

Lake City Reporter

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Enjoy Spring Break without leaving Columbia County.

3A



One more day to get property taxes paid.

7A



After funeral, acts of heroism

On leaving services for Sgt. Ruben Thomas, Jackson County corrections officers render critical aid to Lake City man in I-10 crash.

By LAURA HAMPSON
lhampson@lakecityreporter.com

Six correctional officers from Jackson County loaded into a van March 23 and made their way to Lake City. They made the two and a half hour trip to honor the life of a fellow officer, unaware they would

help save the life of another Lake City man.

Lt. Georgiana Hand, Sgt. Terrence Speights, George Rogers, Sheila Blount, Jan Holland and Christie Dolan, all of Apalachee Correctional Institution East, spent the morning in a tearful memo-

rial service for Sgt. Ruben Howard Thomas III.

Sgt. Thomas of Lake City was killed March 18 when he was attacked by an inmate at Columbia Correctional Institution. More than 2,400 people, including law enforcement officers from across the country, attended the funeral.

The ride back to Jackson County was a somber time, said Dolan, a correctional officer.

"I've attended many law enforcement funerals," she said. "Too

many."

While driving west on Interstate 10, the officers came upon an accident just as the dust was settling.

Jacob Shane Richardson, 19, of Lake City was driving east with his girlfriend, Rachel McKenzie Pinto, 18, of Jacksonville.

For unknown reasons Richardson's 1997 Toyota pickup exited the road onto the left shoulder at about 3 p.m. in Jefferson County, according to Florida Highway Patrol reports. Trying to regain control he

overcorrected, causing the truck to spin and overturn multiple times. Both Richardson and Pinto were ejected before the truck came to a rest on its roof. They were not wearing seat belts, according to police.

"It looked horrible," Dolan said. "We had to stop."

Several officers and motorists went to help Pinto. On the other side on the truck, Dolan and Sgt. Speights attended to Richardson.

OFFICERS continued on 6A

Jobless rate plummets in county

By LAURA HAMPSON
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Unemployment in Columbia County fell to 8.5 percent in February, down half a percent from January. The number of people with jobs in the county increased by 206 to 28,764, according to a report released Friday by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Statewide unemployment dipped to 9.4 percent in February, the lowest figure in three years. The state jobless rate was 9.6 percent in January.

Florida's unemployment remains above the national average of 8.3 percent and 47 of the state's 67 counties

reported rates higher than the national average with 17 counties above 10 percent. Columbia County had the 43rd highest jobless rate in the state.

Flagler County reported the highest number of unemployed with 12.7 percent unemployment while Monroe County in the Keys and home to many government jobs had the lowest at 5.4 percent.

The jobless rate in Columbia County was 9.6 percent in February 2011, meaning 431 more people have jobs here than last year.

The Associated Press also contributed to this story

MADDfest makes its return



Purple Pinkie has polio on the run

By TONY BRITT
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Some brought coins, others brought dollar bills, but one thing every child brought to the Purple Pinkie Project fundraiser Friday was a desire to help keep children around the world free of polio.

Roughly 4,000 local youths donated a dollar each to the Purple Pinkie project toward that goal. About 50 Rotarians and 35 members of the Interact Club from local high schools helped dip donors' pinkies in purple dye, signifying their gift.

The Gentian Violet dye, which gives the purple pinkie look, is used in other countries to identify children who have been given oral polio vaccines.

"In the United States we give the children a purple pinkie when they've given a dollar to save a life," said Lake City Rotarian John Wheeler, who founded the Purple Pinkie Project. "It's the sign of a life saved from polio."

Polio Plus is the international polio eradication effort and the Purple Pinkie Project is the local project

PINKIE continued on 6A



Photos by JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter
Top, Leslie Encinosa draws a caricature of Joseph Jones Friday at the 4th annual MADDfest Spring Arts Festival at Olustee Park downtown. Above, Colby Craig performs one of her songs. Left, Rick Ellis looks at a piece designed and made by Denise Garnett, of Morriston.



TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

Nevaeh Reed (left) a Melrose Park Elementary School kindergarten in Michelle Hancock's class holds up her hand after Paula Coe (right) painted her pinkie purple during a Rotary Club fundraiser to help eradicate polio.

Friends, family say goodbye to Earline Parker

Community leader recalled in local service.

By LAURA HAMPSON
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Friends and family members gathered Saturday at the Lifestyle Enrichment Center of Lake City to celebrate the life of a businesswoman and active community member.

Earline Parker, 87, was

injured in a Sept. 6 collision with a Lake City Police Department cruiser.

She was in severely declining health until her death Feb. 14.

Parker's funeral was Feb. 18 in Illinois, but local friends organized a memorial in the area Parker so greatly impacted.

The entire community has lost a true friend in



Earline Parker

Parker, said Tom Brown, Lake City attorney and Parker's friend. She never just waited for something to happen, she made it happen, he said.

"It was difficult, if not impossible, to say no to Earline," he said.

Parker was the founder and chairperson of Service Corps of Retired Executives Chapter 685, former executive director of the Suwannee Valley United Way and member of the Lake City-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

She served as chair of the Columbia County Housing Authority, was a charter member of Suwannee Valley Community Foundation and board member of the Art League of North Florida.

Several family members drove from Illinois for the memorial, including her sisters Georgia Palmer and Barbara Jones, and brother Daniel Llyod Wilson.

Palmer shared a journal entry she wrote about her sister's drive, which she

PARKER continued on 6A



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87 60
Partly cloudy
WEATHER, 2A



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TODAY IN PEOPLE
Humor can help candidates.

COMING TUESDAY
City Council coverage.



Friday:
4-6-9-37 9



Friday:
3-14-17-21-23



Saturday:
Afternoon: 2-1-4
Evening: x-x-x



Saturday:
Afternoon: 4-9-2-3
Evening: x-x-x-x



Saturday:
Not available.



Saturday:
Not available.

AROUND FLORIDA

FAMU will make hazing committee meet in public

TALLAHASSEE Florida A&M University trustees voted on Friday to change the mission once again of the school's anti-hazing committee and force it to meet publicly.

The 8-2 vote came after Gov. Rick Scott and others had criticized school officials for initially deciding earlier this month to allow the committee to sidestep Florida's "sunshine law."

But the vote came after a testy session where the chairman of the anti-hazing committee warned that members may resign if the group of experts was forced to follow Florida's strict open meetings and public records law.

That led one FAMU trustee to push back and say he would not respond to a "threat" and told the chairman to "go ahead and resign."

"To me that's kind of a child not getting their way and saying 'I'm going to take my toys and go home,'" said trustee Rufus Montgomery.

The university created the panel after drum major Robert Champion died during what police said was hazing while the FAMU band was in Orlando for a football game last fall.

The panel of seven experts, however, contended that it could not do its work quickly if it had to notice meetings every time a member wished to talk to another

one. So a week ago the FAMU Board of Trustees agreed to change the mission of the school's hazing advisory panel to a "fact finding" committee so it would be exempt from state requirements.

But Scott wrote a terse letter to the board earlier this week saying that he was disappointed that the panel could meet in private. That was echoed by Dean Colson, the head of the Board of Governors, the state panel that oversees the state's 11 public universities.

The criticism came at the same time that FAMU President James Ammons placed two music professors on paid administrative leave following allegations they were present while band fraternity pledges were hazed.

Several board members insisted they weren't responding to the governor or other "forces," but said they wanted recommendations from the panel of experts and not just a recitation of facts.

"We are dealing with the death of a student and trying to put in place steps to make sure that does not happen again," said Trustee William Jennings.

Trustee Torey Alston, however, said that it was clear that there was a negative "perception" surrounding the previous board decision and that university officials needed to "come down on the side of openness in government."

Police: 14 people shot outside funeral home

MIAMI — Fourteen people were shot outside a Miami funeral home when gunmen opened fire on a crowd of mourners, leaving a scene that one witness described as "a war zone," authorities said Saturday.

The shots were fired Friday at about 9:35 p.m. as services were taking place at the Funeraria Latina Emanuel, about 10 miles north of the city's downtown, the Miami-Dade Police Department said.

Jaques Leonet, a photographer for the funeral home, said a viewing for Marvin Andre was just finishing and people had begun walking outside. There was a crowd of mostly young adults who had gathered in front of the funeral home when a car drove by and opened fire.

People screamed and took cover. Several were left bleeding on the ground. Others ran back into the church, Leonet said.

"It was like a war zone," Leonet said.

When officers arrived at the scene, one man was dead and 13 others were injured. A second man died after being taken to the hospital. Police said the injured include a 5-year-old girl.

"I grabbed her so we could go and she was screaming," Someta Etienne, the girl's mother, told WSVN-TV.

Etienne thought her

daughter was scared, but then saw blood coming from the girl's pants and realized she'd been shot in the leg. The child was taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital's Ryder Trauma Center and authorities said Saturday she was in stable condition.

The names of the two deceased adults have not been released.

A spokesman for the police department did not have any information on Marvin Andre or how he had died. Authorities declined to release any further details about the shooting Saturday, and are urging anyone with information to contact CrimeStoppers at 305-471-TIPS.

Police arrest 2 in child sexual battery case

TAMPA — Tampa police say they've made two arrests in a child sexual battery case that occurred more than two decades ago.

Investigators say Thomas Edward Taylor met a 6-year-old girl in 1986 and began to molest and sexually batter her.

Taylor is also accused of encouraging a relationship between the child and another man, Mark Wayne Lewis. Detectives say both men sexually battered the child through 1992, when she was 12.

Investigators say both men have confessed and been charged with

sexual battery on a child. Authorities believe there may be additional victims and encourage them to contact police at 813-276-3687.

FBI seeks robber after loot scattered on road

MIAMI — The FBI is looking for a bank robber who lost a great deal of his loot on Interstate 75 in Broward County.

Investigators say the robber rode a dark-colored motorcycle and had the cash stashed in a black backpack. Money was flying out of the backpack along the highway as the robber made his getaway.

The FBI says some people stopped to pick up cash along the highway. Agents say they should contact the FBI and return the money immediately. None had been returned as of Friday afternoon.

The robber hit a Wells Fargo branch Thursday morning. He showed a teller a weapon, then reached over the counter and took an undisclosed amount of money.

Woman, 71, distraught before opening fire

FORT MYERS — The daughter of a 71-year-old Fort Myers woman shot by sheriff's deputies last week said her mother was "virtually inconsolable" over a personal matter just before the confrontation.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office said Friday that Patricia Mapes — according to her daughter — got some unspecified bad news earlier in the day and may have been suicidal when she threatened deputies with a gun March 23. She was shot and is in critical condition at a hospital.

The News-Press of Fort Myers reports that deputies were called to the residence by Mapes' daughter. They announced their presence before Mapes threatened to shoot them and stood in a doorway pointing a handgun.

Mapes exchanged shots with the deputies and crumpled to the ground. None of the deputies were injured.

Man accepts plea deal over bunny deaths

WINTER HAVEN — A 35-year-old Winter Haven man has accepted a plea deal for killing three bunnies with his hands during an argument with his wife.

Reginald Owen Sear Jr. accepted the plea Friday in Polk County Court.

According to The Ledger, Sear could receive about two years in prison and five years of probation under the terms of his agreement with prosecutors.

Police say Sear killed the animals during a May 24 argument with his wife about who would wake up to feed the bunnies.

(AP)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Humor can help candidates – or not

WASHINGTON Mitt Romney hit an off note when he told a "humorous" story about his dad shutting down a factory.

Robert De Niro managed to get both Newt Gingrich and the Obama campaign riled up when he joked at an Obama fundraiser that America isn't ready for a white first lady.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, still nursing wounds from his failed presidential campaign, did himself a world of good with his self-deprecating jokes at a recent Washington dinner.

Done right, humor can be a huge asset for a politician. But it is fumbled easily in the overheated environment of a political campaign.

That may be why Romney's aides sent him to the "The Tonight Show" this past week with these instructions: "Don't try and be funny."

The Republican presidential front-runner largely complied, and that worked out just fine for him. But he apparently forgot his advisers' advice the next day when he attempted to be funny on a conference call with people in next-to-vote Wisconsin.

Romney recounted what he called a "humorous" story about the time his auto executive father shut down a factory in Michigan and moved it to Wisconsin. Later, when his dad was in a parade while running for Michigan governor, the marching band kept playing the University of Wisconsin fight song.

"Every time they would start playing 'On, Wisconsin! On Wisconsin!' my dad's political people would jump up and down and try to get them to stop," Romney said with a laugh.

A joke about closing factories? In this economy? What was he thinking?

Democrats pounced on it as fresh evidence that Romney is out of touch with the economic concerns of ordinary voters.

Jokes that might be funny another time often don't pass muster under the klieg lights of a presidential campaign.

De Niro attempted satire during a New York fundraiser headlined by Michelle Obama this month when



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo provided by NBC, Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney talks with Jay Leno during his appearance on The Tonight Show on March 27.

he ticked off the names of the wives of the GOP presidential candidates and then joked that America wasn't "ready for a white first lady."

Donors roared their approval. But by the next morning, Gingrich was calling the racial reference to the Republican wives "inexcusable" and the chastened Obama campaign was labeling the actor's comments "inappropriate."

De Niro at first declined to comment but ended up apologizing — sort of.

"My remarks, although spoken with satirical jest, were not meant to offend or embarrass anyone — especially the first lady," he said in a statement.

President Barack Obama, for his part, has had better luck using humor to deflect questions about his own vulnerabilities — real or perceived.

During a St. Patrick's Day reception this month, Obama was presented with a certificate of Irish heritage by the Irish prime minister.

"This will have a special place of honor alongside my birth certificate," Obama deadpanned, deftly sending the message that any lingering doubts about where he was born are nothing but a joke.

Sometimes, humor can come back to bite a candidate long after the laugh lines have faded.

In 2004, when Romney was Massachusetts governor, he took a jab at the wealth of that year's monied presidential candidate, Democratic Sen. John Kerry.

"There's a senator from my state, you may have heard, that wants to get elected president," Romney said at a Republican Governors Association dinner. "And I don't know why he wants to do that because, of course, if he won he'd have to move into a smaller house."

It may have been funny then, but the joke boomeranged when it resurfaced on the Internet this past week just as Romney is trying to combat an elitist image.

Perry, whose Republican presidential campaign quickly floundered in the primaries, took a big step toward rehabilitating his image with his appearance last weekend at a fancy Washington dinner for journalists and their guests.

He got plenty of laughs when he joked that his time as the GOP front-runner had been "the three most exhilarating hours of my life."

(AP)

Celebrity Birthdays

■ Actress Debbie Reynolds is 80.
■ Actress Ali MacGraw is 74.
■ Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito is 62.
■ Actress Annette O'Toole is 60.

Daily Scripture

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

— Isaiah 53:5-6 NIV

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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.

Spring break: Having fun right here at home

Family-friendly things to do in Columbia County

By **MARLEY ANDRETTI**
Special to the Reporter

When the final bell rang Friday throughout the Columbia County school system, it signified more than just the beginning of the weekend. It was the official start of spring break. This means for thousands of families, students will be home for an entire week, ending with Easter Sunday, and with gas prices topping out at \$4 a gallon, many will find it difficult – if not impossible – to travel very far from home. Parents are wondering how to transform their week of vacation into fun for the whole family – without breaking the budget.

Fortunately this is an area where there are many family-friendly things to see and do right here in our own backyard.

If you like to skate, the Skating Palace located at 357 N.W. Hall of Fame Drive in Lake City is the place to go. Celebrating its fifth year, owner Forest Welling, best known for throwing his all night skate parties, has extended the rink's hours



MARLEY ANDRETTI/Special to the Reporter

"Our spring break will be a staycation," said Keith Hatcher, principal of Fort White High School. "Gas is just too high. Maybe we will go to the beach."

to accommodate the spring break crowd. Normally an evening venue, the Skating Palace will be open Monday through Friday from 12-4 p.m. Admission is only \$6 with a \$2 skate rental charge. An inside concession stand offers pizza, fries, soft drinks and other snack items.

Hollywood timed it just right for the spring break week, releasing such blockbusters as "Titanic 3D" and "The Hunger Games." With

six screens, UA Cinema on US 90 in Lake City has show times starting as early as 1 p.m. Matinee prices are effective until 3 p.m., \$6.50 for children under 12, \$7 for adults and senior admission is \$6.50 all day. (\$3.50 additional for 3D movies.)

If bowling is your game, our own Lake City Bowl has lanes available for open bowling starting at 11 a.m. Located at 350 SW State Road 247 near the Home Depot, each game is \$2.90

per person and shoe rental is \$2. Lane rental is available up to 5 p.m. with unlimited bowlers and games for \$14 per lane.

If you're feeling a bit more competitive, miniature golf just may be just the thing. TnT Mini Golf on State Road 47, just south of the underpass, offers a complete 18-hole mini golf course; a bank shot style basketball area and a game room complete with pool tables, air hockey and video

arcade games. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children four and over. Kids under 4 are free. Hours are listed as Friday from 4-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, 2-8:30 p.m. They will open by appointment and can cater to large groups.

Columbia County boasts some of the most beautiful and pristine rivers and springs in the world, so if outdoor fun is what you are looking for there are several areas to choose from.

The Ichetucknee River flows about six miles through the Ichetucknee Springs State Park before it merges into the Santa Fe River. This park offers swimming in the clear water of the springs, snorkeling in some areas, limited tubing during off-season and canoeing and kayaking is allowed year-round. The park contains hiking trails of varying distances with a wide variety of wildlife for viewing. Admission into the park is \$6 per vehicle, or \$5 for an individual. Annual passes are available at the ranger station. Overcrowding in the park is common on the weekends; when this occurs, the gates will close to additional visitors.

