanitizer that I use liberally. I am doing the best I can, short of isolating myself until this stupid cough decides to leave (and we're on day nine of these fun and games and the cough remains).

Yes, I have been checked out by Don, who is a doctor. He has assured me that this is a virus plus allergies run wild, and that it will eventually get tired of me and go away. I am ready for that to happen as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, I catch extra rest when I can, to the detriment of my poor house. You may think it's taking advantage of the situation to put off housework and blame it on my cold. You would be correct. But something good should come of this misery.

I decided to Google common cold facts. Fun (but useless) fact I walked away with: according to a 2010 article on Real Simple's website, the germiest jobs are the following: teacher, accountant, banker, radio DJ, doctor, TV producer, consultant, publicist and lawyer.

Laura's Look

Laura Ware

Think about this one for a minute. I can understand several of these, especially teachers. Teachers deal with kids who are walking germ factories — of course they're going to get sick. And doctor is a no-brainer. Doctors spend their days dealing with the sick. And a medical license doesn't grant you special immunity. Trust me on this one.

But radio DJ? That one is a puzzler. Many years ago I did a radio talk show and I can't think of anything particularly germy about the job. Sure, I had the occasional guest, but a lot of times it was me and the microphone. Unless germs can travel over a phone line, I'm not sure how your average DJ is put at better than average risk.

According to www.cold-eeze.com reports, what we've come to know as the common cold was given that name in the 1500s because the symptoms suffered were similar to what happened to people who were out in the cold for too long. However, there really is no evidence that being cold makes you get a cold, despite what our moms told us.

Oh, and my friend Tina directed me to psychcentral.com which reports, among other things, that some people have managed to slip a disc because they "twisted their neck sideways while sneezing." I hope that doesn't apply to coughing as well, because if it does I've been flirting with disc slippage all week.

Until this is over, I will do my best not to breathe on you. In the meantime, if you stumble across a stray lung, let me know — I might finally have hacked it up.

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

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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.

Seminars to focus on health care law changes

By BARRY FOSTER
News-Sun correspondent

AVON PARK— Beginning the first of next year, every American will be required to carry an insurance policy. It is part of the mandate of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, better known as “Obamacare.” It was signed into law in 2010, but only now are many of its provisions coming to light.

Those who fail to meet government requirements could be forced to pay a fine of up to 1 percent of their total annual income.

A Kaiser Family Foundation poll released last month shows as many

as one in four Americans have no idea that the mandatory health care rules are the law of the land and even fewer know what it will mean to them in terms of time, money and expense.

Those in the know say much of the focus of the health care debate will center around the impact on businesses and employment-based health insurance, as well as the contribution of new taxation and regulation to the rising cost of health insurance premiums and the regulatory changes that will be imposed as part of the plan.

The most recent session of the

Florida legislature came to an end this past week with lawmakers failing to deliver on Gov. Rick Scott’s call for expanding Medicaid coverage to Floridians under the Affordable Care Act.



Pigman

State House and Senate leaders said they would continue to explore ways to expand health care in the Sunshine State.

Enter Stefan Shult, district sales coordinator for the Florida Central division of Aflac. He has put

together a series of health care reform seminars to be held Wednesday in the University Center of South Florida State College.

Speakers will include newly elected State Representative Dr. Cary Pigman, who has served as a physician both in the private sector and for the military. The first-term representative of District 55 campaigned on a number of issues, including how health care should be funded in Florida.

Highlands County Commissioner Don Elwell will serve as the master of ceremonies for each of the hour-long sessions, which will be held

Wednesday at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Shult said the purpose of this seminar will be simply to inform the general public as to what is coming and how it is going to work.

“We will be covering both from the employer perspective and the general public,” he said.

“This presentation is for information only and nothing will be sold or marketed. It is merely public service.”

Shult reminded people to come early as seating will be limited.

Those wanting additional information may call 382-2076.



News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS
McKenna Sizemore, 5, and her big brother Bonny Boy, 8, check out a 1986 Chevy Silverado during the Heartland Tailgate Extravaganza at the Circle in Sebring.

Good first run for Heartland Tailgate Extravaganza

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR
sgholar@newssun.com

SEBRING — Big tires and loud pipes lined the downtown Sebring Circle Saturday morning during the second day of the inaugural Heartland Tailgate Extravaganza. Coordinator and owner of Plan B Promotions Lora Todd was out and about among the growing crowd mid-morning.

“So far so good,” said Todd. “We still have all day. Lots of people were worried about the rain and waiting to see if it would clear, so it’s starting to pick up now.”

Local families meandered through the dozens of trucks on the Circle, snapping photos of their favorites. The famous Gunslinger was displayed at the entrance to the Circle and many families were stopping to check it out.

A cornhole tournament was taking place on the Circle lawn throughout the morning. Highlands County Boys and Girls Club provided the cornhole boards for the event.

“We have about 20 boards and we lend them out to anyone who needs them for a tournament,” said Boys and Girls Club Director Ernest Sapp.

Heath Todd, Justin Barber, Highlands County Tax Collector Eric Zwayer and his brother Clint Zwayer



News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS
Clint Zwayer and Eric Zwayer take part in a cornhole competition Saturday during the Heartland Tailgate Extravaganza.



News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS
Tristen Roland, 4, and Charlie Howell, 3, blow bubbles together at Circle Park in Sebring.

were all battling it out at the cornhole tournament to help raise funds for the Friends of Highlands Hammock.

The Ransom Band provided music throughout the day leading up to the judges decision following the truck show and contest. Frames and Images provided the unique trophies.

“It’s going good. Most of the downtown shops are open and anything we can do to bring more business downtown is great,” said Todd.

County to dedicate time capsule Tuesday

By BARRY FOSTER
News-Sun correspondent

SEBRING — Highlands County Commissioners will prepare to plant some “time in a bottle” when they gather Tuesday morning for their regular session. Commissioners are slated to break from their meeting at around 10 a.m. for a dedication ceremony for their “Viva 500” time capsule.

Joedie Thayer of the Highlands County Planning Department will make the presentation, although it has been the Historic Preservation Commission of Highlands County which was entrusted to assemble the items to store in the storage canister.

The capsule will contain items that are a snapshot of Highlands County as it is today.

After the dedication ceremony, the time capsule and the items to be placed inside will be put on display so

‘Viva 500’ capsule to be buried for next 50 years

residents coming to the Government Center throughout the month of May can see what will be preserved for future generations.

The items will be in showcases at the Government Center in time for Tuesday’s meeting. At the end of May, the time capsule will be placed into the floor of the Government Center lobby, the spot marked with a bronze plaque, and will rest safely suspended in time for the next 50 years.

Commissioner Ron Handley, who has a construction firm, oversaw the excavation of the capsule’s vault, which will be located

near the entrance to the Highlands County Tax Collector’s office on the first floor of the Government Center.

The Department of State’s Division of Library and Information Services provided the capsule for the county as part of the 500th anniversary of the landing of explorer Ponce de Leon in Florida’s in 1513.

This is not the only time capsule to be planted locally in recent months. In October of last year, Sebring city officials were joined by a crowd of interested citizens to mark the centennial celebration of the Orange Blossom City. That one was assembled by the Sebring Historical Society and the Sebring Noon Rotary Club.

Following Tuesday’s dedication ceremonies for the county’s time capsule, a short reception with refreshments will be held in the lobby.

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Community Briefs

Continued from A2

Common Core to be discussed by Tea Party Tuesday

SEBRING — The Highlands Tea Party will meet Tuesday at Homer's Restaurant, 1000 Sebring Square. Buffet is 5 p.m.; meeting follows from 6-8 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Karen Effrem, who will give a presentation on Common Core. Effrem is the president of Education Liberty Watch, a conservative education advocacy group with a national footprint in Maple Grove, Minn.

Free economic outlook presented at library

LAKE PLACID — Cheryl S. Brown, a representative from Edward Jones Investments, will provide a free seminar at 4 p.m. Tuesday to review information about investments.

Edward Jones has 12,000-plus financial advisors who work directly with nearly 7 million clients to understand their personal goals — from college savings to retirement — and create long-term investment solutions that emphasize a well-balanced portfolio and a buy-and-hold strategy. Edward Jones embraces the importance of building long-term, face-to-face relationships with clients, helping them to understand and make sense of the investment options available today. This is a no-obligation, cost-free session.

'Viva 500' time capsule to be dedicated

SEBRING — At 10 a.m. Tuesday, the Highlands County Board of County Commission will have a dedication ceremony for the Highlands County "Viva 500" time capsule. The dedication ceremony will take

Bidding farewell to the Major



News-Sun photo by ROMONA WASHINGTON
Avon Park High School JROTC Cadet Lt. Col. Brett Bennett (left) and Cadet Lt. Col. Erik Parker present a sword to instructor retired U.S. Air Force Major James Galloway. Galloway is leaving Avon Park High School at the end of the school year and taking a new position in Knoxville, Tenn. The presentation was made at last week's JROTC Military Ball.

place in the lobby of the Government Center, 600 S. Commerce Ave., and will be followed by refreshments.

The Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services provided a time capsule to Highlands County as part of a commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the landing of Juan Ponce de Leon on Florida's east coast in 1513. "Viva 500" is a year-long statewide celebration of this 500th anniversary.

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) of Highlands County was entrusted to assemble the items to store in the time capsule. The capsule will contain items that are a snapshot of Highlands County as it is today. After the dedication ceremony, the time capsule and the items to be placed therein will be on display throughout the month of May in the HPC showcases at the Government Center. After which time, the time capsule will be placed into the floor of the Government Center lobby, marked with a bronze

plaque provided by the HPC and will rest safely suspended in time for the next 50 years.

Art on the Waterfront's Cinco de Mayo Party set

SEBRING — Treat mom to a special night out on the shores of beautiful Lake Jackson and find the perfect gift at the Art On The Waterfront/Cinco de Mayo benefit for the Highlands Art League today. Enjoy dinner, music, cash bar and a live auction. Tickets are \$35 in advance; \$40 at the door. Call 385-5312 or visit www.HighlandsArtLeague.org

Events planned at lodges, posts

AVON PARK
The Combat Veterans Memorial VFW Post 9853 will have NASCAR on the screen at 1 p.m. today. Ladies Auxiliary meet at 4 p.m. Monday. Men's Auxiliary meet at 6 p.m. Post meets at 7 p.m. Music by Diane T. from 5-8 p.m.

time. Breakfast served from 8-11 a.m. Saturday. For more information, call 699-5444.

SEBRING

VFW Post 4300 will host karaoke with BiDi from 5-8 p.m. today. Honor Guard meets at 1 p.m. Monday. Ladies Auxiliary Officers Installation and meeting at 6:30 p.m. House Committee meets at noon Tuesday. Music by Gary Oliver from 6-9 p.m. Music with Big Freddie from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday. Music by Frank "E." from 6-9 p.m. Friday. VFW Riders meet at 10 a.m. Saturday. Music by Gary and Shirley from 6-9 p.m. For details, call 385-8902.

The Sebring Elks Lodge 1529 will host its monthly golf at Golf Hammock at 8 a.m. Monday. Board meets at 5 p.m. Wacky Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. Music by Frank E. from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday buffet from 5-6:30 p.m. Music by Gary and Shirley from 6:30-9:30 p.m. For more information, call 471-5557.

The Sebring Recreation Club, 333 Pomegranate Ave., will host Ice Cream shuffleboard at 6:30 p.m. Monday. Bridge is at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday and Ping-pong at 3:30 p.m. Line dancing at

5:15 p.m. Wednesday, and Ice Cream shuffleboard at 6:30 p.m. Bridge at 12:30 p.m. Friday. Pin shuffleboard on Saturday. Call 385-2966. AmVets Post 21, 2027 U.S. 27 South, will have Karaoke with Bil Di from 6-9 p.m. Saturday. Pizza will be available. For more information, call 385-0234.

LPHS participates in Honor Band Concert

LAKE PLACID — The Lake Placid High School Band will host the annual Honor Band rehearsal in the school's band room. LPHS's honor music students Ashton Abela, Erik Yakes, Alexandria Kling, Helen Moretto, Adrian Villamore, Shelly Villamore, Nelida Torres, Ethan Havlock and students from several other counties will congregate from 6-9 p.m. Tuesday to rehearse selected musical pieces they will be performing at this year's Honor Band Concert scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at South Florida State College.

The public is invited to enjoy what is expected to be an outstanding performance by Highland County's most gifted music students.

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Jordan learns its never too late to chase a new set of dreams

Continued from A2

his family, and business by prioritizing. "Because there are only so many hours in a day, I had to create a flexible and inflexible schedule," he said.

"I've literally been on a job right before class and had to shake off the dust and clean myself up a little to look presentable."

Jordan will graduate summa cum laude from SFSC on Monday and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering. Only 12 undergraduate petroleum engineering programs exist in the United States.

None are in Florida, so Jordan will have to move out of state to get the degree he desires.

When choosing a career, Jordan took six months to carefully research and examine the pros and cons of different industries. He didn't want to go into a career that

wasn't moving forward.

He has already been accepted to the University of Florida, University of Texas at Austin, Penn State and University of Central Florida. His dream school is the University of Texas at Austin, which has the top petroleum engineering program in the United States. However, he's pursuing the university that offers him the best scholarships. Financial aid is crucial due to the increasing costs of out-of-state tuition, the need for living expenses and what his family can afford to pay out of pocket.

Ultimately, Jordan wants to earn a master's degree in renewable energy. "This career path is rapidly expanding and futuristic," he said.

While pursuing his bachelor's degree, he plans to do side work in construction to lessen his college expenses and to get involved with

interning and shadowing people in his field as much as possible.

"Not many people wake up at age 36 and think about a new direction in life," Jordan said. "I figured if I can do it, I will do it. I'm a firm believer that you don't know until you try. Make goals and don't let anyone stop you. If you want it bad enough, you'll see it through."

Make goals and don't let anyone stop you. If you want it bad enough, you'll see it through.

Jake Jordan
SFSC student

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Council members to address city, fire impasse issues

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR
sgholar@newssun.com

SEBRING — Council members will go over a handful of amendments and resolutions at Tuesday's first monthly meeting at 6 p.m. at City Hall. Consent agenda items include approvals for upcoming events and a budget amendment for the Veteran's Beach boat channel project that was recently completed.

A proposal that lays out to Community Redevelopment Agency's zoning map will also be up for discussion.

No old business is specified on Tuesday's agenda for

the council members. New business items include three public hearings: ID sign regulations, city wellhead protection ordinance and a presentation of the fire department collective bargaining impasse issues.

The ongoing issues between the city and the Sebring firefighters' union have finally made their way to the council. Previously, the impasse meetings have been solely between the local union president, Chief Brad Batz, Sebring labor attorney Brian Koji and city administrator Scott Noethlich.

A few council members

have been in attendance at certain impasse hearings and meetings, but Tuesday marks the first time the impasse issues will be presented to the entire city council and mayor George Hensley for discussion and official action.

Three of the six main issues will be presented to the council for their decisions: the promotion process, discipline procedures and pensions. Two options have been laid out for the council and the council is also able to make a different decision entirely regarding the three impasse issues.

Little wins Youth Speech Contest

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — On April 22, four students competed in the Highlands County Youth Speech Contest. The 5-minute speech topic was "Over the past 500 years, how has technology influenced Florida agriculture?"

Donna Howerton and Highlands County Farm Bureau coordinated the event.

The results were: first place, Emily Little, Sebring High School; second place, Angie Patino, SHS; third place, Mariah Alvarez, SHS; and fourth place, Zack McKinney, Avon Park High School.

On April 25, Little presented her speech to The School Board of Highlands County.



Courtesy photo
First through fourth place winners in the Highlands County Youth Speech Contest were Emily Little (from left), Angie Patino, Mariah Alvarez and Zack McKinney.

On May 7, Little will compete in the area contest in Arcadia. The area winner will represent the area in the State

Youth Speech Contest at the Farm Bureau annual convention, Oct. 24-26, in Ponte Vedra Beach.

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Mosher gives troubled horses a place to live in peace

Continued from A1

She is the heart and soul, backbone and hands of Hidden Creek Farms. Family, friends, and volunteers help her a lot, she emphasized immediately, but caring for so many horses is time consuming and the bulk of the work falls on her shoulders.

Mosher doesn't mind. She is exactly where she wants to be, doing exactly what she wants to do. Intense and passionate about her animals, she radiates energy.

Mosher began working with horses in elementary school when her father bought her a pony. Her career evolved naturally as she made a conscious effort to learn all she could about horses. She read. She hung out at the vet's office. She worked for private barns and big commercial race tracks. But Mosher didn't like what she saw.

"It was push, push, push," she said, "all about the money, never about the horse."

Which is why Mosher rescues "psychotic" horses, as she calls them, and gives them back their lives. Some horses are arrogant, she added, but not all. Some are the victims of circumstance.



News-Sun photo by KATARA SIMMONS
Pamela Mosher works with Bullseye inside a barn that was formerly a greenhouse.

Take Brandy, a horse trained to become a bucking bronco.

"She was taught that her job was to buck a rider off as quickly as she could," Mosher said.

"Somehow, the horse ended up with a private family. When the daughter tried to ride, Brandy did her job and bucked (the girl) off. She ended up with me, and she bucked me eight times before I got her quieted down.

"I had to retrain her to a different job — having people ride on her back," Mosher said, adding that Brandy loves her new work.

Mosher said the three most common problems for horses

are the result of their complicated, easily compromised digestion system, damage to joints or leg bones and human ignorance.

It's that last one that causes the most damage.

"Most people don't have a clue (about maintaining a horse)," she said. "You can't just keep a horse in a pasture and bring them out to ride whenever you want."

Horses need attention, she said. They have to be brushed before every ride, then cooled off and hosed after. Sand gets under the saddle causing pain and sores.

Because horse intestines are twisted, they are prone to all kinds of colic and diges-

tive problems, ailments that can lead to death.

The major sign of physical distress is a sudden inability to gain weight, or suddenly lose weight.

Two horses currently in her care came to her 300 pounds underweight. Another was 400 pounds too skinny — that's ribs sticking out, near death territory (Mosher used the word "emaciated" dozens of times).

She said it takes about four to six weeks for a horse to settle in and "a good eight months to get back into shape."

The horses come to her from all over, mostly by word-of-mouth. There are times she steps in herself. At one auction she bought a horse that would otherwise

have gone to a horse meat processing plant.

There is one type of horse she cannot help — older horses their owners no longer want. Mosher said she cannot run a retirement center. She needs to save her resources and space for the neglected or injured.

In any case, she added, horse owners owe their animals comfortable last years.

"Do what's right. Give the horse who has served you a proper retirement. It's the least you can do."

She finds homes for some of her horses, some are there for earned rest, some help support the shelter.

Mosher gives riding lessons, provides horse-themed parties featuring real horses, and has a small petting zoo,

all to raise funds for Hidden Creek Farms Animal rescue.

A family may lease a horse to have at their riding disposal. They are expected to feed it and clean its stall.

Another way to help is to sponsor a horse.

Expenses are high — especially the feed bill. She welcomes donations in dollars, supplies or volunteer work. A roof for the barn would be nice.

Mosher is looking for a home for "Shorty." A permanent injury to a knee renders him unridable, but he is an excellent companion horse. Mosher will give him to a good home. To adopt, donate or alert her to a horse in distress, call 443-7624 or visit hiddencreekfarmsanimalrescue.weebly.com/

Horse sense 101

Continued from A1

rest. You're not going to win with a horse."

Remember that jumping is hard on a horse, she said. The pounding radiates up the legs. "Have a heart and quit when the horse tires."

Be sure to saddle a horse correctly. The saddle should not be too far forward on the withers. There should be a finger of space between the saddle and the horse.

Regularly check a horse's legs and teeth, feed them good hay — break up cubes and wet them — and walk them after breakfast. Feed horses separately, as it helps curb aggression.

When changing feed brand, do it slowly, mixing brands at the start — otherwise the horse is likely to suffer a belly ache. Don't over-supplement or over do vitamins, they can mess up a horse's digestive system.

Belly aches may lead a horse to roll on the ground. This is very dangerous, Mosher said, and has to be stopped. When rolling, a horse tightens his intestines into a stiff knot, she explained. Metamucil every day helps the intestines remain healthy.

