



JUNK IN MORE THAN THE TRUNK

Sebring International Raceway will welcome clunkers and junkers for 24 Hours of LeMons in July **A9**

NEWS-SUN

Highlands County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1927 **50¢**



Lake Placid police now wearing on-body video camera **B2**



Family Easter projects **B1**



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Friday-Saturday, April 11-12, 2014

DROPPING FORTUNES

Citrus harvest could be worst since 1990

Report: Academy lacked riot plan

DJJ release findings on August fracas at APYA

BY BARRY FOSTER
News-Sun correspondent

AVON PARK — The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice has released its final report on the Aug. 17, 2013 riot at the Avon Park Youth Academy. The 25-page Florida Inspector General's analysis was issued late last Friday afternoon without fanfare.

The facility was cited for several shortcomings including the lack of a Riot and Major Disturbance Plan, Master Control failing to initially contact 911 and instruction to staff to discontinue attempting to stop the youth from fighting.

Areas of concern also included the lack of staff training on how to deal with disturbance and the absence of

SEE RIOT | A7



Katara Simmons/News-Sun

Fruit drop, while not as bad this year in Highlands County as it was last season, is a major problem statewide. This year's citrus crop could be the lowest in decades, and a lot of that crop is lost to drop.

Estimates keep sinking — now down 18%

BY BARRY FOSTER
News-Sun Correspondent

Numbers released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture this week are predicting the state's orange crop is approaching the lowest harvest numbers in nearly a quarter century.

The Wednesday report indicated the 2013-2014 orange forecast at 110 million boxes. That's down 4 percent from last month, and 18 percent less than last season's final production figure.

Officials of the Highlands County Cit-

rus Growers Association said those totals should be reflected in the local harvest as well.

"The USDA formulates these numbers from a statistical model and Highlands County represents about 13 percent of Florida's citrus industry, so there is a good representative sample that is being done here," said HCCGA Executive Director Ray Royce

He said the totals for Valencia oranges are telling since that is the portion of the season up next for local growers.

"I think Highlands County has evolved

into a heavy Valencia harvest. My guess is that the majority of fruit we grow here actually is Valencia," he said. "We picked some earlyies and mids, but really, April and May will be the big heavy harvesting season here in Highlands County."

Statewide, the report shows fruit drop appears to be more significant than numbers estimated locally.

According to the USDA, a survey conducted in March showed droppage at as much as 31 percent. If accurate,

SEE CITRUS | A7



Courtesy photo

The windows in the medical center were broken out during a riot at Avon Park Youth Academy on Aug. 17.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Stephenson says his business experience would help school board

BY SAMANTHA GHOLAR
Staff Writer

SEBRING — "I'm a product of the school system. My children come from this system. This is the opportunity to give back," Sebring International Raceway President William "Tres" Stephenson said from his office chair Thursday morning.

Stephenson is the one of six people who have filed to run for the Highlands

County School Board District 5 seat that opened when Andy Tuck was appointed to a position with the Florida Department of Education earlier this year by Gov. Rick Scott.

Trevor Murphy, Dustin Woods, William "Pep" Hutchinson, Jill Compton and Clinton Culverhouse have also filed campaign qualifying documents.

Stephenson's business finance degree from the University of Florida has

enabled him to head a \$7 million budget annually for the Sebring International Raceway operations, experience he says would help the school board.

"I'm running on a business background," Stephenson said. "I think that I can be of assistance to the board and be a working part of the qualified people that are already there. I just want to help them."



Samantha Gholar/News Sun

Tres Stephenson is running for the District 5 school board seat.

Stephenson said the school district needs financial-minded people.

"Right now I know that there are issues with the

SEE SCHOOL | A7

Groundbreaking Green Dragon Chair Co. to grow

BY PHIL ATTINGER
Staff Writer

LAKE PLACID — High school vocational training is about to get another boost with the addition of an Internet marketing class and a production technician certification.

The School Board of Highlands County on Tuesday approved the creation of a new

Entrepreneurial Academy at Lake Placid High School next year. It will set up at Lake Placid High School's existing Green Dragon Chair Company and expand to include an "E-commerce/Marketing course" and to provide skills in the areas of machine and tool safety, market research,

SEE CHAIR | A7

VOL. 95
NO. 41



Partly sunny today, patchy clouds tonight
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WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD



Romona Washington/News-Sun

Community leaders visited Avon Park Community Child Development Center this week to read to the children as part of Week of the Young Child, but they weren't the only ones reading. Verkiera Bennett, one of the children at the center, took a few minutes to read to her friends as well. Verkiera will be entering kindergarten next school year.

United Way Day of Caring set

On Wednesday, May 21, volunteer teams from local businesses and organizations will participate in the 2014 United Way Day of Caring in Highlands County. Volunteer teams are matched with United Way Partner Agencies and local non-profit groups in order to perform tasks that the agencies might not otherwise have the manpower or funds to be able to accomplish.

Jobs such as assisting clients, painting, landscaping, clerical work, and many other tasks will be completed during the 2014 Day of Caring. This is an opportunity for local residents to make a "hands on" impact with United Way Partner Agencies and also view how their United Way contributions are being invested.

Sponsors Budget Bi-Rite Insurance, Florida Hospital Heartland Division, Howard Fertilizer, Lykes Bros. Inc., The Andersons, Duke Energy, and The Palms of Sebring who help make this day possible. When the volunteer teams finish their tasks at 11:30 a.m., they are invited to participate in a celebration luncheon at Buttonwood Bay provided by Chef Mac, Palms Court Catering.

The Highlands County Division of the United Way of Central Florida has been serving the local community for 25 years by understanding local needs and driving lasting change to build better lives and stronger communities. For additional information regarding the 2013 United

SNAPSHOTS

LOCAL NEWS

Way Day of Caring and how you can submit your team to participate, contact Kristin Handley, Highlands County director, United Way of Central Florida/Highlands County Division, at 453-3401 or email kristin.handley@uwcf.org.

Dressel to hold CD release party

LAKE PLACID — Local country singer Logan Dressel will have a CD release party Saturday night at the Elks Lodge in Lake Placid.

Doors open at 8 p.m. Entry is \$20, which includes free beer all night. Dressel's debut CD "Live It Up," which includes nine original songs, will be available for \$10.

The Elks Lodge is at 200 East County Road 621. Call 465-2661.

Busy Kids registering for VPK

SEBRING — Registration is under way for Busy Kids Creative Learning Center Inc.'s 2014 free Summer Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program.

VPK is a free program to prepare every Florida child for kindergarten. Children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2014 and have not previously completed a VPK program.

VPK Summer Pprogram is from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday-Friday from June 10 to Aug. 5. All children attending Busy Kids' summer VPK program can attend extended childcare from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ab-

solutely free. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided at no cost, however, transportation will not be provided.

Busy Kids' is at 922 Persimmon Ave. For more information, call Anne Lang or Kathi Borecky with Busy Kids Creative Learning Center at 386-0808 or email busykidssebring@yahoo.com.

Orchid Society, Robbins Nursery hold orchid repotting workshop

SEBRING — Orchid Society Highlands and Robbins Nursery will hold an orchid repotting workshop at Robbins Nursery.

This is the time of the year to repot orchids. Members of the Orchid Society will teach the proper way to do it. Members will repot orchid plants for a cost of \$4 for the first two divisions and \$3 for each additional division. There will be an additional \$10 charge for large root bound plants.

Pots and potting mix must be supplied by the attendee. Robbins will have a full supply of orchid supplies available for sale.

The workshop is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Robbins Nursery, 4803 U.S. 27 South.

Military Sea Services Museum has sale

SEBRING — The Military Sea Services Museum will hold a garage sale at 1402 Roseland Ave. between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. today and Saturday.

MORE SNAPSHOTS | A6

AVON PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR SINGS 'DOWN TO THE RIVER' FOR SCHOOL BOARD



Phil Attinger/News-Sun

The Avon Park Middle School choir sings 'Down to the River' as part of its character word presentation for 'self-control' at Tuesday's meeting for the School Board of Highlands County.

Lake Placid police now wearing body cameras

Department hopes they will save money, improve safety

BY PHIL ATTINGER
Staff Writer

LAKE PLACID — Police now have a new tool on their uniforms: Taser's "Axon Body" cameras to supplement their in-car video systems.

The lightweight, compact single-piece video units attach directly to their uniforms in hopes of eliminating a limitation of in-car video systems: The fact that they only capture approximately 10 percent of what happens, especially if the officer steps out of the line of sight of the camera for any reason. With an on-body camera, officers will be able to capture nearly 100 percent of the encounter.

The cameras only record when the officer turns on the recorder at the beginning of an encounter, said Lake Plac-

id Police Chief James Fansler.

He hopes the cameras will save money at the department level and state level by providing evidence that may mean fewer challenges in court, which would free up officers from having to sit in court and reduce prosecution costs.

Given that many officer encounters have been recorded by smart phones, it's also hoped that the cameras may provide additional evidence that may show that officers conducted themselves in a professional manner, Fansler said.

The mere presence of the camera should improve the behavior of all participants during police encounters, Fansler wrote in a press release about the cameras.

Anyone with questions or has an interest in seeing the Axon Body camera is welcome to come by the Lake Placid Police Department to view it and discuss.

Feedback is also welcome at lakeplacid-chief@gmail.com.



Courtesy photo

Lake Placid police officers are now wearing these new on-body cameras.

LOTTERY

LOTTO

Wednesday, April 9
11-26-32-44-45-51 X-2
Saturday's Jackpot:
\$33 million

POWERBALL

Wednesday, April 9
9-14-44-48-49 PB-29 X-2
Saturday's Jackpot:
\$94 million

MEGA MONEY

Tuesday, April 8
26-30-39-41 PB-1
Today's Jackpot: \$500,000

MEGA MILLIONS

Tuesday, April 8
35-36-41-60-71 PB-3 X-3
Today's Jackpot: \$20 million

CASH 3

Monday, April 7
Day: 2-6-1 Night: 6-9-4
Tuesday, April 8
Day: 6-3-7 Night: 6-9-9
Wednesday, April 9
Day: 9-2-9 Night: 6-8-7

PLAY 4

Monday, April 7
Day: 8-7-1-0 Night: 0-4-4-9
Tuesday, April 8
Day: 2-7-0-3 Night: 8-7-2-3
Wednesday, April 9
Day: 2-0-0-0 Night: 1-4-1-6

FANTASY 5

Monday, April 7
3-4-13-26-29
Tuesday, April 8
2-7-22-24-48
Wednesday, April 9
5-8-9-19-27

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Operation Medicine Cabinet set for April 26

Chance to turn in unwanted or expired prescriptions



Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — Local law enforcement agencies are again, proud to participate with the Drug Enforcement Administration and its national and community partners, which include Drug Free Highlands, for the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26 for citizens who want to dispose of unwanted and unused or expired prescription drugs.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control), a pharmaceutical drug-related death occurs every 24 minutes. Approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time, according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.

To date, the combined efforts of the DEA and its state, local, and tribal law-enforcement and

community partners have removed more than 2 million pounds (1,018 tons) of medication from circulation. In the last Operation Medicine Cabinet in October 2013, Highlands County collected 1368.7 pounds (64 boxes).

Drop-off locations on April 26 are:

- Sebring Police Department – 307 N. Ridgewood Drive, Sebring
- Lake Placid Police Department – 8 N. Oak Ave., Lake Placid
- Highlands County Sheriff's Office North Sub Station – 304 W. Pleas-

ant St., Avon Park
 ■ Highlands County Sheriff's Office Sub Station – Liberty Star Plaza, 7177 S. George Blvd., Sebring

For those unable to attend and dispose of medications on April 26, permanent drop boxes are available at the Lake Placid and Sebring police departments. Medications may be disposed of from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Contact Drug Free Highlands at 382-2138 or any of the local law enforcement offices for more information.

Clinical research studies in our area.

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Bassetti Medical Research, Inc. is conducting research studies offering a no cost study drug and care for COPD, chronic bronchitis and users of long-term oxygen therapy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 863-314-8971



HAL hosting student art show tonight

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — The Highlands Art League (HAL) will host the annual High School Student Art Show for teen artists tonight.

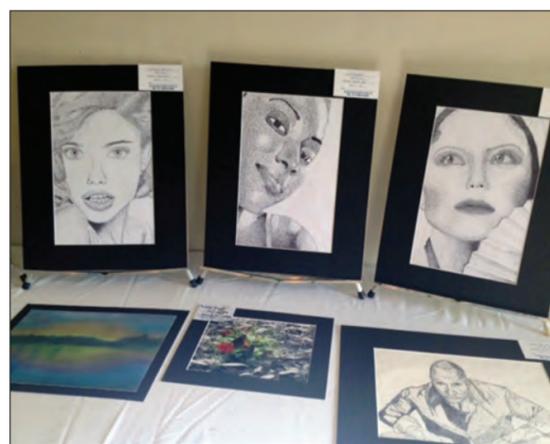
The juried show features art from all three county high schools from grades 9-12 with the opening reception from 5-8 p.m. tonight. Admission is free.

The awards presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m. with winners in all categories, including drawing, watercolor, mixed media (2D), acrylic, clay, and non-clay (3D).

HAL provides a \$500 scholarship to the show winner, and South Florida State College (SFSC) matches the scholarship if the winner enrolls in SFSC to pursue their education.

Judges for the contest were Mollie Doctrow, Linda Kegley and Susan Milam, who spent several hours studying the categories of works and said they were extremely impressed with the quality of the submissions.

The choices they made were very diffi-



cult, the judges said. The show will be on exhibit in HAL's newly renovated Clovelly House (1971 Lakeview Drive in downtown Sebring), which is

dedicated to youth art education. For more information about this or any of HAL's programs, visit www.HighlandsArtLeague.org.

Man charged with attempted stabbing; hitting girl

BY PHIL ATTINGER
 Staff Writer

AVON PARK — A man who allegedly tried to stab a woman and then hit a girl during a domestic dispute is facing charges of child abuse and of aggravated assault and aggravated battery, both with a deadly weapon.

Reynaldo Diaz Ruiz, 27, of Avon Park is being held in the Highlands County Jail in lieu of \$7,000 bond. The incident took place late Saturday night.

Highlands County Sheriff's deputies received a call about a domestic dispute at 10 p.m. Saturday and arrived at an address on County Road 64 East in Avon Park to find a woman with a cut below her left eye and a cut on the bottom of her left hand.

She said her boyfriend, Diaz Ruiz, was drinking that night and and that he

gets violent when drunk. She told deputies that he tried to stab her with a small silver knife, trying to thrust it into the center of her chest.

She grabbed the knife with her left hand, cutting it, reports said. As she was fighting off Diaz Ruiz, her 8-year-old daughter tried to help. Diaz Ruiz then hit her in the mouth with a closed fist, reports said.

Both the mother and daughter declined to be transported by ambulance, reports said.

Deputies then went to

Diaz Ruiz's home and attempted to talk to the man there and identify him as Diaz Ruiz, but found a language barrier. After handcuffing him and placing him against the deputy's patrol car, the deputy asked the victim to identify him and she said he was Diaz Ruiz.

On the way to the jail, reports said, Diaz Ruiz kicked the seat of the car and yelled in Spanish, but eventually stopped and was turned over to jail staff without further incident.

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Limited Number of Wine Tasting & Culinary Demonstration Tickets Available
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 (112 N. Ridgewood Drive in Downtown Sebring)
 or at www.GirlsGoneWineFest.com

A portion of the proceeds from this event benefits the Champion for Children Foundation and the Getaway Girl Foundation.

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SCHOOLS HONOR TOP VOLUNTEERS



Phil Attinger/News-Sun

Praised for everything from helping with logistics to running entire programs for the schools, top volunteers from Highlands County schools were honored Tuesday at The School Board of Highlands County meeting. They are (front, from left) Melissa Reed of Cracker Trail Elementary School, Linda Roth of Park Elementary School, Ginger Keimel of Lake Country Elementary School, Linda Campbell of Lake Placid Elementary School, Lizette Epps of Memorial Elementary School, Elsie Scanlan of Sun 'N Lake Elementary School, (back, from left) Dawn Miller of Avon Elementary School, Leroy Roth of Park Elementary School, Julie Fowler of Woodlawn Elementary School, Arnold Davis of Avon Park Middle School, Suzanne Armand of Hill-Gustat Middle School, Heather Harshman of Lake Placid Middle School, Melanie Jackson of Avon Park High School and Victoria Stephenson of Sebring Middle School. Not present Tuesday were Lisa Collins of Fred Wild Elementary School, Debbie Albritton of the Kindergarten Learning Center and Reed Bowman and Charlotte Wilson, both of Sebring High School.

Student faces weapon charge for box cutter on campus

BY PHIL ATTINGER
Staff Writer

AVON PARK — A 16-year-old student accused of stealing money has been charged with possession of a weapon on school property when a school resource officer found a box cutter in his pocket.

The incident took place at 10:58 a.m. Friday, April 4. The dean of students at Avon Park High School searched the teenager in a case involving mon-

ey stolen from the school gymnasium. During the search, the dean found a black and yellow box cutter razor knife in the boy's right front pants pocket, according to arrest reports.

The dean also found eye drops, lighters, a cell phone, a wallet and other miscellaneous items.

According to reports, the teen denied knowing the box cutter was there. He said the pants belonged to his cousin who works at Walmart

and uses a box cutter at work. The boy said he put the pants on not knowing the box cutter was in the pocket, reports said.

The boy was released into his mother's custody, based on instructions from the Department of Juvenile Justice, reports said.

Editor's Note: Although the offense is a third-degree felony and the student's name is available in public records, his name is being withheld from this report given the circumstances of the incident.

Good Shepherd helps patient take dream ride

Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — Health-care professionals at the Somers Hospice House routinely ask patients and families, "Is there anything else I can do for you?"

When a Good Shepherd Hospice social worker asked patient Bob Green that question, he had his standard answer ready. He jokingly responded, "Why, yes. I'd like to go for a ride in a Corvette." Little did he know that very day he'd be driven around Sebring in a black-on-black, mint-condition 1998 Chevrolet Corvette.

According to Becky McIntyre, chief clinical officer at Good Shepherd Hospice, the purpose of hospice care is to address the needs of patients at the end of life. "Many times, our support goes beyond medications, supplies and equipment," said McIntyre. "When possible, we want to help patients fulfill a dream or desire."

Green, 64, casually mentioned his wish to social worker Sally Beck, which quickly put a plan into motion. Beck discussed this with coworkers, who got word to McIntyre. She called a Sebring business owner that she knows who owns a Corvette and explained Green's request. He agreed to lend his classic car. Later that day, a member of Green's church



Courtesy photo

On his ride around town in a 1998 Corvette, Bob Green stopped by the Sebring Raceway. Green, a patient with Good Shepherd Hospice, casually remarked that he'd like to go for a ride in a Corvette. Staff members at the Somers Hospice House worked together to get him that ride.

pulled the Corvette into a parking space outside the Somers Hospice House for the ride around town.

The weather was perfect for driving with the top down, breezy with a high of 89 degrees. The pair went on a 30-mile ride around Highlands County, driving by Sebring International Raceway and taking a slow ride around the lake.

Green's wife, Sharon, did her part. She called family and friends to tell them about the adventure and they lined the route to cheer on Bob. "It was a pretty good crowd considering I had an hour and a half to plan," Sharon said.

Green retired a year ago in December after a 15-year career with the post office, another job touring with their triplet sons' Christian music group

and a position for 11 years at Advanced Auto Parts. But Green wanted to keep busy. He then started a lawn business in his Tanglewood community, signing up 30 accounts.

