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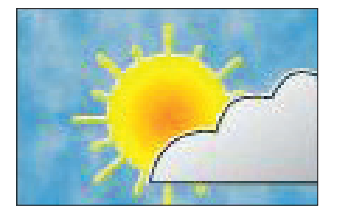
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THURSDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2010



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Ringling in a holiday tradition

Volunteers needed

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

While the Christmas holiday is accompanied by a number of familiar sights and sounds in the Crossroads area — Christmas trees, festive lighting, candy canes and nativity scenes — it simply wouldn't be the same without the tolling bells and red kettles of the Salvation Army.

And while the presence of the charity's bell ringers near local merchants and stores is certainly a familiar one, officials with the Salvation Army say they are trying to work through a severe shortage of volunteers to man the kettles, one of the organization's principal sources of donations during the Christmas holiday.

According to Salvation Army Capt. Ed Cheshire, the familiar kettles represent much more than just a place for shoppers to toss their spare change.

"The kettles are a source of hope during the holidays," Cheshire said. "They are a reminder to people that while

"The bell ringers get a sense of satisfaction from knowing they are working to help their fellow man. That's an amazing feeling."

— Salvation Army Capt. Terri Cheshire

we may not be in the best economic times in this country and state, there is hope for those who are struggling to get by."

Few might understand that message better than Salvation Army volunteer and bell ringer Ivan Rose, who mans his kettle in front of the Walmart SuperCenter for hours at a time, despite the biting cold and tough winds.

"I'm a fisherman from Mississippi. However, since the

See **BELLS**, Page 3A



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins
Local Salvation Army supporter Ivan Rose rings the charity's iconic bell outside the Walmart SuperCenter Wednesday. Rose is a Mississippi fisherman displaced by the recent BP oil spill. The local charity is in need of bell ringers to support their kettle program in the Crossroads area.

Celebrating Christmas in song

Living Christmas Tree performances are Saturday, Sunday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Time is running out for area residents hoping to get tickets for the 32nd annual First United Methodist Church Living

Christmas Tree, which will help kick the holiday season into high gear this weekend.

According to Program Coordinator Eddie Vandewalker, performances will begin with

a formal dress rehearsal at 2 p.m. Saturday, which will be open to the public.

"It's basically the first chance the community can come and see the show, and

see how hard the men and women participating in the Living Christmas Tree have been working," Vandewalker said. "The dress rehearsal is all general seating, so there's

no ticket necessary. It's geared more toward our seniors who don't like to drive at night.

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Deficit panel tackles health care costs

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The health care cuts proposed by leaders of President Barack Obama's deficit commission would reach virtually every corner of society, making cost curbs in the new overhaul law look tame by comparison. Workers with solid coverage on

the job, seniors, drug companies, trial lawyers, hospitals, doctors, state governments and federal employees would all feel the effects. For Medicare recipients, the biggest change would be an increase in cost-sharing.

The proposals from commission See **PANEL**, Page 3A

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