

**Welcome To
 The Jungle**

Bloomington's student government decorates for homecoming.

PAGE 4

**Salon Raises
 Money For
 Crime Victim**

Bleu Salon does its party to help the Bloomington Library attack victim.

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Dogs Gone To The Fest



Adam and Tasha show a little greyhound togetherness. Owners are Larry and Diane Lewandowski. Dogs, like Adam and Tasha, will be at the Bloomington Family Fest on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bloomington Golfers Club. JOY BOISSELLE/Gazette Photo

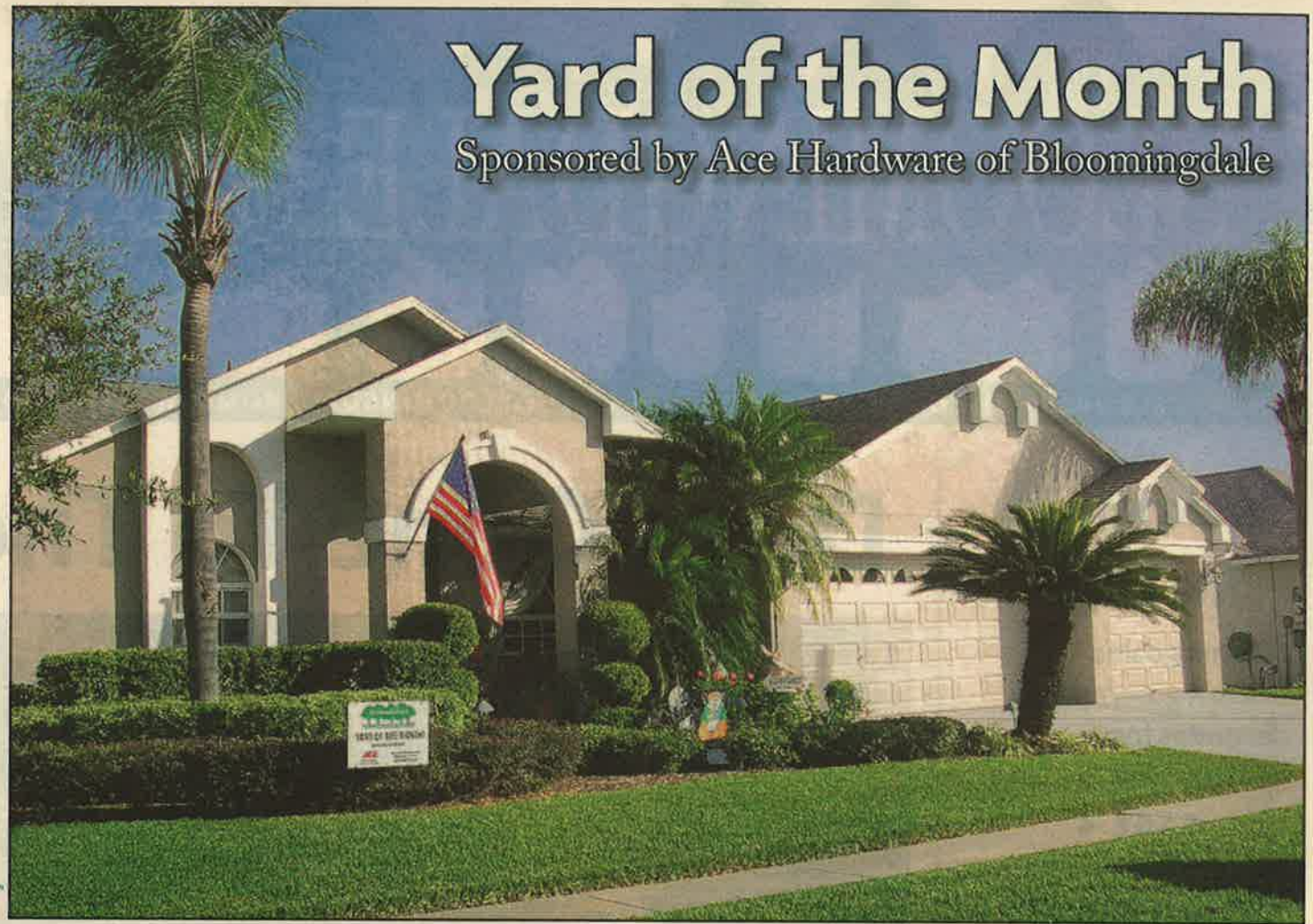
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John F. Kennedy

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Welcome To The Jungle

By Leslie White

The Student Government Association and volunteer parents worked together to decorate for Bloomingdale Senior High School's homecoming "Welcome to the Jungle." Susan Schwartz, homecoming chair, said, "Everyone worked together to make this happen." SGA representatives met a couple of Saturdays a month to work on the decorations ahead of time, then gave a few hours after the homecoming game and the morning of the dance to put them up. Pictured from top to bottom are Kayla Aebischer and Melody Hillier.

Photos by Leslie White



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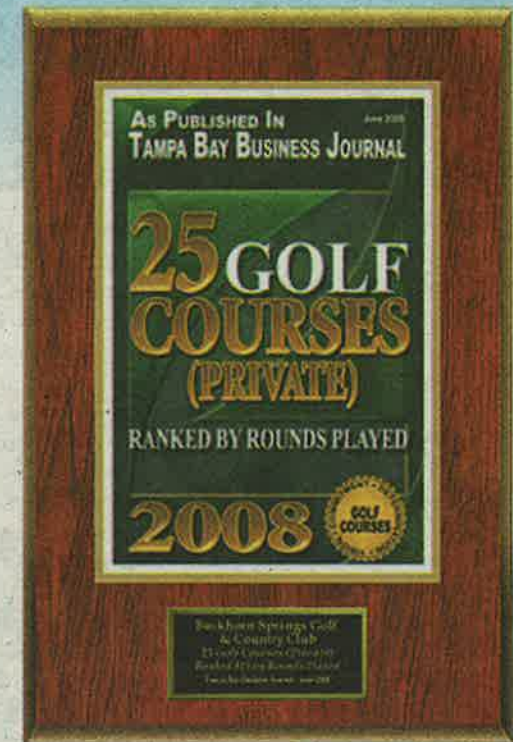
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Racer Today, Your Pet Tomorrow

The Greyhound Gang Finds Homes For Retired Racers

By JOYBOISSELLE

What happens to retired racing greyhounds? Euthanasia used to be the method of choice to replace aging track dogs with new ones. Public outcry led to groups whose sole purpose is to facilitate the adoptions of retired racing dogs into loving, stable homes.