But Green's retirement plans took a turn when doctors recently diagnosed him with cancer. "It just showed up," said Sharon.

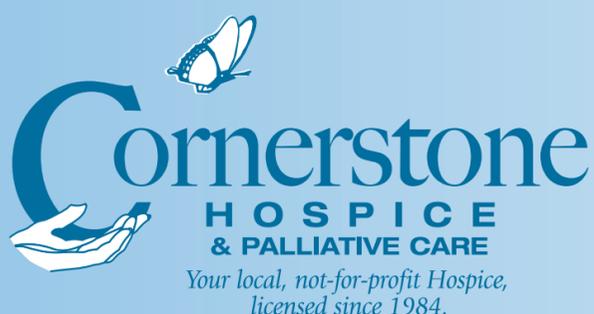
Green was admitted to the Somers Hospice House to get his symptoms under control before returning home. McIntyre stated that most patients coping with life-limiting illnesses want to be in familiar surroundings with family and friends.

"A hospice house allows patients to receive the focused care they need without unwanted tests and treatments," said McIntyre.

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ANOTHER VIEW

Bringing patent trolls into the light of day

Abusive and frivolous lawsuits brought by holders of patents are costing the American economy billions of dollars. Fortunately, Congress is on the case. A large bipartisan majority in the House approved a bill last year that would reduce such litigation; the Senate, where a similar bill is being negotiated, may soon follow.

The patent system encourages innovation by giving inventors a temporary monopoly over their creation. But in the last two decades, as the number of patents issued by the Patent and Trademark Office has increased significantly, businesses are increasingly using patents to sue or threaten to sue other companies to get them to pay licensing fees. The number of patent cases increased 29 percent just in 2012, to nearly 5,200, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers. Various studies have shown that the cost of litigating these cases and paying licensing fees and damages amounts to billions of dollars a year, even though many of the patents at issue are so broad and vague that they should never have been granted in the first place.

Lawmakers are particularly concerned about cases in which patent owners sue small businesses like cafes and hotels for their use of technology — for example, Internet routers made by Apple or Cisco Systems. The firms that bring these suits sometimes also sue the manufacturers of the equipment, but they often sue the users of technology since they know that many small businesses would rather settle than fight costly court cases. The Senate and House bills would allow manufacturers, which are in the best position to defend these cases, to step in and fight claims on behalf of their customers.

The two bills differ on one important issue: legal fees. In an attempt to raise the cost of bringing frivolous lawsuits, the House bill would require plaintiffs who lose a patent case to pay the legal fees of the defendants unless a court determines that the case was “reasonably justified or that special circumstances make an award unjust.” Current law allows judges to award legal fees to defendants only in “exceptional” cases, which courts have interpreted very narrowly.

Some lawmakers in the Senate, notably Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, are pushing for legislation that would give judges more discretion than the House bill would. Granting judges more freedom to award fees in patent cases can reduce the number of abusive cases. But Congress should be careful not to adopt a standard that is so tough that it effectively closes the courthouse door to small inventors, universities and other patent holders.

An editorial from the New York Times.

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Right to privacy? Surely you jest!

Ring. Ring.

“Hello, this is Tom.”

“We know who you are, Tom. In the digital age, you will be shocked by what we know about you.”

“Who is this? The National Security Agency? I thought President Obama issued orders to rein you in!”

“That’s a good one, Tom. Obama told the NSA to stop storing bulk phone records on millions of Americans. The NSA can easily access that information through phone companies. I’m not from the NSA, however.”

“Then who are you and what do you want?”

“What is more important, Tom, is who are you and what do you want? Lots of government and private organizations are interested in that information and you are making it easy for them to get it.”

“I have given no one permission to access my information!”

“Really, Tom? Didn’t you hand over your address, Social Security number and other information to buy a car, get a credit card, apply for a job or vote?”

“Maybe a few times.”

“Did you know that since 1961, various Congresses and presidential administrations have enacted more



GUEST COLUMN

Tom Purcell

than 40 laws, regulations and policies that require the use of Social Security numbers? That is a godsend to people like me — and that was before the digital era made my job easier!”

“What do you mean?”

“Every website you visit, every online purchase you make, every email, text or online comment you make leaves an incredibly rich electronic trail that defines who you are and what you do.”

“You are bluffing.”

“Really, Tom? That 32-year-old Bolivian flight attendant you’ve been flirting with on Facebook?”

“What about her?”

“He’s 45 and he’s an undercover surveillance expert for a large retail outfit.”

“Oh. My. God.”

“You should be more careful with your password

selections, Tom. It took me less than a minute to access your credit card account. Only a fool would use ‘123456,’ the worst password of 2013, according to PC World.”

“You are invading my right to privacy.”

“Really, Tom? There is no mention of any right to privacy in the U.S. Constitution. Sure, the Fourth Amendment stops the police and other government agents from searching our property without probable cause. And, says the American Civil Liberties Union, ‘other amendments protect our freedom to make certain decisions about our bodies and our private lives without interference from the government.’ But a specific right to privacy does not exist.”

“You must be breaking some law!”

“That’s a good one, too, Tom. There are no laws to prevent us from knowing about you — particularly when you so willingly hand over so much private information to so many strangers! You have no idea how vulnerable you are!”

“Vulnerable?”

“Identity theft is a growing problem, Tom. The personal information you will-

ingly gave about yourself exists forever in the digital ecosystem. That gives savvy technical people lots of opportunities to steal your identity and destroy your finances.”

“I didn’t realize it was that easy.”

“Identity theft is less worrisome than what government entities could do to you. Look how the IRS has been used to attack political enemies. Now imagine what government entities can do when they know EVERYTHING about you! That’s why I called you today, Tom. I called to help you.”

“Help me how?”

“You know those new anti-terrorist scanners they use at the airports? Well, at your age, you might want to consider switching from briefs to boxers.”

“That, sir, is an outrage. I demand to know who you are and what you want!”

“Sorry, Tom. That information is private.”

Tom Purcell, author of “Misadventures of a 1970’s Childhood” and “Comical Sense: A Lone Humorist Takes on a World Gone Nutty!” is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Send comments to Tom at Purcell@caglecartoons.com. Guest columns are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of the News-Sun staff.

YOUR VIEWS

Moving on

I would like to say what a wonderful day and time I had last Sunday, April 6, at the Italian Festival in Ybor City. The festival started with Monsignor Higgins celebrating Holy Mass there in the Italian Cub. It was then followed by a procession venerating a statue of the Holy Family into Centennial Park.

After that, there was live entertainment featuring Lena Prima, Tre Bella, Paul Salos, Johnny Charro & the Johnny Charro Dance Band, Salvador Live, Citta Dei Templi. There were more than 35 Bay area restaurants and caterers serving from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This is all put on by the Lunione Italiana (Italian Club) of which I am a member. I have friends there to and miss our rich Italian culture and heritage. Tampa also has a great Latino Spanish culture and heritage and also has clubs and festival’s in Ybor City to. I am half Italian and Spanish and miss my true culture and heritage.

Here in Highlands County, Sebring used to have a Latin night at Quality Inn for a few years, and the new owners closed it. We also started an Italian Club for a few years and that fold-

ed and closed, too. I am sorry folks, I have nothing bad to say about Highlands County, but feel very lonely here and I have certain health problems.

Tampa is a much easier and better place for me to live, so I am planning to move back to the coast by the end of this year. I have many good friends here and I will come back to visit Sebring for a few days once a month. I will write another letter to you all again.

I love you all much. Take care and may God bless each and everyone of you.

RENALDO FERNANDEZ MILII

Sebring

Reelection campaign

In his reelection campaign, Gov. Scott is again crying poor mouth, his humble origins, demonstrating he is one of us, a man of the people. The Governor who bought his last election by spending \$75 million of his own dollars made his fortune in a health care swindle in Texas, which set a record for fraud and paid \$600 million in fines. Getting out of town as an “almost unindicted co-conspirator,” Scott arrived in Florida as a well-funded “carpetbagger.”

In office, Scott wasted millions of state funds in “incentive programs” giving large grants of money to corporations, no strings attached, while sponsoring programs to cut pensions for teachers, police and firemen at all levels of government in Florida.

Now is campaign mode, he daily finds small concessions to win votes (reduction of auto tag fees) while proposing more grants to corporations. Meanwhile, his minions in the legislature are drafting bills to destroy the Florida Retirement System, converting it to an “investment plan” similar to George Bush’s plan to destroy social security by privatizing it into “savings accounts.”

Scott and the Florida Legislature refuse to acknowledge that “pension plans” are a security device, paid for by a lifetime of hard work and loyal service. Converting them to something akin to a lottery ticket and calling it an “investment account” is a sham and a disservice to thousands of hard working civil servants.

Our “economic chameleon” governor is one again prepared to throw most of us under the bus in order to support his corporate interests.

RANDY LUDACER

Lake Placid

Downtown Sebring hosts Second Friday Wine Walk

SEBRING — Destination Downtown Sebring (DDS) continues its celebration of spring with an April Wine Walk from 5-8 p.m. today. Participating galleries, stores and boutiques will feature one-of-a-kind art, home decor, jewelry, and gifts available for purchase as well as music, entertainment, exhibits, and special drawings.

Pick up the list of participating Wine Walk merchants and organizations at the Highlands Art League's Yellow House Gallery & Gift Shop, 1989 Lakeview Drive. Stroll the Circle and the Cultural Center while participating merchants provide free wine. No glass purchase necessary.

Held the second Friday of each month, Sebring's Downtown comes alive with the unique and enjoyable Destination Downtown Sebring's monthly themed events. For details about the event and participating stores, visit www.DestinationDowntownSebring.com. This event is co-sponsored by the Sebring Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

Calvary's Hill Quartet sings at Dee's

SSEBRING — Calvary's Hill Quartet will provide a free Christian Gospel concert at Dee's Place Restaurant, 138 N. Ridgewood Drive, at 6 p.m. Saturday.

The food and concert are free but donations are greatly appreciated. Call 471-2228 for reservations.

APHS Project Graduation plans raffle

AVON PARK — A gun raffle is planned to support Avon Park High School Project Graduation. To see the

SNAPSHOTS

LOCAL NEWS

AR-15 gun raffle, visit Boom Boom's Guns and Ammo in Sebring.

Tickets are \$10. Contact Doreen Pearlman at 443-0602 or tickets can be purchased at Boom Boom's.

Car show set at Shelby Crossing

SEBRING — The Shops at Shelby Crossing will host a Spring Car Show and Pet Adoption event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Registration for the car and truck show is \$10. The show will feature antiques, classics, muscle, sports cars and more.

There will be pet adoptions, music and food. Enter your pet in a contest recognizing the Best Dressed, Unique, Best Trick and Funniest.

Pancake breakfast planned

SEBRING — There will be a pancake breakfast from 8-10 a.m. Saturday at the Sebring Hills Clubhouse, 200 Lark Ave. All the pancakes, sausage, orange juice, coffee or tea you want for only \$3 for members and \$3.50 for non-members.

'Good Stuff' to appear at Tanglewood

SEBRING — The father and daughter duo of Tony and Trish, better known as "Good Stuff," will be performing at the Tanglewood dance on Saturday. The duo just returned from a western Caribbean cruise where they were one of the featured entertainers on the Carnival ship Paradise.

Dance is from 7-10 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$6. Bring your own beverage; ice is provided.

Tanglewood is one mile north of Walmart on U.S. 27.



Courtesy photo

The Aktion Club of Highlands County distributed 11,083 diapers, 6,084 wipes and 20 baby blankets on April 10 to 10 local charities. Representatives from the charities benefiting from the club's March 29 Diaper Dump Day are (from left) Karen Wright, of Children's Services Council of Highlands County; Cynthia Acevedo, program manager, and Wanda Tookes, supervisor, both of Healthy Families; Wendy Hall, service coordinator of Early Steps; Bill Sobczak, vice president of Aktion Club and top diaper collector; Tikia Lodge, office manager and family support worker with Avon Park Community Child Development Center; Alyssa Steger, records specialist, and Rebecca Brownell, family support worker, both of One Hope United; Sherrie Schwab, director of Victim Services at Peace River Center for the Family Safehouse; Candice Ciesla, director of programs and services for Ridge Area Arc; Ralph Meyers and Eva Monk, Diaper Dump chairpersons for Aktion Club; and Renee Grider, child advocate coordinator for Guardian ad Litem Program. Representatives from Nu-Hope Elder Care Services and Healthy Families also received diapers but were not present for the photo.

Aktion Club dumps 11,000-plus diapers onto 10 local charities

Special to the News-Sun

AVON PARK — The Aktion Club of Highlands County collected 11,083 diapers, 6,084 wipes and 20 baby blankets to help 10 local charities.

A total of \$1,329.40 was collected in cash and that was converted into diapers and wipes purchased from Diapers.com. That shipment arrived April 7, in time for all the charities to receive their equal share of diapers on April 10.

"The response has been overwhelming from our community and very much appreciated by all the charities being helped," Aktion Club advisor Cindy Marshall said. "When we organized this project, we never dreamed it would be this huge but we are glad everyone had such big hearts. No baby should be left laying in a soggy wet diaper just because a family can't afford to buy them. All of these charities reach out to help families in need."

The club kicked off the campaign on March 20 with the members bringing in their donations of 6,938 diapers and \$335.27 in cash. The Aktion Club consists of 65 members who are all adults with disabilities who do civic projects in the community.

Marshall challenged the club members to see who could bring in the most diapers. The winner will be treated to a movie complete with snacks and a drink.

Bill Sobczak, of Sebring, took that lead and maintained it throughout the campaign. He collected 1,115 diapers and \$642.48 in cash, which converted to diapers brought his total to 4,035 diapers.

Sobczak received assistance from his co-workers at PUBLIX in Sebring and from residents at his mobile home community, Leisure Acres in Sebring.

The club then organized Diaper Dump Day on March 29, which

brought in \$994.13 in cash, 3,212 diapers and the blankets. There were 15 club members and four volunteers from the charities working along U.S. 27 in front of Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center in Sebring collecting cash in milk jug canisters. A tent was set up along the road for the diaper dump off.

The Highlands County Sheriff's Office contributed to the Diaper Dump Day by collecting 2,400 diapers and more than \$100 in cash. Courtney Godbold, with the sheriff's finance department, spearheaded their effort.

"I'm a single mom with two boys. One is 10 months old and one is 6 years old. I know how hard it is to buy diapers. They are expensive," Godbold said. "I sent out emails and handed everybody a flyer. They just came pouring in," she added.

Godbold also brought the blankets that were made by the Hands of Love group at Lake Bon-

net Village in Avon Park. This is a group of ladies from that community who meet weekly for three months to sew or make items needed in the community.

Aktion Club president Elizabeth Jordan was able to solicit the help of Comfort Keepers who donated 1,257 adult diapers. Those diapers will benefit charities like Ridge Area Arc and Nu-Hope Elder Care Services Inc.

The eight different children's charities that equally received 9,826 baby diapers, 6,084 baby wipes and 20 blankets were Avon Park Community Child Development Center, Children's Advocacy Center, Family Safehouse, Guardian ad Litem, Healthy Families, Healthy Start, One Hope United and Gulf Coast Early Steps Program.

The Aktion Club will make this an annual event for the local charities.

Anyone wishing to help can call the club at 452-1295, ext. 124.

OBITUARIES

JANET WHITAKER

Janet H. Whitaker, 68, of Ocklawaha passed away April 5, 2014 at The Villages Regional Hospital. She was born on Oct. 25, 1945 in Bethesda, Md. to Floyd and Mary Holton.

Janet enjoyed spending time outdoors gardening and enjoying wildlife. She also enjoyed painting, liquid embroidery, and attending auctions and flea markets.

Janet is survived by her son, Larry Whitaker of Ocklawaha; her daughter, Sharon Whitaker of Okeechobee; Georgia Lee McDaniel of Jay;

Juanita Kindrick of Spartanburg, S.C.; Donald Holton of Sebring; Bennie Holton of Sebring; Donna Goodwin of Sebring; Barbara Schroeder of Sebring; and Eugene Bengston of Sebring.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Travis L. Whitaker; her parents, Floyd and Mary Holton; and two brothers, Dean and John.

The family will receive friends at Hiers-Baxley Funeral Services, Belleview on Saturday, April 12 from 3-5 p.m.



WHITAKER

Court denies appeal of man to be executed

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — The Supreme Court denied an appeal for a man scheduled to be executed April 23 for killing his cousin and his cousin's wife to prevent him from testifying in a burglary case.

Lawyers for Robert Eugene Hendrix say that the judge at his murder trial was biased and he had an ineffective lawyer.

Hendrix, and his cousin, Elmer Scott, were arrested for breaking into a house in 1990. Scott accepted a plea deal that would keep him out of prison if he testified against Hendrix.

Before the case went to court, Hendrix went to Scott's Lake County home. Prosecutors say he shot Scott in the head and slashed the throat of his wife, Michelle.

Medicaid enrollment rises 8 percent

MIAMI (AP) — Florida's Republican lawmakers remain staunchly opposed to expanding Medicaid — a system they've repeatedly said is too expensive and doesn't improve health outcomes. Yet Florida's Medicaid rolls are expanding under the Affordable Care Act.

That's because people trying to sign up for health insurance under Obama's new health law are finding out — to their surprise — that they qualify for Medicaid, the federal health insurance program for the poor.

Some 245,000 Floridians were added to the Medicaid rolls between October and the end of February. That's a more than 8 percent increase. The Sunshine State is one of ten states that accounted for more than 80 percent of the 3 million new Medicaid enrollees under the Affordable Care Act, according to Avalere Health, a market research and consulting firm. But Florida was the only state of the ten, which include California, Oregon and Washington, that didn't

expand Medicaid.

Florida's newest enrollees include more than 51,000 children, according to health advocacy group Florida CHAIN.

As parents began applying for their own health coverage under the Affordable Care Act, they discovered that their children were eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Many weren't enrolled.

"It has been an eye opening experience to learn how many families were not aware that their children could be covered for health care and heartwarming to give them the good news. I see immediate relief and gratitude in their eyes and words," said Lynne Thorp, an enrollment counselor in Fort Myers.

Lawmakers repeatedly acknowledged last year that the massive advertising campaigns, enrollment drives and celebrity endorsements surrounding Obama's health law would likely lead to an increase in regular Medicaid enrollment.

That's what happened to Donna Refuse, 44, when she tried to sign up for insurance as the marketplace first opened in early October. The unemployed Miami mother of two thought that people without an income — like herself — would have access to affordable insurance.

Refuse was shocked when she was informed that she didn't qualify for a tax credit under the health care law — but she learned that she did qualify for Medicaid.

"It makes me feel better. Now I can go to a doctor and see if anything is

wrong," said Refuse.

Lawmakers will have to grapple with the fact that the state's Medicaid costs will rise. The state has to pay 40 percent of the cost.

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RALLY FOR CHILD SUPPORT CHANGES



Samantha Gholar/News Sun

Patricia Austin (left) and Edwin Padillo rally outside the Highlands County Courthouse Thursday morning hoping to gain the support of local residents in their fight to change laws regarding child support enforcement. "Fixing a broken system" is the main goal of Austin, who supports Padillo, a father whose driver license privileges were revoked after falling behind on child support payments. Padillo stated that he was bullied and ridiculed in the court room. "I'm fighting for everyone not just myself. We shouldn't be threatened or belittled when we enter the courtroom," Padillo said. More rallies are scheduled in the coming weeks and supporters may contact Austin to become a part of the Drive to Provide movement at 443-7733.

