

Lake City Reporter

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SUNDAY EDITION

FGC hosts countywide Speed Stacking Competition. **6A**



Catholic Charities gives annual Dove, Grace awards. **7A**



Parade now set to roll Monday

From staff reports

Inclement weather postponed the Lake City Christmas Parade Saturday night, but the holiday crowd-pleaser has been rescheduled for Monday.

The parade route will remain the same. The Lake City Christmas parade will take place at 6 p.m. Monday and the parade lineup will begin at 5 p.m. near the corner of North West Washington Street and North West Hilton Avenue.

The parade will start on Marion Avenue near Washington Street with Meally Jenkins, founder of the Christmas Dream Machine as its grand marshal and head south, ending at the DOT office near Clements Street and disperse at the Farmers Furniture Parking lot.

The Lake City Christmas Parade is coordinated by the Rotary Club of Lake City. Rotary Club president Robert Turbeville said Friday that the high chance of rain Saturday night was the reason the parade was postponed.

"We had a lot of churches and groups calling us concerned about the rain forecast for Saturday night, so we talked to several meteorologists and got their take on it and we felt it was better to move it to Monday night," Turbeville said.

RAIN CAN'T DAMPEN...

SNOW DAY 2013



Photos by JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Laciemae Hopper, 7, hits a mound of shaved ice during the Snow Day event held in Olustee Park in downtown Lake City on Saturday. 'The hump (in the snow) surprised me,' she said. SEE MORE PHOTOS, 9A.

Weather threatened, but failed to spoil annual event.

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON
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Luke clutched 3-year-old Maggie in his arms as the two prepared to sled down the snow-covered slide. One, two, three — and they propelled down the icy slope in their blue sled, looks of excitement beaming from their faces as the sled hopped a small hill and came to a rest.

Over and over again, the same scene played out at the Lake City-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce event, Snow Day, on Saturday. Children waited in line, anxiously anticipating their turn to go down the slide or see Santa. The smell of funnel cakes and other fair-esque food drifted from the street lined with food vendors.

"It just doesn't snow here," said 5-year-old Luke, who loved crafting snowballs to chuck at

friends and family. Within seconds after uncurling from the sled, he already wanted to head to one of the four snowhills. "I get to build a snowman."

It wasn't the first time Luke had played in the make-shift snow piled high in the downtown Olustee Park. After coming last year, he looked forward to this year's Snow Day.

"It's a good event," said his

SNOW DAY continued on 9A

County ranks high on STD list

Students here are 18th of Florida's 67 counties.

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON
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Columbia County ranks 18th out of 67 Florida counties in terms of school-aged children with sexually-transmitted diseases, a problem the Florida Department of Education may be able to help.

A DOE representative approached Columbia County School District's health education coordinator Gloria Spivey and the Columbia County Department of Health on Monday to conduct a county health assessment survey. The department will analyze the data to select 15 counties in the state most in need of help. Though Columbia County may not be selected, the local health department plans to continue county-wide education on STDs.

Currently, approximately 3 out of 100 students contract either gonorrhea or chlamydia between the ages of 15 to 19 in the county. At a rate of 2,971.8 per 100,000, Columbia ranks higher than the state rate of 2,377.3. According to Florida Department of Health data, approximately 130 students tested positive last year for STDs, not including HIV. Columbia County reported less than 10 cases of HIV among school-aged children.

"We have to do a better job of educating our youth," Mark Lander, Columbia County Health Department administrator, said. "I'm not surprised [by the numbers,] but I am disappointed. I would like for us to do more outreach in schools. I would like for our students to take this seriously. They are susceptible. Sexually-transmitted diseases aren't random. The actions of our youth are what drive our STD rates."

Columbia County fell behind Gadsden County,

STD continued on 8A

FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE Law enforcement academy expands

By STEVEN RICHMOND
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Florida Gateway College revealed conceptual designs Friday morning for a 25-acre campus expansion that would create additional training facilities for their law enforcement and public safety programs.

The computer-generated renderings were revealed to the press during a roundtable meeting with representatives from Florida Gateway College, Columbia County Fire Rescue, Lake City Fire Department and the

Columbia and Baker County Sheriffs' Offices.

The proposed facilities would be placed on the southeast side of campus near the intramural softball field and include a 700 by 400 foot emergency vehicle operations training course, a four story fire training facility and enhanced firearm practice environments.

"This is an overall concept of what we'd like to see if our wishlist was fulfilled today," Sheriff Mark Hunter said. "But we realize we can't do this all in

FGC continued on 8A

Trick pool shots on tap



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Tom 'Too Kool' Kinzel sets up a shot during the Dr. Cue Classic Artistic Cup VII held at the Pockets pool hall on Friday. Competitors were expected to follow the eight disciplines, including the Trick and Fancy, Special Arts, Draw, Follow, Bank/Kick, Stroke, Jump and Masse shots.

By STEVEN RICHMOND
srichmond@lakecityreporter.com

Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman and his wife, Marty, were regulars in the professional billiards circuit for decades until one day in 1991 when they coined the term "artistic pool"—a new sport marrying physics, dexterity, creativity and visual entertainment.

That sport came to Lake City Friday during the first round of the Dr. Cue Classic Artistic Cup VII, a multi-stage tournament at the Pockets pool hall featuring 14 skilled billiards players

POOL continued on 8A

Yoho talks gun rights here

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON
awilliamson@lakecityreporter.com

Congressman Ted Yoho declared, to a chorus of cheers at the Family Firearms Safety event Saturday, the Second Amendment a constitutional birthright that should not be infringed upon.

Organized by Yoho's staff, the event educated the congressman's constituents about gun safety, proper maintenance, concealed weapon permits and more. Approximately 40 people

filled the audience at the Jackie Taylor building in Lake City. Most of them were curious about issues such as the Stand Your Ground law, selecting the right gun safe and how to handle a concealed weapon if stopped by law enforcement.

"The gun doesn't kill people," Yoho said. "It's the people behind it. It's an instrument. It's something there, an animate object that has no emotion unless someone's behind it. And thank God, we live in a country that has a Second Amendment that

allows us to have ownership of weapons responsibly."

The Second Amendment was written at a time when America was fledgling nation breaking away from a tyrannical government. Since that time, many military troops have fought to protect the idea of a free militia established during the Revolutionary War, Yoho added. It remains the responsibility of all Americans to make sure the Second Amendment is not impacted, Yoho said.

YOH0 continued on 8A



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Gainesville, speaks about the Second Amendment during the Family Firearm Safety Event held in Lake City on Saturday.



TROY ROBERTS/Florida Gateway College

LCFD Assistant Fire Chief Tim Westberry, FGC Vice President of Occupational Programs Tracy Hickman, LCFD Fire Chief Frank Armijo, FGC President Charles Hall, FGC Law Enforcement Academy Director John Jewett and FGC Law Enforcement Training Program Coordinator Jay Swisher pose in front of a surplus 1993 Pierce International firetruck donated by the Lake City council and LCFD Friday morning.



Vol. 139, No. 224
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TODAY IN SPORTS

Tigers take on Palatka in double-header.



TODAY IN BUSINESS

Guitars at top of holiday shopping list.



Friday: 12-32-38-42 x17



Friday: 6-30-32-34-35



Saturday: Afternoon: 9-4-5



Saturday: Afternoon: 0-6-8-4



Wednesday: 2-33-38-51-52-53 x5



Wednesday: 1-10-13-18-9 x27

AROUND FLORIDA

Deputies: Teen kicks 72-year-old man, laughs

FORT MYERS southwest Florida community is rallying around a 72-year-old man this holiday season after authorities say a teenager kicked him while her friend videotaped it.

Lee County Sheriff's officials said a 15-year-old high school basketball player and several teammates were walking through a neighborhood when they spotted Robert Lerberg gardening last month.

Authorities say the teen kicked Lerberg from behind and laughed, while another videotaped it. The assault outraged county residents. Authorities say the teen also allegedly knocked on another senior's door that day and slapped the victim in the face. She faces two felony battery charges. The Associated Press is not naming the suspect because she is a minor.

The News-Press reports several companies are donating gardening materials and labor; and one person bought Lerberg a Christmas tree.

Man charged with stabbing teen

WESLEY CHAPEL — A southwest Florida teen is being charged with murder after authorities say he fatally stabbed a high school student.

Pasco County Sheriff's authorities say Cleave Gittens and Tuvarion Sirmons got into a fight



TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

Altrusa Backpack Project: Kids helping kids

An estimated 70-80 children who attend Kountry Kids Daycare recently brought food for the Altrusa Backpack Project. The food was scheduled to be collected by Altrusa officials on Friday afternoon and will be given to local needy children. The food drive ran approximately three weeks. "We wanted the children to help other by giving," said Carla Cowen, Kountry Kids Daycare co-owner.

at a clubhouse in their neighborhood Friday. Authorities said 18-year-old

Gittens stabbed 16-year-old Sirmons. It's unclear what prompted the stabbing. No other details were released. A crisis team with grief counselors will be at

Zephyrhills High School where Sirmons attended on Monday.

Former chairman pleads guilty

SARASOTA — The former Sarasota County Republican Party chairman has pleaded guilty to making false campaign donations.

The Sarasota Herald-Tribune reports Robert Waechter confessed Thursday to using "underhanded tactics" but will avoid prison.

Prosecutors said Waechter made false campaign donation in the name of a political rival in an attempt to undermine her career.

The judge sentenced him to three months under house arrest, two years of probation, 100 hours of community service and \$5,000 in fines.

Bank robber claims bomb

DANIA BEACH — Authorities in South Florida say a man claiming to have a bomb attempted to rob a bank and was later shot and wounded by sheriff's deputies.

Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said Friday the man had a device around his neck, but authorities were not certain it was an active explosive device. Israel said deputies opened fire when the man refused to comply with their orders outside the Chase bank branch in Dania Beach.

■ Associated Press

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Bells toll for school shooting victims

NEWTOWN

Bells tolled 26 times to honor the children and educators killed one year ago in a shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School as local churches held memorial services Saturday and President Barack Obama observed a moment of silence.

With snow falling and homes decorated with Christmas lights, Newtown looked every bit the classic New England town, with a coffee shop and general store doing steady business. But reminders of the private grief were everywhere. "God bless the families," read a sign posted at one house in the green and white colors of the Sandy Hook school, and a church posted that it was "open for prayer."

Ryan Knaggs, a chef who lives in Newtown, said that as the bells tolled he thought of two young victims who played soccer with his 7-year-old daughter.

"The echo of the bells, knowing some of the children personally, you feel the exactitude with each bell ... the exactitude of the loss and the grief," Knaggs said.

The bells rang 26 times at St. Rose of Lima church in Newtown beginning at 9:30 a.m. — the moment the gunman shot his way into the school on Dec. 14, 2012 — and names of the victims were read over a loud-speaker. Connecticut's governor had asked for bells to ring across Connecticut and directed that flags be lowered to half-staff.

In Washington, the president and first lady Michelle Obama lit 26 votive candles set up on a table in the White House Map Room — one each for the 20 children and six educators.

In his weekly radio address released hours earlier, Obama said the nation hasn't done enough to make its communities safer by keeping dangerous people from getting guns and healing troubled minds. Gun restrictions backed by the president in response to the shooting faced stiff opposition and ultimately stalled in the Democrat-controlled Senate.



FILE

Ichetucknee scene

University of Florida students Ronnie Cox (left), 25, and Jonathon Cunningham, 29, play around a rock formation while visiting Ichetucknee Springs recently.

"We have to do more to keep dangerous people from getting their hands on a gun so easily. We have to do more to heal troubled minds. We have to do everything we can to protect our children from harm and make them feel loved, and valued, and cared for," Obama said.

Anniversary observances were held around the country, including in Tucson, Ariz., where former congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband were planting a yellow rose bush in a memorial garden created after the 2011 shooting that nearly killed her. Giffords' husband, Mark Kelly, said it is important to pause and support families of the Newtown victims.

Newtown asked for quiet and privacy on the anniversary.

Police seek motive in Colorado shooting

CENTENNIAL — Investigators

Saturday were working to find out what motivated a teenage gunman to enter his suburban Denver high school armed with a shotgun looking for a specific teacher a day earlier.

Quick-thinking students at Arapahoe High School on Friday alerted the targeted educator, who quickly left the building. The 18-year-old shooter — identified by authorities as Karl Pierson — critically wounded a 15-year-old student, but the strategic response by police on the eve of the Newtown massacre anniversary appears to have averted more bloodshed.

About a half hour after wounding the girl, Pierson was found dead in the school, apparently of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

"I believe the shooter took his life because he knew he had been found," Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson said.

■ Associated Press

Celebrity Birthdays

- Melanie Chartoff, voice of Angelica on Nickelodeon's show "Rugrats," is 65.
- Tim Reynolds, lead guitarist for the Dave Matthews Band, is 56.
- Grey's Anatomy's Camilla Luddington, who also played Kate Middleton in "William and Kate," is 30.
- Hillsong United artist Brooke Fraser is 30.

Thought for Today

"Happiness is not achieved by the conscious pursuit of happiness; it is generally the by-product of other activities." — Aldous Huxley

Scripture of the Day

"As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. For who is God save the Lord? or who is a rock save our God? It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect." — Psalm 18:30-32

Lake City Reporter

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Main number (386) 752-1293
Fax number 752-9400
Circulation 755-5445
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Circulation 755-5445
(circulation@lakecityreporter.com)

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(rbridges@lakecityreporter.com)

ADVERTISING 752-1293
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Correction

The Lake City Reporter corrects errors of fact in news items. If you have a concern, question or suggestion, please call the executive editor. Corrections and clarifications will run in this space. And thanks for reading.

Man pleads guilty to child porn charges

From staff reports

JACKSONVILLE—A Lake City man pleaded guilty in federal court here Friday to receiving images and videos depicting the sexual abuse of minor children over the Internet, according to a news release from the United States Attorney's office.

John George Sessine, 58, faces up to 20 years



Sessine

The court also forfeited his computer media, which was traceable to the offense. Sessine has been in custody since his June

5 arrest. A sentencing date has not yet been set. According to court documents, FBI agents and other law enforcement officers executed a federal search warrant June 5 at a Sessine's Lake City residence.

The FBI had previously learned that at least one computer using an Internet protocol address traced to that residence

was sharing videos of child pornography over the Internet, the release said.

During an interview at the residence with law enforcement officers Sessine reportedly said, among other things, that he used a particular file sharing program to download images and videos, that his preference was for young females, and that the youngest child on his

computer was 10 or 12 years old.

A forensic analysis of Sessine's computer media revealed that Sessine had collected 107 images and 104 videos of minor children being sexually abused, the release said.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Columbia County Sheriff's Office and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Two men arrested for marijuana possession

By STEVEN RICHMOND
srichmond@lakecityreporter.com

The Lake City Police Department arrested two men after finding a grinder and blunts filled with marijuana in their vehicle

Tuesday night, LCPD reports.

Officers pulled over Kevin Allen Witt, 20, of 1060 Grandview St., and Steve Aaron Miller, 20, of 128 NW Lawtey Way, after catching Witt driving

his black Nissan Altima traveling 66 m.p.h. in a 45 m.p.h. zone along US41 near NW Bascom Norris Drive, according to the arrest report.

When deputies made contact with the men, they discovered a marijuana-filled grinder resembling the loaded revolving chamber of a handheld gun, the report said.

An inspection of the vehicle and the individuals also revealed a marijuana-filled blunt as well as several wrapped marijuana seeds, according to officers.

The two men said they were on their way to Miller's house to smoke the marijuana and that they'd just removed the seeds following the grinding process, the report said.

Both men were arrested and booked into Columbia County Detention Facility without incident and later released on \$2,000 bond.

They both face charges of marijuana possession under 20 grams and narcotic equipment possession.

Boys Club registration open now

From staff reports

The Boys Club of Columbia County is now registering for their winter program which is on now through March 1. Fees for the session are \$200 and include transportation from all elementary, junior and high schools.

The club offers a variety of activities including sports, arts and crafts, game rooms, library and special events. The club offers a homework program with tutorial help for all children. A computer lab is also available.

Call 752-4184 or visit the club on Jones Way for more information.

FDOT: Sidewalk construction begins Tuesday

From staff reports

Work begins Tuesday on building new sidewalks along Southwest Grandview Street and Southwest McFarlane Avenue in Lake City to improve safety for students walking to and from Summers Elementary and Lake City Middle School.

Two 5-foot wide concrete sidewalks are being built by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

A sidewalk will be built on the north side of Southwest Grandview Street from Southwest Winter Way to Southwest Sunbeam Way.

Also, a sidewalk will be built on the east side of Southwest McFarlane Avenue from Southwest Grandview Street to the south end of Southwest Amberwood Loop.

Drainage improvements on Southwest McFarlane Avenue are also included in this project. Wheelchair-accessible ramps are being added at side street intersections as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Daytime lane closures are scheduled to occur weekdays after 8:30 a.m. but will not be allowed from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. due to the increased traffic at the schools.

FDOT hired Core Construction Company of Jacksonville to build the sidewalks at a cost of \$483,500.

Funding is provided through the Safe Routes to School program, a federal, state and local partnership to improve the health and safety of children as they walk and bicycle to school.

The project should be completed in the spring of 2014 depending on weather delays and other unforeseen circumstances.

For additional information regarding this project call FDOT's Public Information Office at 386-758-3714.



COURTESY FDOT

Regional Water Supply meeting Monday

From staff reports

The stakeholder advisory committee of the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership will meet at 1 p.m. on Dec. 16 at Florida Gateway College, 149 S.E. College Place. The meeting will be held in the Wilson S. Rivers Library and Media Center, Building 200, Room 102. The agenda includes an update and discussion on the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs minimum flows and levels and recovery strategies. The meeting is open to the public, and there will be an opportunity for public comment.



PATRICK SCOTT/Special to the Reporter

Four sent to hospital after single-vehicle crash

FHP Trooper Corey Burk (left) investigates a single vehicle crash involving a Toyota Yaris on I-75 northbound at the 417 mile marker just after 8 a.m. Friday. Four people were sent to area hospitals.

First Federal Bank donates \$1,000 to Columbia schools

From staff reports

First Federal Bank of Florida proudly announces a \$1,000 contribution to the Columbia Public Schools Foundation Inc. The donation will be used to help cover the expenses associated with the 2014-2015 Columbia County Teacher of the Year program and reception. "We are hopeful that our contribution will inspire other businesses and individuals to also contribute to these important worthwhile projects," said Keith Leibfried, President and CEO of First Federal.

For over 50 years First Federal has been committed to building vibrant communities through the support of education, sports, the arts and improving the quality of life for all. First Federal prides itself on being com-



COURTESY

Nicole Storer, VP Financial Center Manager; Dorothy S. Spradley, Columbia Public Schools Foundation Director; Renee Faulkner, VP Financial Center Manager.

mitted to helping local communities flourish. Founded in 1962, First Federal has 20 branches located in Amelia Island, Bonifay, Bradenton, Chipley, Dowling Park, Jasper, Lake City, Live Oak, Macclenny, Marianna, Graceville, Mayo, Sarasota and Yulee, Florida.

'Beyond the Noise' tonight at Wesley Memorial Church

From staff reports

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church will present a Christmas musical drama, "Beyond the Noise" today at 6 p.m. The church is located at 1272 SW McFarlane Ave.

The event is open to the public and is free of charge.

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OUR OPINION

Water wars come full circle here

It wasn't so long ago that Central Florida set its sights on taking our water and piping it downstate to satisfy the thirsty, ever-growing crowd below I-4.

"Keep the Suwannee River cold, because we're coming for it," an official there infamously threatened as tensions rose in the 1990s.

Calling North Florida "the Saudi Arabia of water," folks downstate said it wasn't fair for them not to have access to our rivers, lakes and streams, as 80 percent of the need was down south, and 80 percent of the water, up here.

We stood firm and fought them off, as well as a disastrous plan to create a statewide "water czar" to redistribute our most precious natural resource as the power, money and politicians saw fit. Which is to say, to send it all south.

But water wars never end.

Some years later the threat shifted.

We learned the Floridan aquifer has a natural eastern bias, and that what had been happening in the St. Johns River Water Management District was playing havoc here at home.

When the St. Johns district granted JEA a 20-year permit to harvest up to 155 million gallons per day of our water, we formed Florida Leaders Organized for Water, then its successor, the North Florida Water Working Group, to keep a more watchful eye on our water.

That's a battle we're still fighting.

Now comes word that Central Florida is at it again.

A group comprising all or part of Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Polk counties has put together a 225-page study detailing how they might suck up more of the St. Johns River, which originates in Indian River County before flowing into the Atlantic in Jacksonville, and tap into the Ocklawaha as well, in order to keep from going dry as population figures in those locales reach even greater heights.

A 2012 study supposedly concluded both rivers could handle withdrawals of the proposed magnitude and more.

That may or may not be true. Frankly, we're skeptical.

And more than a little concerned, knowing as we do now that what happens to the water supply in Northeast Florida affects us nearly as much as our neighbors in Jacksonville.

On some level Florida's water belongs to all Floridians.

However, South Florida has shown no real interest in conservation over the years. They have worked at it from time to time, given it lip service, but they have precious little to show for their efforts. They keep wasting what they have, then come back every few years sniffing around for ours.

Thankfully, you can let them know how you feel.

Public comments on this proposal are being accepted until Jan. 10.

Email yours to tbartol@sjrwm.com or submit them by U.S. mail to:

Tom Bartol
St. Johns River Water Management District
4049 Reid Street
Palatka, FL 32177.

We suggest you give this matter the attention it warrants.



