

Seminole Herald

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November 26, 1999
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Weather
Partly
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High: 78
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2A



**SCW to end
run at Civic
Center tonight**

1B



**Lottery
Winning
Numbers**

3A

"Twas the month
before Christmas"



Nov. 26
29 shopping
days to Christmas

**55-Alive driving
program for seniors
is Dec. 13, 14**

The AARP 55-Alive Mature Driving Program is scheduled in Seminole County on December 13 and 14 at South Seminole Hospital. The program, for motorists age 50 and older, addresses the physical changes that can affect older drivers and presents ways to compensate for those changes.

In Florida, drivers may be eligible for auto insurance discounts through the program.

Tuition is \$8 to be paid at the first class. Tuition after January 1 will be increased to \$10. For additional information phone (407) 351-0932.

Today is ...

Friday, Nov. 26, 1999
Today is the 330th day of 1999
and the 65th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1864, "Alice in Wonderland," by Lewis Carroll, was first published.

On this day in 1968, sales of the single "I'm a Believer," by The Monkees, earned a gold record for the group.

On this day in 1988, members of the group Pink Floyd watched a French-Soviet space launch at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in the Soviet Union.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:
Sarah Grimke (1792-1873), anti-slavery and women's-rights activist; Eric Sevareid (1912-1992), broadcast journalist; Charles M. Schulz (1922-), cartoonist, is 77; Robert Goulet (1933-), singer-actor, is 66; Rich Little (1938-), impressionist, is 61; Tina Turner (1938-), singer, is 61.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1968, O.J. Simpson of the University of Southern California won the Heisman Trophy.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I am inclined to think, when we are admitted to studying Greek and Hebrew, we shall produce some various readings of the Bible a little different from those we now have."
Sarah Grimke

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Nov. 23) and last quarter (Nov. 29).

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ENTERPRISE ASSN.

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Father arrested for sexual battery

By Bill Kerns
Staff Writer

SANFORD — A 47-year-old Sanford man is accused of committing sexual acts with his 10-year-old step-daughter.

Edward Toedtli is accused of having illegal contact with a ten year old girl, who lived with him at 5600 Wilson Road in Sanford with her mother.

Toedtli was arrested Tuesday night and charged with 20 counts of lewd and lascivious handling on a child under 16, as well as 30 counts of committing sexual

Toedtli faces 50 counts involving his 10-year-old step-daughter

battery on a child under 16.

Investigators said the victim's older sister may have been victimized as well, and that charges are pending. In addition, investigators are looking into the possibility that another child, not related to Toedtli, may have also been victimized.

Toedtli, who is a professional plumber,

is being held in the Seminole County Jail without bond.

The Department of Children and Families informed the Seminole County Sheriff's Office about the case on Tuesday. The victim had informed child abuse investigators that she had been molested by Toedtli.

The 10-year-old girl and her mother were transported to Kids House of Seminole County, in Sanford, for treatment as well as further investigation of the case.

During taped interviews with investigators, the girl said that she had been shown pornographic video, and the Toedtli had her perform oral sex as well as touched her in inappropriate areas.

Toedtli admitted to investigators with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office that he showed the girl pornography, performed oral sex with her, and simulating intercourse with her.

Deck the Malls

Stores opened as early as 6 a.m., closing at 11 p.m. to meet the holiday rush

By Russ White
Staff Writer

It was 5:30 a.m. when the employees at Parisian department store-Seminole Towne Center arrived for work today. And they weren't alone. As many as 50 customers anxiously waited outside, hoping to be the first in when the doors opened at 6.

The post-Thanksgiving stampede was on throughout Seminole County.

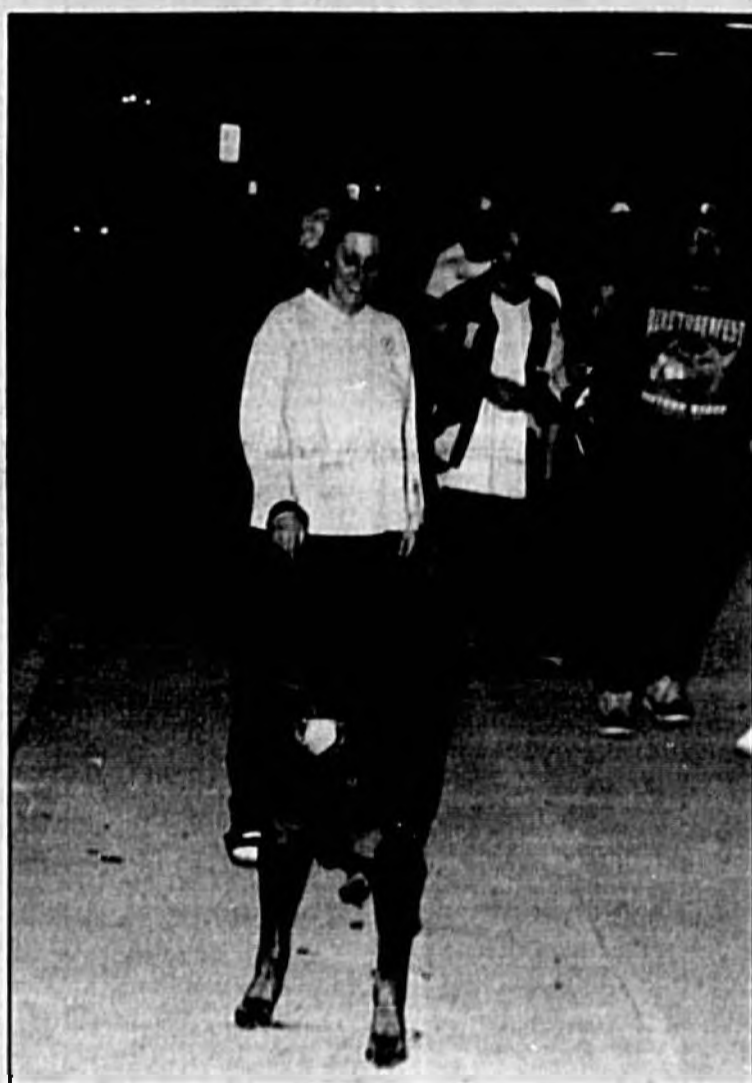
Roused by discounts and what's known as "Door Busters," swarms of shoppers were up a dawn to shop at the region's major malls. Almost all the mall stores were open by 7 a.m.

Retail analysts call this "Black Friday," because if sales are brisk they can confidently predict a profitable shopping season. Going shopping the day after Thanksgiving is a tradition for many shoppers, some going just for the fun of it.