If you like to relax deep in the wilderness, a short trip down US 90 past the airport

will bring you to beautiful Ocean Pond in the Osceola National Forest. The south side of the pond is home to the Olustee Beach recreation area, where visitors can swim or relax on the white sandy beach. A boat ramp is provided for launch to enjoy fishing, water, canoeing or kayaking. Covered picnic areas are available as are grills for outdoor cooking.

On the north side of the pond you will find the Ocean Pond Campground. Among the 67 campsites available, some include electric and water hook ups. RV and tent camping sites sit at the water's edge. Take a short walk around the pond to find primitive camping. No showers are available but chemical toilets are provided. Campsites start at \$8 per night, on a first-come first-serve basis.

For those who prefer to stay at home, all of the Columbia County library branches will remain open through Thursday. DVDs and video games can be rented at any of the Redbox locations scattered throughout the area.

Spring break can be inexpensive, fun and a great way to spend time with family and friends. It all depends on how you want to spend it.

The Ichetucknee Partnership secures non-profit status

From staff reports

Individuals and businesses wishing to invest in the future of our local rivers, springs, and youth environmental education now have a great opportunity to do so through The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP).

"We are excited to announce that TIP has secured its status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and this milestone opens up many new doors to TIP, its partners and supporters," TIP Chairman Joel Foreman said Friday. Foreman represents the Lake City-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce on the TIP Board.

"So many people in the community have asked us how they can get involved in supporting TIP. Until now, we've not had a way to receive the private donations, contributions or sponsorships that will help us expand our efforts," Foreman said.

Formed in 2008, TIP has provided vision, leadership and funding for many water-resource projects including research and monitoring, best management practices, and education and outreach within the Ichetucknee Springshed. The bulk of TIP's funding has come from state and local governments and agencies, with civic organi-

zations and other agencies and individuals providing limited matching funds and grants.

TIP now plans to narrow its focus, targeting its resources toward education, outreach and public awareness programs.

"We'll leave science to the scientists and concentrate instead on what we do best," Foreman said. "Our plans include expanding water-resource education programs in schools, engaging local businesses and homeowners in stewardship programs, and supporting the stewardship work of other groups and individuals through small grant opportunities."

Senate candidates address tea party

Associated Press

ORLANDO — Former Sen. George LeMieux is continuing attacks on GOP Senate frontrunner Rep. Connie Mack IV and Mack is beginning to fight back.

The candidates, along with retired Army Col. Mike McCalister, separately addressed a statewide group

of tea party organizers on Saturday.

LeMieux told the group that a U.S. Senate seat should not be a crown handed down from father to son — a reference to Mack seeking the same seat his father served in before retiring in 2001.

Mack pointed at LeMieux' past work for former Gov.

Charlie Crist and said LeMieux has spent most of his career supporting big government and voters won't be fooled.

McCalister said the election won't be about the candidate who is the media darling, the establishment favorite or the biggest fundraiser.

Three winners in record Mega Millions jackpot

By **JIM SUHR**
Associated Press

RED BUD, Ill. — The Mega Millions winners — at least three of them — stayed out of sight. The losers, who could number 100 million, had plenty to say Saturday about losing out on the world's largest-ever lottery jackpot and their dashed dreams of colossal wealth.

Journalists descended on convenience stores in Illinois and Maryland, and lottery officials there and in Kansas proudly proclaimed they sold winning tickets in the \$640 million world record-breaking Mega Millions jackpot. The winners will earn \$213 million before taxes. Three other ticket holders became millionaires.

But on the street, online and outside the stores where the winners had purchased their tickets, Americans grumbled about hopes that were raised, and then vanished. And they mused about what they would have done with the money.

"What do I do with this useless lottery ticket now?" Laurel Ashton Brooks of Greensboro, N.C., asked on Twitter.

As the jackpot got bigger by the hour on Thursday and Friday, Americans had snapped up tickets while dreaming of quitting jobs, paying off debts, building hos-

pitals, buying an island. On Saturday, they took to Twitter and Facebook to bemoan their lost, razor-thin chance at millions.

"I knew that when I bought the ticket, that I wouldn't win. But I did it anyhow," said Sean Flaherty, a video game tester in New York City. "The whole notion of 'what if' still has

some currency with me."

All told, Americans spent nearly \$1.5 billion for a chance to hit the jackpot, which amounts to a \$462 million lump sum and around \$347 million after federal tax withholding. With the jackpot odds at 1 in 176 million, it would cost \$176 million to buy up every combination.

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ONE
OPINION

The waiting begins

Arguments have concluded at the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of President Barack Obama's signature legislation, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which we refer to as Obamacare. Now the anxious waiting for a ruling expected in June.

We were encouraged by the three days of hearings, particularly by some justices' sharp, skeptical questioning of lawyers supporting and attacking the law. The court will decide whether Congress has the power under the Constitution's interstate commerce clause to require private individuals to purchase government-approved private health insurance or pay a penalty.

While government can be the glue holding together a lawful nation, it is not — and should not be — a substitute for personal responsibility.

The founders intended the federal government to protect people from infringements on their God-given rights. As desirable as it may be to make health care universal and accessible, it is something for which government is not well-equipped, and neither should it try.

The health care law imposes literally hundreds of ambiguously worded new requirements, mandates and costs, the fine points of which will be determined by unelected bureaucrats, at the behest of administration political appointees.

As rules are drafted, there will be no end of infringements on individuals' legitimate rights. A prime example is the new requirement that religious institutions' insurance must cover abortion-inducing drugs, even when to do so violates an institution's beliefs.

We hope the high court reverses this ominous trend to more expansive government and its resultant infringement on true constitutional rights.

■ Orange County Register

Lake City Reporter

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Super-sized in a kid's eyes

It's funny how childhood perceptions about things change as we grow older. The giants of our childhood are dwarfed as we age. The impenetrable forests in which we once feared getting lost turn out to be nothing more than tiny wooded lots. In a child's eyes, everything bigger than he or she is enormous and unfathomable.

But through a strange trickery of the mind, even though we know the wooded lot to be small when we grow up, we still retain an image of it mingled within the chemistry of our brains that whispers to us that it will never let us forget that it might've really been a vast, teeming forest once upon a time.

My grandmother's house used to seem enormous to me. It held our extended family at Christmas and Thanksgiving. But I drove by it one day years later and was amazed at how small it was. Rather than a sprawling estate, it more resembled a little cottage. Such is the difference between how we remember things from the way they really are.

The miracle of Facebook has brought me into contact again with a group of my old chums from grammar school. We attended a small, parochial school in Southeast Georgia. There were two grades per classroom, kindergarten through eighth. A nun was in charge of each classroom and a sweet, saintly lady aptly named Mrs. Paradise taught kindergarten. Someone recently posted a class photo that looks to have been from maybe second or third grade. Like Don McLean's anthem says, "There we all were in



Joe Palmer
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one place, a generation lost in space." Several rows of smiling little kids and the Sister who taught them are preserved like sweet figs in syrup. The comments beneath the picture is a series of vignettes that recall an era when air raid drill horns pierced the tranquility of towns all over America and school kids everywhere "ducked and covered" beneath their desks, sheltering from the atomic attack that never came.

Not surprisingly, in addition to lampooning one another and a few of the teachers, the talk soon turned to how big we recalled things being back then. The classrooms were enormous. They had to be in order to accommodate two grades each, didn't they? Ah, but no. Some of us recalled touring the school years later and being surprised at how tiny those classrooms really were. It's a miracle the nuns could get anything accomplished. We were practically all over each other. I remember thinking the stage where we did our annual Christmas play was as big as a ballroom only to discover in my later years that I've had a house or two with bigger porches.

Our school was across the street from a park. The park encompassed a whole block. Back when our parents and grandparents were kids, the park was a central place of cel-

ebration in town. The round, concrete remains of an old band shell still remain there. We used to play dodge ball on it at recess so it must've been pretty big, right? No, like the lunchroom stage, it turns out that the old band shell foundation isn't really all that big. We were just super small.

There was a baseball diamond the size of Wrigley Field that doubled as a football field as big as the stadium at the University of Georgia. A ball hit to the sidewalk along one edge of it was an automatic homer. Many of us have visited the old park and are amazed at how small it is. A small park within a small block. The baseball field is Lilliputian. So is the Wimbledon-sized tennis court. So are the huge swing sets upon which we used to play.

The little canal, with its concrete and stone bridge, still bisects the park. We were forbidden to play there but we did anyway. It seemed like a river back then and the really naughty older kids sometimes grabbed us wee ones and threatened to toss us in if we didn't holler uncle.

The nuns who taught us were larger than life figures, ancient women clad in dark robes. Because their heads were covered, we used to amuse ourselves trying to guess what color hair they had. Everybody had a story about one Sister or another. An old classmate of mine ventured to ask of us all in one of her posts, "I wonder what stories the Sisters told about us?"

I'll bet they told some whoppers about us.

■ Joe Palmer is a Fernandina Beach columnist.

Going through the motions on a national budget

How serious is the U.S. House of Representatives about deficit reduction? On the evidence, not very.

The fact that a plausible bipartisan plan to bring the deficit under control was defeated in the House this week 382-38 should tell you something.

For those looking for some faint, very faint, glimmer that the lawmakers will get their act together, it was not, like most of these affairs, a straight party-line vote: 16 Republicans and 22 Democrats voted for it.

They were voting on basically what was the Simpson-Bowles deficit-reduction plan put forth two years ago by a presidentially appointed commission. President Barack



Dale McFeatters
mcfeattersd@shns.com

Obama ignored the plan, although part of it formed part of the "grand bargain" the president reached with House Speaker John Boehner last summer that Boehner was unable to sell to his own party.

On Thursday afternoon, the House turned its attention to passing, 228-191, the House GOP budget, drawn up by Republican Budget Committee chairman Paul Ryan. The vote

was not symbolic because this document is the clearest expression of House GOP budget and policy priorities. It was, however, futile because the Democratic-controlled Senate has no plans of taking it up.

Thus, Congress will fund the coming fiscal year piecemeal with no overarching budget blueprint. The situation will stagger on until next January when, because of an agreement reached last summer, \$1.2 trillion in budget cuts, including a 9 percent reduction in defense, automatically go into effect.

At that point the budget situation will go from critical to crisis and the time for symbolic gestures will be long past.

■ Dale McFeatters is editorial writer for Scripps Howard News Service.

ANOTHER
VIEW

Gray's gratuity

A mayor rocked by charges of pay-for-play politics, a House investigation and a federal probe into his 2010 campaign is losing friends fast. To stem the tide, D.C. Mayor Vincent C. Gray's strategists are employing politicians' usual method for regaining allies: using tax dollars to enrich special interests.

City revenue estimates in February came up with millions extra in anticipated income, which the mayor is handing over to unions. Mr. Gray doubled down on a January \$44.7 million fiscal 2012 supplemental budget request by asking for an additional \$34.8 million in March. Of this, \$19.9 million is to "restore" furlough days "taken" from city employees in fiscal 2011. To help close a then-\$188 million budget gap, nonessential workers weren't paid in 2011 for four public holidays: Presidents Day, D.C. Emancipation Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day.

An email sent by City Administrator Allen Lew to the heads of all city unions made no bones about the payoff: "The mayor's decision to submit this request to the Council is further evidence of his commitment to our employees, and their representatives, for their diligent efforts and shared sacrifice in difficult times and rewarding our employees for their diligent efforts when circumstances permit him to do so."

This commitment is questionable, considering the furloughs Mr. Gray is "repaying" were his idea in the first place. "Furloughs as an option to help save costs were first introduced in December 2010 by then-Chairman Gray," the 2011 press release announcing the measure bragged. It also noted that the act was introduced by council Chairman Kwame R. Brown at the request of Mr. Gray. "The furloughs are the first of several cost-saving measures we will have to implement to ensure that the city is financially solvent," Mr. Gray explained at the time. A year later, it's unclear how spending instead of saving taxpayer money is financially responsible.

Some union representatives see Mr. Gray's new tune as a step in the right direction after getting off on the wrong foot. Geo T. Johnson, executive director of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) District Council 20, told *The Washington Times*, "He had a marred beginning; he's trying to turn things around." Mr. Johnson, who says he supports Mr. Gray "110 percent," stood in for labor in March 9, signing agreements with the District, but he only represents 40 percent of the city's unionized employees.

Unions representing teachers, firefighters and police weren't invited to participate in the event, heralded by city hall as part of an "effort to re-establish positive relations with organized labor," because they don't support the mayor. "The idea that this is some bridging [of] the gulf with labor is disingenuous," one union official who requested anonymity told *The Washington Times*. "They needed some support from somebody somewhere. Gray is such a mess, nobody trusts him right now. They don't trust Gray; they don't trust Lew."

Apparently, money can't always buy love. Mr. Gray will need to earn the support of his constituents with means other than your hard-earned dollars.

■ The Washington Times

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

■ Submit Community Calendar announcements by mail or drop off at the Reporter office located at 180 E. Duval St., via fax to (386) 752-9400 or email lhampson@lakecityreporter.com

April 1

Heaven and Hell presentation

Hopeful Baptist Church, 289 SE Hopeful Drive, will feature Heaven's Gates & Hell's Flames on April 1 through 3 at 6:30 p.m. nightly. Free admission.

Easter egg hunt

First Presbyterian Church, 697 SW Baya Dr., invites the community to an Easter egg hunt on Sunday, April 1 at 4 p.m. All children are welcome.

Homecoming

Falling Creek Chapel, 1290 NW Falling Creek Rd., will have a homecoming service Sunday, April 1 at 11 a.m. There will be a dedication of the children's ministry building and dinner on the grounds at noon. The annual business meeting will be at 2 p.m. Bring a covered dish. Everyone is

welcome.

Gospel concert

Glad Tidings Assembly of God, 993 NW Lake Jeffery Rd. in Lake City, invites you to come Sunday, April 1 at 10:30 a.m. to hear gospel singers Gene and Ann Young of Young Song from Tennessee, celebrating the gift of music. They have written many songs and have ministers with may southern gospel groups across the country. For information call 755-3552.

Theater auditions

Auditions will be held at High Springs Community Theater, 130 NE First Ave., for A. R. Gurney's acclaimed comedy, "Sylvia" from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 1 and 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, April 2. Four actors are required: an energetic and expressive woman to play the role of Sylvia, a stray dog, who does speak but with the mentality of a dog;

a middle-class husband and wife; and a single actor who plays 3 supporting roles. Director Jerry Rose may be contacted at 352-378-8858.

April 2

Pond management workshop

The UF/IFAS Columbia County Extension is offering the third class in the Living on a Few Acres workshop series on April 2 at 6:30 p.m. The Pond Management Workshop will include stocking rate, water quality, aquatic weed identification and treatment options. Registration fee is \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples or \$5 per individual class. Workshop will be held at the Columbia County Extension Office, 164 SW Mary Ethel Lane at the Columbia County Fairgrounds. For more information contact Derek Barber at the Extension Office at (386)752-5384.



Pool repair

LAURA HAMPSON/Lake City Reporter

Guenter Dowda of Hudson Fiberglass paints the Columbia County School District's pool Friday. The aquatic complex, on SW St. Johns Street, is set to open to the public April 9, from 3 to 7 p.m. Crews worked on the pool for three days to repair cracked fiberglass and repaint the surface, work donated by school board member Keith Hudson's business. "It's just a good thing to do for the community," Hudson said.

OBITUARIES

Glenda Claire Huggins

Glenda Claire Huggins, 76, went home to be with the Lord, Thursday, March 29, 2012 at the Suwannee Valley Care Center. She was born in Columbia County to the late William & Anna V. North Christie. She was a loving wife, mother, and "Gamma" who loved music and playing the piano but most of all was deeply devoted to her family and her church family at Christ Central Ministries. She was a kind woman who never met a stranger. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Bill Christie; sisters, Bonnie Justice, June Bullard, and Diana Mathis. Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Luther Jackson Huggins of Lake City, FL; sons, Michael D. Huggins (Georgelle) of Lake City, FL, and Joseph "Jody" Huggins (Rhonda) of Charlotte, NC; "adopted in love, son", Bill Reed; daughters, Christie Lynn Hogan (Jeffrey) and Casey Roberts (Aaron) both of Lake City, FL; life long friend, Mary Davis of Lake City, FL; 8 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren also survive. Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 2, 2012 at Christ Central Ministries with Pastor Lonnie Johns officiating. Interment will follow in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens. Visitation with the family will be Sunday afternoon, April 1, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Suwannee Valley Care Center (Haven Hospice) at 6037 U.S. Hwy 90 West, Lake City, Florida 32055. **GATEWAY - GUERRY FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY**, 3596 South U.S. Hwy 441, Lake City, Florida 32025, (386) 752-1954 is in charge of arrangements. Please leave words of encouragement for the family at www.gatewayguerryfuneralhome.com

Bill Lycan

Bill Lycan (Speed), 54 years old. Born on December 19, 1957, died Monday, March 26, 2012 at Shands Lake Shore Hospital. He was born in Tarpon Springs, Florida and moved to Lake City 25 years ago from Ocala. He worked as the Director of the Columbia County Landfill. He served in the Army as a K-9 Handler with the Military Police and was a retired Southern Son Motorcycle Club member. Mr. Lycan was a spiritual person who loved the outdoors & riding his motorcycle. Survived by his mother, Mary Williams (Bryan); son, John

Lycan; daughter, Royal Prueter (Kevin) of Maryland, Michelle Bariano (AJ) of Lake City, FL; brothers, Troy Lycan of Texas, Brett South (Jill) Punta Gorda, FL, David Buckler (Mimi) of Ocala, FL; sisters, Maria Armstrong (Mike), Lisa Wood of Ocala, FL, Lana Lycan & Sonja Cody both of Texas; grandchildren, (Kendall Lycan, Tyson, Dillan, Kamryn Prueter, Amber, John and Kyrrah Bariano; a host of family and friends also survive. Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel of Gateway-Guerry Funeral Home with Pastor W.C. from the Christian Motorcycles Club officiating. **GATEWAY - GUERRY FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY**, 3596 South U.S. Hwy 441, Lake City, Florida 32025, (386) 752-1954 is in charge of arrangements. Please leave words of encouragement for the family at www.gatewayguerryfuneralhome.com

Pastor Jay Wimberly

Winter Haven - Pastor Jay Wimberly, 75, of Bartow went to be with the Lord Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at the Astoria Health and Rehab Center in Winter Haven due to heart failure. Born August 25, 1936 to Patrick, Sr. and Dorothea Wimberly, he moved to the area 23 years ago from North Florida. Dr. Wimberly was a Pastor and Evangelist, and was the Founder of the North American School of Theology. He was a member of Lena Vista Baptist Church in Auburndale. He is survived by: his wife of 56

years, Shirley; a daughter, Dawn McCabe and her husband Brian of Winter Haven; 2 brothers, Pat Wimberly, Jr. of Lake City, FL and Fred Wimberly of Arkansas; 2 sisters, Virginia Read and her husband, Bill of Bartow and Dollie Megge and her husband, Dennis of North Port, FL; a grandson, Jarrod Strickland and his wife, Lisa of Wesley Chapel, FL; 3 great-grandchildren, Ethan, Hannah and Coen; and numerous nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 10:00 am till 11:00 am, Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at **OAK RIDGE FUNERAL CARE** in Winter Haven. Funeral Services will begin at 11:00am in the funeral home chapel. Interment will follow at Auburndale Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers please make memorial donations in his memory to the Virgin Islands Missions Inc. in care of Dr. Bentley Thomas, P.O. Box 4739, St. Thomas, VI 00803. Condolences may be sent at www.oakridgefuneralcare.com.

Olan Ray "Curly" Moore

Mr. Olan Ray "Curly" Moore, age 80, of Lake City, Fla., died Saturday, March 31, in the Suwannee Valley Care Center, Lake City, Fla., following a long illness. He was a native of Attalla, Alabama and had resided in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. before moving to Lake City in 1977. He worked as an auto mechanic for over 30 years while living in Fort Lauderdale and worked for North Florida Concrete in Lake City as a dispatcher and truck driver. He was in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a military

policeman. Olan "Curly" had his own country and western band, Curly Ray and the Fugitives. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Fralick Moore of Lake City, Fla.; two step-daughters, Teresa (Dale) Goss and Sandra (Burton) Hall both of Lake City, Fla.; three granddaughters, Jessica Gaskins, Heather Holtzclaw and Ashley Holtzclaw; one grandson, Cory Holtzclaw. He is also survived by numerous good friends. Graveside funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 3 in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens with Rev. Tom Amerson of the Lake City Church of Christ officiating. Visitation will be from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Tuesday (one-and-a-half hours before service) at **GUERRY FUNERAL HOME**, 2659 S.W. Main Blvd., Lake City, Fla. www.guerryfuneralhome.net

Franklin Roy "Frank" Slanker

Mr. Franklin Roy "Frank" Slanker, age 86, of Lake City, Fla., died Friday, March 30, at his residence following a long illness.

He was a native of Shamokin, Pa. and moved to Lake City in 1947. He worked in administration with the V.A. Medical Center, Lake City, Fla. for 35 years until his retirement in 1986. He then worked with R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in advertising products for five years. He served with the Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary for over 32 years. He served with the U.S. Navy as a seaman during W.W. II. He was a member of Hopeful Baptist Church and enjoyed Gator football, NASCAR and tinkering in his tool shop. He was preceded in death by his parents, Adam Franklin and Anna Sivets Slanker, his wife Beatrice Ash Slanker and his son Franklin Leroy Slanker. He is survived by three sons, Mike (Diane) Slanker, Paul Slanker and Keith (Traci) Slanker all of Lake City, Fla.; one sister, Ruth Zeiger of Elysburg, Pa.; two nieces, Darlene Horne and Naomi Haines; sister-in-law Waldena Ash McDonald of Lake City, Fla.; grandchildren Brian (Kim) Slanker, Lori (Matt) McKee, Charles Thornton, Amy Slanker, Mary Slanker, Chad Slanker (Sangia Cothran),

Danny King (Kristen Woodland) and Kristen Slanker (Michael McCandless) all of Lake City, Fla. and Michelle Slanker (Mike Howington) of Pensacola, Fla.; great-grandchildren Seth Slanker, Taylor McKee, Lindsey Slanker, Charlee Thornton, Austin Thornton, Madeline Thornton, Hunter Keen, Colt Lee, Blayne Slanker and Braelyn McCandless. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 4, in the Chapel of Guerry Funeral Home with Dr. Rodney Baker, Pastor of Hopeful Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will be in Bethlehem Cemetery, Lake City, Fla. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, at **GUERRY FUNERAL HOME**, 2659 S.W. Main Blvd., Lake City, Fla. www.guerryfuneralhome.net

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

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please research this information.

With our taxes, Florida School Districts will be testing Biology 1 public school students commencing in 2012 concerning the blasphemous fallacy of The Scientific Theory of Evolution, which is contrary to the Word of God. It teaches hominid evolution which flies in the face of **Columbia High School, Fort White High School and Challenge Learning Center** students and alumni. All of them are offspring of Adam and his female wife Eve and therefore are created by God, in the image of God. (Compare Holy Bible versus Florida Biology 1 End-of-Course Assessment Test Items Specifications, page 32 - SC.7.L.15.1; page 52 - SC.912.L.15.10

<http://fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/pdf/BiologyFL11Sp.pdf>

I challenge the Florida Columbia County School District and all of its teachers to a public debate between The Scientific Theory of Evolution and the Holy Bible. Kenny Merriken 386-344-7339, kbmerriken@hotmail.com

I Corinthians 1:18-31 "...the foolishness of God is wiser than men."

April Fool's Day in the Year of our Lord 2012.

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Warrior Dash



LAURA HAMPSON/Lake City Reporter

Runners climb over cars and tires Saturday during the North Florida Warrior Dash at Camp Weed in Live Oak. Warrior Dash is a series of 5Ks that takes runners through obstacles like fire, mud pits and barbed wire. About 5,300 people participated in the area's first time hosting the race. Hundreds of others gathered to watch and celebrate after the race with live music and food.

OFFICERS: Girlfriend died in hospital

Continued From Page 1A

There Dolan's training as a first responder and 911 dispatcher kicked in. A tractor trailer driver handed her a first aid kit and she used gauze to apply pressure to a serious head wound, she said. Richardson's arm and leg were also badly injured.

While waiting for an ambulance to arrive, Dolan said she stayed with Richardson to comfort and calm him. She kept his airway clear when he got sick. The vehicle was unrecognizable, she said.

"Sometimes God puts us in places we need to be," Dolan said. "It's just something we had to do. I'm glad we were in the position where we could."

Richardson and Pinto were transported to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Pinto died later that night.

The Florida State University students planned to visit Richardson's parents in Lake City and then head to Jacksonville to celebrate Pinto's March 26th birthday with her parents.

"She didn't make it," said Lisa Richardson, his mother.

Pinto and Richardson met at freshman orientation in

June. They both wanted to major in criminology.

Richardson's mother and father, Jimbo Richardson, didn't know how bad the accident was until they came upon the scene on the way to the hospital. "Seeing the truck was devastating," he said.

They postponed surgery in order to attend Pinto's funeral on Wednesday.

A 2011 Columbia High School graduate and member of the Tigers baseball team, Richardson is determined to stay in Tallahassee and finish the semester, his mom said. They are hoping he will be discharged from the hospital today.

"It's going to be a long recovery. He's in a lot of pain emotionally and physically," Lisa Richardson said. "It's just one of those things you won't ever get over."

Support from family and friends has been steady and non-stop. The support and love has been good for him, she said. Coaches and friends have visited him at the hospital and co-workers went to Pinto's funeral.

Florida Highway Patrol officers told the family they had never seen so many

people stop to help after an accident.

"Words couldn't express our gratitude for being there and being willing to help," she said.

"It was a God thing," she said of the timing. They were mourning a fellow officer and then dealt with this trauma, she said.

"My sincere thanks goes out to each and every one of them," Jimbo Richardson

said.

A friend was able to find the officers who helped and the Richardsons plan to thank them over the phone and in person.

The quick actions of strangers, "that blew me away," Jimbo said. "They are heroes to me."

Dolan said what she and the other correctional officers did was not a huge deal, but rather what you are supposed to do. Both events that day "make you thank God your babies are safe and that you've got another day," she said.

Romney eyes fall amid doubts on right

Associated Press

FITCHBURG, Wis. — Appearing ever-more confident in Wisconsin's primary, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney focused entirely on Democratic President Barack Obama during a campaign trip through this upper Midwestern battleground and predicted a victory that could effectively seal the nomination for him Tuesday.

"We're looking like we're going to win this thing on Tuesday," Romney told supporters, suggesting he could also claim wins in Maryland and the District of Columbia that day. "If I can get that boost also from Wisconsin I think we'll be on a path that'll get me the nomination well before the convention."

At the same time, fading rival Rick Santorum sought to stoke doubts about Romney's conservative credentials on the last weekend of campaigning before the critical showdown. It's Santorum's last chance to prove his strength in the industrial heartland, where he's said he can challenge Obama but

where Romney has beaten him consistently.

Still, Romney nodded toward evangelical conservatives Saturday, acknowledging the doubts in the former Massachusetts governor that linger with these voters, and foreshadowing the balancing act that will face him in the months to come.

"President Obama believes in a government-centered society. He believes government guiding our lives will do a better job in doing so than individuals," Romney told more than 1,000 Wisconsin conservatives at a Faith and Freedom Coalition meeting in the heart of GOP-heavy Waukesha County. The county, just west of Milwaukee, is home to the state's largest evangelical mega-churches.

Romney, tagged by opponents as rich and detached, appealed to the spectrum of households he will need in the fall should he remain on the likely course to the GOP nomination. He mentioned a single mother he met Friday in Appleton, Wis., a landscaper from St. Louis and a Cambodian immigrant from Texas.

Man's door-to-door newspaper sales a scam

From staff reports

A man claiming to represent the Lake City Reporter has been going door-to-door collecting cash for subscription sales, police say. The man is an impostor who pockets the money, however.

"No employee of the Lake

City Reporter will come to your home to sell a subscription," said Reporter circulation director Mandy Brown.

Brown said anyone with questions concerning newspaper sales or collection policies should call the Lake City Reporter office at 752-1293.

U.S. response to Syria called 'very stern'

Associated Press

DENVER — The U.S. Ambassador to Syria reiterated the Obama administration's approach to the conflict in Syria in remarks Saturday to Amnesty International.

Ambassador Robert Ford said the administration has been "very stern" toward Syrian President Bashar Assad's military

and security apparatus.

On Friday, the administration added Assad's defense minister and two other senior officials to a blacklist that freezes any assets they may have in U.S. jurisdictions.

"We put these three individuals on the list because we have clear information and evidence that they are personally

responsible for human rights abuses and oppression against the protesters," Ford said Saturday at Amnesty International's annual general meeting in Denver.

The Denver Post reports that Ford said Assad has a short amount of time to stop the violence under a UN special envoy.

"We are not particular-

ly interested in anything Assad says," Ford said. "We are interested in what he does on the ground."

Ford was forced to withdraw from Syria in February following an attack on the embassy.

The conference also heard from three American hikers detained in Iran — Sarah Shourd, Shane Bauer, and Josh Fattal.

PINKIE: Rotary project

Continued From Page 1A

to support polio eradication through Polio Plus.

Wheeler, Polio Plus coordinator for the Rotary Club of Lake City, founded Purple Pinkie 10 years ago.

Soon after, the project went international.

Proceeds raised during the Purple Pinkie fundraiser go to the Rotary Foundation in Chicago, Ill. The funds are matched dollar-for-dollar through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The money is then used to purchase vaccines for countries that are still endemic with polio.

Through the Purple Pinkie Project, local stu-

dents and sponsors have contributed a combined \$40,000 to Rotary's Polio Eradication Fund.

"If you look at the numbers, with the funds raised over the last 10 years, we've been able to purchase more than 112,000 vaccinations," he said. "Those are lives saved. That's meaningful."

In January it was announced that for the first time in more than 2,000 years, no new cases of polio paralysis were reported in India. If India goes two more years without another new case of polio reported, the country will be certified polio-free.

PARKER: Died Feb. 14

Continued From Page 1A

also read at her funeral. Palmer said she wanted to thank all those who supported Parker and the family during "that horrible five months of dying." She said the family was pleased that people gathered Saturday to show love and respect for Parker.

"The funeral for Earline was not a funeral. It was a celebration of her life," she said.

Rita Dopp, executive director of United Way of Suwannee Valley, said Parker brought her business sense to the local United Way, giving it form and structure that is still used today.

Lloyd Adams, Parker's friend, said Parker was perceptive of needs in the community and used her determination to fulfill those needs.

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA WILL MEET ON MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012 AT 5:30 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF CITY HALL AT 205 NORTH MARION AVENUE, LAKE CITY, FLORIDA.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING IS:

- **Public Hearing – Kendrick Maeweather – Hole in the Wall**

Pursuant to City Code Section 26-44, licensee, Kendrick Maeweather, Hole in the Wall, appealed the Chief License Inspectors decision to revoke or suspend the occupational tax license at the March 19, 2012 City Council Meeting. On March 19, 2012 the City Council granted a public hearing to be held on Monday, April 2, 2012 at 5:30 PM at which time the City may sustain, modify or withdraw the revocation or suspension of the license.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to City Code Section 2-32, that the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, has called a special meeting to be held on April 2, 2012 at 5:30 PM for the purpose outlined above.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA WILL MEET ON MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012 AT 7:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF CITY HALL AT 205 NORTH MARION AVENUE, LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

All interested persons are invited to attend.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: If you require special aid or services for either of the meetings identified above, as addressed in the American Disabilities Act, please contact the City Manager's Office at (386) 719-5768.

AUDREY E SIKES
City Clerk

Property taxes due Monday but many pay on Friday

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

Friday was supposed to be the last day property owners could pay their property taxes without penalty. However, since the actual deadline - yesterday - fell on a weekend, Florida residents actually have until Monday to pay their 2011 property taxes.

Nonetheless, the turning lane leading to the Columbia County Tax Collector's Office had a steady stream of visitors Friday afternoon, as did the drive-through windows and the office itself.

"This (Friday) was the last day to pay property

taxes without penalty in person," said Ronnie Brannon, Columbia County Tax Collector. "After Monday there is a three percent statutory penalty that applies."

As of 1 p.m. Friday the office had served a total of 348 people. Brannon said the office normally serves about 400 people any given Friday.

The 2011 total tax roll for collection from the county's five taxing authorities is \$53,369,462. The county's five taxing authorities are the City of Lake City, Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, The Suwannee River Water Management District, Lake Shore Hospital Authority

and the Columbia County School Board. Thus far the tax collector's office has collected \$44,109,289 from the tax roll, roughly 82 percent.

In May, the tax collector's office will send a list of names to the newspaper, containing delinquent property tax owners that will be advertised. On May 31, a tax certificate sale will be done online where people from all over the world get to bid on the delinquent properties. If the property tax is not paid by the owner in two years, the bidder who purchased the tax certificate can apply for a tax deed for the property. The certificate owner has seven years to sell the property.



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Motorists use the drive-through service at the tax collector's office Friday, which many thought was the last day to pay property taxes without incurring a penalty.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steven Powell leaves the courtroom of Judge Ronald Culpepper.

Blood found at Utah home from man's missing wife

By **MIKE BAKER**
Associated Press

TACOMA, Wash. — Authorities investigating the 2009 disappearance of a Utah woman found her blood in the family home and a handwritten note in which she expressed fear about her husband and her potential demise, according to documents unsealed Friday.

The files raise further questions about why Susan Powell's husband was never charged in her disappearance before he killed himself and their two young sons in a gas-fueled inferno in Washington state earlier this year. Investigators in West Valley City, Utah, never arrested Josh Powell or even publicly labeled him as a suspect in his wife's disappearance.

A prosecutor in Washington state who was getting a first look at the files Friday said if it was his case, he would have charged Josh Powell with murder.

"There is direct evidence. There is circumstantial evidence. There is motive," said Pierce County prosecutor Mark Lindquist. "There is everything but the body."

The documents, used as justification to search the home where Josh Powell was staying last year, detail a widespread case that investigators had built against him.

Shortly after Susan Powell disappeared, authorities found blood evidence on a floor next to a sofa and determined that it was Susan Powell's. The sofa appeared to have been recently cleaned, and two fans had been set up to blow on it.

Investigators found several life insurance policies on Susan Powell that totaled \$1.5 million and determined that Josh Powell had filed paperwork to withdraw her retirement account money about 10 days after her disappearance.

The documents describe Josh Powell as unwilling to help in the investigation.

