



INSIDE



**BEST OF THE
BLOTTER**
JAY MEISEL

Some criminal cases are unusual, humorous or just outright odd. And there's no shortage of them on the Treasure Coast. This column highlights cases that often leave observers shaking their heads.

In plain sight
Here's a tip to criminals: Don't leave stolen goods in plain sight.

In one case where a criminal didn't follow that advice, a Martin County man reported he used a credit card to buy gas. Not long after, he discovered someone had used his credit card to buy a motor kit.

He returned to the gasoline station and saw a bike with a motor on it.

And it turned out that the bike belonged to the employee who ran his credit card. Video surveillance showed the employee using his cell phone camera to take a photo of the credit card.

The employee was charged with credit card fraud and theft.

In another Martin County case, an employee of a hotel saw some patio furniture in front of a residence across the street from a hotel.

The furniture was identical to that which was stolen from the hotel.

Martin County deputies arrived and saw some additional items on the porch. They also saw more furniture inside through a window.

The occupant of the residence admitted she decided to steal the items

See **BLOTTER, A4**

ENTERTAINMENT B1

XMAS PUZZLE



Vero Beach High School's Christmas show includes puzzles, acrobatics

COMPUTING A6

SAVE MONEY



Avoid costly repairs by maintaining your computer

WEEKEND WEATHER



Friday: Partly cloudy; high: 79; low: 66; high tide: 8:02 a.m.; low tide: 1:55 p.m.
Saturday: Partly cloudy; high: 77; low: 66; high tide: 8:52 a.m.; low tide: 2:46 p.m.
Sunday: Partly cloudy; high: 78; low: 57; high tide: 9:42 a.m.; low tide: 3:38 p.m.
Weather courtesy of www.weather.com

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City council keeps same mayor, vice mayor

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — Newly elected Sebastian City Councilman Bob McPartlan debuted on the dais during the Nov. 17 business meeting, during which Mayor Jim Hill and Vice Mayor Don Wright were selected to stay in their positions for another one-year term.

Exiting Councilman Eugene Wolff was honored in a presenta-

tion during the meeting and Mayor Hill thanked him for his service.

"Sebastian is a better place because of you," Mayor Hill said.

During the business portion of the meeting, the council entertained the first reading of an ordinance that sets parameters on the storage of "junk" in the city and moved it forward to a public hearing on Dec. 14.

City manager Al Minner said

there have been quite a few complaints about residents keeping items in "open air storage," such as carports or any other structure that is not enclosed by four walls and a roof, and the items do not make the neighborhoods attractive.

According to the proposed ordi-

nance, junk is defined as "old and dilapidated motor vehicles, trail-

See **COUNCIL, A5**

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Sebastian businesses to get festive



Staff photo by Jessica Tuggle

Cheryl Lathero untangles and strings lights at LaPorte Farms in Sebastian in preparation for the 23rd annual Light Up Night on Dec. 2 organized by the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce. More than 85,000 lights will be on display at the farm. Businesses all around Sebastian will kick off the holidays with open houses and light refreshments.

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — A tiny piece of Bethlehem is coming to Sebastian for the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce's 23rd annual Light Up Night.

The Sebastian tradition will continue this year and chamber direc-

tors are hoping even more businesses will participate.

Britney Faulke, information specialist for the chamber, said about 30 participating businesses have been the maximum in past years and she would love to see even more step up this year.

Laura LaPorte, owner of LaPorte Farms, will once again participate

in the event adding a new element to her Christmas decorations with a living nativity scene.

On Dec. 2 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., rain or shine, residents will be able to go on a tour of area businesses and enjoy refreshments, contests and getting to know what the stores have to offer, just in time

See **FESTIVE, A2**

Fate of middle school remains uncertain

New options could save district \$9.5M

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — With a renewed sense of urgency and desire for a plan of action, Indian River County school district Superintendent Fran Adams presented three options for relocating Osceola Magnet School in Vero Beach to Indian River County school board members last week.

Two options are for building a new school, one on donated property in the Pointe West community or on donated property in Waterway Village, which is near Storm Grove Middle School.

The third option calls for moving the magnet school to Dodgertown Elementary School and spreading those students to other area elementary schools.

Ms. Adams said she would prepare a final recommendation for the school board on Dec. 13.

Moving the magnet school to the current Dodgertown Elementary School would cost significantly less than building a new school, which is what the board was considering in their negotiations with developers at Pointe West since 2000.

The estimated cost of moving to Dodgertown, a facility with more than 40 years of use, is \$10.5 million. That amount includes building new wings to hold more students at Citrus Elementary School in Vero Beach and Treasure Coast Elementary in Sebastian, and making renovations to Dodgertown Elementary over a five-year period.

There is no question Osceola Magnet School needs to move out of its current structure. Relocating to the existing structure would save the district about \$9.5 million, Ms. Adams said.

Dodgertown Elementary
See **SCHOOL, A2**

Middle schoolers receive gift of music

By Jessica Tuggle
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VERO BEACH — Eddie Otera, a seventh-grade cellist in the Oslo Middle School orchestra, went to school on Nov. 15 knowing he'd be playing music with the other members of the orchestra, but he had no idea it would be with a brand-new cello.

In front of a small school assembly, the Oslo Middle School beginning and advanced orchestra played several musical selections from their repertoire before a special speaker called their



Staff photo by Jessica Tuggle

Eddie Otera, center, was one of 31 children at Oslo Middle School to receive a new musical instrument thanks to a special grant by Fidelity Investments and Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation. Oslo Middle School was one of five schools in the nation to receive the grant, which was valued at \$23,000.

See **MUSIC, A3**

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Festive

From page A1

for the holidays, Ms. Faulk said.

The living nativity at LaPorte Farms is sure to be a smash hit, with actors being provided by Riverside Church in Roseland and "critters" by the LaPorte Farm.

"This is the first time we are doing a living nativity," said Ms. LaPorte.

"We are really stepping up (our Christmas) with the nativity this year. For Light Up Night, on one side we will have the nativity and on the other we will have Mrs. Claus and light refreshments," Ms. LaPorte said.

Other businesses, including Sebastian River Medical Center and Oceanview Optical will open their doors to the public, show off their holiday décor or holiday merchandise and meet residents.

Secret judges will be sent to participating businesses for evaluating their decorations and bragging rights will go to four businesses for the whole year, said Ms. Faulk.

"Everyone is ready for the holiday and Light Up Night is a good way to kick it into high gear," she said.

Ms. LaPorte had a five-person crew setting up outdoor decorations all over her property last week and plans on having about

85,000 lights twinkling during the event and all through the season.

"The good thing about Light Up Night is that it's kind of like a customer appreciation and a good way for the businesses to expand their customer base," Ms. Faulk said.

"Sometimes you drive right by some businesses and never stop in," she said.

A map of all the participating businesses will be available at the chamber after Thanksgiving.

For more information about events by the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce, visit www.sebastianchamber.com.



Staff photo by Jessica Tuggle

Blake Robinson, left, and Erwin Fordham hang hundreds of white Christmas lights along the buildings at LaPorte Farms in Sebastian in preparation for the 23rd annual Light Up Night on Dec. 2 organized by the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce. More than 85,000 lights will be on display at the farm.

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School

From page A1

has the lowest student population of all county schools. The population has been declining each year since 2006, district staff said.

If the board were to choose that option, it would require district-wide rezoning to place the current students at Dodgertown Elementary to other elementary schools, but

would allow Osceola Magnet School to stay as a magnet school.

Going to Dodgertown Elementary would allow for the quickest move, with district staff projecting a move as quickly as summer 2012.

The Pointe West negotiations have come to a total estimated cost of \$20,267,000, which includes storm water retention and a loan to be paid off over a 20-year period.

Moving to the Pointe West

location would mean agreeing to allow some preference and student access to students from the Pointe West community, something school board member Karen Disney-Brombach has said she would not support.

Doing so would subvert the purpose and function of having a magnet school, she said.

Additional funds for storm-water retention are not projected in the cost for building a school site at Waterway Village, but would still include a 20-year debt service. The total estimated cost for construction at Waterway Village is \$20 million.

If Osceola Magnet School was moved to that location, it would retain its magnet school structure, staff said.

Both construction options would mean not moving Osceola Magnet School until 2013.

For more information about upcoming school board meetings, visit www.indianriverschools.org.

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Dr. Shah completed her family practice residency training at St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady, NY, and internal medicine externship at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, NY. Prior to joining IRMC, she practiced family medicine in Troy, NY.

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Staff photo by Jessica Tuggle

Seventh-grader Eddie Otera excitedly clutches his new cello, donated to the Oslo Middle School orchestra thanks to a special grant by Fidelity Investments and Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation. Eddie was one of 31 children at Oslo Middle School to receive a new musical instrument, and was given one of the two cellos in the gift. Oslo Middle School was one of five schools in the nation to receive the grant, which was valued at \$23,000.

Music

From page A1

attention to a parade of 31 brand new string instruments with dark green bows that were brought into the room.

The instruments were provided by Fidelity Investments of Vero Beach through the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to bringing musical instruments to under-served schools and community programs.

The children knew something different was going to happen when Matt McManus, branch manager of Fidelity Investments called for a drumroll, which was met with resounding enthusiasm by all the stu-

dents.

As the 19 violins, 10 violas and two cellos were carried in by Fidelity staff, the children began to chatter excitedly among themselves and waved their hands high in the air for the opportunity to play the new instruments.

Earlier in the day, orchestra director Richard Ballinger worked to tune the instruments so they would be ready for the students to use upon presentation.

The instruments were valued at slightly more than \$23,000, said Mr. Ballinger.

"This is like Christmas!" Eddie said as he accepted the shiny reddish-brown cello and new bow.

He stroked the cello with one hand and readied him-

"It looks beautiful. I thought we were just going to play a song. Man was I wrong!"

Eddie Otera student

self to play with the rest of the orchestra, about 90 children that day, his grin only lost when he began to concentrate on the music.

"This is my second year playing in the orchestra," Eddie said.

"It looks beautiful. I thought we were just going to play a song. Man, was I wrong!" he said with a laugh.

Superintendent Fran Adams said she was very happy the school received such a wonderful grant, and

was one of only five in the country to receive such a gift.

"I congratulate them," she said.

Mr. Ballinger said the new, better-sounding instruments often cause students to practice more and help them become even better musicians.

"I am so thankful and so grateful for this. I don't want to stop playing in orchestra," Eddie said.



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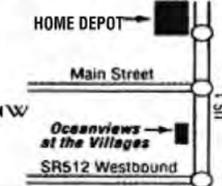
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Blotter

From page A1

while walking her dog. She said she had been drinking.

A bit too young
 Parents often help teach their children to drive. But there's a limit to that as one father discovered.

Port St. Lucie police said a man allowed his 12-year-old to drive.

She drove the car over a concrete median and struck another vehicle in the parking lot. The father ended up being charged with child abuse and reckless driving.

Admitting stupidity
 A Port St. Lucie woman went out drinking and later had a car accident in Fort Pierce.

A friend took her home and after getting some rest, she realized she had left a damaged car in a parking lot.

The woman then came up with the idea of reporting it stolen.

But after the friend would not go along with the story and told police what happened, the woman admitted to making a false report.

"What am I going to get for being a dumbass?" the woman asked police as she was being arrested. "I was driving; the road was wet; I crashed. I should have told the truth."

The truth may set you free, but it was too late for this woman, who was taken to the St. Lucie County jail.

Bank to collect food for holidays

For Hometown News
 NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

Samaritan Center their temporary "home."

TREASURE COAST — Both CenterState Bank locations will be drop off centers for non-perishable food items this holiday season.

CenterState Bank Vero Beach is located at 801 20th Place, just west of U.S. 1 between the "twin pairs" of State Road 60 east and west in Vero Beach (formerly the Fletcher Appliance Store). Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday.

They have selected The Samaritan Center for Homeless families to be the recipient of the donations.

The Samaritan Center is an inter-faith, transitional, temporary shelter for homeless families in Indian River County offering programs for emotional support, parental training, medical referral, mental-health counseling, life-skills workshops, finance management, domestic skills training and ultimately, hope for the future of both the adults and children who make

CenterState Bank Fort Pierce is located at the Orange Blossom Business Center, 4150 Okeechobee Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday. They have selected The Mustard Seed Ministries of Fort Pierce to be the recipient of the donations.

The Mustard Seed Ministries coordinates the energies of the Christian churches of St. Lucie County to meet the spiritual and material needs of the whole person and to make referrals to all available relief agencies in the community to take care of those in need. Services offered include assistance with a food pantry, clothing, furniture, utilities, gas, prescriptions, medicine, rent, children's summer food, cold-night shelter, bus tickets and a Thanksgiving community feast.

Both drop off locations will conclude on Dec. 23.

For more information, call Amber Clevenger in Vero Beach at (772) 299-6860 or Lori Wuchte in Fort Pierce at (772) 460-2242.

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Club offers coupon books for benefit

For Hometown News
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TREASURE COAST — The Rotary Club of Port St. Lucie is selling Treasure Coast "Enjoyment Books" for sale at \$35 each with coupons starting Nov. 1, and valid through November 2012.

Minimal proceeds from the sales of each book will help to fund the club's College Scholarships for outstanding high school students to reach their career goals.

The Enjoyment Book holds hundreds of invitations for patrons to experience substantial discounts and "buy one get one free" offers.

The coupons cover several categories of service and entertainment from fine food and casual dining, fast food treats, recreation adventures, golf outings, movies, museums, parks, and river cruises throughout the Treasure Coast from West Palm Beach to Vero Beach.

Services in the book include car care, car washes, auto detailing, dry cleaning, tax preparation, carpet cleaning and maid service. The book even includes some hotel discounts. The book pays for itself if used just a few times.

To obtain a book, call (772) 418-8185, or visit www.enjoymentbook.net.