The truth about TV news

Walter Cronkite, the great CBS anchorman from 1962 to 1981, was called "the most trusted man in America" – and polling supported that claim. He'd conclude his CBS Evening News broadcasts with the phrase: "And that's the way it is." And it was, too – or, more precisely, Uncle Walter defined for most Americans what was news – what was important and why.

How different is the world today? Polls now show the media's credibility sinking to historic lows, with only 23 percent of Americans expressing confidence in television news and newspapers.

At the same time, there are more media outlets than ever – print, broadcast, online, social media. New York Times columnist Bill Keller enthuses that "for the curious reader with a sense of direction, this is a time of unprecedented bounty." His habit, he noted in a column last month, is to follow the news in the Guardian, the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal, NPR, Al Jazeera English and many other outlets.

Most news consumers – however curious they may be – are unlikely to have Keller's "sense of direction," his ability to separate fact from opinion from propaganda and blatant lies. Nor can most readers spend as much time as a professional newsmen gathering information from a long and diverse menu.

A former senior federal law enforcement official recently emailed me and others an article from a publication called Diversity



Cliff May

Chronicle about an 18-year-old West German woman who was attacked while sunbathing and subsequently found guilty of "raping" eight Muslim men "in the first case of its kind in Europe." The story was a hoax – but it was slick enough to fool this sophisticated individual and others on his list ...

Ayman al-Zawahiri, now al Qaeda's leader, said in 2005: "More than half of this war is taking place on the battlefield of the media." The Islamic Republic of Iran is the world's leading sponsor of terrorism according to the U.S. government. Its media voices include the Fars News Agency and the oddly named Press TV. Does anyone believe that they operate according to the ethics taught at Columbia's School of Journalism?

One more issue I want to put on the table is the state of Western foreign correspondence. In 1978, I was assigned to Northern Ireland to cover "the Troubles," the sectarian civil conflict that broke out in the 1960s and ended, for the most part, in 1998.

The following year, 1979, I was sent to Iran to cover the revolution being led by the Ayatollah Ruhollah

Khomeini. In both countries, I interviewed some hard and violent men. But in those days, reporters were seen as neutrals. Everyone wanted to talk to us – to tell us their stories and argue, through us to the public, for the justice of their causes.

At some point, over the years that followed there was a change: Those who kidnapped Daniel Pearl decided they could express themselves most eloquently not by letting him fill his notebook, but by beheading him, and posting the video on the Internet.

Today, I fear, it has become impossible for a journalist to visit a country such as Iran and do hard-hitting reporting in relative safety. There are lines that cannot be crossed. But how many of the reporters who spend time in Iran – courageous though they are – will acknowledge that? How many of their editors will say it publicly? Is an honest discussion of this dilemma not overdue?

A final word about Walter Cronkite: He didn't always end his broadcasts with "And that's the way it is." On those evenings when he delivered an opinion piece or commentary he would drop the phrase. It was his way of maintaining the standards of objective journalism. I ask again: How different is the world today? I suspect we're living in the Disinformation Age – and most of us don't even know it.

■ Clifford D. May is president of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a policy institute focusing on terrorism.

Lake City Reporter

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BY FAX: (386) 752-9400.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mandela deserved better than Page 2

To the Editor:

Well color me annoyed, upset, disturbed, disgusted, alarmed, bothered, appalled, hurt, but mostly disappointed, but not surprised by the Reporter's lack of respect and admiration, and the audacity of placing an article about the death of a great man we affectionately called "Mandela" on the 2nd page of the paper! Really!!!! "Where 'day do 'dat at?"

Your carelessness and heartlessness of attitude to place a brief summary on this great man is a slap in my face and most of the people who loved and to pay reverence and grief for a man who was born in South Africa but in the end belonged to the world.

Papers all over this state, country and the entire world, has placed this heartfelt loss on the front page of every newspaper.

How could the Reporter be so non-caring and insensitive on how this looks or makes people feel? I am so glad that I have taught my children and now grandchildren to look beyond the silence of being wronged and continue to do the right thing. I am embarrassed by your insensitivity and the underly-

ing perception that this is just 2nd page news! A national hero, man of courage and integrity, not only did he change his country; he changed the world!

I love this town that I call home, born and raised here, with every opportunity to go else where, but my family called it home back in the mid 1800's and my family calls it home today in 2013. I love my community with all its pretentiousness of being better because of what your last name is and everything that goes along with that.

I choose to become better and not bitter and continue to fight the good fight of faith. We as a community must be aware of perceptions on inclusiveness. We still have civic organizations with no diversity, schools with no minority teachers, cheering squads, governmental agencies, and last but not least segregated churches! All of this is generational to the history of our great city!

Our paper even goes as far as calling the President of the United States "Obama." Wow, I shed a tear today, when I looked in the paper and then I smiled when a verse from a book I read daily said to me: "great is the Lord and

greatly to be praised!" Let's reflect not so much on Nelson Mandela's death, but that his life is worthy to be celebrated throughout the world and the least the Reporter could have done was follow suit and given this news front page coverage. Let's share the history and human spirit of this great man in our paper, let's show the love and compassion he shared for humankind as we celebrate him today.

I continue to smile as I read one of Mandela's famous quotes: "No one is born hating another person because of the color of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must LEARN to Hate, and if they learn to hate they can be taught to LOVE, for Love comes more naturally to the human heart than it's opposite."

Ok, I will dis-color myself now, I love you guys. Mr. Nelson R. Mandela has left a great legacy on the power of forgiveness. He has taken the step we must all take one day; from time into eternity. Forever in Hearts!

Audré Jeffers-Washington
Lake City

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

■ To submit your Community Calendar item, contact Emily Lawson at 754-0424 or by e-mail at elawson@lakecityreporter.com.

Dec. 16 UDC meeting

United Daughters of the Confederacy, Olustee Chapter, will have their monthly meeting on Dec. 16 at 5:15 p.m. at China Buffet, 345 West Duval St. Andy's Boys Barbershop Quartet will be the entertainment for the meeting. The group is made up of representatives from four local churches. The buffet will be served after the meeting. Cost is \$9 for meal, cost for drink is extra. Reservations not required. For more, contact Linda Williams at 386-454-2580.

Renewal Service

Hosted by the Hospice of the Nature Coast, a renewal service will be offered to the public on Monday, Dec. 16 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Wings Education Center, 857 SW Main Blvd. The memorial service is an interactive, non-denominational service of remembrance and hope. There will be encouraging words, musical interludes, a time of sharing, refreshments and community fellowship following the service. The Renewal is provided as a community service and is offered to all at no charge. For information or to register (by December 12th), contact Vicki Myers at 755-7714 Ext. 2411.

Dec. 17

NARFE dinner

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Christmas dinner will be on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at noon at Quail Heights Country Club. For more information contact Jim Purvis at 752-8570 or 292-9361.

Dec. 18

Book & Gift Event

The Shands Lakeshore RMC, Auxiliary Gift Shop will hold its annual Book & Gift Event on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 18 and 19 in the Café of the Hospital from 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Benefits will be for Continuing Education in Health fields for staff and local scholarships to high school students. These items are 30-70% off retail prices. Come in and shop just in time for last minute Christmas gifts.

Dec. 21

Christmas Extravaganza
B&S Combs Elks Lodge will be hosting its Christmas Extravaganza



AMANDA WILLIAMSON/Lake City Reporter

Breakfast with Santa

Children's Medical Services held Breakfast with Santa Saturday at the Holiday Inn and Suites to raise funds for children with special needs during the holiday season. Children and families from across Lake City participated in the event. CMS donates toys and food baskets to families who might otherwise not be able to celebrate Christmas. "For most of these families, their lives consist of doctor's appointments and medical bills. This brings the Christmas Spirit," said CMS employee Vickie Griffin. (From left: Covenant Community School student Aaron Lassiter, Santa, Chloe Sheppard, Covenant student Gaby Perez, Charm Camiel and Cache Sheppard.)

for the kids on Dec. 21, 2013 from 12-4 p.m. at B&S Combs Elks Lodge, 1688 NE Washington St. Please contact Carlos Brown at 386-288-6235 for more information.

Christmas party

VFW Post 2206, 343 Forest Lawn Way, is hosting their Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 21. Kickstart will perform at 8 p.m. We'll provide finger foods, you bring your friends and we'll all have a good time. The party is open to the public. Call 386-752-5001 for more.

Healthy Soul Food

The Presley EXCEL and Scholars Program invites the community to a Healthy Soul Food Workshop on Saturday, Dec. 21 at noon at Trinity United Methodist Church, 248 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Street. The workshop is sponsored by Brook Mobley of DaVita Kidney Specialists of Northern Florida. The consultants are Mrs. Elizabeth Jones and Mr. Walter Jones Jr. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For additional information call 386-752-4074.

Dec. 24

Communion Service

Haven Hospice, 6037 W US 90, will host a Holy Communion service on Christmas Eve at the Community Room at Haven

Hospice at 6 p.m. The thirty minute service, "A Family Tradition," will include Christmas carols, the reading of the Christmas story and serving communion. Everyone is invited. Call Chaplain Donna Carlile at 386-752-9191 for more.

Dec. 25

Christmas dinner

Merry Christmas from VFW Post 2206. We will have a Christmas dinner from 1-3 p.m. at 343 Forest Lawn Way. Cost is \$7 per person. The dinner is open to the public. Call 386-752-5001 for more.

Dec. 31

New Year's Eve party

VFW Post 2206, 343 Forest Lawn Way, is hosting their New Year's Eve Party on Tuesday, Dec. 31. Kickstart will perform at 7 p.m. We'll provide finger foods, party favors and complimentary champagne toast at midnight. The party is open to the public. Call 386-752-5001 for more.

Jan. 5

Zumba class

Sarah Sandlin, Zumba Instructor for the City of Lake City, is offering a free Zumba class on Jan. 5 at the Teen Town city building at Youngs Park from 4-5 p.m. This will be a beginner's class where you'll learn all the basic moves of this pop-

ular dance form. After the free class, a regular Zumba class will be held for \$5 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Email Sarah at lakecityzumba@gmail.com for more.

Jan. 14

Medicare Seminar

The Lifestyle Enrichment Center is sponsoring a free educational Medicare seminar on Tuesday, Jan. 14 from 5-6 p.m. Irv Crowetz of C/C & Associates, Inc. will moderate the seminar. RSVP to 386-755-3476 x 107.

Volunteers needed

Shands LakeShore

Shands LakeShore Regional Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for volunteers to work a variety of positions around the hospital. Volunteers are asked to work a four-hour shift once per week, but are welcome to work more often. Volunteers are needed to drive the shuttle car and help with jobs in the hospital. If you have some time to donate, come to the gift shop and pick up an application or call (386)292-8000, ext. 21216.

Lake City Medical

Lake City Medical Center is looking for volunteers. If you have any extra time and a heart for volunteerism, please call (386) 758-3385 for more information or visit the hospital's web-

site at Lakecitymedical.com or you can stop by the front desk and pick up a paper application.

United Way

United Way of Suwannee Valley is recruiting volunteers who are willing to be called upon to staff

the Columbia County Emergency Operations Center's Information Center during disasters. These volunteers serve as the link between the county emergency management offices and the public when the EOC is activated for disasters. Anyone willing to serve in this capacity when needed or can recruit volunteers through your church or civic organization should call Jenn Sawyer, United Way of Suwannee Valley long-term recovery coordinator, at 752-5604, ext. 101.

Hospice of Nature Coast

Hospice of the Nature Coast is searching for individuals who are interested in volunteering in the, Columbia, Suwannee Hamilton and Lafayette areas. Volunteers are needed to provide general office support and non-medical assistance to patients and their families. Hospice volunteers can provide services such as: telephone calls, socialization, light meal preparation, shopping or errands and staffing information booths at seasonal festivals. Specialized training will be provided. To volunteer contact Volunteer Manager Drake Varvorines at 386-755-7714 or email: dvarvorines@hospiceofthenaturecoast.org.

OBITUARIES

Freeman Lavern Dowling

Mr. Freeman Lavern Dowling, age 83, of Olustee, Florida passed away Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at North Florida Regional Medical Center. Freeman was born in Baker County, Florida on January 25, 1930 to the late Gordon Drew Dowling and Ethel Virginia Mikell Dowling. Freeman graduated from Sanderson High School in 1948. He served his country proudly as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force and retired in 1987 from Southern Bell after 35 dedicated years as a Staff Manager. Freeman was a member of Christian Fellowship Temple and a lifetime member of the AT&T Pioneers Association. He was the former President of the Still Hunters Association and the former President of the FFA Alumni. He volunteered at the Baker County Fire Department for 20 years, Red Cross, and the Community Action Center. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, being outdoors, and spending time with his family. Freeman was most influential to his grandchildren. He raised and nurtured them along with teaching them the secrets and fundamentals of life; to be respectful, hard working, focused, honest, self motivated, family oriented, and kind. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Mary Lee Hagen. Freeman is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Sarah Dowling of Olustee, FL; his daughter, Brenda Dowling (Dave) Adams of Olustee, FL; his grandchildren, Austin, Timmy, Sarah, Brendan Gibson all of Olustee, FL. Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday December 17, 2013 at 2:00 pm at Christian Fellowship Temple with Pastor David Thomas & Evangelist James Croft officiating. Interment will follow in Swift Creek Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Monday, December 16, 2013 from 5:00 -7:00 pm at the church. The arrangements are under the care and direction of V. TODD FERREIRA FUNERAL SERVICES, 250 North Lowder Street, Maccleddy, FL 32063 (904)259-5700. Visit ferreirafuneralservices.com



death by his parents, Ruthie and Wilmer Harrington; his brothers, Edgar Harrington, Rudolph Harrington and Kenneth Harrington. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Elouise Hinkie Harrington; one daughter, Sherry Harrington May; two sons, Gary Harrington and wife, Sue and Jeff Harrington; three grandchildren, Lee Harrington, Matt Harrington and Raegan May; one great-granddaughter, Hannah Harrington; one sister, Shirley Harrington and husband, Wayne; and brother, J. Byron Harrington. The family would like to express their sincere appreciation to the staff of Montclare Park Assisted Living and Memory Care Center for their exceptional care and devotion to Frank. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Alzheimer's Association.

Gerald W. Koon

Mr. Gerald W. Koon, 77, of Lake City, Florida. He passed away December 11, 2013 at Shands UF in Gainesville after an extended illness. He was a life long resident of Columbia County, FL. Retired from AT&T, a member of Hopeful Baptist Church. He enjoyed fishing and hunting, most of all he like to cook for other people. He is survived by 3 children, Monte (Pennie) Koon, Kirk Koon, Angila (Sam) Markam. He was blessed with 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Memorial services will be held at Hopeful Baptist Church Monday, December 16, 2013 at 6 pm.

Martha Sue Moody

Mrs. Martha Sue Moody, 80, of Lake City, passed away on Monday, December 11, 2013, at Select Specialty Hospital in Gainesville, FL., after an extended illness. Born July 6, 1933 in Jessup, Ga., to the late Ed and Retha Dart. She loved to ski, play golf, go camping, and fishing. She was a member of Parkview Baptist Church and was a Sunday School Teacher there for the past 60 years. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. Survivors include her loving husband of 60 years, J.M. Moody, of Lake City, FL., three sons: Mike, Bud, and Joe Moody, all of Lake City, FL., one daughter; Martha Ann Moody, of Lake City, FL., six grandchildren; James Michael Moody, Catherine Moody, Roger Dale, Stacy Helmick, Daniel Helmick, David Helmick, all of Lake City, FL., eight great grandchildren also survive. A Memorial Service will be conducted at 10:00 am, Monday, December 16, 2013 at Gateway-Forest Lawn Funeral Home with Rev. Mark Cunningham officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of GATEWAY-FOREST LAWN FUNERAL HOME, 3596 S US Hwy 441, Lake City, FL., 32025, (386) 752-1954. Please leave words of love and comfort for the family at www.gatewayforestlawn.com

Obituaries are paid advertisements. For details, call the Lake City Reporter's classified department at 752-1293.

Helpful tips for preventing holiday-season crime

By TONY BRITT
tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

Statistics show that crime rates generally increase in most urban areas during the Christmas holiday period.

"Anywhere you've got shopping centers, with the holidays you have an increase of people out on the roads, increase of people out shopping, therefore you have an increase in the opportunity for thieves and people who want to take advantage of those increased numbers," said Mike Lee, Lake City Police Department Crime Prevention Specialist. "We typically see a little bit of an upswing in our vehicle burglaries, petit thefts and sometimes we get some robbery increases."

The Lake City Police Department is taking a proactive role to prevent local residents from becoming victims and provided several tips to prevent crimes during this year's holiday season.

The Lake City Police Department is promoting its "Lock It, or Lose It" campaign, where residents are encouraged to lock their homes and vehicles to protect their possessions.

"If we can get people to lock their doors, and that applies in several settings, when you leave to go shopping make sure all your windows and doors are shut and locked and make



COURTESY MORGUEFILE

A full holiday-season parking lot provides thieves with ample opportunity to break into cars that aren't properly locked or that have merchandise in plain sight.

sure your garage door is locked," Lee said. "When you come home from shopping, close your garage door if you are not going to be in the garage."

The campaign also has tips for shoppers who are out in the public making purchases.

The first priority is to lock doors and close vehicle windows. Lee said even a window that is slightly open about half an inch provides an opportunity for someone to get into your car.

"Criminals are about getting in and out as quickly as possible so when they see a window down that's something they can snap open in about five seconds," he said.

Shoppers are also advised not to leave presents in plain sight in their

vehicles.

"We tell people if they go shopping to put their stuff in their trunk," Lee said. "If you have to leave it in the front seat of your car, hide it somehow with a blanket or towel to put over it or put it underneath the seat or in the glove box — some where so it's out of view."

For personal safety, shoppers should park under lights after dark, park as close to the front of the store as possible and, when leaving the store after shopping, try to avoid overloading your arms.

"Try to keep at least one of your hands free and have your keys in your hands when you leave the store," Lee said. "If we remove some of the targets we remove some of the opportunities for crime."

FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE

Cupstacking was record-breaking event

Pinemount Elementary students brought home their fifth county speed stacking championship.

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON
awilliamson@lakecityreporter.com

Seconds ticked by as fifth-grader Caleb White stacked 12 cups into two separate pyramids Friday at Florida Gateway College, then he slammed his hand down on the timer. It stopped at 3.22, a new record for the county-wide Speed Stacking Competition.

Surprised, he leaped into the air. Cheers erupted from his Pinemount Elementary teammates as they rushed to his side, congratulating him. Caleb beat the previous record of 3.44 in the individual 6-6 stacking event, held for the last four years by former Pinemount student Kailey Kiss.

"I'm happy," Caleb said. "I'm excited that I did it because I've been practicing for a long time. I really like stacking, and I want to keep doing it for as long as possible. Every time I do an individual, I get better and better."

Pinemount Elementary competed against seven other elementary schools in the county, and took home their fifth county championship. Students battle their way through five different relays, including the 3-3-3, 6-6 and 1-10-1 relays. Each relay requires the children to stack specialized cups into a pyramid of the required number, such as three pyramids of three cups or two pyramids of six cups.

"This is one of the things that makes me happy," Caleb said. "I want to thank my coach."

But it was his mother in the audience who he glanced at when he scored the winning combination. Kayla Wilson, Caleb's mother, sported a purple Pinemount Stackers shirt and held her phone's camera at the ready.

"He has worked for the last four years on cupstacking," Wilson said. "This is his heart... He said this year he was going to get a trophy. I said, 'You know what it takes to do it.'"

When White tried out in second grade, he didn't make the cut—but he has practiced year-round since then and has steadily improved. Even after Caleb graduates from Pinemount this year, he plans to return as a middle school student to help his younger friends.

Around the FGC gymnasium, students from eight of Columbia County's elementary schools dashed from cupstacking event to practice tables. Multi-colored cups flashed in the children's hands—green cups, camouflage cups, blue cups, white cups and more.

Columbia City Elementary School cupstackers, their pink shirts labeled "we are stack-tular," practiced excitedly during the event.

"These kids know it, eat it, sleep it and can do it," said Sabrina Sibbersen, Columbia City coach. "The main thing I want to say is that these kids practice so hard, and anything can happen when they fumble. But the most important thing is having a good time and doing their best."



Photos by JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Summers Elementary School fifth-grader Isabella Maranto, 11, works on her 6-6 pyramid at Friday's Speed Stacking Competition at Florida Gateway College.



The timer is shown as Pinemount Elementary School fifth-grader Aaliyah Ellis, 11, competes at the Columbia County Speed Stacking Competition on Friday.

Westside coach Andy Bennett, whose team came in third place last year, said Pinemount stackers are tough to beat.

"All I ask of the kids is that they do their best," he said. "We've been practicing since late October

for a couple days a week after school. There's a lot of dedication in these students here.... But I'm sure the parents will be happy the competition is over so they aren't listening to cups all the time."

Former Pinemount

student Kailey Kiss supported her old team at the event, happy that the record could be carried on by a Pinemount cupstacker. Kiss, now an eighth grader, comes with her mom to help out at the competitions. "Cupstacking is like my favorite sport," she said. "It's really cool to see how these kids get so good over the years. I've been with them since they were second and third graders. It's cool to see them grow."

According to Nicole Smith, administrative secretary at the Columbia County Recreation Department, this was the first year the cupstacking competition aired lived to schools across the county.

"The times are out of this world," she said. "Last year, all of the team records were shattered.

This year we've had a lot of individual records that were broken, like the 6-6 by Caleb White.... 3.22, that may stand for a little while. That's a really good time."

