## In January Look For

A truly special "Good Neighbor" .Old photos of Bloomingdale BSHS - Home of Champions



### azette Turns 15

The long-awaited 15th Anniversary Issue of The Bloomingdale Ga-

zette will be coming your way in January. See what Bloomingdale used to look like not so long ago. Read stories about early residents who wouldn't want to live anywhere else. And join us is paying special tribute to those residents who have helped shaped our community over the years. Let us take you on a short trip back in time and see how far we've come. We're not only getting older - we are getting better.

## The Gloominadale Gazette

Volume XIV, Number 12

Published by the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association, Inc.

December 1994

Happy Holidays From The Bloomingdale Gazette And BHA All Our Readers And Advertisers!



Mr. and Mrs Claus will be arriving by fire truck direct from the North Pole to visit all of Bloomingdale area's children. See below for details.



#### **General Membership Meeting**

The annual General Membership Meeting for the purpose of electing board members will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 101. All dues paying members of the BHA are invited to attend.

Six of the 12 board positions are open for a two-year term. Current board members Rick Oros, Russ Lembke, and LaWayne Wyatt are seeking re-election to the board. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the General Membership Meeting. Residents who would like to hold a board position need to attend the meeting in order to have their name placed in nomination. Board members are required to attend one evening meeting per month where they will make decisions to improve the quality of life for all Bloomingdale residents.

#### **BHS Hosts Santa**

The BHA wants every child in Bloomingdale to have a chance to meet with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus without having to go too far or wait in long lines to do it. On Dec. 10, the jolly couple will make a special appearance at Sun Cove Realty in Bloomingdale Square. Children will be able to visit individually with the Clauses and parents may take photographs anytime between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

#### Park East Clean-Up

Volunteers are needed to help in the clean-up efforts Park Fast on Nature's Way. The clean-up day has been scheduled on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Coffee and donuts as well as lunch and beverages will be provided.

Residents are asked to bring along their gardening tools and/or painting equipment. The county will mow the park, and volunteers will be planting, spreading mulch, and painting.

Wally and Gena Schaffer are coordinating the volunteers. Please contact them at 681-2051.

#### Loss Saddens BHA

Longtime BHA board member David Lees passed away last month after a long illness. The Bloomingdale Estates resident is survived by his wife, Donna who always encouraged his involvement in the community. Board member Russ Lembke served with and knew Lees best.

"We didn't always agree, but we could always discuss and in the end, the results were of benefit to all the residents," said Lembke.

Lees was an organizer of community picnics and funruns, and was active in the debate over traffic modifications on Bloomingfield. In addition, he was instrumental in keeping the BHA and The Gazette functioning during times that were not so prosperous.

"His thoughts first and foremost were to enhance the quality of life for all the residents," said Lembke.

#### **Another Spring Picnic**

With Old Man Winter knocking at our door, it's fun to think ahead to the more temperate days of spring. The BHA has thought ahead and is planning its second Renewed Community Picnic on Saturday, April 22, at Park West.

Picnic organizers already have county and business exhibitors on the slate of events, and are currently looking for volunteers to coordinate children's games and for business owners to sponsor other activities. This year's event already has commitments from the New York Yankees, a hot air balloonist, and various county agencies. Already on tap for children are a petting zoo being brought in by CARE Animal Hospital and pony rides sponsored once again by realtor Michael Davis. Plans are also in the works for live entertainment.

So flip that calendar ahead to 1995, and mark April 22nd, as a day for community fun and fellowship.

#### Membership

New dues statements for 1995 will be mailed out to residents beginning in January. Not everyone will receive statements then, however. Membership packets are mailed out several 100 at a time. Look for yours sometime in early 1995, and remember that dues are for the 1995 calendar year.

## **BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNITY PAGE**

## Come Visit Mr. and Mrs. Claus

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, direct from the North Pole and on a month-long tour of the world, will take time out of their busy schedule to visit the children of Bloomingdale on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sun Cove Realty in Bloomingdale Square. They will arrive at 10 a.m. on a county fire truck.

The BHA made the arrangements for this exclusive engagement. Children will have an opportunity to sit individually with the famous couple, and parents will have a chance to take photographs of the moment. Children will also receive a treat after their visit.

Don't let your children miss this great chance to tell the head toy-maker their Christmas wishes.

P.S. - Parents, make sure to listen carefully.

## The Bloomingdale Bazette

Merry Christmas Readers:

"Peace on earth, good will toward men"

Good will is nothing more than an attitude, an attitude of kindness toward a person or business. And, while our success or failure is largely dependent upon our services, in a world full of competitive services, it's helpful when our readers and advertisers look at us with a favoring eye. We will continually build our good will from good public relations and through caring about our community.

May I personally take this occasion to wish you the greetings of the season on behalf of the entire team of The Bloomingdale Gazette.

Sincerely,

Rick Oros

### **Our Times Mightier Than The Sword**

by Rozel Sciulli

Last month I had the privilege of participating in the Great American Teach-In at several schools in Brandon, among them Burns and Bloomingdale. I continue to be impressed by the caliber of students at both these schools. Journalism students with whom I met posed relevant and intelligent questions about the journalistic profession on which I was invited to speak.

The Teach-In is an elaborate career day staged annually by the public school system. The task of finding speakers rests on the shoulders of each school's occupational specialist. Susan Johnson at Burns exudes professionalism and exemplifies near perfection in this position. There were over 70 speakers at Burns alone.

This year I decided to discuss with students the value of the printed word. There is no tool as powerful as the pen, I told them. I emphasized that good writing skills will serve them well no matter what career choice they make. (Sometimes it helps to hear it from someone other than the teacher.)

Promoting the spirit of Teach-In Day, the Tribune's BayLife columnist, Judy Hill, invited readers to submit stories about teachers who had a significant influence on their life. I wish I had seen her request for letters weeks ago. I would have taken the time to write about my ninth grade English teacher, Mary Jane Trout. Whether by design or whim, she had us write and write well. We penned short stories and poetry and even an essay on Shakespeare's Elizabethan England. She made us think, and she gave us creative license. I remember it all.

I always made an A-minus on my pa-

pers. Could never figure out what I needed to do to make an A-plus, but years later figured it out. Writing is never finished. It is never perfected.

After a year with Mary Jane Trout I knew I wanted to be a writer, or an English teacher. I've done both.

My own daughters are in the ninth grade, and I am eager for them to learn the way I did. Some things don't change. Ninth graders still read Romeo and Juliet and Great Expectations. They use the same grammar book, and I imagine have the same number of writing assignments, although I have not seen proof of this. And I'm sure they don't understand the "Jabberwocky" any better than I did. Above all else, I pray they learn the value of the

As we enter the 21st Century, I'm afraid print journalism will become a dinosaur, what with information super highways and CNN. It's up to the young journalists with whom I had the pleasure of speaking to keep printed news alive. They're getting a great start. If you don't believe me, pick up a copy of The Crimson Times. Carol Lopez and her small staff of students at BSHS are putting out quite a wonderful publication.

