

OUR TOWNS

AROUND TOWN

Youth can join running program

Children ages 8 - 13 will have the opportunity to participate in a free training program leading up to completion of the 3.1-mile Lap the Track, one of the three running events of the Daytona Beach Half Marathon Feb. 7 at Daytona International Speedway.

Children who are members of the DeLand and Port Orange Family YMCAs and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Deltona, Lake Helen, Holly Hill and Daytona Beach can receive training twice a week for eight weeks. Each child in the training program will receive free entry to the Lap the Track, a T-shirt and finisher medal. Transportation to Daytona International Speedway also will be provided for each child and a parent or guardian.

For more information or to sign up for the youth training program, contact Mica Lill at mlill@vfyfmc.org or call 386-738-9662, ext. 301.

DeLand youth basketball leagues now registering

The City of DeLand Parks and Recreation Department is happy to announce their upcoming 2016 Winter Youth Basketball Leagues. There are four leagues: Rookie League, ages 4-6; Junior

League, ages 7-9; Senior League, ages 10-12; and Teen League, ages 13-15. The cost is \$50 per child. Volunteer head and assistant coaches needed. Head coaches receive one child's participation free. Register at the DeLand Parks and Recreation Department offices, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. An open registration night will be held on 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, and a deadline registration day will be held 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at the old gym at DeLand High School. For information, call the DeLand Parks and Recreation Department at 386-626-7280.

5K Stress Buster and Fun Run set

The Lake Helen Christmas Eve 5K Stress Buster and Fun Run will be held 8 a.m. Thursday at Blake Park, 437 S. Lakeview Dr., Lake Helen. Awards to the top 10 overall male and female. Entry is \$30 through Dec. 22, \$35 at packet pickup or race day. Entry for students 17 and under is \$18. Packet pick up is 3-5:30 p.m., Dec. 23, at Blake Park Pavilion. Raceday registration and packet pick up begins at 6:30 a.m. To register online, visit finalmil-eracemangement.com. For information, call Ann Robbins at 386-228-2520 or email annrobbins75@hotmail.com.

Families enjoy evening of holiday cheer

DAYTONA BEACH – To celebrate the holiday season, Food Brings Hope and Embassy of Hope invited 30 families, about 200 people, to attend an evening filled with food, giveaways and lots of holiday cheer on Dec. 8 for a “Hope for the Holidays” event at Westside Elementary.

Food Brings Hope and Embassy of Hope share the common mission of equipping children with the tools and resources they need to reach their full potential. Both non-profits provide assistance to economically disadvantaged students and their families in the hopes of breaking the poverty cycle in these families and ensuring a brighter future for them as well as for the overall community.

“At Christmas, I zone in on Christ and children. I hope that the families at Westside Elementary enjoyed the clothing, food and gifts, but more importantly, have a renewed faith in the spirit of Christmas,” said Michelle Carter-Scott, director of Embassy of Hope.

Community partners donated items and volunteer time so that each family was able to choose gifts for each household member. The Sodexo team, a dining services company that serves Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, catered and served the evening’s



Artie Echavarria, Sodexo Campus Services manager, serves students and families at “Hope for the Holidays” at Westside Elementary School. PHOTOS PROVIDED

meal offering holiday wishes to each family as they passed through the food line. They also donated a turkey to each family.

Adults were given the opportunity to choose clothes from a selection of new children’s clothing, provided by Embassy of Hope. Weekend food bags, donated by Food Brings Hope, were given out during one of the night’s rotations. ICI Homes donated an array of shoes for the children. Other family-oriented gifts for the children and adults in attendance were distributed by Santa Claus, Principal Willie



Westside Elementary students enjoy cookie decorating and candy canes.

Williams, at the conclusion of the event.

The children were busy all evening enjoying

activities such as cookie decorating, arts and crafts, and listening to a Christmas story.

CHRISTMAS WITH A DEPUTY

Children get chance to shop with a cop

By Matt Bruce
matt.bruce@news-jrnl.com

PALM COAST – More than 100 children were treated to a holiday party Friday evening and a chance to do some holiday shopping courtesy of local law enforcement officers.

In addition to Flagler County sheriff’s deputies, the annual Christmas With a Deputy event featured officers from police departments in Bunnell and Flagler Beach, the Florida Highway Patrol and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission.

The evening’s festivities began with games, crafts and other activities the Chimento, Sellis Dyer law firm offices in Town Center, culminating with a lights- and sirens escorted motorcade to Target, where the kids had a chance to pose for photos with Santa before the shopping took place.

Go shopping



You can go shopping with the children and police by viewing our video and photo gallery at news-journalonline.com.



Flagler County deputies meet Friday with underprivileged kids at Target in Palm Coast to buy Christmas presents. NEWS-JOURNAL/LOLA GOMEZ PHOTOS



Flagler County deputies went to Target to buy Christmas presents for underprivileged children on Friday.



Santa Claus salutes Flagler County deputies arriving at Target in Palm Coast to buy Christmas presents on Friday.

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