Mark Slonim, the manager at J.C. Penney Company at Seminole Towne Center, scheduled each of the store's 180 employees

on overlapping shifts. "We want everyone fresh," he said. "No one is going to work from dawn to dusk. Each shopper we greet should feel as if he or she has just met J.C. Penney himself."

As the custom, Penney's had



Debbie Overfield and her dog Duke were one of many who began waiting in line before dawn at the Lake Mary Target. Lines to get in extended past the store's garden shop.

surprises for the first shoppers. This year the surprises included a plush Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer tree ornament, antlers and blinking noses.

"This is one of the three biggest days for us," Slonim said. "We had a big sale last Saturday and the Saturday before Christmas will be a big one. Manufacturers have their fingers crossed that their products will be popu-

lar. If their products sell today, good. If they don't. Well, it usually doesn't get better."

Store employees are put to the test, as are security personnel. All know, of course, that there are 29 hectic shopping days between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Some shoppers will come to look over the goods today, but won't make their purchases until later. That is if they can look by the many 50-percent off "Today Only" sales.

Santa Claus can be found at each Mall and also at Fun World/Flea World. The children are off today, thus allowing many to accompany their par-

See Shopping, Page 6A

Feasibility study for conference center expected in 7 weeks

By Bill Kerns
Staff Writer

SANFORD — The feasibility study for the proposed hotel and conference center on Fort Mellon Park is expected to be finished in seven weeks, according to city officials.

City Manager Tony VanDerworp was authorized by the city commission this week to negotiate with Hunter Interest Inc., a consulting firm from Annapolis, Md. to perform the feasibility study for the project.

"We expect this to be finished in about seven weeks, with no further delays," VanDerworp said.

The company expects to perform the study at a cost of \$33,000. Hunter was one of seven companies that responded to the city's request for bids on the study, VanDerworp said.

VanDerworp will negotiate the final cost of the study and set deadlines for its completion.

The study will look into whether a hotel and conference center would succeed in downtown Sanford. The city has proposed building the hotel and conference center on part of Fort Mellon Park on Sanford's waterfront.

Hunter's bid estimated the study would take six to eight weeks to complete. VanDerworp said he expects the study to be complete in about seven weeks.

VanDerworp is also authorized to negotiate with the second- and third-ranked bidders if negotiations fail with Hunter.

The city still has a number of steps to perform before resubmitting a proposal to Seminole county, VanDerworp said.

See Study, Page 6A

Police named Hot Boys gang in car theft ring

By Bill Kerns
Staff Writer

SANFORD — Twelve key members of the so-called Hot Boys Gang based in public housing administrated by the Sanford Housing Authority were arrested on Wednesday in relation to a string of car thefts over the last six months.

An additional warrant is still out for Reginald Jones, 19, of 29 William Clark Court in Sanford.

Investigators said the street gang was responsible for \$1.5 million in stolen property over the last six months. The gang stole 55 cars from 11 dealerships in five counties, including Seminole, Lake, Orange, Volusia, and Osceola. The stolen cars have all been returned to the dealerships, although not every car is in new condition.

Officers swept through the Sanford and Deltona beginning

See Theft, Page 6A

Touchton honored



Orville Touchton, center, is presented a plaque by Ashley Jones and Dick Barrett. Touchton was honored by the United Methodist Men of First United Methodist Church in Sanford for his 25 years of service in teaching at the group's Bible breakfasts.

Agent finds real turkey of a deal

By Nick Pflauf
Staff Writer

SANFORD — Just as with any occupation, a Realtor's life doesn't always run as well as one hopes. A recent situation encountered by Tina Martin however, produced a number of chuckles. Martin is a sales associate with ERA Advantage Realty Professionals, Inc. in Longwood. "Not every property, every

listing, can be a winner," she said. "Stay in this business long enough and you're sure to come across a turkey. Little did I know that when my turn came, mine would be a bird of a different feather."

This past week, with Thanksgiving in mind, Martin reflected on a particular event that occurred when she attempted to show a house in Sanford to a prospective buyer.

"When I walked through the rear door with the client," she said, "there it was on the kitchen counter. I couldn't believe my eyes. Was it an eagle, a hawk, a Vulture? No, none of the above. It was a wild turkey, a live one and nearly bald, peering out the window, pecking wildly and looking madly for a route in which to escape."

This was earlier in the year, See Turkey, Page 6A

You're a good man, Charles Schulz

The *Seminole Herald* is one of 2,600 newspapers in 75 countries that carries the *Peanuts* cartoon strip. It's hard to imagine a comic section without Charlie Brown, his dog, Snoopy and the rest of the *Peanuts* gang.

You have probably heard that Charles Schulz, the creator of this beloved cartoon strip, has been diagnosed with colon cancer. The cancer was discovered last week when Schulz, 76, had surgery for a blocked abdominal aorta in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Mr. Schulz's publisher said that the artist had completed daily strips to fill newspapers through Dec. 31 and Sunday strips through Feb. 14. Happier news, the publisher said, is that Schulz is feeling well and expects to return to his drawing board soon.

I believe Charles Schulz is America's most wonderful storyteller. Meeting him is like meeting one - if not all - of his characters. He's a gentle man,

filled with Charlie Brown awe, Snoopy adventure and Lucy Brown audacity. "No," he says, "Charlie's never going to kick the football. Lucy's going to take it back every time. Every time."

Schulz loves to do sports-related strips. Charlie Brown's baseball team usually gets a head start on the big league spring training camps. Schulz, a Minnesotan, definitely favors hockey over basketball in the winter months. Woodstock plays hockey in a bird bath rink equipped with its own Zamboni.

One of his favorite awards, Schulz says, was being named the Man of the Year by the National Hockey League. I was at the ceremony, when he told everyone about the rink that he built adjacent to his home and studio. At 76, he shoots and skates several times a week.

With so much rage and mean-spiritedness sweeping into many lives, Charles Schulz

offers a lonely nation a kind alternative to toil and trouble. On a recent interview, he said he would continue his strip piece by piece for as long as he is able. He said he wasn't going to rush the strip. He draws each day out of his emotions of the day.

A show called "Your a Good Man, Charlie Brown," ran on Broadway and Vince Guaraldi produced a number of *Peanuts* scores for television and records. Charles Schulz greeting cards can be found in every stationery store in the country. America latches on to a winner. Charles Schulz and his characters are definitely winners.

