

Wildcats donate to dogs



Sixth-graders at Dibrell School collected over 100 items for Viola Valley Dogs. This is Ms. Ashlee Reep's ninth year to have students donate to Viola Valley Dogs during the month of December. Shelter owner Linda Coursey brought three puppies to visit with the students to thank them. Pictured, front row, from left, are Yisel Regalado, Justin Boren, Shadaya Balderas, Easton King, A.J. Jones, J.C. Willeby, Journee Page, Olivia Jones, Jarety Charles, Janet Perez, Hailey Childress, Kalia Stewart, Zackery Mullican, Emilio Hernandez, Eden Wilson, Christopher Hernandez, and Christopher

Alveraz. Second row, Efren Campos, Allie McCormick, Paisley Wanamaker, Jesus Barcenas, Cloe Hooper, Annaston Henry, Christa Cowan, Garrison Randolph, Cirenia Arellano, Abby Sullivan, Sophia Woodlee, Emily Lewin, Blanca Luna, and Ms. Ashlee Reep. Third row, Sophia Tovar, Breanna King, Misty Austin, Rosa Carmago, Emma Pedigo, Nancy Luna, Amy Quezada, Gracie Randolph, Emily Davis, Mark Trujillo, and Andrew Roberts. Back row, Alys-sa Lawson, Gertrudis Alfaro, Aleni Bain, Jonah Bond, Anjel Luna, Dominick Marquez, Aspen Adams, Sadler Simmons, and Brooklyn Adcock.

Five-year-old calls 911 about Grinch

When 5-year-old TyLon Pittman of Byram, Miss., saw the Grinch stealing Christmas on Dec. 16 on TV, he did what any civic-minded citizen would do. He called 911. TyLon told Byram police officer Lauren Develle, who answered the call, he did not want the Grinch to come steal his Christmas, reported the Clarion Ledger.

Develle made TyLon an honorary junior officer and had him come down to the station on Dec. 18 to help her lock away the Grinch, who hung his head as TyLon asked him, "Why are you stealing Christmas?" Although the green fiend apologized, TyLon wouldn't release him from the holding cell. Police chief Luke Thompson told TyLon to come back when he's 21, "and I'm going to give you a job application, OK?"

AN ENGAGED CITIZENRY

Pam Bisanti, a 31-year resident of Mount Dora, Fla., has approached the city council more than once about the speeding traffic along Clayton Street, where she lives. On Nov. 27, Bisanti made good on her threat to take matters into her own hands if the council didn't by wielding a handmade sign reading "SLOW DOWN" as she stood next to the road-way during rush hour wearing her pajamas and robe. "The mothers up the street who send their kids down to the bus stop should have every expectation that those kids will be able to cross Clayton without being killed," Bisanti told the Daily Commercial, saying she plans to continue her protest until the city takes action. "I am frustrated, angry and fed up. There needs to be a solution sooner than later. Remember that vision of me in my pajamas," she added.

UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT

Melissa Allen, 32, was arrested Dec. 19 after attempting to shoplift more than \$1,000 in merchandise from a Framingham, Mass.,

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Target store, reported the Boston Globe. On hand to help in the arrest were more than 50 police officers who were at the store to participate in the annual "Shop With a Cop" holiday charity event.

THE CALL OF NATURE

Tracy Hollingsworth Stephens, 50, of Alachua, Fla., answered nature's call Nov. 25 by stopping her car in the middle of County Road 232 and stepping outside. An officer of the Florida Highway Patrol soon took notice as he had been searching for Stephens following her involvement in a two-car collision in the parking lot of a nearby T.J. Maxx store earlier that day. Stephens subsequently underperformed on a field sobriety test, according to The Independent Florida Alligator, and was arrested for driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident.

THE SUNSHINE STATE

Workers at Captain

Hiram's Sandbar in Sebastian, Fla., resorted to calling police Nov. 17 when customer William Antonio Olivieri, 63, refused to leave the bar after a night of drinking. Olivieri told Sebastian police he had arrived by boat, but when a quick walk down a nearby dock failed to uncover the boat, he said perhaps he had driven himself to the bar in a black Hyundai. Throughout the interview with police, reported the Sebastian Daily, Olivieri also maintained he was in downtown Melbourne, Fla., where he lives. Finally, he was arrested on a charge of disorderly intoxication and taken to the Indian River County Jail.

Sumter County, Fla., sheriff's deputies were dispatched to The Villages on Nov. 19 where resident Lori Jo Matthews, 60, reportedly barked at her neighbor's dogs, then entered her neighbor's yard, yelling at the neighbor and finally slapping the neighbor after being told to leave. Deputies caught up with

Matthews as she attempted to enter her own home, where she was handcuffed and arrested on charges of battery and resisting arrest. Alcohol, reported Villages-News.com, may have been involved.

ALARMING ANIMAL

North Fort Myers, Fla., homeowner Joanie Mathews was terrorized for hours Nov. 14 by a large pig that wandered into her yard overnight and spent the day destroying the lawn and biting Mathews three times before trapping her in the cab of her truck. "She would circle the truck ... and I would jump in the back seat and I was like 'Go away, pig!'" Mathews told NBC-2 TV. Mathews finally called law enforcement, and it took three Lee County sheriff's officers to wrangle the testy porker. "It was just hilarious because the pig fought them every which way," Mathews said. No one, at press time, had stepped forward to claim the pig.

Send your weird news items with subject line WEIRD NEWS to WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com.

Pope says it's not all about money

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis on Saturday advised against making the pursuit of money, a career or success the basis for one's whole life, urging in his Epiphany remarks to also resist "inclinations toward arrogance, the thirst for power and for riches."

During a homily at Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, Francis said people "often make do" with having "health, a little money and a bit of entertainment." He urged people to help the poor and others in need of assistance, giving freely without expecting anything in return.

Many Christians observe Epiphany to recall the three wise men who followed a star to find the baby Jesus. Francis suggested asking "what star we have chosen to follow in our lives?"

"Some stars may be bright, but do not point the way. So it is with success, money, career, honors and

pleasures, when these become our lives," the pope said, adding that path won't ensure peace and joy.

Later, Francis urged tens of thousands of faithful gathered below not to be indifferent to Jesus.

"Instead of conducting themselves in coherence with their own Christian faith, they follow the principles of the world, which lead to satisfying the inclinations toward arrogance, the thirst for power and for riches," Francis said. He prayed instead that "the world makes progress down the path of justice and of peace."

Francis noted that some Eastern Rite Catholic and Orthodox churches were celebrating Christmas this weekend and offered his cordial wishes to these believers.

"May this glorious celebration be a source of new spiritual vigor and of communion among us Christians," he said.



FRANCIS

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JOHNATHAN BOND

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
6:00PM



EVERYONE WELCOME!

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