A safety deposit box used by Susan Powell had a handwritten letter titled "Last

will & testament for Susan Powell," according to the documents. She wrote in that letter that she did not trust her husband and that they'd been having marital troubles for four years.

The letter also said that "if Susan Powell dies it may not be an accident, even if it looks like one," according to the documents.

Josh Powell always maintained his innocence and said he had taken their boys, then

2 and 4, on a midnight camping trip in freezing temperatures the night she disappeared.

One of the children, Charlie, told investigators in an interview shortly after his mom disappeared that she had gone on the camping trip with them but did not come back home and he did not know why, according to the files. A few weeks later, he told a church teacher with no emotion: "My mom is dead."

Arizona sheriff finds self at crossroads in civil rights case

By **JACQUES BILLEAUD**
Associated Press

PHOENIX — America's self-proclaimed toughest sheriff is fast approaching a crossroads where he must decide either to settle claims that his officers racially profiled Latinos in his trademark immigration patrols — and overhaul his practices — or take his chances at trial.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio faces an April 14 deadline for concluding talks with the U.S. Justice Department to settle a wide range of civil rights allegations, including that the sheriff launched some immigration patrols based on letters from people who complained about people with dark skin congregating in a given area or speaking Spanish but never reporting an actual crime.

A settlement could lead to changes long sought by Arpaio's critics and short-circuit a separate racial profiling case set for trial this summer. Most police agencies facing similar pressures from the Justice Department opt to settle, but critics wonder whether the sheriff's stubborn streak — a quality that endears him to his supporters — will lead him to confront the allegations in

court.

"It makes him a hero," said Antonio Bustamante, a Phoenix civil rights attorney and member of a group of Latino and black leaders calling for an overhaul of Arpaio's policies. "We have a different character as a sheriff."

The Justice Department has accused Arpaio's office of racially profiling Latinos, punishing Hispanic jail inmates for speaking Spanish and having a culture of disregard for basic constitutional rights. The sheriff's office has denied allegations of systematic discriminatory policing, and asked federal authorities to provide facts. But it also conditionally agreed to talk with the Justice Department about ways to correct any violations.

The Justice Department is seeking an agreement that would require the sheriff's office to train officers in how to make constitutional traffic stops, collect data on people arrested in traffic stops and reach out to Latinos to ensure that the department is there to also protect them.

The federal agency has said it's prepared to sue Arpaio and let a judge decide the matter if no agreement can be worked

out. Earlier in the three-year investigation, the Justice Department filed a 2010 lawsuit against the sheriff, alleging that his office refused to fully cooperate with a request for records and access to jails and employees. The case was settled last summer after the sheriff's office handed over records and gave access to employees and jails.

After his lawyers attended a negotiation session in early February, Arpaio's office said both sides agreed to work on an agreement and were committed to avoiding unnecessary litigation.

The status of negotiations since the February meeting is unknown. Arpaio's lawyers didn't return messages seeking comment, and the Justice Department declined to provide an update, other than saying negotiations are continuing.

Arpaio said he didn't know how the case would be resolved, but that his lawyers are trying to cooperate. "We'll just have to look at the big picture and see what they want and see if we agree to it," Arpaio said. "I presume that if we don't agree, they'll go to court."

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Thursday, April 5 - 8-11:30 & 1-6
Friday, April 6 - 8-11:30 & 1-6
Saturday, April 7 - 8-11:30 & 1-5
Sunday, April 8 - 8-11:30 & 1-6
Monday, April 9 - 8-11:30 & 1-4

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THE WEATHER

1 SUNDAY PARTLY CLOUDY HI 87 LO 60	2 MONDAY FOG EARLY HI 91 LO 60	3 TUESDAY PARTLY CLOUDY HI 88 LO 61	4 WEDNESDAY CHANCE OF STORMS HI 85 LO 58	5 THURSDAY MOSTLY SUNNY HI 81 LO 55
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REGIONAL FORECAST MAP for Sunday, April 1

Sunday's high/Sunday night's low

City	Monday	Tuesday
Cape Canaveral	84/65/pc	85/66/pc
Daytona Beach	85/64/pc	86/64/pc
Ft. Lauderdale	83/73/pc	83/73/pc
Fort Myers	89/67/pc	89/67/pc
Gainesville	88/62/pc	87/61/pc
Jacksonville	88/66/pc	86/64/pc
Key West	84/74/s	84/74/pc
Lake City	91/60/pc	88/61/pc
Miami	85/74/pc	85/74/pc
Naples	81/70/pc	82/72/pc
Ocala	89/63/pc	88/62/pc
Orlando	90/67/pc	89/67/pc
Panama City	85/68/pc	79/68/t
Pensacola	83/67/pc	82/68/t
Tallahassee	90/63/pc	85/64/pc
Tampa	88/67/pc	88/68/pc
Valdosta	92/62/pc	86/64/pc
W. Palm Beach	81/72/pc	82/71/pc

NATIONAL FORECAST: An area of low pressure will produce showers across much of the Northeast and New England today, with snow possible across northern portions of New England. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will be possible across portions of the Great Lakes. A mix of rain and snow will be possible across the Intermountain West and portions of the Pacific Northwest.

NATIONAL FORECAST MAP

3 p.m. today

YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL EXTREMES High: 95°, Junction, Texas Low: 21°, Angel Fire, N.M.

LAKE CITY ALMANAC

TEMPERATURES

High Saturday	77
Low Saturday	62
Normal high	77
Normal low	52
Record high	96 in 1907
Record low	29 in 1964

PRECIPITATION

Saturday	1.19"
Month total	2.58"
Year total	4.49"
Normal month-to-date	4.33"
Normal year-to-date	10.84"

SUN

Sunrise today	7:19 a.m.
Sunset today	7:50 p.m.
Sunrise tom.	7:18 a.m.
Sunset tom.	7:50 p.m.

MOON

Moonrise today	2:41 p.m.
Moonset today	3:32 a.m.
Moonrise tom.	3:42 p.m.
Moonset tom.	4:11 a.m.

April 6 Full, April 13 Last, April 21 New, April 29 First

UV INDEX

10

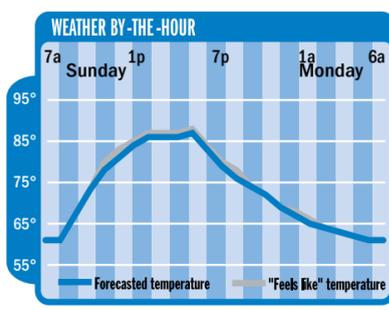
VERY HIGH: 10 minutes to burn

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

FYI
An exclusive service brought to our readers by The Weather Channel.

weather.com

CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today
Albany NY	44/34/0	51/33/sh	Des Moines	64/53/0	87/61/pc	Omaha	81/56/0	89/62/s
Albuquerque	72/47/0	81/38/s	Detroit	42/36/0	64/43/pc	Orlando	86/66/0	86/67/pc
Anchorage	39/36/0	40/26/sh	El Paso	82/58/0	88/56/s	Philadelphia	45/44/0	61/48/sh
Atlanta	73/63/0	83/60/pc	Fairbanks	22/16/0	28/6/pc	Phoenix	85/63/0	73/52/s
Baltimore	57/47/0	64/48/c	Greensboro	75/60/03	75/55/pc	Pittsburgh	46/41/0	65/45/sh
Billings	68/46/0	62/32/pc	Hartford	43/36/02	53/37/sh	Portland ME	44/34/0	44/33/sh
Birmingham	78/63/0	86/64/pc	Honolulu	77/72/0	83/69/s	Portland OR	46/41/35	50/43/sh
Bismarck	70/50/0	80/46/pc	Houston	84/69/0	87/69/pc	Raleigh	73/62/12	73/56/pc
Boise	70/51/0	46/32/sh	Indianapolis	53/46/0	80/59/t	Rapid City	77/51/0	80/39/pc
Boston	43/38/03	46/38/sh	Jackson MS	79/66/0	87/64/pc	Reno	60/51/0	50/30/pc
Buffalo	41/34/0	47/37/sh	Jacksonville	74/64/57	86/64/pc	Richmond	73/53/02	71/53/pc
Charleston SC	78/69/0	77/61/pc	Kansas City	80/58/0	90/69/s	Sacramento	63/50/11	61/41/pc
Charleston WV	61/55/0	76/55/pc	Las Vegas	79/66/0	67/53/pc	St. Louis	70/50/0	89/66/s
Charlotte	75/62/11	79/57/pc	Little Rock	83/61/0	89/64/s	Salt Lake City	74/55/0	50/35/sh
Cheyenne	71/47/0	74/30/pc	Los Angeles	56/54/0	64/51/s	San Antonio	85/66/0	91/68/s
Chicago	46/39/0	68/54/t	Memphis	82/61/0	89/61/s	San Diego	58/56/0	62/50/s
Cincinnati	52/48/0	76/55/t	Miami	85/73/0	85/71/pc	San Francisco	60/50/42	59/45/pc
Cleveland	42/37/0	61/39/t	Minneapolis	47/42/0	76/57/pc	Seattle	40/37/45	50/43/sh
Columbia SC	78/66/04	83/56/pc	Mobile	79/64/24	82/67/pc	Spokane	44/36/06	46/32/sh
Dallas	80/64/0	91/66/s	New Orleans	83/66/0	81/69/pc	Tampa	83/70/0	84/68/pc
Daytona Beach	84/67/0	83/63/pc	New York	42/39/01	56/40/sh	Tucson	84/56/0	72/46/s
Denver	75/42/0	83/39/s	Oklahoma City	81/58/0	92/63/s	Washington	64/49/0	65/49/pc



WEATHER HISTORY

On this date in 1989, thunderstorms produced severe weather from southern Arkansas and northern Louisiana to southern Georgia, and from northern South Carolina to the Upper Ohio Valley during the day and evening. Thunderstorms spawned a tornado at Evergreen, Ala.

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Lake City Reporter

INTERNATIONAL

CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today
Acapulco	81/72/0	88/72/c	La Paz	50/41/0	56/39/sh	Rio	86/81/0	84/70/sh
Amsterdam	48/41/0	48/37/c	Lima	75/68/0	77/69/c	Rome	66/43/0	65/51/pc
Athens	na/na/na	66/49/s	London	52/46/0	54/39/pc	St. Thomas VI	84/78/0	81/75/pc
Auckland	59/57/0	71/62/c	Madrid	68/52/0	73/46/pc	San Juan PR	85/76/05	83/74/pc
Beijing	50/41/0	47/37/c	Mexico City	73/50/0	71/46/t	Santiago	88/54/0	87/59/s
Berlin	46/36/0	45/29/pc	Montreal	45/32/0	44/31/c	Seoul	45/36/0	47/40/pc
Buenos Aires	81/68/0	79/59/pc	Moscow	34/32/0	37/22/sn	Singapore	82/73/0	86/79/t
Cairo	75/57/0	86/63/0	Nairobi	86/63/0	83/63/sh	Sydney	72/62/0	79/64/pc
Geneva	66/41/0	60/36/pc	Nassau	84/70/0	81/70/pc	Tel Aviv	66/52/0	75/58/sh
Havana	88/64/0	89/67/t	New Delhi	93/77/0	98/74/pc	Tokyo	64/48/0	52/40/pc
Helsinki	34/27/0	33/14/c	Oslo	43/36/0	42/28/c	Toronto	43/36/0	47/36/sh
Hong Kong	75/68/0	73/64/c	Panama	90/79/0	88/74/t	Vienna	55/39/0	51/35/pc
Kingston	88/79/0	84/77/t	Paris	54/45/0	55/35/s	Warsaw	41/34/0	38/29/rs

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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Story ideas?

Contact
Tim Kirby
 Sports Editor
 754-0421
 tkirby@lakecityreporter.com

Sunday, April 1, 2012

www.lakecityreporter.com

Section B

BRIEFS

CHS FOOTBALL

Q-back club meeting April 9

The Columbia County Quarterback Club will meet at 6 p.m. April 9. The meeting will be at the Richardson Community Center. All are welcome to attend.

For details, call club president Joe Martino at 984-0452.

YOUTH BASEBALL

Fort White 15U registration

Fort White Babe Ruth Baseball has registration for 15-under league play from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, and 4-7 p.m. April 10. Cost is \$75.

For details, call Millissa Blakley at 365-4133.

GOLF

Tebow Foundation Classic April 14

The Tim Tebow Foundation Celebrity Golf Classic is April 14 at the Stadium Course at Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra. The tournament is a fundraiser for the Tebow Foundation, and many personalities from sports and entertainment are participating.

There will be a set-up for autographs.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for ages 18 and younger. Parking is \$5. Tickets may be purchased through Ticketmaster or timtebowfoundation.org.

■ From staff reports

GAMES

Monday

■ Columbia High tennis in District 5-3A tournament at Jonesville Tennis Center in Gainesville, 9 a.m.

■ Columbia High baseball at Burbank Nets Yulee Invitational tournament, 1 p.m.

■ Fort White High baseball at Yulee tournament, 7 p.m.

Tuesday

■ Columbia High tennis in District 5-3A tournament at Jonesville Tennis Center in Gainesville, TBD

■ Fort White High baseball vs. Oak Hall School, 7 p.m.

■ Columbia High baseball at Burbank Nets Yulee Invitational tournament, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

■ Columbia High weightlifting in sectional meet at St. Augustine High, noon

■ Columbia High baseball at Burbank Nets Yulee Invitational tournament, 4 p.m.

Thursday

■ Fort White High weightlifting in sectional meet at Baker County High, 10 a.m.

■ Columbia High softball at Kissimmee Classic tournament, TBA

Friday

■ Columbia High softball at Kissimmee Classic tournament, TBA

Saturday

■ Columbia High softball at Kissimmee Classic tournament, TBA

Shutout win, shutout district



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Columbia High's Jason Plyn (22) swings at a pitch while playing against Robert E. Lee High on Thursday.

Tigers blank Wolfson, 14-0

By BRANDON FINLEY

bfinley@lakecityreporter.com

Columbia High finished off its district run with an undefeated 5-0 record after knocking off visiting Wolfson High in a 14-0 mercy-rule win on Friday.

Kellan Bailey wrapped the district season with his sixth win of the year. The senior ace is undefeated for the year.

Bailey allowed two hits in only four innings of work while striking out four batters to pick up the win.

Jason Plyn closed out the game with three-consecutive strikeouts to send the

Wolfpack home with the mercy-rule defeat.

But the pitching wasn't the only thing working for the Tigers as the bats have started to pick up late in the season.

After a leadoff double to start the game, Blaine Courson was moved over after Bailey walked and Levi Hollingsworth grounded out.

The Tigers attempted a double-steal sending Bailey from first and Courson to home to score their first run and take a 1-0 lead in the bottom half of the first inning.

Bailey took home off an

error and the Tigers had a 2-0 lead after the first inning.

After a scoreless third inning, the Tigers didn't let off the brakes.

Trey Lee started out the onslaught with a ground ball to score Plyn and Ryan Thomas. Dalton Mauldin followed with a hit to score Andrew Nettles and Lee for a 6-0 lead.

The Tigers kept it coming with a triple by Courson to score Mauldin and John Fulton for a 8-0 lead.

In the bottom of the fourth, Hollingsworth took home off a wild pitch for a 9-0 lead and Nettles bat-

ted in Caleb Hill to bring out the mercy-rule at 10-0. The Tigers weren't done, however, as four more runs would come across.

Lee drove in his third run of the game by bringing in Nettle and Courson picked up his third RBI by scoring Lee to give the Tigers a 12-0 lead.

The scoring came to a conclusion on Andrew Johnson's hit to score Courson and Alan Espenship.

"We were beating teams earlier in the year that we were supposed to beat, but we weren't hitting the baseball," Columbia coach J.T.

Clark said. "Now, we're hitting. One through six in our lineup have all hit with a lot of success. Bailey is still doing his job and we figured we'd get him out of there early and give Plyn a chance. He came in and now we have two closers that we can trust. He throws the ball with great velocity down in the zone."

Columbia has three games next week in the Burbank Nets Yulee Invitational beginning against University Christian at 1 p.m. on Monday. The Tigers face Gainesville at 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Yulee at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

Kentucky off to title game

Kansas takes down Ohio State, will meet UK.

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Kentucky wound up right where it expected to be all along.

Even if it took a little work to get there.

Anthony Davis and top-seeded Kentucky will play for the national title Monday night after finally putting away pesky Louisville 69-61 in the Final Four on Saturday night.

It will be Kentucky's first appearance in the title game since winning a seventh NCAA crown back in 1998 and gives coach John Calipari another shot at the title that has eluded him. The Wildcats (37-2) will face Kansas for the national title on Monday.

Asthefinalsecondsticked down, Davis screamed at the crowd and pointed to

the court as if to say, "This is our house!"

Yes, yes it is. With Davis, everybody's player of the year, leading a star-studded roster, Kentucky was the top seed in the tournament and the heavy favorite to cut down the nets when the whole tournament was done.

And coach John Calipari wouldn't let his young players consider anything else, saying repeatedly this was "just another game."

But playing in-state rival Louisville (30-10) is never just that, and the Cardinals made Kentucky work deep into the second half to grind this victory out.

Louisville outrebounded Kentucky 40-33, including a whopping 19-6 advantage on the offensive glass — the sole reason the Cardinals were able to make a game of this.

"They never stopped playing," Calipari said. "They got up into our bodies, created turnovers and

gave themselves a chance to win."

Kansas 64, Ohio State 62

NEW ORLEANS — Tyshawn Taylor made two big free throws and Thomas Robinson finished with 19 points and eight rebounds Saturday night to rally the Jayhawks past Ohio State 64-62 in the Final Four.

