Kruissna Alvarado, control room coordinator at Haines City Citrus Growers Association, was recently recognized for her dedication and outstanding work ethic by the association’s director of packing operations, John Soles.

For the third time in the last four years, Dean Saunders of Lakeland has earned Coldwell Banker Commercial’s No. 1 Global Sales Professional Award. Saunders is the founder of Coldwell Banker Commercial Saunders Real Estate (CBSRE) and is a partner in Coldwell Banker Commercial Saunders Ralston Dantzler Realty, both located in Lakeland. Saunders and Richard Dempsey, a Realtor and associate at CBSRE, were named members of Coldwell Banker Commercial’s Top 2% category, recognizing them as top earners among 3,000 associates in the Coldwell Banker Commercial network.

For the second year in a row, The Land Report magazine included Coldwell Banker Commercial Saunders Real Estate in a list of America’s leading real estate firms specializing in land.

Professor James H. Graham Jr. of the University of Florida-IFAS’s (UF-IFAS) Citrus Research and Education Center is one of six UF-IFAS scientists named as University of Florida Research Foundation professors for 2012-15. The three-year award includes a $5,000 annual salary supplement and a one-time $3,000 grant. The professorships are funded from the university’s share of royalty and licensing income on UF-generated products.

Puncture vine (Tribulus cistoides)

By Stephen H. Futch

Leaves: opposite, evenly pinnately compound, 1½ to 2⅓ inches long, short-stalked, five to 10 pairs of leaflets

Flowers: light yellow, ½ to 2 inches across, borne on 1- to 2-inch stalks, single in leaf axils

Fruit: spiny, separating into three segments, hairy

Stem: reddish in color, hairy

Growth pattern: prostrate, branching

Life cycle: summer annual

Stephen H. Futch is a multi-county citrus Extension agent based at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred.