

# NEWS-SUN

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**Projects that are kid and earth friendly**  
B1



**Streaks knock off Oklahoma state champs**  
A9



**Something to chew on: Gum is losing its pop** B3

NS www.newssun.com

Sunday, March 23, 2014

## Highlands home prices lag behind state

BY MANUEL CORTAZAL  
Special to the News-Sun

State prices up 11 percent last year, but county had just 2.2 percent rise

closely watched gauge that tracks data in 20 large metropolitan areas and nationally.

Highlands homeowners who saw their home values plummet after the housing boom went bust will have to hold out hope that 2014 is kinder to them than last year.

While Tampa, Miami, and other cities across the nation hit hard by the 2008 collapse posted double-digit sales price gains, Highlands registered a meager 2.2 percent in-

crease in 2013. Outside of Highlands home prices are on a tear. "Year-over-year price growth remains robust," said Brad O'Connor, a research economist with

Florida Realtors, in his 2014 guidance to members of the trade group. He said Floridians selling single-family homes last year fetched prices 11 percent higher than in 2012, based

on his group's analysis of sales data. Nationwide in 2013, home prices rose 11 percent from their 2012 levels according S&P's Case-Shiller Home Price Index, a

But the upward momentum lifting home price across the nation and state sidestepped Highlands last

SEE PRICES | A5

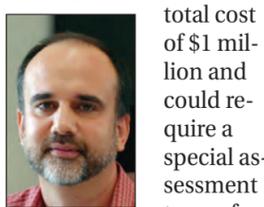
## Avon Park to consider buying utility

BY PHIL ATTINGER  
Staff Writer

AVON PARK — The City Council may discuss Monday whether or not the city should take on another wastewater service area.

Sebring Ridge Utilities has approached the city with an offer to have the city buy its wastewater system for \$500,000. The item is listed on the agenda for the Avon Park City Council meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, at 123 E. Pine St.

City Manager Julian Deleon has estimated the system would need at least that much more in improvements, which would give the project a



DELEON

total cost of \$1 million and could require a special assessment to pay for those improvements, Deleon said. The utility has three lift stations and 530 residential units or that many equivalent residential units, Deleon said in agenda materials. The estimated cost of connecting to the city, should the city take on the utility, would be \$1,887 per connection, which could be financed over 15 years at 5 percent for an added sewer bill fee of \$14.92 per month.

Of course, he said, each customer could opt to pay his or her cost all at once.

With a 70 percent occupancy rate at \$35 per

SEE UTILITY | A6

## NIGHT LIGHTS



Katara Simmons/News-Sun

While fireflies are not the easiest subjects to photograph, they are extremely impressive in person. Thousands of the illuminated insects can be seen nightly for the next few weeks at Highlands Hammock State Park in Sebring.

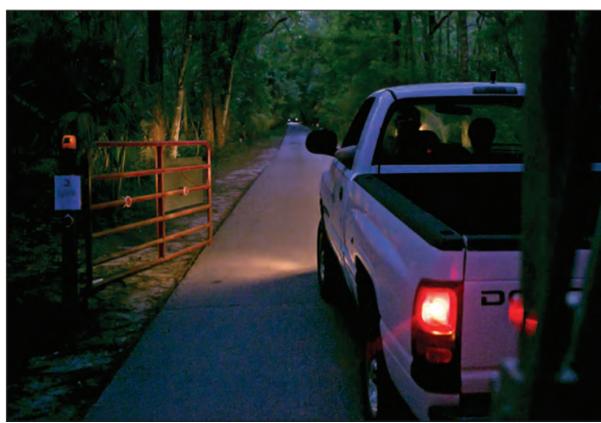
## Fireflies take center stage at Hammock

BY SAMANTHA GHOLAR  
Staff Writer

SEBRING — If you use your imagination, the Fireflies in the Hammock event could easily pass as an interstellar experience.

Floating, glowing, flashing and whisking through the air, thousands of fireflies put on an awe-inspiring

SEE FIREFLIES | A7



Katara Simmons/News-Sun

Highlands Hammock State Park is offering a new nightly firefly experience at the park in Sebring. Visitors can pay to take a tram through the park to see the glowing beetles in their natural habitat.

## County warned of budget issues

Weaknesses in internal controls over reporting just one of the problems

BY BARRY FOSTER  
News-Sun Correspondent

Sebring — Highlands County commissioners have been warned about a number of problems with their budget process, including weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting and issues surrounding the county's involvement with the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program.

The advisories came from representatives of CliftonLarsonAllen, who performed the annual audit for the county.

"Over the last few years we have reported internal control problems related to the SHIP program," said Julie Fowler, who made the presentation to the county commission Tuesday.

This year, as part of the program, Fowler said that the county's Local Housing Assistance Plan for 2010-2013 had not been submitted to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for approval.

"As a result, there was one plan the county was operating under locally and another the state thought you were using," she told the board.

SEE BUDGET | A6

## Culverhouse says kids inspired run for school board



CULVERHOUSE

BY PHIL ATTINGER  
Staff Writer

SEBRING — Clinton Culverhouse said it's hard to put his passion for local schools into a "nutshell."

Culverhouse, 33, has lived in Highlands County all his life and considers himself lucky to be born, raised, married and raising his own children here — especially because of the schools. His

mother, aunt, and now his wife, Ashley Jackson Culverhouse, all have either worked for or taught in the school district.

"What drove me to do this is my kids," Culverhouse

said. "Being involved in their lives has opened up a new world for me."

Culverhouse has been married 11 years. He and

SEE RUN | A7

VOL. 95  
NO. 33



Partly sunny and fairly warm  
High 86 Low 65  
Details on A14



Books ..... B7 Dear Abby ..... B2 Religion ..... B6  
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Courtesy photo

Pat Young (from left), president of The Arc of Florida, Deborah Linton, executive director of The Arc of Florida and Rhonda Beckman, CEO of Ridge Area Arc who were in Tallahassee Tuesday, March 18 for the Disability Awareness Day.

# Arc urges lawmakers to invest in communities

Special to the News-Sun

TALLAHASSEE — The Arc of Florida, Ridge Area Arc and Florida Developmental Disabilities Council on March 18 unveiled a plan designed to ensure that Floridians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are fully included in their communities and not segregated in institutions and nursing homes.

The four-part Invest in Florida's Communities plan includes Medicaid Waiver Waitlist Funding, Increased Rates for Services, Community-Based Services and Alternative Family Homes.

"We encourage lawmakers and Gov. Scott to take this opportunity to invest in our communities and protect some of Florida's most vulnerable citizens," said Pat Young, president of The Arc of

Florida. "This plan will keep individuals with developmental disabilities out of institutions and allow them to become contributing members of society."

"The approval of this plan would have a very positive impact on services available to individuals in Highlands County," said Ridge Area Arc CEO Rhonda Beckman.

Here is a breakdown of the Invest in Florida's Communities plan:

The plan calls for Florida to invest in Medicaid Waiver Waitlist Funding by supporting the Governor's recommendation for \$20 million in funding, increase provider rates by 5 percent for the 2014-2015 fiscal year without taking funding away from current client services, to create and implement a comprehensive five-year plan

to reduce the number of people with I/DD living in Florida institutions and for funding and services to be made available to families caring for children who are medically fragile so they can leave nursing homes and return to their communities.

The Arc of Florida, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities. Working with local, state and national partners, The Arc of Florida advocates for local chapters, public policies and high quality supports for people with developmental and other disabilities to be fully included in all aspects of their community.

Find out how to get involved by visiting [www.arcflorida.org](http://www.arcflorida.org).

# County reforming Affordable Housing Committee

BY BARRY FOSTER  
News-Sun Correspondent

SEBRING — Highlands County officials are looking for 11 good people who are willing to serve in an effort to put the county's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee back together.

Highlands County Commissioners recently decided to re-activate the board which is charged with, among other things, reviewing policies, procedures ordinances and land development regulations as well as ensuring compliance with the county's comprehensive land use development plan.

"I am personally excited about the re-establishment of the board," said Highlands County Commissioner Don Elwell, who recently was assigned as the new liaison to the county's much-troubled housing assistance effort.

"The committee's input

and recommendations will be very helpful as our county's approach to affordable housing continues to evolve."

Specifically being sought are residents who are involved in the residential home building industry, advocates for low-income persons, banking or mortgage bank representatives, home building labor representatives, real estate professionals, planning agency members, educators, those working in the medical field, utility workers, those in public safety, but other residents are invited to apply.

Board members will be given two-year terms and will be appointed by county commissioners. Applications will be accepted through April 30.

"We hope to raise as much awareness in the community as possible," said Highlands County Community Programs/Administrative Project Manager Chris Benson,

who was assigned the responsibility of overseeing the county's housing program

**Final Nature Walk of spring is Monday**

SEBRING — The final Monday Morning Nature Walk that volunteer trail guides Brian and Susan Woodworth will be leading this spring will be held Monday at Highlands Hammock State Park.

The walk will be on the Fern Garden Trail from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

The walk is free. Regular park admission of \$6 per vehicle (up to eight per car) or \$4 per vehicle (one person) applies.

**Cornerstone Academy plans open house**

AVON PARK — Officials of the Cornerstone Christian Academy have announced an open house for their new facility on Sunday, April 6, beginning at 2 p.m.

The two-story building is on the grounds of the Avon Park Lakes Baptist Church and now is being used for student instruction.

There will be students on site for the event, as well as video presentations on how classes are run and what students are learning at the new facility.

Call headmaster Jenny Cornell at 453-0894 or email [jennycornell@ccaap.org](mailto:jennycornell@ccaap.org).

**NRAC meets Wednesday**

SEBRING — The Natural Resources Advisory Committee will hold a meeting at 4 p.m. Wednesday in Conference Room 3 of the Bert J. Harris Agricultural Center, 4509 George Blvd.

**Kindergarten Roundup is Tuesday**

AVON PARK — Walker Memorial Academy will hold its "Kindergarten Roundup" on Tuesday. Call 453-3131, Ext. 201, to sign up for your choice of a one-hour session at 9 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. You can visit the classroom, meet the principal, tour campus and ask ques-

**SNAPSHOTS**

**LOCAL NEWS**

tions for pre-testing. Students must be 5 years old before Aug. 15. For financial assistance, check out [www.StepUpForStudents.org/](http://www.StepUpForStudents.org/).

**LPHS students collecting bikes**

LAKE PLACID — Lake Placid High School's Student Government Association has teamed up with the Highlands County Sheriff's Office to prevent delinquency and develop strong, lawful, resilient and productive citizens who will make a positive contribution to Highlands County for years to come.

Each summer, the HCSO hosts a youth camp. This year, the SGA has decided to take on the task of collecting bicycles for that camp, where the bicycles stay to be used in coming years.

The SGA has a goal of collecting 30 bicycles during the month of April. They are asking for gently used or new bicycles, but will also accept monetary donations to buy bicycles.

If interested in sending a check, make it payable to Lake Placid High School and mail it to the SGA at 202 Green Dragon Drive, Lake Placid, FL 33852. To find out more about donating a bicycle, call the high school at 699-5010 or email [sohnm@highlands.k12.us](mailto:sohnm@highlands.k12.us).

**Arbuckle Creek boat ramp to be closed**

SEBRING — The Highlands County Parks and Recreation Department's Arbuckle Creek Road boat ramp will be closed for repair and maintenance from April 7 through May 15, 2014. It is schedule to re-open Friday, May 16.

For further information on boat ramp closings you may contact the Highlands County Parks and Recreation Department at (863) 402-6812.

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**LOTTERY**

**CASH 3**  
Wednesday, March 19  
Day: 9-4-4 Night: 4-9-3  
Thursday, March 20  
Day: 4-0-1 Night: 1-6-6  
Friday, March 21  
Day: 4-8-5 Night: 6-4-2

**FANTASY 5**  
Wednesday, March 19  
1-19-22-23-27  
Thursday, March 20  
4-7-16-28-29  
Friday, March 21  
3-5-6-8-21

**POWERBALL**  
Wednesday, March 19  
2-19-23-24-34-43 PB-14 X-2  
Saturday's Jackpot: \$96 million

**MEGA MONEY**  
Friday, March 21  
13-24-38-42 PB-13  
Today's Jackpot: \$550,000

**PLAY 4**  
Wednesday, March 19  
Day: 2-8-1-1 Night: 3-6-0-0  
Thursday, March 20  
Day: 0-4-1-4 Night: 2-8-9-5  
Friday, March 21  
Day: 2-9-3-8 Night: 9-9-8-0

**LOTTO**  
Wednesday, March 19  
8-9-24-36-38-40 X-2  
Saturday's Jackpot:  
\$24 million

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Friday, March 21  
2-23-30-35-53 PB-10 X-5  
Today's Jackpot: \$20 million

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## CHILDREN'S MUSEUM HONORS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Courtesy photo

Olivia Worley, the 2013 volunteer of the year is shown accepting her award from Linda Crowder, Director of The Children's Museum. "Olivia has been a wonderful asset to the Museum," Crowder said. "We really appreciate her dedication." The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit the Museum website at [www.childrensmuseumhighlands.com](http://www.childrensmuseumhighlands.com) for more information.

## Seminole Tribe program is Monday at Circle Theatre

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — Van Samuels, outreach specialist from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, will present a program on the history and culture of the Seminole Tribe of Florida at the Circle Theatre in Sebring at 2:30 p.m. Monday.

Samuels comes from the AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum in Clewiston. Guests will learn who the Seminole people are, how they came to be in Florida and how they survive in the Everglades. Samples of their dress and artwork will also be available.

This is the second in

a series of programs on "Getting to Know the Real Florida," presented by the Highlands County Genealogical Society and the Capt. John W. Whidden Chapter UDC. Topics of future programs will be railroads, stories of old Florida, the real Ponce de Leon, and old timey music.

Tickets for Samuels' program are \$7 and may be purchased at the Circle Theatre or the downtown office of the Sebring Chamber of Commerce.

The Sweet Shop of the Theatre will be open for the purchase of popcorn, candy, ice cream and drinks.

## Pay adjustments on hold for 3 departments

BY SAMANTHA GHOLAR  
Staff Writer

SEBRING — Pay increases for three city departments — fire, police and city clerk — are on the back burner for now as the city prepares to head into budget season with two new faces on the council.

City Administrator Scott Noethlich presented the council with requests from the departments for pay adjustments Tuesday.

"There's three departments requesting adjustments. The police department requests are from the chief, the commander and two record clerks. Code enforcement is also included in the adjustment. This can be funded by a frozen position at the beginning of the year," Noethlich said.

The Sebring Fire Department wage adjustments were approved by council late last year. The adjustments, if approved, would be funded within this year's current budget.

"There we are looking at adjustments for the fire chief and three deputy chiefs," said Noethlich. "The adjustments can be made with no impact on the current budget."

The city clerk along

with two of the clerk's employees are up for adjustments, which will be funded by the current budget.

Councilman John Griffin made a motion to table the request for wage adjustments until budget talk begins for the city and its departments.

The motion passed 3-2 with Scott Stanley, John Griffin and Andrew Fells voting yes and John Clark and Bud Whitlock casting dissenting votes.

No specific date was set for the item to return to the agenda.

# Avon Park Planning & Zoning Board to take field trip Tuesday

BY PHIL ATTINGER  
Staff Writer

AVON PARK — The city's Planning and Zoning Board will have a field trip Tuesday evening.

Members need to see the location of a city right of way together because it got confusing during last Tuesday's meeting.

The board will meet at or shortly after 5 p.m. Tuesday at 301 E. Circle St., where Councilman Garrett Anderson lives on land co-owned by his sisters, Candice Anderson and Brittany McGuire.

Anderson and McGuire requested the city vacate a section of right of way that crosses the property from the end of North Lake Verona Boulevard south to East Circle Street. Anderson told the board last Tuesday that the city has approved drainage plans using land close to the lake, but not the right of way he's asking to have vacated.

McGuire said immediate neighbors on East Circle Street and commercial entities approved, but they didn't hear from the city. When she took the application to City Manager Julian Deleon, she said he offered to trade the right of way for all of their lake-side property on East Circle Street, to extend the city's multi-use path.

"I talked to engineers and they agreed that they are two separate issues. You can't try to trade like that," Anderson said.

Deleon, who wasn't at Tuesday's meeting, had concerns read into the record by Administrative Services Director Maria Sutherland. He advised against vacating the right of way, claiming the city might need that property in the future to create drainage and retention as the only remaining right of way the city had, and said giving it up would take away the city's flexibility for future drainage

## Members need to see city right of way to clear up confusion

improvements.

While stating that the city was "not opposed to a possible trade off to mitigate other drainage concerns," Deleon also wrote, "The city is not required to vacate what has been platted as a public right of way."

Anderson said the city drainage plans, as drafted by Polston Engineering Inc. of Sebring, call for no pipes,

berms, ponds or other drainage improvements along the right of way from North Lake Verona Boulevard to East Circle Street. One pipe goes through the lower portion of the right of way, from East Circle Street to the lake, and he was fine with that, he said.

Anderson said he received an email from Deleon saying the city needed all of the right of way to complete the project, but he saw no evidence of that in the plans. He also said the city didn't need the full lakefront property because the pathway is designed to fit the existing street right of way.

"As for water retention, it's a well-known fact that

you cannot put water retention on a steep slope," Anderson said. "This easement is a steep slope all the way down to the lake. You can't put swales on a steep slope. They wash out. Any engineer knows that."

McGuire said Anderson hopes to put up a fence and a retaining wall to keep the land from washing out in storms.

Engineer Dale Polston said the plan is to provide as much retention as possible on city land. He said the city is using an "outfall pipe" on the lake side of the street, but none of the land north of the street.

He did say, however, that more right of way along Circle Street could help with drainage plans.

Tuesday's discussion brought up other issues. Board member Jean Jordan, whose daughter lives adjacent to the property, was upset someone had put up "no trespassing" signs along North Lake Verona Boulevard, which has impeded parking during Independence Day celebrations.

McGuire and her parents told the board they had to put up signs to prevent people from using parts of their 17-acre tract for car parties and to keep four-wheeler riders — including Jordan's grandson — off the property. Both situations are liability hazards, she said.



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## OUR VIEW

## Zoning rules are there for a reason

**W**e're going to miss Sebring City Councilor John Clark.

For example, at the March 18 Sebring City Council meeting — during a discussion of a developer's request for a zoning change to allow for a higher density apartment complex — Clark cut right to the heart of the matter saying, "These development agreements come out to be a big joke because we've never not modified them."

He was referring to the history of exceptions given to developers for projects at odds with the long-term master plan.

It is essential to consider the future if a community is to thrive. During the colonial period and beyond, there was more than enough room. Immigrants arriving in the New World generally cleared land and built structures where and as they wished.

As towns and cities grew and became more crowded, however, they were forced to adapt, especially following the industrial revolution and the rise of industry, motorized traffic and rapidly increasing populations.

With plentiful opportunities for developers, sub-divisions rapidly sprawled across Florida, often creating pockets of poverty and crime or endangering the environment.

As communities learned more about the causes of social decay and the dangers of pollution, they made a conscious effort to protect natural resources and create compatible residential areas while creating commercial ones. The result was zoning, an agreement to restrict certain types of activity in certain areas.

Over the years, zoning led to planning for the future, which became a focus of state, county and municipal governments.

The problem is, planning for the future only works when people consistently follow the agree upon plan. This was the issue Clark addressed at the meeting. Why bother to zone property if the zone can be changed upon request? Think about other examples of similar exceptions — like the Majestic Cove, a failed condominium project on Lakeview Drive, now in foreclosure and blocking views of Lake Jackson.

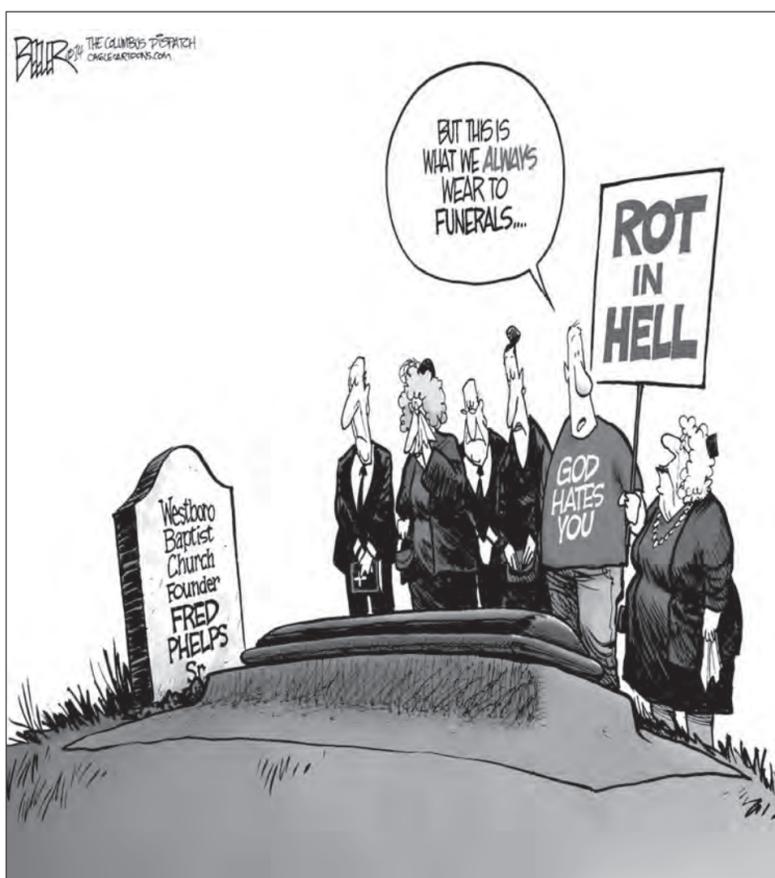
A related issue emerged when the city council, in a 4-1 vote, elected to table the zoning request until May 20. Winter residents of the Francis 2 mobile home park, which will be directly affected by the proposed project, are upset the ultimate decision will be made after they have returned north.

In other words, not only is a developer attempting to change the rules, the council has deprived city homeowners of their voice in the matter.

If Sebring is to thrive in the future, we must pay attention to our master plans now.

"You're talking about a retirement community and (the proposed project) is going in another direction," Clark said. "Put yourself in the shadow of a three-story building and you'd be upset too."

Like we said, we're going to miss him.



## YOUR VIEWS

## Great American Meatout

After several months of crippling snowstorms and flooding, I really look forward to spring weather, green grass, and flowers in bloom.

The advent of spring is also a great opportunity to turn over a new leaf on our dietary and exercise habits. In fact, I've been told that hundreds of communities celebrate the advent of spring with something called the Great American Meatout.

Local health advocates host educational events, where they ask visitors to get a fresh start this spring with a healthy diet of vegetables, fresh fruits, legumes, and whole grains. For those who need a little encouragement, their website provides useful information and a chance to pledge a healthy diet for one day or more.

**SIMON MILLS**  
Sebring

## A slippery slope

The ACLU and those eight same-sex couples who are challenging Florida's non-recognition of same-sex "marriages" performed in other states evidently haven't learned much from the past. In a way, weren't we here a couple thousand years ago?

The ancient and primitive Greeks and Romans crassly valued homosexual relations. But eventually the people wised up and realized that was a mistake (e.g., Plato condemned homosexual activity), and homosexual activity was again logically deemed unethical.

Now, misguided "progressives" are trying to take us back thousands of years to more primitive and decadent times, despite the fact that thinking people have known for centuries that homosexual activity is immoral and a bad legal precedent. (It's

easy to show that all the arguments homosexuals use to try to rationalize homosexual activity are seriously flawed.)

It may surprise you that some colleges like Harvard now have officially recognized student groups devoted to promoting the acceptance of BDSM — sexually deviant bondage, discipline, sadism, and masochism. That's right. If you are a student who gets turned on by smacking people around, some colleges like Harvard now have groups for you.

He who has eyes to see, let them see. The "logic" of heterophobic homosexuals is rapidly leading this society down a slippery slope to a more aberrant, disordered, and irrational society. Legal polygamy is coming soon. Maybe down the line we'll see "marriage" between straight and homosexual consenting-adult incestuous people. Whoopee! Anyone who thinks this is progress is deluding him/herself. Rome didn't fall in a day. But it did fall. Let's not join the race to the bottom.

**WAYNE LELA**  
Downers Grove, Ill.

## LAURA'S LOOK

Laura Ware

## My new bright shiny

One thing most people might not know about me is that long after I became an adult I was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). I'm sure there's a neat professional diagnosis that explains it that you can look up somewhere if you want. I'm not going to give you that kind of a definition.

What ADD means as far as I am concerned is that I'm easily distracted, sometimes anxious and jittery, and my mind likes to race at something like 500 miles an hour. This last is very inconvenient at night when I'm trying to sleep and my brain flat out refuses to slow down enough so I can.

Fortunately, modern medicine has come out with a substance that calms me down and helps me focus. When I have it, I function quite well for a crazy person (I am not crazy because I have ADD: I am crazy because I am a writer). Life is a lot less frustrating, and I'm easier to be around.

Well, it's a long story, but I've spent the past two days off my medication. This has not been good. I have been tired, cranky, and found it difficult to get things done. The fact I am sitting here typing this column is a testament to me rising above my circumstances.

In my current state, I am easily attracted to what I refer to as "bright shynys" — things that are attractive and tease me out of any focus I might have at the moment. For example, someone in the house has ordered pizza, an attractive distraction even if I wasn't off my medication. Being off it makes it that much more tempting to quit typing and go see if I can liberate a piece or two.

Thankfully, my latest distraction also happens to be the thing I need to get my column done. I'm referring to my shiny new laptop that just arrived yesterday and has been taking up a great deal of my time today.

My old laptop that has served me faithfully the past six or seven years has been showing its age. It's slow. The hard drive has been filling up. Some of the letters on the keys have worn off, testing my abilities as a touch typist.

Thanks to some birthday money and a generous husband, I was able to go online and get myself a replacement. That sounds wonderful and everything, and when it first arrived, I was thrilled and happy to welcome it into my home.

Then the process of getting it usable started ... and that made it less joyful. I'm not complaining, but there were several bumps to getting the computer ready to use.

I spent most of today not writing, or working on writing-related issues, but on installing software and transferring files from the old system to the new. This required patience, especially with a couple of programs that demanded authorization codes I had to dig out of the old computer.

Throw in that I have finally broken down and upgraded Microsoft Office to the latest version, which is different enough from the old version I've used for years to make things seem a little off. It isn't as bad as I feared it would be, but there is a learning curve to the new system. Plus I have to configure the new programs to my liking, which will take still more time.