Kansas rallied from 13 points down to complete another comeback in a game the Jayhawks led for a grand total of 3:48 — two of those minutes coming when the score was 2-0.

Elijah Johnson, whose layup won an equally dicey game against Purdue in the regional semifinals, made one with 1:12 left to put the Jayhawks up 62-59 — their biggest lead of the game.

Kansas (32-6) plays Kentucky in the final Monday.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky forward Terrence Jones (3) slam dunks over Louisville guard/forward Wayne Blackshear (25) during the second half of an NCAA Final Four semifinal college basketball tournament game Saturday in New Orleans.

Lady Tigers battle back to beat CCA

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

Columbia High picked up another come-from-behind victory as the Lady Tigers rallied from two down to beat Calvary Christian Academy on Friday.

The Lady Tigers were trailing going into the third inning when back-to-back

home runs put Columbia in the lead for good.

Kayli Kvistad started the damage when she hit a two-run bomb which also scored Stephanie Pilkington.

Kvistad's home run gives her eight on the year and she's only three away from matching the school's home run record of 11 that she set as a freshman.

After Kvistad's home run, Hollianne Dohrn followed up with another homer to give Columbia a 3-0 lead.

The Lady Tigers added one more run in the bottom of the third when Holly Boris knocked in Michaela Burton, who had reached on a walk earlier in the inning.

The Lady Tigers kept

things going in the bottom of the fourth and extended their lead to 6-2. Kvistad and Dohrn again crossed home plate, but this time it was on an RBI-hit from Payton Sund.

"The biggest thing is that this is two in a row that we've come from behind to beat good teams," Columbia head coach Jimmy Williams said. "They're doing a good job of keeping the focus and just believing that there's not anything that's going to happen to keep them from winning the game."

Williams said that Calvary Christian Academy is one of the best teams that the Lady Tigers have played all year — something that makes the win that much more impressive.

"Behind Atlantic Coast, that's probably the best team we've played," Williams said. "They had really, really good pitching."

Columbia's pitching hasn't been bad either.

Taylor Douglass (8-2) picked up the win after coming in for Erin Anderson in the second inning.

Douglass went five innings, allowed five hits, struck out five batters and walked three more.

The Lady Tigers begin the Kissimmee Klassic Tournament on Thursday.

After spring break, the Lady Tigers travel to Madison County High at 7 p.m. on April 10.

Indians baseball

Fort White High used 12 hits to pick up a mercy-rule victory when the Indians beat Interlachen High,



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Columbia High's Stephanie Pilkington (9) slices through a pitch while playing against Gainesville on March 16.



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Fort White's Brady Wilkinson (6) looks for a ruling after tagging Bradford's Devin Paulk (8) during a game on March 13.

10-0, on Friday in Fort White.

Nick Butler had 3 RBIs to lead the Indians to victory and also had two hits in the contest.

Brandon Myers and Trace Wilkinson also had two hits in the contest.

Six other Indians had hits in the game including Bryce Beach, Taylor Morgan, Brady Wilkinson, Kody Moniz, Kevin Dupree, and Lane Pendergrast.

Moniz and Pendergrast each scored two runs in the game.

Myers picked up the win after going the full six innings for the Indians. He allowed four hits, struck out two batters and walked two more.

The win was Myers' first of the year.

Fort White moves to 11-9 with the victory and stands at 5-5 in district play.

The Indians will travel to Yulee for the Burbank Nets Yulee Invitational beginning on Monday.

Fort White opens with Eagle's View at 7 p.m. on Monday.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this March 6 file photo, New York Knicks' Jeremy Lin reacts after being fouled during an NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks in Dallas. Lin is having left knee surgery and will miss six weeks, likely ending his amazing breakthrough season. The team said Saturday the point guard had an MRI exam this week that revealed a small, chronic meniscus tear.

Lin needs knee surgery, likely done for season

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jeremy Lin will have left knee surgery and will miss six weeks, likely ending his amazing breakthrough season.

The New York Knicks said Saturday their point guard had an MRI exam this week that revealed a small, chronic meniscus tear.

With the regular season ending April 26, the biggest story in basketball this season is probably done regardless of whether the Knicks make the playoffs.

He was barely holding

on to a place in the NBA back in February. Now, after the back-to-back Sports Illustrated covers and popularity around the world, he has to go back to the bench when he wants to play most.

"If this was done very early in the year, obviously ... I don't know where my career would be. I could be, would be definitely without a job and probably fighting for a summer league spot," Lin said. "But having said that, this happening now hurts just as much, because all the players, we really put our heart and souls into the team and into season, and to not be there when it real-

ly matters most is hard."

The Knicks will continue to turn to Baron Davis in place of Lin, the undrafted Harvard alum who became the starter in February and turned in a series of brilliant performances, kicking off a phenomenon that was called Linsanity.

Lin is averaging 14.1 points and 6.1 assists, but the numbers only tell a small part of the story.

The Knicks were under .500 and looking like a mess when Lin was given a chance to play extended minutes at point guard for then-coach Mike D'Antoni on Feb. 4 against New Jersey.

Lin, the first American-born player of Taiwanese or Chinese descent to play in the NBA, scored 25 points with seven assists in that New York victory, was inserted into the starting lineup two days later against Utah, and took the Knicks on a seven-game winning streak that gained world-wide attention.

Lin left the Knicks' easy victory over Detroit last Saturday, saying afterward he could have returned for the fourth quarter if the game had been close. He took part in shootaround before their game Monday and believed he could deal with the pain.

Take Charge Indy pulls off Florida Derby upset

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

HALLANDALE BEACH — Calvin Borel and Patrick Byrne had the same thought entering the Florida Derby. If Take Charge Indy could get out in front with a lead, good things were going to happen.

How right they were.

Take Charge Indy earned his chance at the Kentucky Derby on Saturday, winning the \$1 million Grade 1 Florida Derby at a speed-favoring Gulfstream Park — and knocking off consensus Triple Crown favorite Union Rags to get there. Borel and Take Charge Indy led nearly every step of the way, holding off long-shot Reveron to win what traditionally is one of the top prep races entering the Run for the Roses.

"I'm still in shock over winning the race," owner Chuck Sandford said. "We knew we had a nice, top-bred colt who just screams 'racehorse.' But someday, he's just got to get out and do it."

That day was Saturday.

Sent off at nearly 8-1 odds, Take Charge Indy went to the front right away, saved space with Borel — remember, he's not called "Bo-Rail" for nothing — keeping the colt close to the inside, and had more than enough to hold off a field of seven challengers in the stretch.

Borel has been aboard three of the last five Kentucky Derby winners. He sees no reason why he can't go 4-for-6.

"It's not how far he'll go," Borel said. "It's how fast he can go, and just keep going. I think he can go a lot faster than this."

Take Charge Indy finished the 1 1/8 miles in 1:48.79, returning \$17.40, \$9 and \$3.60. Reveron paid \$18.40 and \$4, while Union Rags — the 2-5 favorite, who was down to 1-9 on the

toteboards not long before post time — paid \$2.10.

"Just bad luck. ... Nobody paid attention to the winner, they just let him go," said Julien Leparoux, Union Rags' jockey. "I guess they just target the favorite."

Union Rags reared up after his van ride to Gulfstream on Saturday, then had a shoe issue in the paddock just before heading onto the track. Trainer Michael Matz said that didn't affect his horse's showing.

And while Union Rags likely took a blow to his status as Triple Crown favorite, Matz — who won both the Florida Derby and Kentucky Derby with Barbaro in 2006 — still is hopeful he has a horse that can be at its best when it gets to Churchill Downs.

"If he comes out well out of this race, we'll be at the Derby," Matz said.

Union Rags had won four of his five career starts coming in, a defeat by a head in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile the only blemish on his record before now. Meanwhile, Take Charge Indy had just one career win before Saturday, and that was in a \$23,000 maiden race last July.

Still, his connections had plenty of confidence. Take Charge Indy had already raced in three graded stakes — two of them Grade 1's — and finished second to El Padrino when Borel got his first shot aboard the colt at Gulfstream in an allowance race on Jan. 29.

"We knew he liked the racetrack," Byrne said. "We're not surprised."

Sandford, who got into the horse game as an owner a little over two years ago, already had reservations for his family to be at this year's Kentucky Derby, the only question entering Saturday being if Take Charge Indy would join them.

Asked and answered.

Davis, Haith win AP player, coach awards

By JIM O'CONNELL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Anthony Davis was busier than any of the other players in the Final Four.

The Kentucky freshman had to make the circuit of Player of the Year presentations Friday, not that he was complaining.

"There were a lot of awards yesterday and today," Davis said with a big smile. "It's a great feeling, especially as a freshman. I've been working hard and now it's rewarding."

Davis became the first Kentucky player and second freshman to be selected *The Associated Press* Player of the Year. He picked up his latest trophy, along with Coach of the Year Frank Haith of Missouri.

"This is great to be here and hopefully we can win the national championship and accomplish our goal," he said. "Even if we come up short we still had a great season."

The 6-foot-10 Davis sure did.

He averaged 14.3 points — on a team with six double-figure scorers — 10.0 rebounds and 4.6 blocks while shooting 64.2 percent from the field. His block total is a school record and third-best ever for a freshman. He was the Southeastern Conference's Player, Freshman and Defensive Player of the Year.

"My expectations were nothing like this; I wasn't planning on any awards," he said of how he approached his first — and what many project will be his only — season in college basketball. "I have to thank my teammates for those lob passes for easy baskets and for them getting beat off the dribble for all those blocked shots. Without them there



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky forward Anthony Davis is presented his award as the *Associated Press* NCAA college basketball player of the year on Friday in New Orleans, La.

are no awards."

No Kentucky player had won the award which started in 1961, and the only other freshman to win it was Kevin Durant of Texas in 2007.

"I'm surprised because you've had a lot of great players from Kentucky," Davis said. "Hopefully I'm starting something, and a lot of Kentucky players will win this award."

Davis received 43 votes from the 65-member national media panel that selects

the weekly Top 25. Balloting was done before the NCAA tournament.

Thomas Robinson of Kansas was second with 20 votes, and Draymond Green of Michigan State received the other two votes.

Jimmer Fredette of BYU won the award last season.

Haith's first season at Missouri got off to a rough start and ended with a second-round thud in the NCAA tournament. In between his unpopular selection to replace Mike

Anderson at Missouri and the Tigers' stunning loss to 15th-seeded Norfolk State, things went very well.

Missouri won 30 games and the Big 12 tournament and was ranked in the *AP* poll the entire season, reaching second for one week and was third in the final poll.

Haith received 21 votes from the media panel, while John Calipari of Kentucky and Tom Izzo of Michigan State tied for second with 10 votes each. The voting

was done before the NCAA tournament.

Unlike Davis, Haith didn't have a practice to rush to Friday.

"It's good to see your peers at something like the Final Four, but the disappointment of your season being over is still there," Haith said. "Still, I can't tell you how honored and humbled I am with all the recognition."

Haith left Miami after seven seasons to take over the program at Missouri.

"My landing in Columbia wasn't greeted with a lot of yeas and congratulations, but I wasn't disappointed, rather encouraged because that showed me passion. And I wanted that, because that kind of passion means you have a chance to be successful," he said.

Haith's coaching style was very different from Anderson's uptempo pressure way and that meant change, something a lot of college players don't take to easily.

"Mike Anderson left me some pretty good players," Haith said. "They bought into change, and that's not always easy when you have a system in place they want. I give the players a lot of credit for buying in. When the players buy in you have a chance to be successful."

Haith, who joined Norm Stewart in 1994 as the only Missouri coaches to win the award, said it was early in the season when he knew the players had bought in.

"We were in Kansas City for the CBE Classic, and we beat Cal and Notre Dame," Haith said. "We changed things, and I think you have to have success to make change. We saw success, and those guys started to buy in. And it was all because of the leadership on the team."

Haith was hired at Missouri with the knowledge the program he was leaving was under NCAA investigation for possible rules violations.

"I think we, the Mizzou Nation and my family, all will be happy when it's all over with, but we can't control the NCAA and the time frame in which they work," he said.

He was asked if he was confident the investigation would come up empty.

"Absolutely," he said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tim Tebow holds his first news conference with the New York Jets, on Monday in Florham Park, N.J. Tebow, who led the Denver Broncos to the playoffs last year, was acquired in a trade with Denver and will serve as the backup quarterback to Mark Sanchez.

Jets' Tebow unsure if he'll ever be starting QB

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

NEW YORK — If Tim Tebow has his sights set on Mark Sanchez's job, the New York Jets backup quarterback is keeping it to himself.

Tebow told 1050 ESPN Radio on Friday that he's "not sure" if he'll ever be a starting quarterback again, and that thought doesn't even concern him right now.

"I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds my future," Tebow said, referring to his strong Christian faith. "That's something that has always given me peace and comfort. That's why I don't have to worry about the future. I can just worry about today and worry about becoming better as a football player and a person."

Tebow was acquired from Denver in a trade on March 21 and introduced Monday at a news conference that included over 200 media. He said his only plan is to help his new team win games and "be the best quarterback, best teammate, best football player I can be and just be someone that adds something to that locker room."

Coach Rex Ryan and general manager Mike Tannenbaum have repeatedly said Sanchez is the unquestioned starter, with Tebow serving as the backup but having a significant role in the offense. Tebow has chosen his words carefully since arriving in New York, staying away from anything that could stir controversy.

He compared this situation to when he was a

freshman at the University of Florida and backed up Chris Leak while seeing occasional snaps.

"Ultimately, it ended with a lot of success," Tebow said, "us winning a national championship."

Tebow said he has met several of his new Jets teammates, including Bart Scott, Matt Slason and D'Brickshaw Ferguson, and has spoken to Sanchez on the phone. He even defended Antonio Cromartie, who said on Twitter that he was against the trade for Tebow before it was made.

"It's great because he had his quarterback's back," Tebow said. "That's what you want. You want guys that are supporting your quarterback. I think that's great, and I commend him for doing that."

Payton, the Saints and GM appeal NFL suspensions

By BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Saints coach Sean Payton is appealing his season-long suspension from the NFL for his role in New Orleans' bounty system. And he's not the only one looking for a little relief from the penalties handed down by Commissioner Roger Goodell. General manager Mickey Loomis, assistant coach Joe Vitt and the Saints organization each decided to appeal on Friday.

Payton will also ask

Goodell for guidance on the parameters of the suspension, which runs through next year's Super Bowl, a person familiar with the situation told *The Associated Press*, speaking on condition of anonymity because the league and the Saints did not announce Payton's plan to appeal.

Saints spokesman Greg Benschel did confirm that Loomis was appealing his eight-game suspension and, separately, the team would challenge its \$500,000 fine and loss of second-round draft picks

this year and in 2013.

Vitt, suspended for six games, is doing the same. David Cornwell, representing Vitt as head of the NFL Coaches Association, confirmed the decision in an email to the *AP*.

Goodell last week announced the suspension of Payton, starting Sunday, for his role in connection with New Orleans' bounty system, which offered improper cash bonuses for big hits that either knocked opponents out of games or left them needing help off of the field.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida's Erving Walker sits in the locker room following his team's 72-68 loss to Louisville in an NCAA tournament West Regional final college basketball game on March 24 in Phoenix. Walker was arrested for stealing a taco on Friday.

Walker charged with stealing taco

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — Florida guard Erving Walker has been charged with stealing a taco and running from police.

Walker, who ranks first in school history in assists, was arrested and given a notice to appear in

court early Friday. He was charged with petty theft and resisting an officer without violence, both misdemeanors. He was not taken to jail.

Gainesville Police say Walker ordered a \$3 taco from a street vendor, got the food and ran away without paying. When a police officer caught up with him

and told him stop, Walker kept going, according to the police report.

When officers finally caught Walker with help from "several marked patrol cars," he told them he was "just playing around," the report said.

Walker is scheduled to appear in court April 19.

Reichert looks for third state trip

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

Columbia High's Chrissie Reichert has made back-to-back trips to the state finals. As a senior, she looks to make it for a third time in her Lady Tiger career.

Reichert has been remarkable in district play as a senior going undefeated in district play.

The senior's scores for the year are:

■ Reichert d. Gabby Wartels (Vanguard), 8-3;

■ Reichert d. Megan Dixon (Forest), 8-4;

■ Reichert d. Hanna Helmerson (Gainesville), 8-1;

■ Reichert d. Amber Gamble (Lecanto), 8-0;

■ Reichert d. Sarah Labrador (Citrus), 8-1;

■ Reichert d. Dixon, 8-4.

Despite Reichert's undefeated district record, she will go into the District 5-3A tournament as the No. 2 seed due to a technicality.

West Port High wouldn't schedule Columbia according to Lady Tigers head coach Tabatha McMahon.

"They wouldn't play us and they were both undefeated," McMahon said. "Unfortunately, they go by USTA state rankings and Chrissie doesn't play USTA, so she doesn't have a rank."

Still, McMahon feels that Reichert has the game of the district's No. 1 player



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Columbia High's Chrissie Reichert returns a shot during a match played this season in Lake City. Reichert looks to advance to the State 3A tournament for the third time when the district tournament begins on Monday.

and will shine when the tournament begins on Monday.

"She's excellent," McMahon said. "She's just so consistent. She has a nice base shot and she's become more aggressive charging the net. She's not afraid to concentrate and play to win instead of playing not to lose. This really is her year to shine. I think she's got it in her to go to

state again for singles and possibly even doubles."