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Police report

Editor's note: This is a list of arrests, not convictions, and all arrestees are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in a court of law.

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

- Jeffery Anthony Brink, 11, 4456 28th Court, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 10 and charged with burglary and wearing a mask while committing a crime.
- Amber Marie Blair, 26, 2173 Second Ave. S.E., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 13 and charged with third-degree grand theft.
- Kenneth Green, 50, 2429 Second Ave. S.E., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 12 and charged with sale/delivery of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a church and possession of cocaine.
- Darrin J. Miller, 46, 7726

- 99th Court, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 12 and charged with battery on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest with violence and resisting arrest without violence.
- Emili Rosana Derosa, 23, 1845 13th St. Southwest, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 12 and charged with resisting an officer with violence.
- Megan Rose Guzman, 25, 2276 17th Ave. Southwest, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 12 and charge with scheme to defraud, four counts of dealing in stolen property and four counts of theft.
- Jamel Maurice Barnwell, 20, 1806 North 16th Court, Fort Pierce, was arrested Nov. 12 and charged with failure to appear in court on charges of burglary of a dwelling, third-degree grand theft, possession of burglary

- tools and driving without a driver's license.
- Steven Michael Monroe, 25, 2901 21st Place, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 11 and charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for possession of alprazolam (Xanax) without a prescription and two counts of bring a habitual traffic offender.
- Kellie Laura Paulus, 52, 3796 Sixth Lane, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 10 and charged with two counts of obtaining or attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud.
- Rondell Reed, 52, 4055 41st Ave., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 1 and charged with escape, three counts of grand theft of a motor vehicle and burglary of a dwelling.
- Margaret Janet Coughlin, 47, 4614 Overlook Drive N.E., Palm Bay, was arrested

- Nov. 10 and charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for two counts of possession of morphine without a prescription.
- Jessie B. Jones, 31, 76 48th Ave., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 10 and charged with possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana.
- Joshua Allan Justice, 26, 147 Admiral Circle, Sebastian, was arrested Nov. 10 and charged with fleeing.
- Lever D. White, 20, 5725 39th St., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 15 and charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for burglary of a conveyance and fraudulent use of a credit card.
- Cody W. Goble, 26, 142 County Road 90 East, Bunnell, was arrested Nov. 14 and charged with burglary of a dwelling and third-

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- degree grand theft.
- Corey Lewis, 17, 1145 12th St., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 14 and charged with burglary of an occupied dwelling.
- Anthony Vincent Sisto, 52, 533 Fleming St., Sebastian, was arrested Nov. 14 and charged with being a habitual traffic offender.
- Arthur L. Pound, 27, 4450 38th Court, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 14 and charged with fleeing, reck-

- less driving and resisting an officer without violence.
- Ryan Matthew Furst, 28, 2340 10th Road Southwest, No. 314, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 15 and charged with sale of cocaine and possession of oxycodone without a prescription.
- Demontre Lemar Marshall, 19, 2696 47th Place, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 14 and charged with fleeing.

Foundation supports education with donation

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — TD Bank, through the TD Charitable Foundation, donated \$2,000 to the Education Foundation as part of the bank's commitment to giving back to the community. The funds will be used to support the Education Foundation's Sneaker Exchange program. The program keeps economically disadvantaged children on a path of learning by providing them a pair of durable sneakers to participate safely in all school

activities, comfortably and proudly. Every public school in Indian River County is served by this program. There are 55 scheduled exchanges for elementary students at Payless ShoeSource from September through May. Secondary students receive vouchers that are redeemable for a new pair of sneakers. School coordinators help to identify children in need using the free and reduced lunch report. "These funds are so important to the children we serve. It's a win-win situation for our stu-

dents in need, as the money will provide 100 students a new pair of socks and sneakers," said Debbie Biedenharn, Education Foundation board member and program liaison. "This is the first step in helping them to have a successful school day." A staunch commitment to active involvement in the local community is a vital element of the TD Bank philosophy. TD Bank, America's most convenient bank and the TD Charitable Foundation provide financial and other support to affordable-

housing initiatives, financial literacy and education and the environment, many of which focus on improving the welfare of children and families. The Education Foundation of Indian River County is a nonprofit organization that exists to link and engage business and community leaders in the process of supporting and strengthening education in Indian River County. *More information on the TD Charitable Foundation, including an online grant application, is available at www.TDBank.com.*

Council

From page A1
ers, boats or other vessels and parts thereof, household appliances, scrap, building material, scrap contractor's equipment, tanks, casks, cans, barrels, boxes, drums, piping, bottles, glass, old iron, machinery, rags, paper, excelsior, mattresses, beds, bedding or any other kind of waste material." "This is an attempt to keep our neighborhoods in good repair. Not to fine people and collect a lot of money," said Vice Mayor Wright. *For more information about upcoming city government meetings, visit www.cityofsebastian.org.*

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VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2011 • HOMETOWN NEWS • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM

A way to keep your machine maintained

Computer repair is a tricky business. I never know what kind of problems I am going to be asked to solve and there is always the pressure to get it done quickly. Every call is a different challenge and most of the time it can take a half hour or more just looking around trying to get a handle on what's going on before the actual repairs even start.

Virus and malware cleanup calls usually always involve running one or more scans to "sweep" the computer for infected files and these scans can really run up the clock. There is nothing more frustrating than having to wait for a scan to complete and watching as the progress bar inches its way across the screen. The temptation to do other things while a scan is running is high, but if you do that on an already sick machine, it can just make matters worse. It's best to tackle additional tasks after an infection is cleared.

Let's face it, computer maintenance is expensive. At the typical hourly rate, one unexpected glitch such as a virus infection or registry problem can quickly add up to hundreds. And who's to say that next month it won't be something different?

And, to add insult to injury, most of the issues that I regularly clean up wouldn't be an issue if people would just take the time to keep their machines properly maintained.

"Everyone" knows that they should have their system backed up and their anti-virus up to date, but hardly anyone takes the time to learn how to do it properly, let alone do it every month!

Most computer manufacturers assume that everyone already knows what they need to do to keep their new machine maintained properly, but that can be an unreasonable assumption to make, especially if the new



COMPUTE THIS
SEAN MCCARTHY

computer owner has little or no experience.

And with computers as inexpensive as they are today, more people who have never used one are coming home with powerful systems that can confound even the most seasoned computer user.

Without proper maintenance it's only a matter of time before something goes wrong and the repair bill can approach the price of a new machine! There's got to be a better way.

Wouldn't it be smarter to have an expert set up your machine and then maintain it every month and avoid costly repairs? Doesn't it make sense to have someone who knows what they're doing keep regular tabs on things and nip problems in the bud rather than letting them grow to the point where an expensive service call is inevitable?

Well, I think it is, and I've spent the last couple of months putting together a program that does just that: gives regular computer users a way to keep their machines maintained on a regular basis at a cost that won't break the bank.

What I've put together here, a computer service club, if you will, is a way to offset the high cost of sudden repairs by performing regular monthly "check ups" to make sure things are running smoothly. This way we can stop little issues before they become big ones.

We want to start out with a clean system, so when a person joins our club, we connect to their system and do a full tune up and get it running in tip top shape. Even if it's infected with viruses or malware, we'll clean it first. We'll even set up the backup system and make sure it's configured properly.

See **COMPUTE, A7**

Three little beachcombers



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

This trio of sandpipers made their way in and out along the shoreline in search of food, staying just outside the surf which has been pretty rough all month.



Got something to say?

Call the Hometown Rants & Raves line at
(772) 465-5504

or e-mail news@hometownnewsol.com.
Callers are asked to refrain from making slanderous statements. Statements of fact will be checked for accuracy.

Counties should help

Why is it that local counties refuse to create work, affordable housing and eliminate homelessness?

How come it so hard for both counties to create work and affordable housing?

There are people out of work or about to lose their jobs and be put out on the street and become homeless. By creating work and affordable housing the counties can all but eliminate homelessness.

These same people want to work, even keep their jobs, and also want affordable housing not only for themselves, but for their families. Why is it they look the other way and not solve the problem?

This is the reason why we have a bad reputation nationwide; they blame everyone else for their own ignorance.

Don't forget about the little guy

In the day and age of Internet shopping, let's try to remember to patronize our mom and pop businesses in order to keep them alive during this bad time. Small restaurants also need our help. This area has almost no atmosphere and we do need to hang onto any of the neat, small restaurants we've got. Please eat an extra meal, if you can, at your favorite little hang-out.

Concerned about school safety

My daughter is currently a freshman at a local high school. In the last month, there have been a number of security issues at that school.

A student was detained for assaulting a faculty member with a box cutter.

On another occasion, there was a huge fight at a football game.

I received a phone call from another parent, who urged me to pick my child up from school immediately, because a student had threatened to bring a gun to school.

Last week, the school was on "lock down" because officials thought there was a criminal on school grounds.

I know that school officials and the sheriff's department are doing all they can to keep my child safe, but I have to wonder if she is truly safe.

I paid property taxes just like every home owner. I do not understand why there is not more security on the campuses. If we can afford metal detectors to protect our court houses, why can we not afford to protect our children?

Remember Fannie Mae?

Mortgage giant Fannie Mae has just admitted that it lost an incredible \$7.8 billion in the July-September quarter. Guess who is expected to cover their losses? They were egged on by the Dodd-Frank legislation, which is supported by the Obama administration.

The really pathetic part is that they have obviously not learned their lessons. They have received \$112 billion in taxpayer funds so far, the most expensive bailout in history, and they are continuing their absolutely insane policies.

Frivolous law suit?

An appeals court has ruled that a group of vegetarian Hindus, who were inadvertently served meat at a Moghul Express, can sue the restaurant. Apparently, eating meat is forbidden by their religion.

This decision is a prime example of lenient judges. Only in America do we permit such an out-of-control legal system.

Potential or achievement

Washington and Tallahassee have poured billions into our public schools, but powerful teachers' unions continue to stonewall teacher evaluations based on students' academic proficiency.

The education establishment recommends teachers nurture rather than challenge children in the classroom. Many schools embrace the concept of social promotion where pupils move ahead from grade to grade even if they can't read or do basic math.

Liberals prefer a system where each child is evaluated on his or her potential, not on his or her actual achievement. No wonder test scores continue to decline.

Worms in the woodpile?

We suspected there were worms in the wood pile, and now we know who put them there.

States have, for years, been prohibited from keeping illegal immigrants from the public schools.

As a result, taxpayers have been forced to pay the costs of educating them.

In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled states may not deny student access based on whether or not they are here legally. We should have known that liberal judges were guilty of this outrage.

They are the so-called "honorable" members of our Supreme Court.

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(772) 467-4384. Or you can send letters to:

Letters to the editor, 1102 South U.S. 1,
Fort Pierce, FL 34950.

Letters must include a phone number and home address for verification. Letters sent without phone numbers and addresses will be published in the Rants & Raves section.

Caring for the troops



The EL-DOEs of the Sebastian Elks Lodge No. 2714 sent care packages to the troops in Afghanistan for Christmas. Diane Freese helped organize the project.

Photo courtesy of the Sebastian Elks Lodge No. 2714

Romancing the Stove

Arlene Borg, The Grammy Guru



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Classic moves

Lorely Ridge and Frank Beal danced their way into first place, being named the champions of the first older than 55 dance contest at the Family Jamboree, sponsored by Champion Home Health Care.



Photo courtesy of Abigail Stone

Compute

From page A6

Then once a month we reconnect and give the system a once over. We encourage people to use this time to ask any questions

that they have and we'll address any issues that may have come up over the previous month. We'll verify the system, the anti-virus, the backup and the security settings. And we make sure they are all set for the next month.

After a trial run, all of my "club members" seem pretty satisfied and we have been able to nip a few problems in the bud; just the way I planned.

If this sounds like something you would like to take part in, drop me a line or

give me a call. I'll be happy to answer all of your questions.

Sean McCarthy fixes computers. He can be reached at (772) 408-0680 or help@ComputeThisOnline.com (no hyphens).

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Bereavement Support Group

December 5 • 6:00 pm
Heart Disease and You Support Group

December 6 • 7:00 pm
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December 16 • 3:00 pm
Alzheimer Caregivers Support Group
IRC Support Group
Vicki Suplizio, MS, RN, BC

December 27 • 6:00 pm
Surgical Weight Loss Support Group
Lynn Williams, Psy.D., MSN

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Please help us make our eleventh year the most successful yet — Foster families in the state of Florida do not receive allowances for Christmas gifts.

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That's why we introduced the Adopt a Family program in 2001. The project, which pairs business sponsors and private individuals to foster homes, has served more than 1,000 children the past ten years.

By sponsoring a foster family this holiday season, you may:

- * Brighten the holidays for children who have been abused or neglected
- * Meet the family struggling to care for them
- * Play Santa Claus!

We are in special need this year of sponsors who can "adopt" homes with large numbers of children. This is because we have more children than homes. Please encourage your friends, co-workers or church members to adopt a family for the holidays.