So, this is a salute to all the professionals who shared their expertise with the county's school children, to all the Susan Johnsons of the county who made it possible, to the teachers (keep up the good work- it shows), and to Mary Jane Trout. I remember her with fondness and gratitude every time I sit down to write.

#### **OFFICERS**

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#### The Bloomingdale Gazette

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Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Directors** 

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## MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the Bloomingdale 685-8378 Community Office. These are monthly public meetings and all Bloomingdale residents are invited.

> **Bloomingdale Special Taxing District** Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. **BHA Board of Directors** Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Bloomingdale Oaks Special Taxing District First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Mobile Watch & Neighborhood Watch Watch this listing for dates & times. The meetings are held on a per need basis.

## **Mobile Watch Report Holiday Safety Reminders**

by LaWayne Wyatt

The past several months have been very quiet in our community. There have been several cases of vandalism, speeding without lights on residential streets, a stolen street sign, cars and people in the parks after closing, and considerable illegal dumping at The Spot. Items found at The Spot include mattresses, tires, brush, and 5-gallon cans of used oil. Hopefully, none of our residents are dumping their trash at this location.

As everyone is aware, the holidays are fast approaching. Unfortunately, this happy time of year is also a time of increased activity for the criminal element. Everyone can and should do their part to reduce the criminal's profit. The following are reminders of actions which will protect both you and your property.

1. When shopping, park close to the store and in a well-lit location. Be alert for any suspicious activity around you. Have your keys ready when leaving. Ask security

for an escort if you feel threatened.

2. Do not overload yourself with packages which may hamper your ability to quickly enter your car.

3. Packages should be out of sight while in your car. If you do nothave a trunk at least cover the packages with a blanket. When you arrive home from shopping, do not leave items overnight in

4. At home be alert for strangers cruising the street or any activity which may appear suspicious.

5. Do not leave gifts where they can easily be seen from windows.

Keep doors and windows locked. at all times. If windows are opened, they should only be opened a short distance and pinned in a fashion so they cannot be d further from the outside.

7. Remember, criminals do not want to be seen. It is important to keep outside

## Park Pond Will Not Hold Water

by Rozel Sciulli

An aerial view of the new Park West layout that appeared in last month's Gazette raised some concern among residents who saw that a stormwater treatment pond is to be located adjacent to the recreation center. They feared that a standing body of water would pose a potential hazard to children playing at the park.

According to Joel Jackson, Park West project manager for the county, the pond is no pond at all. It is a slight slope in the land, six inches at its lowest point, to allow water to drain into the wetlands located on the west side of the park. A skimmer at the low point will catch silt and leaves and should result in no standing water.

"It is so shallow," said Jackson, "water will not accumulate. The wetlands are lower and water will flow to the lowest point."

Jackson, along with representatives of the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Environmental Protection Commission, studied the lay of the land for solutions to potential drainage problems.

"One of the hold-ups in approving the design of the park was improper drainage. We had to make sure to protect the wetlands," said Jackson.

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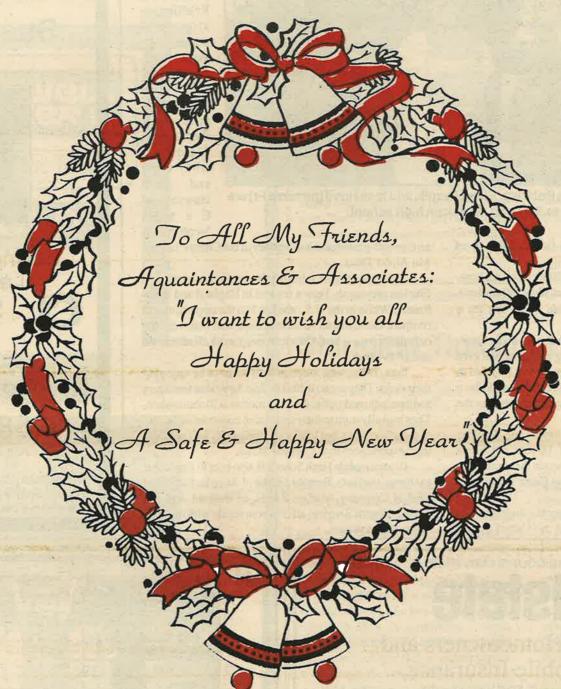
Donna MacGiffert



In Bloomingdale Square





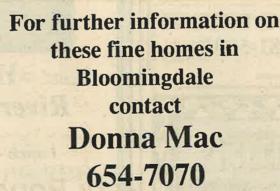




3804 Hollow Wood



3812 Windtree Court





1608 Carter Oaks Drive





1521 Holleman Drive



4305 Ellenville Place



### **Exchange Students Call Bloomingdale Home For A Year**

by Brian Bergren

Teenagers are the same the world over. If one doubts this assertion, take a look at three exchange students currently attending Bloomingdale High School. Inge Hovd, Elena Reznik, and Stephanie Rohlfing arrived in the United States this summer and were not sure what to expect. All three have been welcomed with open arms by their host families and the surrounding community.

Inge, a 17-year old Norwegian, is currently enrolled as a junior. Sponsored by the Educational Foundation for foreign study, Inge resides with local residents Jan and

Kitty Sealy, veteran hosts of exchange students.

Upon Inge's arrival in the U.S., he noticed the busy schedules of most American teens. "It is amazing how hectic life is. Everyone is always busy; life is much more laid back in Norway," he said. Inge spent no time adjusting to the energetic environment of BHS. His interest in writing drew him toward the award winning yearbook staff. When not working on

The Minotaur, Inge is playing mid-field for the co-ed soccer team, Thunder.

Bloomingdale, a school of over 2000, was a real eyeopener for Inge, whose home school only has 500 students. "Sophomores are lost for a week, but I was lost for a month," he confessed.

While in America, Inge hopes to decide on a career. He is leaning toward business. "Being bilingual will give me more of an advantage in the business world," he said in perfect English. "My trip to America is proving to be a great experience that I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life."

Bloomingdale East residents Steve and Pauline McDermott are the host parents of 15-year old Elena Reznik from the Ukraine where she lives in the capital city of Kiev. World Heritage is sponsoring Elena's exchange under the Freedom Support Act.

This act, sponsored by the U.S., invites students from newly independent states to study in the United States.

Elena is actively involved in many organizations at BSHS including the Chess Club, Student Advisory Council, German Club, Science Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta, a math fraternity.

In the Ukraine, Elena studies 14 different subjects in one school week. Students alternate between subjects throughout the week. In her spare time, Elena plays guitar and listens to her favorite music.

Of her U.S. experience, Elena says "so far it has been great, an opportunity to make friends, and to learn about

> a different way of life."

Elena's Bloomingdale neighbor, Stephanie Rohlfing, is also sponsored World Heritage. The native Minden, Germany, Stephanie is 17 and resides with Chris and Gene Dawson of East. Stephanie is

an eleventh grader and is a member of the Chess Club and Mu Alpha Theta.