The Greyhound Gang of Florida, Inc. is one such group, and they need your help. Based in Seffner, the group has placed 650 dogs in homes since 2001. Leading the adoption effort is group founder, Joan Ray.

"Our job is to help these dogs

go from athletes to pets and to prepare them for their 'forever' homes," she explained.

From athlete to couch potato is how Ray describes the greyhound's transition to pet life. "Most people mistakenly think these are hyper dogs, requiring a lot of exercise. The truth is they are very docile, affectionate, even-tempered, and love to sleep, sometimes up to 16 hours a day."

Dogs come to the agency through track and kennel owners, as well as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The adoption process begins with a veterinarian visit



JOYBOISSELLE/Gazette Photo

If dogs could talk, Perry, 4, would say, "Take me home, please." Perry is an adoption-ready retired greyhound available through The Greyhound Gang of Florida, Inc. Dogs like Perry will be at the Bloomingdale Family Fest on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bloomingdale Golfers Club.

for a health work-up, including spaying or neutering, and vaccinations.

An important part of the adoption process is the foster home where the dog learns how to be a part of the family. Volunteers foster a minimum of two weeks, and follow strict

procedures to acclimate the dog to his new surroundings. Dogs must be exposed to new sights and sounds including, vacuum

See GREYHOUND, Page 12

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Salon Raises Money For Crime Victim

By Leslie White

You could say Bleu Salon & Spa has a heart of gold, donating time and talent to raise money for the victim of the Bloomingdale Library attack, but proprietor Jan Adams says, "We're just giving back."

Six months ago, an unidentified 18-year-old high school girl was viciously attacked and sexually assaulted as she returned a library book April 24. Since then she has been hospitalized, still blind and unable to speak, swallow or walk. Her care costs upwards of \$30,000 a month in a Sarasota rehabilitation center, and Medicaid recently notified the family that it can no longer foot the bill due to insufficient progress in her rehabilitation.

All over Hillsborough County, fundraisers have sought to raise money to ensure that the girl can continue to receive therapy despite insurance issues. Bleu owner Jan Adams recognized the need and organized an event to help the family cover some of the costly therapy. The salon offered hair cuts, blow-dry, styling, waxing, manicures, pedicures and massages at discounted prices, donating all funds to the victim's family.

"We want to help this family and at the same time teach our people to give back," said Adams. International guest artist Trent Day flew in to

"We want to help this family and at the same time teach our people to give back."

JAN ADAMS

donate his time and talent for the event, which he heard about from Adams.

"It's just such a horrible thing," said Day.

Renowned in the industry, Day "pumped up the staff to help make this event successful," said Adams.

Bleu Salon is normally closed on Monday, but stylists willingly donated their time to come in and raise money for the victim whose story has touched so many of their hearts. The salon also raffled tickets for a chance at a "Day of Beauty" or "Gentlemen's Retreat," which alone raised over \$600. Silpada jewelry representative Ellen Williams had another reason for participating, one close to her own heart.

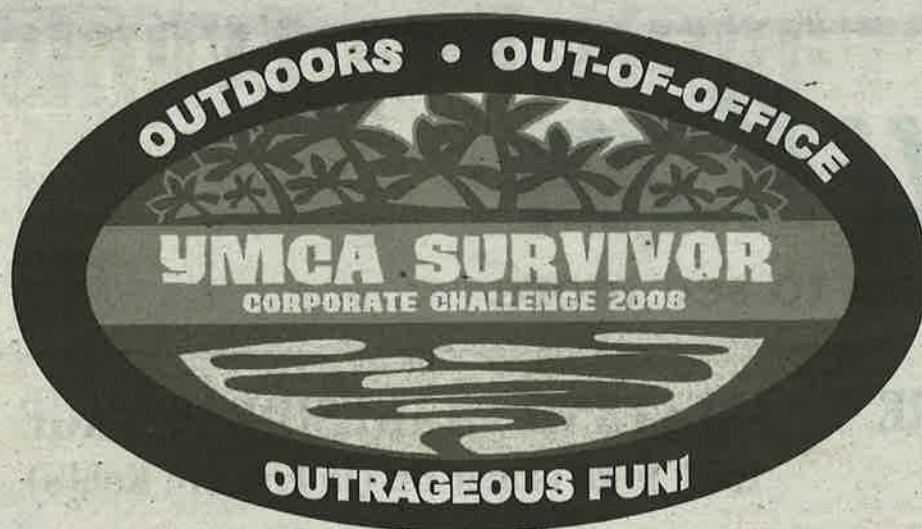
"My daughter and the victim are friends," said Williams, who donated 100 percent of her jewelry sales to the cause. Williams said of the victim,

See SALON, Page 18



Photo by Leslie White

Renowned stylist and International guest artist Trent Day paid a visit to friend Jan Adams, owner of Bleu Salon & Spa, in an effort to raise much needed funds to help offset the costs of the \$1,200 a day rehabilitation the Bloomingdale Library attack victim needs.



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Bloomin' In Bloomingdale

Compiled By JOY BOISSELLE

Bloomingdale is very much a community of manicured lawns and meticulous landscapes. The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association rewards the "best-of-the-best" each month through the "Yard of the Month" program. The winning homeowners receive a picture of their home in the Bloomingdale Gazette, a yard sign announcing their win, and a \$25 gift certificate courtesy of Ace Hardware.