Florida Gateway College was approached four years ago about hosting the cupstacking competition, since it had outgrown the Richardson Community Center. The college broadcasted the competition to all the other schools with its channel on Comcast, according to executive director of media and public information Mike McKee.

"Some of these kids really take this seriously, and they should because it's becoming a worldwide phenomenon," McKee said. "I think the parents are really enjoying it too."

Johnson has county's most-watched hands

Fort White High School's choir director believes music is essential to life.

By AVALYN HUNTER
Special to the Reporter

Tina Johnson has to have some of the most-watched hands in Columbia County. At the Fort White High School Chorus' annual Christmas concert on

December 5, eighty-five sets of eyes were glued to those hands as the combined high school and middle school choruses as well as accompanist Bobbi Moore followed Johnson's direction through a series of holiday favorites. At the conclusion, the audience gave the performers a well-deserved standing ovation.

Performances like these are important to Johnson's students, but there are everyday lessons to be learned in their regular chorus classes: discipline, cooperation, self-expression, and the joy of mastering a skill that can remain a source of pleasure for a lifetime. "We are all touched by music in one way or another," says Johnson, a University of Florida graduate who has been teaching music in the Columbia County school system for 28 years. "For me, it was part of family life. My sister and I both took private piano lessons and sang in the youth choir at church. We also sang duets at family gatherings, sometimes with other family members joining in. My parents always encouraged me to choose a career that included doing something I enjoyed—so here I am, teaching music."

Students begin preparing for performance almost from the minute they walk into class. "Students spend three to four hours a week practicing vocal technique and learning to read a musical score; they also learn how to interpret the texts that we sing," Johnson explains. "I try to choose music that they will enjoy singing that will also provide teaching opportunities. I begin selecting music for performance after a few weeks of assessing students' maturity as musicians and vocalists; obviously, we have to keep the type of performance and our audience in mind as well." Students also have opportunities for individual performance at the annual variety show each fall, which serves as an



Tina Johnson leads Fort White's chorus.

important fundraiser for the chorus as well as a showcase for individual talent.

While the middle school chorus will be performing another holiday concert at the Lake City Mall at 12:10 p.m. on December 18, the high school chorus (which sang at the Life Enrichment Center on December 9) has an important performance of its own on December 17, though not before a live audience. During their chorus class, they will be putting together a DVD to audition for an opportunity to perform at Disney Magic Music Days (April 9-14, 2014), hoping to continue a streak of seven years at which they have performed at locations within the Disney complex.

While they have clearly been enjoying their concerts this fall, the chorus won't be resting on its laurels when the students return to school in January. "We'll begin working on music for the annual 'On Broadway' revue as soon as we return," Johnson says. "We will sing through many different pieces of music before we select the final ones to perform. Once those choices are made, the students will study and rehearse the music for six to eight weeks prior to the show."

In an academic culture increasingly bent towards encouraging students to seek education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—the so-called "STEM" careers—some might view music education as a frill. But Johnson doesn't see it that way. "Music is essential in our lives," she says. "It opens a door for our thoughts and feelings and combines enjoyment and discipline. When a student learns to play an instrument or sing with proper technique, it teaches them that they can find success. And success in music is something that students can build on for life."



COURTESY PHOTOS

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Dove, Grace awards given at Catholic Charities event

By **TONY BRITT**
tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

An accountant for a local charity told during an awards luncheon Friday of a client who came back to her office, thanked her and gave her a hug for providing her family food for the holidays.

Accountants for charitable groups don't normally get much feedback from the public, but at Catholic Charities everyone pitches in to make sure clients are treated with dignity and respect.

Catholic Charities celebrated a year's worth of serving Columbia and other counties at its 10th annual awards luncheon Friday, where several residents and agency supporters and sponsors were recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty to support the organization and its goals, but more importantly, the agency's growing list of clients.

"This is our annual appreciation for volunteers and our team members," said Suzanne Edwards, Chief Operating Officer of the Lake City Catholic Charities office. "It's the time of the year when we all come together and reflect

'It's the time of the year when we all come together and reflect where we've been, where we're going and all those that need to be served.'

— Suzanne Edwards, Chief Operating Officer of the Lake City Catholic Charities office

where we've been, where we're going and all those that need to be served. It's a joyous time and we could not do it without the huge support of the community, those that volunteer and those that serve in the capacity of team members."

The event served as a forum to recognize volunteers and outstanding donors with the Dove Award.

The Dove Award winners were:

- Steve Briscoe — Columbia County Resources (Tough Enough to Wear Pink event);
- Dorothy Pattison — who served as board chairman for 15 years; and
- Pastor Carroll Lee and his wife Carolyn Lee, of the Lake City Church of God, which was the first food bank agency in

2003. The Grace Award, presented to a team member who has performed outstanding service, was given to Margot Abernathy, intake specialist at Catholic Charities.

"I'm very humbled and surprised," Abernathy said as she received her award and flowers. "How did you all keep this a surprise from me? I'm very honored and very proud and I'm sure my kids will be proud, too."

More than 30 Catholic Charities board members, volunteers, team members and spouses attended the luncheon, held at Guang Dong Restaurant in the Lake City Mall.



Steve Briscoe (from right), Suzanne Edwards and Danny Edwards joke with each other after Briscoe was awarded the Dove Award during a luncheon on Friday.

Photos by JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter



TOP: Suzanne Edwards, Catholic Charities Bureau Lake City Regional Office COO, hugs former board of directors chair Dorothy Pattison, winner of the Dove Award. **MIDDLE:** Edwards hugs Margot Abernathy, a Catholic Charities intake specialist, after surprising her with the Grace Award. **BOTTOM:** Carolyn Lee stands next to her husband, Pastor Carroll Lee, of Lake City Church of God, as she gives a speech after being awarded the Dove Award on Friday.

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Saluting veterans with Wreaths Across America

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON
awilliamson@lakecityreporter.com

A crowd of veterans saluted seven ceremonial wreaths dedicated to fallen and active-duty servicemen during the Wreaths Across America event on Saturday at the Oaklawn Cemetery.

Each wreath symbolized a different branch of the military — Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and POW/MIA. Organized locally by American Legion Post 57, the event remembered all troops who served, honored their sacrifices and hopes to teach younger generations about the high cost of American freedoms, according to Caroline Bosland, lady legionnaire of Post 57.

“We are one nation under one flag,” said keynote speaker Dave Mangrum. “The freedoms we enjoy everyday have not come without a price. Lying before us, and in cemeteries throughout the nation, there are men



Columbia County Sheriff Mark Hunter delivers a speech to about 100 people during the Wreaths Across America event held at Oaklawn Cemetery Saturday.

and women who gave their lives so we could live without fear.”

Before the event, the American Legion Riders group carried the wreaths from the post to the cemetery with a Columbia County Sheriff's Office escort. The U.S. Army wreath was presented by Ron Walden, the Marine Corp wreath by George



Photos by JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Chester Blaisdall (right), escorted by American Legion Post 57 Commander Jim Sutherland, fixes a United States Merchant Marine wreath for display during the Wreaths Across America event held at Oaklawn Cemetery on Saturday. Wreaths for the United States Army, Marine Corps., Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and POW/MIA soldiers were also proudly recognized and displayed.

Ward, U.S. Navy wreath by Don McDiarmid, the U.S. Air Force wreath by Ken Morton, Coast Guard by Charles Lehman, Merchant Marine by Chester Blaisdall and POW/MIA by Patricia Murphy.

Despite the rain, a crowd of nearly 100 people gathered for the ceremony — a fact that guest speaker Columbia County Sheriff Mark Hunter commended.

“I don't care if it's raining, monsoon, whatever,

we owe it to our fallen brothers to show up,” Hunter said. “They didn't have the opportunity to postpone service.... A lot of folks who haven't served don't understand the commitment it takes to enlist and do your duty. These men and women walked away from normal lives.”

Lake City's event joined more than 800 locations across the nation and more than 400,000 wreaths to honor veterans. The seven wreaths presented at Oaklawn Cemetery will be transported by the American Legion to Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell.

“Veterans Day is in the fall, Memorial Day is in the spring, but men and women sacrificed every single day of the year,” Bosland said. “At many homes this holiday season, there is an empty seat for someone who is currently serving or for someone who made the ultimate sacrifice. ... So don't forget our mission is to remember, honor and teach.”

STD

Continued From 1A

which ranked number one; Jefferson County, at number two; Hamilton County, at number three; Franklin County, at number four; and Union County at number five. The statistics also placed Bradford County, Dixie County, Duval County and Alachua County with higher rates of STDs in school-aged children than Columbia County.

However, 49 counties earned better marks than Columbia County for that age group. Even though Columbia County has more cases than Miami-Dade County, which has the highest number of cases statewide at 3,200, the smaller population means the cases are more concentrated. Baker County and Suwannee County also had lower rates of STDs than Columbia County.

“Our young people think they are invincible,” Lander said. “In many rural communities, it's tough. There are things you are allowed to talk about and certainly things you're not.”

While the rate is high locally, Lander said the case number isn't. Even though the case number is smaller, the county should still work to educate its youth.

Children 12 and older can come into the local health department confidential STD testing, without the department notifying their parents. Though the test usually costs proportionate to an individual's income, Lander said the health department would not turn away a patient if they could not pay.

“Testing is one way we can control the disease,” he said. “If someone does have an STD, proper treatment can be obtained, and that's one way to stop the sexually-transmitted disease.”

Counselors are on hand at the health department to discuss sexually-transmitted diseases with adults and students. If an individual does not want to come into the health department, he or she can schedule an in-house appointment with the counselors.

“It's very confidential,” Lander said. “We want our clients to be comfortable and to know that we do these things.”

Regardless of whether or not the school district receives help from DOE, the health department looks forward to partnering with the local schools. Currently, the health department is analyzing what it has been doing, what has not been working and what they can do better.

Out of all age groups, Columbia County ranks 11 out of the 67 Florida counties. There was a total of 467 STD cases locally in 2012, with only 130 being in children between ages 15 and 19.

FGC

Continued From 1A

one stroke, so we're breaking it up into phases.”

Hunter and FGC's Law Enforcement Academy Director John Jewett said they were focused on finding support and funding for the driving range and fire training facility first before pursuing further additions.

“What we've done is come up with a design concept,” Jewett said. “These are just plans. No dirt has been turned yet. We're in the beginning stages of finding community support.”

Should the expansion be completed, Columbia County would become self-sufficient when it comes to training and certifying its firefighting safety personnel.

“This has been something needed in our area for quite some time,” Hunter said. “We have nothing really here for our firefighting group. It makes sense for us to be able to do our basic level training plus our mandatory reoccurring training that is required for state certification.”

As of today, Columbia County firefighting and law enforcement staff must travel to Sante Fe College in Gainesville, Jacksonville, or Madison to complete their training and educational courses.

“The demand for those types of facilities is very high,” Hunter said. “It disrupts our operations to reserve time for those.”

The driving range would give law enforcement and other public safety agencies a safe and secure area to practice various driving techniques, such as the “PIT,” or precision immobilization technique, that deputies and officers use in dangerous roadway

chases.

Public safety and FGC staff touted the proposed expansion's multi-use capabilities, suggesting that public workforce agencies could offer CDL and motorcycle certification programs on the driving course, or even rent the space out to neighboring law information agencies, as well.

Hunter is eager to implement the Florida Sheriff's Association Teen Driving Challenge, a specialized driving program pairing teens with law enforcement to teach them crash-avoidance techniques and other roadway safety skills.

Parents of teens who complete the program would even see reduction on their auto insurance rates—a point Hunter said he hopes to use to leverage private sector support for the expansion project.

“It's a challenge having to find locations [for road training],” CCFR Chief David Boozer said, adding that local agencies have been using parking lots, such as those at the Southside Recreational Complex, and rural forested areas for vehicle training. “This would give us a more secured area so we don't have to worry about an impact on the public. It's under a controlled environment.”

According to Boozer, there are two levels for firefighting certification: “Fire 1” and “Fire 2.” Volunteer firefighters only require level one, while full-time firefighters employed by a

local agency require both.

The city and LCFD donated a surplus 1993 Pierce International fire-truck following the meeting, giving FGC the last resource it needed to begin offering Fire 1 classes next March. An informational session will be held at the college Jan. 25 for interested citizens.

However, without the expansion, firefighters would still have to travel out-of-county to be fully state certified.

Neither Jewett or public safety staff had a hard estimate on the projected cost or time-frame of the expansions, but said there was already \$200,000 in seed money set aside at the college.

“[The Foundation for Florida Gateway College] already purchased the property and donated it to the college,” Foundation Executive Director Mike Lee said. “We're not starting from ground zero.”

In the meantime, public safety and college staff are working to get the word out and drum up support from sponsors, neighboring counties and the public.

Boozer recalled seeing local fire departments pushing for these facilities when he was a rookie 30 years ago.

“It's been one of those challenges for some reason,” he said. “I think this is a more concerted effort. We've got the right folks on board and finally have a board that sees the needs and advantages that will help the community.”

‘We want to thank Fire Chief Armijo... Wendell Johnson and the city council for donating the truck. It's more than them just talking. They're putting assets and resources into this venture because there's a need for it.’

— John Jewett, Law Enforcement Academy Director

POOL

Continued From 1A

from around the nation.

“We wanted to create something to bring back a positive image for billiards,” Rossman said. “You see trick-shot tournaments on ESPN and places like that, but we wanted to make something more structured.”

The Rossmans organized artistic billiards into eight “disciplines,” similar to how gymnastics is broken up into multiple floor exercises. Those disciplines are: The Trick & Fancy, Follow, Draw, Bank/Kick, Jump, Masse, Stroke and “Prop” Novelty Special Arts.

Players then had to set up and perform five diagrammed shots in increasing orders of difficulty for each discipline. Each shot had three attempts, with the most points being awarded to the least attempts, for a total of 240 for the entire tournament. “We've never seen anyone get a perfect score,” Marty Rossman said. “That'd be like making 18 hole-in-ones.”

Each of the artistic players boasted colorful nicknames as well, like Mike “Tennessee Tarzan” Massey and Jason “The Michigan Kid” Lynch.

Lake City had its own hometown hero—Corey “Big Country” Anderson, a newcomer to the sport out of White Springs.

However, he couldn't be reached for comment—Rossman said players could not afford any distractions during a tournament that required unmitigated focus.

“When these guys practice for a tournament, they're usually doing about an hour a day for two to three months,” Rossman said. “Even though they're having a good time, they still take it very seriously.”

He said players even delve into functional appli-

cations of physics, learning the properties of things like friction coefficients, angular momentum and elastic collisions, to gain a competitive edge.

“It's critical for them to know how to adjust shots,” Rossman said. “If they don't make a shot the first time, they need to know what went wrong and how to fix it.”

The movement is gaining momentum, too. Artistic pool became an official sport discipline as recognized by the World Pool Billiards Association in 2002, according to documents on Rossman's website.

Artistic pool tournaments require three things of its players: a professional demeanor, professional appearance and a heart to share their skills with anyone willing to learn.

The Rossmans also began using their artistic pool events to team up with Gospel Trick Shot Ministries, a Christian outreach group that uses pool to teach religious lessons.

Rossman said there were a variety of biblically-inspired specialty shots, such as “The Moses,” where two balls will split while a third passes between them.

“This is the word I was given from God,” Rossman said. “To be here and use pool to spread the Gospel.”

And spread it has—130 countries around the globe officially recognize artistic pool through their respective billiards officiating bodies.

“[Pool] is a universal language spoken around the world. You don't need a translator,” Rossman said. “We want to spread this as far as we can.”

Artistic pool and outreach activities will continue this evening, Monday and Tuesday at the Pockets pool hall.

For more information, contact Tom or Marty Rossman at 765-760-7665 or visit drcuepromotions.com.

YOHO

Continued From 1A

Currently, there is an assault on the Second Amendment, he said. Forty-seven United States Senators voted to pass a small arms treaty last year that would require a gun registration process. To stand up to the potential legislation, Yoho suggested everyone in the audience join the National Rifle Association — even if they don't own a gun.

“We know what happened in Sandy Hook, in Columbine and in the tragedy that happened yesterday in Colorado,” Yoho said. “If there were no weapons or guns, these things would still happen with some-

thing else. I'm convinced of that because you have that common denominator there, and that's people.”

Controversy erupted on Facebook over the Family Firearm Safety event, scheduled on the first anniversary of the Sandy Hook massacre. While many were upset about the event's date, the congressman's staff decided not to reschedule. Yoho said the date was not selected to coincide with the Sandy Hook tragedy. His thoughts and prayers are with the victim's families.

Columbia County Sheriff Mark Hunter also spoke during the event, along with representatives from Pickett Weaponry, Russ's Gun Shop and volunteers from the National Rifle Association.

“I believe in firearms,”

Hunter said. “I believe in the right to own firearms... If we're doing the right thing, then don't tread on our rights. As long as I'm sheriff in Columbia County, that's how we're going to roll.”

Hunter discussed limitations on where people can and can't shoot their guns. For example, guns can not be shot within city limits, nor can they be used after a reasonable hour. Even if a person carries a concealed weapons permit, a sheriff's deputy can ask to take charge of a weapon during an investigation.

“We don't know what we have out there,” he said. “Understand, it's a tough business, and the world is changing.”

Suwannee County resident Tom Brown came to the Firearm Safety event to

support Congressman Yoho. He said he believes everyone in the country should own a gun, even a select group of personnel at public schools.

“Let me tell you something about a firearm,” Brown said. “Don't pull a gun if you're not going to use it, but you better have a good reason to use it.”

An older woman, Bee Boyle, pulled a tiny cap gun from her purse during the event. Though she has a concealed weapons permit, the toy gun is the only weapon she carries with her. Her son, however, said he keeps all his guns loaded — in case he needs to use them.

“What if they take our guns and the criminal has his?” Boyle asked. “What are we going to do for our protection?”

MLK breakfast location changed to local venue

From staff reports

The Presley EXCEL and Scholars Program and Youth for Christ Ministry is inviting the community to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 85th Birthday Observance Breakfast, honoring outstanding dignitaries in the medical field.

The breakfast will be Saturday, Jan. 18, at 10:00 a.m. The location has been changed from the Winfield Community Center to the Woman's Club in Lake City: 257 SE Hernando Street.

The speaker for the occasion is Brooke Mobley who specializes in nephrology and hypertension at the DaVita Kidney Specialists of Northern Florida.

Music for the morning entertainment will be provided by Dr. Tony Buzzello, CEO/Principal of the Shining Star Academy.

Tickets may be purchased for \$20. Tables may also be reserved. Tickets will not be sold or purchased at the door.

Oh what fun we had

at the Chamber of Commerce's 4th annual Snow Day event.

SNOW DAY

Continued From 1A

mom, Melissa Gollery. "It's nice the community does this for the kids."

But for Maggie, the day introduced her to something new, something fun and something way too cold.

Karyn Breeden, Maggie's mother, said it was the first time her daughter had ever seen snow. Maggie seemed

unsure. At the snowhill, she stared at the white fluff, but didn't touch it.

"Once she gets older, we thought about taking her somewhere to see snow," Breeden said, adding that she liked Snow Day because it gave Maggie — and other children — the chance to see snow without any cost. "Some people can't get away to play in the snow."

As the 30 tons of snow melted, several bounce houses entertained the children.

Santa's House had a line weaving from the front door, with anxious children waiting to sit on Santa's lap.

"It's just such a fun and unique thing that not many communities do," said Dennille Decker, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. "We are in Florida, not many kids around here get to see snow. So it's something unique we can provide, and it's all free."

Live entertainment was provided all day, including Alexus

Branscome and James Carter. Busy Bee Convenience Store offered a selection of its products, as well as \$1,500 in cash prizes.

"This is the fourth year the Chamber has been over Snow Day," Decker said. "Our attendance keeps growing. The prizes get better and better."

This year brought four more bounce houses than last year and five tons more snow than last year.

Ten-year-old Lana Dimauro climbed out of the snowhill,

holding her hands out to her mother: "My hands are numb," she said.

It was her first time seeing snow.

"It's cold," she said, "and you get to have a snowball fight."

Around her, children continued to stomp on the small icy mounds, flinging cold lumps across the parking lot. Occasionally, they slid across the uneven snow, falling short of their target. Occasionally, the snowballs hit their mark.



Toby Davis, 7, of Fort White, plays a bungee game on Saturday.



Columbia High School student Harrison Shubert, 16, clenches the slide as he travels down the ice during Snow Day on Saturday. 'I felt like a kid again,' Shubert said.



Logan Rader, 9, heaves a massive snowball while playing during Snow Day on Saturday.



Matthew Hollingsworth, 9, throws a snowball at an enemy combatant atop a snow hill that he conquered during a snowball fight on Saturday. 'It was fun until somebody hit me in the head with a snowball,' Hollingsworth said jokingly.



Hunner Humphries, 5, of O'Brien, packs a snowball Saturday.



Greg Todd makes a snow angel with his daughter Kendall, 5. 'This is awesome,' Todd said. 'Kids get to come out and have a great time. For us this is a treat.'



Kimber Long, 6, whispers to Santa Claus that she wants a stuffed reindeer for Christmas while at Snow Day on Saturday.



Gloria Haden (from left) laughs as her daughter, Kelsey, 10, tells Santa Claus what she wants for Christmas during the Snow Day event on Saturday.