Don't let a horse over-drink when it's thirsty. Allow five sips then raise its head so it catches its breath.

Florida provides horses two major aggravations — sand and the fleas that live in it.

Sand is a special danger because it is everywhere. For example, a horse can't help ingesting sand when it feeds in a pasture.

To keep an eye on the level of sand in a horse's system, Mosher recommends "the bag trick." Take a baggy and pick up a small sample of the horse's manure from the top of the pile. Fill the bag half full of water and hang it up. In about 15 minutes the sand in the sample will sift down to the bottom. The amount will alert an owner to developing problems. "It's a really good way to check for sand," she said.

Regarding fleas, Mosher recommends washing a horse twice in a row. First use Dawn dishwashing detergent — its formula soothes dry and scaly skin. Follow immediately with Pine Sol, making sure to suds it up on the

horse. While the combination does not prevent fleas, Mosher said, it will kill every flea on the animal.

WD-40 helps soothe summer or tail itch.

Mosher has advice for people considering adopting a wild mustang.

"Let me tell you I've seen

some psychotic horses, but wild Mustangs, you talk about psychotic horses," said Mosher rolling her eyes.

Because of their build, Mosher added, well-trained mustangs make excellent barrel racers. But she warned "wild mustangs are dangerous horses."



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Business

Cool treats, just in time for summer's heat

By SAMANTHA GHOLAR
sgholar@newssun.com

SEBRING — If a cold, delicious treat is what's been missing from your life lately, then you're in luck because downtown Sebring has just the right new business for you.

A&Z Frozen Yogurt Cafe opened its doors at 115 S. Ridgewood Drive on Monday with high hopes of bringing something unique to Highlands County.

Owners Zaleatra and Antwan Taylor are excited about their new venture in Sebring and have big plans for the yogurt shop. The idea to open the shop came to Zaleatra a couple of years ago after the couple moved back to Sebring from Orlando.

"We lived in Orlando for many years. I would always go out and get yogurt when I lived there. I love it. When we moved back here in 2011, I thought 'Why not open up a yogurt shop?'" Taylor said.

After talking it over with her husband, the Taylors began scouting locations around Sebring.

"My husband Antwan actually found this spot. He rode by one day and saw it and we just made the call. It's the perfect location. It couldn't have worked out any better," Zaleatra Taylor said.

Fresh paint, plumbing and a new wall were the major components in re-vamping the long-vacant space, she said.

"It's a nice, quiet, quaint space. I hope to bring variety and something different to downtown. I want to bring more things to this great historic community. I was really surprised that Sebring doesn't already have a frozen yogurt shop, but I think it will fit right in because there is definitely a need for it," Zaleatra Taylor said.

Offering the two most traditional flavors (vanilla and chocolate) every day with

A&Z Frozen Yogurt opens just off Circle



News-Sun photo by SAMANTHA GHOLAR
Owners Antwan and Zaleatra Taylor refill the self-serve machine at their newly opened establishment, A&Z Frozen Yogurt Cafe in downtown Sebring.

more than 30 toppings, A&Z is sure to give patrons' taste-buds a nice, refreshing zing.

The yogurt shop is set up as a serve yourself buffet where customers grab a bowl, fill it up as much as they desire and layer on the toppings. The final concoction is priced by weight at 49 cents per ounce, so the cost is completely up to the customer.

"There are so many toppings and everything is fresh and hand-cut here in our kitchen. We have strawberries, blueberries, nuts, caramel and just so much more. It's all included in the weight, so the customer can add as much as they like," said Zaleatra Taylor.

A&Z also features a decadent red velvet cake which will be available for purchase by the slice daily. In the coming weeks, a second yogurt machine will be added to the shop offering different yogurt flavors.

"We will have a new fla-



News-Sun photo by SAMANTHA GHOLAR
A&Z Frozen Yogurt Cafe customer adds sliced almonds to her vanilla yogurt.

vor each week and sometimes change it out each day. We've ordered peach, cookie dough, peanut butter, cheese-cake just all different types of yogurt," Zaleatra Taylor said.

A&Z has done well in its opening week and Taylor hopes to continue the quick

success with no hiccups. An expansion is in the works for A&Z if everything at the Sebring location continues to go smoothly.

"My goal is to open a chain of A&Z shops. The next place we are looking at is Lake Placid, once everything is going well and flowing here in Sebring we are going to go down there "There are so many things I feel like I can bring to Sebring that the bigger cities have and they will do just as well in this smaller community. It's been going really, really well and I'm excited to keep moving forward," said Zaleatra Taylor.

A&Z is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The shop is closed on Sunday. A&Z will be open for extended hours during the various downtown Sebring events.

The phone number is 381-0130.

How to woo a company to town

North Florida Workforce official gives advice

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY

christopher.tuffley@newssun.com

SEBRING — Sheryl Rehberg said it took two-plus years of work by the North Florida Workforce and Suwanne County officials to bring a German lumber company's new plant operation to the county.

Rehberg, executive director of the North Florida Workforce Development Board and one of the key negotiators,

spoke Wednesday at the 2013 Statewide Business Liaisons Workshop at the Chateau Élan.

The courtship began in December 2010 when it was discovered Klausner Lumber One, USA, a German Company,

planned to build an additional plant and needed a new site that would produce 350 new primary jobs.

The process took years and required research, persistence and teamwork to bring off.

In the winter and spring of 2011, Rehberg and others began their homework — doing research, creating networks, partnerships, gathering and sharing information and building a negotiating team.

The team needed to find out exactly what the German company needed in terms of resources and manpower. For example, the county had to be sure it had enough timber to make

its site attractive. Tax and financial incentives had to be developed.

In May 2012, the team worked up a proposal package. It met with the county commission, which had to approve.

"Some of those commission meetings, I don't even have to tell you about," Rehberg said to knowing laughter.

To help recruit Florida workers, she and her colleagues had the company produce a video showing what was entailed with the different job descriptions that was shown to potential job applicants.

Company executives were invited for a tour of the local housing market.

By August of 2012, the Suwanne team was sure it had the resources needed for the company to make the cost of its investment worthwhile.

In October 2012, representatives from the Workforce,

county commissioners and other stakeholders traveled to Germany to meet Klausner company executives to go over any questions and make their pitch.

In January of 2013, the company announced it chose the Suwanne site. In February, a timeline was developed, and the hiring process begun.

Construction on the plant will begin later this year.

"The key to success was the teamwork," Rehberg said. "Making personal contacts, networking, communicating and following up." It is essential to know what a company needs and what a community has to offer, she said.

The key to success was the teamwork. Making personal contacts, networking, communicating and following up.

Sheryl Rehberg
North Florida
Workforce executive
director

Florida Hospital celebrates 'National Nursing Week'

Special to the News-Sun

In honor of the dedication, commitment, and tireless effort of the more than 450 registered nurses to promote and maintain the health of the Highland and Hardee County area, Florida Hospital Heartland is proud to recognize its registered nurses for the quality work they provide around the clock seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The nurses provide highly skilled, safe, compassionate, and professional care which is essential to the health of our community.

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

GET YOUR LOCAL NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE... NEWS-SUN

Carr honored as Top Doctor again for 2013

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — Dr. Diana D. Carr, a longtime Sebring orthopaedic surgeon and resident, has for the second year been named as a Top Doctor by US News & World Report. Carr treats patients at The Hand & Shoulder Specialists offering specialty care close to home with a concentration on healing shoulder, elbow, wrist and hand problems.

She is certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Carr's long list of achievements include being the area's only Orthopaedic Surgeon certified as a hand specialist. This means Carr has a subspecialty certificate in surgery of the hand that can only be achieved by board certified orthopaedic surgeons who have demonstrated qualifications in hand surgery beyond those expected of other orthopaedic surgeons by virtue of additional training, a practice characterized by a majority of cases in hand surgery, and passing a rigorous exam.

"I am honored to be chosen for this recognition," Carr

said. "I am grateful to be able to return patients to the enjoyment of their leisure activities and to productive work by easing their shoulder, wrist or hand pain."

Carr's practice offers onsite digital x-rays including motion studies of wrist and shoulder that often reveal problems that still films and MRI do not. Most surgeries can be done as outpatient to get patients on the road to healing and a happier life. Other common ailments she treats include office trigger finger release, finger joint replace-

ment, wrist fractures without a cast, hand reconstruction, carpal tunnel syndrome, rotator cuff problems in addition to less common hand and shoulder problems.

U.S. News Top Doctors was developed in collaboration with Castle Connolly Medical Ltd., publisher of America's Top Doctors and other guides, and was built upon data from Castle

Connolly's Top Doctors. Castle Connolly's Top Doctors selection process begins with surveys of physicians and healthcare professionals. Each year, Castle



Carr

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Champions Club built to help all Avon Park sports

Continued from A1

onship, but he wanted us to see what could be accomplished, and for the next two years we pushed ourselves towards that goal," Devlin remembers.

That goal was met just three years later when APHS baseball won the 1987 state championship, beating Miami Opa Locka Pace.

"I was truly blessed and privileged to be a part of that. I learned a great deal not only about sports but teamwork, hard work and commitment," Devlin said.

He shared a bond with those teammates and with the coaches, but it was more than that bond that made the team.

"That championship, and all others in the history of Avon Park, were a product of the support of families, coaches, teachers, teammates, classmates — the entire community. Just as it takes a town to raise a child, it takes a community effort to produce championship caliber programs," he said.

Decades following that 1987 championship title, Devlin and Jackson have remained close. Close enough in thought and compassion for a city and its athletic youth to organize the Avon Park Champions Club, a group that provides support necessary for all athletic programs at the middle and high school.

That support comes in a variety of ways. The better known is probably through recognition of past achievements through the Hall of Fame Banquet. Not only does this annual event allow past achievements to be recognized, it allows upcoming athletes to glean some inspiration.

This year's inductees into the Hall of Fame included Rance "Hoppy" Lewis, Chet Brojek, Frederic Jahna, J.C. Walker and Virgil Martin. Special recognition went to the 1987 State Championship Football Team.

The first year's inductees into the Hall of Fame included Thomas Gordon, Ronnie Jackson, Bill Jarrett, Guy Garrett, Lucy Derkman and Joe Franza. Special recognition went to the 1954 State Championship Baseball Team and Cross Country state champion James Brown.

Motivational speakers are also brought in from time to time to visit and talk with the

youth. Mark Mero, from Champion of Choices, was brought in last year to speak to freshmen students in conjunction with the Jarrett Foundation. Three professional off-road racers from the Grand National Cross Country series visited Park Elementary School in early March.

The organization has donated equipment to the high school technology and

also funded barbecue fundraisers for the APHS cheerleaders, the School Advisory Committee, the soccer team and the tennis team.

Jackson said one of the goals of the Champions Club is to take away the constant hits for support that the various sports programs put on local businesses. If the Champions Club can raise the funds to help the programs, the individual programs won't have to go out and make those same requests.

The Champions Club is not for just one school, one sport or one academic program. Its goal is to provide support for all of them.

Devlin said in the 25 years he has been involved and observed the youth sports programs in Avon Park he has seen a lot of talent develop. "Whether it's baseball, basketball, football, volleyball, golf, etc., we can compete at a high level. ... The quality and quantity of talent is phenomenal.

"These are all very positive steps in the right direction, and great platforms to build on. To steal a quote from 'Field of Dreams,' 'build it and they will come.' Create a championship environment in our community, and the championships will come," Devlin said. "Our accomplishments help define us."

Membership into the Avon Park Champions Club is by invitation only. Board members include Devlin as president, vice president Seth Lambert, secretary Doug Lemler, Jackson as treasurer, Brojek, Council, Richard Derkman, Monica Germaine, Amy Jackson, Mort Jackson, Kim Jahna, Penny Jahna and John Palmer.

culinary classes; helmets, shoulder pads and a new water station to the APHS football program; volleyball net and antennas for the APHS volleyball program; and gave a donation to the Avon Park Youth Football program to renovate the locker room.

It has sponsored a student for the summer medical camp; co-sponsored funds for a Joe Franza scholarship for a football player; sponsored a student athlete of the month, both male and female, at APHS; co-sponsored PigOut on Main Street in Avon Park, a fundraiser for the Champions Club and the Avon Park Chamber of Commerce; donated to and sponsored Champions Elite, a youth track program; sponsored and published the APHS football program; sponsored Avon and Park Elementary fall festivals, from which event proceeds are used to buy books and supplies for the schools; sponsored JV and Varsity football pre-game meals; and co-sponsored and funded the new scorer's table in the APHS gym.

The Champions Club has

To steal a quote from *Field of Dreams*, 'build it and they will come.' Create a championship environment in our community, and the championships will come. Our accomplishments help define us.

Charles Devlin
Champions Club president

Girls Night Out Wine Walk planned for downtown Sebring

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — Celebrate the beginning of Mother's Day weekend with a fun and festive Girls Night Out with Wine Walk, music, art, fashion, shopping, dining and strolling around the historic Downtown area from 4-9 p.m. Friday, May 10. More than 20 participating galleries and stores will feature one-of-a-kind art, home decor, jewelry, clothes and

gifts available for purchase as well as entertainment, gallery exhibits, and special drawings.

The Girls Night Out will feature a wine walk, as well as many highlights by downtown merchants.

Held the second Friday of each month, Sebring's Downtown comes alive with the unique and enjoyable monthly Destination Downtown Sebring monthly

themed events.

For details about the events and participating stores, visit www.DestinationDowntownSebring.com. Back up weather location is the Sebring Civic Center.

For more information, visit www.DowntownSebring.org or visit on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/DowntownSebringFL.

Arsonist faces new charges

Continued from A1

Jail Thursday on one count of attempted first-degree arson, two counts of second-degree arson and three counts of burglary.

Wagner came to the attention of police when SPD Officer Yulier Ortega spotted him in the crowd on Wednesday using his cell phone to video the second vehicle fire. Wagner was in prison from Nov. 21, 2008 until Sept. 30, 2011 for arson and aggravated assault, a search of Department of Corrections records show.

"The officers on the scene did a good job of being observant and recognizing that an individual in the crowd was filming (the fire)," said SPD Commander Steve Carr. "That's a known characteristic of arsonists, so it was worth following up on."

Carr also thanked the State Fire Marshal's Office for its work on the case.

On March 28, a truck was set on fire in the parking lot of Yogi Bar at 536 N. Ridgewood Drive, causing \$1,000 in damage. The fire was started in the driver's seat.

In Wednesday's fire, the vehicle was a total loss with more than \$8,000 in damage.

Fire Marshal Miles Davis determined that that fire had started in the area of the driver's seat.

While conducting crowd control at the scene, Ortega saw Wagner recording the fire with his phone and asked him to move back. Ortega reported that Wagner was "acting strange," so he asked for identification. Wagner reportedly "spontaneously stated 'I did not start that fire.'"

On Thursday, Wagner was brought in for questioning about the fires. He reportedly confessed to setting the car fires, using papers from the console as kindling. He told investigators he had left the bar and checked several cars in the parking lot until he found one that was unlocked. After starting the fire, he went across the street and waited until first responders arrived to start taking video.

On June 10, 2012, Sebring Police were sent to 1622 Dinner Lake Drive in Sebring when somebody noticed a "skinny white male" walking around the home with a flashlight and knocking on the door.

When officers arrived, they found Wagner, who matched that description and

was carrying a flashlight, walking in the side yard of 1655 Dinner Lake Drive.

Wagner reportedly told police that he had been checking on his friend's house because he said the friend had told him he thought "someone might be staying inside."

Inside, officers found all the stove burners were on and the oven was on broil with several items — a paper towel, a can of oatmeal a plastic drink cup and a bag — inside.

Wagner, whose story changed several times according to the arrest report, told police he hadn't gone inside, then said he had gone inside through an open door in the laundry room, then again said he hadn't gone inside.

The homeowner told police that while he did know Wagner, he should not be inside the residence.

Wagner also reportedly confessed to breaking into the home when he was questioned on Thursday, stating that the homeowner owed him money so he broke into the house, drank a beer, and then placed the items in the oven and turned it on. He said he later changed his mind and called police.

Veterans need more long-term care options

Continued from A2

cern. Where do veterans go when the initial acute care they receive at facilities such as the National Intrepid Center, or the Polytrauma Rehab Center ends, and their progress or personal situation inhibits them from going home?

Nursing care facilities are simply not the answer, and that is why the newer one-to-one care programs being offered in such organizations as CORE are so important. According to Kristi Jones, admissions director at the CORE facility west of Austin, "There are several post-acute rehab facilities in California, several in Texas, a few in Florida, and a few on the Northeast Coast. The rest of the country is very

lacking in this kind of care."

After watching our daughter (an Air Force major, a registered nurse who served two tours in Iraq) deteriorate in a nursing home setting, it is imperative that more is done.

Facilities such as CORE Health Care, who offer post-acute rehabilitation and long-term care as well, who are staffed with licensed professionals and provide one-to-one care, are essential in this new era of young men and women veterans.

Preserving their dignity and restoring their independence to the extent possible is paramount for those who have given so much to protect this country's freedom. It is where we must go from here.

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1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO. 08000046GCS

THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CWABS INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1 PLAINTIFF
 VS.
 NATHANIEL RANDOLPH, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 22ND day of July, 2010, and entered in Case No. 08000046GCS, of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Highlands County Courthouse, Jury Assembly Room, 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870 at 11:00 A.M. on the 28th day of May, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:
 LOT 13, BLOCK 40, PLACID LAKES ESTATES, SECTION 4, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 64, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

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

Dated this 29th day of April, 2013.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE, CLERK
 Clerk of The Circuit Court
 Highlands County Clerk of Court
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk
 (Circuit Court Seal)

May 5, 12, 2013

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 2010-CA-000523

U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TWB MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST SERIES 2006-3, MORTGAGE-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-3 PLAINTIFF,
 vs.
 JOSEPH M. MESSANA, JR., AND DIANNE M. MESSANA, HUSBAND AND WIFE; HIGHLANDS INDEPENDENT BANK.
 Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order dated March 28, 2013 entered in Civil Case No. 2010-CA-000523 of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TWB MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST SERIES 2006-3, MORTGAGE-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-3, PLAINTIFF AND JOSEPH M. MESSANA, JR., AND DIANNE M. MESSANA, HUSBAND AND WIFE are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, ROBERT W. GERMAINE, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, AT THE JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FLORIDA AT 11:00 A.M., May 22, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 15 AND THE EAST 1/2 OF LOT 16, HORTON'S LANDING ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 21, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

AND
 A PORTION OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 15, OF HORTON'S LANDING ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 21, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE SOUTH 67 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF LOTS 15 AND 16, A DISTANCE OF 153.30 FEET, TO A POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF SAID LOT 16, OF SAID HORTON'S LANDING ADDITION; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTHERLY EXTENSION OF THE SAID CENTERLINE, A DISTANCE OF 65.41 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 42 MINUTES 21 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 141.70 FEET, TO A POINT ON A LINE BEING THE NORTHERLY EXTENSION OF THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 15; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 7.64 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, telephone (863) 534-4690, within two (2) working days of receipt of this Notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 Highlands County, Florida
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 Deputy Clerk of Court

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF:
 SHAPIRO, FISHMAN & GACHE', LLP
 2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360
 Boca Raton, Florida 33431
 (561)998-6700
 (561)998-6707

May 5, 12, 2013

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CIVIL ACTION
 CASE NO.: 282011CA000620XXAXMX

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF,
 vs.
 ALBERT L. SCARPATI, III, et al,
 Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated April 24, 2013, and entered in Case No. 282011CA000620XXAXMX of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida in which JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, is the Plaintiff and Albert L. Scarpati, III, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans, Inc., Rhonda Scarpati, are defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on the Jury Assembly Room in the basement, Highlands County Courthouse, 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870, Highlands County, Florida at 11:00 AM on the 19th day of June, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LOT 4 AND THE NORTHWESTERLY 30 FEET OF LOT 5 LESS A TRAPEZOIDAL PARCEL WITHIN THE SOUTHWESTERLY 23 FEET OF SAID LOTS, OF BLOCK 242, OF SEBRING HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 2, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AS A POINT OF BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 5, OF BLOCK 242, THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY FOLLOWING THE SOUTHERLY RW OF TASESCHEE DRIVE A DISTANCE OF 30 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE SOUTH 30 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 47 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 133.48 TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 61 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 30.01 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 86 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 55.71 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 4, THENCE IN A NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION ALONG A LINE COMMON TO LOTS 3 AND 4 A DISTANCE OF 155.7 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY RW LINE OF TASESCHEE DRIVE, THENCE ALONG A CURVE TO RIGHT HAVING A RADIUS OF 619.9 AN ARC DISTANCE OF 70 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

A/K/A 727 TASESCHEE DR., SEBRING, FL 33870-2357

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

Dated in Highlands County, Florida this 25th day of April, 2013.