CHAIR

FROM PAGE A1

customer service, business operations and both teamwork and problem solving.

When they are done, each student could earn certification as a production technician, which would allow them to work a production line of any type, anywhere, said John Rousch, wood shop instructor at Lake Placid High School and head of the Chair Company.

Rousch, who has also served as the district-level coordinator for development of vocational education policy, told the board that while students have challenges keeping up with changes in manufacturing and marketing methods, the students also need a reason to stay in Highlands County. The county, in turn, needs skilled workers to attract new industry.

Donna Doubleday of the Heartland Workforce Investment Board stated in a press release that Florida ranks among the top 10 states for companies manufacturing a wide range of goods, and manufacturing has been designated as a targeted industry for Highlands and surround-

ing counties.

However, businesses won't come if they can't find enough skilled local labor, Rousch said.

"We want to keep the kids here," Rousch said. "We want to give them good jobs."

Rousch will team-teach the academy with Scott Morgan, LPHS business education instructor. They want community partners to come forward and help sponsor the program.

Board member Donna Howerton asked if this was a first for Florida, and Rousch believes it may be.

Lake Placid High marked itself on the national map 12 years ago by establishing the Chair Company to sell Adirondack chair kits online as a way of defraying supplies costs, Rousch said. The chairs gained popularity because the kit sales helped support education.

"I have two of these chairs," Howerton said. "If I would have thought about it, (I'd) get one more."

The company and chairs also have been the subject of a segment of Ron Hazelton Home Improvement Online, Rousch said.

When eBay changed its policy disallowing cashier's checks or money orders, sales dropped to local sales and some re-

peat out-of-state customers, Rousch said. Lumber prices had tripled, which cut into profit margins for each \$79 pinewood kit.

Students would learn how to market the chairs online and sell them in ways that can overcome such challenges, he said.

Rousch said he serves as the "CEO" of the company, who talks to the student foreman — a rotating position, like all of the work stations — who then gives "marching orders" to the other students. Students are eager to become foreman until they learn that everything that goes on, or goes wrong, becomes their responsibility, he said.

Because each hand-crafted and hand-assembled chair goes through six or seven students, it's inspected for quality that many times, Rousch said. That will help them appreciate quality work.

Rotating through the work stations also helps each student learn the complete manufacturing process, he said.

"That's part of the (company) design," Rousch said.

For details on the program or to be a business partner, contact Rousch at Lake Placid High at 863-699-5010, ext. 247 or email rouschj@highlands.k12.fl.us.

district," Stephenson said.

Growing up in Highlands County and now raising children here, Stephenson has a deep love and connection with the area. Along with his loyalty to the county, Stephenson said the new owners of the Raceway also factored into his decision to run for office.

"This new company I work for (NASCAR) wants us all to be leaders in our community. This community has been very good to me.

"From the time I was at Woodlawn Elementary to wrestling championships at Sebring High School,

I've had so much support. That, plus a job that allows me to be a leader. I knew this was the next step for me," Stephenson said.

"I'm an out-of-the-box thinker. I believe I would be a good fit for the school board. It's a really great school system, but we are facing many challenges. I've got a lot of work to do, but I am fully committed to this position," said Stephenson. "This is not going to be taken lightly by me."

Samantha Gholar can be reached at samantha.gholar@newssun.com or 385-6155 ext: 526.

Orange harvesting ends in June, and if the crop doesn't decline further, it will barely exceed the 110.2 million orange boxes harvested in 1989-90 following the worst freeze in Florida citrus history. The report also shows

the second smallest fruit size dating back to the 1960-61 harvest year.

Florida had an estimated 66 percent of the total U.S. market share last year. Approximately 95 percent of the state's orange crop is used for juice.

RIOT

FROM PAGE A1

monitoring cameras and other equipment.

In issuing the document, DJJ officials said they are "committed to applying the lessons learned to ensure the youth we serve are provided the right services in the right way at the right time in order to fulfill our mission of reducing juvenile delinquency and increasing public safety."

The incident apparently revolved around a game of basketball between rival teams from St. Petersburg and Orlando. The report indicated that a donnybrook ensued after the game. However, whether it was because the losing team refused to pay up a wager remains unconfirmed.

As word of the fight spread, the analysis said, more of the youth joined in on the altercation. Despite efforts by staff, it then got out of control.

After a call to the Avon Park Bombing Range Fire Department, emergency 911 dispatch was called. In all, some 150 law enforcement personnel from Highlands, Osceola and Polk counties responded along with Florida Highway Patrol troopers, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Sebring Police Department, as well as the Polk County Fire and Emergency Management Service.

In all, 61 youth at the facility since have been



Courtesy photo

An August riot at the Avon Park Youth Academy did an estimated \$350,000 in damage.

charged with varying offenses in connection with the incident. Damage to the complex has been set at \$350,000 although insurance coverage paid less than \$47,000.

In a cover letter, DJJ officials indicated they have already taken corrective action such as the installation of surveillance cameras throughout the facility, decreasing the program size by cutting the facility from 144 beds to 80 beds, increasing the staff-to-youth ratio and

a review of the training procedures at the Youth Academy.

As part of the report, the Inspector General's Office noted currently "there are no specifics as to what that training should include."

The report recommended that among other things, the Riot and Major Disturbance Plan should be updated and that the staff should coordinate and participate in training and practice scenario drills.

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SCHOOL

FROM PAGE A1

budget. That's a tough issue, but I know I can help with that. I not only have an interest in the money side of things, but on every level. It's important to understand all the concerns of the teachers, the administrators and the district board members. I listen and I have heard some concerns from some of the teachers. I want to have a voice for them as well. I feel (candidates) should all be familiar with every level of the

CITRUS

FROM PAGE A1

that would be the highest statewide drop rate of any non-hurricane, non-freeze season since the 1969-70 harvest year.

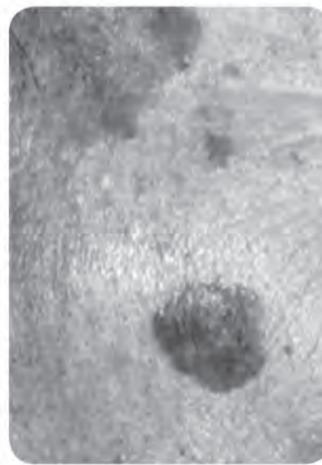
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Alana Semuels/Los Angeles Times/MCT

Liz Norden, left, and one of her five sons, J.P., sit on a couch in the living room of her apartment in Stoneham, Mass. Norden moved into a ground floor apartment so her sons, each of whom lost a leg in the Boston Marathon bombings, could get around more easily.

A year after, Boston and its people heal

PAIGE SUTHERLAND
Associated Press

BOSTON — Every time Roseann Sdoia comes home, she must climb 18 steps — six stairs into the building, another 12 to her apartment. It is an old building in Boston's North End, with doors that are big and heavy, not an easy place for an amputee to live.

When she left the hospital, a month after the Boston marathon bombing, she had a choice: She could find another place to live, one more suitable for someone who wears a prosthetic that replaces most of her right leg. Or, she could stay.

“Early on when all this happened, so many people were telling me to move out of the city and move out of my apartment because of the stairs and I don’t have an elevator and parking is not very convenient,” she recalls. “But I have been able to get past all of that.”

In that, she mirrors Boston itself.

“I have to tell you, honestly, Boston is a better city now than it was before,” says Thomas Menino, Boston’s former mayor. “People learned how to deal with each other, they had to deal with a tragedy.”

Not that it’s been easy. Three people were killed that day, and more than 260 were injured, and the legacy of trauma and lost limbs remains — as does the shock of having endured a terrorist attack on Marathon Monday. Nor can Bostonians forget the fear that gripped a city locked down in the midst of a manhunt.

But Boston has been able to get past all of that. Copley Square is no longer littered with impromptu tributes to the dead and injured; they’re now on display in an exhibit at the Boston Public Library, where Robert White of Lynn saw meaning in every teddy bear and pair of sneakers: “Every last one of the items says ‘Boston Strong’ or ‘I will return next year.’”

Sdoia is 46 years old, a vice president of property management for a Boston development company. She is a cheerful woman; she smiles broadly when she arrives at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Charlestown for physical therapy.

“I have to tell you, honestly, Boston is a better city now than it was before. People learned how to deal with each other, they had to deal with a tragedy.”

*Thomas Menino
former Boston mayor*

“It’s just my nature,” she says. “I’m not a negative person. I’m not a Debbie Downer.”

Still, she says, she cries every day.

“What is sinking in is that life has changed,” she says, her face awash with tears.

Sdoia is a runner, but she did not take part in the marathon. She was at the finish line on April 15, rooting for friends in the race, when the second bomb went off. Aside from her leg injury, she suffered hearing loss.

“Other than losing the bottom of my right leg, I’m still me,” she says. “I haven’t changed, I am still the same person I was before.”

And yet, so much has changed. She had to take more leave from the job she loved. Winter, and snow, were tough to handle. She’s had to tackle daily tasks — showering, vacuuming — differently.

Marc Fucarile, a 35-year-old roofer from Stoneham, also lost his right leg from above the knee; he has shrapnel in his heart, and still could lose his left leg.

“Everything has changed,” he says. “How I use the bathroom, how I shower, how I brush my teeth, how I get in and out of bed.”

His 6-year-old son, Gavin, does not always understand. “Gavin is like, ‘Hey, you want to go out and play?’ and I’m like, ‘There’s a foot of snow. I can’t do snow. We’re not going out and playing right now, sorry buddy.’ It breaks my heart.”

In the first three months after the explosions, the One Fund collected nearly \$61 million in donations. In the next five months, another \$12 million in contributions came in.

This big-heartedness was mirrored by a sort of proud defiance, exemplified by “Boston Strong.” The amount of merchandise bearing the slogan was astonishing.

“In the immediate aftermath of the bombings, it

became a peaceful mantra that people could repeat and believe in. And if they said it enough, tweeted it enough, hashtagged it enough, it would actually be true,” says Dan Soleau, a brand development manager for Marathon Sports.

Jennifer Lawrence, a social worker at Boston Medical Center, says the emphasis on “Boston Strong” had had some unhappy consequences.

“A lot of it is portraying that people are so resilient and so strong. While that is absolutely true, we are neglecting that people still have hard days,” she said.

In the aftermath of the bombings, more than 600 people took advantage of the medical center’s mental health services. And while most needed no help after the first few months, she has seen an increase in demand in recent weeks, as the anniversary approached.

Still, she says a “vast majority” of those who came through the hospital’s programs intend to attend this year’s marathon, either as bystanders or runners.

Nicole Lynch will be there. Her brother, Sean Collier, was the MIT officer who was shot to death, allegedly by the two suspects in the bombings. She will be at the race with Team Collier Strong — a group of 25 friends and family members, including two of her siblings, who will run to raise money for a scholarship fund to put one person a year through law enforcement training.

William Evans will be there, but he has little choice. He has run the marathon 18 times — including last year — but this time he will be there as police commissioner, supervising beefed-up security including more than 3,500 police officers (more than twice last year’s force), more security cameras, more bomb-sniffing dogs, and restrictions on the kinds of bags runners and spectators can bring.

“It weighs heavy on my mind, that I want this to go off well,” he says. “I don’t want anyone hurt. I don’t ever want a repeat of the tragedy we saw that day.”

Reporters Denise Lavoie, Steve LeBlanc, Philip Marcelo and Bob Salsberg contributed to this story.

Contact Us...

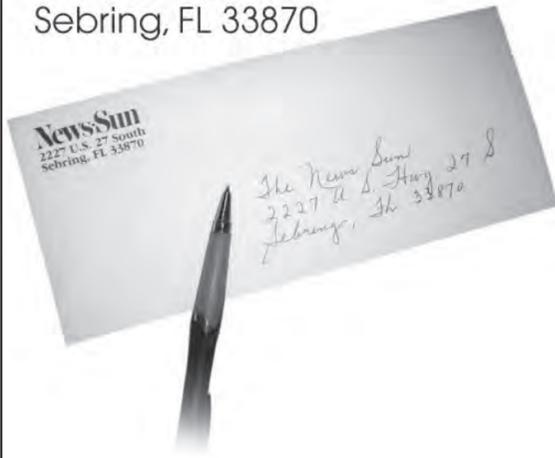


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SPORTS

Lady Streaks pull off Regional win



Courtesy photo

For the first time in more than a decade, the Lady Streaks picked up a regional tennis win. All smiles after the victory over Golden Gate, from left, Ashley Castelli, Amanda Rios, Micaela DeVane, Nisha Patel, Sarah Beth Rogers, Alaina Keith and head coach Janie Hollinger.

BY DAN HOEHNE
daniel.hoehne@newssun.com

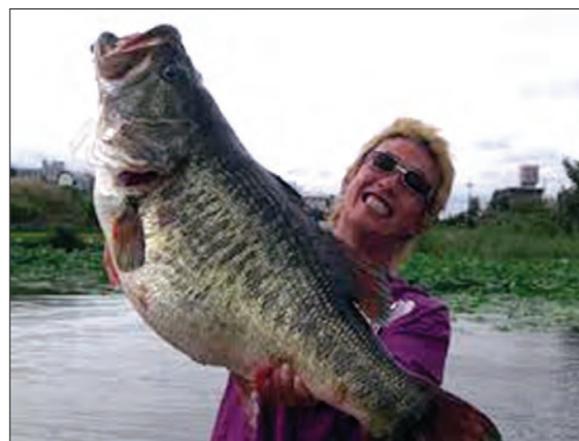
It was more than a decade in the making, from an unlikely group of Sebring tennis players.

But the 2014 edition of Lady Blue Streak tennis pulled off a Class 2A Regional win Tuesday, stunning Golden Gate by a 5-2 match score.

With only Nisha Patel as an experienced, full-fledged varsity starter from a season ago, a rebuilding sort of season might have been expected.

But while a consistent

SEE SEBRING | A12



Courtesy photo

Manabu Kurita and his record-tying largemouth bass.

World record largemouth bass?

BY DON NORTON
Special to the News-Sun



FISHIN' AROUND

Don Norton

Last week, a customer came into the store and told me about his friend who had caught a largemouth bass weighing over 21 pounds.

It's not unusual for me to hear about big fish being caught from customers, and often the stories are accompanied by pictures.

But a 21 pound bass?

That I don't hear very often.

Why is this so hard to believe?

Well, George Perry, who caught the world record largemouth bass, a 22-pound, 4-ounce lunker held the record for well over 60 years before a fisherman in Japan, Manabu Kurita, caught and certified a bass from Lake Biwa (Japan) weighing only one ounce more.

At 22 pounds and 5 ounces, which according to the record keepers only qualifies as a tie (new records must be 2 ounces or greater than the previous set record), provided even more evidence that under the right conditions, there is a possibility of a bass growing to such huge dimensions.

After I listened to the story told by my customer, I believe it's true.

Actually, I believe he believes it's true.

I guess I'd have to say I believe it's possible.

According to him, his friend owns a number of small ponds, all of which hold some pretty big bass. Of course he didn't tell me where these ponds are, although he did mention Avon Park, and then later in the conversation, Frostproof.

He claims the fish was weighed on a scale that listed the weight at 9.9 kg.

For some reason the scale did not work in the pounds and ounces selector.

One kg converts to 2.204622622 pounds.

If you convert 9.9 kg to pounds and ounces you're talking about a bass that weighed 21.13 ounces — just eight ounces short of the world record.

It's interesting to note that Doug Hannon, often called the Bass Professor, wrote often about his belief that a world record bass would most likely come from a 150-mile

range of his Tampa home.

In his opinion, south Florida, specifically Lake Okeechobee was not a likely site for a bass to grow that large due to the high water temperatures during the summer, causing the metabolism of the bass to increase, which in turn causes rapid growth but often, premature death.

North Florida was also ruled out since the water temperatures often fall too low for longer periods of time, causing the bass's metabolism to slow down, thus allowing them to live longer, but grow at a slower rate.

According to Hannon, the 150 radius of Tampa offers the ideal water conditions year round.

Water temperatures typically do not get too hot, or too cold, allowing fish the opportunity to live in fairly stable conditions, extending their life as well as their growth opportunities.

In the April 2014 issue of BassMaster Magazine, James Hall wrote a nice article about Dr. Gary Schwarz, owner of the El Tecomate Ranch near Laredo, Texas.

Deer hunters may recognize the name of Dr. Schwarz from way back in 1983 when he pioneered the concept of food plots that could improve the antler growth and body size of deer.

He developed a food plot seed called Lablab and eventually created the Tecomate Seed Company.

No one believed his claim that he could greatly improve the size of white-tail deer, but by 2000, Schwarz and the El Tecomate Ranch had grown world-record-class deer topping 200 inches.

A few miles northwest of the El Tecomate Ranch sits La Perla Ranch.

Schwarz purchased the property as an investment in 2005 and within a short period of time, brought in John Jones, owner of

SEE BASS | A11

Devils lock up district

BY DAN HOEHNE
daniel.hoehne@newssun.com

AVON PARK — The Red Devils left no doubt who reigns supreme in the District 9-4A standings, as they finished off the district schedule Wednesday night with an 8-3 win over visiting Mulberry.

Tuesday's rains pushed the contest back a day, but Avon Park wasted little time in getting things going.

After Daniel Simons worked a one-two-three top of the first, Alfred Brown tripled to left to lead off the bottom half.

He would come in one out later when Tyrone Perry plastered a double deep in the left-center field gap.

Simons surrendered a walk and single in the top of the second, but came back strong in striking out the next three batters.

The Devils then broke it open in their next at bat.

With the bases load-



Dan Hoehne/News-Sun

Trey Frazier crosses home plate with Alfred Brown hot on his heels as two of the three runs Luis Martinez knocked in with a double in Wednesday's win.

ed and one out, Brown singled home Alex Gomez before Luis Martinez rocketed one to center that went for a three-run

double.

One out later, Mykel Gordon singled Martinez home and Mulberry was looking up at a 6-0

deficit.

The Panthers did scratch for two in the

SEE DEVILS | A12

24 Hours of LeMons coming to SIR

BY BARRY FOSTER
Special to the News-Sun

SEBRING — There will be fireworks on Independence Day weekend at the Sebring International Raceway but it will have nothing to do with pyrotechnics.

The 24 Hours of LeMons has announced the series will make its debut at the storied airport race course July 5-6.

"It's called the 'Humidi TT' — the 'TT' being time trials. It's a play on that and your summertime weather," said 24 Hours of LeMons Associate Perpetrator Nick Pons from his office in California.

Like a similar series known as the ChumpCar World Series which also has raced at Sebring, the LeMons group conducts endurance races for cars valued at no more than \$500.

The group also lays claim to being the first of its kind.

"We actually staged our initial



Courtesy photo

Cars of all shapes, sizes, styles and adornments will be on hand as the 24 Hours of LeMons debuts at Sebring International Raceway in July.

race in October of 2006 at the old Altamonte Speedway here in California," Pons said. "It was supposed to be a one-time thing. We never thought it would snowball into this."

The 24 Hours of LeMons now has burgeoned from that one-off event to a 19-race series.

Another feature that sets LeM-

SEE LEMONS | A12

COMING UP

High School Baseball
Today – Avon Park vs. Booker, 7 p.m.; Sebring vs. Hardee, 7 p.m.