This is Stephanie's third exchange study experience. She has previously been a student in England and Belo-Russia. While in the U.S., she has had the opportunity to compare German and American teens and believes "the only difference is that American teens work all afternoon and all evening."

Inge, Elena, and Stephanie all seem to be enjoying their visits. They are no different than American teenagers and have adjusted well to the daily routine at Bloomingdale. They will all return to their respective countries at the end of the school year, but letters and memories will preserve their experiences in the United States.

Bloomingdale High School is also host to four other exchange students, Bertold Jashke of Austria, Stephanie Graf of Germany, Marlies Zwols, of Holland, and Jon Anduas Fors of Sweden, all of whom reside with families in the Brandon area.



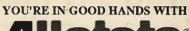


Stephanie Rohlfing, Elena Reznik, and Inge Hovd (pictured I-r) are adjusting to life in an American high school.



Sue Babulski





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#### **Good Neighbors**

## Meet Resident Ted Grable

by Mandi Oros

In December, 1984, Ted Grable and his family moved to the growing community of Bloomingdale. Grable is a fifth

generation native of Tampa, but as a youngster moved to North Carolina only to return 10 years ago with his wife, Mary, and children Eric, Katie and Sarah.

Grable and his wife are both county employees, he the director of purchasing and contracting and she a staffing specialist with the school system. Eric resides in Tallahassee, Katie is a senior at Bloomingdale High, and Sarah is a 6th grader at Nativity.

In his first five years in Bloomingdale, Grable became involved with the community, first as a member of the BHA scholarship committee which he helped organize. Then, Grable joined the board of the BHA and has been instrumental in building membership to an all-time high over the past two years.

In the midst of a national recession, Grable found himself in a community also

affected with vacant homes cluttering the once populated neighborhoods and moving vans a common sight.

> Grable believes that the BHA can be the firm support system that creates community spirit and a sense of community pride. He also feels that the residents Bloomingdale need to be part of an active neighborhood and that was demonstrated at the last community picnic.

Grable feels strongly towards this community and is constantly donating

time and efforts to create a better Bloomingdale. He believes that the homeowners make the community, and it is up to the individuals to strengthen the quality of life and make Bloomingdale a great neighborhood.

Outside of Bloomingdale, Grable is an active member of Nativity Catholic Church, the BHA representative to the President's Roundtable, and a member of the Kiwanis Club of Brandon.



**Ted Grable** 

## **Shipping Tips For Holiday Gifts**

by Sue Harbridge

Worried about those precious gifts surviving the hazards of holiday shipping? To insure that packages arrive in good condition, consumers should take special care in packing and shipping holiday gifts.

By following a few simple rules, costly delivery, mishandling, or damage problems can be avoided. One of the surest ways to prevent a mishap is to include a card with both the recipient and sender's address inside the gift box. If the outside label is damaged on illegible, the shipper can still send the package on its way.

It is best to use new ocrrugated boxes with flaps intact. The box should be large enough to allow for cushioning material on all sides of the gift. Used boxes should not be used because they lose their capacity to protect the contents.

Package contents can be protected by wrapping each item separately. Cushioning material, such as styrofoam peanuts

should be placed around, over, and between items.

Glass or china objects should be packed with extra care. Each item should be placed in a smaller box. The smaller box or boxes may then be placed in a larger one. Filler should then be placed around all items allowing four inches of packing material on all sides.

The outside of the package should be sealed with a strong carton sealing tape that is two inches or wider. Masking or cellophane tapes crack and peel and are generally not strong enough for mailing purposes. String or paper should not be used for wrapping, either as they may be caught in conveyer belts and lead to package damage.

Packages should be able to withstand bumps, stacking, and a four-foot drop without damage. If properly packaged, holiday gifts should arrive intact.



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## **Church News**

## Sounds Of Christmas Fill Area Churches

by Donna Heinz

The public is invited to visit area churches during the holiday season. They will find musical and dramatic performances by and for children and adults throughout December. The Bloomingdale community is filled with the spirit of Christmas.

Living Savior Lutheran Church members will hold a family Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 4:30. to help decorate the tree, sing Christmas carols, and have dinner. Children will exchange gifts. Girls should bring a girl's gift, and boys a boy's gift of not more than \$3.

Church members will give parents a free Christmas shopping day on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children may be dropped off at the church located at 3403 Lithia Pinecrest. They will enjoy craft projects, videos, and entertainment.

The church's candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:30 p.m. The Christmas morning worship service will be held at 10 a.m.

For three Sundays prior to Christmas, Dec. 4, 11, and 18, Calvary Church will be full of the festive holiday spirit. Lighting, special music and dramatic performances will transform Bloomingdale High School's auditorium, where Calvary meets, into the atmosphere of the season.

A children's Christmas party will be held in the cafeteria of the high school on Dec. 11, at both services. The children's musical group, "Glory Praisers" will present the musical "I Wish You Jesus." The following Sunday, the children's musical group "Power Praisers" will present the musical, "It's The Truth, Ruth...It's Christmas."

The Children at Crosswalk Present

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir will be presented live via satallite on Sunday, Dec. 4, at at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1412 John Moore Road, south of Lumsden. The local church's choir will perform first at 7:30, followed by the live broadcast from the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City at 8 p.m. For further information, call 689-7140.

Crosswalk Christian Community Church will present their children's choir in a musical performance, "Arch the Angel," on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. Christmas morning worship services will be held at 10 a.m., at the church located across from Bloomingdale High.

Bell Shoals Baptist Church's "The Living Christmas Tree" will bethis year's presentation. Performance dates are Friday through Monday, Dec. 9-12 at 7 p.m. In addition, there will be matinee performances on Dec. 10 and 11, at 3 p.m.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. One worship service will be held on Christmas day at 11

St. Stephen's Catholic Church will present a family Christmas program on Dec. 11, at 6:30. Songs of the season and a narrated presentation of the birth of Christ will be performed.

St. Stephen's also welcomes the arrival of two new staff members. Barbara Allen is the new Coordinator of Christian Education, and Garry Kreines is the new Senior High Youth Minister. The senior high youth group meets Sunday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The Madrigal Group of St. Mark's United Church of Christ will present a holiday program for the entire family on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2:30 p.m. There will be a puppet show for the children, contemporary Christmas music, and refreshments.

The 11 a.m. worship service on Dec. 18, will feature the adult and bell choirs

who will combine to perform the cantata, "Love Incarnate". Then, on Christmas Eve, the children's choir will perform contemporary Christmas music and will present a live Nativity scene at 7 p.m. At 11 p.m., the church membership will sing carols by candlelight. The Christmas morning worship service will be at 11 a m

Kings Avenue Baptist Church invites residents to walk through the streets of Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born. If "the city" is too crowded when guests arrive, they will be entertained by the Celebration Choir will waiting to enter. Hours for the "Walk Through Bethlehem" will be Friday, Dec. 9 from 6 to 10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11 from 4 to 10 p.m., Admission is free.

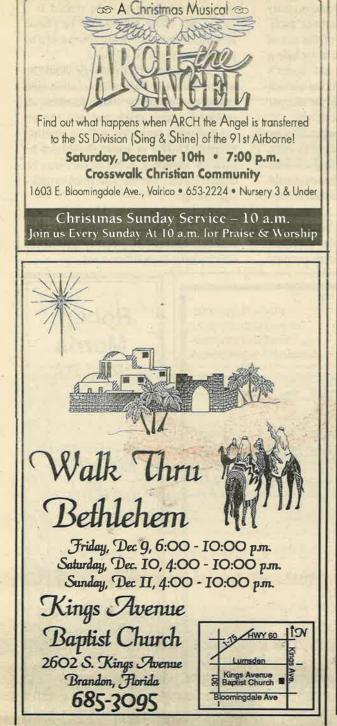
Immanuel Lutheran's elementary school children will perform the musical "Jesus is the Light of the World" on

Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m., in the Family Life Center gymnasium located at 2913 S. John Moore Rd. Candlelight services will be held at 7 and 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The Christmas day service is scheduled for 10 a.m., and a New Year's Eve service is set on Dec. 31, at 7:30 p.m.

Members of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church will have an "Advent Festival" on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. Craft booths, holiday music, and refreshments will be featured. The festival will be held on the church grounds at 3315 Bryan Rd. Candlelight Christmas Eve services will be held at 5:30, 7:30, and 11 p.m.

Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale will present their choir in a cantata, "Special King of Love" on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend on the 18th and again on Christmas Eve at 7:30.







## **Bits N Pieces**

**Around Bloomingdale** 

by Vanessa Clark

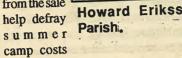
Boy Scout Troop 11 which meets at St. Andrews United Methodist Church, is proud to anounce their latest Eagle Scout, Howard Eriksson, who will receive his Eagle award in a Court of Honor on Dec. 18, at the church. The Bloomingdale High sophomore is the son of Austin and Kris Eriksson of Fairway Manors in East.

Eriksson's Eagle service project involved creating "Magic" kids and a companion video to entertain and teach magic to the teenage resident patients at the Children's Cancer Center, Moffitt Hospital in Tampa. The process of learning magic is intended to distract the teens from their often painful therapy.

A member of the local troop since 1988, Ericksson has been a senior patrol leader and is an Order of the Arrow member. In school, he is best known as BHS's mascot "The Bull". He is also a member of the Drama Club and the Video Production Club. He also received an Award for Excellence in the Sylvia R. Kimball Drama Festival for 1994.

Troop 11 will be selling Christmas Trees again through Sunday, Dec. 11, at their lot on the south side of St. Andrews. The trees - Douglas, Noble, and Frazier firs - are cut fresh and shipped in a

refridgerated truck from the West Coast. Lot hours are 6 to 9 p.m. weekdays,9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays, and noon to 9 on p.m. Sundays. Proceeds from the sale help defray summer



for the Scouts. Welcome to new residents Bill and Tracy Thomas, who recently moved into Oakdale Reserve from Ft. Worth, Texas.

Fond farewell and best wishes to Marsha and Bob Doyle and their sons Tim and Michael, who have moved to the New Orleans area. The family has been apart since mid-summer when Bob took a new job in Louisianna, and are glad to be re-united in time for the holidays.

Congratulations to Robert and

Virginia Berland on the birth of their son Brian Matthew on Oct. 28.

Calendar Couples were selected last



month

Bloomingdale

Tobin Peterson, January; Dionne Jones and Sean Jett, February; Megan Davis and Kurt Hunzekier, March; Keri Sutterfield and Matt Umbarger, April; Ni Carter and Richard Mathews, May; Kristy Jarrard and Ted Holler, June; Carrie Kurek and Todd Weldy, July; Lisa Johannssen and Scott Kasprzyk, August; Erin Johnson and Drew Evers, September; Katie Heppner and Mike Davis, October; Kara Redmon and Ben Richter, November; and Jennifer Buffington and Ron Bennett, December.

Weddings, engagements, births, anniversaries, club news, moving in or out. Please send your social news to The Bloomingdale Gazette, 3232 Lithia Pinecrest, Suite 101, Valrico, FL 33594. Photos are gladly accepted. Please be sure to include a contact name and phone number.

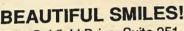


Howard Eriksson and Scoutmaster Pete

# gentle Jo

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## Life In These Times The Real Nightmare Before Christmas

by Daniel Farrer

Well, Moms and Dads, it will be pretty close to 22 shopping days left until Christmas when you read this column. Only 22 days left to come up with those great gift ideas for long lost relatives, the father-in-law who has everything, and your kids, who already have everything.

Regardless of the stress this crazy time of the season brings to many of us, the really nice thing about Christmas is the special memories that it always brings to mind from Christmases past. Most of my most fond memories of Christmas are the ones I remember from my childhood. The music, sounds and smells of the season always seem to bring back those pleasant times.

Fremember the excitement of going to bed on Christmas Eve thinking about all the things that might be under the tree. One thing I recall very clearly was that my parents always stayed up very late. I remember hearing rattling noises and sometimes clanking sounds coming from the living room. It wasn't until years later that I realized my folks had to stay up all night putting together all the

For some of us, there is no challenge greater than the right of passage parents must go through at Christmas time assembling the variety of bikes, trikes, and assorted nightmareish toys that have been graciously provided by the toy companies. Sometimes I can almost visualize the designers laughing as they lean over their blueprint tables adding little nuts and bolts that add two hours to the assembly time of a tricycle. Or the person on the assembly line who giggles as they leave just one nut or screw out of the little plastic bag that holds all the parts.

One year, I remember a particular toy I was trying to assemble only contained instructions in Spanish. Another time 1 had almost finished assembling the product when I found out I was short two of the major screws that held a vital part on. I think that one finally lasted until two in the morning. You would think that parents wouldn't have to be rocket scientists, engineers, or certified mechanics to put children's toys together.

After observing our struggles for many years, most of the major stores came to our rescue and developed a clever plan to help parents through the holidays. For a modest fee you can have someone there assemble the item for you. Believe me, it is well worth the money and I must admit, I've used the service frequently over the last few years without a blow to my ego.

So this holiday season, pay a little extra for that assembly job. You may find the holiday seems much brighter and you might even get a good night's sleep and greet your kids with a smile on Christmas morning.



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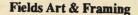
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Dec.11th at 6:30 pm-Special Family Christmas Night Dec.15th at 7:30pm-Communal Penance Service (with individual confessions) ec.24th 5:30 pm Childrens Mas 7:30 pm Youth Mass 12:00 am Midnight Mass Dec.25th 9:30 am, 11:30 am Regular Mass Schedule 5049 Bell Shoals Road Saturday, Vigil 5:30 pm Valrico, FL 33594 Sunday, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am 689-4900 Babysitting Sunday during 9:30 & 11:30 am Masses.

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Fields Art & Framing is not your usual art and framing gallery. The moment you enter the door you can see, and feel, the difference. The walls are filled with unique and exquisite art and framing design.

The shop specializes in "hard to do jobs" and is well known for its award winning picture framing.