Photos by JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

THE WEATHER

15 SUN Rain showers decreasing HI 65 LO 36	16 MON Sunny North wind 10 mph HI 65 LO 34	17 TUE Sunny Northwest wind 10 mph HI 70 LO 36	18 WED Mostly sunny Light wind HI 70 LO 40	19 THU Mostly sunny HI 72 LO 43
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REGIONAL FORECAST MAP for Sunday, Dec. 15

Sunday's highs/Sunday night's low

City	Monday	Tuesday
Cape Canaveral	69/53/pc	74/56/pc
Daytona Beach	65/48/pc	71/49/pc
Fort Myers	73/49/pc	77/55/pc
Ft. Lauderdale	75/61/pc	78/64/pc
Gainesville	65/37/s	70/38/s
Jacksonville	61/41/pc	68/42/s
Key West	74/66/pc	76/68/pc
Lake City	65/37/s	70/38/s
Miami	76/62/pc	79/65/pc
Naples	71/55/pc	76/58/s
Ocala	65/40/pc	71/41/s
Orlando	68/49/pc	72/52/pc
Panama City	57/45/s	62/49/s
Pensacola	59/43/s	66/43/s
Tallahassee	60/35/s	67/37/s
Tampa	69/49/pc	72/53/pc
Valdosta	60/34/s	65/37/pc
W. Palm Beach	74/60/pc	78/63/pc

NATIONAL FORECAST: A strong storm will move off the east today, but rain and snow will be expected over much of the Northeast early. Lake effect snow will be expected over much of the Great Lakes region. Rain and mountain snow showers over the Pacific Northwest.

NATIONAL FORECAST MAP

3 p.m. today

YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL EXTREMES High: 87°, Punta Gorda, FL Low: -20°, Saranac Lake, NY

LAKE CITY ALMANAC

TEMPERATURES

High Saturday	75
Low Saturday	53
Normal high	68
Normal low	45
Record high	84 in 1967
Record low	19 in 1962

PRECIPITATION

Saturday	0.05"
Month total	4.54"
Year total	53.85"
Normal month-to-date	1.05"
Normal year-to-date	46.00"

SUN
Sunrise today 7:19 a.m.
Sunset today 5:32 p.m.
Sunrise tom. 7:20 a.m.
Sunset tom. 5:32 p.m.

MOON
Moonrise today 4:31 p.m.
Moonset today 5:39 a.m.
Moonrise tom. 5:18 p.m.
Moonset tom. 6:31 a.m.

Dec 17 Full, Dec 25 Last, Jan 1 New, Jan 7 First

UV INDEX

3

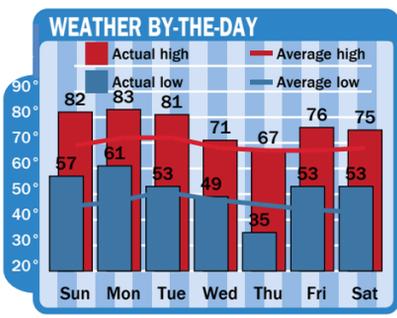
Moderate
40 mins to burn
Today's ultra-violet radiation risk for the area on a scale from 0 to 10+.

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The Weather Channel weather.com

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CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W
Albany NY	75/69/.00	89/64/s	Des Moines	25/21/.00	21/14/cd	Oklahoma City	42/30/.00	57/30/s
Albuquerque	44/28/.00	46/25/s	Detroit	21/19/.33	24/8/fl	Omaha	21/16/.00	29/17/pc
Anchorage	21/18/.03	12/2/sn	Fairbanks	1/0/.00	-13/-27/sn	Orlando	84/60/.01	76/49/sh
Atlanta	55/46/48	48/32/pc	Greensboro	43/36/83	52/28/pc	Philadelphia	33/30/.01	42/23/pc
Baltimore	38/30/03	39/23/pc	Hartford	22/13/.03	37/15/i	Phoenix	64/41/.00	71/44/s
Billings	37/24/.00	44/30/pc	Honolulu	80/72/.00	81/68/ts	Pittsburgh	34/30/.24	28/14/fl
Birmingham	57/48/71	44/29/pc	Houston	60/48/.00	53/36/s	Portland ME	14/3/.00	30/12/i
Bismarck	12/0/.00	24/16/sn	Indianapolis	33/30/.34	19/10/pc	Portland OR	41/39/.00	47/36/r
Boise	27/20/.00	34/23/fg	Jackson MS	60/50/43	46/29/s	Raleigh	47/38/53	55/29/pc
Boston	20/11/.01	42/18/r	Jacksonville	75/50/.00	66/34/ts	Rapid City	38/12/.00	49/25/pc
Buffalo	16/12/.16	24/14/fl	Kansas City	37/24/.05	40/25/pc	Reno	35/12/.00	41/16/pc
Charleston SC	70/48/46	62/39/sh	Las Vegas	53/42/.00	61/41/s	Sacramento	57/30/.00	62/35/s
Charleston WV	46/32/.16	34/24/pc	Little Rock	45/39/.01	45/31/pc	Salt Lake City	34/17/.00	24/11/fl
Charlotte	49/39/93	50/29/pc	Los Angeles	73/43/.00	79/51/s	San Antonio	62/42/.01	60/35/s
Cheyenne	37/23/.00	47/31/s	Memphis	44/41/.62	41/3/pc	San Diego	70/46/.00	70/56/s
Chicago	30/30/.22	18/8/pc	Miami	82/74/.02	84/64/ts	San Francisco	55/39/.00	58/48/s
Cincinnati	37/33/.37	28/18/cd	Minneapolis	15/10/.06	6/1/cd	Seattle	46/42/.00	48/41/r
Cleveland	32/26/.35	27/13/fl	Mobile	73/53/.01	54/37/pc	Spokane	37/30/.02	37/29/fg
Columbia SC	33/27/.12	32/22/pc	New Orleans	71/63/.04	54/37/pc	St. Louis	35/32/.41	30/24/pc
Dallas	48/39/.00	56/37/s	New York	34/25/.03	46/24/r	Tampa	80/65/.00	76/52/sh
Daytona Beach	80/65/.01	72/47/sh	Oakland	52/35/.00	61/42/s	Tucson	63/36/.00	70/44/s
Denver	32/21/.00	55/26/s				Washington	42/35/.01	41/27/pc



WEATHER HISTORY

Today in 1987, O'Hare Airport in Chicago, Ill. was closed for only the fourth time in twenty years due to 75 mph wind gusts and heavy snow. Northern Illinois received up to a foot of new snow from a low pressure system that rapidly deepened over the Great Lakes region.

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INTERNATIONAL

CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco	86/75/.00	87/77/s	La Paz	53/41/.00	59/41/ts	Rio	82/73/.00	86/69/pc
Amsterdam	48/39/.00	46/44/s	Lima	77/66/.00	75/68/cd	Rome	51/37/.00	55/39/s
Athens	55/33/.00	55/41/s	London	51/39/.00	53/42/r	San Juan PR	86/76/.02	84/74/pc
Auckland	77/59/.00	75/59/pc	Madrid	55/33/.00	55/24/pc	Santiago	84/66/.00	84/66/pc
Beijing	41/14/.00	41/21/s	Mexico City	73/51/.00	75/50/r	Seoul	26/21/.00	35/19/fg
Berlin	39/30/.00	39/33/s	Montreal	0/-1/.00	4/3/pc	Singapore	89/77/.00	89/77/r
Buenos Aires	86/73/.00	91/78/s	Moscow	32/21/.00	28/10/pc	St. Thomas VI	86/73/.10	86/75/r
Cairo	55/46/.00	51/42/r	Nairobi	77/60/.00	73/59/ts	Sydney	75/68/.00	73/69/ts
Geneva	39/26/.00	37/21/sn	Nassau	80/73/.00	82/73/pc	Tel Aviv	42/41/.00	53/39/r
Havana	84/69/.00	84/68/s	New Delhi	73/50/.00	73/50/s	Tokyo	51/39/.00	50/39/s
Helsinki	26/17/.00	28/26/pc	Oslo	48/46/.00	48/42/r	Toronto	14/8/.00	22/10/sn
Hong Kong	69/62/.00	71/60/pc	Panama	86/78/.00	87/75/ts	Vienna	37/28/.00	41/32/pc
Kingston	87/78/.00	86/78/ts	Paris	51/37/.00	48/39/pc	Warsaw	37/32/.00	37/33/pc

KEY TO CONDITIONS: c=cloudy, dr=drizzle, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hazy, i=ice, pc=partly cloudy, r=rain, s=sunny, sh=showers, sn=snow, ts=thunderstorms, w=windy.

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Double downer

Columbia basketball falls in both games to Palatka on Saturday



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Columbia High School's Darrell Jones attempts a jump shot (15) on Dec. 5.

By **BRANDON FINLEY**
 bfinley@lakecityreporter.com

Palatka High came into Lake City and owned the court as they swept an evening of basketball against Columbia High on Saturday.

Both sides of the junior varsity lost the opening games before the Lady Tigers took the court against Palatka in the top half of the varsity competition.

Palatka dominated throughout the game and came away with a 60-35 win against the Lady Tigers.

The bright spot for Columbia was freshman Au'maria Kelly coming through with 15 points in the contest. Jazzlynn

Williams had six points and Lona Wilson added five points.

"Kelly is playing really well, and she's starting to get her teammates involved," Columbia head coach Mike Reynolds said. "Palatka is one of the top teams in the state and they distributed the ball really well."

The boys were able to keep it close for much longer.

Palatka started the game on a 15-4 run over the first 4:56, but the Tigers were able to battle back behind 10 points from Darrell Jones in the first quarter.

Columbia matched with its own 12-4 run over the last 3:04 over the opening period to make the score

1916 heading into the second quarter.

Palatka took control in the second quarter and went into the half with a 37-28 lead before the Tigers cut it back to seven heading into the final period.

Playing from behind, the Tigers couldn't get the long-range shots to fall and the score expanded to 62-47 before the final buzzer.

"I don't think we shot the ball as well as we have," Tigers' head coach Horace Jefferson said. "We had opportunities that we didn't finish. Every time we made a run, we'd foul them and that hurt. When a team goes 18-of-22 at the line at your place, it's going

CHS continued on 2B



PAUL BUCHANAN/Lake City Reporter

Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston won the 2013 Heisman Trophy on Saturday.

Winston wins Heisman

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jameis Winston left voters no choice but to give him the Heisman Trophy.

The Florida State quarterback became the second straight freshman to win the Heisman on Saturday night, earning college football's most prestigious individual award with a performance so spectacular and dominant that even a criminal investigation couldn't derail his candidacy.

Winston received 668 first-place votes and 2,205 points. He finished 1,501 points ahead of Alabama quarterback AJ McCarron

for the seventh-largest margin of victory in Heisman history, despite being left off 115 of the 900 ballots that were returned.

Northern Illinois quarterback Jordan Lynch was third, followed by Boston College's Andre Williams, Texas A&M's Johnny Manziel and Auburn's Tre Mason.

Manziel was the first freshman to win the Heisman, and was trying to join Ohio State's Archie Griffin as a two-time Heisman winner. Instead, Winston made it two freshman winners in the 79-year history of the Heisman. He also became the youngest

winner at 23 days short of 20.

The 19-year-old also was investigated last month for a year-old sexual assault, but no charges were filed and the case was closed four days before Heisman votes were due.

Winston is the nation's top-rated passer and has led the top-ranked Seminoles to a spot in the BCS championship game against No. 2 Auburn on Jan. 6, his birthday. The former five-star recruit from Bessemer, Ala., made college football look easy from his very first game.

Winston is the third FSU QB to win the award.

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 By Independent Optometrist

Dashing to the snow



BRANDON FINLEY/Lake City Reporter

Participants in the Dashing to the Snow 5K take off at the starting line on Saturday in Lake City.



BRANDON FINLEY/Lake City Reporter

Competitors stretch prior to the Dashing to the Snow 5K on Saturday.



BRANDON FINLEY/Lake City Reporter

Coach Lindsay McCardle (center) is joined by members of the Columbia High Lady Tigers' soccer team for the Dashing to the Snow 5K on Saturday. Pictured with McCardle are (from left) Ashton Lee, Brittney Lee, Kyrsten Giebeig and Kayla Janson.



BRANDON FINLEY/Lake City Reporter

Runners are led through a series of stretches prior to the Dashing to the Snow 5K on Saturday in Lake City.



BRANDON FINLEY/Lake City Reporter

Executive Director of the Lake City/Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Dennille Decker speaks with the crowd prior to the Dashing to the Snow 5K on Saturday.

Columbia, Inc.

Your marketplace source for Lake City and Columbia County

Week of December 15-21, 2013

www.lakecityreporter.com

Section C

What's hot here for Christmas?

Boots, guitars and Miss Me jeans lead the list locally.

By TONY BRITT
tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

With precious few days left for Christmas shopping, local businesses have picked up on some trends.

High on the local Christmas shopping list for 2013 is musical instruments, Miss Me jeans and boots.

Steve Briscoe, First Street Music and Sound Company owner, said musical instruments are a very popular gift for Christmas.

"Music is that one opportunity to self-entertain and a lot of people have the desire to learn to play an instrument, so this is always a popular item at Christmas," he said.

Briscoe said instrument sales for Christmas gifts have been diversified this year, with customers purchasing guitars (acoustic and electric), drum kits and pianos.

"Guitars always seem to be the number one sought after item," he said. "We had a couple of drum kits move out and a lot of people look at pianos this time



TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

Rhett Feagle (left), 8, and Karis Feagle, 7, look over a guitar with Teri LaBrecque at First Street Music and Sound Company. LaBrecque is a music instructor at the store.

GIFTS continued on 3C

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<p>FT. WHITE 7905 S.W. Hwy 27 corner of Hwy. 27 & Hwy. 47 inside the B&B Food Store 497-1484 CARRY-OUT ONLY</p>	<p>LAKE CITY 5735 SW State Rd. 247 corner of SR 242 & SR 247 inside the B&B Food Store 752-3111 CARRY-OUT ONLY</p>	<p>LAKE BUTLER 280 West Main St. next to Mercantile Bank 496-2878 CARRY-OUT ONLY</p>	<p>LIVE OAK 6852 Suwanee Plaza Ln. In Walmart Plaza 330-0331 CARRY-OUT ONLY</p>	<p>LAKE CITY 857 S.W. Main Blvd. in Lake City Plaza 755-7050 DELIVERY • CARRY-OUT</p>
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<p>Round or Deep-Dish OR 1 OF EACH! 2 Medium 2-Topping Pizzas and a 2-Liter \$16 Plus sales tax. Expires in 30 Days.</p>	<p>LARGE PIZZA Cheese or Pepperoni \$5.95 Carry-out Additional toppings available Plus sales tax. Expires in 30 Days.</p>	<p>Any Specialty \$10 Works, Howie Maui, Meat Eaters and Veggie Plus sales tax. Expires in 30 Days.</p>	<p>Lunch Plus A Pepsi 10am - 4pm • Single Pleaser Pizza, • Any Regular Salad • Any Regular Sub • 3-Cheezier Pepperoni Bread \$5 Each Plus sales tax. Expires in 30 Days.</p>
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Ask the Fool

Floating a Question

Q What is "float," in reference to insurance? — *S.B., Opelika, Ala.*

A Warren Buffett, who heads insurance giant Berkshire Hathaway, explained it well in his 1997 letter to shareholders:

"(F)loat is money we hold but don't own. In an insurance operation, float arises because premiums are received before losses are paid, an interval that sometimes extends over many years. During that time, the insurer invests the money. Typically, this pleasant activity carries with it a downside: The premiums that an insurer takes in usually do not cover the losses and expenses it eventually must pay. That leaves it running an 'underwriting loss,' which is the cost of float.

"An insurance business has value if its cost of float over time is less than the cost the company would otherwise incur to obtain funds. But the business is a lemon if its cost of float is higher than market rates for money."

Learn more about the fascinating insurance world from the industry itself at iii.org.

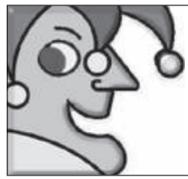
Q I see that General Electric is rated with four stars (out of five) at your CAPS site. What does that mean? — *P.W., Brenton, Wash.*

A Our CAPS community features tens of thousands of investors weighing in on thousands of stocks. A stock's CAPS rating reflects its potential to outperform the S&P 500 based on community opinions. With five-star stocks, for example, most CAPS participants think that they'll outperform the S&P 500 in the future. One-star stocks are deemed most likely to underperform it.

Better still, the highest-ranked members have more influence on a stock's CAPS rating than others, rendering the ratings more meaningful.

Visit CAPS.Fool.com to check out how your favorite stocks are rated, and to rate stocks yourself, too.

Got a question for the Fool? Send it in — see *Write to Us*



The Motley Fool®

To Educate, Amuse & Enrich

Fool's School

How Long Should Your Mortgage Be?

If you're planning to take out a mortgage, don't assume that the typical 30-year loan is your best choice. For some folks, a 15-year mortgage makes the most sense.

With a 15-year mortgage, you'll enjoy a lower interest rate, pay less in interest over the life of the loan and build equity faster. In exchange for these benefits, you'll make higher monthly payments.

With a 30-year loan, although your payments will be lower, you'll end up paying much more in interest, and your interest rate will be higher. But the payments can be more affordable, and you may be able to buy a bigger home. (A longer loan will also give you heavier interest deductions — but that's only because you'll be paying so much in interest. It's better to pay less interest, if you can.)

Consider this example: You take out a \$200,000 mortgage. With a

30-year loan with an interest rate of 4.5 percent, you'll likely pay more than \$160,000 in interest over the life of the loan. If it were a 15-year loan at 3.5 percent, you would pay less than \$60,000. That's a massive difference, don't you think?

The 30-year option can still make sense, though. It is, after all, dangerous to take on steeper loan payments than you can handle. Make sure you can afford the monthly payments and won't be living too close to the edge. And make sure you're not neglecting saving and investing for retirement just to swing a 15-year mortgage.

If you opt for a 30-year loan and enjoy lower payments than with a 15-year one, you might decide to invest the difference. That can be an effective way to build wealth.

Another clever trick is to take out a 30-year loan but treat it like a 15-year one, making extra payments against the principal every month, or as often as you can. (Be sure to get a mortgage that permits you to do so without penalty.) That way you build equity faster but aren't strictly tied to the higher payments.

My Dumbest Investment

Amazing Grace

W.R. Grace probably isn't my dumbest investment, but close to it. Not that it was a bad investment — it's just that after buying shares at \$1.50, when they hit \$2.50, I sold, feeling good about it. But the stock has recently topped \$95. — *R.P., online*

The Fool Responds: It's a common mistake. You made a solid 67 percent gain, but it could have been much more had you focused not on the stock's price alone, but on how much more you thought the company would grow. If, when the stock was at \$2.50, you didn't have much faith in Grace's future, selling would have been the right thing to do.

W.R. Grace is an interesting case, in that it voluntarily filed for bankruptcy protection in 2001, after a sharp rise in asbestos claims due to a leak at one of its mines. It has yet to emerge from it, though that's expected to happen soon.

The maker of specialty chemicals and materials has been performing well recently, and its stock has averaged nearly 15 percent annual growth over the past 20 years.



Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way?

Boil it down to 100 words (or less) and send it to [The Motley Fool c/o My Dumbest Investment](mailto:The.Motley.Fool@fool.com). Got one that worked? Submit to [My Smartest Investment](mailto:My.Smartest.Investment@fool.com). If we print yours, you'll win a Fool's cap!

Name That Company

Founded in New York City in 1837, I began publishing my "Blue Book," America's first mail-order catalog, in 1845. I'm known for jewelry, which generates about 90 percent of my sales, but I also offer timepieces, silverware, china, crystal, stationery, fragrances and more. In 1878, a fancy 128.54-carat yellow diamond was named after me, and Picasso's daughter Paloma has designed for me. I have about 275 stores worldwide. I took in \$4.98 on my first day and now rake in close to \$4 billion annually. I don't serve food, but many associate me with a particular meal anyway. Who am I?

Know the answer? Send it to us with Foolish Trivia on the top and you'll be entered into a drawing for a nifty prize!

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

Launched by a 17-year-old in 1943, I introduced furniture in 1948, published my first catalog in 1951 and opened my first store in 1958. Today, based in Sweden, I oversee roughly 300 stores in 26 nations and employ about 140,000 people. More than 187 million copies of my catalog were distributed last year. I offer close to 11,000 products, though not every item is available in every store. I sell everything from footstools to plants to meatballs. My name is derived from my founder's name and his home. I rake in 27.6 billion euros, or \$37 billion, annually. Who am I? (Answer: IKEA)



Write to Us! Send questions for Ask the Fool, Dumbest (or Smartest) Investments (up to 100 words), and your Trivia entries to Fool@fool.com or via regular mail c/o this newspaper, attn: The Motley Fool. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

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NSA, cyber oversight to be kept together

By **JULIE PACE** and **STEPHEN BRAUN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration will continue the National Security Agency's surveillance programs and cyber command operations under the direction of a single military commander, the first move in advance of what published reports described Friday as limited changes proposed by a task force that deliberated for months in secrecy.

The administration had considered splitting oversight of the two sensitive national security programs amid revelations about its surveillance programs sweeping phone and Internet data inside the U.S. and around the world. But National Security Council spokesman Caitlin Hayden said Friday the government believes that maintaining the oversight responsibilities together under one command is the most effective approach to accomplishing both agencies' missions.

Gen. Keith Alexander, the NSA's director, currently oversees both the agency's surveillance operations and the military's Cyber Command, which monitors and responds to computer intrusions and espionage. Alexander is expected to step down this spring. The administration's decision means he will be replaced by another senior military commander instead of a civilian director, as recommended by some national security experts.

The announcement comes days before a review group working under the Director of National Intelligence is expected to deliver, on Sunday, its findings on NSA surveillance to President Barack Obama. The DNI's Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technology held no public meetings and met several times with business and privacy groups out of the range of the media and public. DNI head James Clapper exempted the panel from standard federal requirements that it work transparently.

