

Celebrating Our 42nd Year

Voice

Of South Marion

September 6, 2012



Ride 'em
Cowgirl!!!

Shriner Rodeo Page 1B

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www.thevosm.net.

25 Cents

Millage Rate Set At 3.9912

The first reading of the 2012/2013 fiscal year budget was approved by the Belleview City Commissioners during the September 4, meeting. Belleview's budget for the up coming year is \$6,567,885 and the millage rate is 3.9912.

Millage is per thousand dollars of taxable value and remains the same as last year. The rollback rate is 4.2839 which is the amount needed to generate the same revenue of ad valorem taxes.

Belleview will receive \$55,627 less in ad valorem tax this year by not raising the millage.

Belleview is able to do this because they have a bare bones budget this year. It's mainly operating expenses but also includes up to a 2% cost of living increase adjustment for employees, merit increase that will be awarded April 1st that go up to 3%.

Some capital improvement projects will be funded from fund balance which is moneys the city set a side for many years.

Paving projects that are scheduled for next year will be funded from gas tax. Other budgeted items are an integrated financial package, bathrooms at Lake Lillian, a new telephone system, and the start up funds for Belleview's Economic Development Council.

There is also a small increase to water and sewer this year.



Young Women Program

Sister Copeland, Jessica Brantley, Sue Hunter, Cassie O'Day, Daphne Riddle, Barbara Holmes, and Sandra Lowe participate in the Young Women's program at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The church held an open house for Interfaith who travels to different churches to lean about other religions. The Young Women Program is for girls 12 to 18 years old and they meet on Wednesday nights.

God And Country Revival

Remembering 9/11 and Focusing on what we are fighting for this year to bring God Back To this Country One Nation Under God.

Saturday, September 8th, 9:00 am - 8 pm.

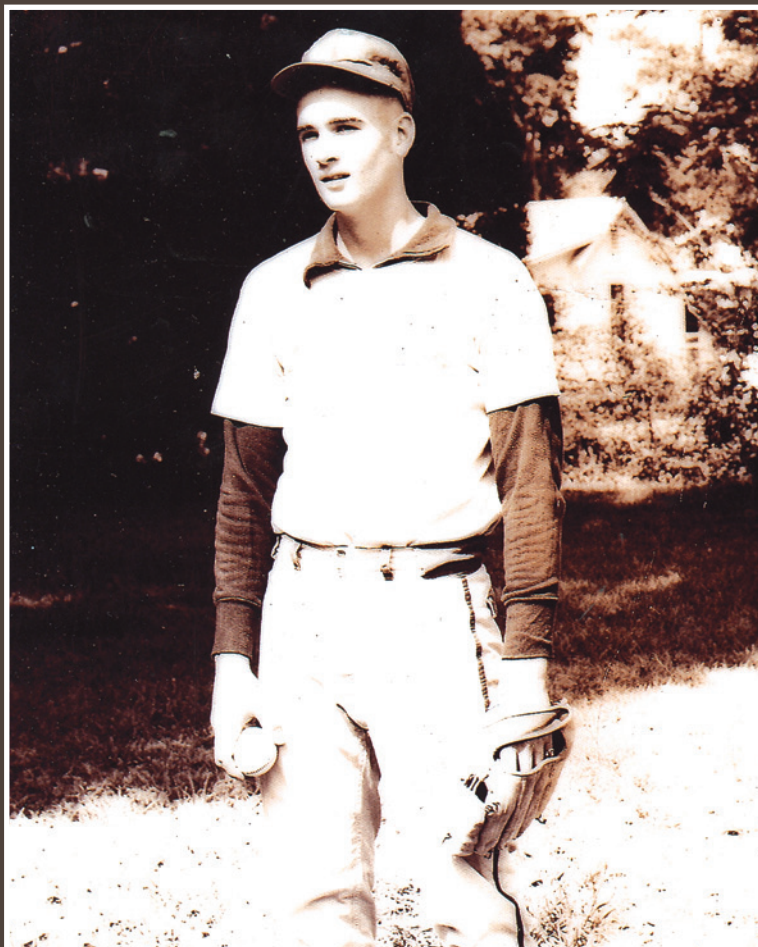
Sunday, September 9th, 9:30 am - Noon.