Since all staff members are professional artists, customers are assured of getting the very best in advise on color and design. The trademark of the shop is quality and service - traits well appreciated by the gallery's growing number of satisfied customers...

#### Sportscard World

Family owned since 1990, we'd love to meet you and help you with your collecting needs. You will find a wide selection of sportscards, the latest comics, Xmen, Marvel etc. and non-sportscards such as racing cards plus over 450 autographed items including cards, jerseys, bats, plaques and photos. Visit our gallery for great gifts this season.

It was great fun hosting Buccaneer player, Trent Dilfer for autographs and photos.

Store hours are Mon. thru Fri. 10 - 7, Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. We will be opened Sun. 12 - 5 p.m. thru Christmas. We are located 938 West Brandon Blvd., and our phone number is 651-1132.

#### From The Heart

It is almost impossible to walk into From The Heart and walk out empty handed. And now, during the holidays, the store at 3220 Lithia Pinecrest, is brimming with beautifully, unique, handcrafted items.

Over 200 crafters have their works on display - gift items for the home, for that special teacher or friend, even for husbands and kids, and especially for you. Whether it's made of porcelain, silk, wood, or cloth, you will find those special gifts for giving or that special something you've wanted for yourself. The best part is this - you will be sure to find that perfect gift for the person who has everything. You might even get all your Christmas shopping done in one store.

Owners Kelli and Crystal want to bring you the best available crafts in the area, so they and their crafters pay great attention to detail. Special orders are gladly taken and lay-aways are accepted in time for the holidays.

From the Heart IS like a craft show everyday! Treat yourself to a visit. You will come back for more.

#### **Red's Sporting Goods**

Christmas shopping for your favorite athlete is just down the road at Red's Sporting Goods, 867 W. Bloomingdale in the Kings Row Plaza. Red's is the real authority in team sports. And although soccer, football, and basketball equipment are available, Red's has the best and most complete baseball selection in the area just in time for the upcoming season. Whether it's the popular Easton bats or Rawlings pro model gloves that your all-star is looking for, you'll find it at Red's. Because Red's is where the serious athlete shops.

College and professional team logo caps, apparel and gift items are also well-stocked for the holidays. Red's carries a complete line of athletic wear and shoes in children's and adult sizes, featuring a complete line of Nike and Reebok shoes.

The friendly people at Red's are always ready to assist shoppers with their needs and are happy to answer tions or offer advice.

Red's is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 9 am. to 7 p.m. and Sundays 12:30 to 6 p.m.

#### **Four Seasons**

Stop in Four Seasons Gifts and Crafts for just about all of your holiday shopping! Most gifts are made by local craftsmen and artists and many can be personalized and detailed with those distinctive touches! Custom gift baskets are one of the many special gifts you will find.

Four Seasons offers many exciting classes. Those available, but not limited to are; tole painting, basket weaving, porcelain dolls, kids classes, stain glass, sewing, applique, quilting and seasonal classes. For more information call 654-4438.

They have been in business for two years and have become known as the place to shop for affordable quality items.

Four Seasons Gifts and Crafts is located in the Kingsway Plaza at 1273 Kingsway Road. For more information call 654-4438.





Dec. 18, 1 - 3 p.m. Free Pack of Cards w/visit

w/Santa

\$5.95 Gift

Certificates

938 W. Brandon Blvd.

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You can find that special gift for everyone on Santa's list

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M-Sat. 10-8pm 651-9395

Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale 3220 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., St.# 103 & 104 (Next to Winn Dixle & Pinch a Penny) New crafters always welcomed

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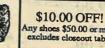
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## Bloomingdale Liquors

Plenty of Holiday Cheer can be found at Bloomingdale Liquors located in the Publix/Walmart Plaza. Just in time for the Holidays, Bloomingdale Liquors has expanded their selection of wines and will feature gourmet gift baskets.

Just because Bloomingdale Liquors is a spirits shop, don't expect wine in all their baskets; many gifts are designed without spirits but still have plenty of holiday cheer! The small gourmet bags are ideal for neighbors, teachers and co-workers. Plus there are many elegant gift baskets perfect for clients, bosses and special friends, all of which can be customized to meet your needs.

To acquaint you with their wines, Bloomingdale Liquors will be holding in-store wine tastings every Friday evening from 6pm-8pm.

Bloomingdale Liquors' prices are competitive h chain stores, and they match Walgreen's advertised sales.

Open 10am-9pm Monday through Saturday & 1-6pm Sunday.

#### Instant Replay Sports

At Instant Replay Sports golf is the main game. New and used sets of pro line and custom made clubs are our specialty and are priced from \$119.00 a set. New golf bags and accessories are also available at low discount prices.

In addition to golfing equipment, we buy, sell, and trade all types of sporting goods, such as; baseball, exercise equipment, fishing, etc.

Come in and lay-away your set of clubs today.

Instant Replay Sports is located in Oak Park Plaza Shopping Center at the corner of Kings and Lumsden, Just west of U-Save and next to coyotes at 771 West Lumsden Road. Please feel free to call for any additional information at 684-0300.



#### **Bloomingdale Florist**

Come in to Bloomingdale Florist and find a holiday gift basket for that hard to please person. Their trained staff will assist you in the design of a customized basket for that special touch.

Bloomingdale Florist welcomes commercial accounts and can target special needs, including; center pieces, table arrangements, unique gifts, FTD arrangements, custom work, distinctive baskets, and international wire service.

Holiday plants are now available, including beautiful poinsettias.

Located in Bloomingdale Square at 827 E. Bloomingdale Avenue, Bloomingdale Florist hours are 9 - 6 Mon. thru Fri., 9 - 5 Saturday, and Sunday afternoon until Christmas.

#### Choo Choo Charlie's

Located at 3108 State Road 60 East in Valrico, Choo Choo Charlie's offers a wide variety of model railroading supplies.

The shop features many top manufacturers like Walters, Athearn, Model Roundhouse, Bachman and IHC.

In addition to carrying top quality model railroading supplies, Choo Choo Charlie's stocks trains for the junior railroader. BRIO and Shining Time Station products will keep the interest for the younger set.

Store hours are Tues. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sat. - a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Sun. & Mon.)

Choo Choo Charlie's has the personalized attention you need. You can always special order if the shop doesn't have what you need.