Reichert pairs with Jessie Bates in double's competition and the team is 4-2 together for the season. Both losses came against Forest with Megan Dixon and Taylor Dixon defeating the duo.

Even if Reichert doesn't make it in doubles, McMahon said she should be the favorite to win the

No. 1 singles.

But what makes Reichert so dangerous?

"It's her intelligence," she said. "She doesn't just go out there and try to hit the ball hard. She knows there is more to the game than that. She has great placement and knows to play to her opponent's weakness. It's a nice feeling to hit it hard, but sometimes you have to think. She's more

than just a baseline player. She understands that part of the game."

Reichert will open the tournament against Citrus High's Labrador, who she defeated on March 23.

Bates will represent the Lady Tigers as the No. 2, Heather Benson will be the No. 3, Heather Rountree will be the No. 4 and the No. 5 is Haley Wheeler.



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Columbia High's Heather Rountree hits a return shot in a match played earlier this season at Columbia High.

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Section C

IBM revives Augusta membership debate

DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

As a club that prides itself on tradition, Augusta National has unwittingly wound up in the middle of a membership debate it thought it was done with nearly a decade ago.

Just seven days before the Masters, no less.

The last four chief executives of IBM — a longtime corporate sponsor of the Masters — have been members of the exclusive golf club in Augusta, Ga. The latest CEO of the computer giant happens to be a woman. Virginia Rometty was appointed earlier this year.

One problem — a woman has never worn a member's green jacket since Augusta National opened in 1933.

"I think they're both in a bind," Martha Burk said Thursday evening.

Burk spearheaded a campaign 10 years ago for the club to admit a female member, applying pressure on just about everyone connected with the club and with the Masters, the major championship that garners the highest TV ratings. She demanded that four companies drop their television sponsorship because of discrimination. She lobbied PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem not to recognize the Masters as part of the tour schedule.

But it didn't work. Hootie Johnson, chairman of the club back then, said Augusta might one day have a female member, but it would be on the club's timetable, and "not at the point of a bayonet." The protest fizzled in a parking lot down the street during the third round of the 2003 tournament.

Now it's back, and this time it has a face — Rometty, a 31-year veteran of IBM who has been ranked among the "50 Most Powerful Women in Business" by Fortune magazine the last seven years. Rometty was No. 7 last year.

What's the next step? Augusta National declined to comment, keeping with its policy of not discussing membership issues. IBM has not commented publicly, and did not return a phone call Thursday night.

"IBM is in a bigger bind than the club," Burk said. "The club trashed their image years ago. IBM is a corporation. They ought to care about the brand, and they ought to care about what people think. And if they're not careful, they might undermine their new CEO."

Augusta has a new chairman in Billy Payne, who ran the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. When he replaced Johnson as chairman of the club and of the Masters tournament in 2006, he said there was "no specific timetable" for admitting women.

The question was raised at the 2007 and 2010 Masters. Both times, Payne said membership issues were private.

Rometty succeeds Sam Palmisano at IBM, which runs the Masters' website from the bottom floor of the media center. According to a list published by USA Today in 2002, the previous three CEOs also were members — Louis Gertsner, John Akers and John Open.

As the corporate sponsors become the target, Johnson wound up doing away with TV sponsorship for two years at the Masters to keep the corporate partners — IBM, Coca-Cola and Citigroup — out of the fray.

Only IBM returned as a TV

DEBATE continued on 6C

Bell first came up with the idea at age 11 in her sixth grade science class at Suwannee Middle School. The teacher, Melissa Brinson, told her students to invent something that solved a common problem.

Dreams of Success



Christen Bell

Inventor Christen Wooley hopes to get her specialized backpack 'on the shelf' at Walmart.

By HANNAH O. BROWN
hbrown@lakecityreporter.com

Live Oak native Christen Bell, formerly Christen Wooley, invented a specialized backpack in her sixth grade science class that became so popular, it carried her all the way to Chicago where she made a guest appearance on Oprah.

Bell is now 24, married and working as a Pre-Kindergarten teacher in Panama City, but her invention and the company that was created in its wake continues to grow and expand.

Bell has recently applied to a Walmart sponsored competition called Get it on the Shelf, in which Americans vote online, at www.getontheshelf.com, to pick an invention that they would like to see offered in a Walmart near them.

Bell's business, called Vestpakz, LLC, sells a canvas vest-bookbag hybrid in a variety of sizes and colors.

Bell first came up with the idea at age 11 in her sixth grade science class at Suwannee Middle School. The teacher, Melissa Brinson, told her students to invent something that solved a common problem. Bell decided to tackle the physical discomfort of carrying 40 pounds of books from class to class in a traditional spine-straining backpack.

Her solution, she said, was to distribute the weight around the body. The final product was a full-body vest with zippered pockets on the front and back.

"The first one was hilarious," Bell said. Bell said she sewed it out of scrap materials from



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Michael Wooley, the father of Live Oak inventor Christen Bell, displays Vestpakz, a specialized backpack/vest hybrid that distributes weight more evenly throughout the wearer's shoulders. 'It's kind of neat to watch something start from a science project and turn into a small business that can potentially grow into something larger,' he said.

her mother's sewing collection.

Brinson, Bell said, saw potential in the invention and entered it into the Houghton-Mifflin National Science Convention Competition.

"We didn't think it would win, we were really surprised," Bell said.

Bell's creation won and Bell and her family received an all expense paid trip to Boston for an invention convention. Bell

was also given a brand new lime green iMac computer, a trendy technological marvel at the time.

After this initial rise into glory as an inventor, a string of successes followed.

Bell won the Disney Dreamers and Doers award, an award given to students who demonstrate excellence in their schools and communities. She later made the semi-

finals in a competition sponsored by the United Inventors Association.

It was around this time that Bell and her family started the patent process.

"There were so many things I had to do that most kids would never dream of doing," Bell said.

Bell remembers having to leave school early to go to

SUCCESS continued on 2C

Apple assembly line gets pay raise, fewer hours

By PETER SVENSSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chinese workers who often spend more than 60 hours per week assembling iPhones and iPads will have their overtime hours curbed and their pay increased after a labor auditor hired by Apple Inc. inspected their factories.

The Fair Labor Association says Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., the Taiwanese company that runs the factories in China, is committing to a reduction of weekly work time to 49 hours, the legal Chinese maximum.

That limit is routinely ignored in factories throughout China. Aret van Heerden, the CEO of the FLA, said Hon Hai, also known as Foxconn, is the first company to commit to following



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple CEO Tim Cook, left, visits the iPhone production line at the newly-built manufacturing facility Foxconn Zhengzhou Technology Park, which employs 120,000 people, on Wednesday.

the legal standard.

Apple's and FLA's own guidelines call for work weeks of 60

hours or less.

Foxconn's moves are likely to have an impact across the

global technology industry. The company employs 1.2 million workers in China to assemble products not just for Apple, but for Microsoft Corp., Hewlett-Packard Co. and other pillars of U.S. technology.

Foxconn's factories are the last step in the process of manufacturing iPhones and other Apple devices, most of which have hundreds of components. Research firm IHS iSuppli estimates that Apple pays \$8 for the assembly of a 16-gigabyte iPhone 4S and \$188 for its components. It sells the phone wholesale for about \$600 to phone companies, which then subsidize it to be able to sell it for \$200 with a two-year service contract.

Ricardo Ernst, a professor

APPLE continued on 6C

Ask the Fool

Book 'Em

Q What's a company's book value? — *K.G., Ocala, Fla.*

A Book value is an accounting concept, reflecting a company's value according to its balance sheet. To get it, you start with the total assets and then subtract intangible assets (such as goodwill, patents and trademarks) and total liabilities.

Book value is used to approximate a company's intrinsic value, as most assets, such as factories and land, were capital-intensive and appeared on the balance sheet. But as America's economy is becoming more service-oriented, book value has become less relevant for investors.

Consider Amazon.com (a Fool newsletter recommendation). Its book value was recently about \$7.8 billion, far from its \$84 billion market value. Much of Amazon's value stems from assets and competitive advantages that don't register significantly on the balance sheet: intellectual property, employees, a strong brand and market share.

As another example, imagine a firm that owns a lot of land and many buildings. Over the years, the value of buildings on the balance sheet is depreciated, eventually to zero. But these assets are rarely worthless and can even appreciate in value over time. Such a company might actually be worth much more than its book value.

With many companies, you'd do well to largely ignore book value.

Q How are stockbrokers paid? — *J.P., Worcester, Mass.*

A They're generally paid by salary, commissions on sales or a mix of both, depending on the company they work for. Those who depend heavily on commissions can end up actively (and needlessly) generating trades in your account. That's called "churning," and it can cost you. We'd rather see brokers paid flat salaries, with bonuses for results that outperform the market averages.

Learn more at sec.gov/investor/brokers.htm and broker.fool.com.

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



Fool's School

CEO Pay Defies Gravity

"What goes up must come down." Yet CEO pay doesn't appear to be subject to the same laws of physics that govern the rest of the rational world.

In fiscal 2010, total realized compensation of CEOs in the S&P 500 rose by a median 36.5 percent. GMI, the leading independent provider of corporate governance ratings and research, has released its ninth annual CEO Pay Survey for 2011, noting also that extra perks awarded to S&P 500 leaders rose 11 percent in 2010.

Interestingly, of the 10 highest-paid CEOs of 2010 (who received tens or hundreds of millions of dollars apiece), four were actually retired or terminated CEOs who received golden exit packages.

So much for pay that commensurate with performance. These executives enjoyed a huge payout even though they won't offer these companies or their shareholders much in the way of future performance.

As an example, General Growth Properties' CEO Adam Metz's \$66.7 million compensation put him at

No. 6 on the list. The company spent most of 2010 in bankruptcy, but at least somebody did well, right?

This increase in CEO pay at least partially relates to the stock market's 15 percent gain in 2010, but investors bidding up stocks over a short period doesn't reflect true long-term corporate performance at specific companies. GMI pointed out that CEO pay among companies in the Russell 3000 index (that reflects the overall stock market) rose 27 percent in 2010. Clearly, CEOs tend to come out way ahead of everybody else.

Fortunately, we shareholders have ways to try to get the message across that CEO pay disconnects are no longer OK. We can use our proxy ballots to vote against companies' CEO pay policies, and also to withhold votes from the compensation committees' directors who craft outrageous pay packages (and pen employment agreements that ensure ample pay for failure through golden parachutes).

When you get proxy ballots in the mail for the companies you're invested in, let management know that CEO pay disconnected from performance (or reason) is no longer business as usual.

My Dumbest Investment

Healthy Lessons

One of my dumbest investments was a health care company that ended up trading for close to a dollar per share. I learned several lessons: (1) Beware of companies with only one hit product; (2) Beware especially of bullish CEOs projecting future profits and hoping for new acquisitions because the one-hit product just isn't happening; (3) Be careful with the health care industry. — *F.E., Singapore*

The Fool Responds: Those are good lessons. The health care industry actually has a lot going for it, because the world's population is growing and getting older and will need more medical attention.

But it's also true that companies with only one product can be particularly risky, as that product can be eclipsed by a competitor's offering. Biotechnology companies can be especially risky, since they spend a lot of time and money developing treatments that might or might not make it to market — and even then they may not sell well.

When it comes to CEOs, they often want to make their company look good. Finding a CEO discussing risks and mistakes is a relatively rare and wonderful thing.

Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Boil it down to 100 words (or less) and send it to TheMotleFool@fool.com My Dumbest Investment. Got one that worked? Submit to My Smartest Investment. If we print yours, you'll win a Fool's cap!

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I trace my roots back to two companies in the 1860s. One was founded by a Swiss pharmacist who developed a nutritious cow's-milk formula for babies whose mothers couldn't breast-feed. The other was the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., founded by two Americans. Over time I gobbled up other companies and became a leader in milk chocolate, bouillon, powdered soups and more. Today I'm a Switzerland-based food giant, raking in billions and recently employing more than 300,000 people worldwide. My brands include Gerber, Dreyer's, Stouffer's, Lean Cuisine, Maggi, Coffee-mate, Carnation, Purina, Friskies, Beneful and KitKat. Who am I? (Answer: Nestle)

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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The Motley Fool Take

Las Vegas Sands Shines On

The Chinese region of Macau has been helping Las Vegas Sands Corp. (NYSE: LVS) and other casino companies multiply their profits. Sands' Macau casino revenue growth dropped some, to 42 percent, in 2011, but its overall prospects seem bright. The company was near bankruptcy three years ago, but now has just initiated a dividend of \$1 per share.

Thriving Asian destinations such as Macau and Singapore contributed most of Sands' revenue, with Macau fourth-quarter casino revenue rising 20 percent over year-ago levels and Singapore 44 percent. Even Las Vegas, which has been fairly stagnant, delivered a 9 percent increase.

Increasing disposable income of urban Chinese people and better tourism facilities are expected to continue nourishing the gambling market in Macau. Sands has almost captured a fifth of Macau's gaming market already, and in April it opens its largest resort development there, Sands Cotai Central. It also plans to build a 4,000-room theme casino in Macau with separate towers for the masses and high rollers. Sands has a distinct edge over its competitors there, as it already owns the land and is merely awaiting the Chinese government's permission to start construction.

Sands also aims to expand further in Singapore and to markets such as Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and India. The stock may be a gamble, but it's a promising one over the long term.

Name That Company

I trace my history to a small dry-goods business in San Francisco in 1853, founded by a Jewish-German immigrant whose name I bear. In 1873, I patented rivets for men's pants and created the planet's first blue jeans. U.S. soldiers in World War II helped popularize my jeans and jackets overseas. Today I'm a top global-branded apparel company.

My brands include the Dockers, Signature and dENIZEN names, and my own. I'm known for fairness to my employees and generosity to my community, and I've won many awards. I rake in close to \$5 billion annually. 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!



US economy grew 3 percent in final quarter of 2011

By **C. S. RUGABER** and **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 3 percent in the final three months of 2011, the best pace in a year and a half. But that growth has likely slowed in the current quarter.

Businesses have been restocking their shelves more slowly and shipping fewer long-lasting manufactured goods. In addition, Europe's debt crisis and weaker growth in Asia have slowed demand for U.S. exports.

Stronger hiring in the first two months of the year probably hasn't offset those weaknesses. That's because Americans' pay has barely kept pace with inflation even as gas prices have spiked. So consumer spending, which drives about 70 percent of economic activity, probably hasn't increased much from the end of last year.

Most economists expect growth to pick up later this year as further hiring lifts the economy.

The Commerce

Department reported no change Thursday in its previous growth estimate for the October-December quarter. The 3 percent annual rate was the strongest since the spring of 2010. Slower growth in exports than previously estimated was offset by stronger business investment.

Still, economists expect growth has probably slowed to 2 percent or less in the current January-March quarter.

A key reason for that is businesses haven't been restocking their shelves as fast as they did at the end of last year. Many had slashed inventories over the summer out of fear that the economy was on the verge of another recession. When that didn't happen, many stepped up restocking. Inventory building was a key driver of growth in the October-December quarter.

Even though businesses are still replenishing their shelves, the pace has likely slowed. That has likely slowed growth this quarter.

Businesses are also investing less in machinery and equipment this year

after a tax credit expired at the end of last year. Orders for durable goods plunged in January. Though orders rebounded in February, that increase didn't offset the entire January decline.

And shipments of core capital goods, a gauge of business investment, grew sluggishly in the three months that ended in February, economists said. That's also likely holding back growth this quarter.

One bright spot for the economy is that hiring has picked up. The economy has added an average of 245,000 jobs per month from December through February. The unemployment rate has fallen by nearly a full percentage point since the summer to 8.3 percent, the lowest level in three years.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the number of people seeking unemployment benefits fell to 359,000 last week, its lowest level in four years. That suggests March was another solid month of hiring.

Stronger hiring should lift consumer spending and growth later this year, many

economists say. For the fourth quarter, consumer spending expanded at an annual rate of 2.1 percent, led by strong gains in car sales.

Business investment rose at a 5.2 percent annual rate.

It was pushed higher by companies rushing to make equipment purchases before investment tax breaks expired at the end of the year. That was nearly double the estimate the government made a month ago.

But this new-found strength was offset by a reduction in the estimate of export growth. U.S. exports grew at an annual rate of 2.7 percent in the fourth quarter, down from an estimate of 4.3 percent a month ago.

- ADVERTISEMENT -

Are You Prepared for Long-term Care Costs?

Like everyone else, you hope to remain physically and financially independent your entire life. And you may well achieve this goal. Nonetheless, the future is not ours to see, so you'll want to prepare yourself for as many contingencies as possible — one of which is the high cost of long-term care.

As you may know, long-term care primarily refers to nursing home expenses, but it also includes services provided in your own home. In either case, though, it could be expensive.

The national average rate for a private room in a nursing home was more than \$87,000 per year in 2011, according to the 2011 MetLife Market Survey of Long-Term Care Costs. The same survey found that the average private-pay hourly rates for home health aides and homemaker companion services were \$21 and \$19, respectively.

With luck, of course, you won't need to worry about these types of expenses. But consider this: People who reach age 65 have a 40% chance of entering a nursing home, according to a study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. And about 10% of those who enter a nursing home will stay there five or more years.

Clearly, if you take no steps to prepare yourself for the potentially devastating costs of an extended nursing home stay, you could be jeopardizing the assets you've worked so hard to accumulate. Even worse, if you run through your money, you might end up creating a financial and emotional burden for your grown children.

Unfortunately, many people assume that a federal or state government program will help them pay for their long-term care expenses.