But overall, I am pleased with my latest bright shiny. It looks pretty, it types just fine, and I am happy to produce a new column on it.

I'd go on, but it's late. And time to try to shut down the distractions lest they keep me up all night. Wish me luck.

Laura Ware is a Sebring resident. She can be contacted by e-mail at [bookwormlady@embarqmail.com](mailto:bookwormlady@embarqmail.com). Visit her website at [www.laurahware.com](http://www.laurahware.com). Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the staff of the News-Sun.



Katara Simmons/News-Sun

Tomoka Heights had 11 percent of its 356 homes sold last year in Lake Placid, while the city of Avon Park only had 1.4 percent of its single-family homes change hands.

## PRICES

FROM PAGE A1

year. Locally, a review of sales data released by the county's property appraiser shows the median price for a single-family home rose \$2,000 to \$92,000 in 2013.

At the height of the housing boom in 2006, the median sales price in Highlands topped out at \$165,307, 44 percent above last year's level.

Florida's coastal cities ended last year with impressive price gains. Miami and Tampa, two markets battered by the 2008 housing bust, posted increases of 16.5 percent and 15.8 percent respectively, according to the Case-Shiller index.

"The market remains healthy due to the increase participation of traditional homebuyers," O'Connor said, referring to the waning influence of investors who were snapping up properties and pushing up prices in 2012 and early 2013.

The analysis of 2013 data included all single-family homes that met the property appraiser's definition of a sale conducted at arm's length, and did not include distressed sales or other transfers.

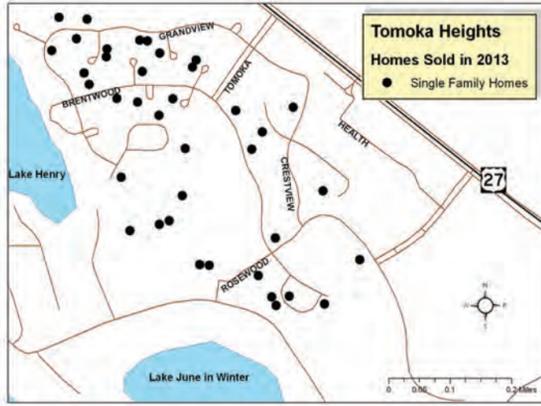
For all the upward momentum, statewide home prices remain 32 percent off the peak reached during the housing boom, according to year-end data from CoreLogic, a real estate analytics firm.

While local sales price gains remain anemic, the review of sales data does point to one bright spot: a stout gain in sales volume.

The number of single-family homes that changed hands in 2013 jumped 25 percent from 2012's level.

Last year's spike in sales volume, though, was not evenly spread across the county. Neighborhoods featuring higher-end properties registered more sales than those with modestly priced homes, especially those in the northern reaches of the county, like Avon Park.

Tomoka Heights, a gated 55-and-older community outside of Lake Placid, bested other neighbor-



Manuel Cortazal

hoods, with 38 of its 356 single family residences, or 11 percent, finding new owners. Sun N' Lake, Sebring Country Estates, and Golf Hammock areas performed only half as well.

Home sales in Avon Park stood in stark contrast to Tomoka Heights. Only 39, or 1.4 percent, of the City of Charm's 2,700 single family homes sold in 2013.

What accounts for the success of Tomoka Heights?

"I believe that a majority of the retiring buying public is looking for a gated, 55-and-older community, of which there are few in Highlands County," said Shelagh Byatt, a broker and developer of Tomoka Heights.

Byatt views last year's sluggish price gains not as a sign that the local market needs further healing but as indicator of an improving trend.

Florida Realtors President Sherri Meadows shares Byatt's assessment. "We're seeing homeowners ready to take that next step and list their properties for sale," she said in response to the spate of positive figures statewide.

Still, for the all the optimism looming economic headwinds could put the brakes on the improved outlook.

The number of mort-

gage applications dropped in late 2013 when interest rates spiked after the Federal Reserve signaled an end to its monetary easing. Many in the mortgage industry fear that 2014 could bring further rate hikes as the central bank withdraws its stimulus from financial markets.

What's more, job growth remains uneven and wages stagnant, which many in the industry see as key supports for home sales.

"Recent economic reports suggest a bleaker picture for housing," said David M. Blitzer, chairman of the index committee that publishes the Case-Shiller measure. He cites rising home prices and mortgage rates as factors that could push affordable homes out the reach of many buyers.

For now, the upbeat numbers bode well for a market that starts the year on the heels of what is now a two-year run up in price increases. A review of March data from the property appraiser's office shows single-family home sales in January exceeding the pace set last year.

O'Connor, the economist with Florida Realtors, sees little downside to 2014's market and said that homeowners could look forward to a "balanced market."

## 'Cone of uncertainty' to shrink a little

Associated Press

MIAMI — The National Hurricane Center says its storm track forecasts keep improving, helping to shrink the so-called "cone of uncertainty" a bit in forecasts this year.

Coastal residents won't notice much of a change in the forecasts showing the probable path of the center of a tropi-

cal storm or hurricane. In fact, forecasters worry that people mistakenly believe that the cone shows all the areas at risk for storm damage.

A storm's winds and storm surge can extend well beyond the forecast track. This year, forecasters are trying color-coded maps to show people where storm surge could happen during storms.

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# OBITUARIES

## BUD WARREN



Garland Glenn "Bud" Warren Jr. was born in Mount Airy,

North Carolina Sept. 11, 1936. He passed quietly in slumber Wednesday morning in his home in Lake Placid. He is survived by his wife, Jean Keyes Warren; son, Chris L. Warren and wife, Charlotte Meeks of Ocoee; daughter, Diana W. Alarcon and husband Jorge A. of Plantation; son, G. Glenn Warren III, esq. and wife Lori Foley of Orange Park; daughter Janet W. Middleton of Winter Springs; granddaughters Choyce and Chelsea Middleton; Katherine S. and Emma I. Warren; Mary Elizabeth Warren; and grandsons John L. Warren, and Miguel and George A. Alarcon. G.G. "Bud" Warren graduated in 1959 from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C., where he met his wife, Jean. Bud was employed by Southern Bell Telephone Co. and retired from Bellsouth as an assistant vice-president after 35 years of service. The family moved to Miami in 1968. Later assignments took Bud and family to Jacksonville, Atlanta, Ga., and Birmingham, Ala. Upon retirement in Jacksonville in 1994, Bud and Jean relocated in Lake Placid permanently in 2005 at present address. Bud was an active member of Kiwanis, Miami-Midtown and served as president from 1975-76. While in Jacksonville, the family lived in Orange Park and Bud served as a member of Orange Park Rotary Club, as well as Director of the Black Creek District Boys Scouts of America. Bud's interest in the Scouting began in his youth and he earned his Eagle Scout from Old Hickory Council while in Mount Airy, N.C. He continued his lifelong services with Boy Scouts of America and earned the "Silver

Beaver" (highest award to a civilian) while in Orange Park. Bud served in the U.S. Army Corps and Army Reserves from 1960 to 1965. He was an ham radio operator, call sign, KD4APE, and a member of ARRL, the national association for amateur radio, for 40 years. This interest and skill rendered untold assistance to victims of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Upon retirement, Bud became a Master Gardener and when relocating to Lake Placid he continued his interest in Highlands County Master Gardener Program volunteering weekly at the Bert Harris Ag Center on George Blvd. He was a prudent advocate of Florida friendly landscaping and natural habitats for birds. He served as President of Highlands County Audubon Society and reinstated the Bluebird Data Collection Project at Royce Ranch, which he spearheaded until his illness in 2011 forced him to turn over the project to dedicated friends of bluebirds. On Feb. 11, 2013, Bud submitted a proclamation to the mayor and council members declaring the Town of Lake Placid a "Bluebird Sanctuary." With a lifelong interest in flowers and nature, Bud successfully grew orchids and maintained an interest in orchid growing for 45 years. He was a member of Saint James Catholic Church in Lake Placid, and a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus, Council #7245. A Memorial Mass Celebration for Bud will be held on April 4, 2014 at Saint James Catholic Church, 3380 Placid View Drive, Lake Placid at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to Cornerstone Hospice, 209 North Ridgewood Dr., Suite 3, Sebring, 33870 and/or St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. James Catholic Church, 3380 Placid View Dr. Lake Placid, 33852.

## BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

Fowler further reported that, because of the shortcoming, the auditors had been unable to determine whether or not all of the program's provisions had been followed.

"The plan the board adopted had some very specific requirements," she said.

Fowler also noted that the county's 2009-2010 plan had an extended due date and still had not been filed. That apparently was the result of missing or incomplete documentation.

Highlands County Administrator June Fisher told the board that the mistakes had come despite the fact the county had hired a consultant to identify potential problems.

"They did look into some of our reporting and made some improvements. They actually corrected some of the reports we previously had submitted," she said.

Fisher said the county staff made correc-

tions on the LHAP program and noted that the county also had the opportunity to again hire a consultant if additional assistance was needed.

Auditors also pointed to the county's investment in a new \$8 million radio system as an accounting red flag. They informed the board that the county's listing of that expenditure had not been offset by a corresponding revenue source. Moreover, staff apparently had missed a mandated Nov. 20 deadline to correct the issue.

Fowler said that the goal with all of the auditors' findings were to make certain that the internal controls of the county would ensure that Highlands would be in compliance with federal and state requirements.

"It's a big project and a big effort," said County Commission Chairman Greg Harris.

Fisher told the board that the county staff is in the process of addressing the areas of concern raised by the auditors.

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## LONG LINE OF VOLUNTEERS



Courtesy photo

The long line of volunteers of the Avon Park Depot Museum that make events happen on the Silver Palm Dining Car. (From left) Eden Dickerson, Grace Hudson, Eileen Sachsenmaier, Thetis Casey, Judy Laycock, Jim Deal, Elaine Levey, Carlos Deloera, Brandon Vargas and Eduardo Hernandez. Carlos, Brandon and Eduardo are with the South Florida State College Honor's Student Services Learning Program and freely volunteer with the Historical Society of Avon Park.

## UTILITY

FROM PAGE A1

month, he estimates the city would receive \$81,732 per year in revenue, along with \$51,944 each year from The Bluffs, based on water use. That would bring a total of approximately \$134,000 per year, he said.

However, he said the city would need to rehabilitate the existing sanitary infrastructure, build additional infrastructure to connect the system to the city's existing system and bring operations to a central location.

Another item on the agenda is a request from the Florida Department of Transportation to have

an easement through city property for stormwater drainage. The proposed easement would go from Verona Avenue to Lake Verona through city park property.

The City Council is also set to consider a final vote on annexing two pieces of property that have been on the agenda for a while. They were approved on first reading in February, but had to be repealed because one had a typographical error.

One is a 31-acre city-owned parcel at 2055 U.S. 27 N. and another is a 3.6-acre tract owned by Guru Krupa Investment LLC at 2511 U.S. 27 S. The city-owned parcel must first be approved for the private parcel to be approved, since the second parcel is

contiguous to the first and must be adjacent to the city limits to be annexed.

The City Council, in its role as the Community Redevelopment Agency Board, will also consider whether or not to approve \$2,000 to pay half the advertising costs for the 2014 Bluegrass & Blueberry Festival, as well as whether or not to approve \$725 — half of the advertising budget — for the Avon Park Veteran's Engraved Brick project. Both were recommended for approval by the Avon Park Main Street CRA Advisory Board on March 6.

The CRA meeting will take place at 5 p.m. Monday, before the city council meeting in council chambers at 123 E. Main St.

# Pro-Russian forces storm Ukrainian base in Crimea

BELBEK AIR BASE, Crimea (AP) — Pro-Russian forces stormed a Ukrainian air force base in Crimea, firing shots and smashing through concrete walls with armored personnel carriers. At least one person was wounded, the base commander said.

An APC also smashed open the front gate of the Belbek base near the port city of Sevastopol, according to footage provided by the Ukrainian Defense ministry. Two ambulances arrived and then departed shortly after, and at least one of them was carrying what appeared to be a wounded person, an Associated Press journalist said.

The Ukrainian commander of the base, Yuliy Mamchur, said there was at least one injury. He called his men together, they sang the Ukrainian national anthem and then stood at ease. He said they are going to turn over their weapons.

Russian forces have been seizing Ukrainian military facilities for several days in the Black Sea peninsula, which voted a week ago to secede and join Russia.

Elsewhere, more than 5,000 pro-Russia residents of a major city in Ukraine's east demonstrated in favor of holding a referendum on whether to seek to split off and become part of Russia.

The rally in Donetsk came less than a week after the Ukrainian region of Crimea approved secession in a referendum regarded as illegitimate by Western countries. After the referendum, Russia

formally annexed Crimea.

With Crimea now effectively under the control of Russian forces, which ring Ukrainian military bases on the strategic Black Sea peninsula, concern is rising that Ukraine's eastern regions will agitate for a similar move.

Russia has brought large military contingents to areas near the border with eastern Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said there is no intention to move into eastern Ukraine, but the prospect of violence between pro- and anti-secession groups in the east could be used as a pretext for sending in troops.

## LOST DOGS

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# Cop shot, killed near Orlando

WINDERMERE (AP) — A police officer was shot and killed early Saturday after stopping two people and calling for help in an Orlando suburb, authorities said.

Windermere Police Department Officer Robert German called for backup after stopping a young man and woman on foot shortly before 4 a.m., investigators said.

German, 31, reported his location and was found lying on the ground when a deputy arrived at the scene, Orange County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Jane Watrel said.

"He just said he was doing a subject stop and then all the tragic events unfolded," Watrel said.

The deputy put German in his squad car and rushed him to the fire department. German was then taken to Orlando Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

As officers responded to the scene, they heard shots fired and found two individuals deceased nearby matching the description of the man and woman German had stopped, Watrel said. They are believed to have committed suicide.

Their identities have not been released.

Windermere is located 15 miles west of Orlando. It has a population of about 3,000 people and one of the lowest crime rates in Florida, Mayor Gary Bruhn said. He said it was the first line-of-duty death in the town's history.

"Violent crime is just not something that happens in the town of Windermere," Bruhn said. "So it's really, really difficult."

German had been with the department for five years and just recently returned from desk duty after falling and injuring his shoulder, Bruhn said.



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Katara Simmons/News-Sun

Highlands Hammock Park Manager Brian Pinson talks to visitors about fireflies Friday evening and explains that the glowing insects taste terrible and most animals avoid eating them.

## FIREFLIES

FROM PAGE A1

show Friday evening as the normally dark, dense areas of Highlands Hammock State Park glowed brightly with more fireflies than anyone could attempt to count, whizzing by like tiny shooting stars.

Fireflies in the Hammock, which is put on by the Friends of Highlands, allows paid guests to ride a tram through Highlands Hammock after hours to experience the park's newly discovered residents.

Park Manager Brian Pinson initiated the Firefly experience after making the surprise discovery of the insects a few weeks back.

"It was about three weeks ago that I first began to notice them out," said Pinson. "The first night I saw just a few. The second night I saw a lot more and I kept going out and then I noticed just how many there actually are out here."

With the excitement of the new discovery, Pinson knew the fireflies had to be shared with the public. The park ranger, along with other employees and park volunteers, coordinated the tram rides for interested Hammock visitors and began giving tours filled with educational commentary on the nightly encounters this past week.

"There are many different species of fireflies," Pinson told guests Friday night. "As it gets darker and your eyes adjust, you may see different flight patterns, different flashing patterns. These can tell you what species the fireflies are. If you can follow one for long enough you can see all this."

Pinson isn't yet aware of just how many firefly species inhabit the Hammock, but hopes to initiate a study by the leading firefly expert from the University of Florida by the end of the year.

"Do you guys know that fireflies aren't really flies?" Pinson asked guests on the trams.

Pinson revealed the true identity of the flashy insects — they are actually beetles — as well as an hour's worth of other information about fireflies (they don't taste good, for example) to eager guests both young and old.

Fireflies aren't as common in the area as they used to be, Pinson said, mainly due to light pollu-

**'It was about three weeks ago that I first began to notice them out. The first night I saw just a few. The second night I saw a lot more and then I noticed just how many there actually are out here.'**

*Brian Pinson  
park manager*

tion and loss of their preferred habitat.

The dense, lush areas around the Hammock make perfect homes for the mating bugs. In fact, fireflies glow in order to catch the attention of a potential mate, Pinson told the riders.

Fireflies in the Hammock will continue night-

ly until the fireflies are no longer visible. Guests must register ahead of time through the Friends of Highlands Hammock State Park Facebook page in order to secure a spot on their selected night. Seating on the two trams is limited.

The Fireflies in the Hammock event is \$5 per person (cash only). Guests must pre-register themselves and provide number of guests accompanying them prior to the event. Payment will be collected as guests board the trams.

For more information, visit the Friends of Highlands Hammock State Park Facebook page.

*Samantha Gholar can be reached at [samantha.gholar@newssun.com](mailto:samantha.gholar@newssun.com) or 385-6155 ext: 526.*

## RUN

FROM PAGE A1

his wife live in Sebring and have two children: 11-year-old Madison and 6-year-old Camden, both at Cracker Trail Elementary School.

He has volunteered with the school district through the Parent Teacher Organization, School Advisory Council, and District School Advisory Council.

His vision is to continue the good work he already sees happening at the Highlands County schools, such as Youth For Christ and the Stephen R. Covey Leader In Me program. Adding to that, he wants to be sure that the School Board of Highlands County continues to forge strong teamwork with all the schools.

"I want to be visible to all the schools. I want to be a good listener, an advocate for the needs of our students, the needs of our kids," Culverhouse said.

He has seen students reach out and help the community, including at the recent "Care Mob" event on March 1 at Highlands Art League in Sebring, where he provided pulled pork barbecue lunch to more than 75 Sebring High School students who came out to refurbish and repaint the Art League village.

For the community, he asks that people volunteer in their schools.

"Teachers can't do it by

**'I want to be ... an advocate for the needs of our students.'**

*Clinton Culverhouse  
school board candidate*

themselves. They need help and one way to do it is through community involvement and keeping children as our focus," Culverhouse said.

His family has attended Grace Bible Church for the last eight years, where he has been a deacon for the last five years. He and his wife lead a small study group. Culverhouse said he works to follow the scripture of Proverbs 16:3: "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."

He has served 11 years as an Avon Park city firefighter and is now also the office manager for Sebring-based attorney Steve Kackley, his uncle,

for whom he had worked while in high school.

He was nominated in 2003 to serve as the secretary/treasurer for Avon Park Professional Firefighters Local 3132, and has been ever since then.

He is also a member of Sebring Firemen Inc., a community service-based organization that works for the benefit of local athletics and community fundraising. He's dedicated time to the Highlands Art League, the school district's International Baccalaureate program, the Highlands County Fair and the Central Florida Futbol Club.

Culverhouse has raised \$2,475 in contributions — all monetary — and \$225.98 in expenditures, according to campaign treasurers' reports on the Supervisor of Elections website at [www.votehighlands.gov](http://www.votehighlands.gov).



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# BUSINESS



Samantha Gholar/News Sun

Customers make their way in and out of the Sebring Sweetbay supermarket Friday morning. Store #1792 will be one of two Highlands County Sweetbay markets that will get a complete overhaul in early April. Both the Sebring and Lake Placid stores will be converted into Winn-Dixie Supermarkets in the coming weeks.

## Goodbye Sweetbay, hello Winn-Dixie

BY SAMANTHA GHOLAR  
Staff Writer

SEBRING — Two of Highlands County's supermarkets will get new names after parent company Bi-Lo Holdings, LLC announced that a re-branding of more than 30 Tampa Bay area Sweetbay stores will take place in the coming weeks.

The Sebring and Lake Placid Sweetbay supermarkets will be converted into Winn-Dixie stores beginning on March 29. Sebring's Sweetbay store was announced as part of the first round of stores to be transformed on Wednesday by Bi-Lo officials. A second announcement was made Friday that the Lake Placid store would also be included in the overhaul.

A press release from Bi-Lo Holdings stated that two phases of store conversions would take place, breaking the overhauls into two groups.

### Sebring, LP stores to be converted in coming weeks

The Sebring Sweetbay at 3250 U.S. 27 South behind Wells Fargo bank, will close on Saturday, March 29 and re-open on Friday, April 4.

Lake Placid's Sweetbay at 1519 U.S. 27 South will close on Saturday, April 5 and re-open as Winn-Dixie on Friday, April 11.

"Upon reopening as a Winn-Dixie, we believe customers will be pleasantly surprised to see that we have been working hard to provide the fresh, quality products they want at prices they can afford," said Joey Medina, Winn-Dixie's regional vice president.

"Plus, we will offer a suite of in-store savings programs, like the fuelperks! Reward Program,

which lets customers earn incredible savings at participating Shell stations every time they shop with their Winn-Dixie Customer Reward Card."

A total of 35 stores throughout the Tampa, Bradenton and north Polk County regions will be converted to Winn-Dixie supermarkets by the second weekend in April.

Bi-Lo has invited current employees to remain in their current positions during and following the store transformations.

"While the name on the fronts of the stores is changing, the people running them don't have to. We've invited Sweetbay associates to join the Winn-Dixie family and look forward to exchanging what it means to be local as we work together to run even greater stores," Medina said.

Samantha Gholar can be reached at [samantha.gholar@newssun.com](mailto:samantha.gholar@newssun.com) or 385-6155 ext: 526.

## Positive Medical Transport honored by Boys and Girls Club

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — The Leadership Team of the Boys and Girls Club of Highlands County is starting the "Supporter of the Month" Program to highlight the local businesses, sponsors and other donors who have provided financial contributions or in-kind services to the club.

The club's current membership includes 350 students ages 6-18 in Avon Park and Sebring. Boys and Girls Clubs have been instrumental in the lives of youngsters nationwide since 1860.

Positive Medical Transport is the "Supporter of the Month" for February. Positive Medical Transport has made financial contributions to the club to assist in providing services through its School Liaison, who works collaboratively with the teachers and other school staff to further support and enhance the success of our students.

"Positive Medical Transport recognizes the importance of the company's connectivity with the community and is committed to assisting local agencies in achieving their strategic goals. We extend our congratulations and sincere appreciation to Positive Medical Transport," a news release from the club said. "We solicit the individual support of the citizens of Highlands County to continue to patronize local businesses, as many of them, like Positive Medical Transport, give back to the community in numerous ways. In addition, we ask that you please consider donating to and/or visiting our re-sale store, The Emporium, located



Courtesy photo

Ron Layne (right) and Melissa Worley (left) of Positive Medical Transport join Boys and Girls Club director Woodraun Wright in raising a banner next to one of the company's ambulances. Positive Mobility was named the Supporter of the Month for February.

at 248 Pomegranate Ave. (in) Sebring. There are many, many articles available, including clothing, household items, appliances, and furniture, at very reasonable prices. All proceeds are used to assist in funding the services and programs provided for the members of the club.

"Because the club relies so heavily on the contributions of local businesses, agencies, organiza-

tions, and private donors, we are continuously seeking opportunities to increase our 'Partnership Bank' to meet the growing needs of our students and the organization. If you would like to assist us in our efforts to guide and direct these students toward positive actions and activities, then please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to The Boys and Girls Club of Highlands County."

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## Court upholds Fed's cap on 'swipe' fees

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court has handed a defeat to a coalition of retail groups that challenged as too high the Federal Reserve's cap on how much banks can charge businesses for handling debit card transactions.

The ruling issued Friday by the U.S. Appeals Court for the District of Columbia overturned a lower court's decision in July that favored the merchants and was a setback for banks.

In the July ruling, a federal judge struck down the Fed's cap on so-

called "swipe fees," saying the Fed didn't have the authority to set the limit the way it did in 2011, improperly including data that made the cap too high.

The retail groups had sued the Fed over its setting the cap at an average of about 24 cents per debit-card transaction.

The appeals court ruling upholding the Fed's cap was a blow to an industry already buffeted by public and congressional outrage over the massive data breach that hit Target Corp. during the holiday season and

other data-security violations at big retailers.

Congress mandated a ceiling on debit-card swipe fees as part of the 2010 financial regulatory overhaul. Prior to the cap, fees averaged 44 cents per swipe. The Fed had initially proposed a 12-cent fee limit, and the retailers argued that the Fed buckled under pressure from bank lobbyists when it doubled that level.

The retailers had argued that the Fed deviated from the 2010 law's intent by factoring banks' expenses into the cap that the law didn't allow.

## BIRD EXPO

March 30, 2014

Johnson & Johnson Wood Products, Inc.  
5948 State Road 66, Sebring FL 33875  
Approx. 6 miles west of US 27

Contact Brenda (863) 385-1966  
Email: [birdnestbox@gmail.com](mailto:birdnestbox@gmail.com)

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# SPORTS



Dan Hoehne/News-Sun files

Luis Martinez was solid in the field and accounted for three hits, two runs and an RBI in Avon Park's win at LaBelle Thursday.

## Red Devils keep rolling

BY DAN HOEHNE  
daniel.hoehne@newssun.com

Another day on the diamond, another win for Avon Park as they lassoed LaBelle by a 7-4 score Thursday.

Tyrone Perry and Luis Martinez lead the way with three hits each, while five separate players each had an RBI in the win.

Freshman starting pitcher Daniel Simons had one of his few rough outings this year, allowing four runs in his four innings of work, but was effective enough and was backed up by his hitters.

The first two innings

went by with no scores, but the Devils got on the board in the top of the third.

Cody Pearlman lead things off with a single and moved up a base on Martinez's shot back up the middle. With one out, Perry singled sharply through the right side and Pearlman came around to score.

Mykel Gordon reached on an error, bringing Martinez in and Mason Jahna singled to bring Perry plateward.

The Cowboys came right back, however, and tied it in the bottom of the inning.

A single by Chandler McCormick was followed by a walk to Jake Martinez, with both runners moving up on a wild pitch and McCormick coming in on a passed ball.

Jarred Miller then powered one over the fence in center for a two-run shot to make it 3-3.

Avon Park got two of those runs back in the fourth.

Trey Frazier drew a lead-off walk and was bunted over to second by Pearlman.

Martinez went the other way with a double to left, bringing Frazier in and Gordon would later plate

AVON PARK  
7  
LABELLE  
4

SEE DEVILS | A11

# Blue Streaks overcome Oklahoma champ Owasso

BY DAN HOEHNE  
daniel.hoehne@newssun.com

SEBRING – In the midst of a five-game losing streak, perhaps the last team you want to be paid

SEBRING  
6  
OWASSO  
4

a visit from is Owasso High School. Traveling on their Spring Break for a handful of Florida games, the defending Class 6A Oklahoma State champs came to Firemen's Field for a Thursday afternoon matinee.