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

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
 Case No. 2012 CA 000727

U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the Holders of the Specialty Underwriting and Residential Finance Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-BC4 PLAINTIFF,
 vs.
 Kevin Dewberry, et al.,
 Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 18, 2013, and entered in Case No. 2012 CA 000727 of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the Holders of the Specialty Underwriting and Residential Finance Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-BC4 is the Plaintiff and Kevin Dewberry; Amanda Dewberry; Unknown Tenant #1; Unknown Tenant #2 are the Defendants, that I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the courthouse, 590 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870, beginning at 11:00 AM on the 3rd day of July, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 22, BLOCK 28, OF SUN 'N LAKE ESTATES OF SEBRING, UNIT 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 48 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Dated this 19th day of April, 2013.

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs assistance in order to participate in a program or service of the State Courts System, you should contact the Office of the Court Administrator at (863) 534-4686 (voice), (863) 534-7777 (TDD) or (800) 955-8770 (Florida Relay Service), as much in advance of your court appearance or visit to the courthouse as possible. Please be prepared to explain your functional limitations and suggest an auxiliary aid or service that you believe will enable you to effectively participate in the court program or service.

April 28, May 5, 2013

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CIVIL DIVISION:
 CASE NO.: 28-2009-CA-000552

CHASE HOME FINANCE, LLC PLAINTIFF,
 vs.
 DANIEL J. KNAUER A/K/A DANIEL JOSEPH KNAUER; MARY F. KNAUER A/K/A MARY KNAUER; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED AS NOMINEE FOR SECURED FUNDING CORP.; SEBRING RIDGE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN TENANT(S); IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 18th day of April, 2013, and entered in Case No. 28-2009-CA-000552, of the Circuit Court of the 10th Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION is the Plaintiff and DANIEL J. KNAUER A/K/A DANIEL JOSEPH KNAUER; MARY F. KNAUER A/K/A MARY KNAUER; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED AS NOMINEE FOR SECURED FUNDING CORP.; SEBRING RIDGE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) AND UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. The Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL 33870, 11:00 AM on the 11th day of June, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 538, SEBRING RIDGE, SECTION A, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 45, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs assistance in order to participate in a program or service of the State Courts System, you should contact the Office of the Court Administrator at (863) 534-4686 (voice), (863) 534-7777 (TDD) or (800) 955-8770 (Florida Relay Service), as much in advance of your court appearance or visit to the courthouse as possible. Please be prepared to explain your functional limitations and suggest an auxiliary aid or service that you believe will enable you to effectively participate in the court program or service.

Dated this 19th day of April, 2013.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 Clerk Of The Circuit Court
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk
 April 28, May 5, 2013

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO. 28-2013-CA-000077

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE LXS 2005-9N PLAINTIFF,
 vs.
 STEVEN AULETTO; DEANNA AULETTO; PLACID LAKES AVIATION ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
 To the following Defendant(s):
 STEVEN AULETTO
 (RESIDENCE UNKNOWN)

DEANNA AULETTO
 (RESIDENCE UNKNOWN)

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

LOT 18, BLOCK 66, PLACID LAKES, SECTION SIX, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 68, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

a/k/a 249 LEMON RD NW, LAKE PLACID, FLORIDA 33852

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Kahane & Associates, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 8201 Peters Road, Ste. 3000, Plantation, FLORIDA 33324 on or before June 5, 2013, 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.

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870, Phone No. (863)534-4690 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 (V) (Via Florida Relay Service).

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 26th day of April, 2013.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: /s/ David Whidden
 As Deputy Clerk
 May 5, 12, 2013

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO. 11000634GCS

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWABS INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-16, PLAINTIFF,
 VS.
 GARY B. BINGER, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 20, 2012, in the above action, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Highlands, Florida, on July 23, 2013, at 11:00 AM, at Basement of courthouse in Jury Assembly Room - 430 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870 for the following described property:

LOT 60, GOLF HAMMOCK UNIT TWO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 12, PAGE 47, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale. The Court, in its discretion, may enlarge the time of the sale. Notice of the changed time of sale shall be published as provided herein.

DATED:

By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk of the Court

Prepared by:
 Gladstone Law Group, P.A.
 1499 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Suite 300
 Boca Raton, FL 33486

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

April 28, May 5, 2013

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 PROBATE DIVISION
 Case No. PC 13-104

IN RE: ESTATE OF ALVERDA BOCHNAK, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of Alverda Bochniak, deceased, Case Number PC 13-104 is pending in the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 590 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:
 All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is April 28, 2013.

Personal Representative:
 Carol Reddington
 555 Sutton Pl.
 Longboat Key, FL 34228

Attorney for Personal Representative:
 Sherri L. Johnson
 Florida Bar No. 0134775
 Johnson Legal of Florida, P.L.
 5602 Marquesas Cir. Suite 208
 Sarasota, FL 34233
 (941) 926-1155

April 28, May 5, 2013

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
 GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
 Case No. 282012CA00082GCAAXMX

The Bank of New York Mellon, f/k/a The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CWABS Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-10, PLAINTIFF,
 vs.
 Ashley Velez; Mark Velez a/k/a Marc Velez; Unknown Tenant #1; Unknown Tenant #2, Defendants.

"AMENDED" NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 2, 2013, entered in Case No. 282012CA00082GCAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein The Bank of New York Mellon, f/k/a The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CWABS Inc., Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2006-10 is the Plaintiff and Ashley Velez; Mark Velez a/k/a Marc Velez; Unknown Tenant #1; Unknown Tenant #2 are the Defendants, that I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the courthouse, 590 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870, beginning at 11:00 AM on the 28th day of May, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 1, LAKE JOSEPHINE HEIGHTS, FIRST ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 15, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Dated this 1st day of May, 2013.

Robert Germaine
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
 As Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs assistance in order to participate in a program or service of the State Courts System, you should contact the Office of the Court Administrator at (863) 534-4686 (voice), (863) 534-7777 (TDD) or (800) 955-8770 (Florida Relay Service), as much in advance of your court appearance or visit to the courthouse as possible. Please be prepared to explain your functional limitations and suggest an auxiliary aid or service that you believe will enable you to effectively participate in the court program or service.

May 5, 12, 2013

1050 Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT CIVIL COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 28-2012-CA-000310
 Division

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. PLAINTIFF,
 vs.
 NICOLE WHITTEN, RICHARD WHITTEN, LEISURE LAKES HOME OWNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC., AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
 Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause on April 18, 2013, in the Circuit Court of HIGHLANDS County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Highlands County, Florida described as:

LOT 5, BLOCK 152A, LEISURE LAKES SECTION THREE, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 25, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

and commonly known as: 3228 GLEN SPRINGS AVE., LAKE PLACID, FL 33852; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, Sales are held in the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse located at 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, on July 3, 2013 at 11 a.m.

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

Dated this 19th day of April, 2013.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
 ROBERT W. GERMAINE
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp
 Deputy Clerk
 April 26, May 3, 2013

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File Number: 282013CP000120PCAXMX
IN RE: ESTATE OF GREGORY DAVID MEEKER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are hereby notified that the administration of the Estate of GREGORY DAVID MEEKER, Deceased, whose date of death was January 17, 2013, is pending in the Circuit Court of the Tenth (10th) Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 590 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870-3867; File Number 282013CP000120PCAXMX.

The name of the Personal Representative and the name and address of the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the Decedent, GREGORY DAVID MEEKER, and other persons who have claims or demands against the Decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this Notice, must file their claims with this Honorable Court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF THE DATE THAT IS THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the Decedent, GREGORY DAVID MEEKER, and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Honorable Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is May 5, 2013.

/s/ Candice Meeker
CANDICE MEEKER,
Personal Representative.
Estate of Gregory David Meeker

/s/ M. Tamara Rimes
M. TAMARA RIMES, ESQUIRE
Attorney for Personal Representative
Law Offices of Seller, Sautter,
Zaden, Rimes & Wahlbrink
2850 North Andrews Avenue
Wilton Manors, Florida 33311
Telephone Number: (954) 568-7000
Florida Bar Number: 896950

May 5, 12, 2013

PUBLIC AUCTION
FOR TOWING & STORAGE
1993 NISSAN
JN1EB31P1P220959
ON MAY 17th 2013, AT 9:00am
AT PRECISION AUTO BODY
734 CR 621 EAST
LAKE PLACID FL 33852

May 5, 2013

IN THE CIRCUIT CIVIL COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 28-2012-CA-000986
Division

CENLAR FSB

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL P. ISAIA A/K/A MICHAEL ISAIA, AVON PARK LAKES ASSOCIATION, AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause on April 17, 2013, in the Circuit Court of HIGHLANDS County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Highlands County, Florida described as:

LOT 4684, LOT 4685, LOT 4686 AND LOT 4687, OF AVON PARK LAKES, UNIT 15, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 8, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C013328-0100004684
and commonly known as: 2625 W KENT RD, AVON PARK, FL 33825; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash. Sales are held in the Jury Assembly Room in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse located at 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, on July 17, 2013 at 11 a.m.

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

Dated this 18th day of April, 2013.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
ROBERT W. GERMAINE
By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak
Deputy Clerk
April 26; May 3, 2013

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,

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News-Sun

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LOST DOG on 4/28. Black/white Shih-tzu, old & blind & needs meds. Wearing barker collar, answers to Gizmo. YMCA/Golf Course area. Please call 863-381-1185

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Five-Day forecast for Highlands County

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly sunny and breezy	Partly sunny with a stray shower	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Nice with clouds and sun
82° / 59°	80° / 59°	81° / 57°	84° / 60°	86° / 63°
Winds: NW at 10-20 mph	Winds: WSW at 7-14 mph	Winds: WSW at 8-12 mph	Winds: WSW at 4-9 mph	Winds: W at 3-5 mph

Almanac

Temperature
Readings at Archibald Biological Station in Lake Placid

High Tuesday	86°
Low Tuesday	66°
High Wednesday	81°
Low Wednesday	64°
High Thursday	75°
Low Thursday	57°

Heat Index
For 3 p.m. today

Relative humidity	34%
Expected air temperature	80°
Makes it feel like	79°

Barometer

Tuesday	29.92
Wednesday	29.89
Thursday	29.82

Precipitation

Tuesday	1.01"
Wednesday	1.39"
Thursday	0.03"
Month to date	2.43"
Year to date	10.71"

Tides

Readings at St. Petersburg

High	12:07 p.m.
Low	5:32 a.m.
High	name
Low	0:31 p.m.

Readings at Palm Beach

High	6:51 a.m.
Low	11:53 a.m.
High	6:29 p.m.
Low	name

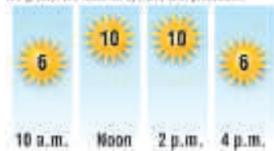
Lake Levels

Readings at 7 a.m. yesterday

Lake Jackson	78.36'
Lake Okechobee	13.53'
Normal	14.51'

UV Index Today

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

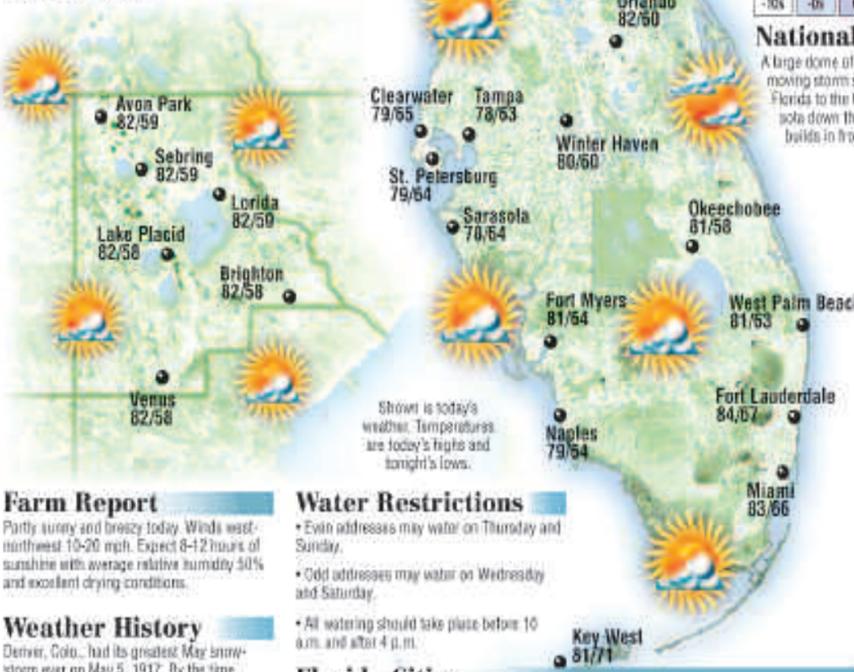


0-2 Low; 3-5 Moderate; 6-7 High; 8-10 Very High; 11+ Extreme
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2013

AccuWeather.com

Regional Summary

Partly sunny and breezy today. Partly cloudy tonight. Episodes of sunshine tomorrow with a stray shower. Tuesday and Wednesday: partly sunny. Thursday: nice with intervals of clouds and sunshine.



Farm Report

Partly sunny and breezy today. Winds west-northwest 10-20 mph. Expect 8-12 hours of sunshine with average relative humidity 50% and excellent drying conditions.

Weather History

Denver, Colo., had its greatest May snowstorm ever on May 5, 1917. By the time the storm ended, 12 inches of snow had accumulated.

Sun and Moon

	Today	Monday
Sunrise	6:46 a.m.	6:45 a.m.
Sunset	8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Moonrise	3:51 a.m.	4:28 a.m.
Moonset	4:20 p.m.	5:15 p.m.



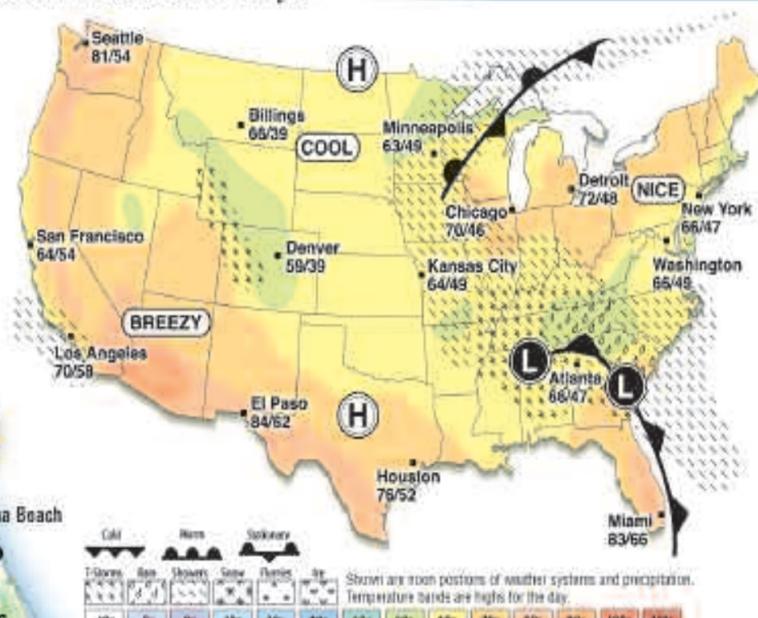
Water Restrictions

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

Florida Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Cape Coral	80/63pc	80/64pc	81/61/1h
Clearwater	79/65pc	77/65pc	78/63pc
Orlando	82/60pc	78/58pc	81/58pc
Daytona Beach	79/58pc	76/57pc	79/55pc
St. Petersburg	79/54pc	77/55pc	79/56pc
Fort Myers	81/64pc	81/65pc	82/61/1h
Gainesville	79/52pc	75/51pc	78/54pc
Hollywood	84/64pc	83/65pc	84/66/1h
Jacksonville	78/54pc	75/51pc	77/53pc
Key West	81/71pc	82/72pc	83/73/1h

National Forecast for May 5



A large dome of high pressure will continue to keep the Northeast dry and mostly sunny today. Meanwhile, a slow-moving storm system spinning over the Southeast will cause showers and thunderstorms to stretch from northern Florida to the Ohio Valley. A stationary boundary associated with this system will bring spotty showers from Minnesota down through Missouri. Behind this system, another cool day will be in store for the Plains as high pressure builds in from the north. The Pacific Northwest will remain dry.

National Summary

A large dome of high pressure will continue to keep the Northeast dry and mostly sunny today. Meanwhile, a slow-moving storm system spinning over the Southeast will cause showers and thunderstorms to stretch from northern Florida to the Ohio Valley. A stationary boundary associated with this system will bring spotty showers from Minnesota down through Missouri. Behind this system, another cool day will be in store for the Plains as high pressure builds in from the north. The Pacific Northwest will remain dry.

U.S. Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Albuquerque	75/53pc	75/48/1h	75/52pc
Atlanta	66/47/1h	61/45/1h	74/53pc
Baltimore	66/45/1h	65/53pc	65/54/1h
Birmingham	64/48/1h	64/48/1h	70/50pc
Boston	59/43/1h	65/48/1h	72/51pc
Charlotte	61/50/1h	61/48/1h	71/51/1h
Chicago	69/53pc	62/40pc	65/41pc
Cleveland	69/49/1h	70/53/1h	70/51pc
Columbus	73/51pc	72/52pc	72/54pc
Dallas	79/49pc	77/56pc	84/63/1h
Denver	59/39pc	65/44pc	72/42pc
Detroit	73/48/1h	72/48/1h	75/49pc
Fort Worth	71/42/1h	71/45pc	68/51/1h
Houston	83/68/1h	82/67pc	85/66pc
Indianapolis	67/52pc	71/51pc	73/52pc
Jackson MS	63/47pc	63/52pc	79/51pc
Kansas City	64/48/1h	71/49pc	73/54/1h
Los Angeles	67/52/1h	69/51/1h	71/51/1h
Little Rock	65/49pc	73/54pc	79/55pc

World Cities

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Acapulco	80/71/1h	80/69/1h	80/72/1h
Athens	67/67pc	65/64/1h	62/63/1h
Berlin	61/64/1h	73/66/1h	80/66/1h
Brisbane	70/45pc	73/52/1h	75/57pc
Buenos Aires	71/61pc	70/67pc	72/68pc
Calgary	70/40pc	73/46pc	71/37/1h
London	62/47pc	61/48pc	60/44/1h
Osaka	75/44/1h	77/45/1h	81/35pc
Paris	67/70pc	67/70pc	67/71pc
Seoul	67/41/1h	66/45/1h	68/48pc
Sydney	67/54pc	68/55/1h	70/55pc
Tokyo	73/47/1h	72/48/1h	71/48/1h
Vancouver	73/52/1h	75/52/1h	68/51/1h
Yokohama	74/54/1h	76/58/1h	89/58/1h
Warsaw	69/46pc	70/48/1h	73/52/1h
Winnipeg	62/35pc	68/45pc	71/48/1h

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TOP RATINGS	PANORAMIC ROOF	\$14,500
2010 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT MODEL, 20,000 MILES, BACKUP CAMERA	2012 TOYOTA CAMRY SE MODEL, 12,000 MILES, ONE OWNER	2012 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S MODEL, SPOILER, ONE OWNER, WARRANTY
ONE OWNER	CERTIFIED UNIT	8,100 MILES
2005 TOYOTA AVALON LIMITED, LOW MILES, JBL SOUND, SUNROOF	2010 TOYOTA COROLLA LE MODEL, CRUISE, 25,000 MILES, AUTOMATIC	2006 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED X MODEL, CRUISE, TILT, AIR, ALLOYS
LEATHER	\$14,500	\$15,500

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Sebring's Taylor Tubbs found herself in unfamiliar territory, in amongst the pack, during the first lap of Friday's 3A FHSAA State Finals in Jacksonville. A stunning last push propelled Tubbs to second place.