However, Medicare pays only a small portion of nursing home costs, and to be eligible for Medicaid, you would likely have to divest yourself of most of your financial assets. Consequently, you'll probably need to find another way to pay for long-term care.

Fortunately, there are investment or protection vehicles designed specifically to help you meet long-term care expenses. Your financial advisor can help you pick the option that's most appropriate for your individual situation.

Having the ability to pay for long-term care is obviously important. But other issues may also enter the picture. For example, if you need to enter a nursing home, you may be suffering from a physical or mental disability that might prevent you from handling your own affairs. This impairment could prove disastrous to your finances — which is why you can't afford to take that type of chance. Instead, consult with your legal advisor to determine if you can benefit from a durable power of attorney — a document that lets you delegate your financial decisions to a relative, close friend or anyone else you might choose.

None of us like to think about spending time in a nursing home or needing round-the-clock care in our own homes. However, life is unpredictable. But even if you can't avoid the need for long-term care, you can take steps to help reduce the financial strain it can cause you and your family.

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SUCCESS: Get vests on store shelves

Continued From Page 1C
conferences, to fly to New York for business trips, to be a guest on Oprah.

Bell said she was supposed to be doing homework in her bedroom when she came across Oprah's website and her competition for million dollar ideas. She applied and a few days later, she heard back from Oprah's agents asking Bell to be on the show.

Bell said she was excited at the time but realizes now that she didn't really know

what she was getting into.

"Now I would be really excited because now I know who Oprah is," Bell said.

Bell has grown up since those initial days of fame, but still continues to find creative ways to further her product.

The Walmart competition will announce the top 10 winners of the competition after voting ends Tuesday. The top 10 will move to a second round where they will compete to be one in

three winners who will be given the opportunity to market their product online at Walmart.com and in physical Walmart stores in addition to a hefty cash prize.

If her specialized vest does make it onto the shelves of Walmart, Bell said then she would feel like she had really made it.

"I think it'd be similar to hearing your song on the radio for the first time," she said.



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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Organic pasta maker Annie's shares soar in debut

By ANNE D'INNOENZIO
Associated Press

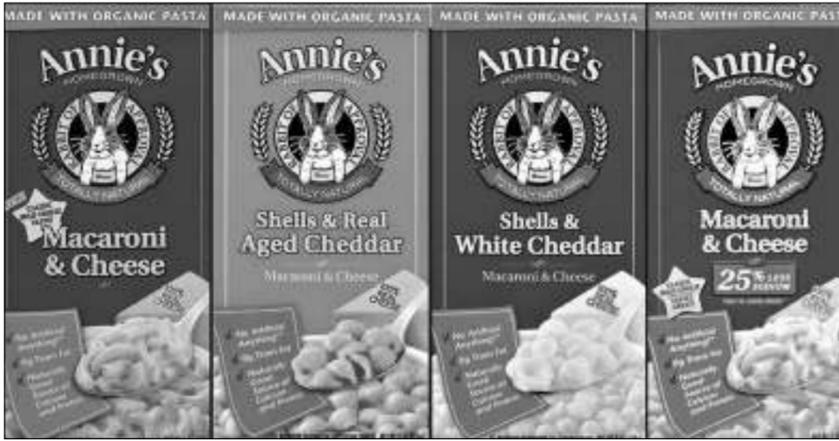
NEW YORK — Investors ate up shares of pasta maker Annie's Inc. Wednesday, which had the biggest opening day gain for an IPO this year. It's the latest sign of the pull of natural and organic foods for consumers.

Shares soared 89 percent to close at \$35.92. Shares of Proto Labs Inc., a Maple Plain, Minn.-based provider of custom parts, soared 81 percent in their first day of trading in late February.

Best known for its signature macaroni and cheese with pasta shaped like rabbits, Annie's now makes about 125 organic and natural food products and is sold in more than 25,000 store locations, almost all in the U.S. Its focus is catering to what it calls "gatekeeper moms," who are willing to spend 25 to 30 percent more for a healthier alternative to staples such as crackers.

"This isn't a surprise. It is a brand name that everyone knows, and the natural organic food sector is pretty hot right now," said Tiffany Ng, a research analyst at IPO investment advisory firm Renaissance Capital.

The U.S. is the world's largest market for foods labeled organic and natural,



ASSOCIATED PRESS

This undated product illustration provided by Haberman shows boxes of Annie's pasta.

Investors are gobbling up shares of pasta maker Annie's Inc., the latest sign of the pull of natural and organic foods for consumers. The initial public offering raised \$95 million, with 5 million shares pricing at \$19 late Tuesday.

with sales exceeding \$40 billion in 2010, Annie's said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The company said that it expects demand for such products to grow faster than demand for food overall.

A tough economy has kept shoppers' appetite for some pricier organic foods in check. In 2004, 13 percent of 5,000 shoppers polled consumed an organic beverage or food at least once every two weeks, according to market researcher NPD

Group. That figure went up to 25 percent in early 2008, but growth has stalled, according to Darren Seifer, NPD's food and beverage industry analyst. He noted that the market for organic products has skewed more toward wealthier households that have combined income of at least \$100,000.

But Annie's momentum hasn't slowed, partly because the company markets products as affordable, according to CEO John M. Foraker. He said that

Annie's products have an average cost of \$2.50.

The Berkeley, Calif., company, which started out in 1989 selling products to regional supermarkets and small natural food stores in New England, now derives 30 percent of its overall sales from big discount chains including Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Target Corp. About 19 percent of its overall sales came from new products launched since 2009.

Annie's has the No. 1 spot in the natural and organic

market in four product lines: Macaroni and cheese, snack crackers, graham crackers and fruit snacks. The started selling pizzas earlier this year.

Revenue rose 22.5 percent to \$117.6 million in the year ended March 2011 compared with the previous year. For the nine months through Dec. 31, revenue rose 21 percent to \$98.3 million. Foraker believes that an improving economy and rising consumer confidence is helping to lift sales, which are growing at a 20 percent rate compared with a five-year average of 15 to 16 percent.

The initial public offering raised \$95 million, with 5 million shares pricing at \$19 late Tuesday. That's above the range of \$16 to \$18 that the company expected on Monday. It originally planned to offer its share at \$14 to \$16. The higher price was a sign of strong demand for its shares.

Since about 80 percent of the shares were sold by company stockholders rather than Annie's, the company expects net proceeds from the IPO of just \$11.6 million, after expenses. Proceeds from shareholder sales don't go to the company. Annie's plans to use most of the money to pay

down debt.

Co-founder Annie Withey, who sold about 25 percent of her stake in the IPO, remains involved in the business. She writes the personal letters printed on the back of the boxes, responds to notes from customers and is still involved in product development. She had a 1.1 percent stake after the IPO.

The IPO market has heated up in 2012, with several technology companies making big splashes, after months of gains in the broader stock market. IPOs that have gone public this year are up about 20 percent, while the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index is up about 12 percent, said Ng.

Nine other companies were scheduled to go public this week. Two other companies making their IPO debut Wednesday — Regional Management Corp. and Vocera Communications — are also having a strong reception. Greenville, S.C.-based lender Regional Management's shares rose 10 percent, while mobile equipment provider Vocera, based in San Jose, Calif., jumped 31 percent.

Credit Suisse and JPMorgan managed the IPO for Annie's.

FTC seeks law to shed more light on data brokers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Federal Trade Commission is calling for a new law that would allow people to review the vast amounts of information being collected about them as the Internet, smartphones and other technology make it easier to create digital dossiers of just about anyone's life.

The proposal, outlined in an online privacy report released this week, is an unusually tough one from a consumer protection agency that prefers to coax companies into adopting voluntary principles. It comes a month after the Obama administration issued a proposed "Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights" and urged technology companies, consumer groups and others to work together on developing more safeguards.

As part of a 57-page report that also touched on other topics, the FTC said Congress needs to impose more controls over so-called "data brokers" that profit from the collection and sale of files containing sensitive information that can affect people's ability to get a job or find a place to live. These data brokers range from publicly traded companies such as Acxiom Corp. to a hodgepodge of small, regional services that may only have two or three

employees.

"Consumers are often unaware of the existence of these entities, as well as the purposes for which they collect and use data," Monday's report said.

An investigation by The Associated Press last year found that data brokers often store incorrect or outdated information, including criminal records. In some cases, people are denied jobs because data brokers incorrectly report them as convicted felons. Widespread complaints about inaccurate records triggered a class-action lawsuit that culminated in one database company, HireRight Solutions Inc., to settle the case for \$28.4 million last year.

The FTC is pushing for a law that would let consumers see their files and dispute personal data held by information brokers. It would be similar to current federal laws that guarantee consumers free access to their credit reports once a year.

"We would be happy to engage in a dialogue about what should be included in a law and what shouldn't be," said Jennifer Barrett Glasgow, Acxiom's chief privacy officer. She predicted it could take at least three years to get a law approved.

GE engine faulted for crash

By NIGEL DUARA

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — An Oregon jury ruled Tuesday that a problem with an engine was responsible for the 2008 crash of a helicopter that killed nine firefighters during a wildfire in Northern California.

The jury in Portland reached its verdict after a pilot who survived and the widow of one who was killed sued General Electric for \$177 million.

The plaintiffs argued the company knew the engines it made for the Sikorsky S-61N helicopter had a design flaw making the equipment unsafe.

GE countered that the helicopter crashed because it was carrying too much weight when it took off after picking up a firefighting crew battling the Iron 44 wildfire in Shasta-Trinity National Forest near Weaverville, Calif.

"They're heroes," plaintiffs' attorney Greg Anderson said of the pilots, William Coultas and Roark Schwanenberg. "They saved as many people as they could. They have been pilloried before this."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Aug. 10, 2008, file photo, the remains of one of four firefighters is transported at the helibase in Weaverville, Calif. These are the last remains to be removed from a helicopter crash killing nine people when the copter crashed seconds after takeoff while ferrying firefighters from a remote helipad on the Buckhorn Fire in Trinity County back to base camp near Junction City, Calif.

The chopper was airborne less than a minute when it clipped a tree and fell from the sky, bursting into flames.

Four people survived, including Coultas of Cave Junction.

The plaintiffs and family members in court for the verdict dabbed their eyes and exchanged stiff handshakes with GE's attorneys. They declined to speak with reporters after

the verdict was read.

After a two-year investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board concluded in 2010 that too much weight and a lack of oversight caused the crash.

The lawsuit decided Tuesday was brought by Coultas, his wife and the estate of Schwanenberg, who died in the crash.

The jury awarded \$28.4 million to the estate of

Schwanenberg. Coultas was awarded \$37 million and his wife \$4.3 million by the jury.

The jury put most of the blame — 57 percent — on GE but also found the helicopter's owner and its manufacturer partially at fault.

Helicopter operator Carson Helicopters was dismissed from the case, and Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. previously settled with the plaintiffs.

GE Aviation spokesman Rick Kennedy said the company will appeal the verdict, though it must first look at the full language.

"We strongly disagree with the verdict," Kennedy said. "Our position has been all along that this verdict completely contradicts findings by the NTSB."

A statement from Carson Helicopters said the company had blamed GE's engine for the crash and felt the verdict brought light and closure to the incident.

Jurors put 23 percent of the blame for the crash on Carson Helicopters, and 20 percent on Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., even though neither is financially liable in the current legal action.

DEBATE: Reviving Augusta talks

Continued From Page 1C
sponsor for the 2005 Masters. The others were SBC Communications and ExxonMobil.

Burk said it should not be that easy for IBM to hide if the debate gains momentum.

"What IBM needs to do is draw a line in the sand — 'We're either going to pull our sponsorship and membership and any ancillary activities we support with the tournament, or the club is going to have to honor our CEO the way they have in the past,'" Burk said. "There's no papering over it. They just need to step up and do the right thing."

"They need to not pull that argument that they support the tournament and not the club," she said. "That does not fool anybody, and they could undermine their new CEO."

Burk said she would not be surprised if IBM pressured Rometty to say

she doesn't want to be a member.

"Really, I don't think it's her responsibility," Burk said. "It's the board of directors. They need to take action here. They don't need to put that on her. They need to say, 'This is wrong. We thought the club was on the verge of making changes several years ago, and we regretfully end our sponsorship to maintain her credibility and the company brand.'"

The debate returns just in time for one of the most anticipated Masters in years. Tiger Woods finally returned to winning last week at Bay Hill and is considered one of the favorites, along with U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy. Eight of the top 20 players in the world ranking have won heading into the first major of the year, a list that includes world No. 1 Luke Donald and Phil Mickelson.

Now comes a sensitive

issue that dogged the tournament a decade ago, and might not go away easily.

Augusta National does not ban women. They can play the golf course, but no woman has worn an Augusta green jacket, a status symbol in business and golf. Rometty is said to play golf sparingly. Her greater passion is scuba diving.

She now becomes a central figure.

"We have a face, we have a resume, we have a title and we have a credible reason to do it that doesn't involve Martha Burk," Burk said.

Burk said she is no longer chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations. She had planned to step down until the first flap with the Masters began in the summer of 2002. Now, she said she runs the Corporate Accountability Project for the council, a project born from her battle with Augusta.

APPLE: Assembly line gets pay raise

Continued From Page 1C
Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, said companies play a risky game when they raise their manufacturing costs. U.S. consumers have shown little inclination to pay more for products that are made in the U.S. as opposed to China.

But iSuppli's figures suggest that if Apple were to absorb a Foxconn wage increase that keeps salaries level while cutting average working hours from 60 to 49 per week, it would pay less than \$2 extra to have an iPhone made.

Other electronics companies, particularly PC makers such as Dell and HP, earn less profit on what they sell and could see a deeper impact.

Thomas Dinges, an analyst at iSuppli, said Apple's competitors will probably have to accept the price increase too, since it's framed as a moral issue.

"At this point, it's politics. It's not really economics," he

said, adding that there are few alternatives to Chinese factories for most of these products.

The FLA auditors visited three Foxconn complexes in February and March: Guanlan and Longhua near the coastal manufacturing hub of Shenzhen, and Chengdu in the inland province of Sichuan. They employ a total of 178,000 workers, with an average age of 23.

Average monthly salaries at the factories ranged from \$360 to \$455. Foxconn recently raised salaries by up to 25 percent in the second major salary hike in less than two years.

Apple enormous profits — \$13 billion in October-to-December quarter — have made it the world's most valuable company, worth more than \$570 billion. It's also put the spotlight on the way its products are made.

In one-man Broadway play, actor Mike Daisey told of visiting China and talking to underage and

injured Foxconn workers. Public radio program "This American Life" used Daisey's monologue in a show about Foxconn on Jan. 6, but retracted it two weeks ago, saying that Daisey had fabricated key parts of it, including him meeting 13-year-old workers.

The FLA said it didn't find instances of child or forced labor.

Apple has kept a close watch on its suppliers for years, and in January took the further step of joining the FLA. The organization has audited overseas suppliers for clothing manufacturers, but Apple was the first electronics company to join. It also commissioned the FLA to produce a special audit of Foxconn's factories.

"Our team has been working for years to educate workers, improve conditions and make Apple's supply chain a model for the industry, which is why we asked the FLA to conduct these audits," Apple said in a statement.

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GARDEN TALK



Nichelle Demorest
dndemorest@ufl.edu

Getting rid of garden pests

When I read literature that refers to adult grasshoppers as being slow and easy to catch, it takes me back to my childhood days when I was always a step behind the grasshopper. Chasing grasshoppers was fun, but not a game that I often won. Was I just clumsy with extremely slow reflexes? Well, maybe, but those northern grasshoppers were not an easy catch.

Lubber grasshoppers certainly are a 'horse of a different color' as the saying goes. The large adult lubbers are usually dull yellow with black, bright yellow and red markings. The bright coloration is a warning to predators in the animal world that this critter contains toxic substances. If eaten, the toxins could kill or sicken the predator.

Another defense strategy of the lubber grasshopper is to secrete a foamy toxic spray if threatened. If this isn't bad enough, the grasshopper can make a loud, hissing sound as it forces out this defensive spray. Like most other grasshoppers, it can also regurgitate a brown mixture of partially digested plants and irritating toxins.

For these reasons, the adult lubber grasshopper does not need to move quickly. Their numbers are rarely large enough to be much more than a nuisance to gardeners. Gardeners may see holes in leaves where these insects have been feeding, but not enough to injure the plant. To a gardener, however, it may injure the 'looks' of the plant.

If you have had an over abundance of this grasshopper in the past, now is the time to begin your defense strategy for control. The young nymphs are much easier to control than adults so begin watching for them to emerge in March. They are usually black with bright yellow, orange, or red stripes and will be seen feeding in groups.

Mow any weedy or overgrown areas where they are feeding. Groups feeding on plants in your yard can be handpicked and destroyed. If there are just too many for handpicking, you may need to apply insecticides. A few of the chemical ingredients to look for include carbaryl, bifenthrin or permethrin. Be sure to use all chemicals according to the label. Chemicals are not effective on adults.

The most reliable population control in the long run is to do away with the young nymph groups so there will be

GARDEN TALK
continued on 2D

Gardening in the Deep South

Book offers gardeners instruction for caring for plants, animals and water supply.

By LAURA HAMPSON
lhampson@lakecityreporter.com

What began as a month-by-month gardening pamphlet grew into a six-year project

for Florida Master Gardener Martha Ann Ronsonet. Ronsonet of Lake City published "Gardening in the Deep South and Other Hot Pursuits" in January.

The book offers novice and seasoned gardeners instruction on caring for plants, animals and the water supply in our warm climate.