And it seemed to be just what the doctor ordered as the Blue Streaks battled back to topple the Rams 6-4.

"They come down every year and we always played them when I was at Lake Wales," Sebring head coach Jayson DeWitt said. "Now that I'm here, I just called their coach and asked them to come play us and he agreed."

Which fits right into DeWitt's mantra of having his squad face the best competition it can as a means to progress.

But early on, some of the same problems that have plagued the Streaks during their recent rut,



Dan Hoehne/News-Sun

Matt Portis slides in under Owasso's catcher with a key insurance run in the Streaks Thursday win.

cropped back up.

"We've been in every game we've played," DeWitt said. "But little things happen that get us in trouble."

Such as split-second hesitations on throws, such as the one that allowed a first-inning, infield hit.

Starter Jonathan Struck

worked around it when a sharp grounder to David DeGenaro at third was turned into a 5-4-3 double play.

He couldn't work

around it in the second, however.

With one on and two out, an error on a ground-

SEE SEBRING | A11

## Brackets not too bad



AND ANOTHER THING...  
Dan Hoehne

By the time you read this things could well have changed dramatically.

But at the time I'm writing this, Saturday morning, the opening two days of the NCAA Tournament, not counting the play-in games, haven't gone so bad for my brackets.

Sure, in one of those that I filled out for the ESPN Challenge, I did have Oklahoma State reaching the final game, albeit not winning.

So while one full quarter of that bracket has been demolished, I'm still in decent shape on that one.

That Gonzaga beat OK St. hurt, but it wasn't a major upset.

It technically wasn't an upset at all as the Zags were the eighth seed playing a nine.

I guess we've just heard a lot more about the Cowboys this season, even though Gonzaga has been a tournament staple for

SEE NCAA | A12

## Alan Jay Red Sox take title

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING – The Alan Jay Red Sox won the Memorial Playoffs of the Sebring Senior League, upending Reflections 12-11 in a thrilling softball game.

The Memorial Playoff games honor our fallen players.

The following are playing with the Lord – Lou Gaum, John Grill, Gary Luciani, Bob McKinney, Hank Gomez, Jerry O'Brien, Jim Larnard, Mike Jurma, Ralph Rhoten, Ken Stanek, Ra Concepcion, Barry Hurlbut and recently Bob Flack.

Leading up to the winning game the Red Sox beat Fairmount services 19-9 while Reflections won

out over the VFW 4300 White Sox 16-11.

In the championship game, Reflections got off to a fast start, scoring five runs in the first inning.

They were led by Ron Rieches, Bill Kelsey, Greg Ramos and Rick Enfelis all with key hits.

Alan Jay cut the led to 5-3 after three innings.

But Reflections upped the lead in the fifth inning to 7-3.

The Sox rallied to take lead with six runs in the sixth.

Key hits from Ray Trudell, Roger Gasperlin, Steve Smutnik, John Buja and a triple by Les Osbeck

SEE SENIORS | A12

## LADY PANTHERS START SUNCOAST SLATE WITH SWEEP

Dan Hoehne/News-Sun files

Nicole Rosado and the Lady Panthers got their Suncoast Conference season off to a strong start Thursday as they swept a twin-bill from visiting St. Pete. South Florida held on for a 5-4 win in the opener before taking the nightcap a bit easier by a 4-1 count.

After starting the season 0-10, the Panthers have gone 12-8 and seem headed in the right direction.

"When they play like they're capable, they are a very good team," head coach Carlos Falla said. "There is a lot of talent there."

To which assistant coach Heather Barnes agreed.

"They can be very good," she said. "It's just that so far, they've tried every other way that didn't work. Now they've figured out the right way and we're winning."

Tied atop the Suncoast standings with Polk State at 2-0, South Florida contin-



ues its' conference slate with a pair of away dates this week. Tuesday they have a doubleheader at

the State College of Florida and will be in Tampa Thursday for two games against Hillsborough.

**COMING UP**

**High School Baseball**  
Monday – Avon Park at Booker, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday – Avon Park vs. Hardee, 7 p.m.;  
Lake Placid vs. DeSoto, 7 p.m.; Sebring at Okeechobee, 7 p.m.

**College Baseball**  
Monday – SFSC vs. State College of Florida, 6 p.m.

**High School Softball**  
Tuesday – Lake Placid vs. Charlotte, 5/7 p.m.; Sebring vs. Hardee, 6/7:30 p.m.

**College Softball**  
Tuesday –SFSC at State College of Florida, 5 p.m.

**Boys Tennis**  
Monday – Avon Park vs. Sebring, 4 p.m.  
Tuesday – Lake Placid at Okeechobee, 4:30 p.m.; Sebring vs. Clewiston, 4 p.m.

**Girls Tennis**  
Monday – Avon Park at Sebring, 4 p.m.  
Tuesday – Lake Placid at Okeechobee, 4:30 p.m.; Sebring at Clewiston, 4 p.m.

**SPORTS ON TV**

**TODAY**

**AUTO RACING**  
■ NASCAR – Auto Club 400 2:30 p.m. FOX

**BOWLING**  
■ PBA League – Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia 1 p.m. ESPN

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

■ NIT Tournament	11 a.m.	ESPN
■ NCAA Tournament	Noon	CBS
■ NCAA Tournament	2:30 p.m.	CBS
■ NCAA Tournament	5 p.m.	CBS
■ NCAA Tournament	6 p.m.	TNT
■ NCAA Tournament	7 p.m.	TBS
■ NCAA Tournament	8:30 p.m.	TNT
■ NCAA Tournament	9:30 p.m.	TBS

**GOLF**

■ PGA – Arnold Palmer Invitational	12:30 p.m.	GOLF
■ PGA – Arnold Palmer Invitational	2 p.m.	NBC
■ PGA – Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic	5 p.m.	GOLF
■ LPGA – Founders Cup	7 p.m.	GOLF

**MLB PRESEASON**

■ Chicago Cubs at Oakland	4 p.m.	WGN
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**WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

■ NCAA Tournament	12:30 p.m.	ESPN2
■ NCAA Tournament	3 p.m.	ESPN
■ NCAA Tournament	5:30 p.m.	ESPN
■ NCAA Tournament	8 p.m.	ESPN

**WOMEN'S COLLEGE GYMNASTICS**

■ West Virginia at Florida	9 a.m.	SUN
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**WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL**

■ Alabama at Florida	1 p.m.	SUN
■ Arkansas at Mississippi	4 p.m.	SUN

**MONDAY**

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

■ NIT Tournament	7 p.m.	ESPN
■ NIT Tournament	9 p.m.	ESPN
■ NIT Tournament	11 p.m.	ESPN2

**MLB PRESEASON**

■ Detroit at Pittsburgh	1 p.m.	ESPN
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**NHL**

■ Ottawa at Tampa Bay	7:30 p.m.	SUN
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**WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

■ NCAA Tournament	6:30 p.m.	ESPN2
■ NCAA Tournament	9 p.m.	ESPN2

**TUESDAY**

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

■ NIT Tournament	7 p.m.	ESPN
■ NIT Tournament	9 p.m.	ESPN

**MLB PRESEASON**

■ Atlanta at Detroit	1 p.m.	ESPN
■ Boston at Tampa Bay	1 p.m.	SUN

**NBA**

■ Oklahoma City at Dallas	8 p.m.	TNT
■ New York at L.A. Lakers	10:30 p.m.	TNT

**WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

■ NCAA Tournament	7 p.m.	ESPN2
■ NCAA Tournament	9:30 p.m.	ESPN2

**SCOREBOARD**

National Basketball Association				National Hockey League								
EASTERN CONFERENCE				EASTERN CONFERENCE								
Atlantic	W	L	Pct	GB	Atlantic	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	38	30	.559	—	Boston	70	48	17	5	101	225	149
Brooklyn	36	31	.537	1½	Tampa Bay	70	39	24	7	85	208	185
New York	29	40	.420	9½	Montreal	71	38	26	7	83	182	180
Boston	23	47	.329	16	Toronto	71	36	27	8	80	208	219
Philadelphia	15	54	.217	23½	Detroit	69	32	24	13	77	183	194
Southeast	W	L	Pct	GB	Ottawa <td>69</td> <td>28</td> <td>28</td> <td>13</td> <td>69</td> <td>198</td> <td>234</td>	69	28	28	13	69	198	234
x-Miami	47	20	.701	—	Florida	70	26	36	8	60	173	225
Washington	36	33	.522	12	Buffalo	70	20	42	8	48	136	206
Charlotte	33	36	.478	15	Metropolitan	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta	31	36	.463	16	Pittsburgh	69	45	19	5	95	218	173
Orlando	19	50	.275	29	Philadelphia	69	37	25	7	81	199	197
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	N.Y. Rangers	71	38	29	4	80	188	175
x-Indiana	51	18	.739	—	Columbus	70	36	28	6	78	200	192
Chicago	38	31	.551	13	Washington	71	33	27	11	77	205	211
Cleveland	26	43	.377	25	New Jersey	70	30	27	13	73	172	183
Detroit	25	43	.368	25½	Carolina	70	30	31	9	69	174	198
Milwaukee	13	56	.188	38	N.Y. Islanders	70	26	35	9	61	195	239
WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB	WESTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Antonio	52	16	.765	—	Central	69	47	15	7	101	226	156
Houston	46	22	.676	6	St. Louis	71	41	15	15	97	240	184
Dallas	42	28	.600	11	Chicago	71	44	21	6	94	216	194
Memphis	40	28	.588	12	Minnesota	70	36	23	11	83	174	172
New Orleans	28	40	.412	24	Dallas	69	32	26	11	75	196	201
Northwest	W	L	Pct	GB	Winnipeg	71	32	30	9	73	199	208
Oklahoma City	51	18	.739	—	Nashville	71	30	31	10	70	171	213
Portland	45	24	.652	6	Pacific	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	34	33	.507	16	San Jose	71	46	18	7	99	219	170
Denver	31	38	.449	20	Anaheim	70	45	18	7	97	222	178
Utah	22	47	.319	29	Los Angeles	70	39	25	6	84	170	149
Pacific	W	L	Pct	GB	Phoenix	70	34	25	11	79	194	197
L.A. Clippers	48	21	.696	—	Vancouver	72	32	30	10	74	172	204
Golden State	44	26	.629	4½	Calgary	70	28	35	7	63	173	209
Phoenix	40	29	.580	8	Edmonton	71	25	37	9	59	177	228
Sacramento	24	45	.348	24	NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for over-time loss.							
L.A. Lakers	22	46	.324	25½								
x-clinched playoff spot												
Sunday's Games	Sunday's Games											
Atlanta at Toronto, 1 p.m.	Columbus at N.Y. Islanders, 1 p.m.											
Phoenix at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.	St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.											
Washington at Denver, 5 p.m.	Toronto at New Jersey, 7 p.m.											
Milwaukee at Sacramento, 6 p.m.	Nashville at Chicago, 7 p.m.											
Brooklyn at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.	Minnesota at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.											
Cleveland at New York, 7:30 p.m.	Buffalo at Vancouver, 8 p.m.											
Orlando at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.	Florida at Anaheim, 8 p.m.											

**Jets sign Vick and release Sanchez**

The New York Jets have signed quarterback Michael Vick and released Mark Sanchez. The Sanchez move

comes as no surprise. Vick was a free agent after playing for the Eagles for the last five seasons.

**OBT Baseball Games**

SEBRING – Orange Blossom Tours has reserved excellent grandstand seats for an upcoming Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training baseball game.

The game is Friday, March 28, when the Rays will play the Detroit Tigers in Lakeland. The March 28 trip also includes dinner and Ernie, a play about renowned Detroit radio broadcaster Ernie Harwell, in the beautifully restored Polk Theater.

For ticket prices and pickup times and locations, please go to *www.orangeblossomtours.com* or call 855-628-0855 or 451-3040.

**Lake Placid Cornhole Tournament**

LAKE PLACID – The Lake Placid Senior FFA will be hosting its' third annual Cornhole Tournament on Friday, March 28, at Roger Scarborough Field.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., with tournament play beginning at 6 p.m.

Entry fee is \$40 per team, with the winner receiving a commemorative set of Cornhole boards.

The tournament is being held in conjunction with the Lake Placid Alumni BBQ.

For more information, call Lake Placid Sr. FFA advisor Lauren Butler at (863) 699-5010, or email *ButlerL@highlands.k12.fl.us*.

**STR8UP Family Sports Day**

LAKE PLACID – STR8UP Youth Ministry will be presenting a Family Sports Day on Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The day will feature Sun, Sand and Hoops with 2-on-2 and 5-on-5 volleyball tournaments, as well as 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 basketball tournaments, with cash prizes to overall winners – not to mention food, drinks and music all day long.

Cost is \$10 per person that pre-registers, \$15 per person the day of the event.

Registration forms are available at Dock 633, the Florida Hospital Gym and Chef Buddy's, or go to *www.str8up.org* for Paypal registration.

Listen on 91.5 JOY FM for details.

Please make checks payable to STR8UP Youth Ministry, Inc., and send to P.O. Box 654, Lake Placid, FL 33862.

There will be a live DJ and announcer, featuring guest speakers Chad Varga, Magic Benton and Big John Merrill.

Kalie Spurlock will be singing the national anthem, along with ribbon cutting by the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call (863) 699-1480.

**Lake Placid Bass Tournament**

LAKE PLACID – The Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its' 18th Annual Bass Tournament on Sunday,

**SNAPSHOTS SPORTS**

March 30, on Lake Istokpoga.

Cost is \$120 per team, which includes Big Bass, with a 100-percent pay back.

Applications are available on the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce website at *www.visitlakeplacidflorida.com*, or by calling the Chamber at (863) 465-4331.

**Sebring Chamber Golf Classic**

SEBRING – The Greater Sebring Chamber of Commerce will hold their Spring Golf Classic tournament on Saturday, April 5, at Sun 'N Lake Golf Club.

The event is a four person scramble with handicapped flights.

There will be cash prizes: \$2,000 for hole-in-one, \$250 for longest drive and \$250 for closest to the pin.

Entry fee is \$60 per player, or \$225 for a four-person team, and includes greens fee, cart, drinks on the course and lunch.

Corporate sponsorship includes a four-person team and hole sign for \$300.

Registration is at 7:30 a.m., and a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

All proceeds benefit the Sebring Chamber of Commerce.

For questions or a registration form, call (863) 385-8448 or email *information@sebring.org*.

**SHS Golf Tournament**

SEBRING – Sebring High School will be holding its Project Graduation 2014 Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 5, at Golf Hammock Country Club.

Format is a four-person scramble, flighted by handicap, with registration starting at 7 a.m. and a shotgun start at 8 a.m.

Entry fees are \$65 per player, \$240 per foursome and includes greens fee, cart and lunch.

Mulligans will be available for purchase at \$3 each or \$5 for two, and hole sponsors are available for \$100.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and raffle prizes available as well.

Make checks payable and remit to SHS Project Graduation, 2157 US 27 S, Sebring, FL 33870.

For more information, call Tim Baker at 385-5100.

**H.O.P.E. Basketball Tournament**

SEBRING – The 4th Annual Mary Toney H.O.P.E. Foundation 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will tip off Saturday, April 5, in the Sebring High School Gym.

From 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. teams will compete amid concessions and music, with a cost of just \$5 per player.

Monetary prizes will be awarded to first-place teams, with second-place finishers receiving gift card awards.

The tournament will have male and female brackets consisting of three players per team. For boys and girls, age

groups are 7-9 years old, 10-12, 13-15 and 16-19.

The 7-9 and 10-12 year-old teams begin play at 8:30 a.m., with the 13-15s and 16-19s starting at 11 a.m.

Teams need to report to the gym 30 minutes prior to the first game of their division.

Registration deadline is Thursday, April 3.

For more information, call LaVaar Scott at (863) 214-3880, Nick Brooks at (850) 322-8398 or Princeton Harris at (863) 381-8898

**Nu-Hope Golf tournament**

AVON PARK – NU-HOPE Elder Care Services will hold the Sandy Foster Memorial Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 19.

This year's event, sponsored by MIDFLORIDA, will be held at Pincrest Golf Club in Avon Park.

The event is a 2-person scramble.

Cost is \$65/person (\$130 per 2-person team.) Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m., with a Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

An awards luncheon follows the event.

All funds raised are used to support services for seniors in Highlands and Hardee County.

To register or for more information, please contact Laurie Murphy at 382-2134 or *MurphyL@nuhope.org* or visit *www.nuhopeeldercare.org*

**LP Project Graduation**

LAKE PLACID – The Lake Placid High School Project Graduation 2014 Golf Tournament will tee off on Saturday, March 29, at the Placid Lakes Golf Course.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. before a shotgun start kicks off play at 8 a.m.

Cost is \$60 per person, \$240 per team, and includes greens fee, cart and meal.

There will be a 50/50 drawing, a raffle, straightest drive and closest to the pin contests and a \$2,000 Hole in One prize sponsored by Cohan Radio Group.

For more information, contact Charlotte McQuillen at 633-8450.

**Sottile Memorial Golf**

LAKE PLACID – The Lake Placid Athletic Association will be hosting the 8th Annual Nick Sottile Memorial Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 12, at the Placid Lakes Country Club.

The event is a four-person scramble with cash prizes for winning teams in each flight and individual cash prizes for closest to the line, closest to the pin and a \$2,000 Hole in One prize sponsored by Cohan Radio Group.

Cost is \$100 per golfer, \$400 per team, and there will be an 8 a.m. tee-off time.

Entry fee includes greens fee, cart, complementary beverages and lunch catered by Smoke Shack BBQ, with appetizers of shrimp and crab clusters.

Bill Jarrett Ford is helping to underwrite the event for the eighth consecutive year, but more sponsors are needed.

Sponsorship ranges from \$1,000 to \$50 hole-sponsors and lunch tickets are included with most sponsorship levels.

Proceeds from the tournament directly benefit youth sports in Lake Placid and a portion of the proceeds are donated to the Nick Sottile Memorial Scholarship Fund.

A portion of the proceeds will also be used for completion of a new sports weight-training facility.

For more information, call Laura Teal at (863) 441-0729 or Tom Reifsnyder at (954) 675-9581.

**Florida Hospital Clay Shoot**

OKEECHOBEE – The Florida Hospital Heartland Clay Shoot will be held on Friday, April 25, at the Quail Creek Plantation beginning at 8:30 a.m.

A continental breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. at Quail Creek, located at 12399 NE 224th St., Okeechobee.

There will also be a home-cooked BBQ lunch and fantastic raffle and green bird prizes.

There are four levels of sponsorship available, from Station Sponsor which includes advertising on course station signage and lunch for two for \$100, Individual Sponsor for \$125 which includes registration for one shooter and lunch.

The \$500 Team Sponsor includes one four-man shooting team and lunch, along with advertising on banner displayed at lunch tents.

The \$2,500 Gold Sponsor includes one four-man team, cart and lunch, a banner hanging during event with company logo, company logo on flyer/registration and all mail pieces, one station sign, one suite for Thursday night's social and two Thursday night dinner tickets.

For more information or to register, call the Foundation at (863) 402-5525, or visit the website *www.FHHeartland.org/Foundation*.

**Wings of Faith Golf**

SEBRING – The Wings of Faith Christian Worship Center will be hosting their 4th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 26, at Sun 'N Lake.

Format is a four-person scramble with handicapped flights.

Entry fee is \$65 per person, which includes

# SEBRING

FROM PAGE A9

er put two on, and the ensuing double into shallow right center put Owasso up 1-0.

The lead grew to 3-0 in the third with some more of those little mistakes.

The lead-off batter was hit by a pitch, with an error on a sacrifice bunt attempt putting runners on first and second.

Another sacrifice bunt was laid down to move the runners to second and third.

A suicide squeeze bunt was then attempted, but missed, leaving a Ram runner putting on the breaks after racing down the third-base line.

But after feigning a retreat, the runner eluded catcher Jimmy Peck's attempted tag and reached the plate for a score.

Later, another bunt single brought another run in.

The Streaks looked to get on the board in the bottom of the fourth when Seth Cannady reached on an error and with one out, moved to third on a Josh Crouch single to right.

But a double steal attempt saw Cannady nabbed and a strike out



Dan Hoehne/News-Sun

Ty Little squares this pitch up and would contribute an RBI single in Sebring's 6-4, Thursday win.

ended the threat.

Struck got through a scoreless fifth, and that's when Sebring made its' move.

Designated hitter Kyle Helms drew a walk and gave way to pinch runner Jordan Baker.

A diving catch in center robbed Jared Lang of a hit, but Jordan Austin reached on an error and Matt Portis walked to load the bases.

A Ram pitching change was made, but Peck greeted him with an RBI single

to right.

With two out, Ty Little beat out an infield single, scoring Austin, and Crouch showed a patient eye in drawing a walk to force in the tying run.

During DeGenaro's at bat, an errant pick-off throw tried nabbing Eli White at third, running for Peck, bringing another run in to make it 4-3.

DeGenaro would draw a walk to re-load the bases and Garret Zeegers kept a sharp eye to draw yet another walk and give

the Streaks a 5-3 lead.

Keat Waldron came on in relief in the top of the sixth, with Owasso getting to him for one run, but Sebring got it back in the bottom of the inning.

With one out, Portis blooped one down the left-field line for a single and with two strikes on him, Peck belted one over the left fielder's head, short-hopping the wall.

Portis came all the way around and slid under the leaping Ram catcher and the lead now stood at 6-4 with three outs to go.

Waldron got the first two before walking a batter and bringing Everett Hurst to get the final out on a shallow fly to left.

"The kids just kept battling, which they always do," DeWitt said. "They did a real good job of hitting with runners on and hitting with two strikes.

"It's been a tough stretch and we've kind of been searching for our identity as a team," he continued. "After a game like this, I think we may have found it."

They will see further as they have three games on the docket this week.

Tuesday they travel to Okeechobee, host DeSoto in a district tilt Friday and have a rare Saturday matinee on the road at Tampa Catholic.



Dan Hoehne/News-Sun files

Tyrone Perry showed a disciplined eye at the plate in collecting three hits and a walk Thursday. He also pitched three innings of scoreless relief, striking out six.

# DEVILS

FROM PAGE A9

Martinez with a single to knock the lead to 5-3.

But LaBelle got a run closer when Glenn Burton lead the bottom of the fourth off with a triple and came in on a ground out to make it a 5-4 game.

After the Devils went scoreless in the fifth, Perry came on in relief of Simmons and worked around a two-out walk to strike out the side and hold the lead.

Then, in the sixth, Avon Park picked up a pair of insurance runs.

Alfred Brown and Perry singled to start it, and

one out later Mason Jahna belted an RBI double, scoring Brown.

Alex Gomez then lofted a deep fly to center that went for an RBI sac fly with Perry cruising in with run number seven.

Perry then held the Cowboys at bay over his final two innings, moving the Devils season record to 12-2.

The team had the rest of the week to enjoy what was left of their Spring Break before picking it up for three games this coming week.

Monday, the Devils travel to Sarasota to face Booker, host Hardee on Tuesday and get a visit from Okeechobee Friday at Head Field.

# G'day, baseball! Opening day goes Down Under

KEIRAN SMITH  
Associated Press

SYDNEY — Bob Wardle came ready to root for the Arizona Diamondbacks on opening day Down Under, all dressed in his Paul Goldschmidt jersey.

The special menu at Sydney Cricket Ground?

Not quite to his taste. "I'm not sure if I'll try anything here," said Wardle, born in Canada and now living in Sydney. "I've already had some very strange things at ballparks in the U.S."

At \$36 for a 2-foot-long hot dog, he was ready to pass Saturday night.

He was holding off on the nachos and ice-cream sundaes served in batting helmets, too.

No worries, though.

Wardle and his daughter were having a fun time as the most quintessential of American sports took top billing at the symbolic home of Australia's national game when the 2014 Major League Baseball season got started.

At a venue steeped in the history of another bat and ball game — cricket — the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Diamondbacks 3-1 before a sellout crowd of around 40,000.

The two-game series marked the first regular-

season games in Australia.

Previous MLB season openers were held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 1999, San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2001 and four times in Tokyo (2000, '04, '08 and '12).

Speaking ahead of the first pitch, Commissioner Bud Selig said this visit had been a success.

He was noncommittal on when MLB would return to Australia or anywhere else around the globe.

"We don't know yet, we're working on several things," Selig said. "We're going to examine all our possibilities. The nice part about all of this is we're getting now overtures, really good ones, from all over the world."

"It won't be 100 years until we're back here, I can promise you that," he said in reference to the 100th anniversary of an exhibition game played by the White Sox and the New York Giants at the Sydney Cricket Ground, won 5-4 by Chicago before 10,000 fans on Jan. 3, 1914.

While excitement for this series may be muted within the U.S., Australian baseball fans arrived in their thousands to catch a glimpse of multimillionaire players and the quality of a sport

they're not used to seeing.

Dodgers fans Narelle Walton and Mereana Joseph traveled for more than seven hours, including taking two flights in the 2,810-mile journey from Karratha — a remote mining town in Western Australia state — to see this matchup.

"This is our first major league game," said Walton, donning a Dodgers cap and shirt. "It's on our bucket list to be here."

Wardle had far less distance to travel, but was just as keen to experience the major leagues here after playing in a masters baseball tournament in Phoenix and adopting the Diamondbacks as his team.

"I'm originally from Canada, so I'm an old Expos and Blue Jays fan," he said. "My first game was back in 1968 in Detroit, where Denny McLain lost one of his six games in a season where he won 31."

Another novelty for the local crowd was keeping a ball hit into the stands, unlike cricket where the ball is returned to play.

Dodgers second baseman Justin Turner threw five balls into the member's enclosure at the bottom of the first inning, setting off desperate attempts by fans to catch a souvenir.

# SPRING Golf Classic

Saturday, April 5, 2014

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Fees include round of golf, cold beverage on the course and a meal during the awards ceremony following play. Teams will be flighted by Handicap.



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Find it in the  
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# 'Have you ever heard of Little Richard?'

BracketRacket: Which school would win the NAAs if the athletes really were students?

**JIM LITKE**  
Associated Press

Welcome back to a mostly Mercer-packed edition of BracketRacket, the one-stop shopping place for your offbeat NCAA tournament needs.