As I write this, I'm noticing a recent *Peanuts* strip that shows Rerun with his head down at school and then in a second frame with Lucy. "How was school today?" Lucy asked. "I failed story listening." Rerun replied.

Two pictures. Eight words. Great story. Thank you, Charles Schulz.

Russ White's column appears Tuesday through Sunday in the *Seminole Herald*.

Russ White

Police Log

DUI

Sanford - Arthur Charlie Hill, 68, of 3425 E. Highway 46, Sanford, was stopped by Sheriff's Office deputies at 12:18 a.m. on November 22. Charged with DUI.

Casselberry - Charles Glenn Anderson, 36, of 550 Cascade Court, Casselberry, was stopped at 9:52 p.m. on November 19 by Casselberry Police. Charged with DUI and riding bicycle with no head lamp.

Sanford - Dorothy Mary Hamilton, 44, 16 Boowiers Ave, Sanford, was stopped by Sheriff's Office deputies at 11:15 p.m. on November 19. Charged with DUI.

Longwood - Michael Rex Duke, 29, of 645 Swallow Deive, Casselberry, was stopped at 3:19 a.m. on November 20 by Longwood Police. Charged with DUI, driving with suspended license.

Sanford - Valerie Ann Park, 27, of 611 S. Myrtle, Sanford, stopped by Sanford Police at 11:02 p.m. on November 19. Charged with DUI, reckless driving.

Oviedo - Alford Meeks, 42, of 3220 Town & Country, Oviedo, stopped by Sheriff's Office deputies on November 21. Charged with DUI.

Apopka - Charles Patrick

Gable, 24, of 1131 Post Lake Place, Apopka, was stopped by Sheriff's Office deputies at 1:32 a.m. on November 22. Charged with DUI.

Winter Springs - Sara Ann Voigt, 49, of 443 Alderwood Court, Altamonte Springs, was stopped by Sheriff's Office deputies on November 21. Charged with DUI.

Grand Theft

Lake Mary - Shannon Kleth Peterson, 28, of 732 Creekwater Terrace, Lake Mary, was arrested by Lake Mary Police at 2:30 a.m. on November 21. Charged with grand theft, automobile.

Aggravated Battery/Domestic Violence

Sanford - Samuel James Snead, 35, of 1210 W. 11th, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford at 12:46 a.m. on November 21. Charged with aggravated battery/domestic violence.

Sanford - James McCoy, 31, of 930 E. Normandy Blvd., Deltona, was arrested by Sanford Police at 10:18 p.m. on November 21. Charged with Domestic Battery.

Grand Theft/Auto

Longwood - Ted Leo Groves, 32, of 207 Hewitt St., Pensacola, was arrested by Sheriff's Office deputies on November 18. Charged with Grand Theft Auto,

possession of a vehicle with attached numbers.

Altamonte Springs - Manuel Arteaga, 27, of 3040 Aloma Avenue, Winter Park, was arrested by Altamonte Springs Police on November 21. He was charged with grand theft of goods from Dillard's Department Store totaling \$1,599.50.

Drugs

Sanford - Patrick Vinard Robinson, 32, of 2766 Pelham Court, Deltona, was arrested by Sanford police at 10:23 p.m. on November 22. Charged with possession of cocaine.

Domestic Violence/Battery

Casselberry - Ronald Dean Camp, 34, of 104 Todd Drive, Casselberry, was arrested by Casselberry police at 6:05 p.m. on November 22. Charged with Domestic Violence/Battery.

Prostitution

Sanford - Christine Elizabeth Hays, 40, of 216 Holly Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford Police at 8:23 p.m. on November 22. Charges with assignment for prostitution.

Sanford - Cindy Lou Booth, 37, of 310 Magnolia Avenue, Sanford, was arrested by Sanford Police at 7:01 p.m. on November 22. Charged with assignment for prostitution.

available for a nominal fee and there will be free hot dogs and cookies for the children.

For further details, call the Oviedo chamber at (407) 365-6500.

Briefs

UCF hosts Madrigal Feast Dec. 9 through 12

In the manner and spirit of Elizabethan England, the UCF Madrigal Singers will welcome the holiday season by recreating the traditions of Merrie Olde England.

The 25th annual Madrigal Feast will be presented Dec. 9 through 12, 7 p.m., in the University Dining Room at the UCF Student Center. Tickets are \$40 per person, and reservations are required by phoning (407) 823-5687.

For further details, contact David Brunner, director.

Oviedo to Light up for Christmas

The Greater Oviedo Chamber of Commerce Annual Tree Lighting is scheduled for December 2, at 5 p.m. Children's choirs from area schools have been invited to sing and Santa Clause will pause from his busy schedule to join in the festivities.

Pictures with Santa will be

Obituaries



JAMES JOHNSON, JR.

James Johnson, Jr., 77, Eudell Drive, Sanford, died Friday, Nov. 19, 1999 at DeBary Manor. Mr. Johnson was employed in roofing construction. He was born Sept. 18, 1922 in Quincy. He was a Deacon at Saint Matthews M.B. Church and a member of Choir No. One.

Survivors include wife, Leona

E. Johnson, Sanford; sons, James Johnson, III, Atlanta, Ga.; Mickey Ash, Bampbellville, Kent.; daughters, Beatrice Ferguson, Mary Baggett, Belinda Murrell, of Syracuse, N.Y.; sisters, Nora Dean Martin, Sanford, Eloise Kitchen, Jamesburg, N.J.; seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren.

Wilson-Eichelberger Mortuary, Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

NEVINE M. SIMMONS

Nevine M. Simmons, 27, Terry Lane, Sanford, died Friday, Nov. 19, 1999. Mr. Simmons was an office worker. Born in Sanford, he was a lifelong resident. He attended First Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Sanford.

Survivors include mother, Verma, Sanford; father, Henry Coleman Sr., Winter Park; sisters, Carmen, Colleen Brown, Leandra Petrina, all of Sanford, Meshia Coleman, Winter Park; brothers, Rodney Rochester, N.Y., Dorian, Michael, both of

Sanford, Pierre, Los Angeles, Henry L. Coleman Jr., Winter Park; maternal grandmother, Juanita Hines, Sanford.

Postell's Mortuary-Pine Hills Chapel, Orlando, is in charge of arrangements.

BOYSIE SMITH

Boysie Smith, 85, West 13th Place, Sanford, died Monday, Nov. 22, 1999 at Central Florida Regional Hospital. Mr. Smith was employed in the construction industry. He was born Nov. 22, 1999 in Ozark, Ala. He was a Deacon of Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church. In addition, he was also a member of Evergreen Lodge No. 23 (F.A.M.)