Although the task force has kept its recommendations secret, news organizations have sketched out proposals that would allow most of the NSA's surveillance programs to continue but change ownership of the government's large inventory of telephone records and restrict spying on allied nations. The Wall Street Journal reported that the panel proposed shifting control of sought-after phone records from the government to individual phone companies, while The New York Times said the panel urged the White House to hold a tighter leash on U.S. spying on foreign leaders.

The panel's recommendations come as skepticism over the NSA surveillance mounts in Congress and from technology companies and privacy groups. Worried that reports of foreign data intercepts could drive away international customers, lawyers for a consortium of tech companies including Google, Microsoft, Apple, Facebook and Yahoo recently urged legal changes in Congress. Their move coincided with a bipartisan legislative push to scale back the surveillance programs.

One lawmaker said the review panel recommendations could aid plans to end the government's direct control over telephone data.

"I'd encourage the administration to move in the direction of phone companies retaining the data," Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Cal., said Friday.

Schiff, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, has offered legislation to shift control of phone records from the NSA to the phone companies and said the move could be made without diminishing national security. He noted that the firms already hold the same data that the government sweeps up and could quickly turn over that material to the NSA and law enforcement. NSA officials have warned that investigations could bog down if the government lost direct control over the records.

Other NSA critics have long urged the White House to split up the responsibilities of the NSA's director by separating the agency's surveillance and cyber command operations.

Recent media revelations stemming from leaks from former NSA contractor Edward Snowden showed the blurring effect of the agency's dual roles abroad, reporting that the NSA spied on foreign governments and companies alike, using its unique computer hacking abilities to tap into financial and corporate files and the private communications of allies as well as the calling and web patterns of suspected terrorists.

But Hayden said Friday that "without that dual-hat arrangement, elaborate procedures would have to be put in place to ensure that effective coordination continued and avoid creating duplicative capabilities in each organization."

The Journal reported that the review group recommended that a civilian head the NSA.

Several NSA critics noted that Friday's media reports on the impending report said little about the agency's surveillance programs targeting Internet data inside the U.S. and abroad. Obama and senior national security officials have justified those sweeps by saying they are primarily directed at terror suspects and foreign Internet users and rarely sift through U.S.-based web traffic.

"I worry that what we're going to end up getting is a report remarkably modest in what it proposes and doing little to restore global trust in the U.S.," said Sascha Meinrath, a privacy advocate who is director of the Open Technology Institute, a web freedom group.

Most of what the public has learned about the secret NSA programs is the result of news stories based on leaks provided by Snowden, now a fugitive from U.S. authorities living in Russia. Some information also came from the NSA's declassification of long-secret decisions

by the Federal Intelligence Surveillance court. In those decisions, several judges bared internal abuses by NSA officials and ordered tighter oversight of the programs. The Times reported Friday that among the task force's draft proposals is the idea of creating a group of legal advocates who could argue against the government at the secret court. Obama has expressed interest in that idea.

Meinrath attended two private meetings with the review panel and is one of several privacy advocates who have criticized the task force's lack of public contacts and the insider nature of its White House appointments.

The review group's members have extensive ties to both Obama and the intelligence and national security communities. They include Richard A. Clarke, a long-time national security official in the Clinton and Bush administrations; Michael Morell, a former senior CIA official; Cass Sunstein, Obama's former regulatory czar; Peter Swire, a privacy law expert who served in the Clinton administration and Geoffrey Stone, a former University of Chicago Law School dean who leads an academic committee looking to build Obama's presidential library in Chicago.

The review group is one of two government organizations that Obama directed to review NSA surveillance programs that are conducted under authorization of the U.S. Patriot Act and the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act. The second group, the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, is an independent board of experts appointed by Congress. The oversight board was in existence before Snowden's revelations, but was largely idle until Congress approved its full membership last summer.

The board is in the final weeks of preparing its NSA report and the group's chairman, David Medine, said he expected that a report will be issued to Congress, the White House and the public before the end of the year.

End of year shapes up to be prime car-buying time

By **TOM KRISHER**
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT — If the spirit of giving — or of treating yourself — has inspired you to buy a car this holiday season, you're in luck. Many local auto dealerships are overflowing with sedans, trucks and SUVs, so there are

deals to be had.

Most dealers have abundant supplies of 2013 models, and 2014s are arriving as automakers keep factories humming. Since dealers pay interest on money borrowed to buy the cars, they're probably anxious to sell them soon.

"We have a lot of inventory right now," said Tammy Darvish, vice president of a 21-dealer group in the

Washington, D.C., metro area that sells Toyota, Ford, Kia, Chrysler, Volkswagen and other makes.

The December holiday season normally is a good time to buy as dealers clear out old models and sales people feel pressure to meet year-end targets. Some sales ran early this year as automakers tried to get a piece of the Black Friday retail holiday.

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Can smartphones snap out of stupor?

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE and
YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO — This may be remembered as the year smartphones became boring.

Although high-definition displays on smartphones have gotten bigger and their cameras have gotten better, the pace of geowhiz innovation has dawdled.

Smartphone and software makers are working on ways to snap out of this technological lull, although it probably will be at least another year or two before breakthroughs revolutionize the design and function of mobile computing devices.

In a foreshadowing of things to come, LG Electronics Inc. is boasting about the G Flex, a new phone with a curved display. Previously available in Korea and Singapore, the concave device arrived in Hong Kong on Friday.

"We want to claim this as the future of smart devices," Ramchan Woo, the head of LG's mobile product planning division, said during a recent demonstration in San Francisco.

If such visions are realized, smartphones and tablets will be equipped with display screens that can be rolled up like a scroll or folded like a wallet.

Making the devices even easier to carry around will be impor-

tant if software makers want to deepen the bond between people and their phones. That could happen as smarter tracking tools and voice-recognition technology let smartphones understand habits and thoughts like a family member.

The future smartphone "will be small enough to carry with you at all times without thinking about it, and it will be essential enough that you won't want to get rid of it," Silicon Valley futurist Paul Saffo said. "It will become a context engine. It will be aware of where it is, where you are going and what you need."

The G Flex provides a peek at the shape of things to come. Despite its name, the G Flex isn't pliable. The device is slightly bowed from top to bottom, allowing it to curve toward a person's mouth when used for phone calls. It also has a curved battery, something LG says is a first for smartphones. LG applied a "self-healing" protective coat on the G Flex to automatically repair any minor scratches.

More than anything, the G Flex is meant to begin the smartphone's evolution from the primitive state of flat screens. In theory, the curved-screen technology will lead to bendable screens, which will then pave the way to foldable screens. If that progression plays out, it would be possible to fold a larger smartphone

so it can easily fit into a pocket.

For now, though, the G Flex's size makes it too cumbersome for most people to lug around. It has a six-inch screen, measured diagonally, making it among the largest phones out there. The cost also will limit its appeal. LG introduced the G Flex in its home country of South Korea last month for \$940. LG wants to sell the G Flex in the U.S., but hasn't set a date or price or reached distribution deals with any wireless carriers.

Another Korean company, Samsung Electronics Inc., also is selling a concave smartphone there. Unlike the G Flex's vertical bow, Samsung's Galaxy Round curves horizontally from left to right when it's held upright. With a price tag of about \$1,000, the phone is more an expensive novelty than a mainstream product.

Like LG, Samsung is setting the stage for bigger things to come. Samsung Vice Chairman Kwon Oh-hyun told analysts last month that the company believes it can produce a mobile device with a foldable display by 2015.

Samsung appears to be working on two slightly different concepts, according to two analysts who saw prototypes of what's in the company's product pipeline during last month's meetings. Reporters weren't given a chance to see the prototypes. One featured a tablet-sized display panel

that could be folded in half in the screen's midsection, according to the analysts. The display was thin and could be folded in only one direction. The rest of the panel was firm and flat, the analysts said. Another version had a more flexible screen capable of bending anywhere.

An Apple Inc. blueprint for making a device with a curved display was granted a U.S. patent this week, a development likely to feed recent speculation that the iPhone maker is working on a concave model. The Cupertino, Calif., company declined to comment.

Other device makers may show off products with curved screens in Las Vegas next month at CES, where tech companies often unveil their latest innovations.

Building smartphones with more pliable screens will pose several challenges for manufacturers. The battery, smartphone chips and other key components will have to become flexible, too, so they can bend with the device. Flexible screens also will probably be made of plastic, a material more likely to degrade or fail when exposed to high temperatures, oxygen or water.

The push to turn smartphones into more intelligent devices appears to be further along than the attempts to transform the display screens.

Both Apple and Google Inc., the maker of the Android operating system and the world's dominant search engine, already offer voice recognition technology and virtual assistants that enable smartphones to engage in rudimentary conversations and offer helpful tips. The ultimate goal is for smartphones to become so intuitive and efficient that they reflexively cater to their owners' needs.

"You'll be speaking to the phone, asking it to do things, and it will be responding and actually doing what you intend," said Dennis Woodside, CEO of Google's device-making subsidiary, Motorola Mobility.

The technological advances could border on the supernatural, according to IDC analyst Ramon Llamas. He expects the future relationship between people and their phones to be akin to fictional billionaire Tony Stark's connection with the computer-controlled armor that he dons to become Iron Man, a comic-book hero popularized in a trilogy of movies starring Robert Downey Jr.

If Llamas is right, future smartphones will become a person's navigator, security blanket, counselor and talisman. Without a smartphone to come to the rescue, a person may even feel reduced to being a mere mortal.

Lee reported from Seoul, South Korea.

GIFTS

Continued From 1C

of the year. The sales are across the board as far as the instruments that really move this time of the year."

Acoustic guitars are often more popular than their electric counterparts.

"With acoustic guitars, you can pull that up and pick it anywhere and everywhere," he said. "With an electric guitar, naturally, you need electric to plug into."

Briscoe said the store was prepared for holiday shoppers with inventory to meet holiday shopping needs.

"Like any other retailer you always stock up and be better prepared for Christmas," Briscoe said. "As far as Christmas we bring in the kits and packages where it's basically everything you need to get started with. Outside of that we try to maintain a good balance of inventory throughout the year."

Andrea Smith, co-owner of Smitty's Western Store along with her husband Bob Smith, said some of the more popular gift items this year are clothing, boots, Costa sun glasses and jewelry — particularly Miss Me jeans and Brighton jewelry.

"We sell a lot of gift items too, including home decor items and a lot of stocking stuffers," she said. "Miss Me jeans are popular this year and boots, I can't order them fast enough to keep them turned around and back in here on the shelves. We're really doing great with boots, but Miss Me jeans and ladies clothing are our popular items for us. We have a lot of bling."

Jason Zink, Belk store manager, also noted that boots were a popular gift item at the store, noting that Rampage Boots seemed to be the most popular boot for sale this Christmas.

He said other popular gift items for the store's 2013 Christmas gift sales have been memory soft pillows, clothes, towels, luggage and coffee.

"Rampage boots are popular," he said, noting they are junior boots for girls. "It's for the younger style and it's really at a good price point."

Zink said traditional items that have been experiencing sluggish sales are radios and other electric items, but he said he expects those sales to increase in the last 10 days before Christmas.



Photos by TONY BRITTLake City Reporter

ABOVE: Candi Freeman, of Branford, shops for ladies boots at Smitty's Western Store. Store owners said boots are a popular Christmas item this year.
BELOW: Geri Geiger gets a facial touch-up from Cindy Speight, Belk counter manager for Clinique.



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Legal

NOTICE OF INTENT BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF COLUMBIA COUNTY TO ADOPT RULE AND SET PUBLIC HEARING

The School Board of Columbia County will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., in the Columbia County School Board Auditorium 372 W. Duval St., Lake City, FL 32055 on proposed amendments to rules, regulations and procedures for the operation of the Columbia County School District. The public is invited to attend. Action is anticipated at this meeting.

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in the public hearing are requested to notify the Office of the Superintendent at 755-8000 at least 48 hours in advance so that their needs can be accommodated.

TITLE: 2013 - 2014 Student Progression Plan
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Various revisions are being made in order to comply with district policy.
Virtual School: Insert Drop/Add language for virtual courses.
Dual Enrollment: Clarify eligibility for enrollment.

DATED THIS 10th DAY OF December 2013.
SCHOOL BOARD OF COLUMBIA COUNTY
BY Keith Hudson, Chairman
ATTEST Terry L. Huddleston, Superintendent

05542504
December 15, 2013

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
AUTO EMPORIUM OF LAKE CITY INC. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 12/30/2013, 10:00 am at 2832 SW MAIN BLVD, LAKE CITY, FL 32025, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. AUTO EMPORIUM OF LAKE CITY INC. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

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05542528
DECEMBER 15, 2013

Public Solicitation for Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee Counties CoC HUD CoC Program Application

United Way of Suwannee Valley, lead agency for the Homeless Services Network of Suwannee Valley (HSNSV), is accepting project proposals for HUD CoC Program funding. Prospective project applicants must be familiar with the requirements of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH): CoC Program Interim Rule, the Notice of FY Policy Requirements and General Section to HUD's FY 2013 NOFAs for Discretionary Programs (General Section), and the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014 Continuum of Care Program Competition. The HSNSV CoC Program RFP may be obtained by contacting Jenn Sawyer, United Way of Suwannee Valley, 386-752-5604 x 101. Project proposals must be received by December 26.

05542521
December 15, 2013

The City of Lake City Distribution/Collection Department will have NE Patterson Avenue closed from NE Simms Drive to NE Lake Drive for four days beginning 6:30 am Monday, Dec. 16, 2013 extending through 7:30pm Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013 due to necessary sewer line repairs. NE Patterson Ave will be open to local traffic only.

05542539
December 15, 2013

100 Job Opportunities

Lake City Reporter

The Lake City Reporter is now seeking qualified candidates for the position of **Sales Associate**

This position requires self motivation and drive to assist business within the community with their marketing and sales plans. Applying candidates must possess an energetic and professional attitude along with a clean driving history. Pay range is based on experience.

This position is offered Salary plus uncapped Commission. Please send all resumes to twestberry@lakecityreporter.com or mail to:
Attn: Theresa Westberry 180 East Duval Street, Lake City, FL 32055

05542526
ACCOUNTANT - Auditor position open in local CPA Firm. Accounting or related degree and experience required. A career position, competitive salary and benefits.
Send resume to:
richard@powellandjonescpa.com

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED in Wellborn area. Monday's 10am-3pm, \$65. 386-362-8165.

100 Job Opportunities

05542347
PRESSROOM MANAGER
Community Newspapers Inc. is seeking a pressroom manager for Mountain Press, located in Franklin, NC. The pressroom manager is responsible for all press and mailroom operations.

This position requires experience in press operations, including press layouts, preventive maintenance procedures, quality reproduction, managing safety including OSHA requirements, and supervisory responsibilities for press crew and mailroom supervisor. Maintenance of key supply inventories, including newsprint, ink, plates, essential supplies and spare parts is required. Successful applicant will have hands on experience operating a Goss community press, computer to plate technologies, prepress workflow systems, File transfer protocol process, and newsprint ordering and inventory systems.

Mountain Press is a regional printing facility for CNI's Franklin Region newspapers. Email resume, salary requirements and three professional references to: rhoskins@thefranklinpress.com or mail to: Rachel Hoskins, Franklin Regional Publisher, PO Box 350, Franklin, NC 28744.

05542427

World Class CEMENT MANUFACTURER

is in need of experienced Electrical Maintenance Technician to install, maintain, and repair electric and electronic equipment. Duties include, but are not limited to: High and low voltage tests and troubleshooting; electric control, piping, wiring, pneumatic, & hydraulic controls, air conditioning, operate mobile equipment, weigh feeders, calibration & troubleshooting, Shenck & Pfister Systems, test, calibrate & troubleshoot; & assist with departments needs as necessary. HS Diploma or equivalent preferred. Experience Required.

Position requires working rotating shifts, holidays, weekends, overtime & accept call-ins after hours. Suwannee American Cement, located in Branford, FL. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Qualified applicants send resumes to resumes@suwanneecement.com or fax to Human Resources: 386-935-5071.

05542496

Director of Materials Management-F/T

We are currently seeking a Director of Materials Management to provide leadership and oversee our Purchasing Department. The right candidate must have management experience and at least 3-5 years of purchasing experience within a Hospital (medical) setting. BA/BS in Business, Health Administration or related degree.

For further information, please visit our website: www.lakebutterhospital.com (386) 496-2323 EXT 9258
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Story ideas?

Contact
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Sunday, December 15, 2013

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Section D

TRAVEL TALES



Sandy Kishton

Reversing Rapids is a wonder

The Bay of Fundy on the northern Atlantic in Eastern Canada is, simply put, a phenomenon.

My Mom and I made our last port stop of the cruise in St. John, New Brunswick and quickly made our way to the "Reversing Rapids," where it was low tide. Here, the St. John River looked like any other shallow river with white rapids falling over the rock beds and flowing quickly into the ocean. Boats at this time of day cannot pass, but kayakers have attempted the ride. There was a zip line overhead with just a few lines. It didn't look like much fun compared to other zip lines I've done. I was glad I didn't choose this activity.

Fast forward a few hours later, well approximately 6 hours, at high tide, and the view of the river looked completely different. The rising tides from the ocean had backed the river up completely stopping its flow altogether and it looked more like a lake with whirlpools. Some of the river bank and rocks that were visible before were no longer seen. The average tidal changes in this area are approximately 17 feet and vary throughout the region, but can be as high as 50 feet.

It was quite remarkable to have had the opportunity to see it at both low and high tide.

In the 6 hour interim we took a ride to St. Martins, a charming little fishing village east of St. John to the Sea Caves. There were people exploring the beaches and trying to cross over the small streams and piles of seaweed left at low tide to see inside the caves. Which if it was high tide, you wouldn't be able to see the Caves at all. Of course, I was happy it was low tide, because I became one of those people. I loved exploring the area and even searched for my rock. Legend has it that finding a rock on the Bay of Fundy with a line circling the rock will grant you a wish. Mom and I both found one.

St. Martins is also known for its two covered bridges. That's right, not one but two. We were able to get them both in one camera shot, too.

Another interesting thing I saw in St. Martins I found fascinating was how the boats are docked when the tide is so low that there isn't water underneath. They not only need to leave a lot of extra line when tying them off, but they secure what looks like a stool and sometimes what looks like a lobster cage underneath it so that the boats do not roll over. There was a term for it but for the life of me, I can't remember what they called them. If it was a flat bottom boat, it would simply sit on the sea floor in some cases.

This was a very quaint town and, both, the stops in St. John and St. Martins, in general, were very educational. I felt like I was on a field trip; learning all sorts of new and interesting scientific facts.

■ Sandy Kishton is a freelance travel writer who lives in Lake City. Contact her at skishton@comcast.net

Stay healthy — naturally

Tips about boosting your immunity and remaining healthy this holiday season.

StatePoint

W

hile you're probably already accustomed with conventional ways of looking and feeling your best, this winter, consider more natural approaches to health

and wellness. Columbia County Health Department staff suggest eating healthy, adequate hydration and weekly exercise — tips, they say, locals should carry with them throughout the whole year, not just for the holiday season.

Here are several good-for-you and good-for-the-planet steps you can take to help stay strong and healthy this winter:

Boost Immunity

Help stay cold- and flu-free this winter with some natural lifestyle tweaks.

"Proper nutrition and hydration are going to be key for any health issues you may have," said Marjorie Rigdon, director of nursing at the Columbia County Health Department. "They will keep you hydrated and boost your immune system. Force the fluids, force the fluids, especially if you have the flu. That's the motto and the mantra."

Proper hydration and nutrition are important for good health and your skin. In addition to drinking plenty of alcohol-free liquids, look for soaps and skin care products that have natural olive oil as a primary ingredient. Natural oils help lock in moisture.

Also, take steps to reduce stress from your life — which studies have shown can take a mighty toll on your body's ability to fight infection, according to the American Psychological Association.

The easiest way to reduce stress is



COURTESY

Thirty minutes of exercise three times a week will have you on your way to a healthier lifestyle.

through exercise, Rigdon said. As the season's weather gets chilly, it might not be very easy or healthy to walk in the colder temperatures. Rigdon suggests walking inside the Lake City Mall. For people who still crave the outdoor time, several WeightWatcher members walk the perimeter of the Lake City Mall, which equals nearly a mile.

When you're feeling tense, try products infused with lavender or chamomile, both of which can help relieve stress, or use the opportunity to finally try that yoga class.

Herbal Remedies

Feeling under the weather? Before turning to your medicine cabinet, take a look at your kitchen cabinet. Herbs are not just a low-calorie flavor booster of meals, they're

said to also contain healing properties. Many herbs have been used for centuries as remedies for common ailments.

For example, according to the National Institutes of Health, sage may help ease your headache, hoarseness or cough, and is an effective remedy for a sore throat. Try infusing tea with sage, or using it to add flavor to your sauté or roast at dinner. Running a fever? Rosemary has been used to treat fever and headache. So the next time you hit the grocery store, fill your cart with organic herbs that heal.

Check the Label

Where natural ingredients are concerned, the focus is often on our plates. It's easy to

HEALTHY continued on 3D

Universal adding 8 new restaurants

By TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

ORLANDO — Universal Studios theme park executives offered a few details Thursday on the new Harry Potter-themed area, which is scheduled to open at the Orlando park next year along with an 1,800-room resort and eight new restaurants in the CityWalk dining and entertainment area.

The new Potter attractions will be based on the books' fictional scenes in Diagon Alley and London, and will be located in the Universal Studios section of the theme park. The existing Wizarding World of Harry Potter area is located in the other part of the park, Universal Islands of Adventure.