Today, we get to the bottom of Duke's dirty trick, take a whirlwind tour of Little Richard's hometown and try to placate the eggheads in our midst. Without further ado:

## NOW YOU KNOW THE REST OF THE STORY

Turns out tiny Mercer's takedown of mighty Duke was even better than it looked.

Never mind all the other advantages the Blue Devils brought to the game that the Bears couldn't hope to match: NBA-caliber players, a Hall of Fame coach, a bigger budget than two dozen BCS football programs, a pedigree and blue blood (whatever that's good for), not to mention a 27-minute commute from their campus in Durham to the loading dock at the PNC Arena in Raleigh, N.C.

But just to drive home the point, someone locked Mercer out of its locker room at halftime. We dispatched Associated Press sports writer Joedy McCreary to investigate.

Sophomore Ike Nwamu told him the Bears viewed the setback as just one more hill to climb.

They went over their game plan — whispering, we presume, since Duke probably has NSA connections, too — and did what they could to stay loose.

Teammates kept reminding each other, as Nwamu put it, "We've got a big task ahead of us."

Barely two minutes passed before someone got the door open.

When the Bears came back out after halftime, they shot 58 percent and sank the Blue Devils 78-71.

All that proved is that if the folks at Duke were as smart as they think they are, they would have made sure to lock Mercer in.

## CELEBRITY ALUM OF THE DAY

As the final seconds ticked down on the Mercer-Duke game, former NBA player and coach Sam Mitchell stood in middle of the TSN studios and did his version of an Irish river dance.

Mitchell may have been born in Macon, Ga., but he comes by his varied musical tastes honestly.

"Let me ask you a question: Have you ever heard of Little Richard?" the proud Mercer grad began without waiting for an answer. "Have you ever heard of Otis Redding? They're from Macon, Ga."

Actually, Redding was born in Dawson, Ga.

But just like the classic scene from "Animal House" where Boon overlooks Bluto's historical faux pas — "Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor? Hell no!" — AP's Jon Krawczynski didn't interrupt Mitchell because he was rolling.

"Have you ever heard of (former L.A. Lakers guard) Norm Nixon?" Mitchell continued. "That's Norm Nixon's hometown."

And so it is. But among that distinguished crowd, only Mitchell could lay claim to helping the Bears make the NAAs.

But that was back in the early 1980s, and the small school from Macon didn't win a game.

"It's one thing to advance in the NCAA tournament," Mitchell demurred. "It's a whole 'nother thing to beat a school like Duke."

"They put us on the map and gave us an identity," he said, rolling once again. "That's something that all of us graduates of Mercer will be indebted to these guys for forever. They put us on the map."

Right. Which still shows Macon exactly 101.3 miles up the road from Dawson.

## THIS JUST IN: HUMANS FALL SHORT OF PERFECTION FOR ANOTHER YEAR

Somewhere, Warren Buffet is smiling.

We said that when he went to bed Thursday night, too, but that was a guess.

Now it's official. As of 4:45 p.m. Eastern, right about the time Stanford beat New Mexico, there were still 16 perfect brackets left among millions of entries.

Four hours later, not long after Memphis beat George Washington, the last three were kaput.

This shouldn't come as a surprise.

Another thing BracketRacket noted the night before last were the odds (9.2 quintillion-to-1, give or take a few hundred trillion, we think) that Buffet would have to fork over the \$1 billion himself, since one of his companies served as underwriter for the Quicken Loans Billion Dollar Bracket Challenge.

Those who put a downpayment on a house planning to use proceeds from Mr. Buffet are advised to call his friends at Quicken Loans.

## DUDE, WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS UNDER YOUR ARM CALLED? BOOKS? NO SERIOUSLY, WHAT ARE THEY?

Dayton wins! Dayton wins!

In your dreams, maybe. Or if this were the old TV show "College Bowl," instead of the NCAA tournament, then absolutely.

At least that's what the folks at Inside Higher Ed assured us would happen if the schools filling out the brackets competed at educating students instead of padding their bottom lines.

What a quaint notion! But for those who still believe athletes are actually students, here's the short version of how things would have played out:

Dayton and Kansas are the only two teams to make the Sweet 16 boasting perfect Academic Progress Rates, which is NCAA's "multiyear measure of a team's classroom performance" — in this case, from 2008-12.

But if the two South Region entrants wind up meeting in the Elite Eight, where the Federal Graduation Rate is applied as a tiebreaker, handing a close decision to the Flyers.

Dayton goes on to defeat East Region champ Memphis in the Final

Four and winds up in the championship game against Midwest winner Michigan, which got past West region representative American University.

See the entire bracket here: <http://bit.ly/1gSmSKL>

Dayton's ultimate victory over Michigan means that the Flyers "while talented on the court" in the words of Inside Higher Ed, "also know how to hit the books hard."

Tell me you don't feel smarter already.

## STAT OF THE DAY

With only two rounds in the books, Stats LLC notes the all-time mark for most overtime games is in jeopardy. Stephen F. Austin's come-from-behind thriller against VCU was the sixth OT affair in the tournament, topped only by the seven overtime games in 1995 and 1997.

In three other years — 1975, 2006 and 2008 — there were also six games that extended past regulation.

That leaves this year's edition with 31 games, or chances if you like, to match or surpass the all-time mark.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I thought I'd be playing after today." — Duke sophomore forward Rodney Hood, who along with freshman teammate Jabari Parker is considered a potential NBA pick, explaining why he hasn't yet considered whether to return to school or go pro.

## NCAA

FROM PAGE A9

years.

And so that was basically a flip'em game that hurt me on one bracket.

But it was a true upset that actually helped me, even though I got it wrong in two of the three I've filled out.

Before Mercer upended Duke Friday, I was lagging back in about the 44th percentile on my brackets on ESPN.

Once the Bears clinched the win, it seemed to bring the rest of the field back to me as I'm somewhere in the high 60s now, percentile wise.

At the particular bracket I have in front of me, out of the 32 games played Thursday and Fri-

day, I was incorrect in my guesses on eight of them.

But only one of those hurts me moving forward, the Mercer-Duke result.

I had the Blue Devils topping UMass in the next round, but then losing to Michigan.

So as long as Michigan makes it to the Elite Eight, then the damage is limited.

Of all the other games I got wrong, I had them losing their next games, against teams I correctly picked.

Though, as we all know, a relatively serene Thursday and Friday of the NCAA Tournament, bracket wise, can quickly change come Saturday and Sunday.

*Dan Hoehne is the Sports Editor of the News-Sun. He can be reached at [daniel.hoehne@newssun.com](mailto:daniel.hoehne@newssun.com).*

## SENIORS

FROM PAGE A9

helped to take the lead over Reflections.

In the last inning, with the score 12-8.

Reflections came close with a big triple by Rick Enfelis scoring two runs.

Rick then scored to cut

the lead to 12-11, but a fly out to left field ended the game and made Alan Jay the winners of the playoffs.

The next season will start anew in January's first week of 2015.

Anyone interested in playing in the 60s and 70s brackets, call John Kloet at 471-0405.

## Jones homers in Marlins' win over Astros

KISSIMMEE — Garrett Jones homered in the first inning and drove in three runs, leading the Miami Marlins to a 7-2 win over the Houston Astros on Friday.

It was the second home run of spring training for

Jones, who also had an RBI during the Marlins' error-aided, three-run fifth.

Jake Marisnick went 3 for 3 and scored twice for Miami. Marisnick is batting .429 in 16 spring games.

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| Appliance Dealer . . . . . (3)             | _____ | Medical Equipment Store . . . . . (62) | _____ |
| Appliance Service . . . . . (4)            | _____ | Mexican Restaurant                     | _____ |
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| Auto Body Repair Shop . . . . . (6)        | _____ | Mortgage Company . . . . . (64)        | _____ |
| Auto Service . . . . . (7)                 | _____ | Nail Salon . . . . . (65)              | _____ |
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| Brunch . . . . . (16)                      | _____ | Pediatrician . . . . . (73)            | _____ |
| Burger in Town                             | _____ | Pest Control Company . . . . . (74)    | _____ |
| (not fast food) . . . . . (17)             | _____ | Pharmacy . . . . . (75)                | _____ |
| Cabinetry                                  | _____ | Photographer . . . . . (76)            | _____ |
| (kitchen and bathroom) . . . . . (18)      | _____ | Physical Therapist . . . . . (77)      | _____ |
| Car Wash . . . . . (19)                    | _____ | Pizza . . . . . (78)                   | _____ |
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| Carpet Cleaner . . . . . (21)              | _____ | Place to Play Bingo . . . . . (80)     | _____ |
| Caterer . . . . . (22)                     | _____ | Plumber . . . . . (81)                 | _____ |
| Chicken Wings . . . . . (23)               | _____ | Pool Builder . . . . . (82)            | _____ |
| Chiropractor . . . . . (24)                | _____ | Print Shop . . . . . (83)              | _____ |
| Cup of Coffee . . . . . (25)               | _____ | Quilt Store . . . . . (84)             | _____ |
| Customer Service . . . . . (26)            | _____ | Real Estate Agent . . . . . (85)       | _____ |
| Dentist . . . . . (27)                     | _____ | Real Estate Office . . . . . (86)      | _____ |
| Dinner Under \$10 . . . . . (28)           | _____ | Rental Store . . . . . (87)            | _____ |
| Disc Jockey . . . . . (29)                 | _____ | Remodeler . . . . . (88)               | _____ |
| Doctor . . . . . (30)                      | _____ | Restaurant with a View . . . . . (89)  | _____ |
| Dog Grooming . . . . . (31)                | _____ | Retirement Community . . . . . (90)    | _____ |
| Dry Cleaners . . . . . (32)                | _____ | Romantic Restaurant . . . . . (91)     | _____ |
| Early Bird Special . . . . . (33)          | _____ | Roofer . . . . . (92)                  | _____ |
| Electrician . . . . . (34)                 | _____ | Salad Bar . . . . . (93)               | _____ |
| Electronics Dealer . . . . . (35)          | _____ | Seafood Restaurant . . . . . (94)      | _____ |
| Fast Food Restaurant . . . . . (36)        | _____ | Self Storage . . . . . (95)            | _____ |
| Fast Oil Change . . . . . (37)             | _____ | Septic Company . . . . . (96)          | _____ |
| Florist . . . . . (38)                     | _____ | Sports Bar/Pub . . . . . (97)          | _____ |
| Frame Shop . . . . . (39)                  | _____ | Steak in Town . . . . . (98)           | _____ |
| Funeral Home . . . . . (40)                | _____ | Stock Broker . . . . . (99)            | _____ |
| Furniture Store . . . . . (41)             | _____ | Surgeon . . . . . (100)                | _____ |
| Garden Nursery . . . . . (42)              | _____ | Tanning Salon . . . . . (101)          | _____ |
| Golf Course . . . . . (43)                 | _____ | Tennis Courts . . . . . (102)          | _____ |
| Golf Pro . . . . . (44)                    | _____ | Tire Store . . . . . (103)             | _____ |
| Happy Hour . . . . . (45)                  | _____ | Used Car Dealer . . . . . (104)        | _____ |
| Hardware Store . . . . . (46)              | _____ | Veterinarian . . . . . (105)           | _____ |
| Health Club . . . . . (47)                 | _____ | Weight Loss Center . . . . . (106)     | _____ |
| Hearing Aid Center . . . . . (48)          | _____ |  |       |
| Heating & Air Company . . . . . (49)       | _____ |  |       |
| Home Builder . . . . . (50)                | _____ |  |       |
| Home Security Company . . . . . (51)       | _____ |  |       |
| Hotel/Motel . . . . . (52)                 | _____ |  |       |
| Insurance Agency . . . . . (53)            | _____ |  |       |
| Investment Firm . . . . . (54)             | _____ |  |       |
| Italian Restaurant . . . . . (55)          | _____ |  |       |
| Jewelry Store . . . . . (56)               | _____ |  |       |
| Local Radio Station . . . . . (57)         | _____ |  |       |
| Lumber Co. . . . . (58)                    | _____ |  |       |
| Machine Shop . . . . . (59)                | _____ |  |       |

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- Entries must be submitted on official entry ballot.
- Photocopies, carbon copies and illegible entries will not be accepted.
- At least 30 of the categories must be filled out.
- One entry per person.
- One entry per envelope.
- Ballots not meeting the criteria will not be counted.
- Entries must be received by April 2, 2014.
- Mail to Reader's Choice Contest, News-Sun, 2227 U.S. 27 South, Sebring, FL 33870.
- Entries may be dropped off at the News-Sun Office.

All judges decisions are final. All entries become property of the News-Sun. The News-Sun will not be responsible for entries lost or delayed in the mail for any reason. No purchase necessary.

**If you do not have enough room to write, please attach an extra sheet & write the number & company and attach it to this form, and thank you for your participation this year!**

### Look for this ribbon!

An ad or company with this ribbon has won or has been a previous winner of this contest! They have been chosen worthy of this award by the voters of Highlands County.



**Five-Day forecast for Highlands County**

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly sunny and nice	Couple of thunderstorms	Chance of a little morning rain	Sunny to partly cloudy and cooler	Rather cloudy
86° / 65°	81° / 66°	80° / 53°	69° / 52°	73° / 62°
Winds: W at 6-12 mph	Winds: N at 4-8 mph	Winds: WNW at 8-16 mph	Winds: N at 8-16 mph	Winds: ESE at 7-14 mph



**Almanac**

**Temperature**  
Readings at Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid

High Tuesday	78°
Low Tuesday	49°
High Wednesday	84°
Low Wednesday	56°
High Thursday	86°
Low Thursday	60°

**Heat Index**  
For 3 p.m. today

Relative humidity	40%
Expected air temperature	84°
Makes it feel like	84°

**Barometer**

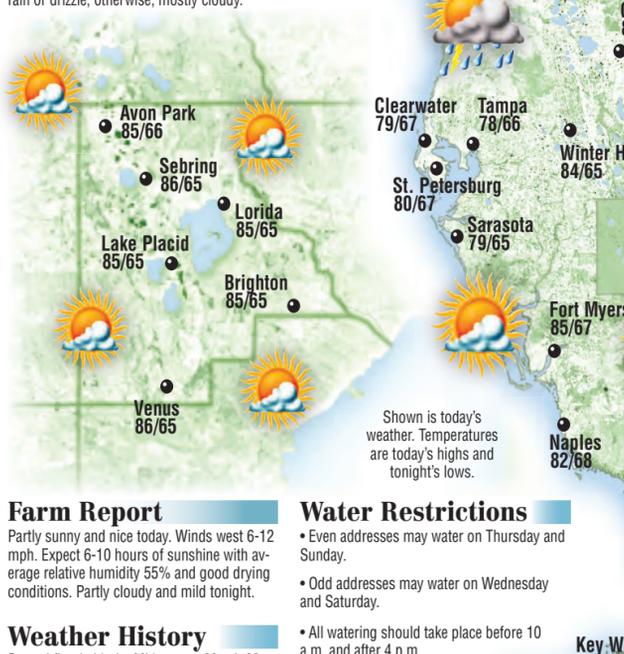
Tuesday	30.01
Wednesday	29.98
Thursday	29.97

**Precipitation**

Tuesday	0.00"
Wednesday	0.00"
Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	0.42"
Year to date	5.29"

**Regional Summary**

Partly sunny and nice today. Partly cloudy and mild tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow with showers and a thunderstorm, mainly later. Tuesday: chance for morning rain or drizzle; otherwise, mostly cloudy.



**Farm Report**

Partly sunny and nice today. Winds west 6-12 mph. Expect 6-10 hours of sunshine with average relative humidity 55% and good drying conditions. Partly cloudy and mild tonight.

**Water Restrictions**

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

**Weather History**

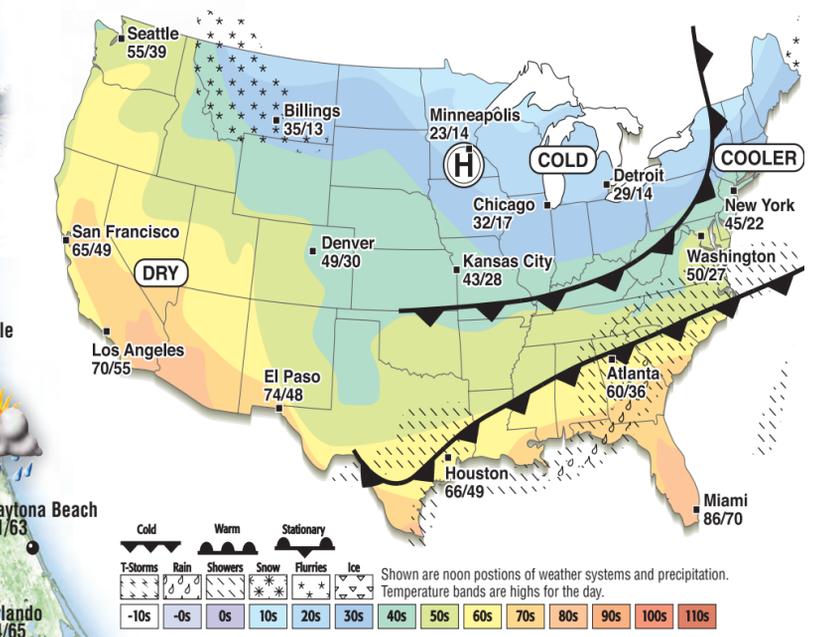
Record floods hit the Midwest on March 23, 1913, with major rainstorms adding to snow-melt. This prompted the federal government's first widespread flood control projects.

**Sun and Moon**

	Today	Monday
Sunrise	7:27 a.m.	7:26 a.m.
Sunset	7:39 p.m.	7:39 p.m.
Moonrise	1:28 a.m.	2:24 a.m.
Moonset	12:34 p.m.	1:34 p.m.



**National Forecast for March 23**



**National Summary**

An arctic cold front will advance across the Midwest and into the Northeast today, spreading colder and drier Canadian air. A slow-moving cold front will deliver rounds of showers to the Deep South and Gulf Coast states. Morning thunderstorms in Louisiana will reappear along the western coast of Florida late in the day. A piece of the front extends up along the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains and will cause some snow in Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana. Accumulations are expected to be on the light side, however.

**U.S. Cities**

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.	City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Albuquerque	61/39/pc	65/39/pc	67/45/s	Los Angeles	70/55/pc	80/58/s	75/56/pc
Atlanta	60/36/r	57/41/pc	58/30/r	Louisville	47/24/pc	48/31/pc	42/21/c
Baltimore	47/27/c	40/28/s	40/26/sn	Memphis	53/33/pc	58/39/pc	53/31/s
Birmingham	57/37/r	62/39/pc	58/28/pc	Milwaukee	26/14/pc	32/17/pc	28/12/c
Boston	39/11/pc	27/16/pc	35/23/pc	Minneapolis	23/14/s	33/8/sf	21/12/pc
Charlotte	56/28/r	55/36/pc	44/29/r	Nashville	52/28/pc	54/32/pc	52/25/pc
Cheyenne	47/24/pc	38/19/sf	52/35/s	New Orleans	71/52/t	61/51/r	69/48/pc
Chicago	32/17/pc	34/22/pc	33/17/c	New York City	45/22/pc	36/26/s	38/28/sn
Cleveland	29/16/pc	28/23/pc	34/14/c	Norfolk	50/33/r	40/32/s	42/34/r
Columbus	38/20/pc	37/25/pc	36/17/c	Oklahoma City	54/33/pc	60/31/pc	60/36/s
Dallas	57/40/pc	62/42/s	66/44/s	Philadelphia	47/26/pc	37/27/s	38/28/sn
Denver	49/30/pc	46/24/pc	61/38/s	Phoenix	82/62/s	85/62/s	88/62/s
Detroit	29/14/c	33/20/pc	34/12/c	Pittsburgh	34/18/sf	34/23/s	38/17/c
Harrisburg	44/23/pc	36/27/s	38/24/sn	Portland, ME	32/2/sf	24/1/pc	30/19/c
Honolulu	81/71/pc	82/71/pc	83/71/s	Portland, OR	61/39/s	67/46/pc	57/45/sh
Houston	66/49/r	60/47/r	68/48/pc	Raleigh	53/29/r	49/33/s	42/31/r
Indianapolis	37/17/s	38/25/pc	36/14/c	Rochester	24/10/sf	26/19/s	34/19/c
Jackson, MS	58/40/c	62/43/pc	62/35/s	St. Louis	41/23/s	45/25/s	36/21/pc
Kansas City	43/28/pc	42/23/sf	38/25/pc	San Francisco	65/49/pc	64/49/s	58/51/c
Lexington	45/21/pc	45/28/pc	40/19/c	Seattle	55/39/pc	63/44/pc	56/42/r
Little Rock	56/35/pc	57/37/pc	58/34/s	Wash., DC	50/27/c	43/32/s	42/29/sn

**World Cities**

City	Today	Mon.	Tue.	City	Today	Mon.	Tue.
Acapulco	93/73/pc	89/70/pc	89/71/pc	London	51/31/pc	54/40/pc	52/38/sh
Athens	68/51/pc	68/53/pc	66/47/s	Montreal	23/1/sf	18/5/pc	25/18/pc
Beirut	77/64/pc	76/61/s	71/59/s	Moscow	58/42/pc	60/43/pc	59/41/pc
Berlin	53/36/c	51/34/c	47/32/c	Nice	62/45/pc	61/44/s	60/44/pc
Bermuda	71/66/pc	70/57/sh	64/62/pc	Ottawa	21/3/pc	21/8/pc	29/13/c
Calgary	23/7/sf	20/13/pc	33/14/pc	Quebec	19/-6/sf	16/0/pc	21/7/pc
Dublin	49/32/pc	48/42/r	48/38/sh	Rio de Janeiro	78/69/r	79/69/pc	80/70/sh
Edmonton	22/4/sf	19/6/pc	24/12/c	Seoul	63/43/s	60/45/pc	62/46/pc
Freeport	78/69/s	78/67/t	78/66/c	Singapore	91/76/pc	91/77/s	90/77/t
Geneva	45/34/c	44/29/pc	49/38/pc	Sydney	84/63/pc	75/63/t	77/64/r
Havana	89/65/s	89/65/s	86/63/t	Toronto	22/11/pc	25/18/pc	31/17/c
Hong Kong	71/64/s	72/66/s	74/70/pc	Vancouver	48/39/c	54/45/pc	50/44/r
Jerusalem	72/53/c	69/54/s	66/50/sh	Vienna	58/42/r	48/38/r	51/35/pc
Johannesburg	76/55/s	77/55/s	76/52/pc	Warsaw	60/45/r	51/42/r	48/37/c
Kiev	62/41/s	64/43/pc	64/45/pc	Winnipeg	11/0/s	16/-10/sf	14/1/pc

# ASSISTED LIVING

## Did you know...

**We now have our Limited Nursing Specialty License!**

**With our New License We Can Do:**

- Applying ice caps or collars
- Applying heat, including dry heat, hot water bottle, heating pad, aquathermia, moist heat, hot compresses, sitz bath and hot soaks
- Cutting the toenails of diabetic residents or residents with documented circulatory problems if the written approval of residents
- Perform ear and eye irrigations
- Conduct urine dipstick test
- Replacement of an established self-maintained indwelling urinary catheter, or performance of an intermittent urinary catheterizations
- Performing digital stool removal therapies
- Applying and changing routine dressings that do not require packing or irrigation, but are for abrasions, skin tears and closed surgical wounds
- Care for stage 2 pressure ulcers (resident must be discharged if no signs of improvement by 30 days)
- Caring for casts, braces and splints
- If resident is under Hospice services-may provide any nursing service permitted within scope of the nurse's license including 24 hour nursing supervision
- Assist, apply, care for and monitor the application of anti-embolism stockings or hosiery as per Health Care Provider and in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines
- Administer and regulate portable oxygen
- Administer medications
- Apply, care for and monitor a TENS
- Catheter, Colostomy, ileostomy care and maintenance
- PROM

**Staffed with Full-Time Licensed Nurses**

This list is summarized and may not include all care options, requirements or limitations. Please contact Renee Marley or Tina Thompson at Crown Pointe ALF for any questions.

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## Chateau Elan

HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER PRESENTS

# Easter Sunday Brunch

April 20 • 11am until 1pm

**A Cold Station Display:** Salad Bar with selection of toppings & dressings, a vast selection of assorted fresh bakeries served with all the spreads and toppings.

**Carving Station:** Our Specialty Roast Prime Rib served with Au Jus, Honey Glazed Ham (all carved to order)

**Seafood Display:** Shrimp and Mussels and Smoked Salmon display

**Omelet Station:** our culinary team will prepare the "Ultimate Omelet" for you!

**Hot Buffet:** Fresh Snapper, Apricot Glazed Chicken, Penne Cabernet Marinara, Mashed Potatoes and more!

**Desserts:** Wonderful Viennese table including Petit Fours, Homemade Apple Pie, Parfaits, and a variety of Sweet Easter treats. Gourmet coffee station featuring flavored coffees & teas.

**Chateau Elan Hotel**  
150 Midway Dr. Sebring, FL  
**863-655-7200**  
www.cesebring.com

Seating is limited.  
**Make your reservation early!**

## towel tags

Be sure everyone knows whose towel is whose so that they stay on the hook and out of the laundry hamper longer.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Bath towel and wash cloth
- Permanent, waterproof ink pad
- Letter stamps
- Cotton twill tape
- Pinking shears
- Iron
- Needle and thread

Using the stamps and ink pad, spell out a family member's name onto the cotton tape. Trim the tape with pinking shears (to prevent fraying), so that there's about 4½ inches extra after the name and a few inches before the name. When the ink is dry, set it by covering the tape with a cloth and pressing it with a hot, dry iron. Fold both edges of the tape under about ¼ inch and crease the folds with the iron. Sew the folded edges to the towel edge.



## time out

This cheerful whale can help reduce the length of your family's showers by giving a friendly "ding!" when it's time to finish up.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Whale template (download the template at familyfunmag.com/printables)
- Timer
- Blue felt
- Red felt
- Cereal-box cardboard
- Black felt or googly eye
- Tacky glue
- Glue dots

Cut one whale shape from felt and a second backing shape from cardboard. Glue the shapes together. Attach an eye and adhere the whale to the timer with glue dots. On the timer dial, adhere a red felt arrow at your target shower length (time your shower, then try reducing it by a minute or two). Glue a matching arrow on the whale, pointing to zero.