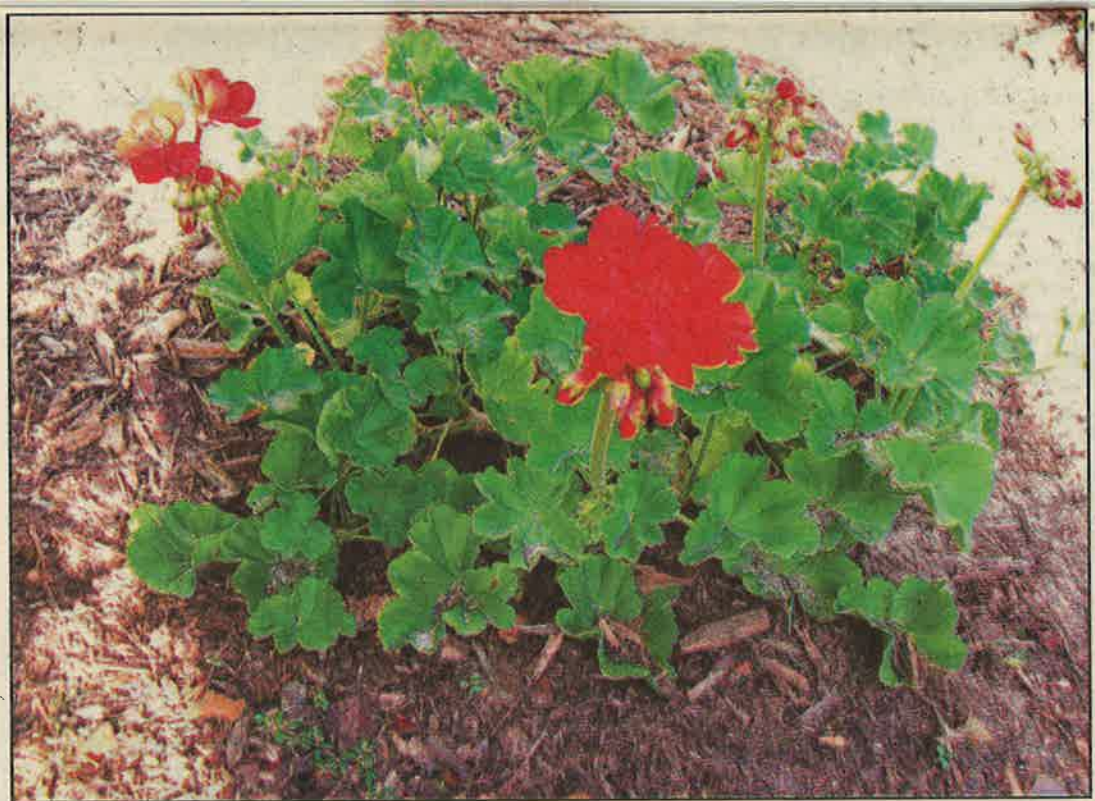
Each month, look for tips on how to get your yard noticed in the Gazette's new "Bloomin' in Bloomingdale" column. Tips for this column will be compiled using, the Hillsborough County Extension Service Web site, other online resources, and advice from local area nursery and garden center specialists. Enjoy, and happy gardening.

Fall has arrived, bringing with it cooler, dryer weather, and many planting opportunities.

For November:

- Plant and fertilize annuals. Strawberry lovers still have this month to plant spring's strawberry crop. Annuals include sweet pea, verbena, pansy, hollyhock, alyssum, wax begonia, candytuft, calendula, baby's breath, nasturtium, snapdragon, marigold, coleus, vinca, torenia, impatiens, gloriosa daisy, salvia, portulaca, cosmos, ageratum, and celosia.

- Reduce lawn watering. Keeping within county guidelines, water as needed. For some areas, watering every other week may be sufficient. This is the season to check irrigation systems, trim summer growth around sprinkler heads, and make repairs as needed.



The hardy geranium makes a showy landscape or container plant. This medium-sized annual comes in a variety of colors including red, the most popular; pink, white, salmon and shades of purple. They are prized for their reliability, drought-resistant characteristics, and easy care.

- Divide perennials, and get bulbs planted.
 - Gardeners should get busy preparing garden beds.
- Vegetables to plant: tomato, endive, escarole, snap bean, potato, pepper, pea, lima bean, collards, parsley, potato, celery, turnip, mustard, onion, spinach, lettuce, radish, cabbage, beet, carrot and broccoli.
- Have a "green thumb" and want to pass along a tip? E-mail InBloomingdaleNews@tampabay.rr.com.



Family Fun Events

Birthday Parties Weekly Cooking Classes Chefs Club Field Trips Winter Camp More!

Free Open House!

Holiday Cook & Care Event supports ECHO!

Stop by Young Chefs Academy for a FREE holiday Open House featuring festive holiday activities for kids. Please bring a bag of non-perishable groceries for ECHO. ECHO is Brandon's Emergency Care Help Organization

Saturday, December 6, 10 am - noon

Holiday Bread Making
Fri, Nov 7 from 5:30-7 pm

Holiday Pie Baking
Fri, Nov 21 from 5:30-7 pm

Cultures, Customs & Holiday Sweets
Sat, Nov 29 from 9 am - noon

Gingerbread House Class
Sat, Dec 6 from 2-3:30 pm

Cookie Workshop & Pizza Parties
Sat, Dec 13 from 10 am - 1 pm
Mon, Dec 22 from 10 am - 1 pm



Gingerbread & Pizza Party (Age 10+)
Sunday, Dec 7 from 5:30-8:30 pm

Holiday Gingerbread House Family Night
Fri, Dec 12, call to reserve a family table time

Spirit of the Season Family Night
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Greyhounds By The Numbers

Here are some of the characteristics of the Greyhound breed as determined by the American Kennel Club's published breed standard.