Visitors will be able to take a new black and red train, the Hogwarts Express, between the two areas, which will presumably entice visitors to buy a two-park pass so they can explore both sections.

Designers plan a restaurant inside the new Harry Potter-themed area called the Leaky Cauldron. The restaurant interior will be based on scenes from

UNIVERSAL continued on 3D



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Shaken, not stirred

Did 007 have an alcoholic tremor?

By MARIA CHENG

AP Medical Writer

LONDON — He may have a license to kill, but is he sober enough to shoot?

British doctors who carefully read Ian Fleming's series of James Bond novels say the celebrated spy regularly drank more than four times the recommended limit of alcohol per week. Their research was published in the light-hearted Christmas edition of the medical journal BMJ on Thursday.

Dr. Patrick Davies and colleagues at Nottingham University Hospital analyzed 14 James Bond books and documented every drink Bond had. They also noted days when he was unable to drink, such as when he was hospitalized, in rehab or imprisoned.

The academics found that the spy also known as 007 drank about 92 units of alcohol a week; more than four times the safe amount recommended by the British government.

One unit is about eight grams of pure alcohol. A pint of beer has three units of alcohol, about the same as a large glass of wine.

Bond's drinking habits put him at high risk for numerous alcohol-related diseases and an early alcohol-related death, the authors write.

"The level of functioning as displayed in the books is inconsistent with the physical, mental and indeed sexual functioning expected from someone drinking

this much alcohol," the authors conclude.

Davies and colleagues also suspect Bond's trademark order that his martinis be "shaken, not stirred" may have been because he had an alcohol-induced tremor and was simply unable to stir his drinks.

They noted his biggest daily drinking binge was in the book, "From Russia with Love," when he downed nearly 50 units of alcohol. They also suspected alcohol may have been a factor in "Casino

Royale," when he knocked back 39 units before getting into a high-speed car chase, lost control and crashed the car.

The authors recognized that Bond's high-stress job may have also driven him over the edge.

"Although we appreciate the societal pressures to consume alcohol when working with international terrorists and high stakes gamblers, we would advise Bond be referred for further assessment of his alcohol intake," they concluded.

Von Trapps' lodge taps interest in musical

By LISA RATHK

Associated Press

STOWE, Vt. — In the week since NBC aired a revival of "The Sound of Music," the real von Trapp and the vacation lodge it runs in Vermont are in high demand.

And yes, the family was watching as Carrie Underwood, in a widely watched and panned performance, took over the role of Maria von Trapp, made famous on Broadway by Mary Martin and on film by Julie Andrews.

In a blog post, Francoise von Trapp, daughter of Maria von

Trapp's stepson Rupert, questioned the casting. "For everyone who thought the whole thing was wonderful and that NBC did a spectacular job, I say maybe your expectations weren't high to begin with," she wrote, noting she doesn't speak for the family or lodge. "If they hoped to have created a new holiday classic, I think they missed their mark."

Kristina von Trapp Frame, granddaughter of the real Maria von Trapp, and her brother Sam von Trapp, executive vice president of the Trapp Family Lodge, were more diplomatic, calling Underwood a beautiful singer.

"It is relevant and interesting to a new group of people, and that's the important thing," von Trapp Frame said Thursday. "The original movie is an inspiration to many people, and if it continues that inspiration, that is only a good thing."

The family isn't denying the musical is helping business, even if most callers are merely curious. The musical and movie are a fictionalized account of the life of Maria von Trapp and tell the story of a 1930s Austrian governess who teaches her charges to sing and falls in love with her employer, naval captain Georg von Trapp, and the family's flight

before World War II.

They moved to Vermont in 1942 after visiting during a singing tour and vacationing in Stowe.

They built a rustic farmhouse and started taking in boarders. As a ski industry developed in the area, they expanded. Fire destroyed it in 1980, but the family rebuilt.

One of the captain's daughters, also named Maria von Trapp, played accordion and taught Austrian dance with sister Rosemarie at the lodge. Rosemarie also taught her sons how to play the recorder, said Phoebe Everson, of Plattsburgh,

N.Y., who has been a visitor for decades.

Four of the 10 von Trapp siblings are still alive, and two live on the lodge's grounds.

The 96-room chalet-style inn is the height of charm during the holidays. With its wide views of the mountains that reminded the family of their native Austria, the lodge is decorated with Christmas trees and poinsettias. In the restaurants, wiener schnitzel and apple strudel are on the menu.

On Christmas Eve, guests get a special treat: The von Trapp family sings Christmas carols with the guests. But no songs from

Are more Dorito-flavored foods on the way?

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK — Dorito dust may be the new salt for more restaurant chains.

PepsiCo Inc., which owns Cheetos, Fritos, Tostitos and other snacks, found success last year after teaming up with Taco Bell to create Dorito-flavored taco shells. And it has since been dreaming up other restaurant dishes featuring its popular snacks.

The company announced Thursday that it struck a deal to serve its drinks at Buffalo Wild Wings, picking a significant client from beverage rival Coca-Cola Co. Notably, PepsiCo also said it would work

with the sports-centric chain to create "unique menu offerings."

In an interview, Buffalo Wild Wings CEO Sally Smith that she visited PepsiCo's food innovation lab in New York and was shown several dishes the chain might put on its menu. Ideas included Doritos as a crunchy topping for wings or tenders, or even just offering potato chips as a side dish.

Additionally, Smith said she was shown salad dressings and sandwich and chicken wing sauces that incorporate PepsiCo's sodas, including Mountain Dew.

"I don't think it will be in the next 12 months, but we'll possibly start testing

after a year or 18 months," she said, noting that considerable planning would be needed to bring the offerings to the company's more than 975 U.S. locations.

PepsiCo clearly sees the idea of incorporating its snacks into menus as a major opportunity. At an analyst conference in Boca Raton, Fla., earlier this year, for example, the company sponsored a lunch featuring recipes using its Naked Juices, Frito chips and other products.

A representative for Pizza Hut also told the AP the chain has looked at ways to use Frito-Lay snacks in its menu. Pizza Hut is owned by Yum Brands, which owns Taco Bell and KFC as well. The restaurant

chains were owned by PepsiCo until being spun off in 1997.

Over at Taco Bell, Doritos Locos Tacos continue to be a considerable sales driver. Taco Bell CEO Greg Creed has noted that a major advantage of the tacos is that competitors can't replicate them — their success is largely tied to the popularity of the Doritos brand.

The latest partnership with Buffalo Wild Wings is just the latest sign that PepsiCo is trying to use the strength of its Frito-Lay business to bolster its beverage unit, which has long trailed Coca-Cola. It also comes as PepsiCo fights off calls to split its drinks and snacks units.

Exercise helps women tolerate breast cancer drugs

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE

AP Chief Medical Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Exercise might help women beat breast cancer. Researchers found it can ease the achy joints and muscle pain that lead many patients to quit taking medicines that treat the disease and lower the risk of a recurrence.

The study is the first major test of an exercise program for women on aromatase inhibitors. These estrogen-blocking pills, sold as Femara, Aromasin and other brands, are recommended for five years after initial breast cancer treatment for hormone-driven tumors, the most common type.

The pills also increasingly are being used to help prevent breast cancer in women at high risk of it because of family history, bad genes or other reasons. A separate study found that one of these medicines — anastrozole, sold as Arimidex and in generic form — cut this risk by 53 percent. It's the second aromatase inhibitor shown to lower risk that much.

Despite how effective the drugs are, many women shun them because they can cause aches and pains, hot flashes and other side effects. About 15 percent of U.S. women have enough risk to merit considering the pills to prevent breast cancer, yet less than 5 per-

cent take them, said Dr. Powel Brown, a prevention expert at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

The exercise study involved 121 postmenopausal women taking various aromatase inhibitors to treat breast cancer who complained of achy joints on a pain survey.

About half were assigned to two supervised strength training sessions a week plus at least 150 minutes of aerobic exercise per week. The rest got advice on the benefits of exercise and did their usual activities.

After a year, joint pain scores fell 20 percent among exercisers and 3 percent among the others. The severity of pain and how much it interfered with daily life also declined more in exercisers.

The exercise group improved cardiorespiratory fitness and lost weight — nearly 8 pounds versus a slight gain in the others. Eighty percent stuck with the program, helped by free access to a gym and a personal trainer.

The National Cancer Institute paid for the study, which was led by Melinda Irwin of the Yale Cancer Center and Dr. Jennifer Ligibel of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

Dr. Eric Winer, breast cancer chief at Dana-Farber, said the results may help more women stick with the drugs.

"A lot of people will say, 'if it's going to have a lot of

side effects, I'm not going to do it.' The truth is, not everyone gets symptoms. Exercise might be a solution," he said.

The other study was led by Dr. Jack Cuzick of Queen Mary University of London and tested anastrozole for preventing first breast cancers. Nearly 4,000 women were given the drug or daily dummy pills, and 70 percent stuck with them for five years, just a little less than the placebo group.

After that time, 40 women on anastrozole had developed breast cancer versus 85 of the others, a 53 percent reduction in risk. That's comparable to how another aromatase inhibitor — exemestane, or Aromasin — did in an earlier study and better than tamoxifen, the longest-used breast cancer prevention medicine.

Women on anastrozole had more joint pain and hot flashes, but these also were very common in the placebo group — more than half of both groups reported these problems, which often are due to menopause and aging, Cuzick said. Anastrozole users had more cases of a painful wrist condition called carpal tunnel syndrome, and dry eye, but these were relatively rare. Aromatase inhibitors are known to raise the risk of fractures, so many women take bone-strengthening drugs to help prevent that problem.

Besides the British cancer research agency, London-based AstraZeneca PLC, which makes the anastrozole used in the study, Arimidex, helped pay for the work, and some researchers are paid speakers for the company.

Results were dis-

cussed Thursday at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium and published by the British journal Lancet. In a commentary in the journal, Dr. David A. Cameron of Edinburgh Cancer Center in Scotland wrote that healthy women still may

resist prevention drugs unless taking them turns out to save lives, not just avoid disease.

The cancer conference is sponsored by the American Association for Cancer Research, Baylor College of Medicine and the UT Health Science Center.

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754-1411, ext. 106

• Sweetwater Branch Inn
800-595-7760

• Ward's
Jewelry & Gifts
752-5470

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HEALTHY

Continued From 1D

forget the range of items we put into our body daily. Given how often we use them, it's worth a closer look at their ingredients.

Certainly the holidays are going to keep individuals busy with dinners, shopping, relatives and more, but Rigdon said Lake City residents should avoid easy food fixes. Fast food and unhealthy, quick meals should be avoided.

"People should do the same throughout the year," Rigdon said. "Watch what you eat, drink plenty of water and exercise at least three times a week for 30 minutes... Our goal now is to be the healthiest state in the nation. We are certainly promoting [healthy habits] throughout the year, not

just during the holidays."

Toothpaste, for instance, is something that goes in your mouth twice a day. Have you ever wondered what was on the label, where the ingredients are sourced or their purpose? Ingredients contained in some conventional toothpaste are unnecessary or offer no health benefit. When choosing your next tube of toothpaste, consider a natural oral care option free of artificial colors, flavors, sweeteners and preservatives.

If you're interested in achieving the best health possible this season, making positive lifestyle tweaks and exploring natural health alternatives are two great places to start.

■ Lake City Reporter staff writer Amanda Williamson contributed to this report.

UNIVERSAL

Continued From 1D

the movie "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." Executives said more Harry Potter details will be released in early 2014.

The massive new Cabana Bay Beach Resort, under construction now, will be themed after a 1960s hotel, with authentic-looking mid-century modern furnishings and decor.

"It's going to be like driving into 1960," said Mark Woodbury, Universal Creative's president.

Half of the 1,800 rooms will be suites that sleep up to six people. The resort will also feature a bowling alley, restaurants and two pool areas with water park-like amenities.

The first of CityWalk's new eateries, Red Oven Pizza Bakery, has already opened. Other original concept restaurants include Antojitos Authentic Mexican Food, The Bread Box, Pranzo Italian Kitchen and the Hot Dog Hall of Fame. The hot dog restaurant will serve dogs from various ballparks from around the U.S., and will have baseball memorabilia scattered around.

Cold Stone Creamery ice cream and Menchie's frozen yogurt will also be added, and Starbucks will also move from a second-floor location to a ground-floor, 130-seat coffee house.

Visitors to Universal must walk through CityWalk, past its stores and eateries, to reach the theme



COURTESY

Universal CityWalk Hollywood is a three-block entertainment, dining, shopping promenade. Eight more restaurants are currently being added to the menu of the 30 options already available to treat Universal-goers.

park rides. CityWalk opened in 1999, and its evolution comes as Disney World revamps Downtown Disney into an expanded dining and entertainment area named Disney Springs, with completion expected in 2016.

Disney is Universal's biggest competitor in the Orlando theme park corridor, but Woodbury said the CityWalk additions are unrelated to the overhaul at Disney. "It's a constant evolution," said Woodbury. "That's the only way to stay on top of our game."

An unusual addition to CityWalk will be The CowFish, a restaurant that serves burgers and sushi in a pop culture-themed environment. Its owners joked with the media about serving a fusion concept called "burgushi." Woodbury said he ate at one of the restaurant's two North Carolina locations and was impressed with the funky concept that he invited the owners to open a venue in Orlando.

The Latin Quarter and Pasta Amore restaurants are closing to make way for the new offerings.

Group wants Fisher Price iPad seat recall

By JENNIFER C. KERR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ahh, the first year of a baby's life — learning to sit up, crawl, even walk. But how about playtime in a baby seat with an iPad and some cool apps?

Fisher-Price is selling an infant seat with an attachment where parents can insert an iPad so baby can watch video content aimed at the youngest children — an idea that is being criticized by the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood. The Boston-based advocacy group started an online petition campaign Tuesday, urging Fisher-Price to recall its Newborn-to-Toddler Apptivity Seat for iPads.

CCFC says it's not healthy for a baby's development and encourages parents to leave baby alone.

"The seat is the ultimate electronic babysitter. Its very existence suggests it's fine to leave babies all alone with an iPad inches from their face," said Susan Linn, the group's director, in an interview. "Babies thrive when they are talked to, played with and cuddled, not when they are alone with a screen."

Fisher-Price, in response, said the Apptivity Seat is a niche product that is only available online — one of more than a dozen seats for infants — and is not meant to be seen as an educational product for children.

The seat, which resembles a bouncy seat, has an attachment with colorful toys that dangle so a baby can reach and grab. The case where a parent could insert an iPad has a large built-in mirror for the baby to see its face when there's no iPad. In its product description, Fisher-Price says parents can download apps to their iPads with soothing sounds and high-contrast patterns that help infants develop eye-tracking skills.

Fisher-Price spokeswoman Juliette Reashor said the seat has a time-out feature that only allows for ten minutes of activity with an app before requiring a manual reset, so the app wouldn't play endlessly. The attachment bar for the iPad can also be removed from the seat, if the parent prefers that.

The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages any electronic "screen time" for infants and toddlers under 2. It cites research that found infant videos can delay language development, and warns that no studies have documented a benefit of early viewing.

In 2012, the Federal Trade Commission — which enforces truth-in-advertising laws — agreed with the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood that the developer of "Your Baby Can Read" lied when it promised consumers it could teach babies as young as 9 months old to read. That business shuttered after the FTC imposed a \$185 million settlement.

Debate on plane phone calls grows

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

AP Airlines Writer

WASHINGTON — Just because it's safe to use cellphones on a plane, it doesn't mean that passengers should call just to say hello.

That argument played out across Washington Thursday as one government agency moved a step closer to removing its prohibition of in-flight calls while another considered a new ban of its own.

The Federal Communications Commission voted 3-2 to start a months-long public comment process to remove its restriction.

"There is a need to recognize that there is a new technology," said FCC chairman Thomas Wheeler. "This is a technical rule. It is a rule about technology. It is not a rule of usage."

But the Department of Transportation, which oversees aviation, isn't so sure that permitting calls "is fair to consumers" and will consider creating its own ban as part of its con-

sumer protection role.

"Over the past few weeks, we have heard of concerns raised by airlines, travelers, flight attendants, members of Congress and others who are all troubled over the idea of passengers talking on cell phones in flight — and I am concerned about this possibility as well," DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx said in a statement.

Calls during flights have been prohibited for 22 years over fears that they would interfere with cellular networks on the ground. Technological advances have resolved those concerns, which is one reason Wheeler wants to repeal the rule. He also wants the airlines, not the government, to have final say on in-flight calling.

But even Wheeler acknowledged the potential annoyance factor.

"I'm the last person in the world who wants to listen to somebody talking" while flying across the country, Wheeler told a House subcommittee Thursday morning.

The FCC proposal comes

just weeks after the Federal Aviation Administration lifted its ban on using personal electronic devices such as iPads and Kindles below 10,000 feet, saying they don't interfere with cockpit instruments.

An Associated Press-GfK poll released Wednesday found that 48 percent of Americans oppose allowing cellphones to be used for voice calls while flying; just 19 percent support it. Another 30 percent are neutral.

Among those who fly, opposition is stronger. Looking just at Americans who have taken more than one flight in the past year, 59 percent are against allowing calls on planes. That number grows to 78 percent among those who've taken four or more flights.

Delta Air Lines is the only airline to explicitly state that it won't allow voice calls regardless of what the government allows. Delta says years of feedback from customers show "the overwhelming sentiment" is to keep the ban in place. American Airlines, United Airlines

and JetBlue Airways all plan to study the issue and listen to feedback from passengers and crew.

Most Middle East airlines and a few in Asia and Europe already allow voice calls on planes. Others allow texting.

Southwest Airlines on Wednesday started allowing passengers — for \$2 a day — to use iPhones to send and receive text messages while on board through a satellite connection. The system will expand to Android phones early next year.

During the FCC hearing, Wheeler acknowledged that he doesn't want to hear other people's conversations on a plane and that he picks Amtrak's quiet car while traveling by train. He reiterated that this change is meant to clean up an outdated regulation, originally passed so air travelers wouldn't overwhelm cell phone towers on the ground.

"The DOT will address the behavioral issues. We're cutting away the technical underbrush," Wheeler said.

NYC SantaCon aims to curb ho-ho no-no's

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK — When red-suited revelers throng the city's streets and taverns under the banner of SantaCon, some see an outpouring of holiday spirit, not to mention spirits. But to others, it's the blight before Christmas.

After complaints about boorish, bar-hopping St. Nicks got attention from local officials and police, the event's ringleaders are trying to quell the SantaCon-troversy ahead of this year's gathering Saturday.

They're pledging to advise police of their usually guarded plans, have volunteers help control the roving crowd of Kringles and send the message that SantaCon is a meant to be a "festive culture jam," not a bad-Santa bender.

"This year," the event's website vows, "we are cleaning up Santa's act."

It's a coming-of-age moment for SantaCon, which traces its origin to a consumer-culture-tweaking "Santarchy" in San Francisco in 1994 and now spans events in more than 300 cities worldwide. Fueled by the wildfire word-spreading of social media, the New York celebration has become one of the biggest, mushrooming in roughly a decade from a few hundred bearded boozers to tens of thousands, by some estimates.

As numbers have swelled, the event's image has morphed from whimsical flash mob to flashpoint, even for New Yorkers used to such freewheeling shindigs as the giant Greenwich Village Halloween Parade. SantaCon's organizers are as tough to pin down as the elf himself — one responded to an inquiry from The Associated Press

but refused to be quoted by name — but the site acknowledges the event "has had growing pains."

Enthusiasts say the daylong event starts at 10 a.m. and aims to put a cheeky, modern spin on holiday traditions — "don we now our gay apparel," anyone? — while generating money for both bars and charities. Participants are instructed to make \$10 charitable donations and encouraged to bring small gifts to bestow on one another and passers-by.

"For me, SantaCon is about just dressing up and having fun, laughing till it hurts and enjoying being part of a massive celebration. ... It isn't about drinking or getting wasted," says Brandon Ferreira-Hanyo, 27, of East Quogue, N.Y. He's looking forward to attending for a third consecutive year.

"It's gotten so huge you have to take the good with the bad," he says, but he feels the complaints about drunken rowdiness are overblown.

Bar owners are split. To Dan Warren, the managing owner of Common Ground, a hangout in Manhattan's East Village, "it's festive and fun" and a boost to daytime business. But SantaCon-goers are frozen out of Hotel Chantelle, a cocktail lounge in Manhattan's Lower East Side, after a sloshed Claus harassed women brunching there two years ago, managing partner Tim Spuches said.

To some onlookers, SantaCon is about as jolly as explaining to a kindergartener why Santa just tossed his milk and cookies.

"Take your body fluids and public intoxication elsewhere," read "SantaCon free zone" signs that appeared this week on the bar-laden Lower East Side, where some

residents already weary of living with nightlife see SantaCon as a final straw.

"Now we have a whole day of vomiting and vandalism and people acting without any decorum or respect for other people," says Diem Boyd, a leader of LES Dwellers, the group that made the signs. "I think anything quaint about it is gone by now."

So do some police and politicians. The New York Police Department logged a sole, disorderly-conduct arrest at SantaCon last year, along with 73 open-container tickets and a summons for public urination. That was enough for at least one police lieutenant, who suggested to midtown Manhattan bars that the event hurt the neighborhood more than it helped the establishments.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly then made clear the department supports SantaCon, calling it generally peaceful and an example of "what makes New York New York."

But some city and state officeholders also were pressing the organizers to thwart misbehavior, and threatening to ask police and bars to do so if SantaCon wouldn't. Meanwhile, some of the area's commuter railroads are banning alcoholic drinks on their trains during the celebration, as they do during some other events.