## name a napkin

Cloth napkins aren't just for special occasions. Personalize a set or two with each family member's initial and use them for several meals, then pop them all in the wash.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Cloth napkins
- Con-Tact paper
- Foam or stencil brush
- Fabric paint

For each, cut a 5-inch square of Con-Tact paper. Trace and cut a 2½-inch circle from the center. Trace a printed letter on the circle, and cut that out. Peel the backing from the square and the letter, and adhere both to a prewashed napkin. Dip the brush into a shallow dish of fabric paint, then dab (don't brush) the paint onto the napkin. After the paint dries, peel off the paper. Set the paint according to the manufacturer's directions.



## snack packs

Repurpose a milk or juice carton into a reusable snack container. For an eco-friendly trifecta, fill it with treats from your supermarket's bulk bin!

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Half-gallon milk/juice carton (clean, dry)
- Colored/patterned duct tape
- Adhesive-backed Velcro square

Measure, mark and cut the carton so three sides are 4 inches tall and one side is 7 inches tall. Trim the tall side into a curve. Pinch the front and back panels together while tucking in the sides of the carton, as shown. Fold the curved flap over the front of the carton. Cover the outside with duct tape. Add the Velcro square to the inside of the flap and the front of the carton.



## scrap saver

Make it easy to reuse single-sided school flyers and office memos by stacking them, blank side up, in accessible bins.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Sturdy cardboard shipping box
- Double-sided tape
- Patterned paper
- 1 sheet of card stock

For each bin, assemble a shipping box. Cut off a portion of it at an angle, as shown. (Our shorter top panel is 7½ inches, the bottom panel, 9 inches.) Using the tape, cover the boxes with patterned paper. Use letter stamps (or a marker) to print "scrap paper" onto the top half of a piece of card stock, fold the bottom half back, and tape the label in place, as shown.

By Deborah Way  
FamilyFun magazine

# craft a greener home

Make your house more eco-friendly this Earth Day with easy, fun crafts and creative tips

## paper monster

Turn two grocery bags into a friendly monster that wants nothing more than to be fed paper scraps. Once it's full, pack up the whole shebang and send it to the recycling center.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- 2 large brown paper bags (for a sturdier creature, use paper lawn bags)
- White and black paper
- Glue stick
- Masking tape

Cut a large oval hole in one of the bags. Use a glue stick to attach a row of pointy, white paper teeth inside. Add eyes using black paper and the leftover white scraps. Open the second bag and slip the first bag over it, overlapping the edges an inch or two. Seal the seam with masking tape.

**FamilyFun**

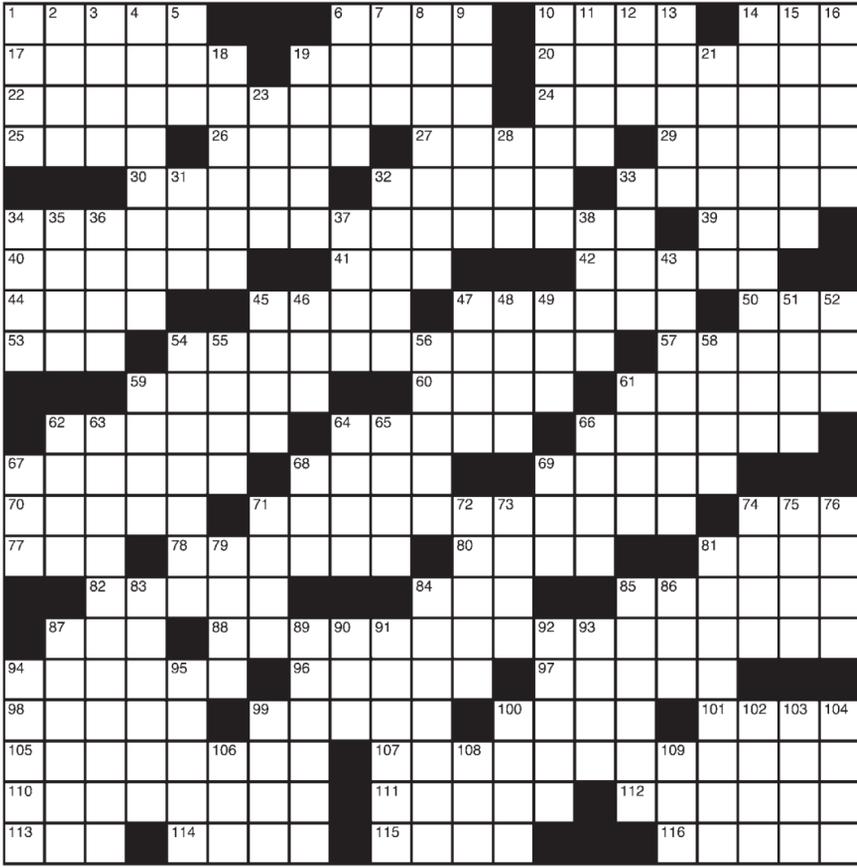


CALL ME

BY ANNE MARIE BRETHAUER

ACROSS

- 1 Matter of faith
- 6 Statutes
- 10 Plays the harpy
- 14 Puckish sort
- 17 Brooks Robinson, notably
- 19 John's 2008 running mate
- 20 Schubert classic
- 22 Precursor to reality shows like "Punk'd"
- 24 Least likely to make a faux pas
- 25 Blackthorn fruit
- 26 Beach feature
- 27 Test in a small room, maybe
- 29 Comes in last
- 30 Splashed
- 32 Apothecary's bottle
- 33 Guard
- 34 "Oh, I give up!"
- 39 Singer Grant
- 40 Plant sometimes called a false shamrock
- 41 Australia's lang.
- 42 Intimate
- 44 \_\_ Martin Cognac
- 45 Collar target
- 47 Hank who voices Moe Szyslak
- 50 Soup holder
- 53 "Annie" couple?
- 54 Unlikely job for one with acrophobia?
- 57 Pet shop purchase
- 59 Perch
- 60 Spinner in the wind
- 61 Fell from grace
- 62 Slide preparations
- 64 North Pole explorer
- 66 Straightened (up)
- 67 "Walk on By" singer Warwick
- 68 Narrated
- 69 Honda, even in reverse?
- 70 Reporter assigned to a platoon, e.g.
- 71 Deceptive action
- 74 Dancer Charisse
- 77 Mario Kart console
- 78 Lampoon
- 80 Shells out
- 81 Botanical balm
- 82 Bath sponge
- 84 A pop
- 85 Seal, in a way
- 87 Girl o' my heart
- 88 1952 Groucho Marx film
- 94 Many a cottonwood
- 96 River nymph
- 97 Solo
- 98 Rose pest
- 99 Colorado resort
- 100 Smart \_\_
- 101 Nimbus
- 105 Most fair



Solution on B9

- 107 General Lee, in "The Dukes of Hazzard"
- 110 Sexy sleepwear
- 111 "Silas Marner" novelist
- 112 Lacing aid
- 113 Opposite of six, on a die
- 114 Gather
- 115 Phoned
- 116 Uplift

DOWN

- 1 Severinsen and a dwarf
- 2 Spoken
- 3 Futurist painter Severini
- 4 Without pretension
- 5 "Fight of the Century" contender
- 6 Barely believable
- 7 "... such stuff / As dreams \_\_ made on": Shak.
- 8 Wild African pig
- 9 "Funny Girl" actor
- 10 Italia seaport
- 11 Stratford's river
- 12 Brylcreem, e.g.
- 13 Request at a sitting
- 14 "That proves it"
- 15 King novel
- 16 Sitting duck
- 18 Swirling currents
- 19 \_\_ Domingo
- 21 Without a key
- 23 Select

- 28 Edible tuber
- 31 Upsilon follower
- 32 \_\_ code
- 33 "Ice Road Truckers" truck
- 34 Links cry
- 35 Team in a field
- 36 Ewes' guys
- 37 Second in command
- 38 Starfleet captain
- 43 Legendary attendant of Charlemagne
- 45 Own (up)
- 46 "Never \_\_ Me Go": Kazuo Ishiguro novel
- 47 Slightly open
- 48 Screwball
- 49 Lowest gin card
- 51 Secondhand
- 52 Prof's degree
- 54 What's-his-face
- 55 Went like the dickens
- 56 Skirt
- 58 Really amazing, to a dude
- 59 Artist Magritte
- 61 Not taped
- 62 \_\_ Valley, Calif.
- 63 Where the ends of 22-, 34-, 54-, 71-, 88- and 107-Across and 14-Down can be found
- 64 Slipshod
- 65 Actress Sommer
- 66 Binds

- 67 Web revealer
- 68 "OMG, stop telling me all this!"
- 69 Call out
- 71 Doe's beau
- 72 Use
- 73 Give a hoot
- 74 "Pinocchio" goldfish
- 75 "In \_\_ Eyes": Peter Gabriel hit
- 76 Agcy.
- 79 Miles off
- 81 Stood before the court
- 83 Flashing flirtatious looks
- 84 Self-playing instrument
- 85 Lozenge
- 86 Writer Rand
- 87 Ribbed fabric
- 89 Keeping up (with)
- 90 Kool Moe Dee genre
- 91 German ballads
- 92 Worker with many keys
- 93 Fridge juice: Abbr.
- 94 Cellist Casals
- 95 One doing sums
- 99 Cambodia setting
- 100 All aflutter
- 102 Hybrid citrus fruit
- 103 Snorkeling site
- 104 Affectedly cultured
- 106 Before, to Byron
- 108 Continuous babble
- 109 "I see," at sea

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

# Things are changing this week, but it's for the best, Aquarius

Metro News Service

**ARIES** — A difficult challenge lies ahead, Aries. Save up your energy for the next few days, and keep socializing to a minimum for the time being.

**TAURUS** — The path you have been taking seems more stable, Taurus. This is a good way to go for a while. You will find others are looking to you more for advice. It's a role you enjoy.

**GEMINI** — Gemini, a string of bad luck is not as bad as it seems. Like most things, this, too, shall pass. Keep your chin up, and hang out with friends to keep your mind busy.

**CANCER** — A great opportunity presents itself this week, Cancer. Focus your energy on making the most of this opportunity, and you will be glad for having done so.

**LEO** — Leo, speak a little louder to ensure your voice is heard on an important issue this week. Your input is valuable, and those around you will be glad you spoke up.

**VIRGO** — Virgo, a new career opportunity is coming your way soon. Make the most of this opportunity if change is something you feel you need at this point in your career.

**LIBRA** — Extra spending leaves you a little light in the wallet, Libra. Look for ways to generate some extra income or curtail your spending in the months ahead.

**SCORPIO** — Scorpio, a bumpy road will soon give way to greener pastures. Ride out this rough patch with a smile on your face, and it will pass quickly without wreaking any significant havoc.

**SAGITTARIUS** — Sagittarius, a relationship is blossoming and you're not sure in which direction it should be going. Trust your gut instincts, and things will work out fine.

**CAPRICORN** — You are tougher than others suspect, Capricorn, and you will prove your mettle with a difficult task that requires all of your focus and energy to master. Others will be impressed.

**AQUARIUS** — Things are changing, but it's for the best, Aquarius. Instead of going against the tide, let the waves take you where you need to go. Surprises are in store.

**PISCES** — Think about moving in a new direction, Pisces. Change can be a good thing, and you will benefit from embracing change this time.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

March 23, Jason Kidd, Athlete (41); March 24, Jim Parsons, Actor (41); March 25, Elton John, Singer (67); March 26; Jennifer Grey, Actress (54); March 27, Nathan Fillion, Actor (43); March 28, Lady Gaga, Singer (28); March 29, Jill Goodacre, Model (49).

# Fun outings at casino become costly compulsion

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I were both married previously. We have been together for seven years.

When we first started dating, we would sometimes go to one of the casinos after dinner as a fun outing. We never spent much money and went only occasionally. Our game of choice was the slot machine.

Over the last few years, it seems like the casino has taken over our lives. We go there to the exclusion of almost everything else and spend money we can't afford to lose. We both have the mentality that the "big win" is right around the corner.

How can we break this habit? It's causing unbearable financial and emotional stress in our marriage. I'm afraid it won't last another year.

— IN OVER MY HEAD IN NEW YORK

**DEAR IN OVER YOUR HEAD:** In case you are not aware, there is a name for



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

the habit you and your husband have acquired. It's "compulsive gambling," and it's an addiction in much the same way as the abuse of alcohol or drugs. Fortunately, you have finally reached a point where you have realized this "fun outing" is out of control.

Gamblers Anonymous can help you break this destructive cycle. It's a 12-step program based on the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. Its members support one another by sharing their strength and experiences with one

another. The website is [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org).

Many people have experienced what you're going through, and this well-established organization has helped them. To locate a meeting near you, visit the website or check your telephone directory.

**DEAR ABBY:** My mom and stepfather are divorcing. They were married for 25 years. He was always a great father figure to me and has been a very active grandfather to my children. The reason for the divorce is his infidelity and the disrespect he has shown my mother.

We are his only family, and he wants to be involved with us as if nothing is different, even showing up at family gatherings. I want to be loyal to my mother — and I do feel he betrayed us — but I still recognize that he has also been good to me and the kids. He

doesn't deserve to be cut out of our lives. How does one handle a situation like this?

— SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

**DEAR SEEING:** Your stepdad may want to pretend that nothing is different, but something IS different. He hurt your mother so badly they will no longer be married.

If you want to be loyal to your mother and still have a relationship with him, then you need to have a talk with him. Explain that because he is no longer married to your mother, he will no longer be invited to family gatherings where your mother will be present. Be sure to tell him you regard him with affection, but will be seeing him separately for the foreseeable future.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

# SUDOKU

	6	3			4			
			9	4				2
	2		8					
		4	5					
8	2	7					6	
		5			9		4	
3				5				
			8				9	
	1		3	9	7			8

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This 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!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, 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 order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	9
4	7	1	8	6	3	9	5	2
3	8	9	4	2	5	7	1	6
1	7	5	6	3	8	9	2	4
8	3	2	7	4	9	5	6	1
6	9	4	5	1	2	8	7	3
4	2	1	8	7	3	6	5	9
7	5	8	8	6	4	1	3	2
9	6	3	2	5	1	4	8	7

ANSWER:

**ONE VISIT WILL AMAZE YOU**

## PSYCHIC READINGS BY DORA

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# Chew on this: Gum loses its pop

Gum sales sink as competition rises; celeb gum chewing helps make tasteless image stick

CANDICE CHOI  
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK — Gum seems as appealing as that sticky wad on the bottom of a shoe these days.

It's not that Americans still don't ever enjoy a stick of Trident or Orbit, the two most popular brands. They just aren't as crazy about chomping away on the stuff as they once were, with U.S. sales tumbling 11 percent over the past four years.

No one in the industry can pinpoint a single factor that's causing the decline — the theories include an unwillingness to shell out \$2 or more for a pack in the bad economy or that advertising veered too far from underlining gum's cavity-fighting benefits. But the biggest reason may be that people simply have more to chew on.

From designer mints to fruit chews, candy companies have invented plenty of other ways to get a sugar fix or battle bad breath and anxiety. The alternatives don't come with gum's unpleasant characteristics either, like the question of whether to spit out or gulp the remains. They're also less likely to annoy parents, co-workers or romantic interests.

"You talk to someone and they're just chomping on gum," said Matt Smith, a 46-year-old who lives Albany, N.Y. and hates gum so much he refers to it only by its first letter. "If you substitute gum for any other food, like mashed potatoes, would you find that acceptable? It's disgusting."

The gum chewing habit dates as far back as the ancient Greeks but arrived in the U.S. in its modern form in the 1860s, according to Mars Inc., the No. 1 player in the market with its Wrigley unit.

Over the years, gum makers positioned it as a way to "Kiss a Little Longer" in the famous Big Red jingle, quit smoking, curb cravings or just make the chewer happier. Catchy slogans or characters included the "Doublemint Twins" and Orbit's blonde spokeswoman who ends commercials with "Dirty mouth? Clean it up."

It popped up in pop cul-

ture too. In the 1960s, a genre of music aimed at younger audiences came to be known as "Bubblegum." In the 1975 movie "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," the silent Chief Bromden speaks for the first time saying, "Mmm, Juicy Fruit" after the character played by Jack Nicholson gives him a stick of the gum. And Janet Jackson played a feisty, gum-chewing beautician in the 1993 film "Poetic Justice."

But gum's image as a tasteless habit also stuck, with some high-profile gum chewing only making it worse.

In 2003, Britney Spears gave an interview to CNN where a white piece of gum could be seen floating around her mouth as she fielded questions on a range of topics, including the war in Iraq. Talk show host Wendy Williams has a "gum wall" backstage, where she sticks wads of it before walking out. In one episode, she told Patti LaBelle that she could put her gum on the wall after the singer spit out a wad into her hand.

Such imagery may be why gum is still a no-no in business meetings or first dates, according to Lizzie Post, the great-granddaughter of etiquette expert Emily Post and co-author of "Emily Post's Etiquette."

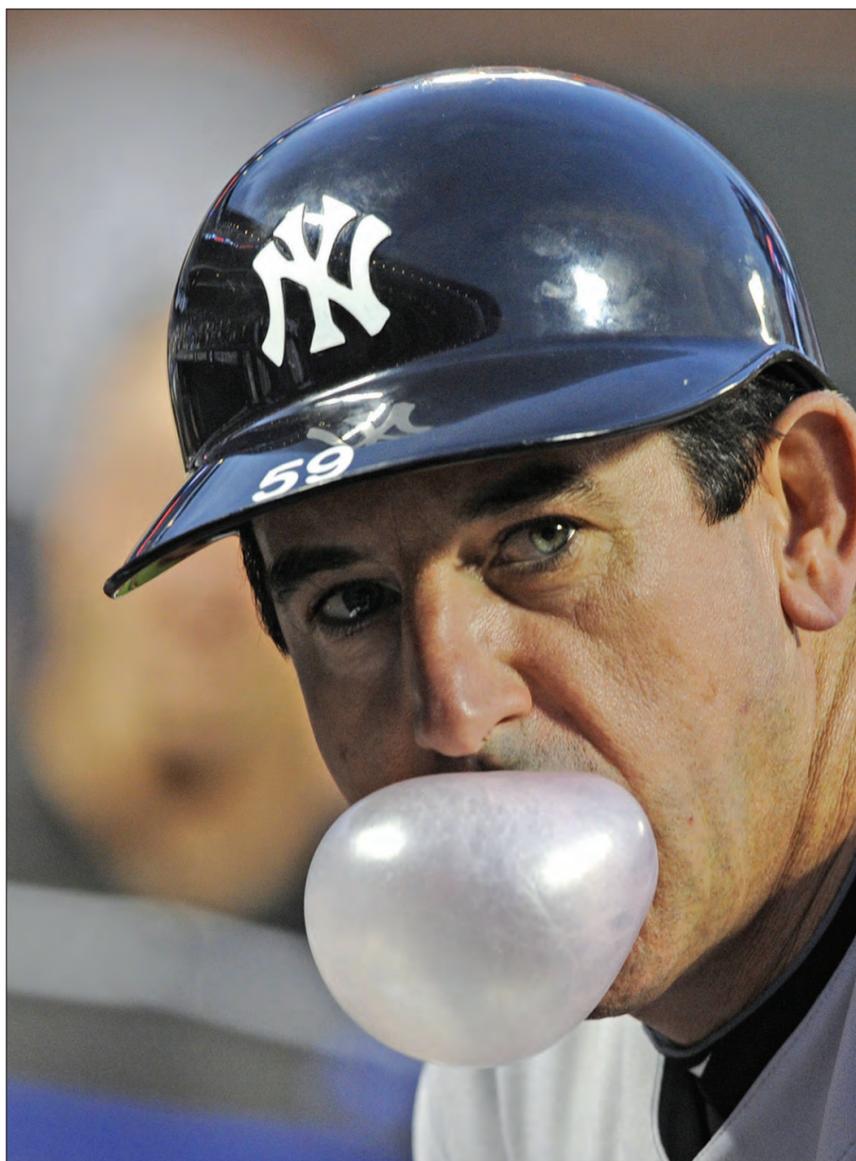
"My grandmother used to tell me, 'You look like a cow chewing cud,'" she said.

The habit so bothered author Malachy McCourt that the extremely long-shot gubernatorial candidate in 2006 told the New York Times he wanted to triple the tax on gum. The former Green Party nominee explained that he didn't like the mess it created on sidewalks and subways.

"The other aspect of it is that it makes people look so stupid," said McCourt, 82, in a recent interview.

Gum's bad image is one reason that alternatives look more attractive. There's also another perennial complaint: "The flavor runs out too fast," said Ryan Furbush, a 17-year-old from Sayreville, N.J. who has stopped chewing gum in favor of chewy candies and chocolates.

It may be why Mars



MCT

While there are still plenty of people chewing gum, sales have dropped 11 percent over the past four years.

said its gum declines have been most significant with people who are 25 and younger. In the meantime, Altoids mints, Welch's Fruit Snacks and countless other options have taken up space in the checkout aisles where most gum is purchased.

Since peaking in 2009, U.S. gum sales have fallen 11 percent to \$3.71 billion last year, according to market researcher Euromonitor International. That's even as overall candy sales — including gum, chocolate, mints and licorice — have climbed 10 percent to \$31.53 billion.

Over the next five years, Euromonitor projects gum sales will drop another 4 percent to \$3.56 billion.

Hershey, which makes Reese's, Kit Kat and Almond Joy, is taking data to retailers to illustrate the slowing demand for gum. The idea is to encourage them to devote less of their candy aisles to it, and perhaps make way for more of its own products. Hershey, which also makes Ice Breakers mints and gum, is planning another blow against gum: This fall, it's slated to roll

out a version of Ice Breakers that "chews like a gum, but dissolves like a mint."

Steven Schiller, global head of Hershey's non-chocolate candies includ-

ing mints, said it gives gum chewers an alternative that doesn't require "disposal" at the end.

Gum makers are strategizing too. The maker of

Trident, whose total gum sales were down as much as 16 percent in developed markets at one point last year, has an online campaign reminding people to run through the mental checklist before leaving the house: "phone, keys, gum."

"We know when people have gum in their pocket or backpack or desk, they're much more likely to chew it," said Stephanie Wilkes, who heads the North American candy business for Mondelez, the No. 2 player in gum with Trident, Dentyne and Bubblicious.

Mars, which makes Big Red, Doublemint, Juicy Fruit and Orbit, is testing illuminated racks in candy aisles to make its gum and candy stand out more. The company said the racks have led to a 10 to 30 percent sales increase in tests.

And after years of slowly vanishing from shelves, Bazooka bubble gum last year relaunched its brand with new marketing and packaging. Distribution has since rebounded.

Still, executives are realistic about gum's turnaround prospects.

"We're not expecting any dramatic recovery in the category anytime soon," Mondelez CEO Irene Rosenfeld said during an earnings call last month.

Follow Candice Choi at [www.twitter.com/candicechoi](http://www.twitter.com/candicechoi)

## Police release pictures from Cobain suicide scene

SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle police on Thursday released previously unseen images showing drug paraphernalia from the scene of Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain's suicide 20 years ago.

Police spokeswoman Renee Witt said that a detective who recently reviewed the Cobain case files found several rolls of undeveloped film that were taken at the suicide scene.

The images released late Thursday were from that discovery.

One shows a box containing a spoon and what look like needles on the floor next to half a cigarette and sunglasses. The other showed the paraphernalia box closed, next to cash, a cigarette pack and a wallet that appears to show Cobain's identification.

"There was nothing earth-shattering in any of

these images," Witt said.

Police took another look at the Cobain suicide to be ready to answer questions in connection with next month's anniversary, she said. "There's still a lot of interest in this case," Witt said. "The detective went into the case files to refresh himself. The outcome of the case has not changed."

Cobain's body was discovered in Seattle on April 8, 1994.

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# Beyond banning bossy



Karl Mondon/Contra Costa Times/MCT

Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook, delivers the luncheon keynote session to the 2011 Professional Business Women of California conference in San Francisco.

## Is there some middle ground in Sheryl Sandberg's splashy Ban Bossy campaign?

LEANNE ITALIE  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg and the Girl Scouts recently declared a campaign to “Ban Bossy,” complete with Beyonce, Jane Lynch and Condoleezza Rice on video, a website full of tips and thousands of fans who pledged to stamp out that B word for girls.

But the effort is also being questioned on a variety of fronts, including its focus on a word that not everyone considers damaging, and for encouraging a behavior that not everybody believes equals leadership, as Ban Bossy contends.

Harold Koplewicz, who heads a think tank called the Child Mind Institute, went on the hunt for evidence that the word “bossy” discourages girls from becoming leaders, as Sandberg and the Girl Scouts believe. Koplewicz asked first-graders and sixth-graders at a public elementary school for gifted children how they feel about the word. Save for a couple of “outliers,” he found that most students he observed at Hunter College Elementary School in Manhattan didn’t love the term bossy, “but they didn’t love the word leader, either.”

The kids also told him that acting bossy carries a high risk of not being liked. “They thought that being liked was better than being a leader,” Koplewicz said.

The Ban Bossy campaign cites a study by the Girl Scout Research Institute in which girls reported being twice as likely as boys to worry that leadership roles would make them seem bossy. The fear of being seen as bossy is put forth as a primary reason girls resist leadership roles.

Alicia Clark, a Washington, D.C., psychologist whose specialties include parenting and couples counseling, lauded the campaign’s suggested alternatives to bossy and ideas for fostering leadership in girls, but she sees a broader sense of social anxiety at play.

“Girls experience fears and inhibitions about social acceptance more acutely, in the form of stress,” she said. In some cases, “Mean, bossy girls, as my 13-year-old daughter describes them, are closer to being bullies than they are leaders. And we know that bullies fundamentally feel insecure, hate themselves for it and assert themselves over other insecure people as a way of garnering a sense of control and dominance. This is not leadership. This is intimidation.”

Caroline Price, a 17-year-old high school junior in Andover, Mass., loved Sandberg’s book, “Lean In,” and admires many of the women who have jumped on Ban Bossy. “But to me bossy isn’t the same as leadership. Bossy people aren’t people you want to follow. Leaders inspire us to be better versions of ourselves. Bossy means ‘my way or the highway.’ Leadership is when someone listens and encourages others around them,” she said.

Sometimes, Price added, “leaders aren’t just the loudest — the bossiest. There are different kinds of leaders — and some lead more quietly, or by consensus or by example and so on.”

Like critics of Sandberg’s Lean In movement urging working women to strive for leadership positions, the backlash against Ban Bossy is multifaceted.

Some detractors think girls and women of the bossy ilk should “own” the word rather than demand to be free of it, not unlike the way “queer” has been reclaimed as celebratory among many people who are LGBTQ, for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning their sexual identities.