- Lifespan: 12 to 16 years.
- Size: Males: 65-70 pounds; Females: 60-65 pounds, stands 26-30 inches at the shoulder
- Coat: short and smooth
- Color: any
- Eyes: dark, bright
- Ears: small, fine-textured, folded
- Skull: long and narrow, wide between the ears
- Muzzle: large, blunt, straight, not pointed
- Nose: black
- Tail: long, fine, tapered
- Speed: top speed of 45 miles per hour, can average more than 30 miles per hour for distances up to one mile. The fastest breed of dog

GREYHOUND

From page 8

cleaners and television. They must learn to navigate stairs and recognize glass doors as solid objects. And, they must learn to interact with children and other animals.

Many foster families adopt their foster dogs. Virginia Cowles fostered Lady, 5, for two months. "I realized that I couldn't give her up. They [greyhounds] are wonderful dogs...they love you, appreciate everything you do for them, and they just want to please you," she said of her decision to adopt.

For Larry and Diane Lewandowski, adoption is even better

times two. "We had always talked about greyhounds and my daughter pointed out that by adopting, we were also doing a service," explained Diane of their decision to adopt not just one, but two greyhounds, Adam, 4, and Tasha, 5.

Helping the organization is simple, but Ray said, fostering is not for everyone. Money and food donations are always welcomed and needed, but time is perhaps the most valuable donation.

"We usually have 12 to 15 dogs available for adoption and fostering. We can always use volunteers, not just foster families, but people who can give a few

hours on the weekends occasionally for our weekly "Meet and Greets." Meet and Greets, she explained, are weekly events where volunteers show the dogs to the public.

Bloomington residents will have an opportunity to see The Greyhound Gang of Florida, Inc. in action at the upcoming Bloomington Family Fest. The group will bring adoptable dogs to the event Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bloomington Golfers Club.

For information, contact The Greyhound Gang of Florida, Inc. by phone at (813) 684-4804 or email to greyhoundgangfl@hotmail.com.

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Great American Teach In

Volunteers are needed for the Great American Teach-In on Nov. 19. Parents, community members or anyone interested in talking to students about their careers are invited to get in contact with their local school to register as a speaker. For more information, contact your area school.

Alafia Elementary 744-8190
Cimino Elementary 744-4450
Burns Middle School 744-8383

3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Bloomington High School Athletic Booster Club will be hosting their 3rd annual "Spaghetti Dinner" on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008 from 5-7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. This is a great fundraiser and great way to support all of the athletes at Bloomington High School. Tickets will be \$5 and sold both at the door and in advance at the main office. For more information please feel free to contact Brenda at (813) 643-5833.



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Thanksgiving Trivia: Turkey Talk For The Table

Compiled by JOY BOISSELLE

More than 116 million households are potential gathering places for the uniquely American tradition, Thanksgiving. The upcoming holiday is a time for families to gather and give thanks and express gratitude for all they have, as well as share with the less fortunate.

The tradition traces its roots back to centuries-old harvest feasts around the world. In the United States, Thanksgiving began in 1621 with the Pilgrims of Plymouth, MA. That year, the Pilgrims and their Wampanoag Indian neighbors gathered for a three-day feast to give thanks for a bountiful harvest.

From then, the holiday was observed randomly. Many presidents proclaimed Thanksgiving observances, including Washington and Lincoln, who is credited with making the observance an annual event. However, Thanksgiving became an official national holiday when President Franklin Roosevelt established the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 26, 1941.

When you sit down this year to give thanks with your family, get ready to liven up the dinner-time conversation and astound

See TURKEY, Page 27

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FAMILY FEST

November 22, 2008

10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

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4113 Great Golfer's Club, Valrico

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0002586817-01

Teens And The Holidays

CRD Pete Maurer and
CSO Sandy Capitano

Everyone, especially teenagers, enjoys this time of year as the holidays officially begin. School is out for Thanksgiving. No homework for a long weekend. There are lots of sales going on at the mall and other stores. There are lots of parties to go to. This means more driving.

Our community, and many of the surrounding communities, are still recovering from

the tragic deaths of some of our young teens who either died or were seriously injured in auto accidents this year. Because of their deaths or injuries these holidays will be empty instead of full of fun and joy.

If we could only go back in time and make sure they did everything they should have done to be safe. Something as simple as putting on their seat belts would change the lives of those who knew them, an action so quick and easy but yet impos-

sible to do now!

The catch is, we can't be with them every moment. They, as young adults, have to develop the habits and the responsibility for their actions or inactions. Safety is not a game, it's a lifestyle that saves lives. Maybe seatbelts aren't "cool," but neither is a casket or being seriously injured.

There is no magic answer on how to get every driver and passenger to buckle up, especially teenagers. So parents,

So parents, take the time to set the example by buckling up yourselves and teach your teens the importance of doing what's right and what will help keep them safe.

take the time to set the example by buckling up yourselves and teach your teens the importance of doing what's right and what will help keep them safe.

Make these holidays ones to remember, not ones to regret.

A SAFE AND SECURE HOLIDAY SEASON!

This is our wish for you and your family, and it should be your wish too.

This holiday season, like all others, we will be busy shopping, traveling and celebrating. We in the Sheriff's Office want all of our residents to have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Following are some safety and security tips to help each of you stay safe and secure this season. Please take the time to follow them.

- As a shopper, be extra cautious and stay aware of your surroundings and your actions. Don't get in a big rush and be careless. Stay alert at all times. Do not leave your car unlocked with the engine running. Do not leave packages or other valuables in your car. Lock them in the trunk. These are all invitations for thieves to take advantage of, and they will. There has been an increase in auto burglaries in our area.