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Dining & Entertainment

Sebastian

Classified INSIDE

SECTION B • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2011

Out & about

THROUGH FRIDAY, NOV. 25

• **Vero Beach Theatre Guild presents "The 1940s Radio Hour,"** Vero Beach Theatre Guild, Vero Beach, times vary. Cost: \$20, \$22. Students younger than 18 half-price. Website: www.verobeachtheatreguild.com

FRIDAY, NOV. 25

• **Downtown Friday street festival,** along 14th Avenue between 20th and 21st streets, Vero Beach, 5:30 p.m. Features live music, craft vendors, community booths and food and drink. Cost: Free. Website: www.mainstreetverobeach.org

SATURDAY, NOV. 26-
SUNDAY, NOV. 27

• **Art For Animals,** Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County, Vero Beach, time to be determined. Local artists will portray domestic animals or native Florida wildlife in their work and sell their art to benefit the local animal shelter. Website: <http://hsvb.org>

THURSDAY, DEC. 1

• **Prism concert,** Performing Arts Center, Sebastian River High School, Sebastian, 7 p.m. Cost: \$5-\$25. Website: www.srhsband.com

• **A taste of art history,** Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, noon. Featuring the 'Vermeer: Master of Light' video. Cost: free. Website: www.verobeachmuseum.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

• **Vero Beach boat parade,** Vero Beach Marina, Vero Beach, 6 p.m. Decorate your boat, have fun and win awards. Cost: free. Website: www.indianriverchamber.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 3

• **Annual Christmas parade,** Beachside Vero Beach, 5:30 p.m. Cost: free. Website: www.verobeachoba.com

• **Art trail,** locations vary, Vero Beach, time to be announced. An open house of ten studios around Vero Beach, learning about the artists and their creative process. Proceeds go to the Vero Beach Art Club Scholarship Fund for graduating high school seniors. Cost: \$25 per person. Website: www.verobeachartclub.org

• **Holiday round robin mixer,** Riverside Racquetball Complex, Vero Beach, time to See **OUT, B2**

Students prepare for Christmas production



David Alonso, 18, and Ashton Atwell, 18, members of the Aerial Antics Youth Circus program of the Vero Beach recreation department, practice a routine for the annual Christmas production. 'The Christmas Puzzle' will be performed at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center on Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Admission donations are \$6 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors.

Staff photo by Jessica Tuggle

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — Puzzle pieces, music, tumbling and high-flying stunts will all go together in the annual Vero Beach recreation department's Christmas production.

On Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., the 200 children in the gymnastics, dance and aerial programs offered by the city recreation department will present "The Christmas Puzzle," an original performing arts holiday production at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center.

"There is a story and in each part they will find a puzzle piece," said Angie Holshouser a supervisor with the recreation department.

"It has lots of different parts that the kids will play, hippos, ducks, an older couple, dolls, Santa's helpers, penguins and snowflakes," she said.

Members of the performing arts company class, made up of mostly older and more experienced acrobatic and aerial students, rehearse several times a week, working up a serious sweat with some of their stunts.

Last week the students were working on the final number of the show, but that doesn't mean it will



Staff photo by Jessica Tuggle

Justine Higgins, 11, flies high through the air during a rehearsal of the Vero Beach recreation department's Christmas production 'The Christmas Puzzle.' She is spotted and caught by fellow performing arts company members, Kristin Coxson, 18, Tyler Dees, 18, Mykhanh Ngyuen-Tran, 13 and David Alonso, 18.

be an easy routine. The girls leaped and posed and trusted the boys to lift and twist them into exciting and intricate looking shapes to match the music.

"We come up with a new show every couple of years. We want it to be more than a recital for the students, so it's a production," said Patty Howard, assistant recre-

ation director.

Students in the Aerial Antics Youth Circus program range from 3 to 20 years old. Tumblers,

See **STUDENTS, B2**



STAR SCOPES
James Tucker
Week of 11-25-2011

Aries-March 21-April 19
Life continues to move forward. You have solid plans and you consistently put them in motion. Few people or worldly restrictions will ever keep you from giving birth and form to your ideas. Your heart continues to help you make responsible decisions for the higher good of all. Your faith and spirit are the best reasons.

Taurus-April 20-May 20
You have successfully weathered the recent storms in life. Your ideas are sound, your direction is positive and your focus is right. Keep on releasing old habits, attitudes or things outdated and unneeded. You have respect. Others admire you. You are very valuable to family and associates. Life is in divine order.

Gemini-May 21-June 21
Keeping a lighter touch continues to pay off. Your recent financial challenges have helped you redefine your financial goals. This is bringing light to priorities. Put first things first and take action each day on your main goals. The stronger the balance the easier the results. Just be sure to ask for help when you feel overloaded.

Cancer-June 22-July 22
Your strong sense of direction has returned. You have survived recent unplanned changes. Worrying about things that might have been is wasted energy. Ask for guidance from trusted associates. There is still a lot left to do during the holidays. You have a superior mind and an awesome heart. Use them in harmony and the universe will bless you greatly.

Leo-July 23-Aug. 22
Your strong sense of responsibility continues to pay off. When you feel that strong sense of inner rightness it's your instincts telling you that all is well. Never give up on your plans. When you believe, others pick up on the right feelings and want to help you in your pursuits. There is no stopping you now.

Virgo-Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your ideas about how to handle the upcoming sea-
See **SCOPES, B4**

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LIVE MUSIC
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Enjoy Holiday DINING

Students

From page B1

dancers, acrobats and aerialists will wow the audiences with their creative and energetic performances.

The students have a healthy mutual admiration for their fellow performers, applauding and giving words of encouragement for a job well done.

"For the people that do the trapeze, it has everything to do with upper body strength," said David Alonso, 18.

"That is probably one of the hardest aerials to do," he said.

Mr. Alonso specializes in tumbling and is also strengthening his skills on the aerial web, another physically demanding element. He has been

working with the group for a year.

Brandon Banzet was introduced to the performing arts company only a few months ago and was very impressed.

"I saw the aerials and the tumbling and I was like, I want to do this," Mr. Banzet said.

Tickets are available at Leisure Square at 3705 16th St., the Vero Beach Community Center at 2266 14th Ave. and Riverside Racquet Complex at 350 Dahlia Lane or at the performing arts center on the day of the performances.

Admission donations are \$6 for adults and \$5 for children and senior citizens.

For more information about events by the Vero Beach Recreation Department, call (772) 567-2144 or visit www.covb.org.

Historical house extends hours

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — One of Indian River County's historic places, the Hallstrom House, is open for visitors three afternoons a week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 1-4 p.m.

The brick house was built

in the late 1910s by citrus and business pioneer Axel Hallstrom for his family.

Mr. Hallstrom's daughter, Ruth, bequeathed the house to the Indian River County Historical Society in 1999.

Over the past dozen years, the society has restored the house, inventoried the furnishings and

begun cataloging the documents related to the family and its agricultural and business activities.

Trained docents provide tours of the home, focusing on the family's Swedish heritage, Mr. Hallstrom's horticultural innovations and the Hallstroms' contributions to the economic and cultural life of the community.

The Hallstrom House is located at 1723 Old Dixie Highway in Vero Beach. No reservations are required for groups of fewer than five people.

A donation of \$5 per person is suggested.

For larger groups, reservations may be made in advance by calling (772) 778-3435.

Out

From page B1

be determined. Organized by the Vero Beach recreation department. Cost: to be determined. Website: www.covb.org.

• **Holiday expo and breakfast with Santa**, Indian River Mall, Vero Beach, time to be determined.

• **Prism concert**, Performing

Arts Center, Sebastian River High School, Sebastian, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Cost: \$5-\$25. Website: www.srfsband.com

SUNDAY, DEC. 4

• **Art in the Park**, Humiston Park, Vero Beach, 10 a.m. Outdoor fine art and craft show by the Vero Beach Art Club. Cost: free. Website: www.verobeachartclub.org

• **Prism concert**, Performing Arts Center, Sebastian River

High School, Sebastian, 2 p.m. Cost: \$5-\$25. Website: www.srfsband.com

• **Happy holidays at the museum**, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, 1 p.m. Cost: free. Website: www.verobeach-museum.org

MONDAY, DEC. 5

• **22nd annual Swing For Health Golf Classic**, Hawk's Nest Golf Club, Vero Beach, noon. Cost: \$275 per person,

\$1,100 per foursome. Call (772) 226-4952 for more information.

TUESDAY, DEC. 6

• **Environmental Learning Center volunteer open house**, Environmental Learning Center, Wabasso, 3 p.m. An opportunity to find out about the many areas of volunteering available at the center. Cost: free. Website: http://discoverelc.org

THURSDAY, DEC. 8

• **Lunch and learn tour**, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, noon. Featuring 'Against The Grain: Wood Sculptures by Robert F. Lyon.' Cost: free. Website: www.verobeachmuseum.org

• **Quarters auction**, Emerson Center at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Vero Beach, TBA. Auction to benefit Indian River County nonprofit organizations; bidding is based on retail value of items, beginning at a quarter of the value. For more information, email doreenvalley@aol.com.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

• **Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest**, Grand Harbor Golf and Beach Club, Vero Beach, time to be determined. Kids tennis clinic, reception and tennis exhibition. Cost: To be determined.

• **Community holiday party**, Vero Beach Community Center, Vero Beach, 11:30 a.m. Join the fun and ring in the holiday season with food, entertainment dancing and door prizes. Organized by the Vero Beach recreation department. Cost: To be determined. Website: www.covb.org

• **Vero Beach Choral Society concert**, 'Tidings of Joy: Sounds of the Season,' Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero Beach, 7:30 p.m. Highlighting Benjamin Britten's 'The Ceremony of Carols' and Antonio Vivaldi's 'Magnificat in G Minor.' Cost: Adults \$20, Students \$5. Website: http://verobeachchoralsociety.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

• **Wildlife watching tour**, Captain Hiram's Resort, Sebastian, 10 a.m. Easy-paced paddling excursion with kayaks or stand up paddle boards organized by Florida Outdoor Center and guided by a naturalist. Trips available daily. Cost: \$35 for adults, \$10 for kids 15 and younger. Website: www.floutdoor.com

• **Night sounds at Sebast-**

See OUT, B3

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DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrate Thanksgiving weekend at art show

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Looking for something fun to do with the family over Thanksgiving weekend? Head over to the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County's "Art for Animals."

This animal-themed arts show and sale will benefit the animals of Indian River County.

All artwork displayed will feature local artists portraying domestic ani-

mals and Florida's native wildlife through mixed media, paintings and drawings, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, needlework and digital art.

The event will be held Saturday, Nov. 26 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County.

The show is free and open to the public.

The animal shelter is located at 6230 77th St., Vero Beach.

Thankful for the waves



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Several fronts and a small hurricane offshore kept the surf high on area beaches for most of November. Will Buck of Sebastian took advantage of the high waves at Wabasso Beach Park recently.

Out

From page B2

ian Inlet concert series, Coconut Point, Sebastian Inlet State Park, Sebastian, 7 p.m. Featuring Sygnal, a diverse group of musicians playing jazz, blues, classic rock, rhythm and blues and reggae. Website: www.floridastateparks.org/sebastianinlet/events.cfm

Silver Tones concert, Indian River Mall, Vero Beach, times vary. The Senior Resource Association's Silver Tones Chorus will perform for holiday shoppers. Cost: Free. Contact: Kelly de Long, (772) 469-2062.

Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest, Holman Stadium, Vero Beach, time to be determined. Jake Owen concert with special guests. Cost: To be determined.

CrossFit fitness class, Treasure Coast CrossFit, Sebastian, 10 a.m. Cost: free. Website: www.treasurecoast-crossfit.com

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

'Deck the Halls' holiday music concert, Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach, 2 p.m. Cost: Individual tickets, \$10 or \$12, senior ticket packages \$50. Website: http://sites.indianriverschools.org/vbhs/pac/pac/index.htm

Winter concert, Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach High School, Vero Beach, 2 p.m. Featuring the high school bands. Cost: To be determined. Website: http://band.vero-beach.fl.us

Vero Beach Choral Society concert, 'Tidings of Joy: Sounds of the Season,' Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero Beach, 3 p.m. Highlighting Benjamin Britten's 'The Ceremony of Carols' and Antonio Vivaldi's 'Magnificat in G Minor.' Cost: Adults \$20, Students \$5. Website: http://verobeach-choralsociety.org

MONDAY, DEC. 12

Deck the Halls holiday music concert, Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach, 7 p.m. Cost: Individual tickets, \$10 or

\$12, senior ticket packages \$50. Website: http://sites.indianriverschools.org/vbhs/pac/pac/index.htm

Winter concert, Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach High School, Vero Beach, 7 p.m. Featuring the high school bands. Cost: to be determined. Website: http://band.vero-beach.fl.us

Juvenile diabetes walk-athon, 'Walk for the One You Love,' Riverside Park, Vero

Beach, 9 a.m. Proceeds go toward educating teachers and staff in identifying symptoms of undiagnosed diabetes and emergency and day-to-day care. Cost: \$15 per person or \$100 for a group of 10. Website: www.jdac-fl.org

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

Fifth annual Margaritas and Mistletoe, Mulligan's Beach House, Vero Beach,

5:30 p.m. Fundraising event for Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. Cost: \$15 or a child's gift, ages 6-9. Website: www.bbbsbig.org

Joint concert between the Silver Tones Chorus and the Gifford Youth Orchestra, Emerson Center at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Vero Beach, time to be determined. Cost: to be determined. Contact: Kelly de

Long, (772) 469-2062

ONGOING EVENTS

Vero Beach Elks Lodge sends cookies to soldiers: Homemade or store-bought cookies may be dropped off at 10 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month. Money donations for shipping costs are also appreciated. Bring cookies to Vero Beach Elks Lodge 1774, 1350 26th St., Vero Beach.

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DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Mall to open at 4 a.m., include ornament hunt

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Holiday shoppers will flock to Indian River Mall to take advantage of the mall's 4 a.m. opening on Friday, Nov. 25, better known as Black Friday.

Shoppers can get a jump on their holiday shopping and take advantage of exclusive deals and incredible savings from the mall's diverse retail line-up.

In addition, early bird shoppers will have the opportunity to participate in an ornament hunt for a chance to win great prizes,

as 93.7 The Breeze broadcasts live from the mall.

"Our 4 a.m. opening is a great way to kick off the holiday season," said Ursula Gunter, director of marketing and business development at Indian River Mall.

"Shoppers will be able to score big savings at many of our retailers and find up to \$4,000 in gift cards and prizes as part of our holiday promotion."

Shoppers will have the opportunity to win prizes with 93.7 The Breeze's holiday ornament hunt, beginning at 5 a.m.