And so, organizers say, a more orderly SantaCon is coming to town.

They agreed to let police and community leaders know their planned route, which participants learn only in real time by text and tweet. Volunteer Santa's helpers will help work to keep sidewalks — and participants' conduct — passable, according to the event website and to state Sen. Brad Hoylman, who spearheaded a recent

phone conference between officials and SantaCon leaders.

Hoylman says he appreciates the effort but wonders how much sway volunteers can exercise over an event that prizes spontaneity.

Leading up to it, SantaCon's wranglers are trying to instill a sense of responsibility, if in an in-your-bearded-face way. "Santa spreads JOY. Not terror. Not vomit. Not trash," the site says. "Would you want those under YOUR tree?"

Associated Press writer Colleen Long contributed to this report.

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SUNDAY EVENING

DECEMBER 15, 2013

Comcast	Dish	DirecTV	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
3-ABC	3	-	-	TV20 News	ABC World News	America's Funniest Home Videos (N)	Once Upon a Time "Going Home" (N)	Revenge "Exodus" (N) Ⓢ	(:01) Betrayal "... Number 16" (N)	News at 11	Inside Edition			
4-IND	4	4	4	Chann 4 News	omg! Insider (N)	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	CSI: Miami "Dead Air" Ⓢ	Criminal Minds "The Last Word" Ⓢ	News	Sports Zone	Chann 4 News	Arsenio Hall	
5-PBS	5	-	-	Keeping Up	Keeping Up Appearances Ⓢ			Masterpiece Classic Ⓢ (DVS)	Austin City Limits	Alternative pop.				
7-CBS	7	47	47	CBS Evening News	Action News Jax	60 Minutes (N) Ⓢ	Survivor "It's My Night" (Season Finale) (N) Ⓢ	Survivor "It's My Night" (Season Finale) (N) Ⓢ	Survivor "It's My Night" (Season Finale) (N) Ⓢ	Survivor "Reunion" (N) (Live) Ⓢ	Survivor "Reunion" (N) (Live) Ⓢ	Action Sports 360	(:35) Castle Ⓢ	
9-CW	9	17	17	City Stories	Music 4 U	** "The Santa Clause 2" (2002, Comedy)	Tim Allen, Elizabeth Mitchell.	Local Haunts	I Know Jax	YourJax Music	Jacksonville	Doc Tony	Meet the Browns	
10-FOX	10	30	30	9:(4:25) NFL Football	Green Bay Packers at Dallas Cowboys.	The OT (N) Ⓢ	The Simpsons (N)	Bob's Burgers (N)	Family Guy (N)	American Dad (N)	News	Action Sports 360	Modern Family	Modern Family
12-NBC	12	12	12	News	NBC Nightly News	Football Night in America (N) (Live) Ⓢ	9:(20) NFL Football	Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers. (N) Ⓢ						News
CSPAN	14	210	350	News	Washington This Week		Q & A	British House of Commons		Road to the White House			Q & A	
WGN-A	16	239	307	(5:00) ** "The Santa Clause 2" (2002)	America's Funniest Home Videos	America's Funniest Home Videos	America's Funniest Home Videos	How I Met/Mother						
TVLAND	17	106	304	(5:38) Roseanne	(:16) Roseanne	(6:54) Roseanne	(:27) Roseanne	Roseanne Ⓢ	Roseanne Ⓢ	The Golden Girls				
OWN	18	189	279	Oprah: Where Are They Now? Ⓢ	Oprah: Where Are They Now? Ⓢ	Oprah: Where Are They Now? Ⓢ	Oprah: Where Are They Now? Ⓢ	Oprah: Where Are They Now? Ⓢ	Oprah: Where Are They Now? Ⓢ	Oprah: Where Are They Now? Ⓢ	Oprah: Where Are They Now? Ⓢ	Oprah: Where Are They Now? Ⓢ	Oprah: Where Are They Now? Ⓢ	Oprah: Where Are They Now? Ⓢ
A&E	19	118	265	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty
HALL	20	185	312	** "A Princess for Christmas" (2011)	Katie McGrath, Roger Moore. Ⓢ	"Finding Christmas" (2013, Romance)	JT Hodges, Tricia Helfer. Premiere. Ⓢ	** "Single Santa Seeks Mrs. Claus" (2004)	Crystal Bernard. Ⓢ					
FX	22	136	248	(5:00) *** "Iron Man" (2008, Action)	Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard.	*** "Thor" (2011, Action)	Chris Hemsworth. Cast out of Asgard, the Norse god lands on Earth.	*** "Thor" (2011, Action)	Chris Hemsworth. Cast out of Asgard, the Norse god lands on Earth.	(:33) *** "Thor" (2011)	Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman.			
CNN	24	200	202	CNN Newsroom (N)	Operation Finally Home: Heroes	Wine to Water: A CNN Heroes Special	Back to the Beginning With Christiane Amanpour	Historical religious sites.	Wine to Water: A CNN Heroes Special	** "Fast & Furious" (2009, Action)	Vin Diesel, Paul Walker. Ⓢ (DVS)	** "Fast & Furious" (2009, Action)	Vin Diesel, Paul Walker. Ⓢ (DVS)	** "Fast & Furious" (2009, Action)
TNT	25	138	245	** "Rush Hour 3" (2007, Action)	Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker. Ⓢ (DVS)	See Dad Run	Instant Mom Ⓢ	** "Look Who's Talking" (1989, Comedy)	John Travolta, Kirstie Alley. Ⓢ	Friends Ⓢ	(:36) Friends Ⓢ			
NIK	26	170	299	SpongeBob SquarePants	Patrick befriends a sea monster.	SpongeBob	See Dad Run	Instant Mom Ⓢ	** "Look Who's Talking" (1989, Comedy)	John Travolta, Kirstie Alley. Ⓢ	Friends Ⓢ	(:36) Friends Ⓢ		
SPIKE	28	168	241	Bar Rescue	A death-metal concert bar.	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue	"Empty Bottles Full Cans"	Bar Rescue "Brawlin' Babes"	Bar Rescue "Twin vs. Twin"	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue
MY-TV	29	32	-	The Rockford Files Ⓢ	Kojak "No License to Kill"	Columbo	"A Friend in Deed" Murderer asks friend for alibi.							
DISN	31	172	290	Austin & Ally	Dog With a Blog	Dog With a Blog	Austin & Jessie & Ally	All Star	"Good Luck Charlie, It's Christmas!" (2011, Comedy) Ⓢ	Shake It Up! Ⓢ	A.N.T. Farm Ⓢ	Good Luck Charlie	Good Luck Charlie	Good Luck Charlie
LIFE	32	108	252	Witches of East End "Potentia Noctis"	Witches of East End "Unburied" Ⓢ	Witches of East End "Snake Eyes"	Witches of East End Ⓢ	Witches of East End Ⓢ	Witches of East End Ⓢ	(:01) Witches of East End Ⓢ	(:02) Witches of East End "Unburied"			
USA	33	105	242	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Psych "Psych: The Musical" Shawn and Gus track maniacal playwright. (N)	Psych "Psych: The Musical" Shawn and Gus track maniacal playwright. (N)	Psych "Psych: The Musical" Shawn and Gus track maniacal playwright. (N)	Psych "Psych: The Musical" Shawn and Gus track maniacal playwright. (N)	Psych "Psych: The Musical" Shawn and Gus track maniacal playwright. (N)	Psych "Psych: The Musical" Shawn and Gus track maniacal playwright. (N)	Psych "Psych: The Musical" Shawn and Gus track maniacal playwright. (N)
BET	34	124	329	(5:30) *** "Love Jones" (1997, Romance)	Larenz Tate, Nia Long. Ⓢ	** "National Security" (2003, Comedy)	Martin Lawrence, Steve Zahn. Ⓢ	Husbands- Ho.						
ESPN	35	140	206	(3:00) Football Sunday on ESPN Radio	SportsCenter (N) (Live) Ⓢ	2013 World Series of Poker								
ESPN2	36	144	209	(3:00) Football Sunday on ESPN Radio	SportsCenter (N) (Live) Ⓢ	2013 World Series of Poker								
SUNSP	37	-	-	NHL Hockey Tampa Bay Lightning at Detroit Red Wings.	Lightning Live!	Florida Sport	Ship Shape TV	Sport Fishing	Fishing the Flats	Sport Fishing	Sprtsman Adv.	Saltwater Exp.	Into the Blue	Into the Blue
DISCV	38	182	278	Treehouse Masters Ⓢ	Treehouse Masters Ⓢ	Treehouse Masters (N) Ⓢ	Alaska: The Last Frontier (N) Ⓢ	Alaska: The Last Frontier (N) Ⓢ	Alaska: The Last Frontier (N) Ⓢ	Alaska: The Last Frontier (N) Ⓢ	Alaska: The Last Frontier (N) Ⓢ	Alaska: The Last Frontier (N) Ⓢ	Alaska: The Last Frontier (N) Ⓢ	Alaska: The Last Frontier (N) Ⓢ
TBS	39	139	247	** "This Christmas" (2007, Comedy-Drama)	Delroy Lindo, Idris Elba.	** "Why Did I Get Married?" (2007, Comedy-Drama)	Tyler Perry, Janet Jackson, Jill Scott. (DVS)	** "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" (2010)	** "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" (2010)	** "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" (2010)	** "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" (2010)	** "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" (2010)	** "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" (2010)	** "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" (2010)
HLN	40	202	204	What Would You Do?	Cook Your A... Off (N)	Tim Ferriss	Dose With Dr. Billy	What Would You Do?	Mystery Detectives	Mystery Detectives	Mystery Detectives			
FNC	41	205	360	FOX News Sunday With Chris Wallace	FOX Report	Huckabee	FOX News "Saying Goodbye"							
E!	45	114	236	Total Divas "Nurse Nikki"	Total Divas "Seeing Red"	Don't Drive Here "Bangkok" (N)	Mysteries at the Museum Ⓢ							
TRAVEL	46	196	277	Tastiest Places to Chowdown Int'l	Xtreme Xmas (N) Ⓢ	Don't Drive Here "Bangkok" (N)	Mysteries at the Museum Ⓢ							
HGTV	47	112	229	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Hunters Int'l
TLC	48	183	280	Unold Stories of the E.R. Ⓢ	Breaking the Faith "Into the Unknown"	White House Christmas 2013 (N) Ⓢ	Hawaii Life (N)							
HIST	49	120	269	Ax Men "Axes and Allies" Ⓢ	Ax Men "Pain in the Ax" Ⓢ	Ax Men Gabe gets some unlikely help.	Ax Men "Out on a Limb" Ⓢ							
ANPL	50	184	282	To Be Announced	Finding Bigfoot "Sketching Sasquatch"	Lone Star Legend	Lone Star Legend	Call of Wildman	Call-Wildman	Finding Bigfoot "Lonestar Squatch" (N)	Uncovering Aliens (N)	Uncovering Aliens (N)	Uncovering Aliens (N)	Uncovering Aliens (N)
FOOD	51	110	231	Chopped	"Teen Talent"	Guy's Grocery Games (N)	Restaurant Express "Vegas or Bust"							
TBN	52	260	372	T.D. Jakes Ⓢ	Joyce Meyer	Leading the Way	The Blessed Life	Joel Osteen Ⓢ	Kerry Shook	Kenneth Copeland	Creflo Dollar Ⓢ	Jesus of Nazareth Robert Powell stars; 1977 miniseries.	World Poker Tour: Season 11	World Poker Tour: Season 11
FSN-FL	56	-	-	Inside the Magic	Magic Live! (N)	NBA Basketball Orlando Magic at Oklahoma City Thunder. (N Subject to Blackout)	Magic Live! (N)							
SYFY	58	122	244	(5:00) ** "Underworld: Evolution"	** "Resident Evil: Extinction" (2007, Horror)	Milla Jovovich, Oded Fehr.	** "28 Days Later" (2002) Cillian Murphy. Survivors evade virus-infected humans in London.	** "28 Days Later" (2002) Cillian Murphy. Survivors evade virus-infected humans in London.	** "28 Days Later" (2002) Cillian Murphy. Survivors evade virus-infected humans in London.	** "28 Days Later" (2002) Cillian Murphy. Survivors evade virus-infected humans in London.	** "28 Days Later" (2002) Cillian Murphy. Survivors evade virus-infected humans in London.	** "28 Days Later" (2002) Cillian Murphy. Survivors evade virus-infected humans in London.	** "28 Days Later" (2002) Cillian Murphy. Survivors evade virus-infected humans in London.	** "28 Days Later" (2002) Cillian Murphy. Survivors evade virus-infected humans in London.
AMC	60	130	254	(4:15) **** "White Christmas" (1954)	** "Jack Frost" (1998) Michael Keaton. A deceased dad returns to life as a fun-loving snowman.	** "Jack Frost" (1998) Michael Keaton. A deceased dad returns to life as a fun-loving snowman.	** "Jack Frost" (1998) Michael Keaton. A deceased dad returns to life as a fun-loving snowman.	** "Jack Frost" (1998) Michael Keaton. A deceased dad returns to life as a fun-loving snowman.	** "Jack Frost" (1998) Michael Keaton. A deceased dad returns to life as a fun-loving snowman.	** "Jack Frost" (1998) Michael Keaton. A deceased dad returns to life as a fun-loving snowman.	** "Jack Frost" (1998) Michael Keaton. A deceased dad returns to life as a fun-loving snowman.	** "Jack Frost" (1998) Michael Keaton. A deceased dad returns to life as a fun-loving snowman.	** "Jack Frost" (1998) Michael Keaton. A deceased dad returns to life as a fun-loving snowman.	** "Jack Frost" (1998) Michael Keaton. A deceased dad returns to life as a fun-loving snowman.
COM	62	107	249	(5:00) *** "Rudy" (1993, Drama)	Sean Astin, Ned Beatty. Ⓢ	Swamp Pawn "Policky Ricky"	Swamp Pawn A health inspector visits.	Orange County Choppers						
CMT	63	166	327	(5:00) *** "Rudy" (1993, Drama)	Sean Astin, Ned Beatty. Ⓢ	Swamp Pawn "Policky Ricky"	Swamp Pawn A health inspector visits.	Orange County Choppers						
NGWILD	108	190	283	Croc Invasion	Honey Badgers	Africa's Thunder River Following the Zambezi River.	Ultimate Survival Alaska (N)							
NGC	109	186	276	Life Below Zero "Hungry Country"	Life Below Zero "No Time to Lose"	Life Below Zero "Long Road Home"	Ultimate Survival Alaska (N)							
SCIENCE	110	193	284	They Do It?	They Do It?	How the Universe Works:								
ID	111	192	285	20/20 on ID "Femme Fatale" Ⓢ	48 Hours on ID "Collison Slayer" Ⓢ	48 Hours on ID "Lina's Heart" Ⓢ	48 Hours on ID "Lina's Heart" Ⓢ	48 Hours on ID "Lina's Heart" Ⓢ	48 Hours on ID "Lina's Heart" Ⓢ	48 Hours on ID "Lina's Heart" Ⓢ	48 Hours on ID "Lina's Heart" Ⓢ	48 Hours on ID "Lina's Heart" Ⓢ	48 Hours on ID "Lina's Heart" Ⓢ	48 Hours on ID "Lina's Heart" Ⓢ
HBO	302	300	501	(5:30) Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth	** "Jack the Giant Slayer" (2013, Fantasy)	Nicholas Hoult. PG-13 Ⓢ	Treme Batiste gets a movie job. (N)							
MAX	320	310	515	(:05) ** "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island" (2012, PG)	(:45) ** "This Is 40" (2012, Romance-Comedy)	Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann, John Lithgow. 'R' Ⓢ	Samuel L. Jackson. 'R' Ⓢ	Samuel L. Jackson. 'R' Ⓢ	Samuel L. Jackson. 'R' Ⓢ	Samuel L. Jackson. 'R' Ⓢ	Samuel L. Jackson. 'R' Ⓢ	Samuel L. Jackson. 'R' Ⓢ	Samuel L. Jackson. 'R' Ⓢ	Samuel L. Jackson. 'R' Ⓢ
SHOW	340	318	545	(:11) Inside: Inside Llewyn Davis	Homeland "Big Man in Tehran" Ⓢ	Masters of Sex "Phallic Victories"	Homeland "The Star" Ⓢ	Masters of Sex (Season Finale) (N)	Homeland "The Star" Ⓢ	Masters of Sex (Season Finale) (N)	Homeland "The Star" Ⓢ	Masters of Sex (Season Finale) (N)	Homeland "The Star" Ⓢ	Masters of Sex (Season Finale) (N)

WEEKDAY AFTERNOON

Comcast	Dish	DirecTV	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
3-ABC	3	-	-	News	Be a Millionaire	The Chew	General Hospital	We the People	Supreme Justice	Dr. Phil	Be a Millionaire	News	Be a Millionaire	News
4-IND	4	4	4	Chann 4 News	Paid Program	America's Court	Supreme Justice	Steve Harvey	The Queen Latifah Show	The Dr. Oz Show	Chann 4 News	Chann 4 News	Chann 4 News	Chann 4 News
5-PBS	5	-	-	Sid the Science	Thomas & Friends	Daniel Tiger	Caillou	Super Why!	Dinosaur Train	Peg Plus Cat	Cat in the Hat	Wild Kratts	To Be Announced	WUFT News
7-CBS	7	47	47	Action News Jax	The Young and the Restless	Bold/Beautiful	Judge Judy							
9-CW	9	17	17	The Trisha Goddard Show	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Judge Mathis	The Bill Cunningham Show	Maury	The Bill Cunningham Show	Maury	The People's Court	The People's Court	The People's Court	The People's Court
10-FOX	10	30	30	Jerry Springer	The Steve Wilkos Show	The Test	Paternity Court	Paternity Court	Dr. Phil	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	
12-NBC	12	12	12	News	Be a Millionaire	Days of our Lives	First Coast Living	Katie	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	News	News	News	News	News
CSPAN	14	210	350	(1:00) Key Capitol Hill Hearings	Key Capitol Hill Hearings	Key Capitol Hill Hearings	Key Capitol Hill Hearings	Key Capitol Hill Hearings	Key Capitol Hill Hearings	Key Capitol Hill Hearings	Key Capitol Hill Hearings	Key Capitol Hill Hearings	Key Capitol Hill Hearings	Key Capitol Hill Hearings
WGN-A	16	239	307	In the Heat of the Night	WGN Midday News	Walker, Texas Ranger								
TVLAND	17	106	304	Gunsmoke	Varied Programs	(:10) Gunsmoke	Varied Programs	Bonanza						
OWN	18	189	279	Dr. Phil	Varied Programs	Dr. Phil	Varied Programs	Dr. Phil	Varied Programs	Dr. Phil	Varied Programs	Dr. Phil	Varied Programs	Dr. Phil
A&E	19	118	265	CSI: Miami	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Movie	The First 48						
HALL	20	185	312	Home & Family	Varied Programs	Home & Family	Varied Programs	Home & Family	Varied Programs	Home & Family	Varied Programs	Home & Family	Varied Programs	Home & Family
FX	22	136	248	Movie	Varied Programs	Movie	Varied Programs	Movie	Varied Programs	Movie	Varied Programs	Movie	Varied Programs	Movie
CNN	24	200	202	Around the World	CNN Newsroom	CNN Newsroom	CNN Newsroom	CNN Newsroom	CNN Newsroom	CNN Newsroom	CNN Newsroom	CNN Newsroom	CNN Newsroom	CNN Newsroom
TNT	25	138	245	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones
NIK	26	170	299	PAW Patrol	PAW Patrol	Dora the Explorer	Peter Rabbit	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Odd Parents	Odd Parents	Rabbids Invasion	SpongeBob	SpongeBob

DEAR ABBY

Grandson's bullying behavior needs professional evaluation

DEAR ABBY: Our 7-year-old grandson has been a handful since he was able to walk. He has been sneaky and has told lies for as long as any of us can remember. He has been suspended from school more than 10 times for various things. He stole several hundred dollars from his mom's purse and took it to school so he would have money to buy snacks. He stays awake longer than everyone else in the house so he can take things and hide them in his closet.

He knows what he does is wrong, but it doesn't bother him. He is also abusive to his disabled sister. It is hard to imagine that a 7-year-old could give hate-filled looks that you don't even see from adults. I'm afraid at the rate he is going, he will seriously hurt someone or be hurt himself.

He also has a very big heart. That is why we don't understand what is going wrong in this little boy's head. Please help if you can. — GRANDMA OF A BULLY

DEAR GRANDMA: Your grandson's behavior may have something to do with the fact his disabled sibling needs more of his parents' attention. Or he may have serious emotional problems. The boy needs to be evaluated by a mental



Abigail Van Buren www.dearabby.com

health professional so his parents will understand what's driving his behavior, and it can be addressed. Please don't wait.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 17 and a few months ago I made the mistake of taking and sending nude photographs to my boyfriend. An adult co-worker, "Jim," got the photographs without my knowledge or permission and showed them to my other co-workers, including managers. Jim threatened to continue showing the pictures around unless I did him a "favor."

Out of distress, I quit my job, not realizing that managers had seen the photographs. I now know they were aware of the situation, but did nothing. How should I approach the situation? It would be very bad if my parents found out. — FACING THE CONSEQUENCES

DEAR FACING THE CONSEQUENCES: You now know why it's a bad idea to send nude pictures, because once they are out

of your control, anything can be done with them. While this is embarrassing, you should absolutely tell your parents what happened because they may want to take this matter to their lawyer. Your former employers ignored sexual harassment, attempted coercion and blackmail. If it can be proven, they should pay the price for it.