- As a homeowner, prepare and secure your home before you head out for holiday traveling and also before you go shopping. Burglars drive through neighborhoods looking for "easy targets." Don't let your home be one! Special "Security Watch" requests can be completed at the

Sheriff's Bloomingdale Community Station on Bell Shoals. Our new Volunteer Citizens on Patrol are a critical part of this Sheriff's program.

Prevent burglaries by having your door and window locks checked for proper operation and make sure they are locked. Two of the most vulnerable areas are your garage doors and garage side doors. They both give open access to your home. Thieves look for these "open targets".

- As a driver, no one wants to be involved in an accident, especially one involving a drunk driver. So, don't be one yourself! Do not drink and drive or ride with those who do! Talk to your teens about the dangers of drinking and driving. Set the right example! A few minutes discussing the dangers and setting strict rules can save a life - your teen's life. Many teens are killed or injured because they are riding with someone who had been drinking and is driving.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY NOTE:

With our country still at war during this holiday season, and especially with many parents from our community separated from their spouses and children, please support the U.S. Marines "Toys for Tots Program."

They need our help. Semper Fi!

From all of us at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, on behalf of sheriff gee and his staff, have a safe and secure holiday season!

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Bloomington Bulls Getting High Praise

By LESLIE WHITE

From a trader on Wall Street to varsity head coach on Bloomington Avenue, Jason Stokes has created a Bull market as the team embarks on their first winning season in the school's history, garnering attention from the press and community neither coaches nor players at the school have ever experienced before.

Recently, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers lauded Stokes as High School Coach of the Week, honoring him with a trip to One Buc Place, a signed game ball presented by Jon Gruden and a check for \$1,000. Stokes took Bloomington Principal Mark West, Coach Dave Hutcherson and junior offensive and defensive lineman Matt Kacer with him to tour the training facility.

The Bucs High School Coach of the Week program is designed to honor local high school football programs that have a positive

influence on young athletes as well as the communities they live in. There's no denying Stokes' presence has made a positive influence on the football program. For the first time in many years, funds are flowing into the program from a series of fundraisers as well as the \$1,000 from the Bucs.

"A lot of people don't realize how much money it takes to run a program," said Stokes. "We put most of the money into a new locker room, and the rest to team meals, field paint, film towers and general equipment."

Two needs still unmet are new uniforms for the players and a new press box, which, according to Stokes, "needs a lot of TLC." Any community member wishing to help meet these needs can reach Stokes at (813) 765-2882. But some goals have already been met for the coach and his players.

"My first goal was to change the attitudes of the kids, and I think we've done that," said Stokes.

"My second was to look competitive on the field and I think we've done that as well." The Bulls are 4-2 with 4 games left to go in the regular season.

"I kept telling them that talent-wise they aren't much different from the teams we play," Stokes said. "I've seen the players from the other teams in our district with my own eyes. I promised them if they worked hard in the weight room and on the field, they will have success."

When Stokes came on in early 2008, there was much work to be done, a good part of it in the way of changing attitudes.

"When I arrived in January, they were willing to work, but I could tell they didn't believe in themselves," he said. "So, my coaching staff and I kept reinforcing a positive attitude, confidence and being competitive at all times. After a Riverview win

See BULLS, Page 17



Photo by Leslie White

Bloomington Varsity Head Coach Jason Stokes says, "My staff and I have given the team discipline, organization, instilled hard work and shown them that they believe in them," all of which has paid off as the Bulls experience their first winning season since the school opened in 1987.

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Photo by Leslie White

Band members and Baby Dolls color guard from Burns Middle School joined the Bloomingdale Rajun Bull Marching Band and Crimson Dolls during halftime at the Bulls versus Plant City game, won by the Bulls, 7-0.

BULLS

From page 16

(pre-season), that's when we saw the kids' eyes open up and they started to believe."

It's not only the players who believe, but also the community.

Stokes says he gets e-mails and phone calls all the time about the program. Players come to him on a regular basis and share stories about the positive things people in the community are saying about them and to them.

"We also feel the love when we get standing ovations when we walk into Beef O'Brady's after the games," said Stokes. "I am so proud of these kids. They have worked so hard this season and off-season. They deserve to see

the fruits of their labor. Also, I tell them all the time that they are playing for every Bloomingdale football player that ever played and had to suffer through those miserable seasons."

Coach Stokes also tells them,

"With the right attitude, they can't be stopped."

Stokes is now in the running for Bucs High School Coach of the Year, named at the end of the season with a \$2,000 prize for the winning coach's football program.

Photo by Leslie White
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Lotto Winnings Still Unclaimed

By LESLIE WHITE

The Publix at 3461 Lithia-Pinecrest in Valrico made big news locally as the store that sold a \$1 lottery ticket containing the six winning numbers that would fetch a prize of \$43 million. Speculation was rampant in the checkout line on Sept. 22 as customers and cashiers rendered guesses as to whether it was a customer or an employee that picked the lucky numbers.

Store employees admitted that they were waiting to see who didn't show up to work that day. The identity of the winner remains an unsolved mystery. As of Oct. 17, that prize was unclaimed, according to the Florida Lottery. The winning Florida Lotto numbers for the Sept. 20 drawing were: 02-17-24-26-48-51. Surprising to most will be the fact that all of that unclaimed money will not roll over to the next jackpot.

Florida law requires that 80 percent of unclaimed prize funds from expired tickets be transferred directly to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund. The remaining 20 percent is returned to the prize pool from which future prizes are awarded or used for special prize promotions. And one more tidbit of information, lottery winners can not remain anonymous. Florida law mandates that the Florida Lottery provide a winner's name, city of residence, game won, date won and amount won to any third party who requests the information.

So, there is no multi-millionaire flying under the radar in your neighborhood. However, there may be someone frantically turning their house upside down in the hunt for the winning ticket. The winner has 180 days from the date of the drawing to claim their prize.