Guests will be challenged to locate gold ornaments

placed throughout the mall and return them to the 93.7 The Breeze prize booth for a chance to win American Express Simon gift cards, an iPod, Miami Dolphins tickets and more.

As part of the biggest shopping day of the year, mall goers will find everything on their gift-giving list at the more than 80 stores at Indian River Mall, such as Macy's, JCPenney, Sears, Dillard's, Brookstone, Hollister Co., American Eagle Outfitters, Victoria's Secret, Gym-boree and more.

To help save shoppers even more this holiday season, Indian River Mall's

retailer showcase will be available online prior to Black Friday, displaying all of the great retailer discounts and specials.

As an added convenience, shoppers can visit guest services at Indian River Mall to rent Smartcarts and wheelchairs and purchase Simon American Express gift cards.

The mall also offers wheelchair access, free wi-fi, seating areas and more to provide an unsurpassed holiday shopping experience.

For more information, call (772) 770-9404 or visit www.indian-river-mall.com.

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Scopes

From page B1

sonal plans are sound. Fear not. You have strong favor from the spirit world. Why? Because you have given so much the universe wants to pay you back ten-fold. Everything is in divine order. Your faith has prevailed. Relax and enjoy. You are doing a great job.

You continue to experience positive results in life. Your focus is getting stronger every day. You can't do everything at once but you can remove nonessential things from your life. If your heart isn't in it don't do it. Just be sure to make quality time for yourself. Patience is a virtue in itself. Let it unfold and all will continue to be well.

Sagittarius-Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Your words are respected by others in ways you may not even know. Others quote you because of your good advice. One of your greatest rewards is encouraging and helping others find their direction in the world. Your positive attitude is contagious. Also your individuality is inspirational to those wanting to learn and grow. Keep it up forever.

Scorpio-Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Your mastery of small details is preparing you for larger responsibilities. You continue to excel at life's challenges. Your warm, loving nature continues to carry you through life's storms. Your natural sensitivity always warns you of challenging sit-

uations before they get out of hand and attempt to take over. You are divinely gifted and guided.

Capricorn-Dec. 22-Jan. 19
This gives you an edge in heartfelt decisions. Your guardian angel protects you

from harm. You are well known for making wise decisions rather than hasty ones. Be patient with those around you whose choose to take a different view. Listen. You never know what you might learn.

Aquarius-Jan. 20-Feb. 18
There is strong energy around you for the next two weeks. The year should end with a bang for you. Try to find a little time for fun things even with your extra responsibilities. Enjoy the ride. Take it a day at a time. Seize every moment like there is no tomorrow. Your strongest wishes will prevail because you have others best interests in heart as well as your own.

Pisces-Feb. 19-March 20
You are on your way to a better life. You have a great heart and fresh ideas. Continue to stand up for your beliefs. The timing is right to move your best ideas forward. Listen to your first impressions. Manage a few timely projects. Finish them and then move on to the next group. Sometimes less is more. No reason to be overwhelmed now.

Star visions

Call (772) 334-9487 or e-mail jtuckyz@aol.com for other details or to schedule a reading. Have a starry week, everyone.

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Warriors defeat Sharks in tip-off classic

By Brittany Llorente
bllorente@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — The Sebastian River High School Shark's boy's basketball team lost to the Jupiter High School Warriors 78-44.

The Warriors came out in the game quickly, scoring 25 points in the first quarter, leaving the Sharks with a 16-point deficit.

The Sharks offense was focused on attacking the net, using only a few key players to put points on the board.

Bobby Hain, a 6 foot 9 inch forward, scored 14 points in the first quarter.

"I feel like I did great," said Hain. "We worked together and we worked well on offense and defense."

The Warriors offense was focused on passing the ball and keeping their players in the center, guard and forward positions to score.

Sharks defense had a hard time against the two

towers made by Hain and Grant Pelchen, who barely had to stick their hand up to make a dunk.

Sharks offense had a similar problem between the two Warrior players, using speed to overcome the players.

"This was a rough game," said Shark's head coach Kelly O'Brien. "We're still waiting for some of our football players to join us. We played hard for 70-80 percent but we need to get to that 100 percent."

"Our offense was stagnant and we got more into a one side and it was very easy to read. We need to work about getting more movement out of the ball."

The Shark's never recovered from their deficit, though battled hard to catch up.

The Warriors points on the board were spread out between players, with five out of six players on the court scoring. The Sharks had four of the eight Shark players score on the court

"This was a rough game. We're still waiting for some of our football players to join us. We played hard for 70-80 percent but we need to get to that 100 percent."

Kelly O'Brien
Head coach

in the second quarter.

"We were trying to get everyone involved," said Warrior Kyle Case. "We're a team and have been with each other awhile."

The score was 46-24, with the Warriors winning, going into the second half.

The Warriors offense was more focused going into the second half. The Sharks kept attacking the net and shooting 3-pointers, instead of taking their time and bringing the ball to the net.

Those shots were wasted, as they balls were recovered by the Warriors leading to points on their board.

Shark's Daniel McDon-

ald, however, did score four 3-point shots during the game.

"I think I did better than I expected," said McDonald. "We needed to do 10 times better as a team."

The game ended with the Warriors winning 78-44, killing the clock after scoring 21 points in the fourth quarter.

"This is the second pre-season game," said Warriors head coach John Andersen. "The guys who were with me last year know what's going on and the new kids are still a little jittery. We're scoring and our defense needs to be cleaned up but we did well."

In search of bait



Mike Konopacky, a volunteer at Sebastian Inlet State Park, used a one-handed cast net to search for bait along the Wabasso Causeway recently.

Basketball officials wanted

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The Indian River County Recreation Department is looking for basketball officials for the 2012 winter season.

Officials must have some understanding of basketball rules or have an interest in the game. They must be able to work Mondays through Saturday, scheduling is flexible. Game rates vary per game.

For more information, call (772) 226-1728.

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Elvis changed everything Page 12

Baby Boomers: Growing old with a rock 'n' roll attitude Page 16

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Obits

Ronald Allen 'Ron' Libonati

Ronald Allen 'Ron' Libonati, 71, died Nov. 9, 2011.

He was born in Astoria, N.Y., and lived in Micco for 11 years.

He worked for the New York Police Department for 20 years retiring as sergeant.

He served in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Joan; a son, Douglas (Wendy); a son, Lawrence (Elizabeth); a sister, Sandi and three grandchildren.

Arrangements by Strunk Funeral Home and Crematory.

Fred Kenneth Clement

Fred Kenneth Clement, 72, of Sebastian, died Nov. 11, 2011.

He was born in Plymouth, Mich., and lived in Sebastian for 17 years.

He served in the U.S. Navy.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Judy; two sons, David and Steve; a daughter, Teri; a brother, Gary; six grandchildren and a great-grandson.

He was preceded in death by a son, Scott.

Arrangements by the Strunk Funeral Home and Crematory of Sebastian.

For Hometown News

Religion notes

First Presbyterian Church of Sebastian

• **Newcomers and visitors** are invited to the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service. Communion is served on the first Sunday of every month.

• **Bible study** is held Monday evenings at 7 p.m. Call John Blaga at (772) 589-4290 for more information on this study.

• **Adult Sunday school** and youth classes at 9 a.m. Children's Sunday school starts at 10 a.m. following the children's message.

• **Friendship Crossroads Thrift Shop** is open for business on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call the shop at (772) 581-8155.

The church is located one block north of Main Street at 1405 Louisiana Ave., Sebastian. For more information, call the church office at (772) 589-5656.

Riverside Church

• **Open prayer meeting** is held every Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. You are welcome to come to the church and pray as long as you want. On Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., the Men's Group meets for discussion of the word and fellowship.

• **Oneighty Youth Group**, an evening of music, fun, games and a Bible service at the church, for students in grades 6-12 begins at 5 p.m. every Wednesday. Admission is free and free transportation is available in the Sebastian area.

• **Mpact Girls' Club**, a Christian club for girls in kindergarten through 12th grade, meets at the church 6:30 p.m., Thursday evening meetings. The girls learn about cooking, camping, crafts, community, missions, friendship, overcoming peer pressure, careers and purity.

• **A chapter of Royal Rangers**, one of America's largest and foremost adventure, camping and mentoring programs for boys and young men in grades one through 12,

meets 6 p.m. every Friday.

• **Sunday worship service** is held at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Kingdom Kids for children in grades K-5 is held at the same time. This program includes Bible lessons kids can understand and apply to their lives, plus games and prizes.

Newcomers are welcome at Riverside Church, located at 11205 Roseland Road, 2 miles west of U.S. 1, Sebastian. For additional information, call (772) 589-7825.

New Life Baptist Church

• **Edge Student Ministries**, the church's youth ministry meets every Wednesday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. There are lots of new activities; admission is free and the evening is packed with games, snacks and fellowship. All students, regardless of church affiliation, in grades 6-12 are welcome to attend this interactive, fun-filled weekly get together.

• **Edge JR** is a children's ministry for K-6th grade every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. and on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. All children are welcome to this fun-filled, highly interactive program; admission is free.

• **Children, women and adult Sunday school** classes are held every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. and a worship service begins at 10:45 a.m.

• **Gentlemen** are invited to the Men's Group meeting on alternate Sunday evenings at 5 p.m.

• **Fred Diven** is the featured speaker every Sunday evening. "A Christian and Their Reward" is the current teaching series at the 6 p.m. Bible study. All are welcome to attend.

Newcomers are welcome at New Life Baptist Church, located at 725 Commerce Center Drive, Suites C, D & E, Sebastian. For additional information, call the Rev. Bill Brothers at (772) 473-3614.

King's Baptist Church

• **A quilting group** meets 9:30 a.m. every Friday in Room 121 at the church. Newcomers are always welcome and there is no charge to participate.

• **Awana**, a Bible-based program with extra emphasis on Scripture memory for children ages 3 through the sixth grade is held every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to X-treme Lives, a time of worship and small group Bible study, on Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. Adult Bible study begins at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

• **Young adults** are invited to the new "20 Something" class at 9 a.m. on Sundays. The Bible class focuses on issues and challenges facing young adults as they continue education or start a new career; it meets in room 125.

• **Sunday worship services** are held at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with an evening service at 6 p.m. At 5 p.m., children in first through sixth grades are invited to participate in children's choir where they learn basic music skills and perform songs and musicals. They meet in the Awana Auditorium; everyone is welcome and there is no cost.

The church is located at 3235 58th Ave., Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 567-5850 or visit www.kingsbaptist.org.

Unity Center of Vero Beach

• **The community** is invited to "A Course in Miracles" led by Chris Williams every Monday evening at 6 p.m.

• **On Tuesday evenings** at 7 p.m. Eide Monahan instructs a one hour **gyrokinesis class**. The technique incorporates breathing and fluid yoga movements to open and strengthen you.

• **Qi gong class**, an ancient Chinese system of postures, exercises, breathing techniques, and meditation, is held 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday.

• **On Thursday evenings** at 6 p.m. there is a one hour **reiki class**. Reiki is a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation that promotes healing.

• **Sunday morning worship celebration** is held at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Childcare is available for both services and children's classes are held every Sunday at 11 a.m.

For more information, call (772) 562-1133 or visit www.unityofvero.com. Newcomers are always welcome at Unity Center of Vero Beach. The church is located at 950 43rd Ave., Vero Beach.

Immanuel Church

• **Support group/celebrate recovery**, a support group for hurts, habits and hang-ups meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. for dinner, 6:45 p.m. for meeting. Donations are accepted for dinner.

• **Celebrate recovery** is a Biblical 12-step program that provides help for hurts, hang-ups, and habits. Dinner starts at 6:15 p.m. and is optional; \$3 donation. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.

For more information, call (772) 562-3185. Immanuel Church is located at 455 58th Ave. Southwest, Vero Beach.

Turkey Talk Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

ACROSS

- Environmentalist, former V.P.
- Gave a leg up
- Truman's birthplace
- _____ borealis
- Elope
- _____camp: military assistant
- Start of Tom Turkey's verse
- Recondite
- Tiny colonist
- Trojan hero
- Gender
- Freight
- Literary monogram
- Jalopy
- Tropical eel
- Zilch
- St. Petersburg's river
- Wade through water
- Penalty fee
- Barcelona bag
- Portent
- More of verse
- Yoruba city
- "go brag!"
- Summer ermine
- Dress fold
- Debt neglecter
- "Old Blood and Guts"
- "High _____": 1941 Bogart film
- Floating bridge
- Deeds
- Song refrain
- Chic
- Sparkles
- Football's "Papa Bear"
- Duelist Burr
- Japanese premier: 1964-72
- Dock workers' org.
- More of verse
- Crystal gazer's phrase
- One of a Latin trio
- Cloudiness
- Neural network
- Sally or Ayn
- Barbie's boyfriend
- Wooden plug
- Next year's soph
- Number of "lords a-leaping"
- Alabama "Freedom March" city
- Cheer for Escamille
- Weep noisily
- Harper Valley gp.
- Shoreline
- End of verse
- Most adorable

DOWN

- Dolls' Broadway partners
- Approximately
- Show partisanship
- A Hemingway
- Bric-a-
- "Town"
- Single
- Arid place
- Nasal
- Keep an _____ the ground
- "Le Roi _____": Lalo opera
- Word with den or share
- Together, in music
- Western flatfoot
- Rehan and Huxtable
- "The Bridge of San Luis _____"
- Pierre's soul
- Concur
- "Tie _____ ribbon 'round _____"
- Number of "geese a-laying"
- Ragout
- Opposite of pros
- Belligerent god
- Bonnie's partner
- Spur wheel
- Khan's title
- Appearance
- Swimming or floating
- Most honorable
- Fireplace residue
- Of the soft palate
- Corsaut, of "The Blob"
- Merganser
- Coquette
- Pitch woo
- Assign to new quarters
- British guns
- NY time, in November
- Miss Kelt's namesakes
- Viewpoint
- Covered with a mist
- _____ a church mouse
- On _____: endlessly
- Famed conductor Georg
- Warren Buffett is one
- _____ at the office"
- Preside over
- Medieval merchant guild
- Bygone
- Artist's need
- Neap and ebb
- Biblical port
- Country's Collin
- "Oh, Look _____": 1941 ditty
- Prepare for papering
- For consumption elsewhere
- Leveling wedge
- Festive
- 12 doz.
- Begins
- Court grievance
- Tires
- Get back one's losses
- Not these
- Wheel part
- Noted Brit. lexicon
- Ht. units
- Italian innkeeper
- _____ and terminator
- Hosiery mishap
- Spanish labor
- Hillside dugout
- Citizen Kane's "Rosebud"
- Mystery writer Josephine
- Here in Le Havre
- Torrid
- Skater Babilonia
- Barley beard

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810 House for Rent

STUART Quaint cottage, Remodeled 1br/1ba with loft, walk in closet, private entrance, pets 20 lb. & under ok, Utis included. \$750/mo F&S 772-288-5190 See photos online at www.HomeTownNewsOL.com Ad # 62320 CALL CLASSIFIED and sell that boat! 800-823-0466

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815 Town Houses/Villas for Rent

HOBE SOUND SEA PINES. 55+ 2br/2ba w/garage. W/D. No smoking/ pets. \$850/mo. incl. cable 802-878-3064. See photos online www.HomeTownNewsOL.com Ad # 61918.