Survivors include sons, Flenard Smith, Rochester, N.Y., Leslie Smith, Jacksonville; daughter, Gloria Rollins, Sanford; 16 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren.

Wilson-Eichelberger Mortuary, Sanford, is in charge of arrangements.

SCC to honor contributors

SANFORD - You can't sit in them. You can't even see them. But the businesses and individuals who funded the Endowed Teaching Chairs at Seminole Community College (SCC) say they are a worthwhile investment.

A ceremony recognizing the 19 Endowed Teaching Chair sponsors is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 3:30 p.m. in the college's Weldon Administration Building, lower floor.

"The mission statement of the institution underscores the need for exceptional instruction by a dedicated and qualified faculty," explained Dr. E. Ann McGee, president of SCC. "The SCC Endowed Teaching Chair program is a major effort by the district board of trustees and

the college foundation board of directors to demonstrate a commitment to quality instruction by recognizing and fostering teaching excellence."

In 1996, SCC embarked on a campaign to establish 14 Endowed Teaching Chairs. Recently, that goal was surpassed as local businesses and individuals stepped forward to create 16 chairs, valued at \$1.6 million. It was an initial contribution by Sprint that helped pave the way for other donors.

"This is an opportunity for faculty to be rewarded for the excellent work they do in the classrooms," McGee said. "Since our faculty's primary responsibility is to teach, more than 300 students will benefit each year from the instructional

talent of each faculty member selected for this distinctive honor."

Endowed Teaching Chairs, in order of establishment; Spring: SunTrust, The Chelsey G. Magruder Foundation; Siemens; Florida Hospital; Cilent Semiconductor; Central Florida Regional Hospital; Orlando Regional Healthcare System; Ken Sylvester; Vinson Henderson Memorial; Phoenix International, Ltd., Inc.; Community Partners (The University Club of Orlando, AAA National Office, Convergys, Bank of America; Centex Rooney Construction Company, Inc.; Citizens Bank of Oviedo; Wharton-Smith, Inc. Construction Group; Winter Park Health Foundation.

LOTTERY

Here are the winning numbers selected in the Florida Lottery:

Fantasy 5 (Nov. 25)
6-11-18-21-25

Lotto (Nov. 24)
11-18-20-23-33-48

Mega Money (Nov. 23)
6-8-20-29 - Megaball 3

Nov. 25
Play 4
8-9-0-0
Cash 3
1-8-0

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Religion

Advent is praying for keeps time

Just as the world seems to speed up and become busier than ever, many Christians begin a period of waiting. This waiting period known as Advent developed out of a genuine hope that Jesus will soon return to inaugurate a new age.

In Mark 13:33-37 Jesus told his disciples "be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"



Russ White

Biblical scholar Susan E. Myers says that Mark's gospel could easily have been spoken to those living at the dawn of a new millennium. "We depend on predictions — of the weather, of the significance of current events, of economic indicators in order to make decisions about our daily actions, careers and plans," Myers said.

Some people, she said, include predicting the end of the world.

Jesus said that day cannot be known any more than we can predict the day of our own deaths. Only God knows when we will be called to judgment.

The Advent message is to live each day as if it were the last. Many are waiting and

hoping, living active lives, but lives characterized by expectant watching, waiting and listening.

Advent people, Myers said, are people longing for Christ to come and preparing for that reality whatever form it may take.

Catholics will celebrate the First Sunday of Advent this weekend. An Advent candle will be lighted each of the four Sundays of Advent leading to Christmas Day. Many Catholics also have Advent wreaths in their homes.

While Lent is a time of fasting, Advent is a joyful time for Christians. On December 8 Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

This feast celebrates the conception of Mary and honors Mary for her trusting "Yes" to God.

A couple of weeks ago NBC Television had a program about Mary, Mother of God. Some critics were not impressed with the production, citing serious flaws from the Gospels. The producers indicated there would be certain liberties.

One segment of the film showed Mary teaching the young Jesus the story about the Good Samaritan — a story Jesus tells in the Gospels.

Most people that I talked to were not alarmed at this insignificant scripting. The movie itself was extremely moving, one of TV's finest hours. The TV people called it Sweeps Time. Advent People call it Praying for Keeps Time.

Messiah Choir to perform for Christmas

For the past seven years, the Central Florida Messiah Choir of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has observed the Christmas season by performing selections from George F. Handel's popular oratorio Messiah.

Originating in Lake Mary, filled to capacity performances prompted additional engagements in Lake County and South Orlando over the years.

Under the direction of Dale Zabriske, the 1999 concerts will begin with a performance in Windermere at the new Orlando South Stake Chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 30001 Apopka Vineland Road, across the street from the Orlando LDS Temple.

The choir will then travel to Lady Lake for their performance at Church on the Square in The Villages, Saturday, Dec. 18.

The final concert of the series will be held in Lake Mary on Sunday, Dec. 19 at the Lake Mary Stake Chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2255 Lake Emma Road.

All three 90 minute presentations are free to the public and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Twenty-two choral, solo, and instrument-



The Central Florida Messiah Choir of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will perform selections for Handel's "Messiah." Among the performers will be, from left, Tianna Byrtus, concert master; Craig Wilson, accompanist; Dale Zabriske, conductor; Suzan Lindsey, assistant director and soprano soloist, and Sam Reynolds, assistant director and bass soloist.

tal pieces from the oratorio will be performed including perennial favorites such as the "Hallelujah Chorus" and "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth."

Soloists with the choir include

vocalists from the Central Florida Lyric Light Opera and Orlando Opera. Concert master of the Florida Youth Symphony and Florida All-State Orchestra, Tianna Byrtus, returns as concert

master of the MESSIAH's instrumental ensemble.

For more information, contact Ramona Zabriske, director of public affairs, at 829-6689.

Don't let church take a back seat

It's a sight you don't see very often. When I walked into the church, the people in the congregation were seated in the front half of the sanctuary — not where you usually find them.

We don't like to take a back seat to anyone. Except in church. Then, the farther back the better.

Any place else — at a sporting event or a rock concert — we rush to the front. Row A.

But when we go to church, the rush is in the other direction.

"Come early and get a back seat," a church announces tongue-in-cheek on its outdoor bulletin board. Some churches have tried roping off the back pews to get the congregation to move up front. But a certain type of worshiper is annoyed by this ploy to get him to sit where he's told.