Photo by Leslie White

No one has yet claimed the winning lottery ticket bought at the Publix on Lithia-Pinecrest.

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SALON

From page 10

"She's a great girl – just a nice kid who never had a bad thing to say about anybody. This was just awful."

The victim, who was months away from graduation and a full scholarship to begin college life at the University of Florida, is now struggling daily to do the simplest of activities. Williams said the girl is able to hear and react somewhat to those around her, responding with the squeeze of her hand.

"We're very fortunate in this community to have what we have and be able to do this, and we are so proud to be part of a community that pulls together in times of need," said Adams.

The salon raised \$3,722 in one day, all of which it gave to the victim's family. Bleu Salon and Spa is located at 3472 Lithia-Pinecrest Road behind Starbucks, and can be reached by calling (813) 651-4020.



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Wednesday, November 12th

- 6:05.....US Tae Kwon Do
- 6:45.....Official Opening Father Proulx & Novemberfest Chairman RJ Braunecker
- 7:05.....Let's Twirl Baton Twirlers
- 8:05.....Nativity's Lifeteen Band
- 9:05.....Nativity's Lifeteen Band

Thursday, November 13th

- 5:05.....Vocalist Amanda
- 6:05.....Leonard's Academy of Dance
- 6:30.....Joy Rogers Music Studio
- 7:05.....Music Showcase
- 8:05.....Vocalist Danny Wood
- 9:05.....Riverview High School & Liz Stewart

Friday, November 14th

- 5:05.....Vocalist
- 6:05.....Theater arts Dance Alliance
- 6:35.....Julestarz Dance Studio
- 7:05.....Shirley's School of Dance
- 8:05.....Brandon School of Dance Arts
- 9:05.....Main Tent - "Sophia"
Beer Tent Band - "Crystal Blue"

Saturday, November 15th

- 11:00.....Registration Baby Contest
- 11:55.....Registration for Baby Contest Ends
- 12:05.....Baby Contest Begins
- 1:05.....Baby Contest Continues
- 2:05.....Leonard's Academy of Dance
- 2:30.....Music Showcase
- 3:05.....Katrina's School of Dance
- 3:35.....Zumba Demonstration YMCA
- 4:05.....Kim Halls School of Dance
- 5:05.....Earl Harris Karate Studio
- 6:05.....Judy's Dance Academy
- 7:05.....Let's Twirl AAU National Champion Baton Twirlers
- 8:05.....Let's Twirl

Sunday, November 16th

- 9:05.....Band, Main Tent - Jose
- 9:05.....Band, Beer Tent - "Crystal Blue"
- 11:00.....Registration begins for Talent Show
- 11:55.....Talent Show Registration Ends
- 12:05.....Talent Show Begins
- 2:05.....Music Showcase
- 3:05.....Dance Carousel
- 5:00.....Raffle Drawing - Big Ticket Drawing for the Car

• A Message from Father Arthur J. Proulx, Pastor •

Dear Friends,
WELCOME TO THE 39th ANNUAL NOVEMBERFEST CELEBRATION!
At Nativity Catholic Church, we are committed to loving God, growing together and serving others through stewardship. As hosts of Novemberfest, we would like to welcome you and your family to five days of great fun, delicious food and amazing entertainment. I guarantee that you will have a great time. I look forward to seeing you at Novemberfest!



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By JOY BOISSELLE

Welcome to
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Each month,
residents will be
asked a question,
some light-hearted,
some serious, and
asked to respond.

This month:
***"What are you
thankful for
this year?"***



Heidi Myers, Riverhills resident

"Oh boy, I am thankful for my family, thankful that I have a job and am able to pay my bills, and I am thankful for my health and the health of my family. We had three deaths in our family this year... it made everyone come together and appreciate each other and our time together more."



Melissa Johnson, Bell Shoals area resident

"That's a good question; it makes you pause and think. I am thankful for my friends, family, and good health."

Tom Mulryan, Lithia resident

"I have a son born in June, and a daughter and I am very thankful they are both healthy. I am thankful I am not dead and that I am employed. And, I am thankful this is the first Thanksgiving I am not hosting."



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Dinner @ 6

6 ingredients, 6 servings or 6 hours in the crock pot
These recipes will help your family have dinner @ 6!

Three weeks until Thanksgiving – oh, boy! There is no six ingredient solution to that day, so we're going to shift our focus to the next most important day of the month – “The Biggest Shopping Day of the Year!” On my calendar, that day gets circled in red, marked with a star and decorated with a happy face.

Oh, yeah, it's deal time, baby!

Not everyone gets that excited about shopping. In every home, there's a crowd that's less than enthused with the onslaught of shopping enthusiasts preparing to hit the mall and big box stores at the crack of dawn. For those you'll leave behind in search of the elusive in-stock bargain, it's important to also leave behind something for them to nibble on in your absence. This month, I'm offering a few recipes that should sate their appetites for the day, starting with breakfast. Now, don't check out on me here. I know what time the sales start, the doors open and the shoppers stampede with Starbucks in hand. This breakfast is one you assemble the night before, pop in the oven, set for timed bake – an effort that will result in your beloved non-shopping family waking to the scent of a home-cooked warm breakfast.

Breakfast Casserole

1 cup chopped ham
2 cups grated cheese (can use cheddar or Swiss)
8 eggs
1 cup whipping cream
¼ teaspoon mustard
Sprinkle with salt and pepper
Spread ham and grated cheese on the bottom of a greased 9-by-13 baking dish. Whisk eggs, cream, mustard, salt and pepper together in a bowl until well blended. Pour over ham and cheese. Refrigerate overnight. The next morning bake for 40 minutes at 375 degrees.

If you're planning an extended shopping day you may need lunch or dinner as well. A little prep work the night before will give you a head-start and help you use a few leftovers too.