College Baseball
Today – SFSC vs. Polk State, 6 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV TODAY

AUTO RACING

■ NASCAR – VFW Sport Clips 200	8 p.m.	ESPN2
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BOXING

■ Giovanni Lorenzo vs. Gilberto Ramirez	10 p.m.	ESPN2
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GOLF

■ 2014 Masters Tournament	3 p.m.	ESPN
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MLB

■ Tampa Bay at Cincinnati	7 p.m.	SUN
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NBA

■ Detroit at Chicago	8 p.m.	WGN
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SATURDAY AUTO RACING

■ NASCAR – Bojangles' Southern 500	6 p.m.	FOX
■ NHRA – Four-Wide Nationals, Qualifying	9 p.m.	ESPN2

COLLEGE BASEBALL

■ Arkansas at LSU	1 p.m.	ESPN2
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COLLEGE HOCKEY

■ NCAA Tournament Final	7:30 p.m.	ESPN
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GOLF

■ 2014 Masters Tournament	3 p.m.	CBS
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MLB

■ Tampa Bay at Cincinnati	1 p.m.	SUN
■ Cleveland at Chicago White Sox	2 p.m.	WGN

NHL

■ Philadelphia at Pittsburgh	3 p.m.	NBC
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STANDINGS

National Basketball Association				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	46	32	.590	—
x-Brooklyn	43	35	.551	3
New York	33	45	.423	13
Boston	23	55	.295	23
Philadelphia	17	61	.218	29
Southeast	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Miami	53	25	.679	—
x-Charlotte	40	38	.513	13
x-Washington	40	38	.513	13
Atlanta	35	43	.449	18
Orlando	23	55	.295	30
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Indiana	54	25	.684	—
x-Chicago	46	32	.590	7½
Cleveland	32	47	.405	22
Detroit	29	50	.367	25
Milwaukee	14	64	.179	39½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB
y-San Antonio	60	18	.769	—
x-Houston	52	26	.667	8
Dallas	48	31	.608	12½
Memphis	46	32	.590	14
New Orleans	32	46	.410	28
Northwest	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Oklahoma City	57	21	.731	—
x-Portland	51	28	.646	6½
Minnesota	39	39	.500	18
Denver	34	44	.436	23
Utah	24	54	.308	33
Pacific	W	L	Pct	GB
y-L.A. Clippers	55	24	.696	—
Golden State	48	29	.623	6
Phoenix	47	31	.603	7½
Sacramento	27	52	.342	28
L.A. Lakers	25	53	.321	29½

Major League Baseball				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	5	4	.556	—
Tampa Bay	5	5	.500	½
Baltimore	4	5	.444	1
Boston	4	5	.444	1
New York	4	5	.444	1
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	5	2	.714	—
Cleveland	5	4	.556	1
Kansas City	4	4	.500	1½
Chicago	4	5	.444	2
Minnesota	3	5	.375	2½
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	5	3	.625	—
Seattle	5	3	.625	—
Los Angeles	4	5	.444	1½
Texas	4	5	.444	1½
Houston	3	6	.333	2½

Friday's Games				
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	6	2	.750	—
Atlanta	5	3	.625	1
Miami	5	4	.556	1½
New York	3	5	.375	3
Philadelphia	3	5	.375	3
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	6	2	.750	—
Pittsburgh	5	3	.625	1
St. Louis	5	4	.556	1½
Chicago	3	5	.375	3
Cincinnati	3	6	.333	3½
West	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	6	3	.667	—
Los Angeles	6	4	.600	½
Colorado	5	5	.500	1½
San Diego	3	6	.333	3
Arizona	3	8	.273	4

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NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	6	2	.750	—
Atlanta	5	3	.625	1
Miami	5	4	.556	1½
New York	3	5	.375	3
Philadelphia	3	5	.375	3
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	6	2	.750	—
Pittsburgh	5	3	.625	1
St. Louis	5	4	.556	1½
Chicago	3	5	.375	3
Cincinnati	3	6	.333	3½
West	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	6	3	.667	—
Los Angeles	6	4	.600	½
Colorado	5	5	.500	1½
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San Diego	3	6	.333	3
Arizona	3	8	.273	4

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 19, 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 17.

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 Pinecrest 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 Shot Gun 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

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, comple-

This Date In Baseball

April 11	
1907	— New York catcher Roger Bresnahan appeared wearing shin guards for the first time in a major league game.
1912	— Rube Marquard of the New York Giants began a 19-game winning streak with an 18-3 triumph over the Brooklyn Dodgers.
1961	— The Los Angeles Angels won their first major league game with a 7-2 victory over the Orioles at Baltimore. Ted Kluszewski had a pair of homers for the Angels.
1962	— The New York Mets played their first game and lost 11-4 to the Cardinals in St. Louis. Stan

SNAPSHOTS

SPORTS

mentary 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 Reifsnnyder 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 sponsorships 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.FHHHeartland.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

greens fee, golf cart and lunch.

Registration is at 7:30 a.m. the day of the tournament, with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

Please submit entries by Thursday, April 24. Make checks payable to Wings of Faith CWC Scholarship Fund.

All proceeds go to benefit college-bound senior graduates for the class of 2014.

For questions, call Alvin Walters at 381-5706 or 381-6578.

Highlands County Summer Leagues

SEBRING – The Highlands County Parks and Natural Resources Department announces that the 2014 Summer Leagues will start the week of May 12.

Leagues will include Women's, Church and Recreational A and B Leagues and are open to all adults and youth 16 years and older.

Registration and fees are due by Wednesday, May 7, no exceptions.

Fees are \$360 and \$15 sanctioning fee for the year.

For any further information please call Bob Keefe at 863-381-8284, Dustin Ridenour at 381-8269 or the Sports Complex at 863-402-6755.

Registration is at 7:30 a.m. the day of the tournament, with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

Please submit entries by Thursday, April 24. Make checks payable to Wings of Faith CWC Scholarship Fund.

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Bass 'N Trash Tournament

SEBRING – The Sebring Sr. FFA will host the First Annual Bass 'N Trash Fishing Tournament on Saturday, May 17, on Lake Jackson at the Veteran's Beach boat ramp.

Cost is \$25 per person, with a maximum of four people per team, with all registered team members receiving a free T-shirt and lunch.

Meet time is 7 a.m. and fishing will get underway at 7:30 a.m.

Weigh-in takes place at Noon.

SNAPSHOTS

LOCAL GOLF

Golf Hammock

The Golf Hammock Ladies Played a scramble for their Farewell Tournament and Luncheon on Wednesday, April 9.

First-place winners, with a 65.1, were Joan Robillard, Caroline Duncan, Mary Cripps and Shirley Enochs.

Coming in with a 65.3 for second were Jeannie Fivecoat, Anne Coffey and Carol Troup.

Taking third, with a 65.5, were Cindy Borwer, Joyce Stanley, Roxie McMillon and Audrey Walther.

And in fourth place, with a 67.1, were Judy Trier, Kaydee Depolito, Jo Thornburg and Alma Barefoot.

Closest to the Pin on No. 7 was Helene Tremblay and on No. 17 was Roxie McMillon

The Ringer winners for the year saw Jeannie Fivecoat top the First Flight with a 72, with Second Flight honors going to Judy Trier with a 78 and Kaydee Depolito topped the Third Flight with 86.

Last Monday, April 7, the Mezza Group played Individual Pro-Am points.

Joe Hyzny took first in A group with +5, Gary Towell placed second with +4, Don Brewer took third with +3.

In B group, Mike Lajiness was in first at +2, Gary Fivecoat in second at -1, and in third was Dana Smith at -2.

C group saw Paul Brown take first with +6, Ned Bauer in second with +4, followed by Jan Nigh in third with +1.

John Robertson led the way in D group at +5, with Ken Granger in second at +2, and Delbert Nelson in third at -1.

In E group, Dick Botelho's +5 took first place, Stan Griffis took

second with +4, followed by a tie between Jim Daigneault and Bob Wimmers at +1.

F group was lead by Bob Hughes, who took first with +4, Ralph Pickering in second with +3, and Jack Bardelli in third with +2.

G group saw Howard Brown come in first with +4, Terri Trumbull in second with +3, and Jack Carlton in third with +1

Bill Wouderberg won H group with +8, Richard Ramazetti took second with +2, in third we saw Dave Hankinson at Even.

I group's top finish came from Ken Porter with +4, Bob Fidlín took second with +2, in third was Don Meitz at Even.

Bill Kratcher easily took first in J group with a whopping +12, Jean Terrell took second with +4, and Bob Goldsworth grabbed third with +1.

Next Monday the Mezza Group will continue to play, beginning at 7:45 a.m.

This one will be a scramble.

Please arrive early due to a big field of players.

For more information, or to join the group, call Pete at 382-1280.

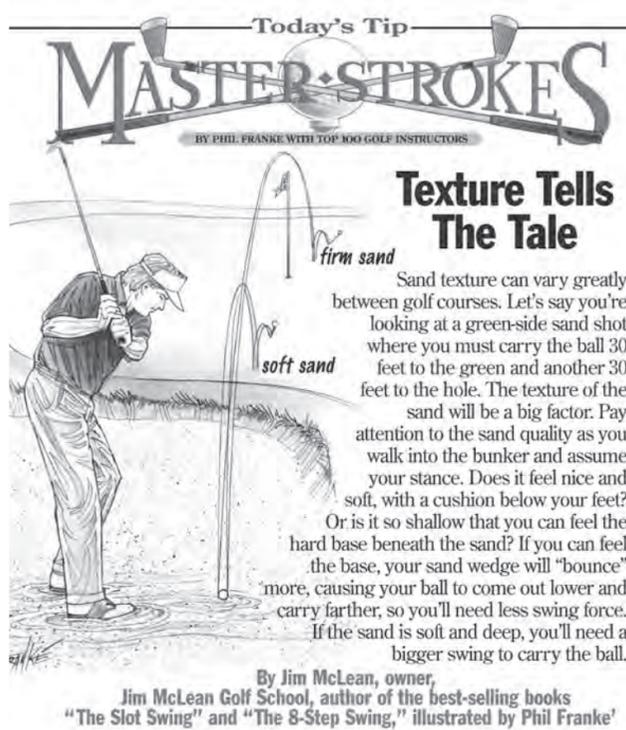
Lake June West

A Best Ball tournament was played on Wednesday, April 9, and saw the team of Ron West, Don Bolton, Orville Huffman and Walt Nagel card a 41 for the win.

Ron Cobert, Art Schmeltz, Fred Neer and Angelo Iarlando came in with a 43 for second.

In closest to the pin for the round, Bill Fowler landed a shot 23 feet from No. 4, Cobert hit to within 17 feet from No. 8 and Ron West dropped one 11 feet from No. 2.

A Monday Ladies event was played on April 7, with Annie Hall, Charlotte Mathew and Mary Malone coming in first with a 36.



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

Joyce Swartz, Doris Weeks and Betty Kinchloe were just a shot back with 37 for second place, and one more shots back, at 38, was the team of Kathy Armstrong, Janice Barringer and Pat Asmus for third.

In closest to the pin for the day, Jane Roush hit to 9-feet, 5-inches from No. 2, Swartz to 8-feet, 9-inches from No. 8 and Kim Fiers to 6-feet, 9-inches from No. 4.

A Couples Scramble was played on Thursday, April 3.

Larry Heath and Bob Orr joined Orville and Eva Huffman to get the win with a 53.

Doyan and Wayne Eades teamed with JoAnn McGill and Mary McNamee to card a 54 for second and Joe and Joyce Swartz joined Walt and Velma Nagel for a third-place finish with 55.

In closest to the pin, Art Schmeltz hit to 21-feet from No. 4, McGill to 14 feet from No. 8 and Helen Mellon to 9-feet, 2-inches from No. 2.

Placid Lakes

The Men's Association played a Best Ball Front,

Two Best Balls Back event on Wednesday, April 9.

First place went to the team of Tom Lacy, Bob McMillian, Howard Ticknor and Wayne Wood who brought in a -27.

Taking second, with a -23, were Tony Grande, Gary Huffman and Mike Ketrang, with the team of Lane Capp, Dan King, Bob Sheets and Jim Rozzy one shot back at -24 for third.

Coming in with a -21 for fourth were Bill Brinegar, Ed Bartusch, Russ Isaacs and Henry Shaw.

Rozzy had closest to the pin for the round, hitting to 7 feet from No. 11.

The Women's Golf Association played a Best Ball event on Tuesday, April 8.

Gail Ladig, Judy Thompson, Pat Haas and Joan Sniffen took first place with a -18, while Von Lacy, Carol Olsen, Handan Schneider and Karen Wallin were second with a -17.

Three shots back, at -14, were Alice Bitzer, Bobbie Miller and Gloria Ziegler.

Bitzer had closest to the pin, getting to 12-feet, 2-inches from No. 11 and Haas chipped one in on No. 6.

The Men's Association

played a Two Best Ball event on Wednesday, April 2.

Dan King, Jack Marceau and Dick McArdle came in with a -26 for the win, while Lane Capp, Bob McMillian and Bud Snyder carded a -25 for second.

Tom Lacy, Ed Bartusch, Gene Ransom and Jim Rozzy shot a -21 to take third.

Frank Fisher had closest to the pin on the day, sticking his shot on No. 2 to just 5-feet, 6-inches.

The Women's Association played a Scramble on Tuesday, April 1.

Alice Blitzer, Rose Hunter, Pam Thomas and Pat Haas came in with a +3 for the win, while a match of cards had to settle second and third.

Two teams came in with +4s, but after the match, Bobbie Miller, Karen Wallin and Joan Sniffen got the nod for second while Sue Mackey, Barb Moriarity, Narola Rosenberg and Bev Burke settled for third.

Alice Blitzer had the closest to the pin on the day, hitting to 5-feet, 6-inches from No. 2.

But sinking one into the hole on the day was Wallin, who notched a Hole in One on No. 11, from 105 yards out.

SpringLake

On Tuesday, April 9, the SpringLake Men's Golf Association held a Two Man Team - Net Score competition with two flights; Flight A for team handicaps of 0 to 29 and Flight B for 30 and up.

It was held on the Cougar Trail course under the best of golfing conditions - cool and cloudy.

Bill Lawens and Bart Bartholomy took the A Flight handily, both shooting net 68's for a combined 136 strokes.

In second place in A, there was a tie at 143 strokes between Joe Austin and Bill Kingshott and the team of Gerry Esty and Gene Hearn.

Mr. Esty shot a gross 73 with 10 handicap strokes for a net 63.

B Flight was won by Ken Kirby and Larry Colclasure with the overall best net score of 132; Mr. Kirby with a net 68 and Mr. Colclasure with a net 64.

Second place in B Flight went to Charlie Keniston and Jim Foote with 137 net strokes; Mr. Keniston's net 63 and Mr. Foote's lackadaisical net 74.

Third place went to Bob Hinde and Dave Docherty with a combined net 144 strokes.

On Thursday, April 3, the SpringLake Men's Golf Association completed a two-day tournament consisting of nine four-man teams.

On Tuesday, the teams played Two Best Balls on the Panther Creek course, and on Thursday they played Three Best Balls on the Cougar Trail course.

Teams were evenly matched with most team handicaps between 62 and 67.

The winning team, with a score of 309 net strokes, was composed of Gary Behrendt, Joe Troia, Ron Brochu and Jim Foote.

Jan Hard, Joe Austin, Bill Kingshott and Ed Griffith took second place with 312 net strokes.

Third place went to Ken Kirby, Jim Hearn, Charlie Keniston and Leon Van with 317 net strokes.

Bob Hinde, Ken Rohr, Ron McNeil and Bob Berg came in fourth with 318 strokes.

The team of Kirby Gann, Bo Bohanon, Ed Clay and Bill Schauwecker took fifth place with 321 net strokes.

Under sunny skies, both days were beautiful days to be playing golf at SpringLake Golf Resort.

BASS

FROM PAGE A9

lake, and stocking with shad and sunfish which he could then flush into the impoundment.

Although the concept seemed sound, by 2008, shocking data was less than impressive.

But a random idea popped into his head: Freshwater prawns.

These creatures are high in protein, grow fast and prove to be easy targets for hungry largemouth bass.

Although the prawns can only reproduce in saltwater, they can grow to over 12 inches in body length (and when you add in their long pincers, some reach two feet or more); they can be transferred to fresh water at the larval stage when they're about the size of mosquitoes.

By the end of 2009, the lake was producing healthy five pounders.

Three years later, double digit bass were fairly common.

To date, the largest bass shocked up has been a 13.15 pounder, named Pearl, and she could well be on her way to becoming a new Texas state record.

Gary's confident, with the freshwater prawns that he can not only grow a state record bass, but he is confident of a new world record is possible.

Scharz is not the first to attempt growing a world record - many have tried and failed in the past.

Glen Lau raised a largemouth bass to 18 pounds in central Florida years ago, only to have poachers raid his pond and kill the fish.

Doug Hannon made many attempts to raise

such a beast, but he too failed.

Over the past 20-some years, a number of 20+ bass have been caught, weighed and certified and eventually released back into the waters from which they came.

Most were caught in California where the Florida strain largemouth have a steady diet of trout, a slower moving fish full of protein and an easy meal for a hungry largemouth.

But what if my customers' story is true?

Could there be a bass that large swimming around in a pond somewhere in Highlands or Polk County?

And if there's one, could there be two, or three?

I can assure you, if someone does catch, weigh and certify a bass over 20 pounds, we'll have every media person from all over the country here in Highlands County to cover the event.

And the lucky fisherman?

His story will be told and re-told for generations to come.

Whether the fish is a new world record or not, it just needs to be close.

If that lucky fisherman happens to be you, everything you used to catch the fish, as well as the clothes on your back will

present opportunities for endorsements and you can probably kiss that day job good-bye.

Don Norton is a professional tournament bass fisherman, bass fishing guide, and custom rod builder. He lives in the Golf Hammock area of Sebring with his wife Lexie, and is the owner of a custom rod building company appropriately named "The American Fisherman". He is also the owner of REDS II, a full-service fishing tackle store located at 3603 Sebring Parkway, in Sebring, FL. You can reach him at 863-273-4998 or by email at donorton13@gmail.com. Visit his REDS FISHING facebook page or his website at theamericanfisherman.com. or stop by the store to see him anytime.



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Dan Hoehne/News-Sun files

Team leader Nisha Patel's hard-fought win at No. 1 singles set the stage for Sebring's Class 2A Regional win Tuesday.

SEBRING

FROM PAGE A9

and strong cast were perennial regional qualifiers, it was this squad of essential newbies that got over the hump.

Having finished as the District 11 runner-up to Lemon Bay, Sebring had to travel to Naples to take on District 12 winner Golden Gate on their home turf.

But it was Patel setting the tone for the Streaks as she battled to a win at No. 1 singles.

After winning the first set by a 6-3 score over Thi Doan, Patel had to pull out all the stops to avoid it being pushed to a third set.

Doan gave her all she could handle and had

the second set tied at 6-6, with the tie-breaker proving a nip-and-tuck affair as well.

But Patel squeaked out a 7-5 edge in the tie-breaker to take the set and match.

Sebring took a loss at No. 2 singles as Lady Titan Taylor Scott got past Micaela DeVane, and it looked like it might be another at No. 3 singles as Alaina Keith dropped her first set against Kevii Newbold by a 4-6 score.

But Keith bounced back strong, flipping the script and getting a 6-2 win in the second set to force a third.

From there she cruised, winning six straight games for a 6-0 win to put the Streaks up 2-1.

Golden Gate evened it up with Rachel Lyberg outlasted Sarah Beth Rogers in another close

match.

Rogers had it even up at 6-6 in the opener but Lyberg took a 7-4 edge in the tie-breaker to get the set win.

Rogers stayed close in the second set as well before Lyberg pulled out a 7-5 win.

But then Sebring took the lead for good when Ashley Castelli was dominant at No. 5 singles and took a 6-0, 6-1 win over Shivagni Patel.

Up 3-2 heading into the doubles matches, the Lady Streaks closed it out with two wins, but not without a bit of drama.

In the No. 1 doubles match, the Titans threatened to even things back up when Doan and Scott took the opening set 7-5 over Patel and DeVane.

But the Sebring duo regrouped for a 6-4 win in

the second set and grew stronger in taking a 6-3 win in the third to secure both their match as well as the team win.

Castelli and Amanda Rio then put the icing on the cake as they handled the Titan duo of Cassandra Aguirre and Patel by 6-1, 6-0 scores.

"We are just so excited," head coach Janie Hollinger said. "We have been district runner-up several times, but this is the first time we've won a regional match since 2003."

Fresh off this historic win, the girls had little time to savor it as they had a quick turnaround and headed to Englewood to face District 11 foe and champion Lemon Bay, who swept past Bishop Verot on Tuesday.

See Sunday's News-Sun for the final results.

DEVILS

FROM PAGE A9

third, albeit just one was earned, but Gomez doubled in the bottom half and came in one out later on a Trey Frazier double to right.

Another unearned run crossed the plate for Mulberry in the fourth to make it 7-3, but the only other score that would come the rest of the way was Devil J.C. Cobb racing in on a wild pitch in the fifth to provide for the final margin.

Simons would pitch through the sixth, allowing just the one earned run while striking out seven.

Kyle Kelley then came on in the seventh and retired the side in order, with one strikeout.

This latest triumph moves the Devils to 16-3 on the season, 7-1 in District 9-4A play, giving them the top seed in the district tournament,



Dan Hoehne/News-Sun

Daniel Simons peers in for the signs Wednesday night and would go six strong innings to get the win over Mulberry.

which they will host the week of April 21.

Before then, however, a handful of non-district games remain.

Avon Park hosted Sebring Thursday night and will welcome Sarasota

Booker tonight at Head Field.

Next week marks the end of the regular season with a Tuesday date at Hardee and a home contest Thursday, April 17, against DeSoto.

LEMONS

FROM PAGE A9

ons apart is the number of more "colorful" entrants such as race cars that sport airplane bodies, sharks jaws, one which carries a Goodyear-type blimp and even a Harley-Davidson powered Toyota Prius which compete.

"Really, we're proud to have created an atmosphere where that kind of thing can happen and is encouraged," Pons said.

It was the history of the Sebring International Raceway along with its reputation for the combination of fun and frolic in the Green Park which enticed LeMons to come for their mid-summer stop.

"Generally the participants come from within about 200 miles from where the event is happening - but the first team to sign up is from California so I'd say there appears to be a greater interest," Pons said.

Pons said he has explained the philosophy of the series by comparing it to an amateur softball league where the games are played as much for fun as they are competition.

"But racing at Sebring is like playing your softball game at Wrigley Field," Pons said. "I think for our guys it's an opportunity to race at a place that is really iconic."

The LeMons cars will be using the entire 3.74 mile road course, meaning fans

will have an opportunity to see the vehicles up close and personal in the Paddock area.

"They actually will have a chance to get closer than recommended by your lawyer or your doctor," Pons said.

Organizers also are hoping that some of the Green Park stalwarts such as The Turn 10 crew, F-Troop, La-Bamba Racing and the Florida SkunkApes will turn out for the event.

"I went to the 12 Hours of Sebring several years ago and the Green Park is more or less what a LeMons race is on track," he said.

Pons said that an official entry list won't be available for at least two more weeks when the participation deadline closes.



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FROSTPROOF CHILLS SEBRING SENIOR NIGHT



Dan Hoehne/News-Sun

Kiana Antone put a good rip on this pitch Wednesday night, and the Lady Streaks got their knocks in on Senior Night against Frostproof. But it would be the Lady Bulldogs pulling out a 9-6 win. Sebring closed out the regular season Thursday at Lake Placid and head into their District 11-5A tournament next week with their opening-round contest at Hardee Tuesday.



TREASURE AWAITS!
In the....

Classifieds!

With all due respect to Mr. Bunny, eggs really play the starring role at Easter. Here, FamilyFun magazine gives you plenty of ways to let them shine: color them with crayons, fill them with goodies, perch them atop frilly pedestals, even give them a snorkeling vacation. That's right — get 'em out of their shells!

— Naomi Shulman

EGGS-PL⁰SION!

FamilyFun

SURPRISE INSIDE EGGS

An un-eggs-pected treat hides in each of these colorful orbs. Kids can hunt for them, smash them open and enjoy. To keep the contents secret, Mom or Dad can handle the job of filling and capping. For extra fun, make a "golden" egg holding a dollar.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Pushpin
- White eggs
- Clean nail scissors
- Egg dye
- Skewers or chopsticks
- Egg carton
- Small trinkets
- Paper and pen
- Paintbrush
- White glue
- Mini cupcake liners (1 per egg)

1. With the pushpin, make a small hole in one end of each egg. Using the nail scissors, expand the hole to be 1 inch wide, then empty out the whites and yolks (they can be reserved for cooking).

2. Dye the eggs and let them dry overnight by resting them on skewers or chopsticks set in a mug.

3. Place eggs, hole facing up, in the egg carton. Fill each with trinkets.

4. Cut narrow strips of paper and write a message, such as "Crack Me,"

at the end of each strip.

5. Brush a thin coat of glue around the holes, then stick a message strip and a cupcake liner in place on each egg. Turn the eggs over and let the glue dry.

Note: If you include edible surprises, use wrapped candies only and soak the emptied shells in a bleach solution (1 teaspoon of bleach mixed with 1 quart of water) for 2 minutes. Let them dry before dyeing them.

(Idea by Megan Reardon, notmartha.org)



MELTED-CRAYON EGGS

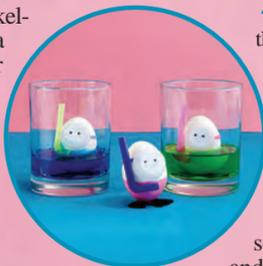
When the most humble of art supplies meets the shell of a just-boiled egg, the crayon wax softens, and the colors swirl together in a magical way. The results are fast, fun and gorgeous.

To begin, hard-boil white eggs. Remove them from the hot water with tongs or a slotted spoon, dry them, and rest them in an empty egg carton or on plastic bottle caps (an adult's job). Color them with the crayons' tips or remove the paper coverings and use the crayons' sides. For a speckled effect, grate a crayon and sprinkle the bits over the eggs. The waxy eggs are very slippery, so take care when turning them to color the underside. When you're done coloring, leave them to dry for about an hour.



DYE-VING DUDES

These hard-boiled snorkelers are fully equipped for a dip in the blue (or green or pink). For a hilarious centerpiece, display a row of the finished dudes sitting in their dye-ving tanks.



YOU WILL NEED:

- Egg dye
- White eggs, hard-boiled
- Permanent marker
- 3/4-inch round white adhesive labels
- 1-inch-wide clear bottle tops
- Small rubber bands
- White glue or glue gun*
- Flexible straws
- Self-adhesive foam
- Small clear glasses or bowls (optional)



1. For each snorkeler, dye the bottom third of an egg, then let it dry.

2. Draw eyes on a label and adhere it to the bottle top. Slip the rubber band around the egg, about a quarter of the way down. Glue the lid over a rubber band.

3. Trim a straw 1 inch above and 2 inches below the flexible section. Bend it into a snorkel shape and glue it in place.

4. Cut foam flippers (trace the template, below). Glue them to the egg, adhesive side down, and let dry. Stick the adhesive side to the display surface, or, if you like, to the inside of a small glass or bowl. With a pitcher, gently pour in dye until the egg is partly submerged.

***Note:** White glue is kid-friendly but requires drying time; using a glue gun is an adult's job.

(Idea by Tracy Ripon)



TIE-DYE TUFFETS

Here's a clever use for leftover egg dye (and cardboard tubes), and the results are springtime-lovely. For even more of a wow factor, use the trimmings to make matching collaged eggs (see "Bonus Idea," below).

FOR EACH TUFFET, YOU WILL NEED:

- 2 coffee filters
- Egg dye in various colors
- 1-inch-tall segment of cardboard tube
- White glue

1. Fold each filter into quarters and dip its edges and point into a different-color dye. Unfold the filters and let them dry on a paper towel or draped over an empty egg carton.

2. When the filters are dry, fold them again and snip fringe along the edges. If you plan to make the collage eggs below, reserve the trimmings.

3. Lay each filter flat. Lightly coat the outside of a tube segment with glue, then put it at the filter's center. Gather the filter around the tube, adhering it to



the sides. Repeat with the other filter. (For small eggs, double up the tube segments, fitting one inside the other.)

BONUS IDEA

Don't toss the coffee-filter trimmings from the tuffets; instead, use them to make pretty collage eggs. Simply brush hard-boiled eggs with watered-down white glue, stick on the trimmings, and brush the eggs with another coat of glue. Let them dry for an hour.

(Idea by A. J. Freund, auntpeaches.com)





20th Century Fox

Nico, Pedro, Jewel, Rafael from 20th Century Fox's 'Rio 2.'

'Rio 2' dazzling but overloaded

JESSICA HERNDON
AP Film Writer

MOVIE REVIEW

CRITIC'S RATING: ★★ ★

A vivid and delightful animated spectacle, "Rio 2" is chock-full of colorful 3-D wonder and jubilant musical numbers set against a tale of family dynamics and environmental dilemmas.

The sequel opens with a vibrant New Year's Eve bash, as partying in the music-filled streets of Rio de Janeiro is punctuated by fireworks bursting above the Christ the Redeemer statue.

Supervised by composer John Powell, more emphasis has been placed on the music of this film, which benefits from numbers by artists like Bruno Mars (who also voices the smooth bird Roberto in the film), Janelle Monae and celebrated Brazilian musician Carlinhos Brown.

After mating in Brazil in 2011's "Rio," rare macaws Blu (Jesse Eisenberg) and Jewel (Anne Hathaway) now have three lively kids who have become accustomed to the same domestication Blu was brought up on in Minnesota.

They're attached to gadgets like iPods and eat pancakes for breakfast, which irks the raised-in-the-wild Jewel.

But the family heads off to the Amazon rainforest, to Jewel's delight and Blu's strife, when they get wind

that a tribe of blue macaws may live there and are being pursued by Blu's past owner and animal lover, Linda (voiced by Leslie Mann), and her husband, Tulio (Rodrigo Santoro).

With a few of the quirky supporting characters from the first film in tow — including birds voiced by George Lopez (as frisky toucan Rafael) and Jamie Foxx and will.i.am (as rapping canary-and-cardinal duo Nico and Pedro) — they soar through a dazzling journey to the rainforest, making the often-wasted 3-D effect worth it as we take in the broad scope and graphically layered flair.

Once there, Jewel discovers the large macaw crew is led by her long-lost father (Andy Garcia), who is unimpressed with his daughter's choice of a mate. He can't help but roll his eyes over Blu's use of a GPS or a Swiss Army kit rather than the use of his own sharp beak. But their classic in-law banter is sublimely comical.

Brazilian native writer-director Carlos Saldanha and Don Rhymer returned to pen the story. But they try too hard to make up for the minimalist plot of the original and drown

in subplots: Blu battles with Jewel over staying in the wild versus returning to the city; Linda and Tulio clash with a few bad guys threatening to cut down the rainforest (the film's eco push); and Blu's old rival, Nigel (Jemaine Clement of "Flight of the Conchords"), pops up with a beautiful yet poisonous neon pink and purple frog (an angelic and cutesy Kristin Chenoweth) plotting revenge. Phew!

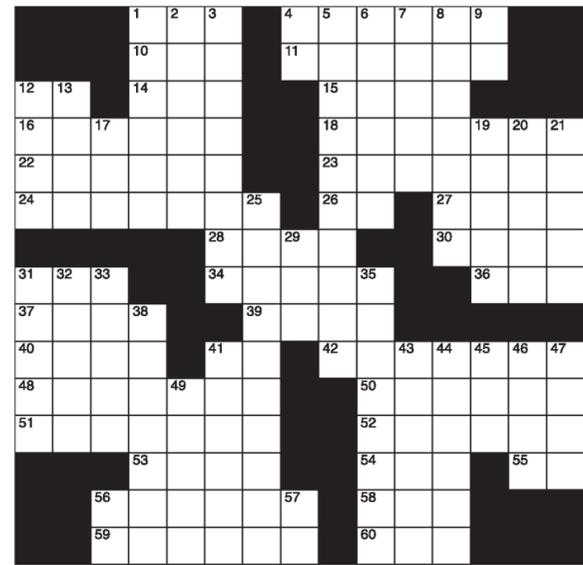
And then there are the moments when characters break out into song. Nigel's hotshot rendition of Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" seems a little ill-set when he really should be crooning a sinister track a la Ursula's "Poor Unfortunate Souls" in "The Little Mermaid."

The sweet voice of Hathaway shines with her solo lullaby. But it's Chenoweth's Broadway-like delivery that trumps all when she belts out an anthem on forbidden love. Though the original songs here are whimsical and fun, few are irresistible.

With so much going on, it's a wonder this kids' movie is only five minutes longer than the original. But for the music and brilliantly picturesque look, it's worth the 3-D ticket.

"Rio 2," a 20th Century Fox release, is rated G by the Motion Picture Association of America. Running time: 101 minutes. Three stars out of four.

PUZZLE CORNER



Solution on B8

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Express disgust or contempt
- 4. Do-nothings
- 10. Before
- 11. Gave birth to a horse
- 12. Spanish pain
- 14. Khmer Rouge's Pot
- 15. Tory opposition
- 16. Even chance
- 18. Horse feedbag
- 22. Selfishness
- 23. Windward Island nation
- 24. On and on:ad ____
- 26. 2nd musical tone
- 27. A steady brisk pace
- 28. People in southern India
- 30. Withered, dry
- 31. Central nervous system
- 34. Short composition for solo instrument
- 36. Communist
- 37. Specific localities
- 39. Garden cultivator
- 40. Stratford's river
- 41. Atomic #34
- 42. Stalkless leaves
- 48. Significant other
- 50. Chilled
- 51. Dakar is the capital
- 52. Amuse & delight
- 53. Explorer Vasco da ____
- 54. Annoy
- 55. 365 days (abbr.)
- 56. Peremptory command
- 58. Born of
- 59. Particle fineness grades
- 60. Obtain

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Colas
- 2. Awaken
- 3. Better half
- 4. In event that
- 5. Demotes
- 6. City in NE Pakistan
- 7. Lotus roadster model
- 8. University board trustees
- 9. 40th state
- 12. Egyptian Sun god (var. sp.)
- 13. Hindu exercise discipline
- 17. Small coin (French)
- 19. More naked
- 20. Feel deep affection for
- 21. A protected community
- 25. Nation of birth
- 29. Two people singing
- 31. Applauding sounds
- 32. Variable stars
- 33. Reject
- 35. Building up
- 38. Not a fraction
- 41. Sailor
- 43. An evening party
- 44. Hollow for a lightbulb
- 45. Type
- 46. Dutch portrait painter Sir Peter
- 47. River of Hesse
- 49. N. Botswana lake
- 56. 1/10 gram (abbr.)
- 57. Original Hawkeye actor's initials

State of modern marriage mirrors disposable society

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I were discussing our sons-in-law, and young men in their 20s and 30s in general. We were wondering where the attitude of "any money I earn is mine" in a marriage or live-in situation got started.

For the first few years of my daughter and her husband "Joe's" marriage, Joe resented giving her any of the money he earned. My other daughter's husband thinks nothing of spending money on himself and his friends without consulting her.

We have seen this attitude reflected in their friends as well. They don't seem to discuss with each other how each is spending their "joint" income. There seems to be an element of selfishness, too.

My wife and I have been married 40 years and from the beginning I have always considered what each of us earned was OURS, not mine or hers (when she worked). We always discuss any significant purchases, and I have always believed it was my responsibility to support my family. I realize the current economic situation has made that difficult, but the attitude should still be there.

— WONDERING IN WASHINGTON



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR WONDERING:

You have raised an interesting subject. There is a difference between living together and being married because of our legal system. Because people who co-habit without benefit of marriage are considered individuals in

the eyes of the law, it is probably prudent to keep their financial affairs separate. However, each person should contribute to the expenses they share.

In a marriage, the situation is different: The law assumes that the man and wife are one unit. This is the mindset you adopted when you and your wife were married.

There is a tendency among young couples, not only because of the high divorce rate, but also what they have been exposed to in the media from the time they were born, to view marriage as something that might not last. There is also a sense of entitlement among

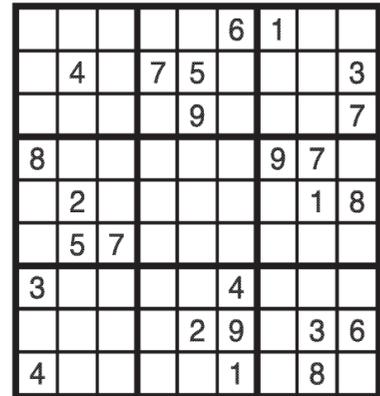
many — NOT ALL — that makes them centered on themselves. We have become a society in which disposability has spread from material possessions to relationships.

I would LOVE to hear what my readers' — particularly my younger readers' — views are regarding this. Click on the link "Write to Dear Abby" at www.DearAbby.com or write to P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Answers: A. pressure B. work C. finances D. headache

SUDOKU

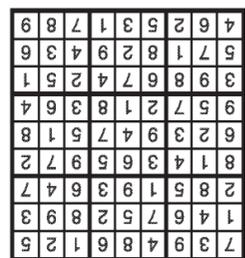


Fun By The Numbers

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!

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!



ANSWER:

MEDICINE WORD SEARCH

F M R I M Y D S C I T O I B I T N A A U
W N D O O L B N D U R A T I O N E R C O J
H O F O S V C B J E Y C N A N G E R P X
M I E M E D I C I N E T M S Z T L J R V
E T B Z J A B D O M I N A L A G E U E D
G E T N T C T O L N Y B E M Z F U B C N
N L A C U T E G O H W N I M L Y N I A E
I P R G R E V I L A O N H E L T Y N U C
R M D O G Y T E C I O D G G A F T J T N
Y O R A X A F I T P E I W A B M E C I A
S C S P R L D P H E T Z R R B H A C O R
Y O J I A V I E O C A Z E E E S S T N U
D S P R T R N C D N R I F V H I P Y S S
J X O D C A P I I A E N I O R N O C E N
E P M S U O N R S T G E L C E I O A S I
S S E N I H A E S S I S L A F F N M L J
W R F S A H L N O B R S P I F Y V R U D
P P O R O F P E L U F B H B E J H A P E
H N C U X A E G V S E F D Z V C X D H U F
N W E I G H T T E R R Y U D T Z G P C S

WORDS

- ABDOMINAL
- ACETAMINOPHEN
- ACID
- ACUTE
- ANTIBIOTICS
- BLOOD
- COMPLETION
- COVERAGE
- DISSOLVE
- DIZZINESS
- DOSAGE
- DURATION
- EFFECT
- EXPIRATION
- FINISH
- GENERIC
- HERBAL
- INJECT
- INSURANCE
- LIVER
- MEDICINE
- ORAL
- OTC
- PHARMACY
- PLAN
- POISON
- PRECAUTION
- PREGNANCY
- PRESCRIPTION
- PULSE
- REFILL
- REFRIGERATE
- SUBSTANCE
- SYRINGE
- TEASPOON
- WEIGHT

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

HEALTHY LIVING



MCT

CVS announced in February that it would pull all tobacco products off its shelves by October.

Quitting for good

CVS goes cold turkey; may pressure rivals, or not

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

It has long been gospel among retailers that tobacco pulls so much business into stores, with smokers also picking up water, gum or a bag of chips, that dumping it would be a sales killer.

However, with pressure from anti-smoking forces growing, tobacco use waning and now a national drugstore chain jettisoning cigarettes for good, is this calculus starting to crack?

It's probably too early to say, but major retailers will be paying close attention to the sales numbers after CVS Caremark pulls tobacco from its shelves by October.

If the old retail rules governing tobacco have not changed outright, they are at least coming up for review.

Since the nation's second-largest drugstore chain announced it would dump tobacco just over two months ago, its shares have hit new all-time highs 10 times.

That's not to say that the CVS case is unique.

CVS Caremark Corp. is part of a booming industry. In that same stretch since early February, shares of rivals Walgreen Co. and Rite Aid Corp. have surged as well.

And most of last year's \$126 billion in revenue at CVS came from its pharmacy benefits management business. That sets it apart because it doesn't depend so much, like other drugstores, on tobacco to draw customers through the door.

But when CVS Caremark Corp. announced it was going cold turkey, it caught almost everyone by surprise.

The retailer will be giving up \$2 billion in annual revenue a year, it estimates. About a half billion of that would come from non-tobacco products, the additional items that smokers pick up when they come in to buy smokes.

The response from

Wall Street? Something between a yawn and a shrug. CVS stock is up about 11 percent since the announcement. That's quite a run for a company that just announced it was giving up \$2 billion in revenue annually, and during a period in which all major U.S. indexes have been under pressure.

Yet while CVS is not the first major retailer to give up tobacco, most industry analysts do not see the flood gates opening.

Target Corp. gave up tobacco in 1996, citing a "commitment to the health and well-being of our communities," and no one followed it through the anti-tobacco exit door.

Each retailer has to weigh the bottom line against the message, but that has been going on for some time now, said Craig R. Johnson, president of retail consultant Customer Growth Partners.

"This isn't just a bolt out of the blue," Johnson said. "They've done the pluses and minuses, and they haven't decided to do it."

Some have chosen the opposite path. Discounters like Family Dollar have actually started selling tobacco in the past few years.

Just last month Walgreen CEO Greg Wasson, when asked by an industry analyst if tobacco had become a long-term liability given the CVS decision, signaled that the nation's largest drugstore would not be following suit.

Instead, the CEO said that Walgreen, which still sells tobacco, will focus on helping people quit.

Yet there are at least two forces adding weight to the no-tobacco side of the scale: one internal, one external.

Internally, the cigarette business has become tougher in the face of tax hikes, smoking bans, health concerns and social stigma.

Plus, the number of U.S. adults who smoke dropped below 20 percent

between 2005 and 2012, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The drugstores and major retailers angling to grab a bigger slice of the health care spending pie as the American population ages are looking at margins as well.

Cigarettes probably generate a profit margin of 3 percent to 7 percent. Generic drugs, in contrast, can fetch margins of 20 percent or more, said Burt P. Flickinger III, man-

aging director of the retail and consumer brands consultant Strategic Resource Group.

The question of whether retailers and drugstores can sell both health and tobacco raises the issue of those external forces that have been building for some time.

The presence of tobacco behind checkout counters creates an image problem for an industry that says it puts a priority on helping provide healthier lifestyle options for customers.

Free Diabetes Management class set

SEBRING — The Florida Department of Health in Highlands County is offering Diabetes Self-Management Education classes as part of its Wellness and Diabetes Education Program. This program serves Highlands County residents of all ages, especially those with diabetes or at risk for developing diabetes.

Education is the key to success for diabetes control and for the prevention of complications. These classes are free of charge and provided by Margaret Pierce, RN and Aleyda Oliveros, Nutritionist.

Classes in English are scheduled in Sebring from 8:30-11:30 a.m. May 5-7, and from 5:30-8:30 p.m. May 19-21 at the Florida Department of Health in Highlands County, 7205 S. George Blvd. in Sebring — Conference Room A. Enrollment is limited and registration is required.

To register and for more information, contact the Florida Department of Health in Highlands County Wellness and Diabetes Education Program at 382-7294.

Outreach programs set

Ace Homecare has a number of community outreach programs set

SNAPSHOTS

LOCAL HEALTH

for next week:

■ Monday — 9 a.m., Rest Haven Assisted Living Facility (Zolfo Springs), Music and Motion; 10:30 a.m., Chatham Point Apartments (Wauchula), health fair.

■ Tuesday — 7:30 a.m., Lake Josephine RV Park (Sebring), health fair.

■ Wednesday — 10 a.m., Faith Pentecostal House of God (Avon Park), health fair; 1:30 p.m., Crown Point Assisted Living Facility (Sebring), gaming.

■ Thursday — 10 a.m., Balmoral Assisted Living and Memory Care (Lake Placid), Music and Motion.

■ Friday — 8:30 a.m., Covered Bridge Community (Lake Placid), health fair.

All programs are free of charge and are open to the public. For more information, call Ace Homecare at 385-7058.



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HEALTHY LIVING

A dozen ways to reduce chronic pain



First step is to figure out what is causing you to hurt

Dear Pharmacist: I have chronic pain and take ibuprofen daily plus hydrocodone and celecoxib. I'm willing to do anything right now that could help. The craziest thing is that nothing happened to me, I just developed pain over the years, no accidents, no trauma. Can you help me?

— D.W., Boca Raton



DEAR PHARMACIST

Suzy Cohen

magnesium or CoQ10), and sometimes it is from poor elimination.

If you are constipated and toxins back up in your gut, or in your blood, then this triggers a physiological response in your body that causes cells to release pain-causing chemicals called "cytokines."

Two cytokines implicated in pain include the leukotrienes and the prostaglandins. Those are such big names for little substances but too much of these will make you hurt. Your goal as a pain sufferer is to reduce levels of those.

First up leukotrienes!

These are a subclass of "eicosanoids" pronounced "I-koss-anoids," which when you say that out loud, the last syllable sounds like the word "annoyed" and that's exactly what they do. They are very annoying and irritating!

Leukotrienes spark production of other compounds involved in allergies, food sensitivities, autoimmune disorders and anaphylactic reactions. Leukotrienes tend to increase if you eat food coloring, like yellow dye No. 5, tartrazine, and other artificial substances.

If you have pain, then non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (referred to as "NSAIDs"), such as ibuprofen or naproxen (Advil, and Aleve respectively) can help you. These are sold over the counter at pharmacies nationwide. The prescription drug Celebrex (celecoxib) can also help.

Interestingly, researchers have found that some natural compounds like

boswelia and quercetin can reduce those annoying eicosanoids. Since about 2001, the medical literature has shown that dark chocolate can reduce eicosanoids, too. Other natural rescue remedies include omega 3 fatty acids, flax seed, perilla seed oil, curcumin and glycyrrhiza.

The prescription medications Accolate and Singulair may help too, especially if your problems are primarily allergies.

Next up prostaglandins. Excessive amounts of this cytokine occur with arthritis, heavy menstrual cycles, premenstrual syndrome, migraines, multiple sclerosis, chronic Lyme disease, as well as colon

and breast cancer.

What substances reduce prostaglandins? Fish oils, white willow bark (salix alba), ecklonia cava (a brown algae), meadowsweet (don't take if you're allergic to salicylates like aspirin), turmeric, skullcap, ginger root and passionflower. Medications to consider include aspirin, celecoxib, and the NSAID class including ibuprofen and naproxen. Ask your doctor if any of these are right for you.

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

Painkiller ban raises constitutional questions

Associated Press

BOSTON — Gov. Deval Patrick defended the state's first-in-the-nation ban of the powerful new painkiller Zohydro after a federal judge suggested in court that his administration may have overreached.

"I wouldn't have done it if I didn't think I had a legal footing to do it," Patrick said at an unrelated event at the Statehouse.

"More to the point, I wouldn't have done it if I didn't think we had a real emergency, and we have a real emergency."

Patrick issued an executive order banning local doctors from prescribing or dispensing Zohydro on March 27, amid concerns that the drug's availability might exacerbate the state's prescription drug abuse epidemic.

But Zogenix, the San Diego-based maker of the drug, filed a federal lawsuit on Monday arguing that the ban was unconstitutional because the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has already approved its use for treatment of severe and chronic pain.

Medicare database reveals top-paid doctors

WASHINGTON (AP) — Medicare paid a tiny group of doctors \$3 million or more apiece in 2012. One got nearly \$21 million.

Those are among the findings of an Associated Press analysis of physician data released Wednesday by the Obama administration, part of a move to open the books on health care financing.

Topping Medicare's list was Florida ophthalmologist Salomon Melgen, whose relationship with Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., made headlines last year after news broke that the lawmaker used the doctor's personal jet for trips to the Dominican Republic.

Medicare paid Melgen \$20.8 million. His law-

yer said the doctor's billing conformed with Medicare rules and is a reflection of high drug costs.

AP's analysis found that a small sliver of the more than 825,000 individual physicians in Medicare's claims data base — just 344 physicians — took in top dollar, at least \$3 million apiece for a total of nearly \$1.5 billion.

AP picked the \$3 million threshold because that

was the figure used by the Health and Human Services inspector general in an audit last year that recommended Medicare automatically scrutinize total billings above a set level.

About 1 in 4 of the top-paid doctors (87) practice in Florida. Rounding out the top five states were California with 38 doctors in the top group, New Jersey with 27, Texas with 23, and New York with 18.



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Contact Angela Hendry, Certified Navigator at 863-452-6530 ext. 303



Heartland Rural Health Network, Inc.

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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RELIGION

Atonement Lutheran Church

SEBRING — Services on Palm Sunday begin at 9:30 a.m. with the procession of palms.

Maundy Thursday service with stripping of the altar is at 7 p.m. Good Friday service is Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

Jesus the Sovereign King Missionary Church joins the church Sunday afternoons and Sunday evenings.

The church is at 1178 S.E. Lakeview Drive. Call 385-0797.

Avon Park Christian Church — Avon Park

AVON PARK — Pastor Greg Ratliff will bring a message in this year's Easter series. Then on Sunday evening the church will host a traditional Hymn Sing.

Easter Sunday will be reflection and rejoicing on the death and the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! There will not be any services the evening of April 20 (Easter).

Avon Park Christian Church is at 1016 W. Camphor St. (behind Wells Fargo Bank). Call 453-5334 or email accountapcc.2014@yahoo.com.. The church website is www.avonparkchristianchurch.com/.

Christ Lutheran Church — LCMS

SEBRING — Pastor Scott McLean will preach a sermon titled "Having the Mind-set of Christ."

April 17 – Maundy Thursday celebration at 7 pm. April 18 – Good Friday service at 7 pm.

The church is at 1320 County Road 64, east of the Avon Park High School past the four-way stop sign. For more information call 471-2663 or search online at christlutheranavonpark.org.

Christian Training Church

SEBRING — Rev. Linda M. Downing will bring the message titled "Greater Vision: Part 2" at the Sunday morning service. The Wednesday night Bible study is the Gospel of John.

Church of Buttonwood Bay

SEBRING — For Palm Sunday, Pastor Cecil Hess is preaching on "After Hosanna, What Comes Next?" Special music will be by the choir and the men's quartet.

Holy Week services include Maundy Thursday Communion at 7 p.m., and Good Friday worship at noon, both led by Hess.

The church is on U.S. 27, four miles south of Highlands Regional Medical Center. Call 382-1737 for information.

Church of the Brethren

SEBRING — On Sunday, Pastor David Smalley will preach from Luke 19:28-40. The title of his sermon will be "Transformation Rolling Downhill."

The theme for Sunday school will be "Creating a New Covenant," with scripture from Jeremiah 29:1-14, 31:31-34.

For information, call 385-1597.

Faith Lutheran Church

SEBRING — Sunday, the church will celebrate Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion. Guest Pastor Tony Douches will deliver his sermon at Faith Lutheran based on the readings of the day.

Holy Week begins on Sunday. Maundy Thursday service will be at 6:30 pm. Holy Thursday, occurring on the eve of the Lord's crucifixion, begins the celebration of the holy three days of Christ's Passover, commonly known as the Triduum. The Service for Holy Thursday consists of four parts: the Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution, Service of the Word, the Service of Sacrament, and the Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday's service will be at 6:30 p.m. Good Friday is part of the sacred Triduum, the three-day observance of Christ's Passion. Good Friday is not observed as a funeral for Christ. It is a day for repentance over sin and restrained joy and praise for the redemption Christ accomplished for us on the cross. The service of

SNAPSHOTS

CHURCH SERVICES

Tenebrae (meaning "darkness") consists of extinguishing of the church lights.

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

SEBRING — Rev. George Miller will deliver the sermon, "Quarters for Christ," from Matthew 21:1-11.

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

First Baptist Church Avon Park

AVON PARK — The Easter Cantata is at 10:45 a.m. Sunday.

The church is at 100 N. Lake Ave. For more information call 453-6681 or email info@fbcap.net

First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine

SEBRING — First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine extends a special invitation to this Sunday services. This Sunday the topic is "Nick at Nite", a drama presentation of Nicodemus by Pastor Kevin Ahrens.

Sunday evening the sermon will be "Gifted to Go".

The church is at 111 Lake Josephine Drive (halfway between Lake Placid and Sebring). Call 655-1524 with any questions.

First Baptist Church of Placid Lakes

LAKE PLACID — First Baptist Church of Placid Lakes is hosting a community-wide Easter egg hunt from 2-4 p.m. Saturday. There will be lots of prizes and candy for everyone in addition to the egg hunt. Everyone is invited to come meet the Easter bunny and "Cookie" from Sweet Frog. Sunday worship service, the adult choir will present the Easter cantata, "It Is Finished", under the direction of Aristides Salgueiro, minister of music. The church is at the corner of Washington and Kemper Avenues.

First Christian Church of Sebring Disciples of Christ

SEBRING — Sunday's message is from Mark 11: 1-9, "Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem", by Pastor Ron Norton. Greeting the congregation will be Terry Ducar. Elders are Lynne Warman and Howard Lewis. Deacons and servers are Carol Graves, Richard Neff, Barbara Slinkard and Terry Ducar.

First Presbyterian Church of Avon Park

AVON PARK — On Sunday, Pastor Bob Johnson's sermon is titled "Knowing and Doing" based on James 1:21-25. The choir's introit will be "I Come to the Cross" and the anthem "Seek the Lord."

The adult Sunday School class is using the denominational quarterly featuring lessons from the book of Matthew. Sunday's lesson is titled "Hosanna to the Son of God" based on Matthew 21:1-17.

On Wednesday, Bible study will see Pastor Johnson teaching from the book "Spiritual Warfare."

On Friday, April 18 Greg Savaitt from Chosen People's Ministry will speak on "Christ in the Passover" beginning at 5:30 p.m. At 6:15 p.m., an abbreviated Passover meal will be served. Tickets are \$5. The church is at 215 E. Circle St. (with two entrances on Lagrand Street). Call the church at 453-3242 or check out the website at avonparkapchurch.com or the Avon Park Chamber website.

First Presbyterian Church

SEBRING — Rev. Darrell A. Peer will preach "Praise Him!" on Sunday.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service is at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Good Friday Commnity Service is at noon at St. Catherine's Catholic Church.

The church is at 319 Poinsettia Ave.

Call 385-0107 for information.

First United Methodist Church of Sebring

SEBRING — On this Palm Sunday, Pastor John Bryant will bring the message with the adult vocal ensemble providing the anthem.

Jubilee Ringers rehearse at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Maundy Thursday services will be held at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Listen Live on WITS-AM 1340 each Sunday to hear the 10:50 am Worship Service. The church is downtown at 126 S. Pine St. Call the church office for information at 385-5184.

Grace Pointe Ministries

SEBRING — Grace Pointe Ministries meets at Sebring Hills Clubhouse, one block behind Aspen Dental. The pastor's Palm Sunday service sermon is "The Palms and The King".

Call the church office at 658-2534 for location and details of Tuesday home Bible study.

Friday night Bible study is at 10:30 p.m. to include the California church. Anyone interested in joining this service, call the church office for details.

Heartland Christian Church

SEBRING — Pastor Ted Moore's sermon this week will be "Clearing the Bench" with scripture from Matthew 21:12-17.

The service will include Heartland singers singing "Hosanna" and "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power," Young Heartland singers, and Ralph Sylvester playing "Holy City" on the trombone.

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

Memorial United Methodist Church

SEBRING — Pastor Tim Haas will preach Sunday on the subject of "Carrying The Cross" with the Scripture lesson from Matthew 27:32-44.

The church is at 500 Kent Ave., east of the

Tower. For information, phone 465-2422.

New Beginnings Church

SEBRING — On Sunday, Pastor Gary Kindle's sermon is titled "The Triumphant Entry" based on John 12:12-29.

The church's present location is The Morris Chapel, 307 S. Commerce Ave. For more information, call 835-2405.

New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

SEBRING — Pastor Luke John Willitz will preach Sunday from Philippians 2:5-11 on "Jesus Christ is Lord."

The Maundy Thursday service will be "Glory Hidden in the Savior's Feast" from Matthew 26:26-30 and the Good Friday service will be "Glory Hidden in the Savior's Promises" from John 19:31-37.

The church is at 3725 Hammock Road.

Parkway Free Will Baptist Church

SEBRING — The Sunday morning Bible lesson, "The Surfing of the King," is taken from Jeremiah 23, Zechariah 6 and John 19. Pastor Jim Scaggs will bring the message.

Easter Sunrise Service will be at 6:30 a.m. on April 20.

Regular worship services will follow the remainder of the day.

The church is at 3413 Sebring Parkway. Call 382-3552 for information.

St. John United Methodist Church

SEBRING — On Sunday, Pastor Ronald De Genaro Jr.'s sermon topic will be "The Coming King." Biblical reference is from Luke 19:28-38.

Thursday, Maundy Service is at 7 p.m.

Spring Lake United Methodist Church

SEBRING — Spring Lake United Methodist Church is at 8170 Cozumel Lane. The pastor's sermon is "As He Rode, He Wept!"

Former football announcer Craig James joins Family Research Council

The Associated Press

Former college football broadcaster Craig James has joined the conservative Family Research Council, where he said he would fight against the kind of "religious bigotry" he blames for his firing by Fox Sports after expressing opposition to gay marriage.

James, who will serve as an assistant to council President Tony Perkins, was a longtime color commentator for ESPN who quit to run for U.S. Senate two years ago in Texas, where he grew up and starred at SMU. He lost in the primary.

During a campaign de-

bate, James said he opposed gay marriage and that gay people would one day "have to answer to the Lord for their actions."

Fox Sports let him go, saying he was a "polarizing figure" who had "abused a previous on-air position to further a personal agenda." James has filed a complaint with the Texas Workforce Commission

accusing Fox of violating his religious freedom.

"Craig has experienced the very workplace disqualification that cultural elites are seeking to impose throughout the country: expressing a politically incorrect opinion on a cultural issue, totally unconnected to employment, is enough to get you fired," Perkins 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. "Worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth." Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10 a.m.; Evening Worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday: Worship, 7 p.m. Pastor Eugene Haas. Phone 471-0924.

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

BAPTIST

Avon Park Lakes Baptist Church, 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 or call the church office at 863-452-1136.