#### Teachers' Helper, Inc.

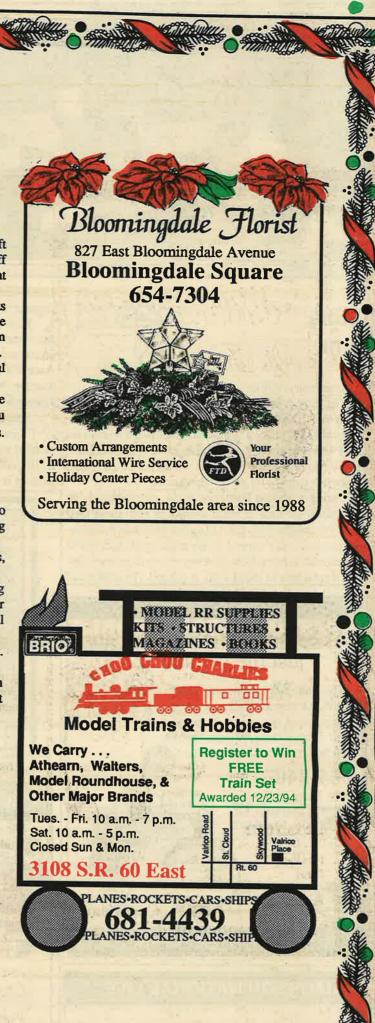
Does your child have trouble learning geography facts? Take your child on a GeoSafari, the award winning electronic game that makes exploring geography an adventure. If arithmetic is a stumbling block, your child can learn multiplication through rap music with Learning Wrap up cassettes.

Whether your child's skills need honing in math, reading or science, Teachers' Helper, Inc., offer unique educational aids and materials to make your child's learning experiences positive . . . and fun!

Allow owner Tim Roberts and his staff of certified teachers to demonstrate learning techniques from Rock 'N Learn phonics books and tapes to grasping fraction concepts by "hands on" systems using pizza pies. Reinforce reading skills with the I Love Reading! stories and comprehension activities. Science buffs will appreciate the various science kits and materials for future projects.

Teachers' Helper, located at 109 S. Margaret Street, Brandon, also offers a wide range of audio and visual aids for the classroom teacher. For more information call 684-0688.







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Dr. Snow, a geologist at the University of Florida and Valrico resident. participated in the **Great American** Teach-In last month at Burns Junior High School.

## Lithia Lynx



by Donnamarie Kibler

The PTA at Lithia Springs Elementary School would like to say "Thank-You" to all the parents, grandparents, faculty and staff for their wonderful support. If it weren't for all the volunteer hours, the fundraiser money and donations, and the communication, the PTA would not be the award winner it is today. You are all appreciated.

During American Education Week, approximately 50 guests took the time to teach a class or two about their profession and the importance of a good education in achieving success in today's world. Every grade level experienced enjoyed talks ranging from chimney sweep to veterinarian. What a great way to spend a day at school! The students of

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LSES thank everyone who participated and took the time to prepare such terrific presentations.

Six PTA members went to the Florida State Convention in Orlando last month. They attended several workshops, and were presented with the National PTA Child Advocacy Award. Parents representing Lithia Springs were Gayle Turner, Maureen Carrigan, Bonnie Ussery, Suzanne Livingston, Daphine Rowland, and Donnamarie Kibler.

Special events in December include a presentation of "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. Reflections - A cultural arts fair and receptions for local artists will be held on the half-day, Dec. 14, during school hours. Market Day pick-up is Dec. 15, at 4:30.

#### Gator **Tales**



Alafia Elementary's PTA received the Local Unit Achievement Award for 1993-94 at the State Convention in November. They also received a Program Award, a Membership Award, and a Grandparent Silver Membership Award. What a great PTA!

With funds collected from an Innisbrook Wrapping Paper fundraiser at the beginning of the school year, the PTA was able to purchase the items requested by teachers in the form of mini-grants. Among the items provided were laser disc players, science project supplies, choir chimes, literature programs, social studies and science books, supplies for planting vegetable and flower gardens, a die-cut machine and various fraction die cuts, and farm sets, books and puzzles for kindergarten. The fund raiser was chaired by Patti Borchik, vice president of Ways and Means.

The PTA has also been able to purchase \$600 worth of books for the media center. These were donated by the teachers during American Education Week.

Currently the PTA is involved in supporting the Tech Booster Committee which was formed to raise money for computers in the school. The committee plans to begin collecting UPC symbols from General Mills cereal boxes. For each UPC symbol collected, General Mills will pay 25 cents plus \$100 per 1000.



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1st place winner (L) of **Bloomingdale Senior High** School's Homecoming window painting contest, held at Bloomingdale Square was sponsered by the Minotaur Club.



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## Bulls Eye

by Maya Smith

Bloomingdale service clubs: Interact, Jayteens, Key and Leo are popular through the school and the community for the prestigious name and the credible community services they perform every year.

Interact is an organization affiliated with the Brandon South Rotary Club. In the past, Interact has been involved in the Special Olympics, Manatee Walk-a-Thon, Adopt a Road Program (Bloomingdale Avenue in front of the high school), school gym awards boards, and working with children without families. On Dec. 19, the members of Interact are going to Central Park Lodge, a local assisted living community. There, they are going to adopt a grandparent and enjoy making arts and crafts.

Jayteens service club is associated with the Jaycees of Brandon. It is an organization comprised of students willing to give their free time and energy to benefit the school and community. During the Christmas holidays, Jayteens



Drew Evers and Erin Johnson were crowned Homecoming King and Queen at Bloomingdale last month.

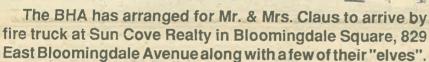
will be taking collections for ECHO.

Key is chartered by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon. This service club works closely with Kiwanis on many service projects, such as Salvation Army, the Brandon Fourth of July Parade, and the Outreach Clinic of Brandon. In keeping with the motto of the Kiwanis Club, "Children Priority One", every year at Christmas, Key supports the Rainbow Family Learning Center for abused children.

Leo is a service club whose past projects have ranged from sorting food for the homeless at Metropolitan Ministries to building a play house for abused children at the New Life Dwelling Place. Each Christmas, they sponsor a Christmas party for headstart children at Robinson and Springfield Elementary Schools, and on Dec. 3, they will have a club member as Santa Claus for the Humane

Each year, the service clubs at Bloomingdale have individuality and enthusiasm for helping the less fortunate within the community.

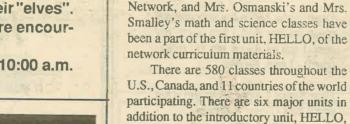
## Visit Mr. & Mrs Claus



The fire truck will arrive 10:00 a.m. Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras.

Mr. & Mrs Claus will be seeing children from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Saturday, December 10th.





with such themes as weather, acid rain, too much trash, our water, nutrition, and solar Students are assigned to a research team with students from Alabama, Virginia, Nevada, British Columbia, Kansas, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Iowa,

Students at Lithia Springs are learning

about telecommunications. Fifth graders are

on-line with the National Geographic Kids

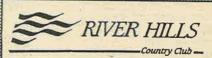
Texas and California. They communicate via the Kids Network. So far they have

Scientific investigation, career exploration, discussion on environmental issues and use of technology are some of the activities included in each unit. A real scientist is a part of each unit. We have just begun our second unit. Weather In Action, and the scientist involved is John R. Scala, a research meteorologist for

The PTA at Lithia Springs provides support for the project. They donated \$5,000 to purchase the curriculum materials used by teachers in the classroom and to pay for the telecommunications fees for each unit of instruction. The cost to remain on-line is re-occurring and the PTA has indicated it will continue to support this program.