This same church has another gimmick. It puts cushions only

on the seats in front. Nobody is forcing you to sit where you don't want, but if you choose a pew in the back half of the church, you will sit on bare wood — bare and hard.

So why the run on the back seats in church?

"I suppose it's because people want to be able to see what their neighbors are doing and wearing," one minister guesses.

Another minister speculates that the move to the back is because they want to be close to the door so they can get out quicker. "A lot of people," he says, "don't like to rub shoulders with their fellow worshippers after the service. They want to slip in and slip out."

Parents with small children often will sit back there in case their youngsters act up.

I spoke with a social psychologist about this phenomenon. He said he hasn't done any research on the subject, but he has a hunch that many people sit in the back of the church because they don't want to be observed.

"There are people," he says, "who dislike being the focus of the attention of others. They are uncomfortable when people stare at them, noticing if they blow their nose or nod off during the sermon."

It has been proven, teachers tell me, that students who sit in the front rows have a higher grade-point average. Would we get more out of the church service if we sat closer to the front where we might pay more attention?

One minister says that it is

"spiritual humility" that drives people to the rear pews. "If they march confidently down the aisle toward the front, they are afraid that other people will think they are making a statement about their spiritual superiority."

If he is correct, these people may be taking to heart Jesus' condemnation (Matthew 23:5,6) of those self-important people who choose "the chief seats in the synagogue" so that they "may be seen of men."

In the view of one Episcopal clergyman, there's something else you can tell about those who parade to the front of the church to find a pew — "you know they are the big givers and their pledges are up to date."

It is the small or delinquent contributor, according to this minister, who feels sheepish about the heavy rubber band he keeps on his wallet, and so he hides himself in the back of the church.

What difference does it make where you sit in church? Most lecturers agree they can speak more efficiently if their audience isn't scattered all over the room or auditorium and isn't sitting a football field away from the pulpit or podium.

So if we gather a little closer together to ask the Lord's blessing on Sunday morning — and edge toward the front — we might find that we are getting more out of our weekly worship.

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George Plagenz

Church Bulletins

Upcoming events at First Baptist Church

On Sunday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m., First Baptist Church, Sanford, will host a worship service with communion for the entire community.

On Christmas Eve, at 6 p.m., First Baptist Church, Sanford, will host a worship service with communion for the entire community.

Grace United hosts pancake breakfast

LAKE MARY — Grace United Methodist Church of Lake Mary, 499 N. Country Club Road, will hold a pancake and sausage breakfast Saturday, Dec. 4, from 8 a.m. until noon. All you can eat for \$3. Youngsters can eat with Santa from 10 to 11 a.m. Under 6 years of age the cost is \$3 for breakfast and a picture. The cost is \$4 for youngsters 7 to 10. In addition there will be crafts, cookie tins filled with Christmas cookies available for purchase, and a (donation accepted) car wash.

For additional information, phone the church at 322-1472.

Christmas Concert at First Baptist Church in Lake Mary

The Christmas Concert "Reflections of Christmas" will be presented by Mark Looney, concert artist, at First Baptist Church Markham Woods, 5400 Markham Woods, Lake Mary on

Sunday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church.

Looney recently joined the staff as Music Coordinator and Piano Accompanist at Markham Woods and teaches music in a studio at the church. He owns and operates MKI Media Ministries, Inc. which is a non-profit Christian organization.

Looney travels the U.S. on selected weekends, giving concerts in churches and worship centers. He produces concerts, books and CD's.

There will be no charge for the event. For more details, call the church office at 333-2085.

St. Paul's host Free Market through Sunday

The St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Sanford will host a Free Market to distribute clothing every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday through Nov. 28. Clothing in a variety of sizes for children, youth, men and women will be available.

Distribution times on Tuesdays and Thursdays is noon to 3 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call (407) 323-1601.

Chanukah celebration set for Dec. 4

Chabad of Greater Orlando will host its Grand Menorah Lighting and Chanukah Gala at Church Street Station, in the Church Street Market Courtyard, Saturday, Dec. 4, at 8 p.m.

In years past, Chabad has held a Grand Menorah Lighting at the Altamonte Mall. After last year's event, it was evident attendance had grown too large for the mall's capacity. Statistics have shown American society has become more understanding and accepting of Chanukah as a recognized calendar event.

"With that in mind, it seems most appropriate to host such an event in the open arena of a public city street where all people can celebrate together," said Jeff Bender, one of the chairmen on the Chanukah committee.

The event will include a Menorah lighting, greetings from dignitaries, donuts, hot latkes, dreidels, balloons, live music, Chassidic and traditional dancing, Chanukah gett, Grand Menorah Display and Israeli entertainer Yoel Sharabi.

For more information, call (407) 644-2500.

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Theft

Continued from Page 1A

at 5 a.m. Wednesday, charging those arrested with racketeering and conspiracy to commit racketeering, in addition to grand theft auto.

Twelve out of the 13 members arrested live in Sanford, where the gang was based, while another member lives in Deltona. The primary function of the gang was to steal cars.

Investigators believe that the Hot Boys Gang has been broken up, although the investigation is on-going. More arrests are expected to be made. Investigators said stealing cars was a rite of initiation for membership in the gang.

The gang would frequently first steal cars from private homes as a way of getting to the businesses. There the members of the gang would break into the auto dealerships' detailing buildings, steal car keys and then drive off, sometimes with several cars from the dealership lots.

"They preferred brand new luxury cars from dealership lots," said Investigator Anthony Berrios of the City-County Auto Theft Task Force, which has members from law enforcement agencies in Seminole and Brevard counties. "They would have the cars detailed on Wednesday or Thursday night, then go joy riding on Friday night."

The cars would be driven until members believed that police were looking for the cars then left behind, sometimes at a second or third dealership, where the gang would steal different cars.

"Sometimes the cars were so hot that they were sold on the street for \$40 or \$50," Berrios said. "They might get \$60 on the street for a brand new Pontiac Firebird. They did not keep any of the cars."

Frequently, the stolen vehicles were left in the same neighborhood in which the gang members lived as a way of bragging about their conquests.

"They would park a few in the woods, and a few in the street," Berrios said. "We would sometimes find the cars in the street before we even knew they were missing. To be honest, they weren't the brightest of criminals."

This is the first car theft case of its kind in Central Florida against a street gang, in which the members are charged as a group with racketeering and conspiracy to commit racketeering.

Grand theft auto is a third degree felony carrying up to a five year sentence. The racketeering charge allows the members to be tried as a group, with longer sentences. Those arrested could face sentences ranging from three years to 30 years.