SEBASTIAN - Repair Shop 2 bays, plenty of parking, corner of 512 & US-1 across from Hess. Call Pete 631-445-6364

850 Commercial Real Estate for Rent

VERO BEACH- 1146 US 1 Warehouse/ Shop etc. 660 - 4,000sqft avail. 772-473-4402

Hometown News *Indian River County*

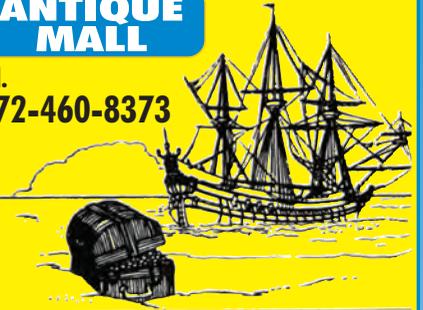
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Holidays at McKee

McKee Botanical Gardens annual Holidays at McKee drew an estimated 2,000 people last year. The event included photos with Santa and a model railroad display. Two-year-old Patrick McKee (no relation), and his mom, Julia, watch as the trains make their way through the display.



File photo

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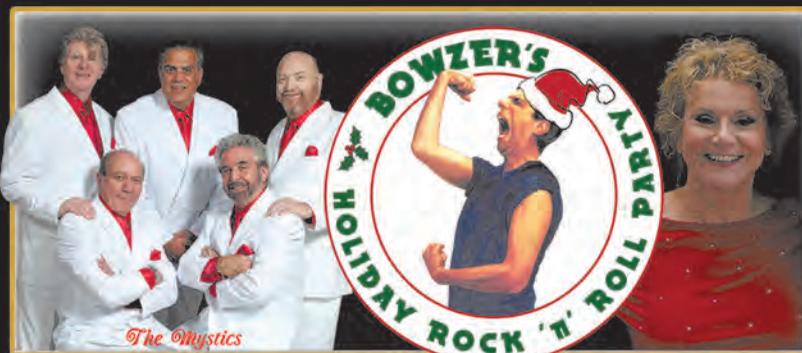
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Make December a Month to Remember!



Saturday, December 3
8 PM

Steve Solomon's ALL NEW...
"My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm Home for the Holidays"



Saturday, December 10
8 PM

Bowzer's Rock and Roll Holiday Party, featuring Peggy March and the Mystics, incorporates music and comedy into a highly entertaining show for the whole family!



Saturday, December 17
8 PM
Sinbad



Wednesday, December 21
7 PM
National Touring Production of "A Christmas Carol"



Tuesday, December 27
7 PM
The State Ballet Theatre of Russia presents "The Nutcracker" with a Company of over 65 Dancers



And Remember, Tickets and Memberships make GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!
Call the Box Office at 772-461-4775 or visit us at www.SunriseTheatre.com to see our complete schedule of performances, including Black Box events, such as our Tuesday Night Jazz Jams and Comedy Corner every 2nd & 4th Saturday Night.

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Choose your own Christmas tree

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — Decking the halls, roasting chestnuts on an open fire and visions of dancing sugarplums don't have to be the only Christmas traditions observed in Indian River County this year.

Christmas celebrations and wildlife conservation can go hand-in-hand this year with fresh-cut, all-natural Florida Christmas trees.

Jane Schnee is opening her recently acquired property in Sebastian, which she purchased to preserve as a Florida scrub jay habitat, to the public so they can choose pine trees to cut down and use for their personal Christmas trees.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Vero Beach and other volunteers from the Pelican Island Audubon Society will be on hand to cut down the sand pine trees that people can choose on their trip to the nearly 11-acre property on Barber Street in front of Park Place, the manufactured home community on four dates before Christmas, Ms. Schnee said.

"It will be like the pioneers used to do," Ms. Schnee said.

Volunteers will be on hand to help cut down trees on Nov. 25 and 26 and Dec. 3 and Dec. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., she said.

"I thought it would be a great idea for Christmas and we're doing it the week-end after Thanksgiving, which is when a

lot of people want to put up their Christmas decorations," Ms. Schnee said.

Sand pines are slender with short, soft needles and small oval pinecones. They tend to lean in the direction of the strongest winds and are considered a native Florida Christmas tree because they were used as Christmas trees by early Florida settlers.

The pine trees on the property, both slash pines and sand pines, have become quite plentiful and are limiting the scrub jay's line of sight when they watch for predators on Ms. Schnee's property, as well as taking up space they need for burying acorns to feed themselves during the winter when bugs are less plentiful, said Trish Adams of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Vero Beach.

The public is welcome to come out and pick out their tree and take it home for free, although a \$20 donation will give an individual a year-long membership to the Pelican Island Audubon Society, Ms. Adams said.

The funds raised will be used for conservation efforts in Indian River County.

By removing the trees from the property, a family will be joining in a historic Florida Christmas tradition and helping make a Florida scrub jay habitat a safer and healthier environment, Ms. Schnee said.

For more information, contact Ms. Schnee at (772) 589-3201.

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Wish list for Santa



From left, C. J. Coley, 6, his brother, Hunter, 8, and sister, Cassandra, 9, from Vero Lake Estates, got their pictures taken with Santa at the Indian River Mall. The trio, dressed in their Christmas outfits, let Santa know some of the things they hoped to receive on Christmas Day.

File photo



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Calendar

Friday, Dec. 2

- **Vero Beach boat parade**, Vero Beach Marina, Vero Beach, 6 p.m. Decorate your boat, have fun and win awards. Cost: free. *Website:* www.indianriverchamber.com.

Saturday, Dec. 3

- **Annual Christmas parade**, Beachside Vero Beach, 5:30 p.m. Cost: free. *Website:* www.verobeachoba.com.
- **Holiday round robin mixer**, Riverside Racquetball Complex, Vero Beach, time to be determined. Organized by the Vero Beach recreation department. Cost: to be determined. *Website:* www.covb.org.
- **Holiday expo and breakfast with Santa**, Indian River Mall, Vero Beach, time to be determined.

Monday, Dec. 4

- **Art in the Park**, Humiston Park, Vero Beach, 10 a.m. Outdoor fine art and craft show by the Vero Beach Art Club. Cost:

free. *Website:* www.verobeachartclub.org.

- **Happy holidays at the museum**, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, 1 p.m. Cost: free. *Website:* www.verobeachmuseum.org.

Friday, Dec. 9

- **Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest**, Grand Harbor Golf and Beach Club, Vero Beach, time to be determined. Kids' tennis clinic, reception and tennis exhibition. Cost: to be determined.

- **Community holiday party**, Vero Beach Community Center, Vero Beach, 11:30 a.m. Join the fun and ring in the holiday season with food, entertainment dancing and door prizes. Organized by the Vero Beach recreation department. Cost: to be determined. *Website:* www.covb.org.

- **Vero Beach Choral Society concert**, "Tidings of Joy: Sounds of the Season," Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero Beach, 7:30 p.m. Highlighting Benjamin Britten's "The Ceremony of Carols" and Antonio Vivaldi's "Magnificat in G Minor." Cost: adults \$20, students \$5. *Website:* http://verobeachchoralsociety.org.

Saturday, Dec. 10

- **Wildlife watching tour**, Captain Hiram's Resort, Sebastian, 10 a.m. Easy-paced paddling excursion with kayaks or stand up paddle boards organized by Florida Outdoor Center and guided by a naturalist. Trips available daily. Cost: \$35 for adults, \$10 for kids 15 and younger. *Website:* www.floutdoor.com.

- **Night sounds at Sebastian Inlet concert series**, Coconut Point, Sebastian Inlet State Park, Sebastian, 7 p.m. Featuring Sygnal, a diverse group of musicians playing jazz, blues, classic rock, rhythm and blues and reggae. *Website:* www.floridastateparks.org/sebastianinlet/events.cfm.

- **Silver Tones concert**, Indian River Mall, Vero Beach, times vary. The Senior Resource Association's Silver Tones Chorus will perform for holiday shoppers. Cost: free. *Contact:* Kelly de Long, (772) 469-2062.

- **Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest**, Holman Stadium, Vero Beach, time to be determined. Jake Owen concert with special guests. Cost: to be determined.

Sunday, Dec. 11

- **"Deck the Halls" holiday music concert**, Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach, 2 p.m. Cost: individual tickets, \$10 or \$12, senior ticket packages \$50. *Website:* http://sites.indianriverschools.org/vbhs/pac/pac/index.htm.

- **Winter concert**, Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach High School, Vero Beach, 2 p.m. Featuring high school bands. Cost: to be determined. *Website:* http://band.vero-beach.fl.us.

- **Vero Beach Choral Society concert**, "Tidings of Joy: Sounds of the Season," Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero Beach, 3 p.m. Highlighting Benjamin Britten's "The Ceremony of Carols" and Antonio Vivaldi's "Magnificat in G Minor." Cost: adults \$20, students \$5. *Website:* http://verobeachchoralsociety.org.

- **Theatre-Go-Round Presents** "Winter nights and Christmas lights," an evening of holiday harmonies at 4:30 p.m.; show at 6 p.m. Celebrate the goodwill and joyous spirit of the holidays with an evening of casual dining and songs of the season

See **CALENDAR, 7**

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Holiday production taking place Dec. 18

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — The city of Vero Beach recreation department's Aerial Antics Youth Circus will present "The Christmas Puzzle," an original performing arts holiday production Dec. 18 at 2 and 6 p.m. at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center.

Performers include gymnasts, dancers and aerial students from the

recreation department's performing arts programs, held year round at Leisure Square.

Admission donations are \$6 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at Leisure Square (3705 16th St.), the Vero Beach Community Center (2266 14th Ave.), Riverside Racquet Complex (350 Dahlia Lane) in Vero Beach or at the door.

For more information, call (772) 567-2144 or visit www.covb.org.

Calendar

From page 6

presented by Jon Putzke and Theatre-Goround at the Elks Lodge in Vero Beach. The celebration for the entire family will also feature a three-course prix fixe dinner menu catered by Blessings Bistro including a plated-tossed salad with Catalina dressing; dinner roll; entrée choice of raspberry chicken breast or citrus salmon accompanied by rice pilaf and green bean stuffed carrots; raspberry cheesecake and decaffeinated coffee. An a la carte cash soda, beer, wine and liquor bar will be available throughout the evening. The all-inclusive price for the three-course dinner, show, tax and gratuity is \$45 per person. Children ages 12 and under are \$35 and show-only tickets are \$22.50 per person. A group rate of \$40 per person is available for parties of 16 or more. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (772) 252-9341 or emailing theatregoround@gmail.com.

Monday, Dec. 12

- "Deck the Halls" holiday music concert, Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach, 7 p.m. Cost: Individual tickets, \$10 or \$12, senior ticket packages \$50. Website: <http://sites.indianriverschools.org/vbhspac/pac/index.htm>.

- Winter concert, Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach High School, Vero Beach, 7 p.m. Featuring high school bands. Cost: to be determined. Website: <http://band.vero-beach.fl.us>.

- Juvenile diabetes walk-a-thon, "Walk for the One You Love," Riverside Park, Vero Beach, 9 a.m. Proceeds go toward educating teachers and staff in identifying symptoms of undiagnosed diabetes and emergency and day-to-

day care. Cost: \$15 per person or \$100 for a group of 10. Website: www.jdac-fl.org.

Thursday, Dec. 15

- Fifth annual Margaritas and Mistletoe, Mulligan's Beach House, Vero Beach, 5:30 p.m. Fundraising event for Big Brother Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. Cost: \$15 or a child's gift, ages 6-9. Website: www.bbbsbig.org.

Thursday, Dec. 15

- Joint concert between the Silver Tones Chorus and the Gifford Youth Orchestra, Emerson Center at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Vero Beach, time to be determined. Cost: to be determined. Contact: Kelly de Long, (772) 469-2062

- Lower school Christmas concert, Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts, Saint Edward's School, Vero Beach, 7 p.m. Cost: to be determined. Website: www.steds.org.

- A taste of art history, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, noon. Featuring the "Paul Gauguin: The Savage Dream" video. Cost: free. Website: www.verobeachmuseum.org.