Open Door Community Church, 5200 S.E. 145th St., Summerfield, FL, 34491

Featuring special patriotic and inspirational music and singers, informative videos and dynamic speakers.

Speakers include Trevor Loudon, Carl Gallups, Bill Warner, Ken Scrubbs, Gerald Bustin, Jonathan Cahn, Sounds of Joy Singers.

Free coffee and sweet roll breakfast at 8:00 am. Lunch and dinner available at reasonable prices. Snacks served all day long.



The Boy With The Golden Arm

In 1958 Lake Weir High's Loren Abshier started down a road to an outstanding baseball career. (SEE More Inside this Week's Voice)

Annual 9-11 Freedom Walk

The City of Belleview will be holding its annual Freedom Walk Memorial on September 11, 2012 at 6:00 PM

Honored will be our first responders, those who put their lives on the line every day to keep all of us safe.

The Belleview High School ROTC will be posting the colors, followed by the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Belleview Police Chief Lee Strickland, Marion County Undersheriff Dan Kuhn, Marion County Fire Rescue Chief Stuart McElhaney will say a few words.

Mr. Robert Kane, a retired New York Fireman who was at the World Trade Center on that horrible day in 2001 will share his memories and experiences.

Afterwards, a solemn walk around several city blocks will commence. There will not be T-shirts, food or entertainment. Water will be provided to walkers.

Everyone is invited to participate in this memorial walk.

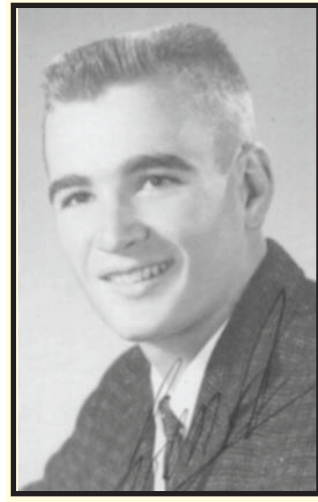
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Loren Abshier as "The Boy With The Golden Arm & The Walking Billboard for The Mojo Grill & Catering Co. in Belleview"



By: Shannon Brandenburg
On December 29, 1942, Edith Yates Abshier and Lou Abshier, former cook and hunting guide for the famous Barker family in Ocklawaha, had a precious baby boy. They named him "Loren Yates Abshier".

In 1934, the Abshier home in Belleview was built by Lou and some of his friends, and still today remains in the family. Everybody knew the house because- "that's where everybody played ball".

On Loren's first day of school at Belleview Elementary, which is now the Belleview City Hall, when he was around the age of 5, Loren walked the dirt road to the school house with bare feet, only to be sent home by his teacher to "put some shoes on".

Loren was a good boy that loved anything that had to do with sports and hanging around the big orange packing house where his father worked for his Uncle Vernie, (you will find out why later). And little did he know that in 1960 he would be voted the #1 player in the whole state of Florida by the major league pro baseball scouts. That was the biggest honor of his life!

In 1958, when Loren was a freshman at Lake Weir High School, he wanted to play baseball with the Hurricanes real bad. Unfortunately, the team only consisted of Juniors and Seniors. Loren begged and begged until they finally let him have a uniform but gave him no promise of playing ball. That was good enough for Loren.

During their first game against Dunnellon, the team had no pitcher. Coach Tom Paul asked if anybody could pitch and got no response. Peek Hames, Loren's cousin and catcher on the team, offered that



1959 Lake Weir High School Baseball Team
This is the team that Loren credits for all of his success

Loren had never pitched but he had a very strong arm. Without a choice, Coach Paul brought Loren into the game. Center fielder James Nichols made the statement, "Oh man! We're gonna loose for sure now!"

During that first game Loren struck out 17 batters and Dunnellon was defeated at home and by a freshman pitcher!

Loren's high school career quickly rose to the top making All Conference with 3 no hitters and 5 shutouts in 1959. He made All State and was Voted #1 Player in the State of Florida by the Professional Baseball major league scouts in 1960. He also made All State-1st team All South which is now called The All American Team in 1961 and left with a batting average of .418 with 8 home runs.