The students and teachers are excited about the project. We intend to extend the use of the Network into the third and fourth graders after we have worked out all the "bugs". This opportunity for learning is what children need to meet the challenges of the 21st Century!





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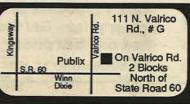
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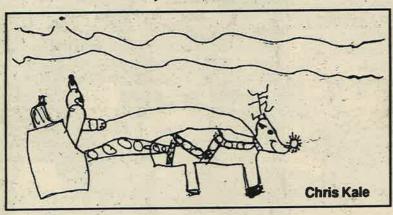


**689-63**59

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## 'Dear Santa, I Did Be A Good Boy' - Love, Jared



Letters to Santa were contributed by Alafia Elementary first graders with the help of Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Loadwich, Mrs. Waller, Mrs. Stanaland, Mrs. Maggio, and Mrs. Hale Here is a sampling of their unedited wish lists.

Dear Santa, I wud lak a lot uv press for my famle - Love, George

Dear Santa, I wit a bat and bas boll - Love, Brian

Dear Santa, I would like iguana -Love, Andrea

Dear Santa, Barbie car, my size Barbie, and my mom - Love, Nicole

Dear Santa, I wud lik a bumurag and a aladen vido gam and a hamstr -Love Joshua

Dear Santa, Dog, Cat, Rat - Love,

Dear Santa, I like you a lot. He is nise to pepl. He cume at nit. He has a big red cot. - Love Jeffrey

Dear Santa, No wun nose wer you liv. But I nowe you bren me sum trits - Love, Scott

Dear Santa, I want all cind of thigs like a tete bear that i can cep (keep) for ever and ever - Love, Arielle

Dear Santa, I wud like my cuszin to come down to vecit - Love Kylee

Dear Santa, I wont a happy crismus four my famley - Love, Catherine

Dear Santa, Don,t fuerget people theat are pore geve them mor toys tan we get for cesmis - Love, Omar Dear Santa, How are you doweing? I am fine. Can I ples have a burbey doll and a mikrwave for my falmory? Can I have a scirmsms reth to? -Love, Ashley

Dear Santa, I huop you like my cycckys (cookies) I huop you can give my cat sum pesnts. I huop you can get to my hous. - Love, Joey

Dear Santa, I wodr how yur radear fly and I ben tring my best two lern. I wel tri my best two be gud. - Love, Derek

Dear Santa Claus, Ask Misis Claus if she can bren crismis cukces -Love, Sean

Dear Santa, I knoe that you are varee bisee. I vugot too put on my list that I wish Nicholas too not be sad abat his aprachn (operation) -Love, Kim

Dear Santa, Will you come down I wont to see you that wood be the vere best present I cood evr hav -Love, Lauren

Dear Santa, I love my sesr and my mom and my dad. I ben nis to my sesr. I got ol As on my frs rebort (card) - Love, Brooke

Dear Santa, I wont yoyo and a hat and a kite - Love, Stephanie



## Happy Holidage from the staff of The Bloomingdale Gazette

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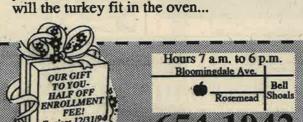


## et's See...

There's the shopping, the baking, the wrapping... special telephone calls to make, the holiday meal to plan, that company dinner to attend, picking up the relatives from the airport, decorating...

#### WHAT WILL I DO WITH THE KIDS?!!

Now is a great time to enroll them at Primary Prep! We promise to keep them busy interacting with their peers, building a solid educational foundation, and having the best kid fun around! Once you know your children are being well taken care of, your mind can be free to worry about so many other things! Like, will the gifts you ordered arrive in time, did Shirt with



you send cards to all your spouse's relatives,

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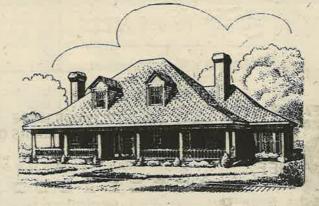
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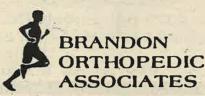
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## Business Notes



**New Owners at Huntington** 

When Richard and Hene Davidoff moved here from New York, they brought their love of children and education with them, and on Oct. 1, they took over ownership of Huntington Learning Center on Lithia Pinecrest in Brandon. Richard, who left the printing business to move to Florida, is a former teacher of special needs children. Ilene owned a Huntington Center in her home state for nearly eight years.

They, with their staff of 10 certified teachers, want to offer educational assistance to students experiencing difficulties. Their educational philosophy also includes building confidence and motivation in their students, according to Davidoff, who said he will be visiting area schools and working with educators in the interest of the students who attend the center.

#### Babulski Joins Re/Max

Re/MAX Realty announces the addition of Sue Babulski to the staff of its new Bloomingdale office. Specializing in residential real estate with an emphasis in the Bloomingdale area, Babulski began her career in real estate 11 years ago. She has a record as a Top Producer and as a Million Dollar Club member.

The new Re/Max office is temporarily located in the Bloomingdale Plaza at John Moore Road, 151 W. Bloomingdale, awaiting finishing touches on their permanent office location at 139 W. Bloomingdale in the same plaza

#### **Locals Named To Chamber Board**

Area residents Marilyn Kitman, Sandy MacKinnon and Dr. Garry Scheurer, Jr., are among those elected to serve on the 1995 Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Kitman, a resident of Bloomingdale East, is president/owner of Medical Billing Specialists, Inc. She was the chamber's 1993 Small Business Leader of the Year. MacKinnon, this year's Small Business Leader, is owner of Yale Industrial Trucks and a South Oak resident. Dr. Scheurer is pastor of St. Mark's United Church.

## <u>Tax Topics</u> Home Office Deduction Debatable

by Robert C. Morris, CPA

The home office deduction for a self-employed person has been in a heated debate since Dr. Soliman, in 1983, claimed a \$2500 deduction for his office. Over the course of 11 years, it has been appealed all the way into the Supreme Court and in their wisdom, it has been all but eliminated for most taxpayers.

The IRS position was to disallow the deduction because according to the statute, it was not the principal place of business for meeting with clients and customers or a separate structure not attached to the dwelling unit. In 1993, the Supreme Court voted 8 to 1 in the decision for the IRS ruling the location must be the "most important, consequential or influential" place of business.

The court noted two primary considerations in deter-

mining eligibility: 1) The relative importance of the activity performed within the office as opposed to outside the office, and 2) when this cannot be de-

termined on its own, then the time spent at each location. If your business requires you to meet with clients or deliver services, then the place where that occurs is often the indicator of the most important place of business.

One such definition is a plumber with a home office. He/she hires a full-time secretary to answer the phone, make appointments and order materials as well as other administrative functions. The plumber goes to the client and repairs or installs the product(s) or service. Even though it is very important to this plumber to have an office and even though he/she has hired a full time staff to administer in the office, the Supreme Court ruling would disallow the office due to the principal place of business was at the client location.

This will continue to be a highly scrutinized deduction requiring a separate form 8829 and you should discuss your situation with your tax advisor before deducting for a home office. You may be subjected to audit and if your deduction became disallowed, there may be significant penalties and interest assessed by the IRS.