Thursday, Dec. 15 - Sunday, Dec. 18

- Holidays at McKee, McKee Botanical Garden, Vero Beach, 6 p.m. The Garden Café will be open and serve holiday treats. Activities and decorations include a meet and greet with Santa and Mrs. Claus, thousands of twinkling lights and a large-scale model train display. Cost: garden entry fees apply. Website: See CALENDAR, 18

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Seniors celebrate holiday season

Seniors from all over Vero Beach were treated to a holiday meal, music and some dancing as the city of Vero Beach recreation department held its annual community holiday party last December. Couples and friends gathered at the community center to celebrate the holidays together. Joyce Willey, center, wore her dancing Santas sweater just for the occasion.



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This year's hottest electronic gifts

By Tony Briggs

For Hometown News

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that one of the most popular gift-giving categories is electronics.

Just wander into Best Buy the day after Thanksgiving and check out the unruly mob of shoppers and the long lines at the checkout lanes. Lots of people like to give or receive gadgets for the holidays.

But which one to choose? It's always a daunting question, even for the experienced gadget freak. Here are some guidelines that might help, from someone who has bought more than his share of cutting-edge electronics over the past 30 years.

Tablets: No question about it. Tablets are the hottest thing out there these days and there are an increasing number to choose from. The two top sellers this year are likely to be two new 7-inch models: the Amazon Kindle Fire and the Nook Tablet from Barnes & Noble. Both are Android-powered devices but the Nook boasts more storage —

16GB versus 8GB on the Fire — and is more expandable with a micro SD slot. The biggest appeal of these two new tablets will likely to be their low prices, \$199 for the Fire and \$249 for the Nook.

No matter which one you choose, that's a real bargain compared to the industry-leading Apple iPad, which starts at about \$500. The iPad has a bigger screen, is more powerful and probably is still the only choice for Apple fanatics. But if you just want to find out what the big deal is about tablets, and don't want to spend an arm and a leg, the Kindle Fire and Nook Tablet probably will be good choices. Both tablets will be capable of streaming HD video (albeit from different specific collections) and tapping into each store's respective music and print libraries, as well as running a special collection of apps. Both are wi-fi only. No 3G option.

Prices are dropping quickly on the many of the iPad wanna-bes out there, including the Samsung Galaxy Tab, Toshiba Thrive, Motorola Xoom, Acer Iconia and others. Expect most

See **ELECTRONIC, 13**



Christmas in Gifford



The Gifford Business Association held its annual Christmas in Gifford last December. Despite the threat of rain, hundreds of residents came out and showed their support for the children during the holiday season. Four-year-old Reginald Bass shows off his Defenders robot set.

File photo



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Fresh, unique gift ideas at area farmer's markets

By Jessica Tuggle

jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — Goat milk soaps and lotions, freshly baked bread, garden accessories and more are among the treasures to be found at local farmer's markets that can make interesting gifts and treats for the Christmas season.

The holiday season is usually packed with activities, shopping and food, all of which can be found at the two outdoor farmer's markets in Vero Beach.

Brimming with produce from local farmers and retailers, breads, pastries, juices, honey and even poultry, the local markets have a little bit of everything for a delicious dinner table when family comes to visit.

The organic market in downtown Vero Beach is open on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Pocahontas Park. The ocean side farmer's market on Ocean Drive is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

"We had tried the organic market on

Sundays, but it wasn't a good time for anyone," said Kathleen Prouty, executive director of Main Street Vero Beach, organizers of the downtown market.

"We had had success on Fridays before, so we decided to move it back to Fridays and did it later in the afternoon so people can stop by after work," Ms. Prouty said.

The market is scheduled to end at 6 p.m., but sometimes the vendors stay out a little bit later, she said.

The downtown market highlights organic products including locally grown produce and even has some produce grown using a hydroponic system, Ms. Prouty said.

Healthy foods, such as gluten-free cookies, desserts and other bakery items are available at the market, as well.

Brittany Swartz, market manager at the ocean side market sponsored by the Vero Beach Oceanside Business Associ-

See **MARKETS, 14**

Holiday giving program provides for those in need

For Hometown News

NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — There are many in Indian River County who cannot afford to have a traditional Christmas, such as presents under the tree and a large holiday meal, but through the Angel Tree program, residents can help change that.

The Salvation Army provides hundreds of gifts, toys and holiday food boxes to families in need in Indian River County.

"We are looking for people who want to spread the joy of Christmas to help us provide toys to children in need in our community," said Maj. Veronica VanDenberg of the Salvation Army of Indian River County.

"No child should go without a toy for Christmas and every family deserves a nice holiday meal to share on Christmas day."

In 2010, the Salvation Army helped more than 994 children receive toys

and food on Christmas. The Salvation Army is teaming up with JC Penney for an online giving program that provides people across the country with the ability to adopt angels from the Salvation Army in their local community.

The website can be found at www.jcp.com/angel.

To make a financial donation to the Salvation Army call (800) SAL-ARMY or mail a check to: The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 2864 Vero Beach FL 32961.

Donate \$10 by texting the keyword "give" to 85944.

Angel trees can be found at several locations in Indian River County including Wal-Mart, The Indian River Mall Sears, RBC Banks, Indian River Estates and The North County Library.

After purchasing a gift, it should be returned to the location the angel was selected or to the Salvation Army office, 2655 Fifth St. Southwest, Vero

See **PROGRAM, 16**

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Walk benefits animal shelter



Blue skies and cool temperatures were abundant last December for the fourth annual 'Walk in the Park' to benefit Helping Animals Live and Overcome Animal Rescue in Sebastian. HALO employee Stacey Cummins made a couple of new friends before the walk. Each year HALO, which is a no-kill shelter, rescues, on average, 2,000 animals. For more information, call (772) 589-7297.

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Serving those in need

Ma Jaya Bhagavati, left, founder of Kashi and The River Fund's 'Feed Everyone' program, and legendary folk singer Arlo Guthrie, help serve food and later pass out presents and holiday turkeys to nearly 500 people last December at the Kingdom Church of Gifford. The Feed Everyone program helps the needy in Gifford twice a month.



File photo

Electronic

From page 9

of those to be quite a bit cheaper than a comparable iPad (although probably not as cheap as the Fire) after Thanksgiving, if not earlier. All run on the Android operating system, which will look and feel different from the custom-built versions of the same OS used on the Kindle Fire and Nook Tablet. Any of those larger tablets would be a good choice if you want a bigger screen than the Fire and Nook have, but don't want to spend the big bucks for an iPad. Expect to pay between \$300 and \$450, depending on the size and features.

Many tablets offer the same 3G option as the iPad, but the best advice is to skip that unless you are sure you need it. A tablet that can access the cellular network is not only more expensive on the front end, it costs the user \$30 a month or more for a data plan. Wi-fi only tablets don't require a data plan.

Also, you probably should avoid the "no-name" tablets. They may cost a lot less but there's a reason for that. No-name tablets are likely to suffer from poor reliability and build quality, dated or closed operating systems, and/or a lack of applications that will run on them.

If price is no object, the iPad is still the best of the bunch.

E-book readers: This was a hot category last year and is likely to be even hotter this year, again thanks to Amazon. It has cut the price on its base Kindle e-reader to \$79, about \$50 less than last year. That model would be the best choice if you want the best deal and are a big reader. The black and white e-ink screen on the Kindle is easier on the eyes over the long haul than color models and is readable even in bright sunlight.

If you want to spend a little more and like the idea of a touch screen, there are two good choices: for \$99, you can get a touch-screen version of the Kindle or the competing Barnes & Noble Nook Simple Touch. Barnes & Noble recently slashed the price of its Nook by \$40 so it can compete head-to-head with the Kindle. These two readers are very similar so the decision comes down to personal taste. Study each model, including the libraries they can access, and choose the one you like the best. Most color tablets can also be used as e-readers, but don't work as well as the dedicated black-and-white readers, whose e-ink display most closely mimic the printed page. Still, Barnes & Noble does make a color version of its Nook e-reader and recently cut the price from

\$250 to \$199.

Smartphones: These gadgets are always a popular choice for gift giving, since almost everyone can use one and new models seem to hit store shelves on almost a daily basis. Apple's new iPhone 4S is a good choice for Apple fans and newcomers to the smartphone world, since the OS is arguably better than the many Android competitors and the apps are often more capable. And with prices starting around \$199 (with two-year contract), it won't break the bank. Opt for the older, but almost as capable iPhone 4 if money is tight, it starts at \$99, half the price of the 4S. Or the even older iPhone 3GS, which in some cases, is free with a two-year contract. The iPhone 4 looks almost identical to the 4S but lacks the 4S internal improvements, including a faster processor and better camera.

On the Android front, the choices are more numerous and complicated.

Among the newest offerings is the Samsung Galaxy Nexus, due in mid-November and the first to run on the new Android 4 operating system code named Ice Cream Sandwich. This dual-core phone is 4G LTE capable, the fastest data service available, and has a larger screen than the iPhone. Prices have not been set but expect to pay between \$200 and \$300 (with contract)

to have this latest and greatest smartphone. Other options include the less-popular Windows-based and BlackBerry phones. Steer clear of those unless you need any special features they may offer. Apple and Android are now the dominant players in the cell phone marketplace.

For those who don't need the latest technology but still want the convenience of a cell phone, consider a pay-as-you-go service such as Tracfone. If you don't need a lot of minutes or the most modern smart phone, you can get a year's worth of cell phone service for less than \$9 a month (you also have to buy the phone, which generally costs from \$20 to \$50).

HDTV: Prices continue to fall on HDTVs, while the feature set improves. The sweet spot can be found in the 46-inch to 50-inch models, which are now going for as little as \$500 and are likely to go even lower as the holidays approach. The price of 32-inch models is now routinely below \$300. That could make HDTVs a good choice for gift giving this year.

The big push this holiday season, however, will be the more expensive models with wired or wireless Internet connectivity, which is usually tied to a

See **ELECTRONIC**, 14

Markets

From page 11

ation, said local farmers, growers and vendors are the core of their market structure and supporting them is the best way to thank them for all they do in Indian River County.

During the holidays, more vendors tend to come out, and this year will include a Christmas tree farm and a local poultry farmer whose turkeys and chicken are raised hormone- and antibiotic-free.

Produce, plants and pet treats are also available at the ocean side market, providing gift ideas and items for the

dinner table, Ms. Swartz said.

Handmade home and garden decorative accessories could be an excellent, unique gift idea, and locally grown candied pecans make great stocking stuffers, she said.

Buying citrus to munch on or give as gifts is also possible at the ocean side market.

"Farmers give to our community in so many ways, so this is a way for us to support them," Ms. Swartz said.

For more information about the Main Street Vero Beach organic market, visit www.mainstreetverobeach.org.

For more information about the Farmer's Market Oceanside, visit www.verobeachoba.com.

Electronic

From page 13

feature often called Smart TV. These TVs have built-in apps, similar to the ones found on smartphones. There are lots of different apps, but most consumers probably will focus on those that allow for the direct streaming of movies or TV shows, including Hulu, Vudu, Netflix, CinemaNow,

Blockbuster and others.

You can also buy stand alone boxes from a variety of companies that do much the same thing or Blu-ray players that include the Smart TV feature. In concept, this is a good idea. But the implementation is lacking in my experience. Smart TV features can be slow and clunky, and just don't bring much usefulness to the party unless you don't have cable. They are

See ELECTRONIC, 16



File photo

Blue skies and light winds are the norm at the Farmer's Market Oceanside. Vendors gather across from Humiston Park and sell fresh vegetables, breads, seafood and jams from 8 a.m. to noon. Two-year-old Zoë Simon shares a chocolate croissant with her mom, Suzanne, as they listen to the live music.

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PECAN DAINITIES

1/2 cup soft butter
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup sifted flour
1 cup pecans, chopped

Mix butter, sugar, and vanilla together.
Stir in flour and pecans.

Chill for at least an hour.
Shape into marble-size balls.
Bake on ungreased cookie sheet 350 degrees for 15-17 minutes until firm but not brown.

Roll gently in powdered sugar and cool. Sugar again.
Makes about 50.

SUBMITTED BY JEANINE GURNEY, Life Coach

My Grandma's Ginger Snap Cookies

My Grandma loved her ginger, and these cookies have a spice ginger kick, which may be an acquired taste for some especially if there are children who are accustomed to mostly sweet cookies. This recipe may be prepared successfully with either 1 or 2 teaspoons of ground ginger, or up to 1 tablespoon of freshly grated ginger root instead.

2 1/4 cup flour
2 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp baking soda
3/4 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp cloves

1/4 tsp salt
3/4 cup butter
1 cup sugar
1 egg
1/4 cup molasses

Cream sugar and butter. Add egg then molasses. Stir in dry ingredients, shape into 1 & 1/2 inch balls. Roll in sugar. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 - 15 minutes.

Recipe Courtesy of Sweet Creations by Lori Young

NICE & EASY SMORES

Ingredients
Graham crackers (4 sections divided)
Fluff Marshmallow Creme
Chocolate morsels

Procedure
Spoon a small amount of Fluff onto one Graham cracker. Add a few chocolate morsels.
Place another Graham cracker on top and press lightly. Continue procedure to make plate full chocolate & fluff
Microwave smores for a few seconds to slightly melt chocolate & fluff

(Variation: add peanut butter morsels along with chocolate morsels to Fluff)

Courtesy of The Bruno Chocolate Factory

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Program

From page 11

Beach, by Dec. 12.

The gifts must be returned unwrapped.

This year there are more than 600 families registered who are in need of Christmas assistance.

Interested groups or individuals who wish to help provide a family with a meal and the children with gifts can contact the Salvation Army at (772) 978-0265, Ext. 105.

Electronic

From page 14

certainly not worth paying a huge premium for.

Ditto for the other HDTV gimmick that was the hot ticket last year, 3D. It works, but content is limited and you need to buy a special 3D Blu-ray player to watch 3D Blu-ray movies and the glasses you have to wear are a pain. If you can get 3D or smart TV for little or no extra money, go for it. But generally

See **ELECTRONIC, 17**

Old-fashioned Christmas



Gifford residents were remembered again last December with an old-fashioned Gifford Christmas on 45th Street and 33rd Avenue. Engineer Kyle Kofke of Station 12 took some of the children for a tour of engine 12 during the event.