Sandberg, Rice and other celebrity supporters of Ban Bossy recall how being called bossy made them feel diminished as kids and dinged their self-esteem, but what about kids who are not bossy, but are bossed around?

“The people who are bossy, sometimes they have an attitude,” said Rose Wladis, 11, a Girl

Scout and fifth-grader in New York (not at Hunter). “I think being a leader is kind of showing people what to do, but being nice about it and encouraging people and, like, setting an example for them. But bossiness is just telling someone what to do.”

Koplewicz said research shows teen girls are more likely than boys to have symptoms of mental health issues, some related to low self-esteem. Yet girls also tend to do better than boys in school, getting better grades and earning degrees in higher numbers. Despite their academic success, women hold only a fraction of top executive positions, a point “Lean In” emphasizes.

But were female executives seen as bossy growing up, and did they suffer under the weight of the word? “At the moment there is no direct research that categorizes the word bossy as dangerous,” said Koplewicz, who generally supports Sandberg’s campaign to promote female leadership but not so much the focus on the lone word.

The focus wasn’t lost on Hillary Rodham Clinton. She spoke to a gathering of book publishers Wednesday about a memoir she’s working on covering her years as U.S. secretary of state. Clinton threw out “Bossy Pantsuit” as a possible title, riffing on Tina Fey’s best-selling “Bossypants,” then she paused and earned laughs for her punch line: “We can no longer say one of those words.”

Maura Ciammetti, 26, works for a small technology company in suburban Philadelphia. She said being called bossy at times in college and work situations allowed her to “step back and assess how I am approaching a situation. Was I too forceful? Am I listening to my peers? Am I looking at the big picture? Why is this person challenging me with this label?”

Instead of banning the word, Ciammetti said, what “if we taught girls how to deal with their peers calling them names and other situations of ad-

versity.”

Julia Angelen Joy, 42, a Girl Scout troop leader and mother of four in Boise, Idaho, works in public relations and marketing, where lots of women dominate and where she has encountered many a bossy female boss. She calls them “chictators.” She can’t get behind the Ban Bossy project.

“Bossy can mean two things — a strong leader or a domineering nag. Using the word in a campaign is a double-edge sword,” Joy said.

## Breastfeeding employee can't sue insurer, court says

RYAN J. FOLEY  
Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co. did not discriminate against an employee who claims she was denied a room to pump breast milk and pressured to resign on her first day back from maternity leave, a federal appeals court has ruled.

Angela Ames, a former loss-mitigation specialist in Nationwide’s Des Moines office, did not meet the legal burden of showing she was treated so badly that any reasonable person would have resigned, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Thursday. The decision means Ames won’t get a trial on her claims of gender and pregnancy discrimination.

Ames claimed that on the morning she returned from a two-month maternity leave in July 2010, the company refused to let her use its lactation rooms because its policy required mothers to complete paperwork seeking security access and wait three days for processing. She had been unaware of that requirement. A company nurse suggested she use a wellness room that was

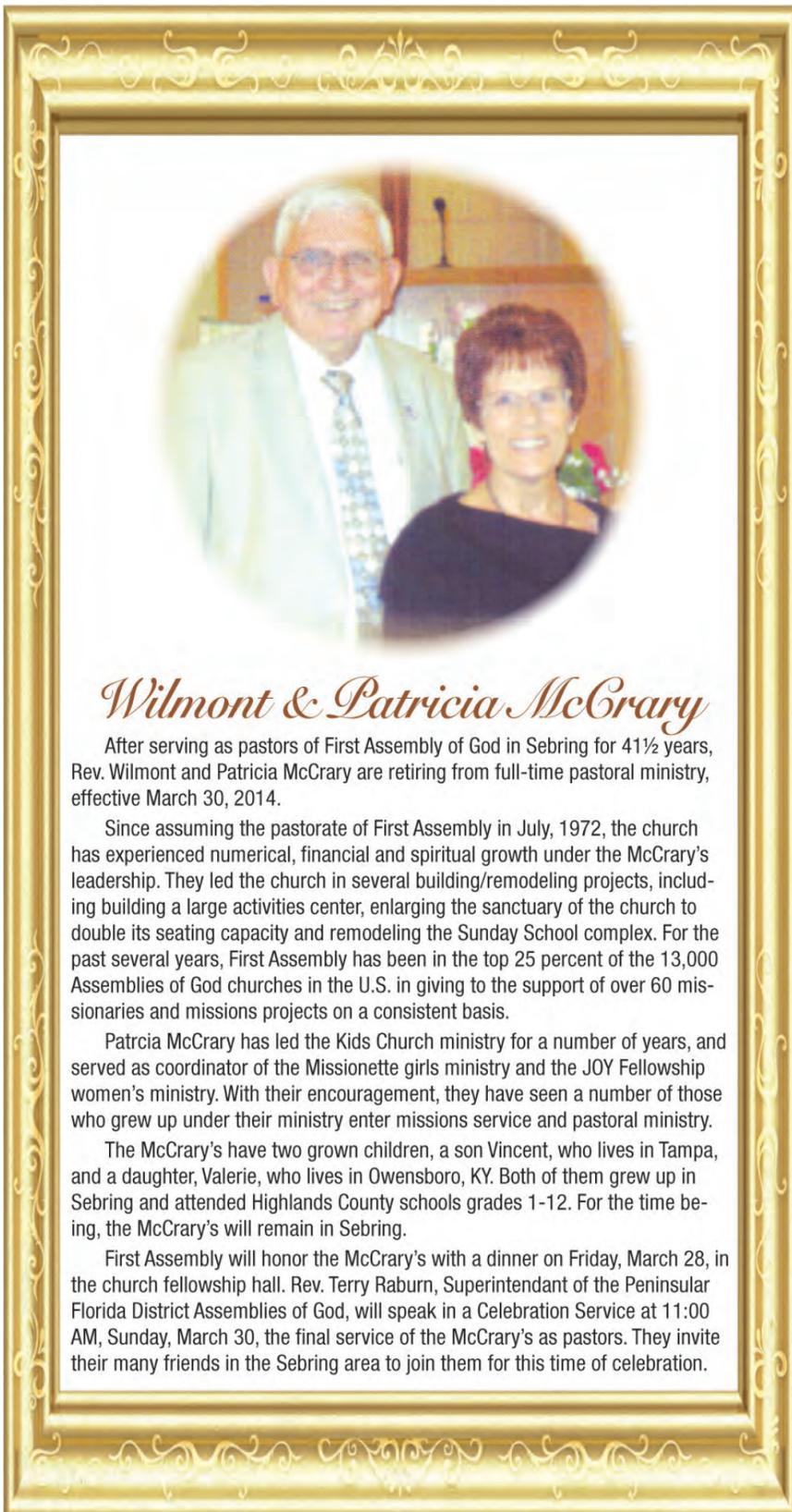
occupied at the time, but also cautioned that doing so might expose her milk to germs.

Ames said she was in pain while waiting for that room to be vacated, when her supervisor informed her that she would be expected to work overtime to catch up on her work or face disciplinary action. Ames then went to her department head, Karla Neel, to see if she could find her a place to lactate, but was told that was not Neel’s responsibility.

Neel handed Ames a piece of paper and pen and told her to write her resignation, saying, “I think it’s best that you go home to be with your babies,” Ames claimed. Ames had also taken a two-month maternity leave after giving birth to her first child in 2009.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a friend-of-the-court brief urging the lawsuit be reinstated after it was dismissed in 2012 by U.S. District Judge Robert Pratt.

The remark that Ames should “go home to be with your babies” was evidence of discrimination because it invoked stereotypes about the role of women, commission lawyers wrote.



### Wilmont & Patricia McCrary

After serving as pastors of First Assembly of God in Sebring for 41½ years, Rev. Wilmont and Patricia McCrary are retiring from full-time pastoral ministry, effective March 30, 2014.

Since assuming the pastorate of First Assembly in July, 1972, the church has experienced numerical, financial and spiritual growth under the McCrary’s leadership. They led the church in several building/remodeling projects, including building a large activities center, enlarging the sanctuary of the church to double its seating capacity and remodeling the Sunday School complex. For the past several years, First Assembly has been in the top 25 percent of the 13,000 Assemblies of God churches in the U.S. in giving to the support of over 60 missionaries and missions projects on a consistent basis.

Patricia McCrary has led the Kids Church ministry for a number of years, and served as coordinator of the Missionette girls ministry and the JOY Fellowship women’s ministry. With their encouragement, they have seen a number of those who grew up under their ministry enter missions service and pastoral ministry.

The McCrary’s have two grown children, a son Vincent, who lives in Tampa, and a daughter, Valerie, who lives in Owensboro, KY. Both of them grew up in Sebring and attended Highlands County schools grades 1-12. For the time being, the McCrary’s will remain in Sebring.

First Assembly will honor the McCrary’s with a dinner on Friday, March 28, in the church fellowship hall. Rev. Terry Raburn, Superintendent of the Peninsular Florida District Assemblies of God, will speak in a Celebration Service at 11:00 AM, Sunday, March 30, the final service of the McCrary’s as pastors. They invite their many friends in the Sebring area to join them for this time of celebration.

# Black preschoolers more likely to face suspension

JESSE J. HOLLAND AND  
KIMBERLY HEFLING  
Associated Press



Nationally, 1 million children were served in public preschool programs, with about 60 percent of districts offering preschool during the 2011-2012 school year, according to the data. The data show nearly 5,000 preschoolers were suspended once. At least 2,500 were suspended more than once.

WASHINGTON — Black students are more likely to be suspended from U.S. public schools — even as tiny preschoolers.

The racial disparities in American education, from access to high-level classes and experienced teachers to discipline, were highlighted in a report released Friday by the Education Department's civil rights arm.

The suspensions — and disparities — begin at the earliest grades.

Black children represent about 18 percent of children in preschool programs in schools, but they make up almost half of the preschoolers suspended more than once, the report said. Six percent of the nation's districts with preschools reported suspending at least one preschool child.

Advocates long have said get-tough suspension and arrest policies in schools have contributed to a "school-to-prison" pipeline that snags minority students, but much of the emphasis has been on middle school and high school policies. This was the first time the department reported data on preschool discipline.

Earlier this year, the Obama administration issued guidance encouraging schools to abandon what it described as overly zealous discipline policies that send students to court instead of the principal's office. But even before the announcement, school districts have been adjusting policies that disproportionately affect minority students.

Overall, the data show that black students of all ages are suspended and expelled at a rate that's three times higher than that of white children. Even as boys receive more than two-thirds of suspensions, black girls are suspended at higher rates than girls of any other race or most boys.

**'Every data point represents a life impacted and a future potentially diverted or derailed. This administration is moving aggressively to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline in order to ensure that all of our young people have equal educational opportunities.'**

Eric Holder  
U.S. attorney general

The data doesn't explain why the disparities exist or why the students were suspended.

"It is clear that the United States has a great distance to go to meet our goal of providing opportunities for every student to succeed," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in a statement.

"This critical report shows that racial disparities in school discipline policies are not only well documented among older students, but actually begin during preschool," Attorney General Eric Holder said. "Every data point represents a life impacted and a future potentially diverted or derailed. This administration is moving aggressively to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline in order to ensure that all of our young people have equal educational opportunities."

Nationally, 1 million children were served in public preschool programs, with about 60 percent of districts offer-

ing preschool during the 2011-2012 school year, according to the data. The data show nearly 5,000 preschoolers were suspended once. At least 2,500 were suspended more than once.

Reggie Felton, interim associate executive director at the National School Boards Association, called the rates "unacceptable." He said there's more training going on to ensure teachers are aware of the importance of keeping students in school.

Daniel Losen, director of the Center for Civil Rights Remedies for the Civil Rights Project at UCLA, said the findings are disturbing because the suspended preschoolers are unlikely to be presenting a danger, such as a teenager bringing a gun to school.

"Almost none of these kids are kids that wouldn't be better off with some support from educators," Losen said. "Just kicking them out of school is denying them access to educational opportunity at

such a young age. Then, as they come in for kindergarten, they are just that much less prepared."

Losen said it's appropriate to discipline a 4-year-old, but a more appropriate response might be moving them to a different educational setting with additional services.

"Most preschool kids want to be in school," Losen said. "Kids just don't understand why they can't go to school."

Kimberly Lewis, principal of Raleigh-Bartlett Meadows Elementary School in Memphis, said she's never suspended a child in her school's preschool program and would only consider it in an "extreme circumstance." She said her district provides behavior specialists and other services to children with discipline problems so strategies can be worked out with teachers and parents if preschoolers need additional support.

If there are racial disparities among preschool-

children don't have equitable access to experienced and fully licensed teachers."

"The inequities detailed in this report have been caused, at least in part, by policies that disregard the professionalism of teaching and create a revolving door of under-prepared and under-supported novices who leave before they've reached the levels of mastery required to truly make a difference," Van Roekel said.

Judith Browne Dianis, co-director of the Advancement Project, a think tank that specializes in social issues affecting minority communities, said the findings didn't surprise her.

"I think most people would be shocked that those numbers would be true in preschool, because we think of 4- and 5-year-olds as being innocent," she said. "But we do know that schools are using zero tolerance policies for our youngest also, that while we think our children need a head start, schools are kicking them out instead."

Follow Kimberly Hefling on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/khefling>  
Follow Jesse J. Holland on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/jessejholland>

## Jeb Bush seeks common ground in higher education

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said Thursday the partisan divide isn't as wide when it comes to improving the nation's higher education system as it is in many other areas.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, who like Bush is often mentioned as a potential 2016 president candidate, accepted Bush's invitation to appear at a conference he is co-hosting on global higher education issues. It begins Monday in Irving, Texas.

"This isn't a political conference," Bush, a Republican, said in a telephone interview when asked why he invited Clinton, a Democrat who served as secretary of state. "There's a real consensus

in our country that higher education is hugely important and if we can find ways to improve quality and lower costs and provide greater access in the United States and around the world, it's hard to argue against that," Bush said. "The question is, how do you do it?"

Bush said it's good that at the federal level and in many states there are discussions about ways to improve higher education. He noted that among full-time college students, about 60 percent of students graduate within six years.

"Initiatives that focus on better outcomes and helping students get the courses they need to garner degrees of relevance quicker are a very good thing," Bush said.

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### 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**, 22600 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's+) begin at 6:30 PM. The adult Bible and Prayer Time begins at 7 p.m. For more information go to [www.bethanybaptistap.com](http://www.bethanybaptistap.com) or call the church office at 863-452-1136.

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

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

**First Baptist Church of Avon Park, N.** Lake Ave., Avon Park, FL - 453-6681. Rev. Jon Beck, pastor; Rev. Johnattan Soltero, Hispanic pastor; Joy Loomis, director of music. Sunday - Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Children's Church, 10:45 a.m.; Youth Choir, 4:30 p.m.; Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Nursery provided for both services. Wednesday - Wednesday Night Supper, 5:15 p.m.; Children's Choir, 5:45 p.m.; Youth Activities, 6 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. To watch services online, go to the website at [www.fbcp.net](http://www.fbcp.net). "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. Sunday night worship at 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer meeting at 7 p.m. along with youth worship in the youth facility, and missions training for all children. Call the church at 655-1524.

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

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

**First Baptist Church, Sebring**, 200 E. Center Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. Telephone: 385-5154. Rev. Matthew D. Crawford, senior 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.; Mission 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](http://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 and youth at 6 p.m. and for adults at 6:30 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 Ar buckle Creek Road.) Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:15 a.m.; Evening Service, 6 p.m. Mid-week service, Wednesday, 6 p.m. Daily Prayer and Bible Study, 8 a.m., Hamman Hall. Pastor Gerald Webber and Associate Pastors Don Messenger and Ted Ertle. Phone 382-4301.

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

**Sparta Road Baptist Church, (SBC)** 4400 Sparta Road. Evangelist Roger Jaudon. 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 E. 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. Sunday Life Teen Mass at 6 p.m. Weekday mass at 8 a.m. English confession at 3:30 p.m. Saturday; Spanish confession at 6:30 p.m. Religious Education Classes (September to May) are 9-10:20 a.m. Sunday for grades K through 5th. Grades 6th through Youth Bible Study are from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

**St. Catherine Catholic Church**, 820 Hickory St., Sebring. Parish office/ mailing address: 882 Bay St., Sebring, FL 33870, 385-0049, 385-6762 (Spanish); fax, 385-5169; email, [office@stcath.com](mailto:office@stcath.com); website, [www.stcath.com](http://www.stcath.com). School Office/Mailing, Principal Dr. Anna V. Adam, 747 S. Franklin St., Sebring, FL 33870; 385-7300; fax, 385-7310; email [school@stcath.com](mailto:school@stcath.com). School office hours 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Clergy: Very Rev. José González, V.F., [frjose@stcath.com](mailto:frjose@stcath.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: Sunday 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. year round. Saturday Vigil 4 p.m. Weekdays 9 a.m. Holy days 9:30 a.m. (Vigil evening before at 7 p.m.) First Saturday of each month: Healing Mass, 9 a.m.

### CHRISTIAN

**Cornerstone Christian Church**, (Sax-on Hall) 1003 West Pine St., Avon Park, FL 33825. Love Christ - Love People. Jon Carter, Music Minister. Sunday, 9 a.m. Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship; Communion

available each week. Wednesday, 7 p.m. Fellowship Group. For more information call 453-7679.

**Sebring Christian Church**, 4514 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33872. Tod Schwingel, Preacher. Kristy Marvin, Childrens Director. Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m.; Wednesday night meals, 5:30 p.m. followed by classes at 6:30 p.m. Alzheimers Caregivers Support Group meets at 1 p.m. Thursdays. 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. Youth Fellowship, 7:15 p.m.

### CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

**The Alliance Church of Sebring**, 451 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.

### 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.

**Heartland church of Christ**, Lakeshore Mall - Suite 42 (outside entrance), 901 U.S. Highway 27 N, Sebring, FL 33870. Sunday worship, 9 a.m. to noon; Wednesday, Bible study, 7 p.m. Evangelist Carl Ford, (863) 402-2159.

**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/lakeplacidcofc/](http://www.thelordsway.com/lakeplacidcofc/).

**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. 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. If you need any more information, call 453-4851.

**Church of the Nazarene of Lake Placid**, 512 W. Interlake Blvd., Lake Placid, FL 33852. Adult Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Morning worship, 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday evening: All church meal, 6 p.m.; Christian Life Study, 6:45 p.m. Winter Life groups pending. Call 446-1339. 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.

### EPISCOPAL

**Episcopal Church of the Redeemer Avon Park**, 910 W. Martin St., Avon Park, FL 33825 (U.S. 27 across from Wells Motor Co.). Rev. Canon George Conger. Sunday services: Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.; Saturday Bible study at 2:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Come and worship with us; we would love to meet you. Church office, 453-5664; fax, 453-4853. Visit us at our website at [redeemeravonpark.com](http://redeemeravonpark.com). Email [rededeer1895@aol.com](mailto:rededeer1895@aol.com). Call the thrift store for hours open and donation pick up at 664-9668 or 453-5664.

**St. Agnes Episcopal Church**, 3840 Lakeview Drive, Sebring, FL 33870. Father Scott Walker. 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. Worship: Sunday, 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday Bible study at 9:15 a.m. Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Worship 6 p.m. and Thursday 9 a.m. Holy Communion with Healing. Call the thrift store for hours open - 699-0221.

### EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF AMERICA

**The Church of the Way EFCA**, 1005 N. Ridgewood Drive, Sebring. Sunda1005 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](mailto:thewaychurch@hotmail.com). Web site: [www.TheWayChurch.org](http://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.sebring-grace.org](http://www.sebring-grace.org).

### INDEPENDENT

**First Christian Church**, 1016 W. Camphor St., Avon Park, FL 33825; (863) 453-5334; on the Web at [www.firstchristianap.com](http://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., (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. Rev. Sharon Dorr and Deacon David Thoresen will be the Spiritual Leaders, alternating Sundays. Jim Helwig, organist. Worship service with the Holy Eucharist is at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday. Birthday Sunday is the first Sunday of each month after the service. Council meeting is on the first Tuesday of each month. WELCA meets at noon second Tuesday of the month with a light lunch. Labyrinth Prayer Garden is open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When in need of prayers or to talk to God, come to the Garden. Come and grow with us; we would love to meet you and your family. Don't worry about how you look. Jesus went to the temple in a robe and sandals. Quilting classes every Monday at 6 p.m. Looking for quilters or people willing to learn. Call 840-3303.

**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 [christlutheranavonpark.org](http://christlutheranavonpark.org).

**Faith Lutheran Church - LCMS**, 2740 Lakeview Dr, Sebring; 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 served 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday. Sunday School & Bible Classes: 9:15 a.m. Worship Svc. Broadcast at 8 a.m. on WITS 1340AM each Sunday. Educational opportunities include weekly adult Bible studies, Faith's Closet Thrift Store (385-2782) is open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-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](http://www.newlifesebring.com).

**Resurrection Lutheran Church - ELCA**, 324 E. Main St., at Memorial Drive, Avon Park. Pastor Rev. John C. Grodzinski. Sunday worship 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. Coffee and fellowship following 10:30 a.m. service. Wednesday Worship Service is 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 Education Hour, 8:45 a.m.; Worship service, 10 a.m. Holy Communion each first and third Sunday. Children's Church scheduled during worship service, 4-year-olds through fifth grade. Nursery provided during worship service for infants to 3-year-olds. Seasonal Mid-Week Services each Wednesday evening during Advent and Lent. Call church office at 465-5253 or visit the website at [www.Trinitylutheranlp.com](http://www.Trinitylutheranlp.com). Other activities and groups include: Choir; Ladies Guild and LWML; Men's Fellowship Group, Small Group Bible Studies; Trinity Tots Pre-school, and Youth Group.

### 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.bfcsebring.com](http://www.bfcsebring.com). Church office 385-1024.

**Calvary Church**, 1825 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33872; 386-4900. An independent community church. Sunday morning worship, 10 a.m.; Bible study, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday evening service, 6 p.m. Pastor Lester Osbeck. A small friendly church waiting for your visit.

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

**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. Monday, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Children's & Youth Programs, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., College Ministry. [www.GBCCconnected.org](http://www.GBCCconnected.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.

**New Beginnings Church of Sebring**, worshipping at The Morris Chapel, 307 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. Pastor Gary Kindel. Bible study every Sunday, 9 a.m. Blended Church Service, 10:15 a.m. Phone (863) 835-2405. [newbeginningschurchofsebring.com](http://newbeginningschurchofsebring.com) Begin your week with us.

**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](http://www.juanitafolsomministries.com).

**Union Church**, 106 N. Butler Ave., Avon Park, FL 33825. Sunday traditional worship service is at 7:45 a.m. (October through Easter) and 9 a.m. Contemporary Sunday worship service is at 10:45 a.m. Nursery and children's church available. Wednesday night worship with Pastor Tiger Gullett and CrossTalk with Pastor Bill Breylinger at 6 p.m. Breakfast and lunch menus at Solid Grounds. Senior Pastor is Bill Breylinger. Office: 453-3345. Web page at [www.wearunion.org](http://www.wearunion.org).

**Unity Life Enrichment Centre**, new location, 10417 Orange Blossom Blvd. S., Sebring, FL 33875; 471-1122; e-mail [unity@vistanet.net](mailto:unity@vistanet.net). Web site, [www.unityofsebring.org](http://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.

## RELIGION

## Obidence in one direction

A playground that our grandchildren enjoy has a walking path that twists and turns leading young explorers through a woodland area.

Yet with all there is to do, they keep asking what we're doing next. They don't want this adventure to end, but they anticipate what might take its place.

What's next? It's a good question that keeps us on our toes anticipating the future.

Young children aren't the only ones wanting to know what's around the next bend in the road. I want to know. Teenagers want to know. Young adults want to know.

We're hungry to live lives that are meaningful and adventuresome. We long to take on the next challenge and feel that sense of accomplishment.

Recently our son taught a lesson on "What's next?"

He and his wife minister to the young adults in their congregation in Colorado. These young men and women long to know what God's will is for their lives. They're on the verge of



## PAUSE &amp; CONSIDER

Jan Merop

leaping into that productive time of life and they want to experience all God has for them.

But sometimes it's difficult to discern. And they don't want to miss it.

That's where the story of Caleb gave them some food for thought.

In Joshua 14:6-12, NKJV, Caleb reminds Joshua how when they spied out the land years before he believed God that they could take it. But the others were afraid and convinced everyone else not to follow Caleb's advice. So, they wandered in the wilderness for 45 years.

"What's next?" Caleb's secret to his longevity, vitality and purpose at age 85 is re-

vealed in verse 9b.

Moses promised that Caleb would receive his inheritance, "because you have wholly followed the Lord my God."

Caleb says to Joshua, "... Behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years...and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength...both for going out and for coming in."

The key that unlocks the future is found in wholly following the Lord God. Our son termed it long obedience in one direction.

God is our Keeper and Preserver. Psalm 121:8 echoes Caleb's words, "The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore."

Please God and live the empowered life (God's power within) that will unfold before you. Selah

Jan Merop of Sebring is a News-Sun correspondent.

## PLACES TO WORSHIP

## PRESBYTERIAN

**Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA)**, 4500 Sun 'N Lake Blvd., Sebring, 33872-2113. Pastor Tom Schneider. 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.

**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 p.m. each Wednesday; Children Ministry and Youth Group, 6 p.m. each Sunday; Mary Circle business meeting, 1 p.m. second Wednesday; Sarah Circle business meeting, 4 p.m. second Thursday; Women's Ministries Combined Bible study, 4 p.m. third Thursday. Be a part of a warm, caring church family with traditional services, following biblical truth.

**First Presbyterian Church, ARP**, 319 Poinsettia Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. 385-0107. Email: faith@strato.net, Rev. Darrell A. Peer, pastor. Sunday School, all ages, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship Time, 10:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m. Tuesday; Youth Groups meet for devotions/Bible study, crafts, sport activities and dinner. Middle and high school, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Elementary School, 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday: Adult Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m. A nursery is available during worship. Call the church office for more information and other classes.