Simple. Satisfying. Savory. That's dinner @ 6! Until next month

Leslie White can be reached by emailing: lwhite_bloomingdalegazette@yahoo.com. For more recipes visit Dinner @ 6 online at www.dinnerat6-lesliewhite.blogspot.com. Readers are invited to share their quick & easy meal solutions, comments and ideas.

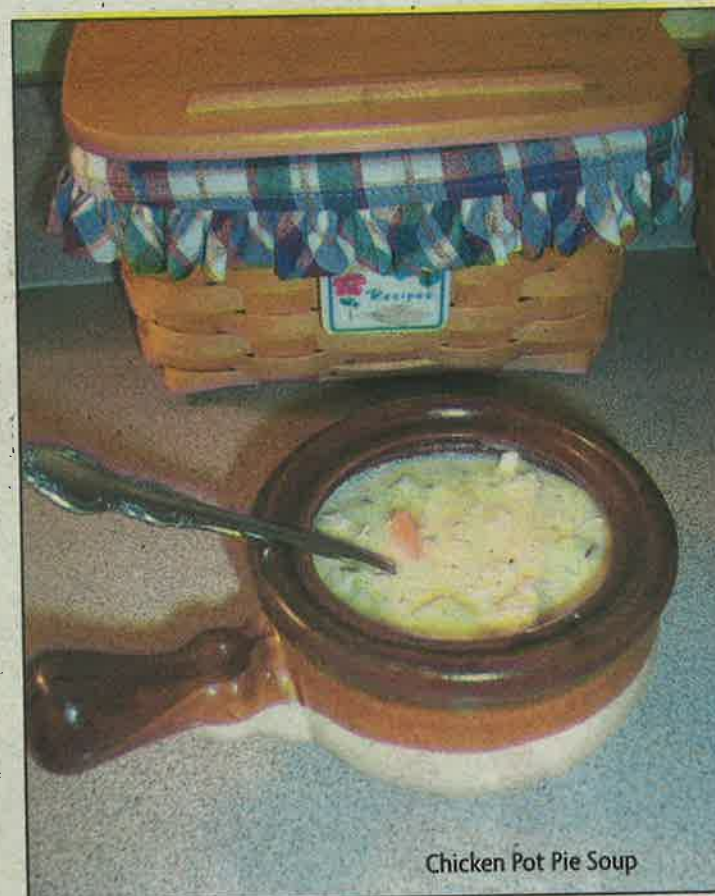
Chicken Pot Pie Soup

2 cups cooked chicken or turkey, cubed
1 (16 oz.) bag frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
1 can cream of potato soup
1 can cream of chicken soup
2 cups milk
1 large potato cut in ½-inch cubes

Ritz crackers

Mix all in saucepan and heat. Simmer 15-20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. These ingredients can also be placed in the crock pot before you leave and left on low until lunch. Top each bowl of soup with crumbled Ritz crackers. This is a quick and easy lunch to use up the leftover “bird” in a satisfying way!

With these efforts, your family will be well-fed while you cross items off their holiday wish lists! So, that takes care of “the day after”.



Chicken Pot Pie Soup

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Bearish Homecoming



Photo by Leslie White

The Brandon Bears held their homecoming in October. From left to right: Peyton White and Ashley Gardner, both Burns Middle School students, and Bradley Nelson, who attends Eisenhower Middle. Many Bloomingdale residents serve as Board members and coaches as well as have boys and girls that play football and cheer for the youth organization.

OFFERINGS

SIGHT, SCENT AND SOUND

Presbyterian Church of Seffner, 1906 S. Lenna Ave., Seffner. The church hosts a group fellowship meeting at 6:30 p.m. every Sunday with interactive teachings, group discussions and more. Refreshments are served. Call (813) 689-4412 for information.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP AND WONDER

Brandon Christian Church, 910 Bryan Road, Brandon. The church offers children ages 3-10 the opportunity to worship at 10:45 a.m. every Sunday with art, journals, books, puzzles and stories. Call (813) 689-4021.

READING THE BIBLE

First United Methodist Church, 120 N. Knights Ave., Brandon. The church offers a step-by-step Bible study from 6-7:15 p.m. Wednesdays. Participants are asked to bring their own meals. The church will provide beverages. Call (813) 689-0968 for information.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP FOR TEENS

First United Methodist Church, 115 N. Knights Ave., Brandon. The church will host a new praise and worship service for middle- and high-school students from 9:29-10:30 a.m. Sundays in the chapel. Call (813) 689-0968 for information.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Bell Shoals Baptist Church, 2102 Bell Shoals Road, Brandon. The church's Fellowship of Encouragement group hosts Celebrate Recovery classes from 6-9:30 p.m. Mondays in the church annex Room B-230. Children in fourth-sixth grades can participate in youth program. Free child care is available for infants and children up to age 12 by calling (813) 689-4229, ext. 501. For information or to register, call (813) 689-4229, ext. 432, or go to www.bellshoals.com.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

First Baptist Church of Brandon, 216 N. Parsons Ave., Brandon. The church hosts a support program for people struggling with "hurts, habits and hang ups" from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Call (813) 689-1204 for information.

See OFFERINGS, Page 27

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ible study from 6-7:15 p.m.
bring their own meals. The
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FOR TEENS

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0:30 a.m. Sundays in the
tion.

VERY

ell Shoals Road, Brandon.
ent group hosts Celebrate
days in the church annel
grades can participate in
for infants and children up
501. For information or to
go to www.bellshoals.com.

VERY

6 N. Parsons Ave., Bran-
for people struggling with
:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Call

See OFFERINGS, Page 27

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**Avenue
High School**

Successful Cleanup

By STANLEY LEE

The BHA is proud to say that they have had yet another successful cleanup event, another 120 cubic yards of debris has been removed from the community. At least once a year, the BHA board of directors volunteers its time to collect garbage from the community.

While there was a slight glitch of what could be accepted at this year's cleanup, most residents understood and were appreciative of the volunteer's dedication and the overall purpose of this program.