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

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

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

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

First Baptist Church, Sebring, 200 E. Center Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. Telephone: 385-5154. 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.fosebring.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 Gardena St., Lake Placid (just off of Miller at the west end of Lake June) "Where the old fashion gospel is preached." Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship service at 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 6 p.m. Call the church at 699-0671 for more information.

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

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

Sparta Road Baptist Church, (SBC) 4400 Sparta Road. 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/mailling address: 882 Bay St., Sebring, FL 33870, 385-0049, 385-6762 (Spanish); fax, 385-5169; email, office@stcathe.com; website, www.stcathe.com. School Office/Mailing, Principal Dr. Anna V. Adam, 747 S. Franklin St., Sebring, FL 33870; 385-7300; fax, 385-7310; email school@stcathe.com. School office hours 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Clergy: Very Rev. José González, V.F., fr-jose@stcathe.com or 385-0049; Parochial Vicar, Rev. Victor Caviedes, 385-3993; Assistant 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 W. 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, Children's 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/.

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.; Bible study Wednesday at 10 a.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 redeemravonpark.com. Email redeemer1895@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. Web site: www.TheWayChurch.org

GRACE BRETHREN

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

INDEPENDENT

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

INTERDENOMINATIONAL

World Harvest and Restoration Ministries, (non-denominational) 2200 N. Avon Blvd., (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 tradition-al 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.

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.

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 Preschool director Education Hour, 8:45 a.m.; Worship service, 10 a.m. Holy Com-

munion 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. 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. Church office 385-1024.

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

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

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

Faith & Familylife Worship Center, Pastors Leroy and JoAnn Taylor invite you to discover one of Sebring's hidden treasures at 2349 U.S. 27 South (Banyan Plaza off Sparta Road and Lake Jackson). We provide biblical solutions for everyday challenges through our multicultural worship services available on Sundays at 11 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Child care is available for all who attend. For more information, all 385-1800. Plan your first visit. Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Our guests are very important, so please let us know how we can meet your need by emailing theffwc@gmail.com. Our mission at Faith & Familylife is centered around Restoring Lives, Families and Communities.

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.GBCconnected.org

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

New Beginnings Church of Sebring, worshipping at The Morris Chapel, 307 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. Pastor Gary Kindle. Bible study every Sunday, 9 a.m. Blended Church Service, 10:15 a.m. Phone (863) 835-2405. 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.

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.weareunion.org.

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

RELIGION

You are still valuable!

A well-known public speaker started off a seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In a room filled with 200 people, he asked, "Who would like to have this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up all over the place. He then said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you present this evening, but first, I am going to do something."

He proceeded to wad the bill up into a little ball. He then asked, "Who still wants this money?" Hands flew into the air. "Well," he replied, "what if I do this?" He dropped the \$20 bill on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked up the money, which was now all crumpled and dirty.

"Now, who still wants it?" The same hands went up all over the room. "My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it, because it did not decrease



KEVIN'S KOMMENTS

Kevin Patterson

in value. It was always worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. However, no matter what has happened, is happening, or will ever happen to you, you will never lose your value in God's eyes. To Him, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless in His eyes."

In the first century, Paul wrote the Christians in Rome about God's

great love for them, even though they had been crumpled and dirtied with sin. Romans 5:8-10 reads, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

God values you no matter what your circumstances. In fact, you are so valuable to Him, that He gave His one and only Son to die on a cross to save you.

Kevin's Comments is written by Kevin Patterson and presented by Sebring Parkway church of Christ, 3800 Sebring Parkway. On the Internet visit at www.sebringcoc.com, or e-mail sebringparkway@sebringcoc.com.

Bill and Linda Lewis to sing Palm Sunday at Leisure Lakes

Special to the News-Sun

LAKE PLACID — Bill and Linda Lewis from Richmond, Va., will minister in music and song Sunday morning at Leisure Lakes Baptist Church of Lake Placid.

Lewis will also be the featured singer during the Holy Week celebration weekdays at noon at First Baptist Church of Lake Placid. The annual event is sponsored by the Lake Placid Christian Ministerial Association.

Following the morning concert at Leisure Lakes, all are invited to stay for "dinner on the grounds" in the church fellowship hall.

The church is at the western end of Lake June. From U.S. 27 take Lake June Road to Miller, turning north on Wildflower. For further information contact the church office at 699-0671.



Courtesy photo

Bill and Linda Lewis will minister in music at Leisure Lakes Baptist Church on Palm Sunday.

Comparative religion: infant baptism, part 2

We continue our examination of reasons used to uphold infant baptism as authorized by the Word of God. Millions and millions of people and hundreds of denominations subscribe to this practice, therefore it is worthy of our attention. Is it based on traditions and doctrines of men or Scripture?

When Peter, by the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaimed to those believers to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:36-38), he then stated, "For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself" (Acts 2:39).

So, therefore, the claim is that their children were to be baptized then! It is very obvious that "children" refers to present and future generations who hear and believe the gospel, repent of sins and are baptized will also receive the promise of remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. If this teaches infants are to be baptized, it also teaches that they must repent. But, repentance is preceded by knowledge, "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" (Romans 2:4).

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it" (Luke 18:16,17). This statement of Jesus, also recorded in Matthew 19:14,15 and Mark 10:13-16, has nothing to do with infant baptism. The context shows that Jesus was using the children as an example of humility and purity to the proud disciples.

Another claimed justification for infant baptism is the doctrine of "Original

GUEST COLUMN
Frank Parker

Sin." Multitudes of definitions abound regarding this man made doctrine. Augustine, bishop of Hippo (396-430 AD) stated, "Nothing remain but to conclude that in the first man all are understood to have sinned, because all were in him when he sinned; whereby sin is brought in with birth not removed save by the new birth ... it is manifest that in Adam all sinned, so to speak, en masse. By that sin we became a corrupt mass."

As observed in the first article, there is a difference in the guilt of sin and consequences of sin. Nowhere does Inspiration declare that we suffer guilt of sin other than personal sins. (Ezekiel 18:20) Therefore, what does an infant need to be saved from?

The Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus of Rome states, "The children shall be baptized first. All of the children who can answer for themselves, let them answer. If there are any children who cannot answer for themselves, let their parents answer for them, or someone else from their family. After this, the men will be baptized. Finally, the women." Compare this man-made doctrine to Inspired instructions: "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to Him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God'" (Acts 8:35-37 emphasis added).

Supporters of infant baptism claim that since the New Testament does not teach against it, there-

fore it must be approved. The reason there is no teaching against it is because it was not an issue. Reading websites and books of denominations who practice infant baptism, it is very evident that the sources of authority is not God's Word, but "church fathers", (i.e. Irenaeus, Hippolytus, Origen, Cyprian of Carthage, Augustine) and councils of men. The Messiah warned, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). Notice the reactions to this teaching, "Then His disciples came and said to Him, 'Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?'" (Matthew 15:12).

First Corinthians 7:14, "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy", is suppose to support infant baptism/salvation! The context is very simple: the marriage is recognized by God even if only one is a believer. If this is not so, then the children would be not pure/holy but rather unclean, i.e. illegitimate. Where is infant baptism suggested here?

Paul's prayer and petition must be that of every gospel preacher, "... for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak" (Ephesians 6:19,20). The faithful teacher of Truth will also heed the admonition to speak the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15)

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

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 rehearsals 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.

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

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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

RELIGION

First Baptist has Easter Cantata

AVON PARK — The First Baptist Church of Avon Park will have its annual Easter Cantata at 10:45 a.m. Sunday.

Everyone is invited to share the morning in worship.

Maranatha shares 'The Day He Wore My Crown'

SEBRING — Maranatha Baptist Church in Sebring will present an Easter musical drama at 7 p.m. Good Friday, April 18 and at 6 p.m. Easter Sunday, April 20. "The Day He Wore My Crown," created by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith, will involve both the choir and the drama team of the church.

This presentation will bring to life the greatest story ever told! Jesus wore a crown of thorns and died on a rugged cross to pay the penalty for the sins of each one of us. Different characters will tell what this has meant in their lives between songs that tell the story of the suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This musical is under the direction of Jan Burgess with Pat Seddon directing the drama. Accompanists are Judy Tinkham at the piano and Ann Truax at the organ. Character parts are played by Leon Moody, Bill Follett, Bruce Hendsbee, Hope Austin, Charles Welner, David Waite, Wayne Mattson and Jerry Carlson.

Maranatha Baptist Church is just off Arbuckle Creek Road at 35

SNAPSHOTS

RELIGION NEWS

Maranatha Blvd. For more information call 382-4301 or 382-8594.

Church plans garage sale

AVON PARK — The First United Methodist Church of Avon Park, 200 S. Lake Ave., will hold a garage clearance sale as well as a pre-Easter bake sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday — the same day as a pancake breakfast from 8-10 a.m.

The bake sale and the breakfast will be in Wesley Hall and the garage sale will be held outside in the pavilion, just south of the church.

Sebring Christian plans egg hunt

SEBRING — The Hallelujah Egg Hunt will be held at Sebring Christian Church at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 20.

There will be three different age groups: 5 and younger, kindergarten through second grade and third through fifth.

The church is at 4514 Hammock Road.

Church of Buttonwood Bay donates \$7,000

SEBRING — The Church of Buttonwood Bay has announced gifts in the amount of \$7,000 to local organizations to help meet the needs of county residents. Included are gifts of \$1,000 each to Horses for the Handicapped, Meals on

Wheels, New Testament Mission, Potter House and Nu-Hope Elder Care.

In addition, the amount of \$2,000 was presented to the local Rotary Club to sponsor the sending of two World War II veterans to Washington, D.C. next month.

The church meets for worship in the recreation hall at Buttonwood Bay. Dr. Cecil D. Hess is pastor.

St. Agnes plans Holy Week services

SEBRING — St. Agnes Episcopal Church invites the public to Holy Week services. Palm Sunday service is Sunday. Maunt Thursday service is at 7 p.m. Good Friday services are at noon and 7 p.m. and the Easter Vigil is at 7 p.m. followed by the Agape Feast on Saturday, April 19.

Easter Sunday starts with a sunrise service on the shore of Lake Jackson at 6:30 a.m., followed by an egg hunt at 9:15 a.m. and Rite II service at 10 a.m.

Call the church office, 385-7649, or check the church's Facebook page for additional information.

Family Easter Celebration planned at St. John

SEBRING — Children, moms, dads and grandparents are invited to join in a Family Easter Celebration at St. John United Methodist Church from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 19. Activities will include egg hunt, crafts, face painting, cake walk, cookie decorating, popcorn, sno-cones

plus the Easter Story.

The church is at 3214 Grand Prix Drive, (behind the Sebring Walmart). For more information, call the church office at 382-1736.

Memorial United Methodist plans egg hunt

LAKE PLACID — Everyone is invited to Memorial United Methodist Church's annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to noon. Rain or shine, there will be thousands of brightly colored eggs to find and also a chance to find the cherished golden egg and win big.

You can also enjoy coloring eggs with expert egg coloring artists.

There will also be plenty of food and many other crafts.

The church is at 500 Kent Ave., behind the Tower. Call 465-2422.

'Alive in the Spirit' comes to Avon Park

AVON PARK — A one-day convention titled "Alive in the Spirit" will be held at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. It is sponsored by the Venice Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

There will be great speakers, a Bishop's Mass, entertainment and more. A continental breakfast and catered lunch will be served.

Cost of the convention is \$35. Registrations will close for this event on Monday. Contact Cookie Perkins at (863) 993-0589 for more information and reservations. All ladies are welcome.

'The Shadow of the Cross' at AP Lakes Baptist

BY BARRY FOSTER
News-Sun Correspondent

AVON PARK — This weekend will be Palm Sunday and in observance of that, the Avon Park Lakes Baptist Church will stage a rare performance of "The Shadow of the Cross." The program is a series of a half dozen vignettes of both Bible stories, and portrayals — adapted from an Easter season performance at the First Baptist Church of Hurst, Texas.

"My son, Mark Garner, does a Palm Sunday performance each year at the church there and this was one of them," said Avon Park resident Jimmie Garner Butts. "It has been adapted by the Avon Park Lakes Baptist Church."

Billed as "a multi-sensory experience," director Wendy Garcia said the presentation would be interactive with the audience.

"Those who attend are going to be given a bag with a number of different symbolic items inside," she explained. "For instance, there will be a small rock for when the story of the accused adulteress is told and there also will be a special small tile given out that will be used later in the program."

Eight different actors representing a myriad of characters will take part in the program.

"There will be portrayals of Jesus and Satan — but also others, talking about how Jesus im-

pacted their lives and their reaction to it," Garcia said. "It really is very powerful."

Between the various scenes, there will be a musical presentation designed to reflect each of the individual stories. There will be some solos and the congregation will have an opportunity to sing different praise songs as well.

Although she has been a choir director in the past, Garcia said this was her initial attempt at directing a stage performance.

"This is my first program with this type of acting in it and I am blessed with a very talented group of people who are able to deliver their lines with feeling. It is just amazing," she said. "Even during practice I am seeing what an impact this will have on anyone who comes."

Following the presentation there will be a short message by Pastor George Hall and Communion will be offered to those who wish to participate.

The performance is scheduled to run about an hour and will be at 6 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday in the sanctuary of Avon Park Lakes Baptist Church, 2600 N. Highlands Blvd. It is free and open to the public.

"This is an outreach program and we are hoping that there will be a lot of people who come that don't normally attend a church. I think they would get a lot from seeing this," Garcia said.

Visitors flock to Indiana Catholic church to see statue with 'tear'

GRIFFITH, Ind. (AP) — What appears to be a tear-stained cheek on a statue of Mary on the grounds of St. Mary Catholic Church is moving some people to tears as others caution against a rush to judgment.

Among the skeptics is the church pastor, the Rev. Theodore Mens.

"There must be a natural explanation — the cold, the melting of the snow," he said. "Whenever we see something, we always look for a natural reason first."

The white statue, about 4 feet tall, depicts Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. Surrounded by tulips waiting to bloom, it stands in what parishioners call the "sunken garden" along Broad Street and is the site of the annual May crowning.

Mens said the statue has been there for at least as long as the 21 years he has been at St. Mary Church.

Majdolin Haddad, religious education secretary at St. Mary, said her daughter Reta, an aide in the fourth-grade Monday night class, told her about the tear.

Students in the class had left the church after confession, paused at the statue to pray and noticed a

droplet of water clinging to the chin of Mary's face, appearing to originate from the right eye.

A photo snapped Tuesday morning shows the droplet intact. It was gone by early afternoon.

Mens saw the photo but was reluctant to read anything into it.

"Everything we need to know for our salvation has been made known," Mens told The Times.

Proven occurrences elsewhere in the world are signs of added grace from Mary, he said.

"The message of Our Lady throughout history wherever appearances have been proven has always been the same, which is the scripture teaching of: repent, stop sinning, be baptized, believe in the Gospel," he said.

Mens said he is not necessarily a nonbeliever.

"I'm not going to say anything against a possible further sign of God's love for us through Mary," he said. "I just don't want to fall for anything. I am formed and shaped by the scriptures and the teachings of Jesus, not necessarily by a tear that somebody sees on a statue."

If the statue brings peo-

ple closer to God, that's wonderful, he said.

Mens has no plans to further investigate the statue, and the Diocese of Gary has not issued a statement.

"The diocese has just found out about it and is not prepared to comment at this time," said Debbie Bosak, director of communications for the Diocese of Gary.

As word spread Tuesday, people visited the statue.

Chicago resident Chris Kovich, who was in Griffith on business, theorized rain water may have followed the curve in the statue's veil, dripping on its face.

Kovich, who described himself as a lapsed Catholic, said it is premature to make assumptions about the appearance of tears.

"It is what it is," he said.

Lupe Figueroa ran her hand along the cheek and jaw of the statue.

A member of the Altar and Rosary Society at St. Mary Church, Figueroa had heard of the statue's supposed tears Tuesday morning and stopped by.

She visited again in early afternoon for another look.

Griffith resident Jason Seitz heard from his moth-

er about the statue.

"You can definitely see the dry teardrop," he said.

Seitz said he was undecided.

"I'm a realist, but I'm also a believer and Christian," he said.

Mens doubts the statue will reach worldwide fame as other occurrences, such as Marian apparitions.

"I don't think this will become Lourdes or Fatima or anything," he said.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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OPEN HOUSE

Join Us **TODAY**
Friday, April 11th
1:00pm – 3:00pm

Enter To Win FREE \$25 Gas Card

841 Racoon Lane, Lorida
A Lake Istokpoga Property

Call **Jen Brown, Lake Istokpoga Realtor**
863-655-5554
JenBrown@email.com
LakeIstokpoga.com

Highlands Ridge REALTY

1050 Legals

Attorney for Personal Representative:
John M. Sakellarides, Esquire
HERDMAN & SAKELLARIDES PA
29605 US Highway 19 North, Suite 110
Clearwater, FL 33761
Telephone: (727) 785-1228
Fax: (727) 786-4107
E-Mail: john@herdsaklaw.com
April 11, 18, 2014

1050 Legals

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW
PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09
FLORIDA STATUTES
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of CARE CENTER OF LAKE PLACID, located at 299 E. Interlake Blvd., in the County of Highlands, in the City of Lake Placid, Florida 33852, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.
Dated at Sebring, Florida, this 9th day of April, 2014.
Veronica Walker
April 11, 2014

1055 Highlands County Legals

HIGHLANDS COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES
The following legal notices are from the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners and are being published in the front, size, and leading as per their specifications.
NOTICE OF INTERNET AUCTION
START DATE: April 14, 2014 at 8:00 AM
END DATE: April 21, 2014 at 8:00 AM
LOCATION: GOVDEALS.COM
Pursuant to Florida Statutes and Sebring City Council policies, the City of Sebring, Sebring, Florida has declared various items as surplus property and have therefore authorized an Internet Auction to be conducted for the purpose of disposing said property.
1 - Tank, Steel, 10,000 gallon hydro-pneumatic
1 - Tank, Steel, 30,000 gallon hydro-pneumatic
For further information on these items please contact Jay Angell, Water Production Supervisor, at 863.471.5113 or jayangel@mysebring.com
Note: all property will be sold on as "as is", "where is" basis. The City of Sebring reserves the right to add or delete items from GovDeals' website at any time during the internet bidding dates above.
Kirk Zimmerman, CPPB
Purchasing Agent
City of Sebring, Florida
April 11, 13, 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:

2100 Help Wanted

COMMERCIAL LINE CSR
EXPERIENCED 220
LICENSE REQUIRED
FAX RESUME TO 863-465-5512
MECHANIC TO work on farm/ranch equipment, diesel and gasoline engines, fleet maintenance, fabrication and electrical. Computer skills preferred. Florida Driver License required. Pay based on experience. Drug-free workplace. Apply in person from 8am-11am & 1pm-4pm Monday thru Friday @ 109 Arron Drive, Lake Placid, FL 863-465-2821 or office@pclip.com
MEDICAL RECORDS/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE COORDINATOR
Royal Care of Avon Park currently has a FT position available. Candidate must be accurate detail oriented and have computer skills. Salary based on experience. Apply in person at Royal Care of Avon Park, 1213 W Stratford Rd., Avon Park, (863) 453-6674. EOE., M/F, DFWP.
R & R Harvesting Inc - 50 Temporary workers needed in Tifton, Ga. area from approximately May 15, 2014 - July 31, 2014. Following Supervisors instructions, the worker will perform manual labor to hand cut and pack watermelons. Use hand tools such as shears and knives. Duties also include cleaning, loading and unloading harvested products. Grade and sort products according to factors such as color, species, length, width, appearance, feel and quality to ensure correct processing and usage. Discard inferior or defective products and/or foreign matter, and place acceptable products in containers for further processing. Weigh products or estimate their weight, visually or by feel. Place products in containers according to grade and mark grades on containers. Measure, weigh and count products and materials. Examine and inspect containers, materials and products to ensure that packing specifications are met. Clean and maintain work areas. Must assist with all Good Agricultural Practices policies. Performing prolonged bending, reaching, pushing, pulling, walking stooping and lifting up to 60 lbs. Exposure to extreme temperatures. Workers may be required to perform miscellaneous grove clean-up work. These activities may include removing debris, boxes, discarded fruit from fields to clean guarding areas, pruning, painting trees, repair and or replace irrigation equipment, may maintain fence lines. The highest of \$10.00 per hr, 3/4 guarantee, 35 hrs per week, housing and transportation provided at the end of each work day, must be 18 years or older. Transportation and subsistence expenses to the worksite will be reimbursed upon completion of 50% of the work contract. We participate in the E-Verify program and workers must have valid identification for I-9 preparation when they report to begin work. Apply for this job at the State Workforce/Job Center office in your area, please call for the nearest office in your area GA 229-430-5010, FL 863-385-3672, AL 256-259-1835, SC 803-737-2400 using job # GA8167605.