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## Burns Volleyball **Champions At Last**

By Rozel Sciulli

It took nine years and five tries at the title, but Burns's girls have finally laid claim to the county's junior high volleyball championship.

Always the proverbial bridesmaid, Burns has been runner-up five previous times when they have been the Eastern Division champions only to lose in the finals.

Not wanting to go down again, the Bruin girls defeated western champ, Buchanan, 15-4, 15-9 for the title and to finish a perfect 6-0.

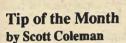
En route, they had to face old nemesis and defending county champs Turkey Creek in what turned out to be the most exciting game of the season. Down 13-6 in the second set, the Bruins rallied for nine straight points on the serves of ninth grader, Jennifer Busciglio, to defeat Turkey Creek 15-7, 15-13.

Coach Tommi Sue Plaire attributes the Bruins's winning history to the students the school draws. "We are sitting in the cream of the crop," she said. "In this area, kids grow up playing sports and the parents are very support-

This year's team had four returning players, but whose overall make-up Plaire said is comprised of "very good athletes. Most of them play others sports like soccer, softball, and basketball. They are familiar with competition and know how to be competitive."

The county champs - Ashley Anderson, Shelbylynn McBride, Kathy Burke, Kathy Atkins, Christina Canelli, Jennifer Busciglio, Dori Carson, Gloria McSpadden, Heidi Buchanan, Jaime Melton, Annie Ruiz, and Erica Perry were honored at a fall sports awards banquet at the school last week.

## **Tennis** Anyone?



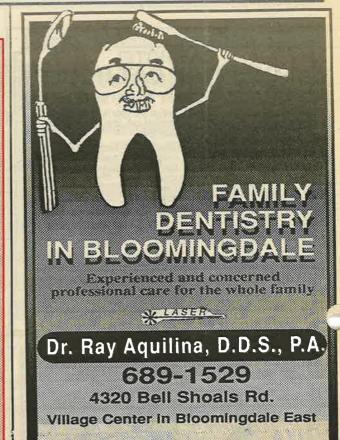
Many players rarely or never play singles. If only to improve your doubles, you should play singles. You will hit twice as many balls, run more to get to shots, hit many more groundstrokes than you even do in doubles. Thus, you will get more practice in, improve your conditioning and improve your forehand and backhand - all of which will improve your doubles.

## Athletic Calendar

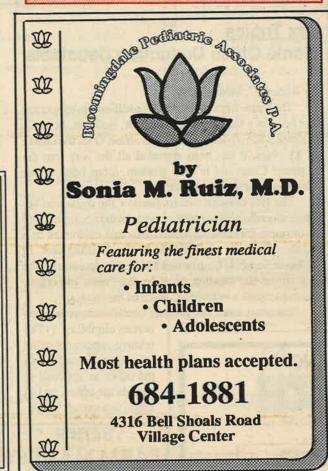
December events for Bulls and Bruins

Dec. 3-7	Soccer Tourney at King
Dec. 5	G. Basketball at Gaither
Dec. 6	Wrestling at Plant
	B. Basketball vs Plant
Dec. 8	G. Basketball vs Gaither
Dec. 9	Boys/Girls Soccer vs Armwood
	Wrestling vs Jefferson
	B. Basketball at Jefferson
Dec. 12	G. Basketball at Leto
Dec. 13	Boys Soccer at East Bay
2000.20	Wrestling at Hillsboro
	B. Basketball vs Hillsboro
Dec. 15	G. Basketball at East Bay
Dec. 16	Boys/Girls Soccer vs Plant
Dec. 20	Wrestling at Plant City
	B. Basketball vs Plant City
Dec. 19	G. Basketball vs Chamberlain
Dec. 20	Boys/Girls Soccer vs TBT
Dec. 20	Wrestling vs Brandon

B. Basketball at Brandon



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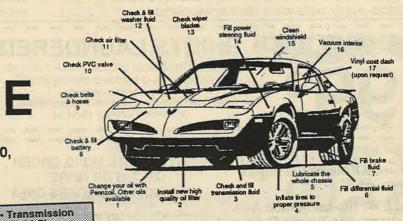
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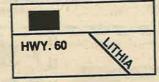
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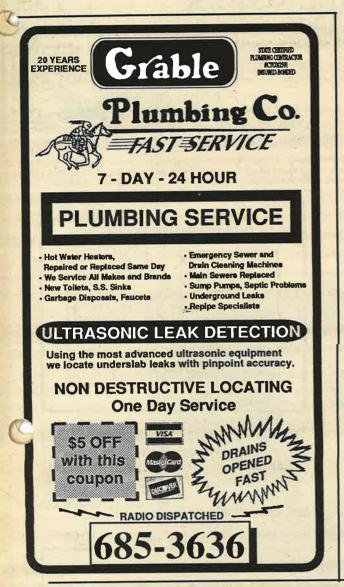
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#### **BHA Meeting**

The annual General Membership Meeting of the Bloomingdale Homeowners' Association will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, in the Community Office, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. Elections will be held for six vacant board positions. The meeting is open to all homeowners who are dues paying BHA members.



STD Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Bloomingdale Special Taxing District will be held on Monday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Office, Royal Oaks of Bloomingdale. All residents are invited to attend.

#### Meet Mr. & Mrs. Claus

Children will have a chance to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., at Sun Cove Realty, Bloomingdale Square. The special event is being sponsored by the BHA. Parents may take photographs.

#### **Crossing Guards Needed**

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department is seeking applicants for 19 vacant Crossing Guard positions. School crossing guards are paid \$6.25 an hour for two hours a day, and uniforms and equipment are furnished. Those interested are asked to contact Deputy Wilbur France at 247-8123 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

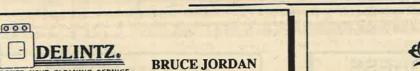
#### **Christmas Tree Lighting**

DRYER VENT CLEANING SERVICE

Center Place will be the site of the official opening of the Christmas Season in Brandon when the annual Christmas Tree Lighting takes place on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at

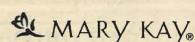
Crews lay amonia pipeline as the work on wid ening Bloomingdale Ave. begins. Pipeline will be laid from Bell Shoals to John Moore and is expected to be completed by Christmas, after which road construction will begin.

7:30 p.m. Bloomingdale High School's "Ambassadors" choral group will perform along with the bell ringers of Apostles Lutheran Church, local dancers, and a special appearance by Santa Claus. Refreshments will be served by various civic organizations



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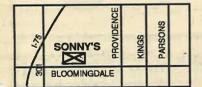
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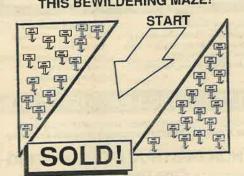
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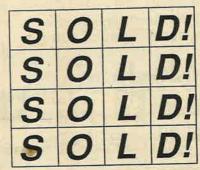
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CAN YOU FIND THE FOUR WORDS HIDDEN IN THIS PUZZLE?



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