The BHA would like to thank the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners who provide the grant money for this program, the Office of Neighborhood Relations, the Solid Waste Department, and Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation Maintenance Department. These groups, along with our volunteers, Dana Higgins, Georgia Rees and Tyler Harris, make these cleanups possible for the Bloomingdale community.



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- VALRICO** • 1985 E. Brandon Blvd **654-2324**
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Fun at Alafia Fall Festival

The Alafia Fall Festival was a great success. More than \$3,000 was raised from the Silent Auction, which will help fund the Lunch Bunch program.

Children enjoyed the carnival rides, dunk tank, cake walk and the Book Fair!

Barbecue pork sandwiches, ribs and beans were available for purchase along with fun carnival treats like cotton candy! Everyone had tons of fun!



Picture by Ray Chadderton

Tyler and Wesley Harnage at Alafia Fall Festival



Pictures provided by Michelle Salerno



Presented by: skipFon

Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO)

6th Annual "Kids Helping Kids" Children's Fashion Show Luncheon

Looking for happy faces between 5-12yrs to model for a great cause!

**Saturday, Nov. 8 • 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., Riverhills Country Club
3943 New River Hills Parkway, Valrico**

Featuring the latest fashions from...

- Limited Too • JC Penney's • Plato's Closet • Beall's

All proceeds to benefit Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO). ECHO provides emergency food and clothing to more than 9,000 Brandon residents each year. Over 75% of those served are children.

For more information go to www.ECHOFL.org or call (813) 685-0935.

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16 Years In Bloomingdale



Cimino Fall Festival

Cimino Elementary School invites the community to attend our Fall Festival on Nov. 7 from 4-8 p.m. Cimino plans to use the proceeds from this fundraiser to make technological advances in the classrooms.

Residents can enjoy game booths suited for all ages, bounce houses, and the ever-popular Dunk Tank. The Baroque Boyz will provide entertainment with a violin and viola performance.

You won't want to miss performances by T.A.D.A.'s theatre group and Kid's Company's elementary performance team. The Cimino Drum Line and Chorus will make their debut. Guests may also view the Cimino Art Show. Contests will abound: jump rope, hula-hoop, and the limbo just to name a few.

And don't worry about dinner tonight. Moe's and Chick-Fil-A are cooking. Additional snacks

available include hot dogs, pizza, cotton candy, popcorn, and snow cones. You won't want to miss Cimino's first "candy store."

Businesses are welcome to set up informational tables. To date, you can look for Edible Arrangements, Teacher's Helper, Two Little Elves, The Interior Design Company, Brain Train, K Breeze Putt-Putt, Jennifer Hart's Candles and Cards, and The Prize Peony (custom embroidery). If

you're interested in having your own table, you can contact Gwen Porter (813 740-4450) to reserve your spot. Cost is \$25.

We appreciate our sponsors to date: Corinthian Colleges, Dave Mitchell-Allstate Insurance, Law Office of Jeffrey A. Dowd, and Publix. We are fortunate to live in such a generous community.

If silent auctions are for you, you won't want to miss this one.

Cimino teachers really know how to put variety and interest into their auction items.

There also will be a gently used book sale. Books you wish to donate may be dropped off at Cimino Elementary School.

Wristband sales will be held from Oct. 15 through Nov. 4. The office will be happy to assist you if you don't have a child currently attending Cimino.

OFFERINGS

From page 22

LEARN ABOUT THE ANGLICAN FAITH

St. Matthews Anglican Church, 10701 Bloomingdale Ave., Riverview. The church offers one-hour classes on the Anglican faith at 6 p.m. the first Wednesday monthly. There are open discussions on morality and spiritual growth. The church offers Bible study at 11 a.m. Wednesdays. Refreshments are available. Registration is not required. Call (813) 663-0334.

DANCING AND FELLOWSHIP

Brandon Boys and Girls Club, 213 N. Knights Ave., Brandon. The Family Life Committee of First United Methodist Church in Brandon sponsors ballroom dance lessons taught

by ballroom dance professional Donna Garzone from 7:30-9 p.m. Thursdays. Couples and singles of all ages are welcome. The classes give participants an opportunity to dance socially in a safe, alcohol-free environment. Cost is \$20 a month per person. Call (813) 689-4161 or Donna Garzone at (813) 671-3009.

MAKE, DONATE A QUILT

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, 604 N. Valrico Road, Valrico. The church hosts Rachel's Guild Quilts from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. the first Friday monthly. Participants make quilts for children staying in temporary shelters. Guild members provide brief lessons in fundamental quilting. Call Carol Menard at (813) 689-5493 or Pam Johnson at (813) 689-0113

TURKEY

From page 13

your friends with a few tidbits of Thanksgiving trivia.

Did you know that...

- every year, the President of the United States will just prior to "execution," pardon the National Thanksgiving turkey and an alternate. On Nov. 20, 2007, President Bush pardoned "May and Flower" at the National Thanksgiving Turkey Ceremony.

- more than 45 million turkeys will be cooked and 535 million pounds of turkey will be eaten.

- Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird.

- Pilgrims had no pumpkin pie at the first feast, but did have beer.

- turkeys really can drown if they look up when it's raining.

- Plymouth Rock is the size of a car engine.

- male turkeys gobble, but only during mating season and when going to sleep. Female turkeys cluck.

- Neil Armstrong was the first astronaut to eat turkey on the moon.

- cornucopia means "horn of

plenty."

- a mature turkey has over 3,500 feathers.

- approximately 90 percent of American homes will eat turkey on Thanksgiving Day.

-the biggest turkey was 86 pounds, the size of a large dog.

Facts and figures compiled from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. import and export trade reports, the U.S. Census and the Statistical Abstract of the United States, and others.



provided by Michelle Salerno



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Please include a contact number so we may confirm your seats!
 For more information, call 813-294-0405 or visit www.rollforacure.info.

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