Photo courtesy of FLRunners.com

Tubbs takes second at rain-soaked State

By DAN HOEHNE

daniel.hoehne@newsun.com

The wind and rains that washed away much of Wednesday night Regional baseball throughout the state, made its way to Jacksonville and wreaked havoc with the Class 3A State Finals Friday.

"Rain and 30 mile-per-hour winds," Sebring pole vaulter Blake Fort said of the conditions.

Which would seemed to have had a major effect on

her event especially.

Whether it was getting a grip on the pole, slick footing, or a combination of things, Fort, who was shooting for at least nine feet in the event, wasn't able to clear 8-feet, 6-inches on this day.

Among the whole field for the event, only two vaulters exceeded their seed height.

Similarly, grip and footing are a vital aspect of Blue Streak Gary Demarest's event, the discus.

Having had a string of progressively longer personal bests coming into the meet, Demarest had reached the 154-foot, 9-inch mark in winning the Region 2-3A meet and was aiming for the 160s which would have had him pushing the top five.

The results show the weather had a big impact, with numerous fouls littering the stat lines for virtually every thrower, including two

See STATE, Page B4

Lake Placid comes *this* close

By DAN HOEHNE

daniel.hoehne@newsun.com

LAKE PLACID – Storm clouds that washed away Wednesday night's opening round of the state baseball playoffs still lingered on Thursday, keeping most on edge even up until game time as to whether the Dragons would get their chance against the visiting Tampa Catholic Crusaders.

The skies did finally begin to clear in the early innings, and Lake Placid kept its crowd on edge right up until the waning moments of the 1-0 loss.

Heath Harris was tabbed to toe the rubber for the Dragons this night, locking horns with Tampa Catholic right-hander A.J. Gonzalez.

And what a pitcher's duel this one turned out to be.

While Harris struggled at times with his command, hitting three batters on the night, he battled through and kept the Crusaders predominantly in check.

"I just couldn't get a grip on my curveball, and I hit the third kid on a fastball," Harris said. "I don't know what happened there."

Gonzalez was certainly keeping the Lake Placid lineup in check, not allowing a hit or even a baserunner through the first four innings.

Harris worked around a one-out single in the first and got some help from his defense in the second.

Joseph Burruezo lead off the top of the second with a single to right and was moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by James Gizzi.

After a wild pitch moved Burruezo to third, Jake Clark then was the first Tampa batter to get plunked on the night.

Harris bounced back to get the next hitter looking at strike three, but Josh Russo



Above: Dragon catcher Laine Daum puts the tag on Tampa Catholic's Paulie Russo Thursday night in the Class 4A Regional Quarterfinal. Below: Heath Harris turned in another fantastic performance Thursday night, holding down a strong Tampa Catholic lineup for just one, unearned, run.

News-Sun photos by DAN HOEHNE

put a charge into a fastball and sent it screaming to deep, left-center field.

But as the ball seemed destined for a two-RBI, extra base hit to the wall in the gap, center fielder Justin LaRosa came streaking across the green of the outfield grass to snare it with an outstretched glove to retire the side.

A defensive miscue in the third would lead to the one run, and an unearned run at that, as Dre Leal lead off the frame by reaching on an error.

Paulie Russo followed with a looped single into short left field and another curve got away and hit Jorge Romero to load the bases with nobody out.

Kyle Barber came through for the Crusaders with a single to center, bringing Leal in, but LaRosa made a strong throw home where Laine Daum took it and ticked Russo with a sweep tag for the out.



Harris then induced a fielder's choice grounder to second and a pop-out to short to get out of it, with Tampa Catholic now with a 1-0 lead.

Which wouldn't have seemed like much of a margin for this Dragon squad that had been scoring at a

See DRAGONS, Page B4

Mustangs reign over Streaks

By LAUREN WELBORN

News-Sun correspondent

It was a long, hard-fought battle for Sebring Thursday night as they traveled more than three hours to take on the Mitchell Mustangs in Class 6A Regional Quarterfinal play.

The Streaks were originally scheduled to play Wednesday, however the weather had other plans in mind and the game, along with many other regional battles, was rescheduled and relocated.

Looking into the Mustangs' previous stats, it would seem Sebring would have a tough time going toe-to-toe with Mitchell.

Mitchell's previous successes, as well as the recent sting of a ten-run mercy rule from the championship game against Winter Haven just one week prior, put Sebring in a tight spot.

However it would seem this motivation fueled the fire within the Streaks, as evidenced by the stellar defense throughout the night led by pitcher Garrett DeRoss.

"They battled," reflected head coach Buck Rapp. "They never gave up."

"Garrett pitched well and the guys made great defensive plays behind him."

Remarkable catches and diving plays in the infield warded off any offensive threats to the Streaks.

Their efforts on the

'They battled. They never gave up.'

BUCK RAPP

Sebring head coach

defensive side helped to keep the game interesting and scoreless through the first four innings of play.

In the top of the fifth, it was Sebring who brought the opening run of the night in to hold the first lead.

Ty Little lead things off with a walk before Matthew Portis found the right-center field gap with a shot that would move Little into scoring position.

Jared Lang then moved Portis to second base to put two men close to home with only one out.

At the time, Mitchell stand-out Cobi Johnson was on the mound leading the efforts that kept the Sebring offense at bay.

However, one passed ball was all it took to grant the Streaks the lead as Little made it safely home to put the board at 1-0.

Johnson would make up for this mistake in the bottom of the inning as his rip down the left field line put him on second base while brining in two other Mustang runners.

One error slipped through the ever-persistent Sebring defense to allow

See SEBRING, Page B4



Courtesy photo

SFSC Volleyball Coach Kim Crawford presents Malea Kalina with the Panther of the Year plaque at Monday's awards banquet.

SFSC awards Panthers

Special to the News-Sun

AVON PARK – Dr. Stephens welcomed and congratulated the South Florida State College Lady Panther Volleyball team, Lady Panther Softball team, and the Panther Baseball team at SFSC's annual Athletics Banquet, Monday, April 29 for their academic and athletic achievements.

"During Dr. Stephens' 11 years of dedicated service to SFSC's Athletic Department, the college has had 680 student athletes, 110 all-confer-

ence performers, 89 percent who advanced to four-year institutions, 634 victories, 182 Academic All-Conference, 96 FCSAA Academic All-State, 17 Academic All American, four top athletes in the state, nine post-season performances, 11 athletic sports banquets, and over 70,000 SFSC fans who have come to watch the panthers," Rick Hitt, athletic director and head baseball coach.

See SFSC, Page B3



News-Sun file photo by DAN HOEHNE

Garrett DeRoss put forth a stellar effort in holding down a powerful Mitchell lineup for four innings Thursday night in the Class 6A Regional Playoffs.

THE SCOREBOARD



LIVE SPORTS ON TV

NBA Playoffs

FIRST ROUND
(x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Miami 4, Milwaukee 0

Miami 110, Milwaukee 87
Miami 98, Milwaukee 86
Miami 104, Milwaukee 91
Miami 88, Milwaukee 77
New York 4, Boston 2
New York 85, Boston 78
New York 87, Boston 71
New York 90, Boston 76
Boston 97, New York 90, OT
Wednesday: Boston 92, New York 86
Friday, May 3: New York 88, Boston 80
Indiana 4, Atlanta 2

Indiana 107, Atlanta 90
Indiana 113, Atlanta 98
Atlanta 90, Indiana 69
Monday: Atlanta 102, Indiana 91
Wednesday: Indiana 106, Atlanta 83
Friday, May 3: Indiana 81, Atlanta 73
Chicago 3, Brooklyn 3
Brooklyn 106, Chicago 89
Chicago 90, Brooklyn 82
Chicago 79, Brooklyn 76
Chicago 142, Brooklyn 134, 3OT
Brooklyn 110, Chicago 91
Thursday: Brooklyn 95, Chicago 92
Saturday: Chicago at Brooklyn, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Oklahoma City 3, Houston 2
Oklahoma City 120, Houston 91
Oklahoma City 105, Houston 102
Oklahoma City 104, Houston 101
Houston 105, Oklahoma City 103
Wednesday: Houston 107, Oklahoma City 100
Friday: Oklahoma City 103, Houston 147
San Antonio 4, L.A. Lakers 0
San Antonio 91, L.A. Lakers 79
San Antonio 102, L.A. Lakers 91
San Antonio 120, L.A. Lakers 89
San Antonio 103, L.A. Lakers 82
Golden State 4, Denver 2
Denver 97, Golden State 95
Golden State 131, Denver 117
Golden State 110, Denver 108
Golden State 115, Denver 101
Tuesday: Denver 107, Golden State 100
Thursday: Golden State 92, Denver 88
Memphis 4, L.A. Clippers 2
L.A. Clippers 112, Memphis 91
L.A. Clippers 93, Memphis 91
Memphis 94, L.A. Clippers 82
Memphis 104, L.A. Clippers 83
Tuesday: Memphis 103, L.A. Clippers 93
Friday: Memphis 118, L.A. Clippers 105

NHL Playoffs

FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-7)
(x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Pittsburgh 1, New York Islanders 1
Wednesday: Pittsburgh 5, NY Islanders 0
Friday: NY Islanders 4, Pittsburgh 3
Sunday, May 5: Pittsburgh at NY Islanders Noon
Tuesday, May 7: Pittsburgh at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
x-Thursday, May 9: NY Islanders at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
x-Saturday, May 11: Pittsburgh at NY Islanders, TBD
x-Sunday, May 12: NY Islanders at Pittsburgh, TBD
Ottawa 1, Montreal 1
Thursday: Ottawa 4, Montreal 2
Friday: Montreal 3, Ottawa 1
Sunday: Montreal at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7: Montreal at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
x-Thursday, May 9: Ottawa at Montreal, 7 p.m.
x-Saturday, May 11: Montreal at Ottawa, TBD
x-Sunday, May 12: Ottawa at Montreal, TBD
Washington 1, New York Rangers 0
Thursday: Washington 3, NY Rangers 1
Saturday: NY Rangers at Washington, late
Monday, May 6: Washington at NY Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8: Washington at NY Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
x-Friday, May 10: NY Rangers at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
x-Sunday, May 12: Washington at NY Rangers, TBD
x-Monday, May 13: NY Rangers at Washington, TBD

Boston 1, Toronto 0
Wednesday: Boston 4, Toronto 1
Saturday: Toronto at Boston, late
Monday, May 6: Boston at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8: Boston at Toronto, 7 p.m.
x-Friday, May 10: Toronto at Boston, 7 p.m.
x-Sunday, May 12: Boston at Toronto, TBD
x-Monday, May 13: Toronto at Boston, TBD
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Chicago 2, Minnesota 0
Tuesday: Chicago 2, Minnesota 1, OT
Friday: Chicago 5, Minnesota 3
Sunday: Chicago at Minnesota, 3 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7: Chicago at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.
x-Thursday, May 9: Minnesota at Chicago, TBD
x-Saturday, May 11: Chicago at Minnesota, TBD
x-Sunday, May 12: Minnesota at Chicago, TBD
Anaheim 1, Detroit 1
Tuesday: Anaheim 3, Detroit 1
Thursday: Detroit 5, Anaheim 4, OT
Saturday: Anaheim at Detroit, late
Monday, May 6: Anaheim at Detroit, 8 p.m.
x-Wednesday, May 8: Detroit at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
x-Friday, May 10: Anaheim at Detroit, TBD
x-Sunday, May 12: Detroit at Anaheim, TBD

San Jose 2, Vancouver 0
Wednesday: San Jose 3, Vancouver 1
Friday: San Jose 3, Vancouver 2, OT
Sunday: Vancouver at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7: Vancouver at San Jose, 10 p.m.
x-Thursday, May 9: San Jose at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
x-Saturday, May 11: Vancouver at San Jose, TBD
x-Monday, May 13: San Jose at Vancouver, TBD
St. Louis 2, Los Angeles 0
Tuesday: St. Louis 2, Los Angeles 1, OT
Thursday: St. Louis 2, Los Angeles 1
Saturday: St. Louis at Los Angeles, 10

AUTO RACING SUNDAY

Noon NASCAR – Aaron's 499 FOX
7 p.m. NHRA – Sportsman Series ESPN2
8 p.m. NHRA – Summit Southern Nationals ESPN2

COLLEGE BASEBALL MONDAY

2 p.m. Mississippi at Auburn SUN
2 p.m. Maryland at Clemson SUN

COLLEGE SOFTBALL SUNDAY

1 p.m. Texas at Oklahoma State ESPN
3 p.m. LSU at Georgia ESPN

GOLF SUNDAY

9 a.m. EuroPGA – Volvo China Open. GOLF
1 p.m. PGA – Wells Fargo Championship GOLF
3 p.m. PGA – Wells Fargo Championship CBS
3 p.m. LPGA – Kingsmill Championship GOLF
7 p.m. PGA – Insuperity Championship GOLF

MLB SUNDAY

1:30 p.m. N.Y. Mets at Atlanta TBS
2:10 p.m. Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs WGN
4 p.m. Tampa Bay at Colorado SUN
8 p.m. L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco ESPN
MONDAY
7 p.m. Atlanta at Cincinnati ESPN
7 p.m. Toronto at Tampa Bay SUN
TUESDAY
7 p.m. Toronto at Tampa Bay SUN
8 p.m. St. Louis at Chicago Cubs WGN

MLS SUNDAY

11 p.m. Houston at Los Angeles ESPN2

NBA PLAYOFFS SUNDAY

1 p.m. Boston at New York, if necessary ABC
3:30 p.m. Houston at Oklahoma City, if necessary ABC
8 p.m. Atlanta at Indiana, if necessary TNT
10:30 p.m. Memphis at L.A. Clippers, if necessary TNT
MONDAY
7 p.m. Chicago or Brooklyn at Miami TNT
9:30 p.m. Golden State at San Antonio TNT

NHL PLAYOFFS SUNDAY

Noon Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders NBC
3 p.m. Chicago at Minnesota NBC

PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER MONDAY

2:55 p.m. Sunderland vs. Stoke City. ESPN2
TUESDAY
2:30 p.m. Manchester City vs. West Bromwich ESPN2
Times, games, channels all subject to change

p.m.
Monday, May 6: St. Louis at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
x-Wednesday, May 8: Los Angeles at St. Louis, TBD
x-Friday, May 10: St. Louis at Los Angeles, TBD
x-Monday, May 13: Los Angeles at St. Louis, TBD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Boston	20	9	.690 —
New York	17	11	.607 2.5
Baltimore	17	13	.567 3.5
Tampa Bay	13	15	.464 6.5
Toronto	10	20	.333 10.5
Central Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Detroit	17	11	.607 —
Kansas City	15	10	.600 .5
Cleveland	13	13	.500 3
Minnesota	12	13	.480 3.5
Chicago	12	15	.444 4.5
West Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Texas	18	11	.621 —
Oakland	17	13	.567 1.5
Seattle	14	17	.452 5
Los Angeles	11	18	.379 7
Houston	8	22	.267 10.5

Friday's Games
Cleveland 7, Minnesota 6, 10 innings
Oakland 2, N.Y. Yankees 0
Seattle 4, Toronto 0
Texas 7, Boston 0
Detroit 4, Houston 3
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City, ppd., rain
Tampa Bay 7, Colorado 4, 10 innings
L.A. Angels 4, Baltimore 0
Saturday's Games
Minnesota at Cleveland, late
Oakland at N.Y. Yankees, late
Seattle at Toronto, late
Baltimore at L.A. Angels, late
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City, late
Detroit at Houston, late
Boston at Texas, late
Tampa Bay at Colorado, late
Sunday's Games
Minnesota at Cleveland, 1:05 p.m.
Oakland at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05 p.m.
Seattle at Toronto, 1:07 p.m.

Chicago White Sox at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m.
Boston at Texas, 3:05 p.m.
Baltimore at L.A. Angels, 3:35 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 4:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Colorado, 4:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Atlanta	17	12	.586 —
Washington	15	15	.500 2.5
Philadelphia	14	16	.467 3.5
New York	12	15	.444 4
Miami	8	22	.267 9.5
Central Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
St. Louis	18	11	.621 —
Pittsburgh	17	12	.586 1
Cincinnati	16	14	.533 2.5
Milwaukee	14	14	.500 3.5
Chicago	11	18	.379 7
West Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Colorado	17	12	.586 —
San Francisco	17	12	.586 —
Arizona	15	14	.517 2
Los Angeles	13	15	.464 3.5
San Diego	12	17	.414 5

Friday's Games
Cincinnati 6, Chicago Cubs 5
Philadelphia 4, Miami 1
Pittsburgh 3, Washington 1
N.Y. Mets 7, Atlanta 5, 10 innings
St. Louis 6, Milwaukee 1
Tampa Bay 7, Colorado 4, 10 innings
San Diego 7, Arizona 6
San Francisco 2, L.A. Dodgers 1
Saturday's Games
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, late
St. Louis at Milwaukee, late
Washington at Pittsburgh, late
Miami at Philadelphia, late
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, late
Tampa Bay at Colorado, late
Arizona at San Diego, late
L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco, late
Sunday's Games
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, 1:35 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 1:35 p.m.
St. Louis at Milwaukee, 2:10 p.m.
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
Miami at Philadelphia, 2:35 p.m.
Arizona at San Diego, 4:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Colorado, 4:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco, 8:05 p.m.

SPORTS SNAPSHOTS

Sebring Elks Golf Tourney

SEBRING – The Sebring Elks Lodge No. 1529 monthly golf outing will be held at Golf Hammock Golf and Country Club on Monday, May 6, beginning at 8 a.m. Cost is \$27, which includes golf, cart, lunch and prize fund. To sign up, contact Jack McLaughlin at jacknjudy33872@gmail.com or leave a message on 863 471-3295. Check in not later than 7:40 a.m. by the Pro Shop.

Blue Streak Golf

SEBRING – The 30th Annual Blue Streak Golf Classic will tee off Saturday, May 18, on both the North and South courses of Highlands Ridge. The four-person scramble format has an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start, and the \$65 entry fee includes one mulligan, lunch, beverages, prizes, cart, greens fees, range balls and a lot of fun. Each team members tee shot must be used at least twice, ladies shoot from the ladies tees, all ties are determined by a match of cards and professionals are not eligible for Hole In One prizes. Among those prizes are a \$10,000 Hole in One prize, a chance to win a 50-foot putt for \$5,000, \$25-\$100 gift certificates in the Closest to the Pin contest, and additional prizes on all par 3s. Other door prizes include a 50-inch widescreen TV and BBQ grill.

Sebring Firemen Inc. are the major sponsor, so come out, join in the fun and support Sebring High School Athletics.

Sebring Firemen Inc. are the major sponsor, so come out, join in the fun and support Sebring High School Athletics.

Sebring Firemen Inc. are the major sponsor, so come out, join in the fun and support Sebring High School Athletics.

Sebring Football car wash

SEBRING – Blue Streak Football will be hosting a car wash and watermelon sale in three area locations Saturday, May 25, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In south Sebring, car washes and sales will be at the BP station in the Southgate Shopping Center and the Boys and Girls Club.

In north Sebring, they will be set up at the Eye Express. Watermelon's will be going for \$4 for one, or two for \$6, with donations being accepted for a car wash.

Panther Softball Camp

AVON PARK – The 2013 SFSC Panther Softball Camp will take place Tuesday and Wednesday, May 28-29, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each day for players aged 6-18. Cost of the camp is \$45, with registration and check-in at 8 a.m. Pre-registration is not necessary and walk-ups are accepted. The SFSC Panther Camps are designed to provide quality softball instruction, with emphasis on fundamentals and improvement in all areas of the game. Each day, campers will have the opportunity to improve their skills and softball knowledge with the help of Panther head coach Carlos Falla, assistant coach Heather Barnes and members of the Lady Panther softball team.

To register, go to www.southflorida.edu/athletics/softball and print out the Admissions Application form. Mail the form as indicated, or bring it to the camp. For further information, call Coach Falla at the following campus phone numbers at extension 7038 – Avon Park/Sebring, (863) 784-7038; Lake Placid, (863) 465-5300; DeSoto, (863) 494-7500; Hardee, (863) 773-2252. Coach Falla can also be reached via email at fallac@southflorida.edu.