The funniest thing that Loren ever seen at a game was against Groveland in 1960. Loren was pitching and in the sixth inning the umpire called a time out and started walking towards first base. So Loren looked to Maynard Harris who was laying down with his head on the base. The umpire said "Son, you have to stand up", Maynard said "Why? Loren is striking out every batter anyways!"

Loren's fireballing, right handed High School Record consisted of 11- no hitters, 12- 1 hitters, 16- shutout games, and a 1- Perfect Game against a Palatka American Legion team and he struck out over 450 batters. It was then that he was given the nickname by sports writers 'The Boy With The Golden Arm'.

More importantly, in 1964, Loren married his 1st grade sweetheart-Dee Anne Kirkland. They announced their vows at the Methodist Church in Belleview, which is now Shepherd's Lighthouse and were blessed with three beautiful children, Lance, Lanny and Landrea.

While Dee Ann worked as a waitress, Lanny and Lance both played baseball at Lake Weir High School and Landrea was a cheerleader. Lanny went on to play for Florida State, Central Florida Community College and also played several years with the California Angels. Lance played for St. Leo's College and Landrea spent

her time winning over 600 beauty pageants. She even won a car in an International pageant at 8 years old. Loren had to drive it home.

What I didn't tell you before is that Dee Ann's father did quite a bit of business at the big orange packing house, which is now The Mojo Grill & Catering Company in Belleview. Dee Ann hung around there a lot as well... This was several years after she stabbed Loren with a pencil in that first grade classroom, that was the story given by Loren anyways. Let's carry on...

In 1969 the unthinkable happened, Loren's pro ball career came to an end. After already battling bursitis from pitching in extremely cold temperatures, he was taken by ambulance from Gerig Field and coming home with a broken leg and a non-repairable knee injury. Loren's days of playing baseball everyday were over.

So, Loren decided to join a hot shot/semi pro team that only played about once or twice a week called The Ocala Budweisers. The owner of the team, Mr. Anheuser made a deal with his team to fly them on an all expense paid trip to the Wichita World Series, if they made it that far, and they did! Mr. Anheuser lived up to his part of the deal and flew 18 players on his private plane to Wichita and paid for everything for three whole weeks.

The Ocala Budweisers won the championship 3-1 and Loren struck out 15 players- Yep he still had it! These were the times that Peek Hames and Loren Abshier called "The Glory Days".

Loren went on to be a very successful business man with the Abshier Family of Companies. His company being Abshier Insulation & Acoustical is still going very strong and Loren still works very hard everyday. Loren's wife Dee Ann became the financial secretary for the First Baptist Church of Belleview and she worked there for 18 years until she retired a few years ago.

Loren said even though he was there playing baseball, to him it was no big deal, he was just having the time of his life!

Dee Ann Kirkland said "I Do" to Loren in 1964. Together they had three children- Lanny, Lance and Landrea.

Loren's parents, Lou and Edith Abshier stuck by his side through it all.

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The Abshier Home Front Yard Then
This is where everybody played baseball, football and any other kind of ball-in the front yard of Loren's family home



The Abshier Home Front Yard Now
This home is still in the Abshier family



The Day The Squirrel Lost To A Hickory Nut
One day while Loren and Bruce Perry of Pedro were at Salt Springs walking down to the swimming hole. There was a squirrel sitting in a tree. Bruce said "Loren, knock that squirrel out!" Loren quickly picked up a hickory nut and threw it as hard as he could, knocking the squirrel out... The squirrel was upset but fine... True Story