File photo

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Legend passes out presents



Arlo Guthrie, left, helps E. J. with his bag of presents during the 'Feed Everyone' program at the Kingdom Church of Jesus in Gifford last December. The Feed Everyone program is part of Kashi's River Fund, which is a service arm for other programs such as By the River senior living facility.

File photo

Electronic

From page 16

speaking you're better off sticking with a good basic HDTV. Look for a name-brand LCD or plasma model in the size that best fits your budget with 1080p resolution (that's less important on screens less than 40 inches). Picture quality and reliability have improved to the point now where almost all available models are very good. However, if you want a TV with the widest viewing angles, go for a plasma set.

If price is no object, go for the absolutely huge 80-inch LCD HDTV's that are available this year. Cost: about \$5,000.

GPS: Like nearly every other electronic device, the cost of stand-alone GPS units has been falling fast in recent years. They start at less than \$100 and you can get a top of the line model, with voice recognition for around \$300. While the el-cheapo models work, most consumers will be happier with a more advanced model with features like text-to-speech (the

See **ELECTRONIC**, 27

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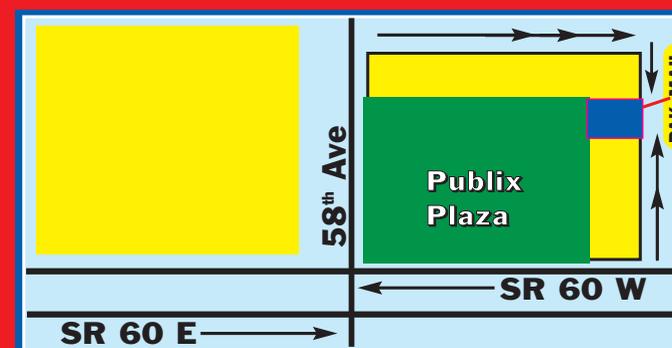
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Musical trains



File photo

Two-year-old Ella Shuster and her grandmother, Sandy Davis, watch in amazement as three G-scale model trains owned by Jim 'Sunny' Calb, play holiday tunes and circle the Christmas tree at Riverview Park last December.

Holiday dance



File photo

The Vero Beach recreation department held its annual community holiday party last December at the community center in Vero Beach. About 150 people were on hand for a holiday meal, some music and of course, some dancing. Charles McKenzie and Gloria Price shared a dance after the meal.

Calendar

From page 7

www.mckee garden.org.

Thursday, Dec. 17

- Art show, Riverview Park, Sebast-

ian, 10 a.m. Hosted by the Sebastian River Art Club. Rain date: Dec. 18. Cost: free. *Website:* www.sebastian-riverartclub.org.

- **Wicked fun paddle day**, Captain Hiram's Resort, Sebastian, 10 a.m. Fun races for kayak, canoe and stand-up paddleboards organized by the Florida Outdoor Center. No experience

necessary. Cost: \$35 for adults, free for kids. *Website:* www.flocracing.com.

- **Winter celebration**, Schumann Hall Senior Center, Vero Beach, 5 p.m. Catered Italian dinner, dance and special performance by the Silver Tones Chorus. Cost: to be determined. *Contact:* Kelly de Long, (772) 469-2062

Thursday, Dec. 17 and Friday, Dec. 18

- **Treasure Coast Chorale concert**, "Handel's Messiah," First Baptist Church of Vero Beach, Vero Beach, 7 p.m. A holiday classic featuring the chorale and a See **CALENDAR, 20**

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Festival of trees



File photo
Bill Stuhlinger and his wife, Joan, browse through the dozens of trees and other holiday items at the Agnes Wohlstrom Youth Playhouse and Anne Morton Theatre for a sneak peek of the Festival of Trees.

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Calendar

From page 18

community choir. Cost: free, with a good-will offering. *Website:* <http://treasurecoastchorale.org>.

Sunday, Dec. 18

- Performing arts holiday drama, Vero Beach High School, Vero Beach, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Organized by the Vero Beach recreation department. Cost: to be determined. *Website:* www.covb.org.

- Space Coast Symphony Orchestra concert series, "A Stan Kenton Merry Christmas and Duke Ellington's 'Nutcracker,'" Emerson Center at the Uni-

tarian Universalist Fellowship, Vero Beach, 2:30 p.m. Showcasing big band arrangements of iconic Christmas favorites, and a jazzy interpretation of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker." *Website:* www.spacecoastsymphony.org.

Tuesday, Dec. 27- Thursday, Dec. 29

- Nights of lights, McKee Botanical Garden, Vero Beach, 6 p.m. Holiday visitors can stroll the garden's lights, including a new water display exclusive to these three nights. Large-scale model train also open. Cost: garden entry fees apply. *Website:* www.mckee garden.org.

Admiring holiday decorations

Helen Sargent of Sebastian admires the Christmas tree at Grant's historical house last December. Volunteers decorate the old Bensen family home each year and open it to the public for the holidays.



File photo

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SALAD WRAP
 Provolone, lettuce, tomato, carrots, celery, peppers, mushrooms and balsamic vinaigrette

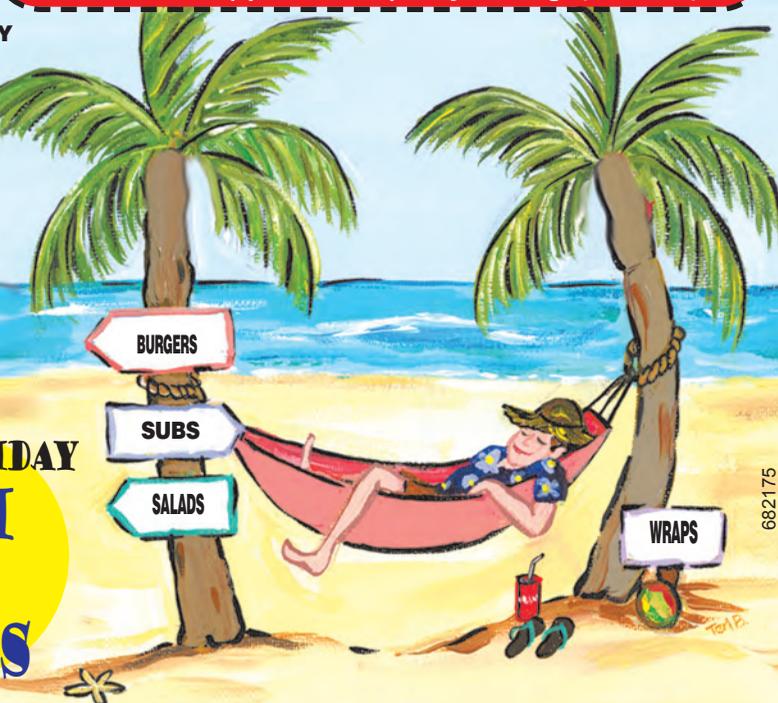
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Artichokes make elegant Christmas appetizers

Hello, smart shoppers. Let's make an amazing Christmas appetizer.

For as far back as I can remember, artichokes were one of my favorite foods. If you've never had an artichoke, there's no time like Christmas to try one. It's not something served at many tables and they can be expensive, but it is a gourmet treat you must try.

Artichokes are nutrient dense and high in fiber. If you're having a small intimate dinner, nothing can compare to stuffed artichokes.

The ways I remember eating artichokes are stuffed, marinated or with oil and garlic. Every recipe I've ever read has you dipping the leaves in either butter or hollandaise sauce. Mayonnaise and aioli are other popular choices.

I think that if asked what one of my favorite things to do is, I would have to say teaching a little child how to eat an artichoke.

Trivial? No. Sheer joy!

If you've never eaten one, come along with me and we'll learn how.

The base, or heart, of the artichoke

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is the part you want to eat. Every time you pull a leaf off the base, it has a little piece of the delicious heart clinging to it. You do not eat the whole leaf; you put it between your teeth and then pull the leaf out, catching the pillow of flesh with your teeth.

When my granddaughter, Meagan, was 2, she watched her daddy, Steve, eat an artichoke and reached out for it. When I asked her if she wanted to try one, she shook her head yes. How do you explain to a 2 year old that "bite down" does not mean hang on for dear life? She clamped her teeth down on that leaf as I struggled to pull it out of her mouth. Once she got a taste of the delicious flesh, though, she quickly learned the proper technique.

Once all of the leaves have been pulled off and enjoyed, you are left

with the "choke" and the heart. You never want to learn what the "choke" in artichoke really means. The inedible florets in the center of the vegetable will most definitely make you choke and must be removed.

Getting to the artichoke heart is like getting to the prize at the bottom of a cereal box. It is superb and can be eaten out of hand or used in many dishes. You can also peel the stem, slice and cook it with the artichokes. Enjoy, see you next week!

STUFFED ARTICHOKE

Serves 4

- 4 large artichokes
- 3 cups soft bread crumbs, (four slices of bread)
- 1 tablespoon parsley flakes or few sprigs chopped Italian parsley
- 1/2-teaspoon each dried oregano and salt
- 1/4-teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4-pound fresh mushrooms, chopped (optional)
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped

1/3-cup grated, imported Parmesan cheese

1/2-cup lightly toasted pine nuts, coarsely chopped

Extra virgin olive oil

Dry white wine, such as chablis or Chardonnay

Prepare artichokes by cutting the stem end even with the bottom. Break off small leaves at the bottom and snip off tips of the leaves. Smash top down on cutting board to loosen leaves.

Place in cold water to which you have added 1 tablespoon lemon juice for 15 minutes. Rinse, drain and pull open as much as possible. Place upright in a large pot with 1-inch water and a little lemon juice.

Cover, bring to a boil and simmer for 30 minutes. While the artichokes won't be fully cooked, they will be easier to stuff. When cool enough to handle using a small knife or grapefruit knife spread leaves and cut down into center to remove the inedible

See ROMANCING, 24

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Romancing

From page 23

choke (fuzzy stuff).

Process or blend bread slices and mix with next seven ingredients.

Press stuffing between as many leaves as possible. Place artichoke upright back in the pot. Add about 1 cup water, 1/2 cup oil and 1/2 cup wine. Cook covered about 30 minutes until an outer and inner leaf pulls out easily. The liquid should evaporate leaving only the oil. Add more water, wine or oil if necessary to complete cooking.

Serve at room temperature drizzling each with remaining oil in pot.

HOLIDAY SPECIAL: For an autographed cookbook, "Romancing The Stove with the Grammy Guru," send \$17.50 instead of \$19.50. For multiple books sent to one address add \$2 postage for each additional book (\$15 plus \$2). Send to: Arlene M. Borg, 265 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd, No. 149, Port St. Lucie, FL 34984. Check or money order accepted or visit Vero Beach book center. Website: www.romancingthestove.net

Holiday plant safety tips

Hi, everybody. With the holidays getting into full swing, many of us are going to purchase one or more colorful holiday plants that are available.

For the most part, these plants are safe, but some safety precautions should be taken. With some common sense precautions, you can have a safe and happy holiday season.

Poinsettia. These colorful holiday plants are safe plants to have around your home during the holidays. As with any ornamental, they should be kept out of reach of small children and should never be ingested.

Although not particularly toxic to humans, they can be very toxic to small animals. If you have pets that have a habit of chewing your plants, opt for the artificial variety. They can often look just as spectacular as the real thing and you can reuse them year after year. Over time, this can save you a pile of money.

Mistletoe. Using mistletoe as a decoration is a tradition that has been carried out for centuries. During

GARDEN NOOK
JOE ZELENAK



Pagan times, troops at war who met with the presence of mistletoe were required to lay down their weapons and unite in a day of truce. Mistletoe was also used during rituals that celebrated the winter solstice. It was used as a symbol of the eventual return of the sun.

In Christianity, mistletoe has been used as symbol of love ever since the Middle Ages. During this era, mistletoe was blessed by a priest and all those who walked under it kissed as a sign of friendship and all bad feelings were extinguished.

In modern times, the tradition of being kissed under the mistletoe is still in full force. A trip to your local holiday shop will usually yield both live and artificial versions of this popular holiday plant. The "live"

mistletoe plant is toxic if ingested and should be kept out of the reach of small children and pets. As long as it is not ingested, this plant can still create a warm feeling of friendship to all who walk under it.

Live Christmas trees. Although live trees are the main symbol of this great day, they can pose hazards if not handled and cared for properly. The main hazard from live trees is fire. When you first bring your tree home, be sure to cut a slice off the bottom before placing it in its new location. This will help the tree to absorb water faster, which will greatly lengthen its useful life.

There are many products on the market that are labeled as "tree savers" that are useful in helping the tree to absorb water faster and over a longer period of time. It is important when choosing the location for your new tree to place it away from any heat sources or sparks. In the past, using faulty Christmas lights that either shorted out or sparked has caused most tree-related fires.

See **NOOK, 26**

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Make your holiday shopping more personal

I cannot tell you how many times I have seen a small business open up in my community, say to myself, "Oh, that's great, I'll have to get in there," and then drive by months later and realize that I have yet to make that first stop to see what this new venture is all about.

This frustrates me. My intentions are good. And maybe if I had seen various advertisements reminding me about the place, I would have made that visit.

The best part is when it's locally owned; it's not just a business, but a person — possibly a neighbor or someone I know from the gym or the park or school events.

It's personal.

I think of the excitement they must have had when first getting the idea for the business, putting it together and actually seeing it take shape. Then, as the excitement slowly fades and the reality of success or failure is in plain view, the realization of such a brave move takes hold.

It is all of our responsibility to help our local business people succeed. It is the core of a community. The lifeblood. Without our local business partners, we would be left with only the large national chains with no ties to our community, only looking to take our money and run when times get rough.