"Bringing them together as a group increases the odds of successful prosecution," Berrios said.

The members of the gang range in ages from 14 through 20, and they all have prior criminal records. The racketeering charges allow the Office of Statewide Prosecution to ask the court to treat all of the members as adults.

Each member arrested was

placed in the Seminole County Jail. Bond ranges from \$10,000 to \$250,000 for those arrested, depending on the number of charges and past criminal history.

The gang caught the attention of investigators on July 14, when members stole 15 cars valued at \$402,000 from Plaza Lincoln Mercury in Lake County.

"Stealing 15 cars got our attention," Berrios said. "They went to Lake County because they believed Lake wouldn't call Seminole County, and that we wouldn't know."

Investigators said that the gang was so brazen in its activities that few street level "chop shops," where cars are stripped and the parts are sold, would touch the stolen vehicles for fear of getting caught by police.

Investigators said the Hot Boys Gang, which has been around for six months, is an outgrowth of other gangs that have been active in the areas between third and thirteenth streets in Sanford's public housing for three years.

"They were very influenced by gangsta rap music," Berrios said. "The name comes from a gangsta rap group."

Some members of the gang had worked as detailers in auto dealerships. Authorities hope businesses and individuals will become more aware of the issue of Auto Theft. Each of the 11 dealerships struck by the Hot Boys Gang has increased security.

The members from Sanford arrested include gang leader Antonio D. White, 19, 29 Higgins, Edwin O. Campbell,

19 and Elijah I. Campbell, 18, both of 1210 W. 16th Street, Reginald D. Jones, 19, 29 William Clark Court, Sherman J. Jones, 16, 1309 Mellonville Avenue, and Damion L. Rogers, 17, 93 Lake Monroe Terrace.

Other Sanford residents arrested include brothers Charles E. Stokes, 17, and Horace E. Stokes, 20, 1104 W. 12th Street, Charles L. Thomas, 15, 23 Higgins Terrace, Terrace, Morio D. White, 16, 2000 Jack Court, Demontas E. Williams, 15, 1001 W. 12th Street, and James A. Williams, 17, 137 Scott Drive.

Also arrested was Darryl Montgomery, 17, of 927 N. Fourth Street, in Deltona.

In addition, two people were arrested during the sweep on matters unrelated to gang activity.

Three Seminole County dealerships were struck by the gang, including Bill Heard Chevrolet for a loss of \$65,200, Bob Dance Dodge for a \$30,000 loss, and Courtesy Pontiac/Isuzu/Buick for a \$20,000 loss.

Starling Pontiac Buick had \$234,410 worth of cars stolen by the gang, and Roger Holler Chevrolet lost \$94,644 worth of cars to the gang. The gang also stole \$68,480 in vehicles from Speedway Dodge of Volusia County.

The Lake County dealerships struck by the gang include Prestige Ford for a loss of \$37,788 worth of cars, Plaza Lincoln Mercury for \$401,938 loss, Bill Bryan Dodge for a \$112,000 loss, Cecil Clark Chevrolet for a \$51,000 loss, and Phillips Toyota for a \$31,300 loss.

Study

Continued from Page 1A

Those steps include deciding who will be responsible for performing a feasibility study; requesting expressions of interest from additional developers; negotiating with the top developers; finalizing public and private funding of the project; and executing a lease.

Sanford was selected as preferred county conference center site in May of 1998. However, after Sanford voided a lease with Philadelphia-based PRA Management and Development, the Board of Seminole County Commissioners opened the process to competition from other sites.

Meanwhile, The Pizzuti Group plans to build a 300-room hotel with meeting space in the Heathrow International Business Center on Lake Mary's bustling Interstate-4 corridor.

The company intends to begin construction on the hotel

in Lake Mary by early December, and the project is expected to last 10 to 12 months, said Ken Simback, Pizzuti's senior vice-president.

There will be several restaurants and boutiques built in coordination with the hotel, Simback said. However, Simback said the size of conference space has yet to be determined. County officials are seeking 50,000 to 60,000 square feet for the conference center site.

Although the hotel developer that Pizzuti is working with remains anonymous, Simback said the developer has performed a feasibility study and is continuing with the project. Simback said the hotel developer will be announced within the coming month.

Lake Mary was chosen as the preferred site for the county conference center in 1994, before there were proposals from Sanford or Winter Springs.

Turkey

Continued from Page 1A

his massive wings and sailed closer to Easter than Thanksgiving. Had it been recently, she might have used the turkey as a selling point - the house comes equipped with everything for the holiday. If only it had been a rabbit.

"Closing the door, I stepped back out on the porch to speak to the buyer," she said. "I told her no one will ever believe what's in the kitchen so you are my witness. She couldn't believe it either."

"We had a plan," she continues. "I'll go back into the kitchen and you hold the door open." The prospective client had by now brought a new meaning to the term 'anxious buyer.'

"Stepping back into the house, I began to wave - flapping my arms - to spur the bird to move. I waved and waved. Taking one giant leap, the bird began to flap

straight through the open door, never looking back."

She continued, "A tour of the house revealed that the intruder had broken a window in the living room and taken up temporary residence, leaving lots of feathers, and (you can guess what else) behind."

"Then my sales instincts kicked in. I should have gone to my car, grabbed my camera and captured the moment. I could have been famous, front page fodder even, under the headline: 'Realtor tries to sell Turkey House.' Now isn't that what all of us in this business wants? Free advertising and recognition? Next time I'll be ready."

While Martin did not say the prospective buyer purchased the turkeyless home, she indicated the deal was not consummated.

Shopping

Continued from Page 1A

ents to the malls.

Analysts predict a 5 to 6 percent increase in sales this year because the economy is good. Millennium shoppers may choose, of course, to shop over the Internet, avoiding the hassle for parking and the mad dashes inside the stores.

Others aren't about to miss today's mall frenzy.

www.INSIDESeminole.com
Essential Seminole County

New entrances planned for schools

By Bill Kerns
Staff Writer

SANFORD — The new Millennium Middle School campus is under construction, and new entrances are also being designed for both the middle school and Seminole High School.

Seminole High School's new entrance is being designed to connect Ridgewood Avenue on the south side of the campus with Live Oak Boulevard. It is scheduled to be complete in August of 2000.

Meanwhile, The new Millennium Middle School campus, being built to enhance the school's Fine Arts and Communications magnet program and relieve overcrowding, is expected to be complete by November of 2000. The cost of building the new campus is \$17.3 million.