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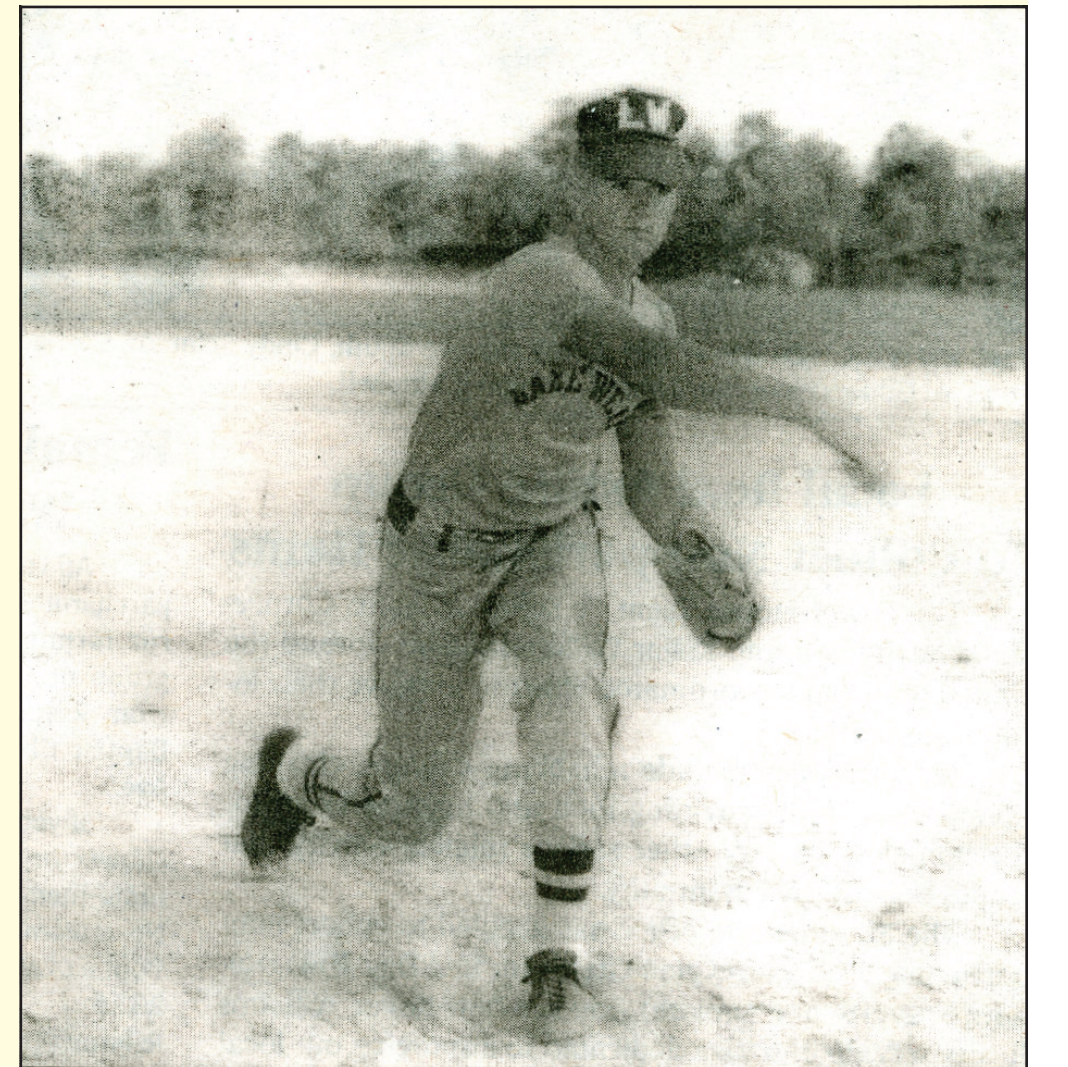
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themojogrills@aol.com



Loren Abshier
A Lake Weir High School Ace...Sophomore hurler, fireballing, right-handed, power-throwing workhorse is the reason behind the schools successful first year of organized baseball. And if anybody ever says pitchers can't hit, don't believe them. Loren likes to hit the ball long and had a current battin gaverage of .305