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YMCA Flag Football

SEBRING – The Highlands County Family YMCA is now taking registrations for our YMCA/Eagles Youth Flag Football Program for ages 5-14. We are also taking registrations for our Cheerleading Program ages 5-16. Any questions please call 382-9622.

Miracle League 5K

LAKE PLACID – Heartland National Bank presents The Miracle League for Highlands County 2013 5K-10K Run Walk Team Challenge Saturday, May 18, at DeVane Circle Park in Lake Placid. Entry fees - Early student \$15; early team member \$20; early individual \$25; day of race \$30 (day of race, registration closes promptly at 7 a.m.)

Race starts at 7:30 a.m. sharp. First 150 registered entrants guaranteed a Dri-fit T-shirt. Send entry name, gender, race you're doing, team name, address, phone number, age, shirt size and e-mail. Any lack of information will not be acceptable. Make check out to Greater Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce, 18 North Oak Avenue, Lake Placid, FL 33852. Awards for each race - 5K and 10K. Team awards will be presented for Most Creative Team and Team with Most Finishes. Proceeds from this new event will directly benefit the Miracle League for Highlands County as \$200 plus \$3 of each paid entry (more than 150) will be donated to this wonderful organization. Sponsored by Cohan Radio Group; CORA Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine; Delray Plants (sponsors of Miracle League shirts); Eastside Christian Church; Howard fertilizer and chemical; The Journal; Lake Placid Health Care Center; Wheeler Farms Inc.; Winn Dixie; and Party Dog Entertainment. For more information, contact Niki Gregor, event chair at 386-1300 or ngregor@heartlandnb.com.

SEBRING — Sebring Sunrise Rotary 24th annual Charity Golf Tournament will be Saturday, June 1, with an 8 a.m. shotgun start on the Deer Run course at Sun 'N Lake Golf and Country Club. Format is a Four-person Scramble (double Bogey maximum). Cost is \$220 per team and includes greens fees, cart, range balls, lunch and on-course beverages along with some fabulous raffle prizes. Sponsorships available: \$100 Hole sponsor; \$155 Hole sponsor including single entry; and \$320 Hole sponsor including team entry. Hole-In-One sponsors are being provided by Cohan Radio Group (\$2,000 cash) and Alan Jay Automotive Network. Trophy sponsor is the Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center. Make checks payable to Sebring Sunrise Rotary, P.O. Box 1363, Sebring, FL 33871. Please enter by Tuesday, May 28.

SEBRING — Home run for Habitat 5K Run/Walk will be Saturday, June 1, at Highlands Hammock State Park. Check-in starts at 7 a.m.; race starts promptly at 8 a.m. Entry fee \$15 through May 24; \$20 after and until Race Day, June 1 (checks if mailed and cash on day of race). Shirt sizes can only be guaranteed for pre-registered participants. Age groups - eight and under; 9-13; 14-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; and 70-70-plus. Make checks payable to: Habitat for Humanity and mail information (names, gender, race day age, address, phone number, e-mail address, event you're entering and T-shirt size) and check to: Highlands County Habitat for Humanity, 159 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring.

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Lady Panthers pull off stunner



Caitie Lytle and the Lady Panthers were in danger of falling out of the FCSAA Gulf District Tournament Saturday, but pulled off the shocker of the Friday slate, downing Gulf Coast State 2-1. As the fourth seed in the Suncoast Conference, SFSC was pitted against the Panhandle Conference and tournament top seed Commodores, who came in with a daunting 43-13 record overall, 12-4 in conference play. Gulf Coast was the number one rated team in the state, second in the nation. But behind a lockdown pitching performance from Lexi Adams and a two-run single from Lytle, the Panthers prevailed 2-1. South Florida went to 1-1 on the day, however, after falling to conference foe Polk State by a 5-1 score. In Saturday's game against another conference rival, the Panthers were trailing, but the game was not completed by press time. See Wednesday's News-Sun for a recap of the tournament.

News-Sun file photo by DAN HOEHNE

AP Source: LeBron wins 4th MVP award

By TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

LeBron James is getting his fourth Most Valuable Player award — and the only mystery left is whether the vote was unanimous.

The Miami Heat star will be introduced Sunday as the award winner, according to a person familiar with the results and who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the league has not publicly announced this year's recipient.

James will become the fifth player with at least four MVP awards, joining Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Michael Jordan, Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain.

No one has ever swept every first-place vote in the NBA's MVP balloting.

After the season he had, James could be the first.

"I don't know who else you'd vote for," Heat forward Chris Bosh said Friday. "No offense to everybody else, but that's just how good he has played this year."

James averaged 26.8 points, 8.0 rebounds and 7.3 assists this season, shooting a career-best 56 percent.

It was absolutely no surprise that he won the award, and given the timetable for Miami's next game — the Heat don't open Eastern Conference semifinal play until Monday night against Brooklyn or Chicago — it had been widely assumed for several days that Sunday would be the day.

If tradition holds, NBA Commissioner David Stern will then present James with the trophy again Monday night in front of the Miami fans.

"I absolutely have not even thought about it," James said earlier this week when asked if he considered the weight of winning the award four times in five years. "I have not thought about it, until you just brought it up. I know the history. It would be a unique, unbelievable class I would be a part of, so we'll see."

Only Russell had won four MVPs in five years, and only Abdul-Jabbar had gone back-to-back on the award twice.

Abdul-Jabbar has six MVPs in all, Jordan and

Russell have five apiece and Chamberlain won four.

James won the award in 2009 and 2010, only got four first-place votes in 2011 — his first season with the Heat — then reclaimed the award last season.

"The other day I was sitting there with him, a week or two ago and it dawned on me," Heat guard Dwyane Wade told the AP. "I said to him, 'Do you know you're about to get four MVPs in five years?' And he's like, 'Man, I'm just a kid from Akron.' He could have gotten five in five. You know how crazy that is? This is crazy."

The "kid from Akron" is truly entering rarefied air now.

It's certain that stars like New York's Carmelo Anthony, Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant and the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant will be listed on ballots — the league will unveil the full results Sunday — though the only drama left is seeing if any voter thought someone had a better season than James.

A panel of writers and broadcasters from the United States and Canada vote for NBA awards.

There also is one combined vote from fans who chose an MVP through online balloting or social media.

There have been instances of people coming close to sweeping the first-place votes. Shaquille O'Neal got 120 of the 121 top votes cast after the 1999-2000 season, with Allen Iverson getting the lone other one that year.

And after the 2003-04 season, Kevin Garnett — then with Minnesota — got 120 of 123 votes, with two going to Jermaine O'Neal and the other to Peja Stojakovic.

"Do the right thing," was Heat forward Shane Battier's suggestion to voters, just before the ballots were due.

James finally got his first NBA championship last season, followed that up by helping the U.S. win a gold medal at the London Olympics, and then vowed to come back this season even better.

The Heat say he did absolutely that. With nary a sign of a championship

hangover, Miami went 66-16 in the regular season, including a 27-game winning streak, the second-best in NBA history.

And since Feb. 3, when James plays, Miami is 36-1.

"We're all in unison: We think he has earned it," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He has had an even more historic season than last year. The beauty of that, if he does in fact earn it, is the fact that probably most people didn't necessarily think he could go to a different level, a higher level, after last season. Yet he reinvented himself and showed that he could."

Forget that it's rare in the NBA to win the MVP award four times. It's rare in major sports, period.

In baseball, Barry Bonds is the lone member of the four-or-more-MVP club, winning seven.

In hockey, it's Wayne Gretzky with nine, Gordie Howe with six and Eddie Shore with four.

In the NFL, only Peyton Manning has four MVPs.

"We never take him for granted," Spoelstra is fond of saying about James.

When comparing James' per-game averages this season against the best years in NBA history, only Jordan, Oscar Robertson, Larry Bird and John Havlicek had ever averaged so much in points, rebounds and assists per game as the reigning NBA Finals MVP did in each of those categories this season, according to STATS LLC.

And none had ever done so while shooting such a high percentage — Jordan did it while shooting 54 percent, coming closest.

James' effective field goal percentage (a metric that takes into account 3-pointers being worth more than 2-point shots) this season was a career-best 60.3 percent, and he shot just over 40 percent from 3-point range, another career mark.

The league handed out six Eastern Conference player-of-the-month awards this season, and James won five of them.

"I can see why he loves to play the game," Wade said. "He can do anything he wants."

AP Sports Writer Steven Wine in Miami contributed to this report.

SFSC honors student-athletes

Continued from B1

Postseason, the Lady Panthers Softball team traveled to Pensacola to represent SFSC in the 2013 Florida College System Activities Association (FCSAA) State Softball Tournament which runs May 2-5.

"Another great turnout at this year's Athletic Banquet," said Rick Hitt, athletic director and head baseball coach. "The Panther Athletic Department is proud of our student athletes, and we appreciate the support of our families, fans, and friends as well as the continuing support of our administration and trustees. We will continue to work hard each year to put players on the field, in the classroom, and within the community that represent

South Florida State College in a first class way. Thank you to all of those who support our athletic programs, and Go Lady Panthers at state."

During the SFSC Athletics Banquet, each athlete was honored with a participation award from his or her coach.

Athletes who received special awards were:

Volleyball

Academic and Athletic Excellence — Malea Kalina

Academic and Athletic Excellence — Abbey Rouch

Academic and Athletic Excellence — Brittany Hill

Softball

Best Defensive Player — Courtney Diamond

Best Offensive Player — Caitlyn Lytle

Coaches Award — Julia Deyoe

Baseball

Most Improved Player of the Year — Lane Crosson

Top Gun Award — Justin Machado

Coaches Award — Jordan Rivera

Scholastic Athletes of the Year: (given to a male and female sophomore with the highest cumulative GPA)

Male — Travis McPherson 3.31

Female — Taylor Upchurch 3.67

2013 SFSC Panther of the Year — Malea Kalina

2013 SFSC Panther of the Decade — Dr. Norman L. Stephens Jr

Fla. Legislature refuses to aid Miami Dolphins

By GARY FINEOUT

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's oldest professional sports franchise — the Miami Dolphins — was dealt a

crushing blow Friday after the Florida Legislature ended its session without passing any funding plan that would assist the team's quest to refurbish its stadium.

The refusal of the GOP-controlled Legislature to aid the team wasn't just a defeat for the Dolphins — it could also sack South Florida's efforts to lure another Super Bowl to the region in the next few years.

Others who lost out include the city of Orlando, which was hoping for help to lure a Major League Soccer team, as well as the Jacksonville Jaguars and Daytona International Speedway.

The professional sports teams were all backing a Florida Senate proposal that would have allowed each of them to compete for a share of state tax dollars.

But the House — led by Speaker Will Weatherford — refused to bring up the legislation.

"I think part of the complication was the fact that it wasn't just the Dolphins," Weatherford said. "You had five or six different franchises that were looking for a tax rebate, and that's serious public policy. You're talking

about hundreds of millions of dollars and I think the House just never got comfortable there when the session ended."

But the defeat was especially stinging for the Dolphins since the team had already agreed to pay for a Miami-Dade County referendum on whether to raise local bed taxes to assist the team.

The initial Senate bill authorized the use of the taxes.

The failure of legislators to act makes the May 14 ballot question meaningless, even though early and absentee balloting had already begun.

Dolphins owner Stephen Ross blasted Weatherford, saying in a statement that the Wesley Chapel Republican had promised to at least let the legislation come up for a vote on the House floor.

"He put politics before the people and the 4,000 jobs this project would have created for Miami Dade, and that is just wrong," Ross said.

Weatherford, in a tweet, later contended that it wasn't true that he had promised an up or down vote.

Ross also said that the decision sent a "terrible message" to National Football League owners who will soon decide whether to bring a Super Bowl back to Florida in either 2016 or 2017.

The Dolphins wanted both state and local help to pay for \$400 million worth of renovations to Sun Life Stadium.

The Dolphins wanted \$3 million a year for the next 30 years from the state.

In order to convince skeptical politicians the team agreed to a series of concessions — including that it would pay part of the money after 30 years.

But the push by the Dolphins coincided with an effort by other cities and professional sports organizations to also obtain state tax dollars.

The Florida Senate passed legislation that would have created a process where pro teams would compete for \$13 million a year in state incentives.

The bill would also would have let the Dolphins tap into local taxes to help pay for renovations to their stadium.

But in the waning moments of the session the Senate passed a revised version that stripped the local tax portion and instead just made the Dolphins eligible for state money.

That failed too.

"I took it 80 yards," said Sen. Oscar Braynon, D-Miami Gardens and the bill sponsor. "We could have kicked a field goal but we're seven points down. I think I've done everything I can."

Associated Press writer Bruce Schreiner in Tallahassee contributed to this report. Follow Gary Fineout on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/fineout>

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News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
Tyler Carr fires to first over Crusader Sam Nelson to complete a double play Thursday night.

Dragons see great effort fall just short

Continued from B1

high clip of late.

But though they were making contact against Gonzalez, nothing was getting through.

"You'll have those games," head coach Dan Coomes said. "Where you're hitting the ball well, but right at people. Other games you'll hit little flares and they'll fall in. Tonight we were hitting 'at'em ball.'"

That was, until with one out in the fifth, shortstop Tyler Carr got a hold of one and blasted a shot deep down the left-field line for a stand-up double.

Gonzalez, however, reared back to strike out the next two batters to leave the tying run on.

By now, Harris was locked in the Tampa Catholic made no more serious threats, so into the Dragons final at bat, with that lone run standing as the margin.

And then things got interesting.

Lake Placid, of late, has tended to score their runs in bunches, such as the six-run second inning in their 11-0, district-championship win over DeSoto, and it looked like they might be up to it again as Nathan Stanley lead off the bottom of the seventh with a sharp single to center.

It looked like it might end quickly, however, when the next batter was caught looking and Daum hit a grounder to short for what looked like a potential game-ending double play.

But the one and only defensive miscue by the Crusaders now, as with Stanley at full spring and closing in hard on second, a hurried flip got away to put runners on first and second with one out.

Now Tampa Catholic went to the bullpen, bringing in right hander Reeves Martin to face Carr.

With two strikes, Carr hit a hard grounder headed up the middle to the left of second

base. The Crusader shortstop was able to get a glove on it and make a clean flip to second for the force, but Carr easily beat the relay throw to first, putting runners on first and third with two out.

Carr soon stole second to put the winning run in scoring position, but Martin got the last out soon enough on a grounder to send Tamapa Catholic on to the Regional Semifinals where they will face Berkeley Prep, who needed 10 innings to edge DeSoto, 7-6.

"It's tough to come this far and have it right there," Coomes said. "But that was a great game, wasn't it? The kids really played their hearts out and what they did here this year really means a lot to this community."

"Only two teams in the history of this school has gotten to this point, and this is one of them," he continued. "That's something they can be real proud of."

Sebring proves tough out for Mustangs

Continued from B1

one more run for the inning, now seeing 3-1 in Mitchell's favor.

Sebring came back strong in the top of the sixth facing another Mustang pitcher but were unable to put another run on the board.

Mitchell, on the other hand, would find their way around the defense to squeeze in one more insurance run to bring their lead up to 4-1.

In the top of the seventh, the Streaks continued to prove that they were not going down without a fight.

Little drew another walk and pinch-hitter Lang followed with a single up the middle.

This put men on first and second with one out left in the inning and the tying run at the plate.

Unfortunately, Sebring could not capitalize on this moment and thus allowed the Mustangs to move on in the Regional bracket.

"Both teams played well," said Rapp. "I am extremely proud of the way they never gave up-they gave it all they had."



News-Sun file photo by DAN HOEHNE
Though he did it more with his keen eye than his bat, Ty Little was the spark of the Sebring offense, drawing two walks and scoring the Streaks run against Mitchell Thursday.

Rapp went on to explain that, at this level, you have to play perfect; if not, close to it to see games go your way.

"We had them; sometimes you just need to get the ball to bounce your way."

"These guys will go on – especially these seniors – and they will be successful in

whatever they do."

Rapp added that the younger players have gained much valuable experience that they will be able to pass on when in the same position in the seasons to come.

"They are all great young men and I cannot say enough about them."

State track sopping wet

Continued from B1

for Demarest.

"The first fault was a mishap on my part, and the second was the weather – my disc was wet and it slipped out early," he said. "The weather didn't help and I only had one all right throw, that was a 136."

A significant drop, amid an event that saw many drops from seed distances.

Among the top 10 places, only three saw improved throws, which was just enough to keep Demarest out, finishing 12th.

"I'll be back next year and even more prepared," he said.

On to the track events, where there are less components for the rain to effect, the weather still had an obvious impact.

Brian Dixon, a Sebring sophomore competing in the 200-meter dash, was among an elite field that saw time across the board drop off from the regional competitions the week before.

It wasn't until the ninth-place finisher in the preliminaries that a better time was posted, and that was by a mere .02 seconds.

Dixon's time fell back a bit as well, by .25 seconds, unfortunately, to keep him outside the qualifying times to reach the finals.

And while all four Blue Streaks who had made it to the state competition had legitamate shots at medals, the surest bet was senior Taylor Tubbs, and she didn't dissapoint.

And while it seemed she'd have a clearer path to a win in the 1,600-meter run, coming in as the top seed, Tubbs knew where some competition would come from.

"Emily Edwards is some-



News-Sun photo by DAN HOEHNE
Taylor Tubbs shows off her latest hardware, a second-place medal for the 2013 3A Girls 1,600 Meters.

one to watch," she had said earlier in the week. "She's had some good times this year and I have a feeling she can really step up with good competition."

Tubbs turned out to be prophetic as the Ft. Myers junior got out early and set the pace, disrupting Tubbs' normal wire-to-wire lead.

"It was just the three of us the whole time, with her in the lead," she said of her, Edwards and Rachel Givens of Chiles. "(Edwards) lead the whole way, until I passed Givens and almost got her in the last 100 meters."

Almost got her is right, as her last push left Givens in her dust – or in this case

wake – a full five seconds back by the finish.

Was breathing right down her neck is more like it, as Edwards barely held Tubbs off, by a miniscule .19 seconds – with a time of 5:00.60 to Tubbs' 5:00.79.

"So close," she said. "If I'd had five more meters, I would have caught her. I killed the last bit."

And so the Florida-bound Tubbs finishes her high school career in fine fashion, having steadily moved up through the years, from a 9th-place finish as a sophomore, 7th as a junior and within an eyelash of a win in her final, phenomenal effort.

30th Annual Blue Streak Golf Classic

Support Sebring High School Athletics

\$10,000 Hole in One Prize

Chance to Win a 50ft. Putt for \$5000
Major Sponsor: **Sebring Firemen, Inc.**

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Highlands Ridge Golf Course (N. & S. Courses)
Shotgun start at 8:30am - Entry Fee: \$65

Includes: One mulligan, lunch, beverages, prizes, cart, green fees, range balls, and a lot of fun!
2nd Mulligan: \$5

4 PERSON SCRAMBLE - Make your own team
Total Team Handicap determines flight

Prizes	Hole-in-one Prizes	Door Prizes
1st \$100 Gift Cert.	\$10,000	50" Widescreen TV
2nd \$75 Gift Cert.	Additional prizes on	BBQ Grill
3rd \$50 Gift Cert.	all par 3's	Other great Prizes TBD
Last \$25 Gift Cert.		19th hole door prize drawing
Closest to the Pin		

Blue Streak Scramble Rules:

- Each team members tee shot must be used twice.
- Best shot played, may place ball one club length.
- Ladies on ladies tee.
- All ties determined by match of cards.
- Professionals are not eligible for *Hole In One* prizes.

Please mail or fax your entries to:

Chris Cook
Sebring High School
3514 Kenilworth Blvd.
Sebring, FL 33870
Fax: (863) 471-5507

Checks payable to
Sebring High School

Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Handicap:	Handicap:
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Handicap:	Handicap:

Please indicate if you are a professional golfer. Professional golfers not eligible for Hole in One or putting contest.