**First Presbyterian Church, ARP**, www.fpclp.com, 117 N. Oak Ave., Lake Placid, 465-2742. The Rev. Ray Cameron, senior pastor; the Rev. Drew Severance, associate pastor. Sunday Traditional Worship, 8 and 9:30 a.m.; Contemporary Worship, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 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 Deacons meet at 5:30 p.m. first Monday of the month. Choir rehearses at 7 p.m. each Wednesday, September through April. Presbyterian Women meet at 10 a.m. the third Thursday of the month. Organist: Richard Wedig. Choir Director: Suzan Wedig. Church phone, 655-0713; e-mail, springlakepc@embarqmail.com, 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.discoverjesus.org

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

## THE CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

## THE SALVATION ARMY

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

## UNITED METHODIST

**First United Methodist Church, 105 S. Pine St.**, 105 S. Pine St., Sebring, FL 33870. Pastor John A. Bryant. 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 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, Rev. Gary Pendrak, 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. Tim Haas, 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.

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## BOOKS

## WALL STREET JOURNAL BEST-SELLERS

## FICTION

1. "Rush Revere and the First Patriots" by Rush Limbaugh (Threshold Editions)
2. "Insurgent" by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
3. "Allegiant" by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
4. "The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green (Dutton Books)
5. "Power Play" by Danielle Steel (Delacorte)
6. "Green Eggs and Ham" by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
7. "One Fish Two Fish" by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
8. "The Cat in the Hat" by Dr. Seuss (Random House)
9. "The Bootlegger" by Clive Cussler and Justin Scott (Putnam Adult)
10. "Big Nate: In the Zone" by Lincoln Pierce (HarperCollins)

## NONFICTION

1. "The Blood Sugar Solution 10-Day Detox Diet" by Mark Hyman (Little, Brown)
2. "Jesus Calling" by Sarah Young (Thomas Nelson)
3. "Uganda Be Kidding Me" by Chelsea Handler (Grand Central Publishing)
4. "Dark Souls II Collector's Ed. Strategy Guide" by Future Press (Brady Games)
5. "Strengths Finder 2.0" by Tom Rath (Gallup)
6. "Minecraft: Essential Handbook" by Scholastic (Scholastic)
7. "Grain Brain" by David Perlmutter (Little, Brown)
8. "Killing Jesus: A History" by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard (Henry Holt & Co)
9. "The Body Book" by Cameron Diaz (Harper Wave)
10. "The Hard Thing About

Hard Things" by Ben Horowitz (HarperBusiness)

## FICTION E-BOOKS

1. "Divergent" by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
2. "Insurgent" by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
3. "Night Broken" by Patricia Briggs (Ace)
4. "Aftershock" by Sylvia Day (Harlequin Cosmo Red-Hot Reads)
5. "Allegiant" by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
6. "Power Play" by Danielle Steel (Delacorte)
7. "Hawaii" by James Michener (Dial Press)
8. "Be Careful What You Wish For" by Jeffrey Archer (St. Martin's Press)
9. "The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green (Dutton Books)
10. "The Husband's Secret" by Liane Moriarty (Amy Einhorn Books/Putnam)

## NONFICTION E-BOOKS

1. "Twelve Years a Slave" by Solomon Northup (HarperCollins)
2. "10 percent Happier" by Dan Harris (It Books)
3. "The Nazi Officer's Wife" by Edith Hahn Beer (Harper Collins)
4. "Zen and Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" by Robert M. Pirsig (Harper-Touch)
5. "Uganda Be Kidding Me" by Chelsea Handler (Grand Central Publishing)
6. "Unbroken" by Lauren Hillenbrand (Random House)
7. "I Will Never Forget" by Elaine C. Pereira (Elaine C. Pereira)
8. "Free country" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard (Henry Holt & Co.)
9. "Killing Jesus: A History" by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard (Macmillan)
10. "Excuses Begone!"

by Wayne W. Dyer (Hay House)

## USA TODAY BEST-SELLERS

1. "Divergent" by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
2. "Insurgent" by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
3. "Allegiant" by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
4. "Rush Revere and the First Patriots" by Rush Limbaugh (Threshold Editions)
5. "The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green (Dutton's Children)
6. "Night Broken" by Patricia Briggs (Ace)
7. "Power Play" by Danielle Steel (Delacorte)
8. "Aftershock" by Sylvia Day (Harlequin Cosmo Red-Hot Reads)
9. "Be Careful What You Wish For" by Jeffrey Archer (St. Martin's Press)
10. "Twelve Years a Slave" by Solomon Northup (HarperPerennial)
11. "Divergent Series Complete Box Set" by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
12. "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak (Knopf Books for Young Readers)
13. "Hawaii" by James Michener (Dial Press)
14. "Mockingjay" by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic)
15. "Stone Cold" by C.J. Box (Putnam Adult)
16. "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd (Viking Adult)
17. "The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt (Little, Brown)
18. "The Chance" by Robyn Carr (Harlequin MIRA)
19. "The Husband's Secret" by Liane Moriarty (Amy Einhorn Books/Putnam)
20. "The Bootlegger" by Clive Cussler and Justin Scott (Putnam Adult)

## Inspirational THOUGHTS &amp; SCRIPTURES



## By Patricia Valentine

We have been given a powerful weapon to effectively change the atmosphere of an entire nation. That weapon is Prayer. Today more than ever before, we are called to pray. As Christians and members of the body of Christ, you and I have been called into battle to wage war against the forces of evil. Paul reminds us that our

weapons are not the result of man's wisdom or natural ability. II Corinthians 10:4 says, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." The battle is already won, we must recognize, as the scripture says,...the weapons of our warfare are not carnal. It's not a natural fight. It's time we recognize the enemy's schemes. St. John 10:10 says,..."The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. But, there is a promise from Jesus at the latter part of St. John 10:10 which says, "...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." We are in a season where the church must know how to get a prayer through. What am I saying? We must continue to pray and expect the Lord to move. Our families, friends, co-workers, neighbors and even our enemies need someone to stand in the gap and offer a prayer on their behalf. II Chronicles 7:14 says, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." God Bless!

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# No longer America's most dangerous dog?

## Pit bulls benefit from softening attitudes, advocacy groups

**BILL DRAPER**  
Associated Press



A pit bull looks from its cage at the Waukegan Police Animal Control facility in Waukegan, Ill.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — For much of the past three decades, pit bulls have been widely regarded as America's most dangerous dog — the favorite breed of thugs, drug dealers and dog-fighting rings, with a fearsome reputation for unprovoked attacks, sometimes deadly attacks.

Hostility toward "pits" grew so intense that some cities began treating them as the canine equivalent of assault rifles and prohibited residents from owning them.

But attitudes have softened considerably since then as animal activists and even television shows cast the dogs in a more positive light. The image makeover has prompted many states to pass new laws that forbid communities from banning specific breeds. And it illustrates the power and persistence of dog-advocacy groups that have worked to fend off pit bull restrictions with much the same zeal as gun-rights groups have defeated gun-control measures.

"Lawmakers are realizing that targeting dogs based on their breed or what they look like is not a solution to dealing with dangerous dogs," said Lisa Peters, a spokeswoman for the American Kennel Club.

Seventeen states now have laws that prohibit communities from adopting breed-specific bans. Lawmakers in six more states are considering similar measures, and some cities are reviewing local policies that classify pit bulls as dangerous animals.

Pit bull advocates hail the changes as recognition that breed-specific laws discriminate against dogs that are not inherently aggressive or dangerous unless they are made to be that way by irresponsible owners.

The dogs' foes complain that their message is being drowned out by a well-funded, well-organized lobbying effort in state capitols. The debate puts millions of pit bull owners up against a relatively small number of people who have been victimized by the dogs.

Ron Hicks, who sponsored a bill in the Missouri House to forbid breed-specific legislation, said he was surprised when

nobody spoke against his proposal last month at a committee hearing.

"I figured a few parents would be there who would bring tears to my eyes," the Republican said.

"Would it have changed my opinion or what I believe in? No."

A version of Hicks' legislation was endorsed by a House committee last month and needs to clear another committee before a full House vote. The state Senate is considering a comparable bill, as are lawmakers in Utah, South Dakota, Washington, Vermont and Maryland.

In Kansas, the communities of Bonner Springs and Garden City repealed their pit-bull bans earlier this year.

Summer Freeman did not know there was a ban when she moved to Bonner Springs last year after a divorce. She panicked when an animal-control officer discovered her pet and told her she had 15 days to get rid of the dog named Titan or move out of town.

"I think of him like my son," she said. "He's my dog-son, I guess you could say. He's at my hip all the time. He's just a big baby that wouldn't hurt a fly."

Freeman was forced to leave Titan at a shelter in Lawrence for nine months until she successfully fought to overturn the law in January.

For dog owners and pit bull opponents alike, the battle is as deeply personal as any gun-control or religious issue. Each side accuses the other of lying, exploiting emotions and using bullying tactics.

Pit bull owners insist their dogs are harmless, loving family members that shouldn't be blamed for something they didn't

do. To opponents, they are a volatile breed whose genetics drive them to kill more than two dozen people in the U.S. each year, many of them young children.

Popular television shows such as "Pit Boss" and "Pit Bulls and Parolees" on Animal Planet glorify the animals and minimize the tragedies that occur when pit bulls turn on humans, pit bull opponents say.

"Everything is telling us these animals are safe if you raise them right," said Jeff Borchardt, an East Troy, Wis., man whose 14-month-old son was mauled to death a year ago by two pit bulls that tore the child from the arms of their owner, who was baby-sitting. "My son's dead because of a lie, because of a myth. My life will never be the same."

The two dogs that killed Borchardt's son had lived with their owner since soon after they were born, were well-cared for and had no history of aggressive behavior, he said. Both had been spayed or neutered.

That contradicts the contention that only mistreated, neglected or abused pit bulls attack people.

Colleen Lynn, founder of DogsBite.org, pointed to a friend-of-the-court brief her organization submitted in a 2012 case in which the Maryland Court of Appeals declared pit bulls "inherently dangerous."

"Appellate courts agree with us. Doctors and surgeons agree with us. That is credibility right there," Lynn said. "We also have the support of three divisions of the U.S. military, huge, massive bodies in the U.S. government."

dogs often are misidentified as pit bulls, making breed-specific bans hard to enforce.

And because fatal pit bull attacks are a rarity compared with other causes of death such as auto accidents, dog advocates argue that breed-specific bans amount to legislative overkill.

"All communities deserve comprehensive dog laws that demand responsible dog ownership and that hold reckless owners accountable when their poor decisions wind up getting other dogs or other people hurt," said Ledy Vankavage, a top lobbyist for the Best Friends Animal Society.

Don Burmeister, assistant city attorney for

Council Bluffs, Iowa, led the effort to pass a local pit bull ban that took effect in 2005. He recalled first reading about the issue in the July 27, 1987, issue of Sports Illustrated, which carried a full-cover shot of an angry pit bull baring its teeth. Across the top, it said "BEWARE OF THIS DOG."

After the Council Bluffs ban went into place, the number of pit bull attacks that resulted in hospitalization plummeted from 29 in 2004 to zero the past few years — proof, Burmeister said, that breed-specific bans work.

The opposition to pit bull bans, he added, is a sign that many American pet owners have lost touch with reality.

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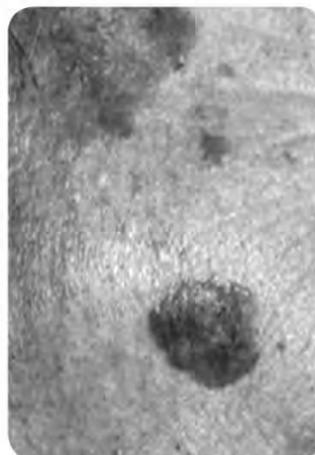
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New research shows that Burmese pythons have the ability to find their way home.

## Researchers learn pythons have good homing skills

JENNIFER KAY  
Associated Press

MIAMI — Aside from being scarily large and voracious, Burmese pythons also are really good at finding their way home, according to new research conducted in Florida's Everglades.

The discovery about pythons' unusual navigational abilities doesn't much help wildlife agencies desperately trying to curb the invasive snake's population in the fragile wetlands. It might be something reptile owners should think about, though, if they've considered illegally dumping an unwanted pet python in the wild.

"This is like the difference between homing pigeons and other birds," said the University of Florida's Frank Mazzotti, one of the researchers for the study being published Wednesday in *Biology Letters*, a journal of Britain's Royal Society.

Mazzotti and other researchers have been studying what pythons eat and trying to find a way to keep their population from growing. In 2006 and 2007, they captured 12 adult pythons in Everglades National Park and surgically implanted radio transmitters in the snakes to track their movements.

Six of the snakes were released in areas 13 to 22 miles from where they originally were captured. To the researchers' surprise, the snakes figured out which way was home,

and they stayed on track for months even when temperatures dropped and the cold-blooded snakes were less active. Unlike other snakes, the pythons moved with a purpose through their landscape instead of slithering randomly. It took the snakes three to nine months to get back to their original locations, according to the researchers.

Little is known about pythons' movements in their native habitats in India and other parts of Asia, and researchers had expected the snakes to establish new home ranges where they were released, said Shannon Pittman of the University of Missouri-Columbia, the study's lead author.

It's not clear how the snakes mapped out their routes — whether they relied on smell, light or some kind of magnetic force. If researchers can figure out what the snakes look for in the landscape, then maybe they'll have an easier time spotting pythons in the wild, Mazzotti said.

"I can't say it's going to provide us with any magical management solutions. It's really neat that the pythons do this," Mazzotti said.

Along with Pittman and Mazzotti, the study's authors include researchers from Davidson College, the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Park Service.

Estimates for how many pythons now call South

Florida home vary widely, ranging from several thousands to 100,000 or more. The tan, splotchy snakes can disappear in the vast wetlands, and researchers say they'll fail to see a python they're tracking with a radio tracking device until they're nearly standing on it.

Florida's population of Burmese pythons likely developed from pets let loose either intentionally or in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

State and federal officials have evaluated specially designed traps, dogs trained to sniff out pythons and a massive amateur hunt to try and get a handle on the invasive python population. So far, only cold weather and "exotic pet amnesty days," where people can relinquish non-native species with no questions asked, have reliably delivered pythons to officials.

Florida prohibits possession or sale of the pythons for use as pets, and federal law bans the importation and interstate sale of the species.

Follow Jennifer Kay on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jnkay](http://www.twitter.com/jnkay).

## Cat whisperer heading to Oregon after attack

SUE MANNING  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The large cat that attacked a baby and trapped an Oregon family in a bedroom touched off an Internet uproar that worries Jackson Galaxy, star of Animal Planet's "My Cat from Hell."

Cats don't become ferocious felines that turn on their families for no reason, says the cat behavior expert, who is heading to Portland soon to work with the 4-year-old part-Himalayan pet named Lux. Galaxy will film the visit for his show's fifth season, which kicks off April 26.

"Every parental site on the Internet blames the cat for this confrontation. Every pet site blames the family," he said, adding that something is wrong if the cat is acting out. "We need to step away from the hysteria. There is a story behind all this. Don't assume anything."

Lux became a worldwide phenomenon after owner Lee Palmer called 911 and said the cat had cornered him, his girlfriend, their baby and the family dog inside a room.

Palmer says his 7-month-old pulled Lux's tail, and he kicked the animal after it scratched the child. Then, the cat "just went off over the edge," Palmer told an emergency dispatcher after the family barricaded themselves. "He's charging us," Palmer said, as the cat was heard screeching in the background. Officers arrived and caught Lux with a dog snare.

Palmer said the cat had a history of violence, but the family kept Lux until Monday, when they turned him over to a Portland-area shelter. But the family assured Ani-

### Jackson Galaxy to work with animal that trapped family

mal Planet they were going to keep the cat and agreed to therapy with Galaxy.

Palmer didn't return a call from The Associated Press seeking comment Tuesday.

There are many reasons a cat can turn aggressive, and there is no universal way to deal with it, Galaxy said. But the star feline behaviorist provided five ways to tame out-of-control cats:

— Never leave a young child unsupervised with a cat.

— Take it to a vet at least once a year. If a cat is acting suspiciously, the owner needs to pay attention. "Know what suspicious looks like," Galaxy said. "If they're not feeling well, cats will socially withdraw themselves, or they will lose weight, or they will gain weight, or they'll be howling in the middle of the night when they never did before."

"I've known cats who acted out similarly to Lux because of an abscessed tooth, a brain tumor, hyperthyroidism or diabetes."

— Make sure cats can literally climb out of a situation. Having a space up high, like a cat condo, to get away from children and other pets is crucial, Galaxy said. "Make sure the cat can make the choice to get away from the kid," he said.

— Timeouts are good things. "We associate timeouts with punishment, but in the world of cats, timeout is not a punishment." They

can go to a designated place where they can settle down, come back to a peaceful moment or ground themselves, he said.

— Stop fights between felines with "timeout drills." With simple pieces of cardboard, left strategically around the house, you can stop a fight between two cats. Put the cardboard between them, blocking their vision and providing a moment of disorientation when you can lead them to their timeout spot. It's especially important to have the drills with aggressive cats.

Galaxy said he was going to Portland to act as Lux's advocate and find out what's wrong.

"I have no idea what made Lux aggressive," he said. It could be a chemical imbalance, a history of stressful environments or because he was kicked.

"If you want a blanket statement on how to deal with aggression, how about, 'Don't set the cat up for failure,'" he said.

The behaviorist, who has worked with tens of thousands of cats, said the thing that bothered him most about Lux was his continued aggression the day Palmer called 911, including the animal's ongoing assault on the door even though the threat was gone.

But the word "attack" doesn't sit well with Galaxy because 75 percent of the time, it's tied to a grouchy mood or a warning, he said.

"If I have a headache, I won't be the nicest guy in the world. I may snap at you," he said.

"This may have been Lux's way of snapping. Hypothetically speaking, someone pulling his tail may have been the last straw."

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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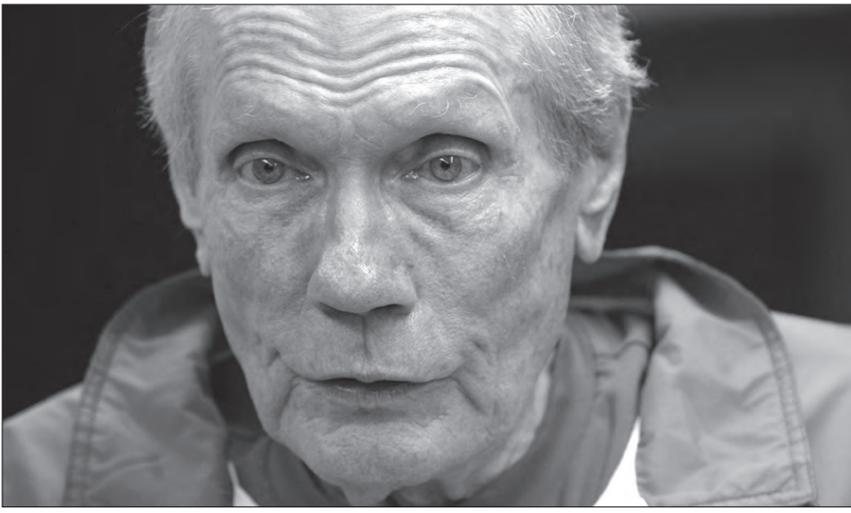
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# Phelps' hate seen by some as aiding gay rights

DAVID CRARY AND JOHN HANNA  
Associated Press



Fred Phelps Sr., founder of the Westboro Baptist Church that protests soldiers' funerals and other events claiming that the U.S. was doomed because of its tolerance of homosexuality, died Wednesday.

TOPEKA, Kan. — Fred Phelps Sr. led his small Topeka church for more than two decades in a bellicose crusade against gays and lesbians, saying they were worthy of death and openly declaring — often at military funerals — that the U.S. was doomed because of its tolerance of homosexuality.

But in targeting grieving families of troops killed overseas, taunting people entering other churches and carrying signs with anti-gay slurs and vulgar language or symbols, Phelps and his Westboro Baptist congregation created public circuses that may have helped the gay-rights movement.

Following Phelps' death Wednesday at age 84, some gay-rights advocates suggested that he and his church created sympathy for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and the transgendered. Religious leaders who oppose gay marriage also said the pastor's tactics clouded the debate over such issues and put them on the defensive in discussing both policy and faith.

"The world lost someone who did a whole lot more for the LGBT community than we realize or understand," said Cathy Renna, a longtime consultant to LGBT groups. "He has brought along allies who are horrified by the hate. So his legacy will be exactly the opposite of what he dreamed."

Phelps founded the church in the 1950s, and it has drawn much of its small congregation from his extended family. Its rise to national and even

international notoriety began in the early 1990s, as it picketed against gays and lesbians, then protested funerals of AIDS victims and, eventually, fallen soldiers.

The protests sparked outrage, with the federal government and lawmakers in more than 40 states passing specific laws to limit the protests and local residents using various tactics — including lining up to block views of the protesters — to protect grieving families.

Conservative religious leaders regularly denounced Phelps, worried that his relentless attacks would be perceived as representing the Christian case against same-sex relationships. At the 2003 annual Southern Baptist Convention, leaders spent a session drawing a distinction between their opposition to same-sex

unions and Phelps' protests.

Phelps called his church Baptist but had no ties with the Southern Baptist Convention or any other mainstream Baptist group.

"Westboro Baptist is to Baptist Christianity what the 'Book of Mormon' Broadway play was to the Latter-Day Saints," said the Rev. Russell Moore, who leads the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission. "They were kind of a performance art of vitriolic hatred rather than any kind of religious organization."

Phelps professed not to care what anyone thought of his church. He said in a 2006 interview with The Associated Press that no minister could "preach the Bible" without preaching God's hate. Westboro spokesman Steve Drain said in

an email a few days before Phelps' death that the church's doctrines weren't changing.

"The church of the Lord Jesus Christ does not rise or fall with any man — in fact, the Lord doesn't need ANY of us," Drain wrote.

"Any nation that embraces that sin as an 'innocent' lifestyle can expect to incur the wrath of God."

Phelps often reserved especially caustic comments for evangelical Christians and Catholics who view homosexual behavior as sinful but also preach that God also loves and reaches out to gays and lesbians. Phelps dismissed them as "enablers," and his congregation often picketed their churches.

The Rev. Terry Fox, a Southern Baptist minister who's pastor of Wichita's non-denominational-leaning Summit Church, once felt compelled to apologize for Phelps' shocking behavior on television. Fox called Phelps "a false prophet" and said Satan "greatly used him." Fox was prominent in a

successful effort in 2005 to persuade voters to amend the Kansas Constitution to ban gay marriage and said Phelps "was an embarrassment" but had "become the face of Christian work in Kansas."

Michael Schuttloffel, executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, said Phelps and his congregation still represent "an easy device" for gay-marriage supporters to "short-circuit the conversation" on that and related issues in recent years.

"People were justifiably, appropriately outraged by the things that they did," Schuttloffel said of Phelps and his church. "As soon as someone, then, is able to tar you as being related to them or thinking the same way as them, right away you're starting behind the eight ball."

Gay-rights advocates,

meanwhile, were assessing Phelps' place in the history of their movement.

"An obscene footnote" is how Tom Witt, executive director of Equality Kansas, the state's leading gay-rights group, believes Phelps and his followers will be remembered. Witt said progress began well before Westboro's protests and will continue long after Phelps' death.

However, James Esseks, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, acknowledged that he eventually saw Phelps' protests as helping his own movement.

"He would show up with his extreme anti-gay views, and a bunch of people in the middle would think, 'If that's what it means to be anti-gay, I want no part of it,'" Esseks said.

**'He has brought along allies who are horrified by the hate. So his legacy will be exactly the opposite of what he dreamed.'**

Cathy Renna  
LGBT group consultant

MCT



**Ike Lee, M.D.**  
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## With health law, workers ponder the I-Quit option

CARLA K. JOHNSON  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — For uninsured people, the nation's new health care law may offer an escape from worry about unexpected, astronomical medical bills. But for Stephanie Payne of St. Louis, who already had good insurance, the law could offer another kind of escape: the chance to quit her job.

At 62, Payne has worked for three decades as a nurse, most recently traveling house to house caring for 30 elderly and disabled patients. But she's ready to leave that behind, including the job-based health benefits, to move to Oregon and promote her self-published book. She envisions herself blogging, doing radio interviews and speaking to seniors groups.

"I want the freedom to fit that into my day without squeezing it into my day," she said.

One of the selling points of the new health care plan, which has a

March 31 enrollment deadline, is that it breaks the link between affordable health insurance and having a job with benefits. Payne believes she'll be able to replace her current coverage with a \$400- to \$500-a-month plan on Oregon's version of the new insurance exchange system set up under the law.

Federal experts believe the new insurance option will be a powerful temptation for a lot of job-weary workers ready to bail out. Last month, congressional budget analysts estimated that within 10 years, the equivalent of 2.5 million full-time workers could be working less because of the expanded coverage.

But is the new option a gamble? That's a matter of debate, not only among the politicians who are still arguing furiously over the law's merits, but among economists and industry experts.

"We don't know what the future of exchange insurance will be," said economist Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action

Forum, a center-right public policy institute. Premiums should remain stable if enrollment picks up and broadens to include younger, healthier people. But if older, sicker people are the vast majority of customers, prices eventually could spike.

For Mike Morucci, 50, the idea of leaving his information technology job and its health benefits is "terrifying," he said.

But he decided to take the plunge after reviewing the range of coverage available at different price points. Tax credits will help those with moderate incomes pay their insurance premiums. And coverage is guaranteed even for those with pre-existing conditions. Twenty-five states also agreed to expand their Medicaid programs, providing health care for more low-income people.

"It definitely freed up my thinking when I thought, 'Do I want to give this a go?'" Morucci, of Ellicott City, Md.