DEAR ABBY: May I share a pet peeve of mine? I wish you'd raise the consciousness of people who write obituaries and fail to mention the musician who provides the music for the funerals and memorials. The musician often does more preparation for the services than the pallbearers. Why are their names omitted? I usually want to know who they are when I attend. — WONDERING

DEAR WONDERING: I can think of a couple of reasons. The first is that some obituaries are actually taken from the eulogy, which may have been written prior to the death by someone in the family. If the obituary was written by an employee of a newspaper, the information may have been taken as part of a standard list of questions about the deceased and any survivors.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

HOROSCOPES

THE LAST WORD Eugenia Word

love and assistance. ★★★ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get out and visit unfamiliar places. Shopping for items for friends or family will lead to some great buys, as well as ideas that will help boost your confidence and image. You'll express your needs and desires easily. Ask for favors. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Explore ways to help others and dedicate your time and effort into doing so. Don't forget that charity begins at home, so don't leave out anyone who may be counting on you for a little attention and understanding. Put love first. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make change rather than letting it be thrust upon you. Accept the inevitable and use your intelligence, skills and insight to make it work to your advantage. Don't give in to bullying or indulgent people who are casting off negativity. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Decorate your

surroundings or move things around to suit any activities or events you want to host. You'll have some great ideas that you can parlay into a new project if you share your thoughts with people you find creative and inspiring. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make change instead of waiting for things to happen. Indulge in activities that ensure you get the physical stimulation you require. Participation will be a key factor in the way your day unfolds and how much you accomplish. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Refrain from getting involved in controversy or a debate with someone who doesn't play by the rules. Protect your assets and your reputation. Problems while traveling can be expected. Slow down and let things come to you. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Source out different professional opportunities. Working in a unique field or volunteering in an area you would like to eventually get into is possible if you send out your resume or attend an event that brings you in touch with industry people. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone will push you in an unsuitable direction. Make sure you do your research so you are not drawn into a scheme that will leave you in an emotional or financial mess. Joint ventures are best left alone. Stick close to home. ★★

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Visit interesting places or get together with a friend you haven't seen in a long time. Sharing memories will help you sum up this past year, helping you determine the changes you want to enforce to enjoy a brighter future. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A serious response to the needs of someone you love will bring you closer together. Make plans to do something that brings you comfort and joy. A little pampering will go a long way when it comes to easing stress. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make personal changes that will get you up to speed technically, financially or physically. Shopping will lead to some great buys. Give a partnership top priority. Being accommodating will bring high returns. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get creative and you'll come up with some great ideas for items you'd like to give to people as a token of friendship. 'Tis the season to put differences aside and to reconnect. Show your serious side and offer your

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. X N J R R O G V D W P G T X U O J P N J Z J Z V J N U O J X N J R R : X N J R R D Z K J E E G V W P G T X U O J P N J Z J Z V J N U O J F M Z G T . — E M E M E O G T J W Previous Solution: "People are still willing to do an honest day's work. The trouble is they want a week's pay for it." — Joey Adams TODAY'S CLUE: W s i e n b e Z

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

TWO OUTS BY PATRICK BERRY / Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS 1 Palindromic band name 5 Tosca's feeling for Cavaradossi 10 Spring for a vacation 13 Hawaiian tourist purchases 17 "___ yourself" 19 Cow catcher 20 Red-wine drinker's paradise? 22 Employee at the Ron Paul Archive? 24 Pitch that fixes everything? 25 "Strange Magic" band, briefly 26 Dollar bill featuring a portrait of Duran Duran's lead singer? 28 IRS Form 5498 subject 29 Street caution 31 Ball with a yellow stripe 32 Shiner? 33 Willow 37 Like a robot's voice 39 Still 41 Architect Saarinen 42 Blue expanse 43 Follow closely 44 Hair-raising shout 46 "___ te absolve" (priest's phrase) 47 The one puppy that can read?

- 53 Creator of perfect whirlpools? 56 Baath Party member 57 Uncommunicative 59 Political title of the 1930s-'40s 60 Counter formations 62 Mix in a tank 64 Overextend oneself? 68 Classical guitarist Segovia 70 Adds to the batter, say 72 In a kooky manner 73 Buttonholed 75 Given a home 77 Triumphant song 78 "This isn't making sense" 80 Whom John Bull symbolizes 82 Have an objection 83 Minor-league championship flag? 86 Alienate a New Jersey city? 88 Biblical priest of Shiloh 89 Blue expanse 90 "Man of Steel" actress Adams 92 Sully 93 Go on strike 95 Film crowd 97 CBS spinoff that ran for 10 seasons 102 How sports cars are contoured 105 "Cover Face" (P.D. James's first novel) 106 Distress

- 107 Actor Jack of oaters 108 Cousin of a crumble 109 Begat a soft place to sleep? 112 Burlesque garment 113 "Charge!" to Duracells? 117 Satisfying finale coming to pass? 119 Labeled idiotic? 120 First name in photography 121 Nickname for Palmer 122 "Don't be a spoilsport!" 123 Savory condiment 124 Variety-show fodder 125 Trader _____

- DOWN 1 Most qualified 2 Relative of S.O.S 3 Galoot 4 One-hit wonder? 5 Friend of d'Artagnan 6 Thick bunch? 7 Venture a thought 8 Unfeigned 9 Miranda of the Miranda warning 10 Avoid 11 Course listing 12 Percussion instrument in "Maxwell's Silver Hammer" 13 Sophisticated 14 Automaker that started as a bicycle company 15 Bent pipe

- 16 "She's a good old worker and a good old pal," in song 18 Med. workplaces 20 Tea go-with 21 "Days of Heaven" co-star 23 Would-be singers' liabilities 27 Little town 30 Site of a 1963 J.F.K. speech 33 Chargers and coursers 34 Forest game 35 "By that logic ..." 36 Boarder's domain 38 Director Daniels of "The Butler" 39 Of the lymph glands 40 Signet-ring feature 45 Dropper? 47 Steven Bochco series 48 Youngest of Chekhov's "Three Sisters" 49 Eldest Best Actress winner 50 Acronymic aircraft name 51 Wistful remark 52 With a will 53 It's "well regulated" in the Constitution 54 Quarrel 55 "Lovergirl" singer 58 Pulsation 61 Morally degraded 63 Fish hawks 65 Cross-promotion 66 Streetcar sound 67 Chrissie in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

15x15 crossword grid with numbers 1-125 and some letters filled in.

- 69 Start of a George Eliot title 71 N.B.A. team originally called the Americans 74 Elephant's opposite, symbolically 76 URL component 79 Zeus swore oaths upon it 81 Excited Oscars attendee 83 Nave furniture 84 Airline that doesn't fly on religious holidays 85 Khartoum's river 87 Run headlong into 90 Datum in a house listing 91 ___ Vineyard 94 Confined 96 "I thought ___ never leave!" 97 Pile on the floor 98 Soothsayers of old 99 Person prone to sunburn 100 Last Hitchcock film with Tippi Hedren 101 Some Google search results 103 Hot pot locale 104 English film-festival city 106 It "hits the spot," per old radio ads 109 Begin to show wear 110 Yarn quantity 111 Hair strands? 113 "EastEnders" network 114 Shot spot 115 Metaphysical concept 116 Fortune cover subj. 118 Longtime Sixers nickname

Answers to last Sunday's Crossword.

Grid of crossword answers: BBS, DIP, TPA, IN, ETHANOL, EEW, ENA, AETNA, SUITORS, RAE, NIL, BEING, PREENED, GREAT, DIVIDE, SHOES, EWES, MENTAL, NOTE, THERE, AND, AGAIN, AREOLE, THER, COAST, THAT, SO, NSY, NC, SE, A, O, A, S, T, H, A, L, E, S, M, O, R, E, S, M, A, S, S, D, O, E, R, D, A, C, H, O, P, I, N, F, I, N, E, C, O, N, C, L, A, V, E, S, N, U, T, T, E, D, E, N, G, C, O, W, L, A, B, O, R, S, B, L, O, S, S, O, M, E, D, B, O, N, N, O, C, E, L, O, T, C, A, R, V, I, D, T, O, N, E, S, C, R, E, E, N, P, A, P, E, R, B, O, O, K, M, A, K, O, L, O, O, S, E, R, L, A, W, S, D, I, X, S, O, D, O, M, B, R, O, K, E, M, O, U, N, T, A, I, N, E, S, P, A, N, A, S, A, L, S, W, O, O, D, S, L, O, S, S, L, E, A, D, E, R, W, A, R, P, B, A, C, K, I, N, B, L, A, C, K, N, I, A, G, A, R, A, O, P, I, N, E, K, I, A, I, L, E, I, D, C, A, R, D, S, L, O, G, O, S, E, N, L, S, U, R, P, O, E, T, E, S, S, D, I, A, N, E, S, O, L, T, B, S

15x15 grid of numbers from the crossword puzzle.

15x15 grid of numbers from the crossword puzzle.

Holiday shopping not for everyone

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and CANDICE CHO

Associated Press

NEWYORK—Many Americans are watching the annual holiday spending ritual from the sidelines this year.

Money is still tight for some. Others are fed up with commercialism of the holidays. Still others are waiting for bigger bargains.

And people like Lark-Marie Anton Menchini are more thoughtful about their purchases. The New York public relations executive says in the past she'd buy her children up to eight Christmas gifts each, but this year they're getting three apiece. The leftover money is going toward their college savings.

"We told them Santa is ... being very conscious of how many gifts he puts on his sleigh," Menchini, 36, says.

Despite an improving economy, most workers are not seeing meaningful wage increases. And some of those who can splurge say the brash commercialism around the holidays — many more stores are opening for business on Thanksgiving — is a turnoff.

But perhaps the biggest factor is that shoppers are less motivated than ever by holiday sales. Since the Great Recession, retailers have been dangling more discounts throughout the year, so Americans have learned to hold out for even deeper holiday savings on clothes, electronics and more. To stay competitive and boost sales, retailers are slash-

ing prices further during their busiest season of the year, which is cutting into their own profit margins.

There aren't reliable figures on how many people plan to shop during the holidays. But early data points to a shift in holiday spending.

The National Retail Federation estimates that sales during the start to the official start to season — the four-day weekend that began on Thanksgiving Day — dropped 2.9 percent from last year to \$57.4 billion. That would mark the first decline in the seven years the trade group has tracked spending.

And during the week afterward — which ended on Sunday — sales fell another 2.9 percent compared with a year ago, according to data tracker ShopperTrak, which did not give dollar amounts. Meanwhile, the number of shoppers in stores plunged nearly 22 percent.

The numbers are sobering for retailers, which depend on making up to 40 percent of their revenue in the last two months of the year. They suggest shifts in the attitudes of U.S. shoppers that could force stores to reshape their strategies:

SHOPPERS WANT DEALS

Stores slashed prices during the recession to get financially-strapped shoppers in stores and to better compete with the cheaper prices of online retailers like Amazon. But shoppers got used to those deals and now won't buy without them. The constant discounting has blunted the "wow"

factor of sales during the holidays.

For instance, some retailers were offering discounts of 40 percent or more on the day after Thanksgiving known as Black Friday. But Jennifer Ambrosh, 40 was unimpressed with the "deals" she saw on that day. "There's a lot of hype, but ... the deals aren't that good," Ambrosh, an accountant, says.

Overall, the retail federation expects spending in November and December to rise 3.9 percent to \$602.1 billion. But to get that growth, analysts say retailers will need to discount heavily, which eats away profits.

There are signs that profits for the quarter that includes the holiday season are being hurt by the discounting. Wal-Mart and American Eagle Outfitters are among 47 retailers that have slashed their outlooks for either the quarter or the year.

Overall, retailers' earnings growth is expected to be up 2.1 percent, according to research firm Retail Metrics. That would be the worst performance since profit fell 6.7 percent in the second quarter of 2009 when the country was in a recession.

SCRUTINIZING PURCHASES

The recession not only taught Americans to expect bargains. It also showed them that they could make do with less. And in the economic recovery, many have maintained that frugality.

So whereas in a better economy, Americans would make both big and small purchases, in this

economy they're being more thoughtful and making choices about what to buy.

Analysts say that hasn't boded well for retailers that sell clothing, shoes and holiday items. That's because Americans are buying more big-ticket items over the holidays.

Government figures show that retail sales were up 0.7 percent in November, the biggest gain in five months. But the increase was led by autos, appliances and electronics.

Auto sales jumped 1.8 percent, furniture purchases rose 1.2 percent and sales at electronics and appliances stores rose 1.1 percent. Meanwhile, sales at department stores and clothing chains were weak.

Americans are leaning toward big purchases for two reasons. They want to take advantage of low interest rates. And since many paid down debt since the recession, they feel more comfortable using credit cards again for such purchases.

But they won't do that and buy smaller items. "This is still a weak, fragile shopper," says Craig Johnson, president of Customer Growth Partners, a retail consultancy.

Retailers including Macy's and Target in recent months have said that shoppers' focus on big-ticket items has put a damper on sales of discretionary items, and the retail federation says it has hurt holiday sales in particular.

HOLIDAY CONSUMERISM

Black Friday used to be the official kickoff to the buying

season, but more than a dozen chains opened on Thanksgiving this year.

That didn't sit well with some shoppers who viewed it as an encroachment on family time. Some threatened to boycott stores that opened on the holiday, while others decided to forgo shopping altogether.

In a poll of 6,200 shoppers conducted for the retail federation prior to the start of the season, 38 percent didn't plan to shop during the Thanksgiving weekend, up from 34.8 percent the year before.

Ruth Kleinman, 30, isn't planning to shop the entire season in part because she's disheartened by the holiday openings. The New Yorker says the holiday season "has really disintegrated."

While some shoppers didn't approve, analysts say stores will need to open on the holiday to appeal to the masses. Overall sales declined over the holiday weekend, but several retailers said there were big crowds on Thanksgiving. "Customers clearly showed that they wanted to be out shopping," says Amy von Walter, a Best Buy spokeswoman.

Analysts say stores will need to redefine Thanksgiving as a family tradition beyond sitting at the table eating turkey to make more shoppers comfortable.

"They have to show that they're maintaining a family tradition in new ways," says Marshal Cohen, chief retail analyst at market research firm NPD Group.

Mae Anderson in New York contributed to this report.

Women face obstacles in federal work force

By SAM HANANEL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Women in the federal workforce continue to face more obstacles than men in reaching top positions and salaries despite making strides over the years, according to a government report released Thursday.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said a major challenge hindering advancement was the lack of flexibility for women raising young children. The report says agencies should expand job-sharing and telework policies, offer different start and end times for workers and create satellite work centers that would reduce commutes.

The report also identified a lack of mentoring and training as key factors limiting many women who want to reach higher levels and management posts. Women are less likely to be groomed for management positions because they don't have mentor-

ing relationships with officials already in those posts, the report found.

Women make up nearly 44 percent of the federal workforce in 2011 but comprise only 30 percent of Senior Executive Service positions, according to EEOC figures from 2011. Those are high-level federal managers who serve just below presidential appointees. Women hold about 38 percent of GS-14 and GS-15 positions, the top pay scales in the main federal pay system.

The report recommends that federal agencies set up formal mentoring programs and monitor how effective they are in increasing opportunities for women.

"It's fair to say that women do fare better in the federal workforce compared to the private sector based on anecdotal evidence, studies and data, but advancements still need to be made," said David B. Grinberg, spokesman for the EEOC's Office of Federal Operations.

Grinberg said women generally are bet-

ter paid and attain higher positions in the federal sector because of the government's extensive equal opportunity program.

The report was prepared by a working group of federal equal employment opportunity directors and government program managers charged with helping increase employment for underrepresented groups. Federal officials also heard from advocacy groups including Federally Employed Women, the Equal Rights Center and Blacks in Government.

The report cited a series of other challenges for women:

— Women are underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields in the federal workforce. In 2012, women held only 31 percent of information technology posts, 32 percent of positions in natural resources management and biological science and 15 percent of engineering and architecture positions. Report recommendations include awarding scholarships to under-

graduate students seeking degrees in math and science and pairing employees with mentors.

— Men and women in the federal government do not earn the same average salary. Women earn about 89 cents for every dollar a man earns, though the pay gap is worse for female blacks, Hispanics and other minorities. That's still better than the private sector, though, where women earn about 77 cents for every dollar paid to men.

— Gender biases and stereotypes about women still seep into in employment decisions in the federal sector. "There is a stereotypical perception that women should be in traditional female positions such as clerical, nursing and teaching positions," the report found. It recommends more training so employees can become aware of their "unconscious biases" toward women.

— Women have a general perception that federal agencies lack commitment to helping women attain equal opportunities in the workplace.

'I'm walkin' here!' NYC turns sour during holidays

By JAKE PEARSON

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For sharp-elbowed New Yorkers accustomed to walking where they need to go at a big-city pace, the holiday season is hardly the most wonderful time of the year.

An estimated 5 million tourists who flock to the city between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day to see the tree at Rockefeller Center, the bright lights of Times Square and the Empire State Building often clog the sidewalks in an agonizingly slow procession that grates at locals and turns them into sidewalk Scrooges.

"They're like the walking dead, real slow," griped Dennis Moran, 46, a fire safety officer at a building in Times Square and a native New Yorker. "They have this unnatural habit of stopping in the middle of the sidewalk."

It's not that these Grinches don't like the visitors; they just want them to use a

little sidewalk etiquette. Among the biggest complaints: They stop in their tracks to take pictures. They stroll side by side in a sidewalk-blocking line. And worst of all, said Jose Francis, a caterer from Brooklyn who works in midtown Manhattan, they like to discuss group plans smack-dab in the middle of the sidewalk.

"They're walking then they look, they stand there and then, 'boom,' you run right into them," he fumed. "They don't pay attention. New Yorkers, we're walking brisk. We keep it moving."

Every year at this time, Bronx-born Macy's shoe salesman Henry Vega said he has to double down on his resolve to maneuver sidewalks full of shopping-bag carrying, picture-taking, map-holding tourists.

"I tell them, 'New York is a fast-paced town; we get up in the morning and we get on the go, and 24 hours isn't enough,'" said Vega, 54, as he noshed on a slice of pizza, standing, between shifts. "They tell me,

'You guys are always in a rush.'"

Vega's trick for navigating the holiday-time sidewalks of New York?

"I already know I'm going to zigzag," he said. "Sometimes I walk in the street."

But tourists say it's no walk in the park for them, either.

Joanie Micksy, 47, was visiting New York with her 17-year-old daughter Sarah last week from their home in Greenville, Pa., when she received a not-so-gentle reminder that she was in somebody's way.

"She just said, 'Excuse me,' but in a totally snotty way," Micksy said as she waited at a Times Square intersection to look up directions on her phone. "She said it like I got in her way on purpose. Like that was my goal when I got up this morning."

In 2010, an improv group disguised as city transportation workers used chalk to divide a sidewalk in two, leaving the right lane open for speed-walking New Yorkers, and the left for picture-taking tourists. The

video went viral.

At Rockefeller Center, site of the 76-foot tall Christmas tree, companies with offices in the building annually urge their employees to avoid the outdoors when exiting during the nationally televised tree lighting earlier this month — suggesting they escape to the subway system via an underground concourse level.

Shawn Hicks, 26, a courier from Brooklyn who works in Manhattan, said that while kvetching about the ambulatory annoyances of the holiday season was every New Yorker's right, he didn't think it was necessarily just.

"If you're touring another country, what are you going to do?" he asked of his fellow locals. "So it'll take you 10 seconds longer, so what?"

But Moran dismissed the Kumbaya approach and suggested tourists take note before venturing into the concrete jungle.

"Watch the locals," he said. "Learn from the locals."

New Mexico Christmas: Luminarias and processions

The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — No matter when you visit New Mexico, the state's cultural mix is part of the appeal. Spanish colonial history, Native traditions and Anglo and Mexican influences are seen year-round in everything from architecture to food. But the Christmas season offers additional ways to experience this unique heritage.

Hallmarks of the holiday include the luminaria and farolito traditions. These candles, usually placed in paper bags weighted with sand, look like lanterns and are carried in nighttime processions or lined up along streets, driveways or

rooftops to create a display. Luminaria can also refer to a bonfire, while the term farolito is more likely to be heard in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico than in Albuquerque.

And while fir, balsam and pine perfume the air at Christmas in other parts of the country, here it's the scent of burning juniper and pinon.

Many places in New Mexico host annual events Christmas Eve and Christmas Day centered around the luminaria tradition. The main plazas of both Albuquerque and Santa Fe are decorated with thousands of luminarias.

Albuquerque offers walking tours of

luminaria displays on Christmas Eve — <http://www.cabq.gov/transit/programs-and-projects/luminaria-tour> — while Santa Fe hosts a procession called Las Posadas — <http://media.museumofnewmexico.org/events.php?action=detail&eventID=571> — which tells the story of Jesus. Spectators gather with candles in the city's historic plaza to watch the parade, which is followed by a "Christmas at the Palace" event at Santa Fe's Palace of the Governors. This event includes Hispanic, Anglo and Native traditions, from caroling to Native dances to an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Midnight Christmas Mass is held at the

nearby Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis de Assisi.

In Santa Fe's Canyon Road area, known for art galleries and studios, there's also a farolito walk on Christmas Eve, with businesses around the neighborhood offering hot cider, hot chocolate and posole, a hearty soup that's traditional around Christmas, <http://www.farolitowalk.com/>.

The 19th century gunman Billy the Kid was put on trial in 1881 in the Las Cruces area. Today you won't find outlaws here, but the Plaza at Old Mesilla will be lined with luminarias on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas, the historic, opulent Double Eagle Saloon hosts a feast.