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10

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Hundreds of dollars in coupon savings every week.</p> | <p>6. You want to know the score.
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The Lists

Spotify



Most streamed tracks

1. Daft Punk, "Get Lucky — Radio Edit" (Columbia Records)
2. Macklemore & Ryan Lewis feat. Ray Dalton, "Can't Hold Us" (Macklemore)
3. Imagine Dragons, "Radioactive" (Interscope Records)
4. Justin Timberlake, "Mirrors" (RCA Records)
5. Macklemore & Ryan Lewis feat. Wanz, "Thrift Shop" (Macklemore)
6. P!nk, "Just Give Me a Reason" (RCA Records)
7. Bruno Mars, "When I Was Your Man" (Atlantic Records)
8. Justin Timberlake featuring Jay-Z, "Suit & Tie" (RCA Records)
9. Icona Pop feat. Charli XCX, "I Love It" (Big Beat Records/Atlantic)
10. Fall Out Boy, "My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark (Light Em Up)" (The Island Def Jam Music Group)

Most viral tracks

1. Daft Punk, "Get Lucky — Radio Edit" (Columbia

2. George Jones, "He Stopped Loving Her Today — Single Version" (Epic)
3. Lana Del Rey, "Young and Beautiful" (Lana Del Rey)
4. Sara Bareilles, "Brave" (Epic)
5. Empire of the Sun, "Alive" (The Sleepy Jackson Pty Ltd and Nick Littlemore)
6. Lorde, "Royals" (Lava Music/Republic Records)
7. Sleeping With Sirens, "Low" (Rise Records)
8. DJ Khaled, "No New Friends — SFTB Remix" (Cash Money Records Inc.)
9. Jeremih, "All the Time" (Def Jam Records)
10. Major Lazer feat. Bruno Mars, Tyga and Mystic, "Bubble Butt" (Secretly Canadian)

Concerts



Pollstar's top tours

1. (1) Bon Jovi; \$1,741,784; \$96.53.
2. (2) George Strait; \$1,407,183; \$83.56.
3. (New) Kenny Chesney; \$1,142,624; \$78.39.
4. (3) Pink; \$1,087,880; \$76.84.
5. (4) Maroon 5; \$906,465; \$67.20.
6. (5) The Who; \$846,331; \$95.72.
7. (6) Ricardo Arjona; \$840,988; \$84.16.
8. (8) Muse; \$599,815; \$57.23.
9. (10) Carrie Underwood; \$459,057; \$58.46.
10. (11) Eric Church; \$395,690; \$49.26.

11. (12) Kid Rock; \$371,575; \$52.47.
12. (13) Jeff Dunham; \$283,400; \$44.48.
13. (14) matchbox twenty; \$196,808; \$64.24.
14. (15) Tiksto; \$188,483; \$41.72.
15. (16) Shinedown / Three Days Grace; \$187,870; \$39.00.

iTunes



Top songs

1. "Can't Hold Us (feat. Ray Dalton)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
2. "Just Give Me a Reason (feat. Nate Ruess)," P!nk
3. "Mirrors," Justin Timberlake
4. "Stay (feat. Mikky Ekko)," Rihanna
5. "Thrift Shop (feat. Wanz)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
6. "Radioactive," Imagine Dragons
7. "I Love It (feat. Charli XCX)," Icona Pop
8. "When I Was Your Man," Bruno Mars
9. "My Songs Know What You Did In the Dark (Light Em Up)," Fall Out Boy
10. "Wagon Wheel," Darius Rucker

Top albums

1. "To Be Loved," Michael

- Buble
- "The 20/20 Experience," Justin Timberlake
- "Bankrupt!," Phoenix
- "Side Effects of You," Fantasia
- "(hash)willpower," will.i.am
- "Save Rock and Roll," Fall Out Boy
- "The Heist," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
- "Indicud," Kid Cudi
- "Night Visions," Imagine Dragons
- "The Truth About Love," P!nk

iPhone



Top paid iPhone apps

1. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
2. Cut the Rope: Time Travel (ZeptoLab UK Limited)
3. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
4. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Rooftop Run (Nickelodeon)
5. Fish Out Of Water! (Halfbrick Studios)
6. Temple Run: Oz (Disney)
7. Block Fortress (Foursaken Media)
8. Kick the Buddy: No Mercy (Crustalli)
9. AfterLight (Simon Filip)
10. Draw Something 2 (Zynga Inc.)

- (King.com Limited)
2. Vine (Vine Labs, Inc.)
3. Robot Unicorn Attack 2 (adult swim)
4. Draw Something 2 Free (Zynga Inc.)
5. Iron Man 3 - The Official Game (Gameloft)
6. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
7. Snapchat (Snapchat, Inc.)
8. Draw Rider (Anton Vazhinsky)
9. Path (Path, Inc.)
10. Google Maps (Google, Inc.)

Top free iPhone apps

1. Candy Crush Saga

Best-Sellers

Wall Street Journal

FICTION

1. "The Hit" by David Baldacci (Grand Central Publishing)
2. "Whiskey Beach" by Nora Roberts (Putnam)
3. "Fly Away" by Kristin Hannah (St. Martin's Press)
4. "Daddy's Gone A Hunting" by Mary Higgins Clark (Simon & Schuster)
5. "Paris" by Edward Rutherford (Doubleday)
6. "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss (Random House Children's Books)
7. "Wedding Night: A Novel" by Sophie Kinsella (The Dial Press)
8. "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel" by Jeff Kinney (Amulet Books)
9. "The Elite" by Kiera Cass (Harper Teen)
10. "The Mystery Woman" by Amanda Quick (Putnam Adult)

NONFICTION

1. "Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls" by David Sedaris (Little, Brown)
2. "The ONE Thing" by Gary Keller with Jay Papasan (Bard Press)
3. "Start: Punch Fear in the Face, Escape Average and Do Work that Matters" by Jon Acuff (Thomas Nelson)
4. "Lean In" by Sheryl Sandberg (Knopf)
5. "Jumpstart to Skinny: The Simple 3-Week Plan for Supercharged Weight Loss" by Bob Harper and Greg Critser (Ballantine)
6. "Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation" by Michael Pollan (The Penguin Press)
7. "Jesus Calling: Enjoy Peace in His Presence" by Sarah Young (Thomas Nelson Publishers)
8. "The Duck Commander Family" by Willie Robertson (Howard Books)
9. "Becoming a Supple



Leopard" by Kelly Starrett and Glen Cordoza (Victory Belt Publishing)

10. "It's All Good" by Gwyneth Paltrow (Grand Central Publishing)

FICTION E-BOOKS

1. "The Hit" by David Baldacci (Grand Central Publishing)
2. "Claim Me" by J. Kenner (Bantam)
3. "Damaged" by H.M. Ward (Laree Bailey Press)
4. "Twisted Perfection" by Abbi Glines (Self-published via amazon Digital Services)
5. "Fly Away" by Kristin

- Hannah (St. Martin's Press)
6. "The Bet" by Rachel Van Dyken (Rachel Van Dyken)
7. "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald (Scribner)
8. "Whiskey Beach" by Nora Roberts (Putnam)
9. "Wedding Night: A Novel" by Sophie Kinsella (The Dial Press)
10. "Real" by Katy Evans (Katy Evans)

NONFICTION E-BOOKS

1. "Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls" by David Sedaris (Little, Brown)
2. "Brain on Fire" by Susannah Cahalan (Free Press)
3. "Jumpstart to Skinny: The Simple 3-Week Plan for Supercharged Weight Loss" by Bob Harper and Greg Critser (Ballantine)
4. "Lean In" by Sheryl Sandberg (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
5. "Proof of Heaven" by Eben Alexander (Simon & Schuster)

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HEARTLAND WORKFORCE

As the regional host for the Florida Workforce System's Statewide Business Liaisons Workshop, recently held at the Chateau Elan Hotel and Conference Center, the Heartland Workforce Board of Directors and Staff would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thanks to our local sponsors. Participants included many local dignitaries, as well as representatives from regional workforce boards and senior workforce executives from throughout the state. In addition, attendees received a special call-in from Governor Rick Scott! The event was a huge success and we could not have showcased Highlands County and the Heartland without your help!

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Religion

The Bible teaches that a good name is priceless

Stop. Look. Listen. “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches” (Proverbs 22:1). “A good name is better than precious ointment” (Ecclesiastes 7:1). These words of Divine wisdom stress the value of a good reputation as the disciple lives daily for Truth, the cause of Christ.

Various names bring different emotions/reactions: Adolph Hitler, Bin Laden, Jezebel, Judas, Nehemiah, David, Timothy, Ruth, Dorcas, Mary, and of course, Jesus, the Christ. You probably have a list of your own. Why different reactions? Because of their reputation ... good/positive or bad/negative. “The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot” (Proverbs 10:7).

What is in a good name? Each person wears three names. The first is the one given to us at birth. The sec-

ond is the family name we inherit. The third is the name/reputation we make for ourselves. We have complete control of number three. Our name is not just how we are called, but how we are known. “True wealth is not found in gold, silver or other tangible forms of treasure. It is found in the possession of a reputation of honor, integrity and justice.” (Author unknown) Jesus said it this way: “But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one” (Matthew 5:37). Your word, i.e. name/reputation is your bond.

Who is going to cry at your funeral? You might be asking ... what does this have to do with a good name? Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, a worshipper of Baal, a murderer and a usurper of the throne, died/murdered. “So all the

Guest Column

Frank Parker

people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword in the king’s house” (2 Kings 11:20). Now, contrast this to King Josiah’s death and the people’s reaction: “...And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah” (2 Chronicles 35:24). Consider the reaction to Stephen’s death as he boldly proclaimed the gospel of Christ: “And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him” (Acts 8:2). It is very obvious why the different reactions to these deaths: reputation i.e. good or bad name.

There is one example that really brings this subject home: Dorcas. We read

about her in Acts 9:36-41. Note carefully the following: “all the widows stood by him (Peter) weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.” These actions/works/deeds speak louder than any words regarding her reputation.

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches.” Why? Listen to the Master Teacher: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal” (Matthew 6:19,20). Now learn from the preacher in Ecclesiastes 5:13, “There is a severe evil which I have seen under the sun: Riches kept for their owner to his hurt.” What is the solution?

The Holy Spirit’s instruction to Timothy (First Timothy 6:17-19) answers the preacher’s problem, “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life.”

Another of Paul’s many exhortations to young Timothy, his son in the faith, is First Timothy 4:12: “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” He encouraged Timothy to maintain and exemplify a good reputation among the Christians in Ephesus and beyond in six

ways: by what you say (word, conversation, speech), what you do (conduct, action, deeds), in love (active affection to all), in attitude (spiritual mind), in faith (faithfulness in all things) and purity (thought). The word “example” means model, pattern, mold.

Timothy and each disciple are to set an example/mold of good living that others could follow. They demonstrate a pattern of godliness that reinforces the message they preached/taught. Therefore, they developed and maintained a good name ... a good reputation. Remember, “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches.”

Frank Parker can be contacted at frankparker27@gmail.com/. Guest columns are the opinions of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun staff.

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.

ANGLICAN

◆ **New Life Anglican Fellowship**, 10 N. Main Ave. (Woman’s Club), Lake Placid, FL 33852. Rev. Susan Rhodes, Deacon in Charge, (863) 243-3191; strhodes1020@yahoo.com. Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. Teaching, Holy Communion, Music, Fellowship, Healing Prayer. “Pastoral and Spiritual”.

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 doughnuts, followed with Sunday School for all ages at 9:30. Sunday morning worship service begins at 10:30 a.m., and evening worship service is at 6 p.m. On Wednesdays, the Word of Life teen ministry and the Catylist class (20'+) begin at 6:30 PM. The adult Bible and Prayer Time begins at 7 p.m. For more information go to www.bethanybaptistap.com or call the church office at 863-452-1136.

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

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

◆ **First Baptist Church of Avon Park**, 100 N. Lake Ave., Avon Park. Rev. Jon Beck, pastor; Charlie Parish, associate pastor/young and families; Joy Loomis, music director; Rev. Johnattan Soltero, Hispanic pastor. Sunday – Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Children’s Church, 10:45 a.m.; Youth 445, 4:45 p.m.; Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday – Wednesday Night Supper, 5:15 p.m.; Children’s Choir, 6 p.m.; Youth Activities, 6-7:30 p.m.; Prayer

Meeting/Bible Study, 6 p.m.; Worship Choir Practice, 6 p.m.; Mission Programs for Children, 6:45 p.m. Hispanic Services: Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m. Wednesday Bible study at 7 p.m. Sunday broadcast on Cable TV Channel 6. Call 453-6681 for details. “In the heart of Avon Park, for the hearts of Avon Park.”

◆ **First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine**, 111 Lake Josephine Drive, Sebring (just off U.S. 27 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 Alvater leads the youth in their quest to become more like Christ. Sunday night worship at 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer meeting at 7 p.m. along with youth worship in the youth facility, and missions training for all children. Call the church at 655-1524.

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

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

◆ **First Baptist Church, Sebring**, 200 E. Center Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. Telephone: 385-5154. Dr. Allen Higginbotham, Interim Pastor; Rev. Nuno Norberto, associate pastor, minister of music and senior adults; and Dixie Kreulen, preschool director. Group Bible Studies, 9:15 a.m.; Blended Service, 10:30 a.m.; Mision Buatista 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. Call 385-4704. Website www.fbsebring.com

◆ **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 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship service at 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 6 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.

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

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

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

◆ **Spring Lake Baptist Church**, “Where the Bible is Always Open.” Pastor Richard Schermerhorn, 7408 Valencia Road; 655-2610. Assistant Pastor Ronald Smith, 386-1610. On U.S. 98 at the Spring Lake Village II entrance. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. for all ages; Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday Mid-week Bible Study and Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m. Nursery available for all services.

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

CATHOLIC

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

◆ **St. Catherine Catholic Church**, 820 Hickory St., Sebring. Parrish office/ mailing address: 882 Bay St., Sebring, FL 33870, 385-0049, 385-6762 (Spanish); fax, 385-5169; email, office@stcatho.com; website, www.stcatho.com. School Office/Mailing, Principal Dr. Anna V. Adam, 747 S. Franklin St., Sebring, FL 33870; 385-7300; fax, 385-7310; email school@stcatho.com. School office hours 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Clergy: Very Rev. José González, V.F., fjose@stcatho.com or 385-0049; Parochial Vicar, Rev. Victor Caviedes, 385-3993; Assisting Priest (retired), Rev. J. Peter Sheehan; Deacons, Rev. Mr. James R. McGarry and Rev. Mr. Max M. Severe. WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday: - 4 p.m.; Sunday - 8 and 10 a.m., 12 p.m.

(Spanish), 5 p.m. (Holy Family Youth Center), every third Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. (French Mass). Daily Mass: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. Saturday at 9 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation: 7:15-7:45 a.m. first Friday, 2:30-3:15 p.m. Saturday and 9-9:45 a.m. Sunday. Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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

CHRISTIAN

◆ **Cornerstone Christian Church**, (Saxon Hall) 1850 US 27 South, Avon Park, FL 33825. Love Christ - Love People. Bill Raymond, Preaching Minister. Jon Carter, Music Minister. Sunday, 9 a.m. Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship; Communion available each week. Wednesday, 7 p.m. Home Fellowship Group. For more information call 453-8929 or 449-0203.

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

◆ **Sebring Christian Church**, 4514 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33872. Tod Schwingel, Preacher; Josh Knabel (812-618-7118), Youth Pastor. Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m.; Sunday Youth Service, 6 p.m.; Evening service at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night meals, 5:30 p.m. followed by classes at 6:30 p.m. Changing Seasons, a men’s grief support group, meets at 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Alzheimers Caregivers Support Group meets at 1 p.m. Thursdays. Office hours, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday. Phone 382-6676.

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

CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

◆ **Christian Science Church**, 154 N. Franklin St. Sunday: 10:30 a.m. morning worship and Sunday school. Testimonial meetings at 4 p.m. each second and fourth Wednesday. A free public reading room/bookstore, located in the church, is open before and after church services. The Bible and the Christian Science textbook, ‘Science and Health with Key to the

Scriptures’ by Mary Baker Eddy are our only preachers. All are welcome to come and partake of the comfort, guidance, support and healing found in the lesson-sermons.

CHURCH OF BRETHREN

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

◆ **Avon Park Church of Christ**, 200 S. Forest Ave., Avon Park, FL 33825. Minister: Don Smith. Sunday Worship Services, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Nursery facilities are available at every service. Bible Study: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, 7 p.m. Bible centered classes for all ages. Church phone: 453-4692.

◆ **Lake Placid Church of Christ**, 1069 Hwy 27 North, Lake Placid, FL 33852. Mailing address is P.O. Box 1440, Lake Placid, FL 33862. Sunday morning worship is at 10 a.m. Sunday evening worship is 6 p.m. Bible class 9 a.m. Sundays and Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. All are invited to join us. For more information, call the church at 863-465-4636 or visit the website www.thelordsway.com/lake-placidcofc/.

◆ **Sebring Parkway Church of Christ**, 3800 Sebring Parkway, Sebring, FL 33870; 385-7443. Minister: Kevin Patterson. Times of service are: Sunday Bible Class, 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Class, 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF GOD

◆ **Church on the Ridge**, Church of God, Anderson, Ind.; 1130 State Road 17 North, Sebring, FL 33870. Worship Service Sunday, 10 a.m.; Bible Study and Prayer, Wednesday, 7 p.m. Pastor Dr. Collet Varner, (863) 382-0773.

CHURCH OF NAZARENE

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

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

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN CHRISTIAN UNION

◆ **Community Bible Church - Churches of Christ in Christian Union**, (Orange Blossom Conference Center) 1400 C-17A North (truck route), Avon Park. Presenting Jesus Christ as the answer for time and eternity. Sunday morning worship service, 10:30 a.m. Nursery provided. Junior Church activities at same time for K-6 grade. Sunday School Bible hour (all ages), 9:30 a.m. (Transportation available.) Sunday evening praise and worship service, 6 p.m. Wednesday evening prayer service, 7 p.m. Children and youth activities at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Everyone is welcome, please come worship with us. Tom Schwankweiler, Pastor. Phone 453-6052.

Religion



MCT
Years of drought have had a huge impact on farmers from Texas west to the Rocky Mountains.

Long drought across the West spurs resurgence of all kinds of faith

Associated Press
BERNALILLO, N.M. — Along the irrigation canal that cuts through this centuries-old New Mexico town, a small group of churchgoers gathers to recite the rosary before tossing rose petals into the water.

Remnants of a tradition that stretches back to the days of Spanish explorers, the humble offerings are aimed at blessing this year's meager irrigation season and easing a relentless drought that continues to march across New Mexico and much of the western half of the U.S.

From the heart of New Mexico to West Texas and Oklahoma, the pressures of

drought have resulted in a resurgence of faith — from Christian preachers and Catholic priests encouraging prayer processions to American Indian tribes using their closely guarded traditions in an effort to coax Mother Nature to deliver some much needed rain.

On Sunday, congregations across eastern New Mexico and West Texas are planning a day of prayer for moisture and rain.

"We're worried, but we're maintaining our traditional ways and cultural ways. Together we pray, and individually we pray," said Peter Pino, administrator of Zia Pueblo. "We haven't lost hope in the spiritual world,

that they'll be able to provide us resources throughout the year.

"We're not giving up. That's pretty much all we can do at this point."

In its wake, the drought has left farmland idle, herds of cattle have been decimated, the threat of wildfire has intensified and cities are thinking twice about the sustainability of their water supplies.

In New Mexico, the renewed interest in the divine and the tension with Mother Nature stems from nearly three years of hot, dry weather. There are spots around the state that have fallen behind in rainfall by as much as 24 inches, caus-

ing rivers to run dry and reservoirs to dip to record low levels.

In neighboring Texas and Oklahoma, the story is no different.

The faithful gathered Wednesday night in Oklahoma City to recite a collection of Christian, Muslim and Jewish prayers for the year's first worship service dedicated to rain.

The Catholic bishop in Lubbock is planning a special Mass at a local farm in two weeks so that farmers can have their seeds and soil blessed. The archbishop of New Mexico's largest diocese has turned to the Internet and social media to urge parishioners to pray.

PLACES TO WORSHIP

EPISCOPAL

◆ **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. Church office 385-7649, for more information.

◆ **St. Francis of Assisi Anglican 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. Thursday: Holy Communion with healing service, 9 a.m. Child care available at the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday service.

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF AMERICA

◆ **The Church of the Way EFCA**, 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: 273-3674. Email: thewaychurch@hotmail.com. Web site: www.TheWayChurch.org

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.sebringgrace.org.

INDEPENDENT

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

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 Tuesday of month; Ladies Group WELCA meets at noon second Tuesday of month with lunch. Bring a dish to pass. Labyrinth Prayer Garden open seven days a week to congregation and community. 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 past the four-way stop sign. 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 (863) 471-2663 or see christ-lutheranavonpark.org.

◆ **Faith Lutheran Church - LCMS**, 2740 Lakeview Drive, Sebring. Reverend Robert Reinhardt, Pastor. Church phone: 385-7848, Faith Child Development Center, 385-3232. Sunday Traditional Worship Service, 8 a.m.; 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. Worship service is broadcast at 8 a.m. on WITS 1340 AM each Sunday. Educational opportunities include weekly adult Bible studies. Faith's Closet Thrift Store (385-2782) is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. All are warmly welcome in the Family of Faith.

◆ **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (AALC) American Association of Lutheran Churches**, 3240 Grand Prix Drive, Sebring, FL 33872. James Weed, pastor. Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Bible Study, 9 a.m. Nursery provided. Social activities: Choir, Missions, Evangelism. Phone 385-2346.

◆ **New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church**, 3725 Hammock Road, a Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.; Bible Study, 9 a.m. For more information, call Pastor Luke Willitz at 385-2293 or visit the Web site at www.newlifesebring.com.

◆ **Resurrection Lutheran Church - ELCA**, 324 E. Main St., at Memorial Drive, Avon Park. Pastor Rev. John C. Grodzinski. Sunday worship at 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. Fragrance Free Service Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Open Communion celebrated at all services. "God's Work, Our Hands."

◆ **Trinity Lutheran Church - LCMS**, 25 Lakeview St., Lake Placid, FL 33852; 465-5253. The Rev. Richard A. Norris, pastor; Susan C. Norris, Trinity Tots Pre-School director; and Noel Johnson, minister of youth and family life. Worship schedule after Easter through December: Worship service 10 a.m., and Education Hour, 8:45 a.m. Worship schedule for January through Easter: Worship service, 8:30 and 11 a.m., Education Hour

9:45 a.m. Traditional Service with Holy Communion each first and third Sunday. Non-Traditional Service each second, fourth and fifth Sunday. Seasonal mid-week services Wednesday evenings during Lent and Advent. Call church office for additional Worship times and special holiday services. Other activities and groups include: Choirs; Ladies Guild and LWML; Men's Fellowship Group, Small Group Bible Studies as scheduled; Trinity Tots Pre-school, Youth Group activities (call for meeting times and dates). Visit us online at: www.Trinitylutheranlp.com.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

◆ **Bible Fellowship Church**, 3750 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33872. Sunday: American Sign Language: First Worship sermon, songs signed first and second Worship services. First Worship service, 9 a.m.; Second Worship service, 10:45 a.m. Nursery (up to 2 years old) and Sunday school classes both hours. BFC Youth, 6 p.m.; Evening Service, 6 p.m. Wednesday: Children, ages 4 yrs through 5th grade, 6 p.m.; Youth, 6-7:30 p.m.; Prayer time, 6:15 p.m. Todd Patterson, pastor; Andy McQuaid, associate pastor. Web site www.bfcspring.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. Pastor Lester Osbeck. A small friendly church waiting for your visit.

◆ **Christian Training Ministries Inc.**, on Sebring Parkway. Enter off County Road 17 on Simpson Avenue. Sunday service is at 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study at 7 p.m. A nursery and children's church are provided. The church is part of Christian International Ministries Network, a full gospel, non-denominational ministry. Linda M. Downing, minister, lindadowning@live.com. Casey L. Downing, associate minister, casey-downing@hotmail.com. Church phone: 314-0482. Web site: www.ctmforme.com

◆ **Crossroads of Life**, 148 E. Interlake Blvd., Lake Placid, FL 33852; Tel. 863-655-9163. The place of your Divine appointment. We expect our supernatural God to transform our lives through His power and grace. Come, learn of His plan and destiny for you. With His plan we receive His provision along with His perfect timing and opportunity. What you have longed for, but have been missing, can now be received. The direction you have been thirsty for will suddenly quench your parched soul. Come to experience what you have been missing for so long - empowerment in every area of life. We teach, train and send forth to win souls. You don't speak English - no problema. We have a Spanish interpreter. We look forward to fellowship and worship with you at 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Pastors Gil and Rosa Benton (Faith Never Fails).

◆ **Grace Bible Church**, 4541 Thunderbird Road, (second church on left) Sebring, FL 33872. Phone, 382-1085. Dustin Woods, lead 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

◆ **Faith Center West Ministry**,

"Restoring Lives, Families & Communities." In the Banyan Plaza at 2349 U.S. 27 South, Sebring, FL 33870. Pastors Leroy and JoAnn Taylor the public to worship on Sundays at 11 a.m. for Praise & Worship and on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for Bible study and prayer. Children classes are available for all services. Ministries for youth, men and women are held throughout the month. Please attend these Spirit-filled services. "Moving Forward in Unity". Church office, 385-1800 or 655-2748.

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

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

◆ **Union Church**, 106 N. Butler Ave., Avon Park, FL 33825. Contemporary worship service is at 6:30 p.m. Saturday with Pastor Tiger Gullett. Sunday traditional worship service is at 7:45 a.m. and 9 a.m. Contemporary Sunday worship service is at 10:45 a.m. Nursery and children's church on Saturday nights and 9 and 10:45 a.m. Sundays. Breakfast and lunch menus at Solid Grounds. Senior Pastor is Bill Breylinger. Office: 453-3345. Web page at www.weareunion.org.

◆ **Unity Life Enrichment Centre**, new location, 10417 Orange Blossom Blvd. S., Sebring, FL 33875; 471-1122; e-mail unity@vistanet.net. Web site, www.unityofsebring.org. 10:30 a.m. Sunday Celebration Service, Nursery and Children's Church. Weekly Classes, Christian Bookstore and Cafe, Prayer Ministry, Life Enrichment Groups. Rev. Andrew C. Conyer, senior minister transforming lives from ordinary to extraordinary.

PRESBYTERIAN

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

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

n **First Presbyterian Church, ARP**, 319 Poinsettia Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. 385-0107. Email:

faith@htn.net, Rev. Darrell A. Peer, pastor. Sunday School, all ages, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m. Youth Group (middle school and high school age), 3:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Wednesday: Adult Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. Nursery available during worship. Call the church office for more information and other classes.

◆ **First Presbyterian Church, ARP**, www.fpcpl.com, 117 N. Oak Ave., Lake Placid, 465-2742. The Rev. Ray Cameron, senior pastor; the Rev. Drew Severance, associate pastor. Sunday Traditional Worship, 9 a.m.; Contemporary Worship, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:10 a.m. Wednesday evenings: Adult small group Bible Study 7 p.m. (Nursery available), Youth Group - 6-12th grades) 7 p.m., nursery and children's ministry, 7 p.m. Family Biblical Counseling available by appointment.

◆ **Spring Lake Presbyterian Church (USA)**, 5887 U.S. 98, Sebring, FL 33876. Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship Service, 10 a.m. Session meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of the month, September through June. Board of Deacon's meet at 5:30 p.m. first Monday of the month. Choir rehearses at 7 p.m. each Wednesday, September through April. Presbyterian Women meet at 10 a.m. the third Thursday of the month. Organist: Richard Wedig. Choir Director: Suzan Wedig. Church phone, 655-0713; e-mail, springlakepc@embarqmail.com, Web site, <http://slpc.embarqspace.com>.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

◆ **Avon Park Seventh-day Adventist Church**, 1410 West Avon Blvd., Avon Park. Phone: 453-6641 or e-mail: avonparksda@embarqmail.com, Sabbath School, 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Church Service 10:45 a.m. Saturday. Wednesday prayer meeting 7 p.m. Community Service hours on Tuesday and Thursday is from 9:00 a.m. till 2 p.m. A sale takes place the first Sunday of each month. Senior Pastor Frank Gonzalez. Walker Memorial Academy Christian School offering education for kindergarten through 12th grades. ALL ARE WELCOME. Associate Pastor is Ryan Amos. Website is www.discov-erjesus.org

◆ **Sebring Seventh-Day Adventist Church**, 2106 N. State Road 17, Sebring; 385-2438. Worship Services: 9:15 a.m. Worship hour, 11 a.m. Prayer meeting, Tuesday, 7:15 p.m. Community service: every Monday 9-11 a.m. Health Seminar with Dr. Seralde, every Friday, 10:00 a.m. Pastor Nathan Madrid.

THE CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

n **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**, 3235 Grand Prix Dr., Sebring, FL 33872; (863) 382-9092 Steve Austin, Bishop; Mark Swift, 1st Counselor; Del Murphy, 2nd Counselor. Family History Center (863) 382-1822. Sunday Services: Sacrament Meeting, 10-11:10 a.m.; Gospel Doctrine, 11:20 a.m. to noon; Priesthood/Relief Society, 12:10-1 p.m.; Primary for children, 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Youth Activities: Wednesdays, 7-8:20 p.m. Scouts: first and third Wednesday, 7-8:20 p.m. Activity Days: 8-11 yr old Boys and Girls, second and fourth Wednesdays, 7-8:20 p.m.

THE SALVATION ARMY

◆ **The Salvation Army - Center for Worship**. Sunday: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Holiness meeting, 11 a.m.; and Praise meeting and lunch, noon. Tuesday: Bible study, 6:30 p.m.; and Women's Ministries, 7 p.m. Wednesday: Youth Ministries, 4 p.m. All meetings are at 120 N. Ridgewood Ave., Sebring. For more information, visit the Web site www.salvationarmysebring.com or call Major Bruce Stefaniak at 385-7548, ext. 110.

UNITED METHODIST

◆ **First United Methodist Church**, 105 S. Pine St., Sebring, FL 33870. The Rev. A.C. Bryant, pastor. Traditional Worship Service at 8:10 and 10:50 a.m. in the sanctuary, Contemporary Worship in the FLC at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Methodist Youth Fellowship at 5:30 p.m. Sundays with Rick Heilig, youth director. The 10:55 a.m. Sunday worship service is broadcast over WITS 1340 on AM dial. There is a nursery available at all services.

◆ **First United Methodist Church**, 200 S. Lake Ave., Avon Park, FL 33825. (863) 453-3759, Devon Jarrett, Pastor. Sunday School - 9 a.m., Worship - 10:30 a.m. Bible study every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Visit us at our church website: www.fumcap.org.

◆ **Memorial United Methodist Church**, 500 Kent Ave., (overlooking Lake Clay) Lake Placid, FL, 33852. Rev. John A. Bryant, pastor. Rev. Claude H.L. Burnett, pastoral assistant. Rev. Jerry McCauley, visitation pastor. Sunday worship services: Worship Service, 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Loving nursery care provided every Sunday morning. Youth Fellowship, 5 p.m. We offer Christ-centered Sunday school classes, youth programs, Bible studies, book studies and Christian fellowship. We are a congregation that wants to know Christ and make Him known. Check out our church website at www.memorialumc.com or call the church office at 465-2422. Lakeview Christian School, VPK to Grade 5, 465-0313.

◆ **St. John United Methodist Church**, 3214 Grand Prix Drive, Sebring, FL 33872. The Rev. Ronald De Genaro Jr., Pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Adult Sunday School, 11 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery provided for all services. Phone 382-1736. www.stjohnsebring.org

◆ **Spring Lake United Methodist Church**, 8170 Cozumel Lane, (Hwy 98) Sebring. The Rev. Clyde Weaver Jr., Pastor. Worship service starts at 9:55 a.m. Bible Study meets at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Choir Practice at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday. Church office phone: 655-0040.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

◆ **Emmanuel United Church of Christ**, Jesus didn't reject people, neither do we. Join us for worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and you'll be embraced by a compassionate congregation that is all-inclusive. We're at the corner of Hammock and Hope. Choir and Bell Choir practice on Wednesday; Bible studies throughout the week. 471-1999; sebringemmanuelucc.com.

Entertainment

Folk artist David Roth to be on stage at Unity Centre on Friday

Special to the News-Sun
SEBRING – Tickets are now on sale for the upcoming performance of David Roth on at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 10.

This concert is the last of the Winter/Spring Concert Series presented at Unity's Life Enrichment Centre, 10417 S. Orange Blossom Blvd.

Roth strikes many chords, hearts, and minds with his unique songs, offbeat observations, moving stories, sense of the hilarious, and powerful singing and subject matter.

As singer, songwriter, recording artist, keynote speaker, workshop leader, and instructor, Roth has earned top honors at premier songwriter competitions – Kerrville, Texas and Falcon Ridge, N.Y. – and taken his music, experience, and expertise to a wide variety of venues in this and other countries full time for more than two decades.

Roth's songs have found their way to Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, several Chicken Soup for the Soul books, the Kennedy Center, Peter, Paul, & Mary concerts, NASA's Goddard

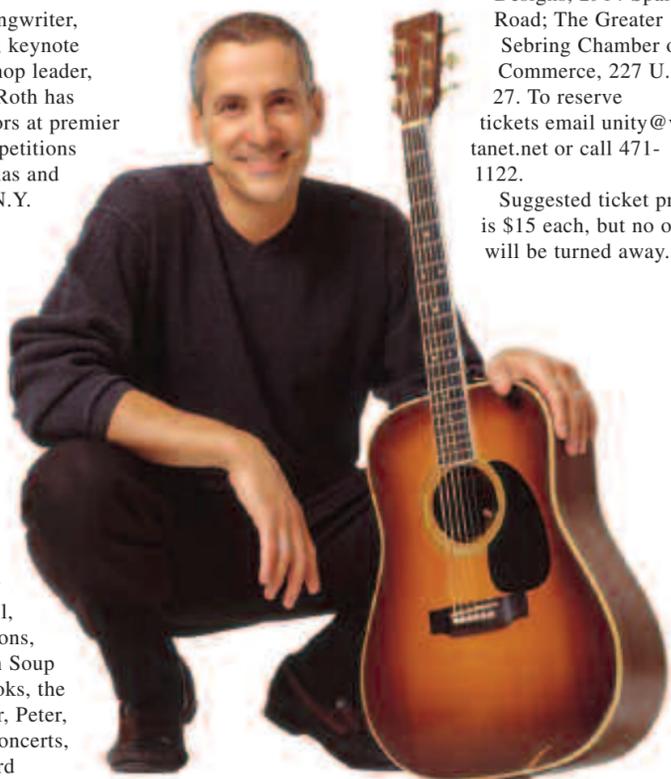
Space Center. His song "Rocket Science" went up on the Space Shuttle Atlantis's May 2009 mission to repair the Hubble Telescope.

Having traveled the world, this classic folk singer and Chicago native (plus two-time national anthem singer for the NBA's Michael Jordan-era Bulls) has garnered accolades for his performances, workshops, writing, and recordings. The BOSE Corporation includes "Taller Than My Hair" and

"Five Blind Men" on their "best of new folk" compilations, and several of David's songs also appear in Barbara Glanz's business best-selling books "Care Packages for the Workplace" (McGraw-Hill), "Care Packages for the Home" (Andrews-McMeel), "What Can I Do" (Lutheran Voices), and "The Simple Truths of Appreciation" (with Ken Blanchard).

This event has limited seating available. Tickets are available at: Alligator Pack and Ship, 4200 Sebring Parkway; Halo's Hair Designs, 2914 Sparta Road; The Greater Sebring Chamber of Commerce, 227 U.S. 27. To reserve tickets email unity@visitanet.net or call 471-1122.

Suggested ticket price is \$15 each, but no one will be turned away.



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Outdoors

Easements to help ranching families, wildlife and military

Base-buffering funding to keep habitat natural

Special to the News-Sun
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS
 — The Wohl family owns the 5,200-acre Rafter T Ranch in Highlands County in a family corporation with 17 shareholders and 10 heirs, with more heirs on the way.

As a result, Jimmy Wohl says the ability to pass ranch property to future generations can be difficult, costly and, in some situations, require piecemeal sale of property. That is one of the reasons he is so pleased to put a conservation easement on a portion of his ranch.

Easements over important habitat on 1,064 acres of Rafter T and on the 318-acre Miller Tract, both in Highlands County, were acquired Friday by The Nature Conservancy and U.S. Air Force.

The easements will not only help keep these ranches whole, they will save important conservation land like rare scrub, help wildlife like Florida panther and black bear, replenish water supplies, and protect the military mission of the Avon Park Air Force Range. Like the Wohls, the Millers will use the easement proceeds to help maintain their ranching lifestyle and enhance the management of their cattle operation.

The easements were bought using funds awarded to Highlands County through a state funded Defense Infrastructure Grant (DIG) and federally funded Readiness and Environment Protection Initiative (REPI) in 2011.

Development of the protected working cattle ranches might have compromised the mission of the Range or interfered with training and testing, as well as impacted numerous plant and animal species.

Easements are an economical way of protecting Florida's most critical resources while allowing the landowner to own and manage the land.

"Cattle ranching provides a very low return on investment, which makes it difficult to pay inheritance taxes or dividends to shareholders," Wohl said.

"With the easement placed on the property, we have some liquidity.

Furthermore, this easement prevents any subdividing of the property and requires the natural communities be preserved and managed.

"We are forever grateful to The Nature Conservancy and Department of Defense for providing this opportunity. Not only are we providing assurances that the men and women who protect this country will always have the Avon Park Air Force Range to practice their skills, but we also have assurances that

the owners of Rafter T Ranch continue to preserve the Florida ranching heritage and the gifts which Mother Nature has graciously bestowed upon us," said Wohl, a recent recipient of a stewardship award from Audubon of Florida.

"These win-win-win partnerships allow us to preserve habitat, protect Florida's ranching heritage and prevent incompatible development adjacent to bases," said Greg Knecht, The Nature Conservancy's director of protection in Florida.

"We look forward to working with the military whenever we can, since our Florida bases contain acres and acres of native habitat critical for a variety of important species."

"The establishment of these easements will facilitate minimum encroachment to Avon Park Air Force Range ensuring our warfighters are able to obtain the most realistic training we can provide," said Lt. Col. Paul Neidhardt, commander, Avon Park Air Force Range.

"Not only will the easements provide a buffer for our training, they will also help preserve the Florida environment by providing habitats for threatened and endangered species."

Along with the Conservancy and the Range, a variety of partners played vital roles in the coordinated effort to protect these ranchlands, including the Department of Defense,

Central Florida Regional Planning Council, who worked with Highlands County, Enterprise Florida and the State of Florida.

"Thanks to support from Enterprise Florida, Inc., the United States Air Force, and Highlands County, these conservation easements will permanently protect the public, the military training mission of the Range, and enable the landowners to continue their ranching activities," said Central Florida Regional Planning Council program director Helen Sears.

"This is a great example of how the Defense Infrastructure Grant program has been successfully utilized in protecting our military installations and, through this partnership, allowed for the continued protection of the surrounding environment," said Secretary of Commerce Gray Swoope, who also serves as president & CEO of Enterprise Florida.

"Strong actions like this exemplify Florida's commitment to being the most military-friendly state in the nation."

Not only are we providing assurances that the men and women who protect this country will always have the Avon Park Air Force Range to practice their skills, but we also have assurances that the owners of Rafter T Ranch continue to preserve the Florida ranching heritage and the gifts which Mother Nature has graciously bestowed upon us.

Jimmy Wohl
 local rancher

River otters spend most of their time eating and playing



Courtesy photo

Even though river otters are not big animals, their appetite is quite large and they can consume up to 25 percent of their body weight daily. They spend about five hours a day searching for food.

Splashing, playing, swimming, diving and sliding are just a few of the antics you may see river otters performing in the course of a day. These adorable, furry creatures rely on a healthy, clean water supply since they are adapted to spending the majority of their lives in water. Their webbed feet as well as long, thick tails quickly propel them through the water.

Since they eat mainly crustaceans, fish, and amphibians, they need to see under the water as they hunt. They have eyes that allow them to see above and under the water. Nostrils close up when they submerge, allowing them to swim underwater without getting liquid up their noses. They also have excellent hearing and sense of smell. Whiskers are sensitive to touch and allow them to find food on the water's bottom.