Features at the new campus will include a Performing Arts Center with a 550 seat auditorium, a dance studio, an area for the orchestra and band, and foreign language laboratories.

"It's incredible," said Millennium Middle School Principle Walt Griffin. "It's hard to believe it's a middle school."

Millennium Middle School has a student population of 1,225 and is located at 21 Lakeview Drive in Sanford. The new campus is being constructed adjacent to the current campus.

The school currently only has one entrance on the north side of the campus along Georgia Avenue. Renovations to the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Santa Barbara Avenue are being designed, and expected to be complete in August of 2000 at an estimated cost of \$200,000 in school board funding.

The improvements are designed to improve the alignment of the roads and visibility at the intersection of Georgia and Santa Barbara avenues.

A second entrance to Millennium Middle School is also being designed, connecting the new campus with Live Oak Boulevard. The cost to the school board of constructing

the new entrance is estimated at \$127,000.

"This will make for a much safer and better traffic pattern," Griffin said. "Right now, the entrance is just one straight, narrow area."

Sidewalks are also being designed to run along Live Oak Boulevard within the 14-acre Master's Cove Property, which is located just west of the Seminole High School baseball field and owned by the school board.

In the meantime, the new Seminole High School entrance connecting Ridgewood Avenue to Live Oak boulevard will relieve the school's congested current main entrance on the north side of the campus along Ridgewood Avenue.

Seminole High School has a student population of 2,378. Parents and students at the school have long complained about overcrowding of the main entrance.

The cost of constructing the high school's new entrance is estimated at \$185,000. The Seminole County School Board has not yet decided which of the two entrances will be the

school's main entrance next school year.

"If you have ever tried to exit the school after a football game you know that we need a new entrance," said Seminole High School Principal Karen Coleman. "We have received many complaints about that entrance."

The main entranceway will also receive minor repairs to ease congestion, particularly in the area of the school's new community swimming pool. Construction on the pool is scheduled to be finished in December. The pool will open for public use by February of 2000, according to city officials.

The pool will be used for practices, swim meets, and as a place to teach swimming safety. In addition, the pool will double as a community swimming pool, when not in use by Seminole High School.

"People used to say we couldn't do this, but we have," Coleman said.

Sanford, Seminole County and the school-district are sharing the costs of constructing a \$1 million pool at Seminole High School. Sanford is paying

\$500,000 toward construction of the pool, while the county and school board are splitting the remaining \$500,000 for construction.

The entranceway projects for both Millennium Middle School and Seminole High School are still in the design phase, and the final plans are subject to final approval by the school board.

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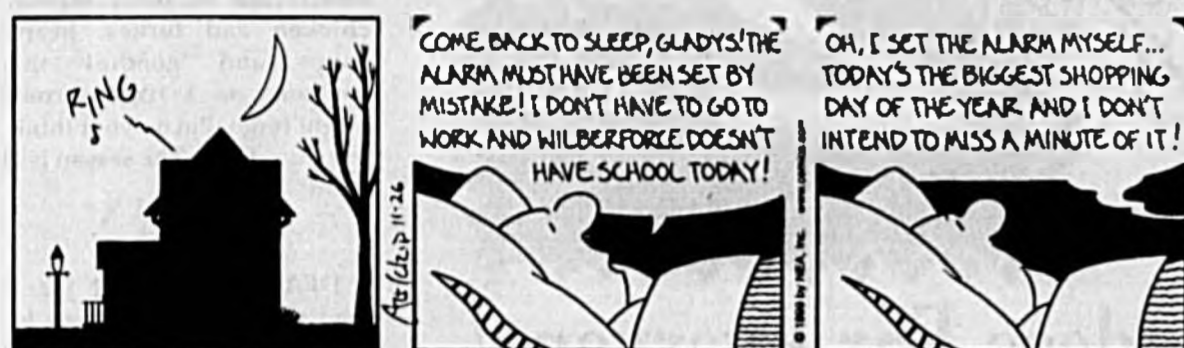
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Horoscopes

Your Birthday
Saturday, Nov. 27, 1999
Fading from the scene in the year ahead could be a few acquaintances who have had little constructive value to bring to the friendship. They'll be replaced with new meaningful pals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Everything depends upon the way you react to others today and how they treat you. If you're cooperative and understanding, you can expect the same from them. If not, the opposite will be true. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that'll govern you in the year ahead. Send the required refund form and for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing \$2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10158. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your demeanor will be charming and charismatic today, so long as everything is going your way. Unfortunately, if you encounter any opposition, an unattractive side of you may emerge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) If you

put a friend in the embarrassing position of having to choose sides between you and a family member, your pal will resent this imposition. Don't make public any domestic issues.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Try to be complimentary, not critical about pals who aren't present when conversing with mutual friends. Everything you say is likely to be reported in detail.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Financial conditions could be a mixed bag for you today, owing to the possibility that you may put out more than you've got coming in. Try to be a better manager of your funds.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you expect cohorts to do something a certain way, first be explicit with the instructions of what you want at this time. People aren't mind readers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Although you like to communicate, keeping secrets today may not necessarily be one of your strong points. Watch what you say or you could inadvertently reveal a confidence to others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Someone

whose affairs are presently complicated may try to draw you into his or her sticky situation of which you won't want to be party. Give a wide berth to this person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) No one is apt to give out trophies today for who is the greatest at this or that, so don't introduce competitive elements into your involvements with others where none is called for.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) If you take an unyielding position today, your listeners are apt to do the same. You'd be better served to keep to yourself views or opinions that are opposite to your colleague's.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Disappointment is extremely likely by counting on friends or family to do something for you that you can perfectly well do yourself. They'll not be in a serving mood.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Making any major decision under pressure or in a hasty manner today could be a big mistake. If you guess wrong, you may create an additional problem that'll have to be unraveled.

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Astro-graph is a syndicated column written by Bernice Bede Osol for Newspaper Enterprise Association.



Horoscope

Bernice Bede Osol

Win at Bridge

Moving below the equator

By Phillip Alder
Australian Bridge, which changed ownership earlier this year, used to be bimonthly, but is now monthly. It is in a large-page format and contains material for everyone.

Here's a declarer-play problem described by Australian international Paul Lavings. How would you maneuver in four spades? West leads the diamond queen. What do you think of the auction? South opened with a weak two-bid, showing a respectable six-card suit and 6-10 high-card points. That suit is a little weaker than normal, but especially when nonvulnerable, one is permitted a little leeway. Should West make a takeout double? He has fine distribution, but with seven of his 12 points in spades, I think the pass is technically correct.