FERNANDEZ HOMERS
Lancers Top FSC JVs, 10-1
LAKELAND - Manatee Junior College exploded for eight runs in the very first inning to defeat the Florida Southern Junior Varsity nine here yesterday.
Winning hurler Loren Abshier singled across two runs in the big first and went on to hurl the first seven innings yielding but one unearned run, just one walk and fanning six.
It all started when starting hurler walked the first three NLG batters - Dick Fernandez, Hopkins and Dick Trandaway. Paul Dickens then hit a sacrifice fly scoring Fernandez. Arthur then singled in a run and catcher Payne hit a two-run single. Abshier and Hopkins followed later with two-run singles.
The final two Manatee runs came on a homer by Fernandez with Bobby Hawkins on base.
This afternoon the Lancers played host to Brevard Junior College at the JAC campus field.
Manatee J.V. FSC JVs
Fernandez 4 R 1 B 1
Trandaway 1 R 1 B 1
Hopkins 1 R 1 B 1
Payne 1 R 1 B 1
Abshier 7 R 1 B 1
Hawkins 1 R 1 B 1
Total 10 R 1 B 1
The victory was Manatee's third in as many games played this season.

Abshier Hurls 3rd Shutout In A Row
Loren Abshier hauled his third consecutive shutout yesterday at the Lake Weir High School home field in a 3-0 victory over the Ocala Budweisers.
Abshier went the route for Lake Weir and gave up four hits and striking out seven batters. The game was tied for seven hits by the Budweisers.
Lake Weir scored first in the fourth inning on a two-run homer by Abshier and Arnold Lancia.
The final two runs were tallied in the fifth when Harris was safe on an error. Don Phillips singled and Billy Clapp smacked a triple to score both runners. Clapp scored on an error.
A double by Frank Smith and a single by Jim Lloyd produced the final run in the sixth inning.
Lake Weir's next game will be Thursday at Dade.

Abshier Hurls Three-Hitter Lake Weir Wins Seventh Straight Over Clermont
The Lake Weir Hurricanes bombed Clermont for nine runs on ten hits Friday en route to their seventh straight Mid-Lake Conference victory.
The Hurricanes got early home runs off the pitching of George Clifton. Clifton threw two shutouts in his last game yesterday at the Lake Weir home field. Clifton pitched a 6-0 shutout against Clermont yesterday over Clifton.
Lake Weir's star hurler gave up three hits in his last game yesterday at the Lake Weir home field. Clifton pitched a 6-0 shutout against Clermont yesterday over Clifton.
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Loren Abshier Hurls Third No-Hitter Of Year For Lake Weir
Loren Abshier, Lake Weir's fireballing hurler, hauled his third no-hitter in his last game yesterday at the Lake Weir home field. Clifton pitched a 6-0 shutout against Clermont yesterday over Clifton.
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Jan Hames
Most of these articles and this information came from a scrapbook kept by Loren's cousin, Jan Hames. Loren lived with their family while attending college. At the time, Jan was only 10 years old.

• Mojo Grill voted #1 for Catering in Marion County. Any event, any time, any where. More info at our Belleview and Ocala stores.

• Winner of five events at King of the Wing. Mondays AUCE Wings 5-close.

• Ask about our specials and Live Entertainment, including live music, trivia, kids nights with clowns, face painting, magicians & more.

• Bring this paper in and get 10% off. Not valid with any other discounts.

• Biggest party in town after the Christmas parade in Belleview. Great fun, great music and a great big bounce house for the kids.



Great Wings & Great Friends
Loren's best friend of 8 years, Joe Hopper and John McArdle (not pictured), of Service Partners in Tampa, drive all the way from New Port Richey every Friday to have lunch with Loren and at Mojo's. Jen, the General Manager, stops to say hello while Loren enjoys his great wings & his great friends.



Home Is Where The Heart Is
Someone asked Loren why he spends so much time at Mojo's. His reply was "I have spent most of my life here, it's like my second home".

Belleview Sports Complex

The City had 17 acres of property located on what is now SE 107th Street which had been graciously donated to the citizens of the Town of Belleview in 1944. Plans were developed in the mid 1970's to start developing this property into a recreational center. A group of area residents got together and through hard work, dedication and their donations of money, time, and materials were able to develop several league fields as well as and tennis and basketball courts. (from the Belleview Sports Complex website)
Some of these residents included Loren Abshier, Sonny Evans, Louis McClain, Oral Blackman, Casey Scroggie and many, many more.

To the Little League Players

This is a paid advertisement by myself and Mojo's to prove that no matter who you are or where you come from, you can do anything you want as long as you put your heart in it and give it your all.....Loren Abshier