2100 Help Wanted

PETROLEUM PIPE fitter helper, tank installation, at least 1 yr exp. Must have valid drivers license and clean record. Some travel. Call Mark for details 863-243-0660.

5050 Mobile Homes For Sale

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE 50 x 125' Lot, clear. No lot rent. 2/2, carport, screen room, covered patio. Close to Hospital. Furnished. \$30,000 OBO. 4800 Al Hambrava Ave., Sebring. Call 863-382-3049.

6000 Rentals

BEAUTIFUL APTS
SEBRING- 2BR/1BA, tile floors, screen back porch, beautiful landscaping. 3113 Medical Way. \$595/mo. 863-446-1822
NICE 1BR apt \$775 mo., 300 dep., plus electric, other utl. incl. in rent. Close to town, train. Appliances included, shared laundry room, pet rent \$20 sm, \$49 lg. 847-344-1313.

AVON PARK RENT SUBSIDIZED

1, 2, 3 & 4 BR Apts in a Central Location, Separate Family & Elderly/Disabled properties; Ridgedale Apts, Lakeside Park & Delaney Hgts. Based on household income.
NO APPLICATION FEE!
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY APHA
Please Call 863-452-4432
TTY 800-955-8771
On-Line Applications!
www.AvonParkHA.org

6300 Unfurnished Houses

AVON PARK
North Central Heights Homes, a new "Rent Restricted" single family home development in Avon Park. Rents range from \$350 to \$550 per month.
2, 3 and 4 BR Available!
DON'T DELAY APPLY TODAY! NO APPLICATION FEE!
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY APHA
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TTY 800-955-8771
863-452-4432
On-line Applications
www.avonparkha.org

NOTICE OF POLICY ADOPTION

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
The following policy will be considered for adoption at the regular Board meeting to be held Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Highlands Campus at 600 W. College Drive, Avon Park, FL.
Policy Implementation: Proposed new policy.
Policy 1.18 Substance Abuse Testing
For additional information, interested parties may visit the college website at www.south-florida.edu/trustees, or contact the Office of the President, South Florida State College at 600 West College Drive, Avon Park, FL 33825.

IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING, THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDED THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.
600 West College Drive,
Avon Park, Florida 33825-9356
863-453-6661
AN EQUAL ACCESS/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION
ACCREDITED BY THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
April 11, 13, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO. PC 14-93 Division
April 11, 13, 2014

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN H. WEBER a/k/a JOHN WEBER Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of John H. Weber, deceased, whose date of death was October 07th, 2013, is pending in the Circuit Court for Highlands County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 430 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870. The names and addresses of the personal representatives and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this Notice is April 11th, 2014.

Personal Representatives:
John-Michael Weber
11 Oswego Court
Kitchener, Ontario N2B 3P5
Deborah Weber
94 Rochampton Court
Kitchener, Ontario N2A 3K8
David Weber
888 Wolverton Street
Woverton, Ontario NOJ 1G0

J. TIMOTHY SHEEHAN
SHEEHAN & CELAYA, P.A.
Attorneys for Personal Representatives
300 DAL HALL BLVD.
LAKE PLACID, FL 33852
By: /s/ J. Timothy Sheehan
Florida Bar No. 184165
April 11, 18, 2014

PUBLIC AUCTION: APRIL 25, 2014 AT: 9:00 AM LOCATION: AVON TOWING 1102 KERSEY ST. AVON PARK, FL 33825
YEAR MAKE VIN #
1994 NISSAN 1N4EB31P1RC783960
April 11, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA JUVENILE DIVISION CASE NO. JP13-000474-XX
IN THE INTEREST OF:
Z. T. 07/13/2011
Minor children DOB
SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF ADVISORY HEARING FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND GUARDIANSHIP
THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO:
THOMAS HENRY THOMPSON: DOB: 4/16/1957
Address Unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights under oath has been filed in the above-styled Court by the Department of Children & Families, seeking the termination of your parental rights to:
Z.T.
a white female child
born July 13, 2011
mother - Cara Anne Parnell
and you are hereby commanded to personally appear before the Honorable Sheryl D. Snodgrass, a Magistrate/hearing officer in the Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court in and for Highlands County, State of Florida, on the 30th day of April, 2014 at 10:00 A.M., at the Highlands County Courthouse, 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida, Courtroom 1A.
YOU MUST PERSONALLY APPEAR ON THE DAY AND TIME SPECIFIED OR YOU WILL LOSE ALL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION. YOUR FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR WILL BE DEEMED TO BE YOUR CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILDREN NAMED IN THE PETITION. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY REPRESENT YOU IN THIS MATTER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, YOU MUST BE PRESENT AND REQUEST THAT THE COURT APPOINT AN ATTORNEY FOR YOU IF YOU WANT ONE. 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, 590 South Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL 33870 (863) 402-6565 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled court appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call (TDD) (1-800-955-8771) or Voice (V) (1-800-955-8770)."
ROBERT W. GERMAINE, CLERK
DATED THIS 3RD DAY OF MARCH, 2014.
ROBERT W. GERMAINE, CLERK
By: /s/ Lisa J. Bass
Deputy Clerk (Clerk's Seal)
March 28; April 4, 11, 18, 2014



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FOUND MALE Shih-tzu on Sun. April 6 on US 27 in front of the Lake Placid Publix. Contact Carolyn at 863-840-2880.

1200 Lost & Found

FOUND: LARGE dog, white male, lost collar, north of Dinner Lake, Sebring. Call 863-385-4491.
FOUND MALE Shih-tzu on Sun. April 6 on US 27 in front of the Lake Placid Publix. Contact Carolyn at 863-840-2880.

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House of Change, 4011 US Hwy 27
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shoes, furn., tv's, fishing equip-
ment, dishes, small appliances.

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through Sunday April 13, 8am to
4pm. Home decor items, green and
deep wine decor, sofa table,
washer/dryer, king Broyhill BR
furniture, kitchen items, linens,
lamps, oriental figurines, 4
Wolfgang Puck lidded pans, Pyrex,
framed art, mirrors, small tables,
towels, King sheets (some queen),
nice ladies clothes various sizes,
accessories, paper shredder, 3 sp.
fan, bed frames, hand tools,
hardware, lawn items, 70s rock n
roll records (covers are in very poor
condition).

www.estatesales.net
Sunday will be half-price day on all
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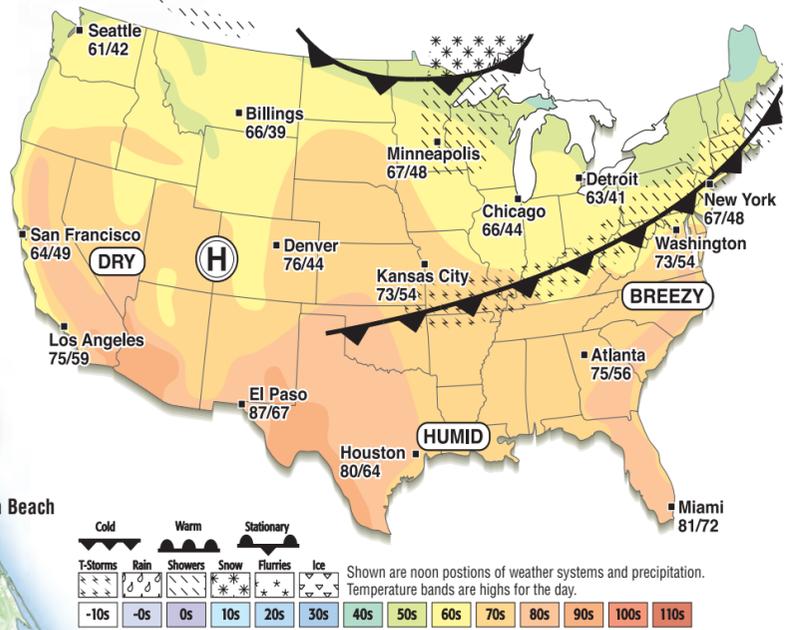
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Five-Day forecast for Highlands County

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
82° / 61°	84° / 62°	87° / 64°	89° / 68°	81° / 64°
Winds: E at 6-12 mph	Winds: E at 7-14 mph	Winds: E at 7-14 mph	Winds: SSE at 6-12 mph	Winds: SW at 6-12 mph

National Forecast for April 11



Almanac

Temperature
Readings at Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid

High Sunday	90°
Low Sunday	60°
High Monday	93°
Low Monday	67°
High Tuesday	81°
Low Tuesday	49°
High Wednesday	77°
Low Wednesday	45°

Heat Index
For 3 p.m. today

Relative humidity	44%
Expected air temperature	82°
Makes it feel like	82°

Barometer

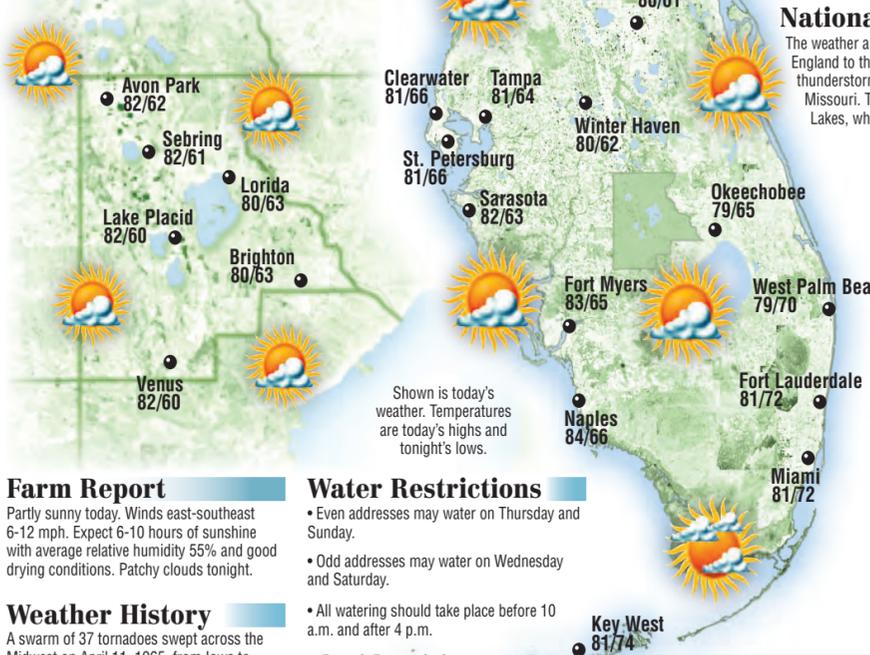
Monday	29.73
Tuesday	29.96
Wednesday	30.18

Precipitation

Monday	0.02"
Tuesday	0.36"
Wednesday	0.00"
Month to date	0.38"
Year to date	7.39"

Regional Summary

Partly sunny today. Patchy clouds tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow. Sunday: partly sunny and humid. Monday: times of clouds and sun with a shower. Tuesday: mostly cloudy and not as warm.



Farm Report

Partly sunny today. Winds east-southeast 6-12 mph. Expect 6-10 hours of sunshine with average relative humidity 55% and good drying conditions. Patchy clouds tonight.

Weather History

A swarm of 37 tornadoes swept across the Midwest on April 11, 1965, from Iowa to Ohio. Nearly 300 people were killed and 3,000 others injured.

Sun and Moon

	Today	Saturday
Sunrise	7:07 a.m.	7:06 a.m.
Sunset	7:47 p.m.	7:46 p.m.
Moonrise	4:46 p.m.	5:38 p.m.
Moonset	4:42 a.m.	5:17 a.m.



Water Restrictions

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

Florida Cities

City	Today	Sat.	Sun.	City	Today	Sat.	Sun.
Cape Coral	83/63/pc	85/64/s	87/66/pc	Miami	81/72/pc	83/73/s	84/74/sh
Clearwater	81/66/pc	83/67/s	84/69/pc	Okeechobee	79/65/pc	80/67/s	81/67/pc
Coral Springs	81/70/pc	82/71/s	84/73/pc	Orlando	80/61/pc	82/63/s	84/64/sh
Daytona Beach	78/61/pc	79/63/s	79/64/sh	Pembroke Pines	81/69/pc	83/71/s	85/73/sh
Ft. Laud. Bch	81/72/pc	82/75/s	84/75/sh	St. Augustine	75/61/pc	75/63/s	76/63/pc
Fort Myers	83/65/pc	86/65/s	87/67/pc	St. Petersburg	81/66/pc	83/67/s	85/69/pc
Gainesville	80/54/pc	81/56/s	83/59/pc	Sarasota	82/63/pc	83/64/s	85/65/pc
Hollywood	80/69/pc	82/71/s	84/73/sh	Tallahassee	79/49/pc	82/56/s	83/59/pc
Homestead AFB	80/70/pc	82/72/s	83/73/pc	Tampa	81/64/pc	84/64/s	84/67/pc
Jacksonville	78/55/pc	81/57/s	79/60/pc	W. Palm Bch	79/70/pc	81/71/s	82/73/sh
Key West	81/74/pc	83/75/s	82/76/pc	Winter Haven	80/62/pc	82/63/s	85/65/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

National Summary

The weather around the United States today will be fairly tranquil overall. A cold front will extend from southern New England to the Ohio valley to start the day and slowly move southward. This will cause several showers and even a thunderstorm or two from southern Massachusetts and south to Virginia, extending as far west as southeastern Missouri. The other areas where precipitation will be a concern will be the northern Plains and northern Great Lakes, where a front will produce showers from Minnesota into Michigan.

U.S. Cities

City	Today	Sat.	Sun.	City	Today	Sat.	Sun.
Albuquerque	79/52/pc	78/50/pc	73/46/pc	Los Angeles	75/59/pc	68/55/pc	67/56/pc
Atlanta	75/56/s	78/57/s	79/59/pc	Louisville	68/52/r	76/59/pc	79/58/pc
Baltimore	68/49/r	71/48/pc	73/54/s	Memphis	76/59/pc	77/62/pc	80/58/pc
Birmingham	76/56/s	78/57/s	80/62/pc	Milwaukee	62/43/pc	64/42/r	43/32/r
Boston	60/43/c	62/47/r	60/50/pc	Minneapolis	67/48/pc	61/33/r	48/31/pc
Charlotte	78/50/s	78/53/s	80/55/pc	Nashville	74/54/t	77/58/pc	79/58/pc
Cheyenne	70/42/pc	64/31/c	35/25/sn	New Orleans	75/63/pc	78/64/pc	79/68/pc
Chicago	66/44/pc	72/45/pc	52/35/r	New York City	67/48/sh	66/50/r	64/51/pc
Cleveland	57/41/pc	68/53/pc	66/51/sh	Norfolk	76/58/pc	70/56/pc	78/58/s
Columbus	63/46/pc	73/56/pc	74/56/pc	Oklahoma City	81/60/s	84/61/pc	75/41/t
Dallas	80/62/pc	83/66/pc	80/52/r	Philadelphia	68/52/sh	70/49/pc	77/52/s
Denver	76/44/pc	71/36/pc	38/28/r	Phoenix	95/70/pc	90/67/pc	90/67/s
Detroit	63/41/pc	69/53/pc	61/44/r	Pittsburgh	62/42/sh	71/49/s	76/53/pc
Harrisburg	65/43/sh	72/49/pc	76/55/pc	Portland, ME	58/35/pc	57/36/pc	56/46/pc
Honolulu	81/68/s	83/70/pc	83/72/pc	Portland, OR	65/44/pc	65/44/s	72/45/s
Houston	80/64/pc	82/67/pc	81/67/t	Raleigh	78/52/s	78/55/s	82/57/s
Indianapolis	64/47/pc	72/56/pc	71/48/sh	Rochester	57/35/pc	68/48/pc	67/50/sh
Jackson, MS	77/57/s	79/59/pc	79/65/pc	St. Louis	71/53/pc	77/60/pc	74/40/r
Kansas City	73/54/pc	74/55/pc	61/37/r	San Francisco	64/49/pc	63/49/pc	64/49/pc
Lexington	68/50/t	74/56/pc	78/56/pc	Seattle	61/42/c	62/43/pc	67/43/s
Little Rock	76/60/pc	78/60/pc	74/56/c	Wash., DC	73/54/t	73/55/pc	79/58/s

World Cities

City	Today	Sat.	Sun.	City	Today	Sat.	Sun.
Acapulco	91/72/s	89/72/pc	89/70/s	London	59/44/pc	60/42/pc	61/43/s
Athens	64/50/sh	65/49/s	66/50/pc	Montreal	53/36/pc	57/41/pc	60/41/sh
Beirut	70/61/s	72/56/pc	70/55/pc	Moscow	45/28/pc	46/35/pc	51/37/c
Berlin	56/39/c	60/43/pc	58/39/pc	Nice	66/55/pc	65/54/pc	66/56/pc
Bermuda	68/61/s	67/62/pc	69/64/pc	Ottawa	54/34/pc	56/39/pc	57/36/r
Calgary	56/20/c	34/23/sf	46/27/s	Quebec	43/28/pc	48/33/pc	51/35/r
Dublin	54/42/pc	53/37/sh	52/41/s	Rio de Janeiro	88/76/pc	90/76/pc	87/73/t
Edmonton	47/22/sn	38/23/sf	46/27/s	Seoul	66/49/c	66/47/c	67/45/c
Freeport	77/67/pc	79/70/pc	80/72/sh	Singapore	90/78/t	89/79/t	90/79/t
Geneva	66/46/pc	69/46/pc	68/42/pc	Sydney	81/62/t	80/59/sh	78/61/r
Hong Kong	78/72/pc	81/71/c	83/71/pc	Toronto	56/38/pc	59/45/pc	58/39/r
Johannesburg	69/49/pc	70/51/pc	65/48/pc	Vancouver	55/43/pc	59/44/pc	59/41/s
Kiev	44/38/c	51/39/r	54/41/pc	Vienna	54/40/pc	64/47/pc	65/47/c
				Warsaw	52/37/c	55/37/r	57/41/c
				Winnipeg	46/28/pc	38/19/sn	38/19/sf

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APRIL 11 - 13

WRITTEN BY:
Leslie Ayvazian, David Cale, Jessica Goldberg, Beth Henley, Lameece Issaq, Claire LaZebnik, Lisa Lomer, Michele Lowe, Marco Pennette, Theresa Rebeck, Luanne Rice, Anne Weisman and Cheryl L. West.

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