So, this holiday season, I have made a pact with myself to purchase everything I possibly can from local purveyors. Bikes, music, wine, gourmet food, books, even clothes for my trendy wife can be found in

**PUBLISHER,
CHIEF
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STEVE
ERLANGER



businesses owned by those who live among us.

Sure, I might pay a little more, but that extra coin will stay in my community, not be shipped off to some corporate headquarters up north.

And by purchasing local, you get hometown service. It's nice to be able to pick up the phone and get an actual person on the line or walk into a place and talk to the same person who sold you an item.

Holiday dinners and parties? Local restaurants only. There's something to be said about walking into a place "where everyone knows your name."

Not that all locally owned businesses are perfect. Many of them are owned by people who have never been in business for themselves before. But because they dreamed and dared, I think we can cut them a little slack while they work out the kinks. If we stick with them now, think of the gratitude they will show us later.

I hope you will join me in patronizing locally owned businesses this holiday season. Because it's not just business, it's personal.

Steve Erlanger is publisher and chief operations officer for Hometown News.

'Tis the Season

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DBPD chief: He runs, he bikes, he chases perps!
Page 7

Elvis changed everything
Page 12

Baby Boomers: Growing old with a rock 'n' roll attitude
Page 16

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Gifts for all types of golfers

Happy holidays! Just in case you are stumped on what to get that special golfer on your holiday gift list, I have a few suggestions.

Putters have become an art form, and no one is better at creating a putter that is also a piece of art than Bruce Sizemore. His latest line is a collaboration with Super Stroke (www.superstrokeusa.com), the company with the oversize grips that K.J. Choi has used with much success.

The Diamond Cut Finish line features four new models, with two mallets on the way. The putter was designed to work in concert with the Super Stroke grips. The result is a beautiful putter that performs even better than it looks. You can even custom build your own right on the website for an even more perfect fit.

If you know someone who's not swing the club as fast as they used to, or simply want something lighter, faster and ultimately longer in their hands, try Tour Edge's (www.touredge.com) new Bazooka HT Max-D drivers and fairway woods.

The new HT Max D line features an aerodynamic design and lighter, longer shaft that helps generate faster club head speed for longer shots. The deep face, huge sweet spot and advanced weighting technology combine to deliver explosive power and accuracy.

Best of all, the driver retails for under \$150 and the fairways under \$120 and come with Tour Edge's lifetime warranty and a 30-day performance guarantee.

If your golfer loves to travel, the Datrek Golf's (www.datrekgolf.com) three-piece travel set may be the perfect gift. The set includes a golf bag travel cover with wheels, a duffel bag and a

GOLF
JAMES STAMMER



shoe bag for under \$100.

The travel cover features lots of padding and extra pockets and also has in-line skate wheels for a smooth, easy roll. The duffel bag is just the right size for a carry-on.

Every golfer could use some practice. Improving your putting is the quickest way to lower your score. Fan Mats and Tour Links (www.TourLinks.net) has combined the logo from your favorite professional team, or college or military branch into its new line of putting greens.

These greens feature club speed turf with adjustable breaks and two regulation cups and pins. The 4-foot by 10-foot green is ready for use in any indoor or outdoor space. Molded from high impact polymers, the patented design makes installation a snap.

Kangarila (www.kangarila.com) is a new way of playing golf that will add an extra level of fun or frustration to your game. In this game the balls act as dice. The balls are printed with the names of different clubs such as "wedge" or "7-iron." You tee off and hit your Kangarila golf ball. When you arrive at the ball, the side facing up will tell you which club you must use for your next shot.

It's a great way to add some fun and improve on your shot-making skills. You can even just choose one or two holes each round where you play the Kangari-

See **GOLF, 27**

Nook

From page 24

In addition, lights that produce too much heat can be a problem on a tree that has been in use for an extended period of time.

Today, one of the best ways to stay safe is to use the new LED lights that are available for decorating. They look great and besides running cooler than other lights, they also save you green. They use a fraction of the power of conventional lighting methods.

Use only UL-approved extension cords and power strips. Using LED

lights will not create as much of a load on your extension cords and power adapters.

With the availability of a large selection of artificial trees, for many people this will be a great alternative to the live tree. Most are now in three pieces with all the lights already attached and they last year after year saving you lots of money over time.

As you can see, with some common sense practices, you can stay safe this holiday season.

Joe Zelenak has 28 years experience in gardening and landscape. Email hometowngarden@gmail.com or visit his website www.hometowngarden.com.

Stammer

From page 26

la balls.

While we don't experience snow and seldom see freezing temperatures for any extended period of time, we Floridians still need jackets and sweaters.

Abacus Apparel (www.abacus-outdoor.com) is the company that outfitted the European Solheim Cup team. Its new pebble fleece jacket is perfect for those cool days that we see in the winter here. The soft, warm polyester fleece features a full-length front zipper and flat-lock seams that allow you to stay warm and unrestricted while swinging.

The newest apparel from Sunice (www.sunice.com), outfitter to the U.S. Solheim Cup team, is its Typhoon Collection.

The company has added the benefit of "full-stretch" to this line. Now in addition to a breathable, lightweight, quieter performance fabric, you get the benefit of a garment that stretches with you while keeping the wind and rain away.

Books are another great gift idea. Stuart resident Judy Alvarez is a world renowned golf instructor and "Golf Digest" Florida top 15 teacher. She has trained PGA and LPGA professionals, conducted seminars, clinics and more.

Her new book "Broken Tees and Mended Hearts" is an inspirational read. In the book she talks of her experiences working as an instructor for veterans and civilians with disabilities. It is available at most book stores, golf shops and through her website at www.JudyAlvarez.com.

Finally, there is always a gift certificate for a round of golf or even a cap or shirt from their favorite course. Some of the more famous courses in the country will even ship hats and shirts to you if you call them and place an order with your credit card.

Whatever you decide I'm sure the golfer on your list will love the thought that went into it. Just be sure to avoid the topless lady tees!

Contact James Stammer at stammeregolf@yahoo.com.

Electronic

From page 17

names of the roads are spoken), lane-assist (tells you more about the next turn, including the number of turn lanes and which side of the road the exit is on) and Bluetooth (pairs with your Bluetooth phone for hands-free phone calls).

Stick with a name brand, such as Garmin, Tom-Tom or Magellan and go for at least a 4.3-inch screen. The larger 5-inch screens don't cost a lot more so if you like the idea of a bigger screen, go for it.

Speech recognition, which allows you to control the device with voice commands, also is a convenient feature, but sometimes it is not well implemented. Check online reviews before you buy.

Lifetime maps and traffic service are also desirable features if you plan to keep the GPS unit for more than a year.

Odds and ends: If you or someone you know suffers from remote control clutter, solve it with a unified remote that allows you control everything with one device. I have tried lots of them but the best I have found is the Harmony One from Logitech. It handles up to 15 devices and all programming is done via the Harmony One Web site, so there are no frustrating multi-number codes to enter. And when you are done, it's easy to start your TV, stereo receiver, cable box, DVD or Blu-ray player and gaming devices with one touch. The customizable LCD touch screen on the Harmony One is activity based. So to watch TV, you simply choose "watch TV" and all the correct devices come on with all the right settings. Ditto for playing video games or playing a DVD.

The Harmony One is not cheap, between \$150 and \$200, and the setup can be

challenging. But it can save you a lot of headaches and allow you to shove all those other remote controls into a drawer somewhere. (Harmony also makes less expensive versions starting at around \$30 that can be programmed online.)

Another good inexpensive gift for someone who has an iPod or other music device that supports Bluetooth is a good pair of wireless Bluetooth stereo headphones. Everyone who has ever used earbuds knows the cord that connects the earpieces to the player can be a pain. Bluetooth headphones, which cost between \$30 and \$100, allow you to get rid of the cord, without loss of sound quality. Shop online for the best selection and price, since these gadgets are scarce and expensive in most area retail stores.

Happy holiday shopping.

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Giving to charity

Salvation Army bell ringer Elaine Bessey, left, watches as Heather Nagel, a physician at Sebastian River Medical Center, donates Nov. 26. 'It's a great way to get rid of all of the loose change on the bottom of your purse,' Dr. Nagel said. Last December was Ms. Bessey's fourth year as a bell ringer.



File photo

Tip

From page 30

beyond?

Of course, there are no ironclad rules when it comes to tipping or gifting others during the holidays. For example, many people don't find it necessary to tip their auto mechanic come the holidays for the same reasons you wouldn't tip an attorney.

Both are already well compensated, and an extra tip is not necessary. However, if your auto mechanic saved your car from the scrap heap or provided service that is above and beyond what you have a right to expect, then perhaps a tip or a thoughtful gift is in order.

When the holiday season arrives, generosity often reigns. But men and women should not feel obligated to tip or gift every person in their lives.

Wrapping

From page 30

Other tips

There are different tips that can help with wrapping.

- Buy neutral-patterned wrapping paper that coordinates with other papers. This way if you run out of one type of paper you can stagger other pieces and make a collage of papers so there's no waste.

- Use ribbon to dress up a gift and direct the eye away from any imper-

fections.

- Keep a stack of paper scraps and use it instead of tissue paper to fill in gift bags.

- Keep scissors sharp for clean cuts.
- Pack smaller items or oddly shaped things into a different container that is easier to wrap.

- Roll up clothing and place into a paper towel tube to turn the wrapping into a candy cane shaped gift.

Practice often makes perfect when it comes to wrapping gifts. Having the right paper, a few decorative supplies and some patience can ensure that gifts look festive this year.

Parade memories



File photo

Hayden Gibbons and C. J. Mellilo of Vero Beach climbed aboard the Andretti Thrill Park Train last December for the annual Christmas parade sponsored by the Oceanside Business Association.



File photo

Vero Beach Police Sgt. Ken Barrett and granddaughter, Kallissa, watch as the annual Christmas parade moved north along Ocean Drive last December. Dozens of floats, emergency vehicles and the VBHS Marching Band helped kick off the holiday season in style.

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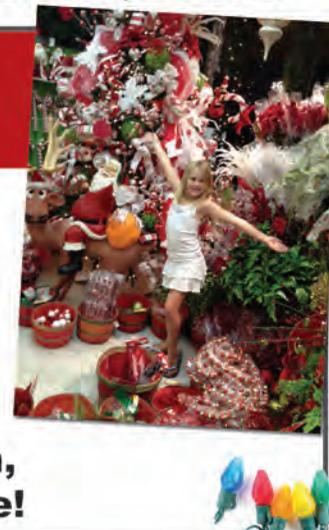
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Annual Christmas parade



Rosewood Magnet School Principal Deborah Dillon and several students rode on last year's Nutcracker float during last year's Christmas parade.

File photo

Gift wrapping tricks and tips

Metrocreativeconnection.com
For Hometown News

The holidays are here and that means shoppers have started to stockpile gifts for those they love. Once the shopping rush is over, the time to wrap all of those great finds and treasures has come.

Although some people are gift-wrap gurus, there are many others who feel that their wrapping skills are lacking. Regardless, anyone can create delightful wrapped gifts with a little know-how.

Prepare

The first step to wrapping is to have all of the supplies in one place. There are some people who have actually dedicated small rooms as gift-wrap stations. While you don't have to go this far, find a large table and keep your tape, tags, paper, ribbon, scissor, pen, and other accessories nearby.

Also, sort out the gifts according to recipient and have any gift receipts handy to wrap up with the gift.

Wrap at a time when there are no distractions and you can devote your

attention to the task at hand, like after children have gone to bed or during the day when no one is home.

Paper or bags?

When purchasing wrapping paper, it may be tempting to skimp on the quality of the paper to save money. However, a thicker, higher quality paper will make wrapping go more smoothly. That's because it will be less likely to tear on boxes or when you're rolling out and cutting it.

Thicker paper means you'll also be able to achieve more intricate folds and better creasing around boxes. It also may be more forgivable around oddly shaped items.

Gift bags are the go-to wrapping medium when you're short on time or have items that are not easily wrapped with paper. Because they come in a variety of sizes — and even giant plastic bags to contain large gifts — they are often more convenient.

See **WRAPPING, 28**

Who to tip during the holidays

Metrocreativeconnection.com
For Hometown News

Come the holiday season, most people find themselves in a giving mood. Gifting friends, family and even coworkers is common, but there are many other people in our daily lives who societal norms suggest deserve a gift as well.

Holiday tipping is more common in certain areas than others, but there are a few questions men and women can ask themselves when trying to decide if a person in their lives deserves a holiday tip or gift.

How often do you see the person?

How frequently you see a person can help determine if that person deserves a holiday gift or tip. For example, a child's babysitter or nanny deserves a little something extra come the holidays because you likely see that person on a regular basis. The same goes for the postman or a dog walker. Men and women you rarely see or rarely need do not warrant a tip or gift.

Where do you live?

Where a person lives also goes a

long way toward determining a holiday tip or gift. People who live in apartments should show their appreciation to the doorman and building superintendent with a tip or gift. Homeowners need not tip their local handyman, however, even if he performs the same tasks as a building superintendent. Homeowners tend to do more of their own fix-ups around the house, while apartment dwellers often rely on the super to keep their apartment in tip-top shape.

Is the person a professional?

Men and women who provide professional services, such as accountants, lawyers and doctors, do not warrant a tip during the holidays. These professionals are already paid handsomely for their services, and many might even gift their customers. For those who have an especially strong relationship with their accountant, lawyer, etc., perhaps a gift such as a bottle of wine might be a nice gesture. But it's certainly not mandatory.

Did the person go above and

See **TIP, 28**

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750 ML
\$6.99
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CUPCAKE ALL
750 ML
\$7.99
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BEARFOOT WINE
1.5 LTR
\$9.99
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BLUE FISH RIESLING
750 ML
\$4.99
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SENECA KINGS & 100'S
CARTON
\$30.99
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