North's four spades is aggressive; my guess is that a computer simulation would show the contract fails more often than not. And since North has three solid defensive tricks, he is possibly turning a plus into a minus. Yet the game bonus is a powerful bait.

South is faced with four losers: two spades, one heart and one diamond. He could try leading the spade jack from the dummy, hoping East will naively cover from king-doubleton. But it is much better to hope that East has at least one heart honor. After winning with dummy's diamond king, immediately play a heart to the jack. Here, presumably West wins with the queen and perseveres in diamonds. Win with dummy's ace, then take a second heart finesse. When it works, discard dummy's remaining diamond on the heart ace and play a trump.



Bridge

Phillip Alder

North		11-26-99	
♠	J 7 5 3		
♥	8 5		
♦	A K 4		
♣	A 7 6 2		
West		East	
♠	A K	♠	4
♥	Q 7 6 2	♥	K 9 4 3
♦	Q J 10 5	♦	9 6 3
♣	9 8 3	♣	K Q J 10 4
South			
♠	Q 10 9 8 6 2		
♥	A J 10		
♦	8 7 2		
♣	5		
Vulnerable: Neither Dealer: South			
South	West	North	East
2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass
Opening lead: ♠ Q			

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Life Style

Grilling and Turkey — The New Hot Trend

Last year, Americans ate 18 pounds of turkey per person. They also fired up their grills 2.7 billion times.

It is easy to see why many people have made the connection that turkey, as well as hamburgers and hotdogs, can be cooked on the grill. We all like great food that doesn't take a lot of work. Turkey has become more convenient than ever. The variety of turkey prod-

ucts available in the local grocery store keeps increasing. Turkey tenderloins, steaks, boneless breasts, and drums are delicious and can be enjoyed throughout the year. These cuts are perfect for the grill, and leftovers make great salads, sandwiches, and snacks.

The meat will be juicy and delicious whether you use a gas grill or a charcoal grill. Grilling is easy as long as you keep a few tips in

mind. First, be sure to follow the grill manufacturer's suggestions for direct and indirect heat cooking. Direct heat is fine for smaller cuts of turkey, but indirect heat is often best for larger cuts of turkey, like bone-in breasts.

Hot air circulating around the meat locks in the juices and flavor as well as lets the meat cook thoroughly and still be juicy. You can experiment with rotisseries if you want to roast a large turkey. Last year a friend grilled a turkey over mesquite

wood, and she reported that it was the most delicious Thanksgiving turkey her family ever had!

Cooking times will vary depending on the thickness of the cut of turkey. Rely on a meat thermometer, inserted in the thickest portion of the meat away from the bone, to tell when the meat is done. A turkey roast is ready at 170 degrees F, a whole turkey at 180 degrees F, and ground turkey, such as turkey burgers, at 165 degrees F.

Everyone likes tradition at holiday time, and oven-roasted turkey is delicious. But families are changing and not everyone has the time or money to do a big traditional turkey dinner. So this year might be the start of a new tradition — on the grill!

Source: The National Turkey Foundation.



Barbara Hughes

SCC provides Santa Hotline in December

Santa has set up a satellite office at Seminole Community College. For children who may appreciate a call from Santa, adults are asked to contact the Community Education Youth Programs' office. Santa will then call from SCC between 6 - 8 p.m., December 6, 7, 8, or 9 to the designated children who are

registered.

Parents are required to submit a letter indicating the child's name, age, telephone number, special interests and Christmas wish list. All registrations and letters must be received by Dec. 1. Registration fee is \$6.

Phone 328-2121 for registration.

Keep practicality in mind when shopping for seniors

DEAR ABBY: This is the time of year people begin thinking, "What should I get Mom, Dad and Aunt Tillie for Christmas?" Well, I AM a mom and an Aunt Tillie, and I filled Dad's shoes for more years than I care to count. So, for all of you who haven't a clue what "we" would like, keep reading:

Don't try to buy me happiness with a token gift. Most of all, I'd love just a little of your time.

If you want to buy something for me, I'd appreciate a box of all-occasion greeting cards. A roll of stamps to go with them would also be helpful, so that when my old friends have a reason to celebrate, I'll not have to venture to the store or post office. (An assortment of gift wrap and Scotch tape are another novel idea.)

You all know how much I love flowers — not the cut bouquets from a florist, but real plants from a nursery, delivered at the right time for planting in the spring. Something like that can be enjoyed all year, and I'll remember your thoughtfulness every time I look at them.

My little doggie needs groom-

ing every month. How about a gift certificate? They make terrific gifts. Also, I would never spend household budget money for a manicure, pedicure or massage, but a gift certificate for one would certainly be welcome. Or one for a car wash, or the next trip to the dry cleaner or shoe repair shop.



Dear Abby

What about a gift certificate for a dinner for two, so I can treat a good friend to a meal and company because HER family is also busy? Have you forgotten how much I enjoy Reader's Digest, Family Circle and TV Guide? I can't afford subscriptions anymore, but they would be a lot more welcome than bubble bath that I'm now allergic to.

Also, if you want to give me something, how about a prepaid phone card, or a few bucks prepaid on my telephone bill? And if you're feeling generous, how about contacting the company that aerates my lawn, the chimney sweep or, for that matter, the mechanic who readies my car for winter?

You see, we're not as difficult to buy for as you thought. You have simply forgotten who we really are. We're not "those old people down the street." We're the parents who always knew what you wanted or needed — because we loved you.

Thanks for the space, Dear Abby. I hope my kids are listening.

ANY PARENT OR GRANDPARENT, ANYTOWN, U.S.A.

DEAR ANY: Thanks for a letter that's sure to start a lot of people thinking creatively about the Christmas holidays. Another idea is to create customized gift baskets filled with small cans of tuna, salmon, chicken and turkey, hearty soups, and "goodies" that someone on a fixed income might forgo. Put on your thinking caps, folks. The season is at hand!

DEAR ABBY: Every year I read about the urgent need for organ donation, and the tragedy of people who die waiting for one.

Don't you think it would be a good idea to give people a tax rebate who pledged their organs for transplant upon their death? It seems to me it would solve our country's great need for donor organs with a nationwide system of registration and reward.

I was going to send my idea to Washington, but I believe your column would be more effective, and has no political agenda. Do offer this idea to your readers.

PEGGY MARTIN, VENICE, FLA.

DEAR PEGGY: It's an intriguing idea. One way to make the option more attractive would be for the government to forgive a portion of the inheritance taxes for the families of the donors.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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