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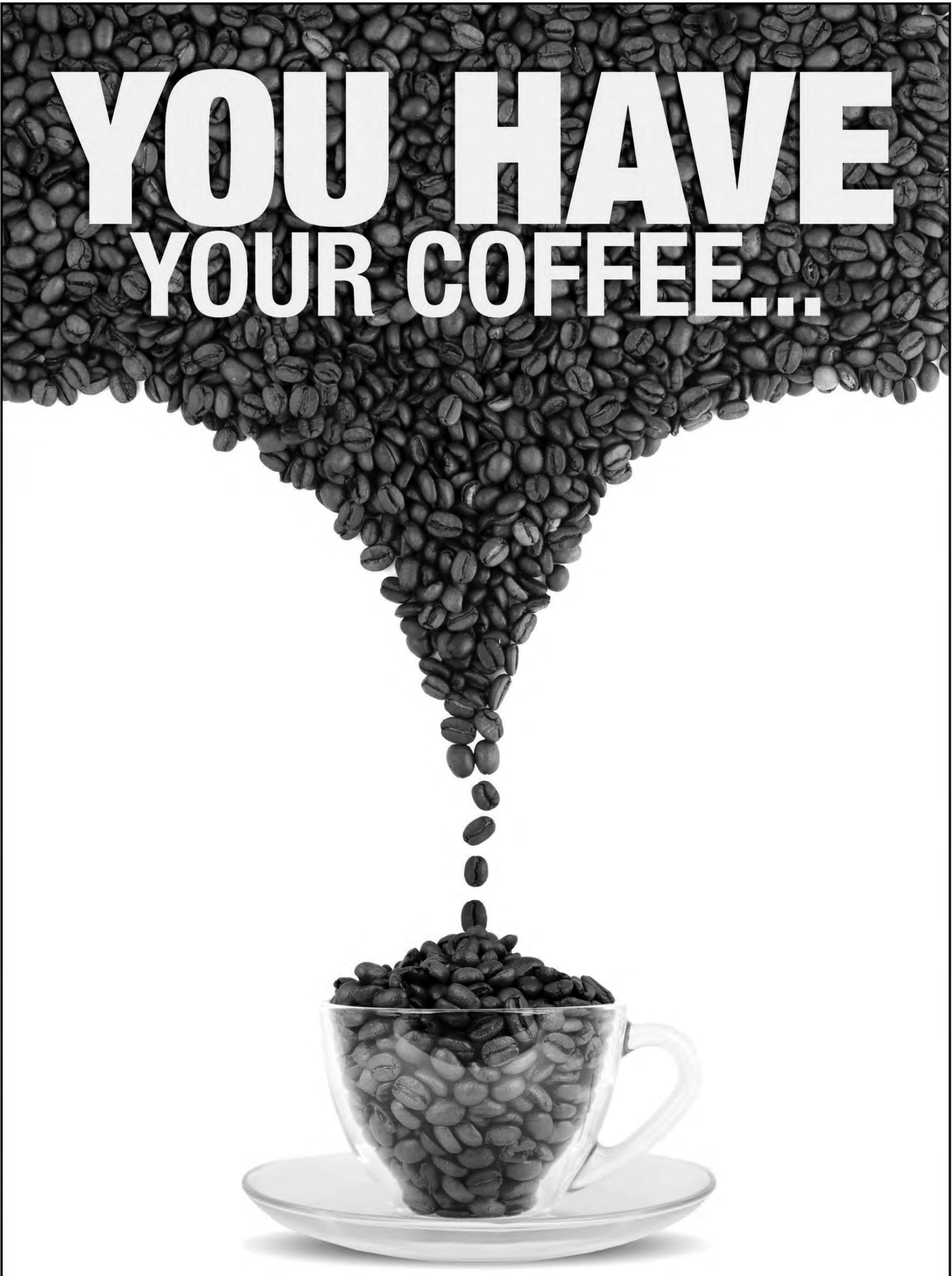
## Are you and your family covered?

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Contact **Angela Hendry**,  
Certified Navigator at  
**863-452-6530 ext. 303**

Funding for this material was made possible by Grant # D04RH23580 from HRSA. The views expressed in written materials do not necessarily reflect the official policies of HRSA or the Department of Health and Human Services.



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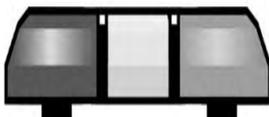
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## 1000

**1050 Legals**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO. PC 14-118 Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF JENNIFER V. LAVERTY Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Summary Administration)**

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that a Petition for Summary Administration in the estate of JENNIFER V. LAVERTY, deceased, File Number PC 14-118, by the Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 430 South Commerce Ave. Sebring, Florida 33870; that the decedent's date of death was December 30, 2013; that the total value of the estate is \$2,300.00 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:

Name	Address
ANTOINETTE J. ABERNATHY	2600 Timber Trail Denton, Texas 76209

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is March 23, 2014.

Attorney for Person Giving Notice:  
 John K. McClure  
 Attorney for Plaintiff  
 Florida Bar No. 286958  
 MCCLURE & LOBOZZO  
 211 South Ridgewood Drive  
 Sebring, Florida 33870

**1050 Legals**

Telephone: (863) 402-1888  
 Fax: (863) 402-2436  
 E-Mail: jkmpleadings@mllaw.net  
 Secondary E-Mail: johncm@mllaw.net

Person Giving Notice:  
 Antoinette J. Abernathy, Petitioner  
 2600 Timber Trail  
 Denton, Texas 76209

March 23, 30, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA. CASE NO. 28-2010-CA-000745

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., PLAINTIFF,  
 VS.  
 CAROLYN B. RZESZEWICZ, ET AL., DEFENDANTS

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated, in the above action, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Highlands, Florida, on April 9, 2014, at 11:00 AM, at Basement of court-house in Jury Assembly Room - 430 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870 for the following described property:

LOT 5, 6, 19 AND 20, BLOCK 87, RED HILL FARMS SUBDIVISION, SECTION 18, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 60, 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 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/ Priscilla Michalak  
 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 Office of the Court Administrator at 863-534-4686, 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.

File #10-002019-F

March 16, 23, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 28-2012-CA-000160

WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
 WAYNE EUGENE BRADY, BERNADETTE MARIE MCEWAN N/K/A BERNADETTE MARIE BRADY A/K/A BERNADETTE; et al., Defendant(s).

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sale will be made pursuant to an Order or Final Summary Judgment. Final Judgment was awarded on January 29, 2014 in Civil Case No. 28-2012-CA-000160, of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida, wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, is the Plaintiff, and WAYNE EUGENE BRADY, BERNADETTE MARIE MCEWAN N/K/A BERNADETTE MARIE BRADY A/K/A BERNADETTE, are Defendants.

The Clerk of the Court, Robert Germaine, will sell to the highest bidder for cash IN THE JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, BASEMENT, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE, SEBRING, FL 33870, at 11:00 A.M. on the 9th day of April, 2014, the following described real property as set forth in said Final Summary Judgment, to wit:

LOT 303, OF SEBRING HILLS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 2, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

WITNESS My hand and the seal of the court on February 4, 2014.

IMPORTANT

**1050 Legals**

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, (863) 534-4690, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD (863) 534-7777 or Florida Relay Service 711.

CLERK OF THE COURT  
 Bob Germaine  
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak  
 Deputy Clerk

1113-8862

March 16, 23, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA. CASE NO. 28 2012 CA 000234 XXAXMX

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, PLAINTIFF,  
 VS.  
 RAY H. COX, ET AL., DEFENDANTS

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated, in the above action, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Highlands, Florida, on April 9, 2014, at 11:00 AM, at Basement of court-house in Jury Assembly Room - 430 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870 for the following described property:

LOT 17 AND 18, BLOCK 413, HILL CREST HEIGHTS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 5, 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: February 5, 2104.

By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak  
 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 Office of the Court Administrator at 863-534-4686, 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.

File #13-003213-FNMA-FIH

March 16, 23, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA. CASE NO. 13000235GCAXMX

RESIDENTIAL CREDIT SOLUTIONS, INC., PLAINTIFF,  
 VS.  
 JANET D. GREGORY, ET AL., DEFENDANTS

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated, in the above action, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Highlands, Florida, on April 22, 2014, at 11:00 AM, at Basement of court-house in Jury Assembly Room - 430 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870 for the following described property:

LOT 67, OF FIESTA VILLA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 13, AT PAGE 42, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH 2003 JACOBSEN OMES CLASSIC III MOBILE HOME, SERIAL #JACFL24583A8B, HUD #FLA737294 AND FLA 737295

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: February 13, 2104.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE, CLERK  
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp  
 Deputy Clerk of the Court

Prepared by:  
 Gladstone Law Group, P.A.

**1050 Legals**

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 Office of the Court Administrator at 863-534-4686, 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.

File #12-004432-FNMA-FSC

March 23, 30, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT CIVIL COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO.: 28-2012-CA-000215

CENLAR FSB Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
 KATHLEEN FITZPATRICK AKA KATHLEEN BOADO, EDUARDO PETERSON BOADO, 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 January 29, 2014, in the Circuit Court of HIGHLANDS County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Highlands County, Florida described as:

BEGIN AT THE NORTH-WESTERLY CORNER OF LOT 17, BLOCK BB, SPRING LAKE VILLAGE VII, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 11, PAGE 7, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID CORNER ALSO BEING THE BEGINNING OF A NON-TANGENT CURVE CONCAVE TO THE NORTHEAST HAVING AS ITS ELEMENTS A RADIUS OF 75.00 FEET; A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 20 DEGREES 33'04" (PLAT), A CHORD OF 26.75 FEET AND WHOSE CHORD BEARS S 64 DEGREES 04'37" E; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE (ALSO BEING THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 17) TO THE LEFT FOR 26.90 FEET TO THE END OF SAID CURVE; THENCE S 74 DEGREES 21'03" E AND TANGENT TO SAID CURVE AND ALONG SAID NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 17 FOR 4.04 FEET; THENCE S 15 DEGREES 29'11" W FOR 125.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 17; THENCE N 74 DEGREES 21'03" W ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY LINE OF LOT 17 FOR 79.37 FEET TO THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 17; THENCE N 36 DEGREES 12'01" E ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 17 FOR 138.59 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

and commonly known as: 1137 DOGWOOD TER, SEBRING, FL 33876; 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 April 9, 2014 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 5th day of February, 2014.

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

327470/1121488/wmr

March 16, 23, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: GC-13-000239

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
 JANET GERBERICH; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JANET GERBERICH; UNKNOWN TENANT 1; UNKNOWN TENANT II; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION, A PUBLIC CORPORATION, and any unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and other unknown persons or unknown spouses claiming by, through and under any of the above-named Defendants, Defendants.

**AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned Clerk of the Circuit Court of Highlands County, Florida, will on the 16th day of April, 2014, at 11:00 A.M. in 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., offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following-described property situate in Highlands County, Florida:

LOT 4, IN BLOCK 187, OF LEISURE LAKES, SECTION THREE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 25, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

pursuant to the Final Judgment entered in a case pending in said Court, the style of which is indicated above.

Any person or entity claiming an interest in the surplus, if any, resulting from the foreclosure sale, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens, must file a claim on same with the Clerk of Court within 60 days after the foreclosure sale.

WITNESS my hand and official seal of said Court this 13th day of December, 2013.

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 the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4686, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak  
 Deputy Clerk

B&H #329563

March 23, 30, 2014

**1050 Legals**

Room in the basement of the Highlands County Courthouse located at 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida at 11:00 A.M., offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following-described property situate in Highlands County, Florida:

LOT 4, IN BLOCK 187, OF LEISURE LAKES, SECTION THREE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 25, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

pursuant to the Final Judgment entered in a case pending in said Court, the style of which is indicated above.

Any person or entity claiming an interest in the surplus, if any, resulting from the foreclosure sale, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens, must file a claim on same with the Clerk of Court within 60 days after the foreclosure sale.

WITNESS my hand and official seal of said Court this 13th day of December, 2013.

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 the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4686, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak  
 Deputy Clerk

B&H #329563

March 23, 30, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION Case No.: 28-2012-CA-000183

Division:  
 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP F/K/A COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP Plaintiff,  
 v.  
 MARIA P. DIAZ; et al., Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment dated February 5, 2014, entered in Civil Case No.: 28-2012-CA-000183, of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Florida, wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP F/K/A COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, is Plaintiff, and MARIA P. DIAZ; ROBERTO J. DIAZ; PRAIRIE OAKS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAME UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, are Defendant(s).

ROBERT W. GERMAINE, the Clerk of Court shall sell to the highest bidder for cash at 11:00 a.m. in the Jury Assembly Room in the Basement of the Highlands County Courthouse, located at 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida, 33870 on the 9th day of April, 2014, the following described real property as set forth in said Final Summary Judgment, to wit:

LOT 28, OF THE COUNTRY CLUB OF SEBRING, PHASE 3, SECTION 2, "STERLING OAKS", ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 16, PAGE 35, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY FLORIDA.

The property is located at the Street address of: 2812 Briarwood Lane, Sebring, FL 33875.

If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds. After 60 days, only the owner of record as of the date of the lis pendens may claim the surplus.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on February 5, 2014.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE  
 CLERK OF THE COURT  
 By: /s/ Priscilla Michalak  
 Deputy Clerk  
 (COURT SEAL)  
 Attorney for Plaintiff:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 28-2010-CA-001372

DIVISION:  
 WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
 THOMAS E. HAAKE, et al, Defendants(s).

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated March 05, 2014 and entered in Case No. 28-2010-CA-001372 of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, is the Plaintiff and THOMAS E. HAAKE; WENDY ANN HAAKE; SEACOST NATIONAL BANK; are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE at 11:00 AM, on the 8th day of April, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK 3, LAKE BLUE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 59, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA. LESS AND EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY: BEGIN AT THE EASTERLY MOST CORNER OF SAID LOT 2, THENCE SOUTH 72 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 06 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 152.97 FEET; THENCE NORTH 28 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 80.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 68 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 11 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 151.33 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 28 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 90.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

A/K/A 610 LAKE BLUE DRIVE, LAKE PLACID, FL 33852

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

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Court on March 6, 2014.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE  
 Clerk of the Circuit Court  
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp  
 Deputy Clerk

Ronald R Wolfe & Associates, P.L.  
 P.O. Box 25018  
 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018  
 F10039574  
 WELLSLPS-SPECFHLMC-R-nrodriguez-Team  
 1 - F10039574

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

March 16, 23, 2014

**1050 Legals**

Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A.  
 350 Jim Moran Blvd, Suite 100  
 Deerfield Beach, FL 33442  
 Telephone: (954) 354-3544  
 Facsimile: (954) 354-3545

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 the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4686, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

FILE # 83775T-34753

March 16, 23, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 28-2010-CA-001372

DIVISION:  
 WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
 THOMAS E. HAAKE, et al, Defendants(s).

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated March 05, 2014 and entered in Case No. 28-2010-CA-001372 of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for HIGHLANDS County, Florida wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, is the Plaintiff and THOMAS E. HAAKE; WENDY ANN HAAKE; SEACOST NATIONAL BANK; are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 430 SOUTH COMMERCE AVENUE at 11:00 AM, on the 8th day of April, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK 3, LAKE BLUE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 59, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA. LESS AND EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY: BEGIN AT THE EASTERLY MOST CORNER OF SAID LOT 2, THENCE SOUTH 72 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 06 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 152.97 FEET; THENCE NORTH 28 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 80.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 68 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 11 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 151.33 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 28 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 90.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

A/K/A 610 LAKE BLUE DRIVE, LAKE PLACID, FL 33852

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

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Court on March 6, 2014.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE  
 Clerk of the Circuit Court  
 By: /s/ Toni Kopp  
 Deputy Clerk

Ronald R Wolfe & Associates, P.L.  
 P.O. Box 25018  
 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018  
 F10039574  
 WELLSLPS-SPECFHLMC-R-nrodriguez-Team  
 1 - F10039574

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

March 16, 23, 2014

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**NEWS-SUN • 385-6155**

**1050 Legals**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 28-2013-CA-000357 JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, vs. SALLY FORD A/K/A SALLY M. FORD A/K/A SALLYE HART FORD, UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 1, UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 2, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SALLY FORD A/K/A SALLY M. FORD A/K/A SALLYE HART FORD, Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure filed February 5, 2014 entered in Civil Case No. 28-2013-CA-000357 of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in and for Highlands County, Sebring, Florida, the Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Jury Assembly Room in the Highlands County Courthouse, 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 16th day of April, 2014 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

Lot 11840 and 11841, AVALON PARK LAKES, UNIT 37, according to plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 69, of the Public Records of Highlands County, Florida.

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

Dated this 11th day of March, 2014. ROBERT W. GERMAINE, CLERK CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT As Clerk of the Court BY: /s/ Priscilla Michalak Deputy Clerk

2322787 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

**1050 Legals**

assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, (863) 534-4690, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this Notice of Foreclosure Sale; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD (863) 534-7777 or Florida Relay Service 711.

March 23, 30, 2014

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE: You are hereby notified that FRANCIS G. WARWIN died on December 19, 2013, whose last known address was 245 Oak Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870. The name and address of the Successor Trustee of the FRANCIS G. WARWIN REVOCABLE TRUST is as follows: Sandy Hurner, c/o McClure & Lobo, 211 South Ridgewood Drive, Sebring, Florida 33870, attention John K. McClure, P.A.

ALL CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEDENT AND PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF THE DECEDENT MUST FILE THEIR CLAIMS WITH THE SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is March 23, 2014. Person Giving Notice: John K. McClure Attorney for Sandy Hurner, Successor Trustee Florida Bar No. 286958 MCCURE & LOBOZZO 211 South Ridgewood Drive Sebring, Florida 33870 Telephone: (863) 402-1888 Fax: (863) 402-2436 E-Mail: efile@mllaw.net Secondary E-Mail: johnmcc@mllaw.net March 23, 30, 2014

**1050 Legals**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO. PC 14-78 IN RE: ESTATE OF NANCY K. TESH, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of NANCY K. TESH, deceased, File Number PC 14-78, is pending in the Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent, or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. The date of first publication of this Notice is March 16, 2014.

Personal Representative: /s/ Kris F. Tesh Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ Michael L. Keiber MICHAEL L. KEIBER, ESQUIRE Law Office of Michael L. Keiber, P.A. 129 South Commerce Avenue Sebring, FL 33870 V. (863)385-5188 F. (863) 471-1111 Florida Bar No. 620610 service@keiberlaw.com March 16, 23, 2014

**1050 Legals**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 13000775GCAXMX SECTION NO.

MIDFLORIDA CREDIT UNION FKA MIDFLORIDA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff, v. KENNETH E. MCLEOD; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF KENNETH E. MCLEOD; TENANT #1; TENANT #2; MIDFLORIDA CREDIT UNION FKA MIDFLORIDA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION and ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, AND UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN-NAMED DEFENDANTS WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment entered in this case in the Circuit Court of Highlands County, Florida, the real property described as:

LEGAL: LOTS 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, AND 1916, INCLUSIVE, AVON PARK LAKES UNIT NO. 6, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AT PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 93, IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

PHYSICAL: 2576 N. SENECA DRIVE WEST, AVON PARK, FL 33825 will be sold at public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash, on 16th day of April, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. at the Jury Assembly Room of the Highlands County Courthouse, 430 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. WITNESS MY HAND and seal of this Court on this 11th day of March, 2014.

ROBERT W. GERMAINE Clerk of the Circuit Court By: /s/ Toni Kopp Deputy Clerk

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ANY ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR, 863-534-4690, WITHIN TWO (2) WORKING DAYS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE OF SALE; IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED, CALL TDD (863) 534-7777 OR FLORIDA RELAY SERVICE 711. March 23, 30, 2014

**1100 Announcements**

**CHECK YOUR AD**

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

**314-9876 News-Sun Classified**

**2000 Employment**

**2100 Help Wanted**

ARTIST ASSISTANT, part-time could become full time. Cataloging and restoring paintings. Flexible hours. Lake Placid area. 863-699-0072, 239-287-6298.

COORDINATOR, PURCHASING (FT) Application deadline: 3/27/14. Please visit <http://sfsc.interviewexchange.com> for detailed position posting. 863-784-7132. EA/EO.



EYE EXPRESS Sebring Ophthalmology & Optometry Join our family for exciting opportunities! We are currently looking for individuals that have wonderful interpersonal skills, willing to learn, highly driven, possess a flexible personality, displays great professionalism and works great in team environment. If this fits you, we would love to meet you. Please send your resume to [lwills@eyexpress.com](mailto:lwills@eyexpress.com)

LAWN MAINTENANCE workers needed to run mowers & trimmers, exp. only. 863-385-6768

LOCAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH seeking an Organist/Choir Director. Call 863-385-7649 for details.

LOOKING FOR LPN F/T & P/T for 24 bed ICF in Avon Park. We have a casual work environment with home-like setting. Apply online at [www.jobs.thementornetwork.com/florida](http://www.jobs.thementornetwork.com/florida) Questions call 863-452-5141 ask for Angelina or Melissa

**MANAGER - CIRCLE THEATRE**

Full-time employment opportunity: Manager of the beautiful newly renovated Circle Theatre in historic downtown Sebring. Salary is competitive. Employment hours are flexible, requiring some evening and weekend work.

The Executive Committee of the Champion for Children Foundation will interview all finalists that are selected from the pool of applicants. This position will report directly to the CEO.

Strong leadership qualities are essential. An associate's or bachelor's degree is preferred but not required. Applicants should have at least 5 years of proven management and administrative experience. The Circle Theatre Manager will oversee operations and supervise all aspects of the Circle Theatre, including events, Sweet Shoppe, personnel, volunteers, facilities and children's programs.

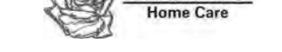
The successful applicant must have outstanding communication and interpersonal skills, and be organized, focused and detail oriented. Computer skills are a must. We are looking for a dynamic team player and a problem solver. Marketing, networking, public presentations, financial management & event planning are important requirements of this professional job. Send resume and references, postmarked by March 31, 2014 to: Champion for Children Foundation, P.O. Box 7125, Sebring, FL 33872-0103

MEDICAL RECEPTIONISTS FOR BUSY OFFICE. Send Resume to P. O. Box 991, Lake Placid FL, 33862.

**OPEN HOUSE ON SITE INTERVIEWS**

Monday, March 24, 2014 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 6801 US Hwy 27 N Ste D2 Sebring, FL 33870 Positions available for RN, LPN, OT, PT, ST, Psych RN Home Health experience preferred

For more information call Karen at 813-514-5520



**2300 Work Wanted**

GENTLEMAN/ SITTER COMPANION looking for position, live-in. Experienced with References. 863-658-4837

**3000 Financial**

**4000 Real Estate**

**4040 Homes For Sale**

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Desirable 55+ community of Edgewater Village Villa, 2 bed 2 bath, 1 car garage. Clubhouse with solar heated pool. Best Buy! \$84,500. Call or go online to view the virtual tour. 863-381-0400 • [dawndell1@gmail.com](mailto:dawndell1@gmail.com) [www.heartlandhomesforsale.com](http://www.heartlandhomesforsale.com) 3200 US 27 S. Suite 201, Sebring

**4060 Homes for Sale Avon Park**

FOR SALE, CBS 3BR/2BA, 1 car gar., in Avon Park Lakes, fenced back yard, built in 2006, newly renovated in 2010, asking, \$99,900, 863-368-1963.

**4120 Villas & Condos For Sale**

SPRING LAKE 2BR/2BA VILLA Central Air/Heat, Washer Dryer Hook Up, Dishwasher, Fridge w/ice maker, range. \$49,900 owner financing. 863-381-8069.

**5000 Mobile Homes**

**5050 Mobile Homes For Sale**

AVON PARK 2/1, 55+ Community. \$3,000 obo. Call 863-453-3315, leave message. AVON PARK 3/1 Trailer in Country, 8 mi. from town. Call 863-443-2000

BROADMORE M.H., 2BR/2BA, 14x60, NICE PARK, 55 plus. Fully furn., double carport, new appl., utility room. Make offer, negotiable. MUST SEE! 863-382-2011.

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE 50 x 125' Lot, covered 2/2, carport, screen room, covered patio. Close to Hospital. Furnished. \$32,000 OBO. Call 863-382-3049

PALM HARBOR HOMES 2014 models are here! \$8,500 Pre Construction Savings John Lyons @ 800-622-2832 ext 210 for details

**5150 Mobile Homes For Rent**

NEWLY RENOVATED singlewide mobile home, fenced, on large lot, 2BR/2BA, washer/dryer, \$650 mo., \$500 security. 863-658-4264 or 305-522-5024.

**6000 Rentals**

**6050 Duplexes for Rent**

SEBRING \* NICE & LARGE \* NEWLY REMODELED 2BR, 1BA, 1917 Wightman Ave. \$500/mo. & \$500 sec. dep. 863-381-0357 or 863-446-2838.

**Highlands County Sheriff's Office**  
Sheriff Susan Benton  
434 Fernleaf Avenue • Sebring, FL 33870  
863-402-7200 • [www.highlandssheriff.org](http://www.highlandssheriff.org)

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- Base salary \$11.80 hourly, \$24,544.00 annually
- High School Diploma/G.E.D.
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434 Fernleaf Ave., Sebring, FL 33870 or call (863) 402-7263  
Drug Free Workplace/E.O.E./A.D.E.A./Veterans Preference  
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For more information call **863-402-2786** or visit our website at: [www.Agero.com](http://www.Agero.com) EOE

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**6300** Unfurnished Houses

3/2 ON LAKE CARRIE access LAKE JUNE/HENRY. \$800 1st/sec. Ref req Call/text 786-285-5026

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863-452-4432  
**On-line Applications**  
[www.avonparkha.org](http://www.avonparkha.org)

**7000** Merchandise

**7260** Musical Merchandise

ORGAN LOWREY Grand Royal Limited. New cond. Cost over \$60,000 new. Current Book \$15,000+. Now \$8,990 obo. Serious inquiries only. 863-835-0962

**7300** Miscellaneous

APPLE BLOSSOM DINNERWARE EXCELLENT CONDITION NEVER USED Gold trim. By Theodore Haviland. 60 plus pieces. 863-205-3944.

**7310** Bargain Buys

COMFORTER - FULL or Regular size - 2 pillow cases & skirt. Tiger & Jungle scene. \$20. 863-402-2285.

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GOOD USED tires: One 205 70 R-15, three 215 70 R-15, \$20 a piece. 863-458-2687.

REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER KENMORE, 67"H x 31"W x 29.5"D. Works good. \$75. 609-540-4170

**7400** Lawn & Garden

CUB CADET LTX1040 MOWER AS GOOD AS NEW. SERVICED WITH NEW BATTERY AND CARBURETOR. THE CLOCK HAS LESS THAN 35HRS. CONTACT VIJAY ON 863-699-6923 BETWEEN 10AM AND 7PM PRICE \$1000

**7520** Pets & Supplies

**NOTICE**

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

**8000** Recreation

**8350** Sporting Goods

DIRT BIKE Honda, for teens. Golf Cart, Yamaha, gas. \$1000. 863-382-0192

**8400** Recreational Vehicles

2013 44' 5TH WHEEL RV 3 slideouts, 2BR, full bath, full kitchen, sleeps 8, excellent condition, \$23,500. 210-800-6389.

**9000** Transportation

**9100** Motorcycles & ATVs

KAWASAKI VULCAN 1500. 1988. Good condition, 20,000 miles, new tires, leather saddle bags. \$1850.00 or best offer. 863-465-7112

**9400** Automotive Wanted

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