Because they spend most of their lives in the water, pollution of water bodies is a huge concern for these animals. Otters were once found all over North America. When the Europeans settled here and started to clear the land for development, the otter's habitat began to diminish. The use of pesticides and fertilizers has also contributed to the decline of the otter. Since otters are at the top of the food chain, if their prey has been exposed to chemicals, they are affected. By the early 1980s, 11 states reported no otter population and 13 states reported very few otter populations.

River otters require a large amount of space. Throughout a year, an otter may occupy 50 or more miles of a stream.

River otters are active all year and are usually most lively from early evening through early morning. They are fast in the water but they are even faster on land and can run up to 15-18 mph. Adult otters don't have many natural enemies, especially while in the water. However, juvenile otters are vulnerable to predators such as the fox, wolf and raptors. Unfortunately, most otter



News From The Watershed

Corine Burgess

deaths are caused by humans as well as water pollution.

These lively creatures dig dens, which are called holts. The holt's main entrance will most likely be underwater and lead to a small space above the water. Holts are generally dug into a riverbank or hollow log and have several holes placed to allow air in. The mother otter will have her young within these holts, where they will remain for several months.

Historically the North American River Otter was sought after for its beautiful pelt, which is waterproof. The fur of the otter allows it to regulate its temperature. The color of the pelts range from grey and white to brown and black.

Swimming at an average speed of seven miles per hour, otters are stealth-like and make hardly a splash or ripple. They can stay under water for up to two minutes and are also excellent divers. They also communicate with their noses by smelling marked territories. When they do speak to one another it is usually with chirps, chuckles, grunts, whistles and screams.

River otters are usually small animals that can reach about four feet in length and weigh around 30 pounds. Even though they are not very big, their appetite is quite large and they can consume up to 25 percent of their body weight daily. They spend about five hours a day searching for food.

Otters are quite vocal

and very communicative with each other. They often touch noses when greeting each other. They seem to enjoy every minute of their playful lives and often seem quite animated and friendly. We could all take a lesson from this joyful creature whose main goal seems to be eating and playing.

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

Things you otter know

- ◆ Otters are related to weasels, minks, badgers and wolverines. They are known as Mustelids, which all have scent glands they use to mark territory.
- ◆ River otters can stay underwater for up to eight minutes and can close their ears and nostrils to keep water out. They can also dive to a depth of 60 feet!
- ◆ River otters primarily eat fish. They are also known to eat whatever is easiest to find, like crustaceans, mollusks, insects, birds, oysters, shellfish, crabs, crayfish, frogs, rodents, turtles and aquatic invertebrates.
- ◆ River otters live in all types of habitats. The only consistency with these habitats is accessible high quality water and an abundant food supply.
- ◆ A river otter will only settle in a location with sufficient coverage, usually vegetation or structures such as rock piles.
- ◆ River otters are very playful animals and can very often be seen playing games. Social groups are typically made up of adult females and their pups. However, there are also groups of individual males.
- ◆ Otters mate from December to April and will have two to three pups.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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Shopping

ETHICAL CLOTHING

Shoppers struggle to find garments made under safe working conditions

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK — You can recycle your waste, grow your own food and drive a fuel-efficient car. But being socially responsible isn't so easy when it comes to the clothes on your back.

Take Jason and Alexandra Lawrence of Lyons, Colo. The couple eat locally grown food that doesn't have to be transported from far-flung states. They fill up their diesel-powered Volkswagen and Dodge pickup with vegetable-based oil. They even bring silverware to a nearby coffeehouse to avoid using the shop's plastic utensils.

But when it comes to making sure that their clothes are made in factories that are safe for workers, the couple fall short.

"Clothing is one of our more challenging practices," says Jason Lawrence, 35, who mostly buys second-hand. "I don't want to travel around the world to see where my pants come from."

Last week's building collapse in Bangladesh that killed hundreds of clothing factory workers put a spotlight on the sobering fact that people in poor countries often risk their lives working in unsafe factories to make the cheap T-shirts and underwear that Westerners covet.

The disaster, which comes after a fire in another Bangladesh factory killed 112 people last November, also highlights something just as troubling for socially conscious shoppers: It's nearly impossible to make sure the clothes you buy come from factories with safe working conditions.

Very few companies sell clothing that's so-called "ethically made," or marketed as being made in factories that maintain safe working conditions. In fact, ethically made clothes make up a tiny fraction of 1 percent of the overall \$1 trillion global fashion industry. And with a few exceptions, such as the 250-store clothing chain American Apparel Inc., most aren't national brands.

It's even more difficult to figure out if your clothes are

made in safe factories if you're buying from retailers that don't specifically market their clothes as ethically made. That's because major chains typically use a complex web of suppliers in countries such as Bangladesh, which often contract business to other factories. That means the retailers themselves don't always know the origin of

whether the product was manufactured in safe conditions," says Craig Johnson, president of Customer Growth Partners, a retail consultancy. "For U.S.-made labels, you have good assurance, but the farther you get away from the U.S., the less confidence you have."

To be sure, most global retailers have standards for workplace safety in the factories that make their clothes. And the companies typically require that contractors and subcontractors follow these guidelines. But policing factories around the world is a costly, time-consuming process that's difficult to manage.

In fact, there were five factories alone in the building that collapsed in Bangladesh last week. They produced clothing for big name retailers including British retailer Primark, Children's Place and Canadian company Loblaw Inc., which markets the Joe Fresh clothing line.

"I have seen factories in (Bangladesh and other countries), and I know how difficult it is to monitor the factories to see they are safe," says Walter Loeb, a New York-based retail consultant.

And some experts say that retailers have little incentive to be more proactive and do more because the public isn't pushing them to do so.

America's Research Group, which interviews 10,000 to 15,000 consumers a week mostly on behalf of retailers, says that even in the aftermath of two deadly tragedies in Bangladesh, shoppers seem more concerned with fit and price than whether their clothes were made in factories where workers are safe and

For the consumer, it's virtually impossible to know whether the product was manufactured in safe conditions. For U.S.-made labels, you have good assurance, but the farther you get away from the U.S., the less confidence you have.

Craig Johnson
retail consultant

clothes when they're made overseas.

And even a "Made in USA" label only provides a small amount of assurance for a socially conscious shopper. For instance, maybe the tailors who assembled the skirt may have had good working conditions. But the fabric might have been woven overseas by people who do not work in a safe environment.

"For the consumer, it's virtually impossible to know



MCT
Maria Robles does trimming in the sewing department at the American Apparel factory in Los Angeles, Calif. The company is one of the few 'safe' factories that has a name as a national brand.

make reasonable wages.

C. Britt Beemer, chairman of the firm, says when he polls shoppers about their biggest concerns, they rarely mention "where something is made" or "abuses" in the factories in other countries.

"We have seen no consumer reaction to any charges about harmful working conditions," he says.

Tom Burson, 49, certainly is focused more on price and quality when he's shopping. Burson says that if someone told him that a brand of jeans is made in "sweatshops by 8-year-olds," he wouldn't buy it. But he says, overall, there is no practical way for him to trace where his pants were made.

"I am looking for value," says Burson, a management consultant who lives in Ashburn, Va. "I am not callous and not unconcerned about the conditions of the workers. It's just that when I

am standing in a clothing store and am comparing two pairs of pants, there's nothing I can do about it. I need the pants."

In light of the recent disasters, though, some experts and retailers say things are slowly changing. They say more shoppers are starting to pay attention to labels and

where their clothes are made.

Swati Argade, a clothing designer who promotes her Bhoomki boutique in the Brooklyn borough of New York City as "ethically fashioned," says people have been more conscious about where their clothes come from.

Eric Palosky D.O.

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Inspirational Thoughts & Scriptures



Inspirational Thoughts

by Patricia Valentine

Romans 4:17-21, "As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations, in him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father

of many nations, according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sa-rah's womb; he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able to perform." Though Abraham and Sarah moved beyond the physical limits of child bearing, and though the promise was delayed for many decades, God had spoken, and Abraham obediently waited for that of which was absolutely certain. Abraham knew God's word was certain. In this passage of scripture Abraham did not stagger at the promise of God, but was strong in his faith, giving glory to God. The scripture continued saying, he was fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able to perform. Abraham had faith in God. He is also listed among the Faith of Patriarchs in the 11th chapter of Hebrews. There are many promises in the Word of God for the people of God. If God made the promise, you can stand assure He is able to perform it. What promise you have not seen fulfilled? I encourage you to be strong in the faith and do not faint while you wait. Be Blessed!

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James,
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Mom, Dad, Nathan,
and Kayleigh



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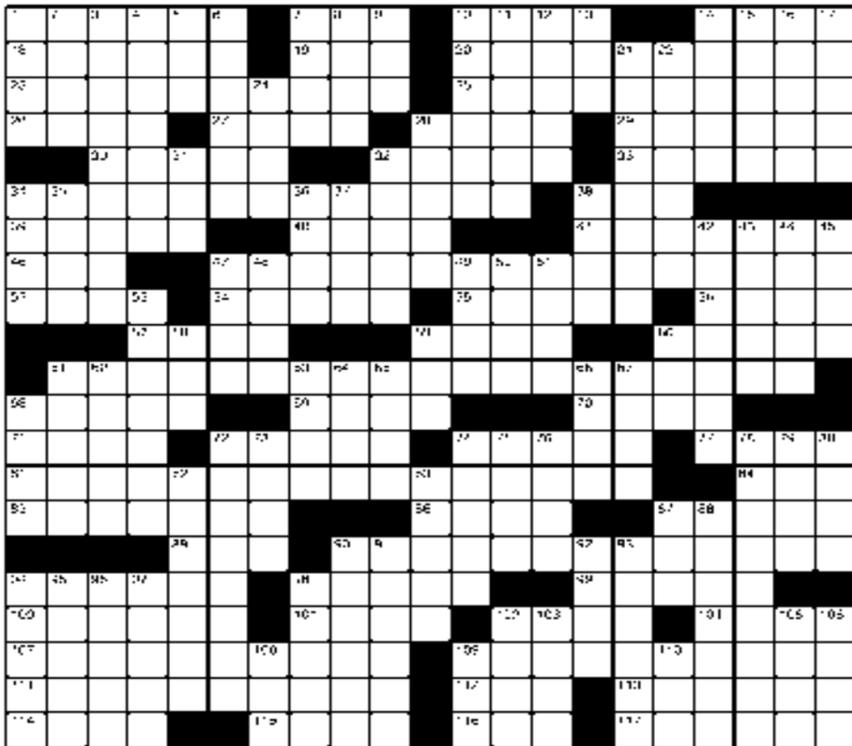
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Diversions

HACKER

By JEAN O'CONNOR



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Solution on page B11

Future with man paying for his past is clouded

Dear Abby: I'm a 60-year-old woman with grown children. My husband and I divorced after 30 years of marriage because he met someone at work. It was a quick process, and because I was in shock, I agreed to the terms of the divorce even though they weren't in my favor.



Dear Abby

Two years ago I met a very nice man who treats me with respect and love. He wants a future for us, and so do I, but I can't get over one thing: He has two illegitimate children — one he didn't even know about — and although the son is an adult, he is still paying back support.

I hate to sound like a snob, but this situation isn't OK with me. I'm afraid I will always bring it up when I am angry. I'm thinking maybe if we wait until the support obligation has ended I might feel different, but who knows? I'd appreciate some advice.

— Can't Get Over It in Georgia

Dear Can't Get Over It: I know very few people over 35 who don't carry some kind of baggage from past experiences. You don't have to approve of everything in his suitcase, but if you plan on having a long-term relationship with this "very nice man," you will have to accept that he is fulfilling his legal obligation.

Dragging the past into the present during an argu-

ment is an unhealthy expression of anger. It's guaranteed to drive a partner away.

Until you can find a more constructive way to work out disagreements, you shouldn't marry anyone.

Dear Abby: My husband and I are in our 30s and have been married 15 years.

Over the past year we have been intimate only about once every three months.

I tried to spice things up to see if I could get him interested, but he reacted by becoming upset, defensive and insinuating that I have an unnatural fixation on sex.

After some discussions, it turns out he's having erectile dysfunction problems. I was relieved to know it wasn't lack of interest, but now I'm even more confused by his unwillingness to see a doctor.

It has been a couple of months since he confided his problem to me, but he has done nothing to try and correct it.

I offered to go to the doctor with him, have joint therapy — I even tried being

a little extra kinky to see if it would help.

He still refuses to see a doctor or go to therapy. I'm completely stumped and unsure what else to do. Any advice will truly be appreciated.

— Needs Lovin' in California

Dear Needs Lovin': You have done everything you can do. Your husband may be embarrassed or afraid, which is why he's avoiding going to a doctor.

Be supportive, but you need to ask him what he plans to do about this — if anything — because the absence of physical affection is unfair to you.

Dear Abby: My 14-year-old granddaughter "Lana" has unfriended me on Facebook twice during the last week.

Her mother told me she has been unfriended, too, because Lana doesn't want adults seeing what she's doing on Facebook. How would you handle this?

— Nana in Ohio

Dear Nana: I'd suggest that Lana's mother tell her daughter that if she wants to continue on Facebook, she had better keep Mom and Grandma as friends.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Sagittarius, you may be hurt by the truth this week

Metro News Service

Aries (March 21-April 20) — Aries, you may feel like you need to move faster to get ahead, but the opposite is true this week. Slow down and focus on the details and you will benefit.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) — Taurus, though the first few days of the week may seem disastrous, hang in there and you will find things will turn around quite quickly.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) — Gemini, sometimes you have to make some noise to be heard, which may seem out of character for you. If the cause is that important, you will do what is necessary.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Cancer, you can't get enough of a certain thing, but you may need to pace yourself. Otherwise your interest may start to wane. A surprise situation arises on Thursday.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 23) — Leo, there are things you need to say to a particular person in your life. But you do not know how to express your opinions in a way that's easy to understand. Speak from the heart.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 22) — You may be feeling a bit under the weather this week, Virgo. It's likely due to you pushing your schedule to the limits. Schedule some recovery time for yourself.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Libra, you need to rely on someone this week for a big project, but you don't know who to choose. Make a list of your best prospects, and then you can narrow it down from there.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You can use a break from the daily grind, Scorpio. It might be time to plan a getaway. You may want to make

Horoscope

this a solo trip so you can fully recharge.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — The truth can sometimes hurt a bit, Sagittarius. But a dose of honesty this week provides the reality check you have been needing. Make some changes.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Capricorn, an event this week gets you fired up and excited. It could be the news you have been waiting to hear from work or from a significant other.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18) — Aquarius, knowing when to keep quiet can be

difficult, especially when you suspect something is off-kilter. This week you will be put to the test.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Pisces, the week may begin somewhat aimlessly, but things will all come together by the middle of the week.

Famous birthdays

- May 5: Adele, singer, 25;
- May 6: Tom Bergeron, TV host, 58;
- May 7: Breckin Meyer, actor, 39;
- May 8: Enrique Iglesias, singer, 38;
- May 9: Billy Joel, singer, 64;
- May 10: Donovan, singer, 67;
- May 11: Cory Monteith, actor, 31.

Leaning on God first



Pause And Consider

Jan Merop

While visiting my brother with our grandchildren during the holidays, his Mini-Pin dog barked continually even after we were seated in the house. This tiny, exceptionally cute dog saw us as a threat and went into protection mode.

She may weigh hardly anything, but she has a ferocious heart. She had been rescued and then adopted by my brother and his wife. She knew who loved her and didn't let her size keep her from exercising her defenses.

But, that ferocity had set in motion fear in my granddaughter that had her clinging to me like she was draped there.

Before we arrived, I hadn't been concerned about how Izzy and our grandchildren would get along. They're at home with their two pets — two large Labrador retrievers. So I didn't think this pint sized bundle would be a problem.

But, they'd never encountered such a wiry personality in a dog with a high-pitched bark to match.

walked over to see the Christmas tree and wrapped presents on the other side of the doggy fence. Izzy was there in an instant barking and jumping, causing all kinds of commotion. Hayley leaped into my arms ... and whether or not I thought her too heavy to carry, she helped me lift her by crawling up and clinging for dear life.

As I think back to that incident, it makes me think of whose arms I jump into when I'm frightened or dismayed.

When health concerns press in; when financial issues need resolving; when hurts or broken relationships threaten, where do I run to feel safe?

It is good to have my husband, children, parents and other extended family and friends to turn to. But, my first thoughts and actions must always be to God. Through my relationship with Jesus Christ, I can cling to him and know that he will strengthen, uphold and sustain me. He will give me the wisdom I need and carry me through difficult times.

Recently, one of my daughters-by-love passed on a verse of Scripture that had spoken to her. At a time when I needed it, there were God's words assuring me again. She found the passage in Isaiah 41:10, NKJV, where it says,

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

And so I lean on God first as I turn to others who care and pray to the One to whom I cling. Selah

Jan Merop of Sebring is a News-Sun correspondent.

SUDOKU

6			2		4			
			7	8	1			
2			8		5			
	1	4		6	8	9		
5		7	2					
					6			
4								
	3							6
	5					7		

Fill In The Numbers

Like puzzles? Try our new sudoku. The mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off. So sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works.

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a grid and broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the correct numbers to appear by using the numbers already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	7	8	1	7	2	9	6	9
9	1	9	2	8	8	8	2	1
2	6	1	9	9	5	8	2	1
5	8	2	8	6	1	2	7	6
2	1	7	6	2	2	9	9	9
6	9	4	9	9	4	1	3	2
1	9	8	1	7	8	6	1	2
1	2	8	1	7	9	6	6	3
4	1	8	3	1	2	2	8	8

ANSWER:

Living

ADDICTED?

Want help? Send a text to ... No, wait. That's not gonna work.

Metro

Are you addicted to your smartphone or mobile device? If so, rest assured that you are not alone.

A survey conducted by SecurEnvoy found that roughly 66 percent of people are afraid of losing or being separated from their phones. The condition has been dubbed "nomophobia," or the fear of being out of contact with someone via mobile phone.

Data collected by the Pew Research Center has concluded nearly 85 percent of Americans own cell phones. A 2011 survey by mobile app company TeleNav, Inc., found that 40 percent of people with iPhones said they'd rather give up brushing their teeth for a week than go without their phones.

Today's mobile devices are used for everything from checking stock quotes to scouring for coupons to keeping tabs on teenagers. Many rely on their phones for directions or to read reviews on local establishments. Many people have grown so accustomed to using mobile phones that their reliance has grown into an addiction. Who doesn't know the person who is compulsively checking e-mail, sending texts or updating their social media status via their phone?

While there are many benefits to mobile phone usage, there are pitfalls as well. Instances of distracted drivers injured or killed while using their mobile phones are well documented. Some even believe that relying too heavily on phones can impair a person's ability to focus and may intensify stress and feelings of depression.



Put down the phone (or iPod or iPad or whatever). Believe it or not, there are other things you can do.

Write a note

Writing notes on paper can be a great way to express yourself. Think about how you feel while writing the letter and imagine the look of surprise on the recipient's face when he or she finds it in the mailbox and it's not yet just another application for a credit card within the envelope.

Hide your phone

Put the phone in a drawer or closet and make sure it is turned off. Spend time around

the house and grow accustomed to how it feels to be off the grid. Then do something as adventurous as running out to the store or to pick up the kids at school without your phone.

Focus on a fun activity

Invest your time wholeheartedly in an activity that you enjoy. Make this a digital-free time. Consider how well you can enjoy the time when you're not multitasking on a phone or waiting for a text message or incoming e-mail to interrupt your train of thought.

Get cooking

Immerse yourself in a recipe and cook a meal that allows you to relax and keep your mind off of status updates and tweets.

Take a nap

Turn off the entire world for a while by snuggling in a comfortable spot and zoning out for an hour.

Spend time with friends

Instead of texting friends to catch up, invite a couple of

friends over to socialize in person. Face-to-face interactions can be a great way to unwind and share a few laughs.

Look at old photos (as in ones printed on paper)

Take out photo albums and look over tangible, printed photos from times when it was commonplace to hold photos in your hands and not squint at them on LCD screens. Think about how many years you survived without a mobile phone. See? It is possible to live without it.

OPTOMETRIST OF THE YEAR: Dr. Ronald Sevigny



Congratulations to my father for getting *Optometrist of the Year* for Highlands County! We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments.

from Mark and the whole Sevigny family



SEVIGNY ASSOCIATES
EYE CARE