"[Lake City] Garden Club members asked me to write down what to do in the garden every month," Ronsonet said. From there it mushroomed, as she added sections on natural pest control, native plants and landscape design.

Chapters also include edible plants, poisonous plants, transplanting, shade plants and protecting the water supply.

People who move to the southeast from the north often have to relearn what they know about gardening, she said. "We can garden all year long in Florida."

Pictures for the book were taken locally, in Ronsonet's own garden and friends' gardens, she said.

"I used to think it was so boring to go out into the garden and work," she said. Ronsonet's sister, mother and grandmother all gardened, so she eventually caught the green thumb.

"I really wanted to learn about plants and how they grow," she said.

In 1970 she joined the Garden Club and became a certified Master Gardener in 2001, through the University of Florida extension office.

Ronsonet and her husband Norbie Ronsonet Sr. live in the home her mother and father built. Ronsonet said she inherited and expanded her mother's garden of big trees and azaleas.

During the lengthy drought, Ronsonet said she has let nature take care of her yard. "I don't water but once a month" to protect our springs and rivers, she

BOOK continued on 6D



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Ronsonet poses with a copy of her book in her backyard next to wild azaleas, which are featured in her 225-page book. Ronsonet said that the book 'mushroomed into a full service book that can help a beginner up to a well-seasoned gardener.' She said that she has found that 'people want a pretty garden, but don't care about plants. People either love plants or just don't.'



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Above: Ronsonet removes seed heads on snapdragons in order to keep them blooming -- a process called deadheading -- while taking care of a newly landscaped garden at the Women's/Garden Club. She serves as the Garden Club's landscape chair. At left: Ronsonet finds a spot to plant a pot of impatiens. She said that a lot of people who want to learn about planting shouldn't hesitate to get help on certain things like how to plant them. 'There's a chapter in my book about the right place, the right plant. It's pretty important.'



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In this 2004 photo provided by the University of Minnesota, a bunch of cold-hearty Marquette grapes grow on a vine in Carver County, Minn.

No. Vintners work to improve wine

By DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

GARRETSON, S.D. — South Dakota winemaker Dave Greenlee exudes pride as he pours a sample of a 2011 Marquette nearly ready for bottling. Wine connoisseurs who favor vintages from Bordeaux or Napa Valley might not have heard of the grape, but Marquette has been exciting Northern wine-makers since a Vermont vintage won best-in-show

WINE continued on 2D

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Airport dog finds illegal food stowed in luggage

By MEGHAN BARR
Associated Press

NEW YORK — On a recent busy afternoon at Kennedy Airport, a beagle with plaintive-looking eyes was lying on the floor of Terminal 4, oblivious to the chaos of rolling luggage and human activity teeming all around her.

There was no prying this dog off the ground — despite the best attempts of Officer Meghan Caffery, her closest companion and partner.

“Izzy,” Caffery said, a note of exasperation in her voice. “You’ve only been here an hour.”

The 6-year-old beagle, who works for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, can’t be faulted for taking a break. She spends most of her time trotting briskly around the baggage carousels with Caffery in tow, searching for illegal food stowed in luggage arriving from international flights. Thousands of bags stream through this terminal every hour, and Izzy is the first line of defense against food or plants that could wreak havoc on American agriculture.

“Some flights are, you know, just apples or sandwiches that people had from the plane they forgot in their bags,” said Caffery, an



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Meghan Caffery, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist, nuzzles Izzy, an agricultural detector beagle whose nose is highly sensitive to food odors, at John F. Kennedy Airport’s Terminal 4 in New York. This U.S. Customs and Border Protection team works to find foods and plants brought in by visitors that are considered invasive species or banned products, some containing insects or larvae know to be harmful to U.S. agriculture.

agriculture specialist canine handler. “Some flights are notorious for bringing in sausages or fresh fruits.”

Izzy is among a small cadre of luggage-inspecting beagles who live and work at the airport, though federal officials won’t disclose the exact number of canines employed. Technically called a “passive response dog,” she is trained to sit

whenever she smells one of several odors: fruit, meat, plant, seed or vegetable.

With just one sniff, Izzy can determine whether a bag is worth searching — a seconds-long appraisal that would take human officers hours to do, given that about 1 million travelers pass through Kennedy Airport in a single month. During her three years of employment,

she’s found everything from duck tongues to pigs’ heads and feet. The agricultural products vary according to the time of year.

On average, about 28 pounds of food are collected every day, most of it from people who are trying to sneak in food from their native countries.

“We pulled a four-foot fig tree out of a bag one day,”

Caffery said. “The roots and soil and everything, like it was just dug right out of the ground.”

Her nose never fails to spot a trace of food, sometimes even picking up the scent of a snack that was removed from a bag hours before. During one lap around a carousel, as they wove in and out of startled passengers, Izzy paused before a pile of bags, tail wagging.

Caffery looked around and called out: “Whose bags are these?”

The young man who claimed them acknowledged, upon further questioning, that there were indeed an apple and a banana inside. Caffery marked down the items on a blue Customs declaration form.

Izzy stayed put, waiting for a piece of food to emerge from Caffery’s pocket: Her reward for a successful find.

“She’ll eat just about anything,” Caffery said.

Sometimes it’s a bit of a struggle to keep Izzy moving after she’s found something. Caffery was forced to drag her along the floor a couple of times, urging her to keep going.

“Come on, find it,” she said. “Come on, you can’t lay down.”

Passengers often take

great pains to hide their loot, stuffing it in soda bottles or coffee cans or sewing it into their coats. Some even tape food directly to their bodies. Though a piece of fruit may seem harmless enough, officials say each item is potentially dangerous.

“Something as simple as an apple could carry the larva of a Mediterranean fruit fly,” said Officer James Armstrong, who supervises the agricultural searches, “which, if it got loose in our citrus crops in the United States, could cost billions of dollars.”

Confiscated items are brought to the airport’s grinding room, which has a long steel table piled with rotting food. That day’s haul included sausages, barley, burlap, curry, beets and an assortment of fruits and vegetables, among other things. Officers send out samples to a lab for analysis and then crush the remainder through a hole in the table that acts like a garbage disposal.

“This is discovery. You know, this is neat,” Armstrong said, waving a gloved hand across the table. “This is where you open it up and you find an insect or a larva or something and it kind of completes the mission, you know? That’s what it’s all about.”

Helping doctors keep human touch

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Medical student Gregory Shumer studied the electronic health record and scooted his laptop closer to the diabetic grandfather sitting on his exam table. “You can see,” he pointed at the screen — weight, blood sugar and cholesterol are too high and rising.

The man didn’t reveal he was too nearsighted to see those numbers, but he’d quietly volunteered that he’d been ignoring his own health after his wife’s death. The future-Dr. Shumer looked away from the computer for a sympathetic conversation — exactly the point of Georgetown University’s novel training program.

As the nation moves to paperless medicine, doctors are grappling with an awkward challenge: How do they tap the promise of comput-

ers, smartphones and iPads in the exam room without losing the human connection with their patients? Are the gadgets a boon, or a distraction?

“That’s the tension I feel every day,” says Dr. Vincent WinklerPrins, a family medicine specialist at Georgetown. The medical school is developing one of a growing number of programs to train new doctors in that balancing act, this one using actors as patients to point out the pitfalls ahead of time.

Across the country at Stanford University this summer, medical students will bring a school-issued iPad along as they begin their bedside training — amid cautions not to get so lost in all the on-screen information that they pay too little attention to the actual patient.

Face your patient, excuse yourself to check the screen and put away the gadget

when you don’t really need it, say Stanford guidelines that specialists say make sense for physicians everywhere. And, of course, no personal Internet use in front of a patient.

“The promise of these devices to augment the delivery of clinical care is tremendous,” says Stanford’s Dr. Clarence Braddock. He uses a secure app on his iPad to pull up patient charts if he’s called after hours no matter where he is.

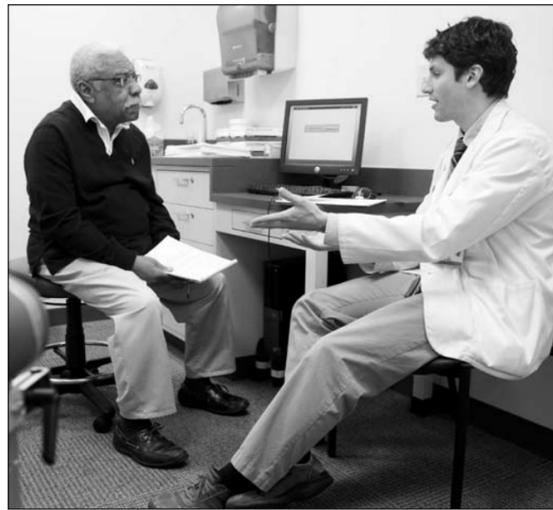
Braddock helped develop Stanford’s standards understanding there are different hurdles. Middle-aged doctors may be less comfortable with the technology and take longer with it. Younger ones who grew up texting while multitasking may not realize how intrusive patients might find the devices. Even Braddock has a confession: To his embarrassment, his phone once beeped an email alert about a sports tourna-

ment while he was with a patient.

It’s not just a matter of etiquette. If the doctor spends too much of your 15-minute visit typing or staring at a screen, you have to wonder: What if I have a symptom that just got missed?

“If the screen is turned away from the patient, they don’t know if you’re looking at their electronic health record or playing solitaire or looking up stocks,” notes Dr. Glen Stream of the American Academy of Family Physicians. A longtime user of computerized records in his Spokane, Wash., practice, Stream makes sure to show his patients what he’s doing — especially when seeing pictures on the screen can help them better understand a health condition.

Electronic health records, or EHRs, are considered the future of health care for good reason — they can help prevent medical errors. For



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John Askew, Sr., a patient/actor, left gives feedback to third-year Georgetown medical student Gregory Shumer after a training session in an examining room on the Georgetown Medical School campus in Washington on Friday.

example, the systems can warn if doctors are about to prescribe a drug that could interact badly with another one the patient already uses. As these computerized charts become more sophis-

ticated, they also have the potential to spur more efficient care: no more getting another X-ray just because you forgot to bring in your last scan if the doctor can call it up digitally.

WINE: Vintners work for improvements

Continued From Page 1D
red at a 2009 cold-climate wine competition.

While wineries have been popping up throughout the Upper Midwest, their vintages have tended to be sweet and often suffer from harshness. Marquette offers vintners a chance to make a good, dry red. Anne Fennell, a viticulturist at South Dakota State University, said one breeder recently described it as “our first real wine grape.”

Greenlee and his wife, Sue, fermented their first batch two years ago, and they’ve been trading tips since then with peers in other cold states as they work to improve the quality of their wine. Now, they’ll get help from a \$2.5 million U.S. Department of Agriculture grant that has university researchers

from a dozen states gathering information about cold-hardy grapes and teaching viticulturists and winemakers how to improve their products and market them to a wider audience.

Led by Cornell University, the Northern Grapes Project will work with more than 330 wineries and 1,300 growers managing more than 3,000 acres of grapes from the Upper Midwest to New England.

“Marquette is so new that we are all trying to figure out what brings out the best flavors from this grape,” Greenlee said.

A grandson of pinot noir released in 2006, Marquette is the newest of four grape varieties developed by the University of Minnesota to resist temperatures that can dip into the negative-

30s. Winemakers had had high hopes for Frontenac, one of the university’s earlier releases, but the grape’s high acidity proved challenging, and many winemakers have moved to using it in ports.

The prospects for Marquette, a high-sugar, moderately acidic grape with hints of cherry, berry and black pepper, have looked bright since Lincoln Peak Vineyard and Winery in New Haven, Vt., won a best-in-show award about three years ago.

Lincoln Peak owner Chris Granstrom called the grape a “real breakthrough” because it gives Northern winemakers the opportunity to make a dry red on par with those from more traditional growing areas.

GARDEN TALK: Getting rid of pests

Continued From Page 1D
to lay eggs. For more information on insect management, go to (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_GUIDE_IG_Vegetables)

Now that I’ve told you how to get rid of a critter, let me invite you to

our library presentations on Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden. Fort White Library on Thursday, April 19th at 5:45 pm. Downtown Lake City Public Library on Saturday, April 21st at 2:00 pm. Call

752-5384 for more details.

■ D. Nichelle Demorest is a horticulture agent with the Columbia County Extension of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

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Amazon CEO wants to raise sunken Apollo 11 engines

By ALICIA CHANG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — For more than four decades, the powerful engines that helped boost the Apollo 11 mission to the moon have rested in the Atlantic. Now Internet billionaire and space enthusiast Jeff Bezos wants to raise at least one of them to the surface.

An undersea expedition spearheaded by Bezos used sonar to find what he said were the F-1 engines located 14,000 feet deep. In an online announcement Wednesday, the Amazon.com CEO and founder said he is drawing up plans to recover the sunken engines, part of the mighty Saturn V rocket that launched Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins on their moon mission.

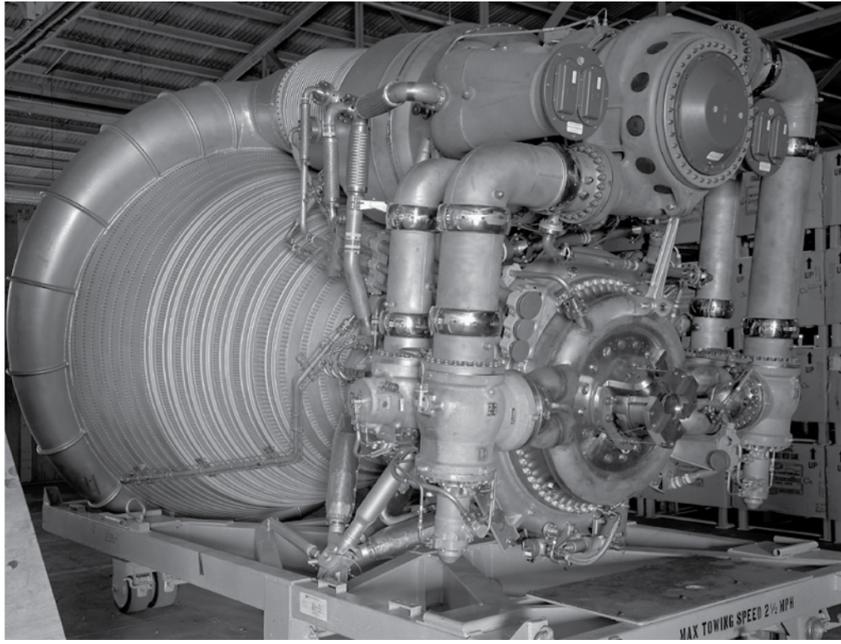
The five engines, which produced nearly 7.7 million pounds of thrust, dropped into the sea as planned minutes after liftoff in 1969. Four days later, Armstrong and Aldrin walked on the moon.

"We don't know yet what condition these engines might be in," he wrote. "They hit the ocean at high velocity and have been in salt water for more than 40 years. On the other hand, they're made of tough stuff, so we'll see."

Bezos acknowledged the engines were the property of NASA, but said he hoped they will be displayed in museums.

NASA expressed excitement about the find. The space agency said it has not been formally contacted by Bezos and waited for more information.

"There has always been great interest in artifacts from the early days of



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Above: This 1963 photo provided by NASA shows an F-1 Engine for the Saturn V S-IC (first) stage at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. At right: In this July 16, 1969 file photo provided by NASA, the Saturn V rocket that launched Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins on their Apollo 11 moon mission lifts off at Cape Kennedy.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

space exploration and his announcement only adds to the enthusiasm of those interested in NASA's history," NASA spokesman Bob Jacobs said in a statement.

No timetable has been set for the recovery. When it happens, it'll undoubtedly take longer to hoist the 19-foot engines off the sea floor than the 2 1/2 minutes it took for them to power off the launch pad.

The sea floor is littered with spent rockets and flight

parts from missions dating back to the dawn of the Space Age and it's unknown what survived decades later after crashing into the ocean.

In 2009, a private company salvaged Gus Grissom's

Mercury capsule that accidentally sank in the Atlantic after splashdown in 1961. It

was restored and displayed at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center.

Bezos' planned Apollo recovery is the latest deep-sea adventure by the wealthy. "Avatar" director James Cameron over the weekend rode a mini-sub to Earth's deepest spot in the western Pacific Ocean, seven miles below the surface, which he described as an alien world. Sir Richard Branson plans a similar dive to the deepest part of the Atlantic, the Puerto Rican trench, later this year.

Bezos was 5 years old

when he watched the moon landing on television and became hooked on getting to space. NASA "sure inspired me, and with this endeavor, maybe we can inspire a few more youth to invent and explore," he wrote.

It was not immediately clear when Bezos' team spotted the Apollo engines. Bezos offered few details about the discovery and did not say how he knew the engines were from Apollo 11. The cost of the recovery was not disclosed, but

Bezos said it will be done with private funds.

Amazon spokesman Drew Herdener said Bezos was not available for comment.

Bezos' Blue Origin has been developing a vertical takeoff and landing rocket-ship that would fly passengers to suborbital space. It has NASA funding to compete to go into orbit as a space taxi now that the space shuttle fleet is retired.

Last year, a test flight went awry when the vehicle became unstable at 45,000 feet and crashed.

The five engines, which produced nearly 7.7 million pounds of thrust, dropped into the sea as planned minutes after liftoff in 1969. Four days later, Armstrong and Aldrin walked on the moon.



EASTER COLORING CONTEST

Contest Rules:

1. The Contest is open to children ages 3 - 12. Employees and immediate family of Lake City Reporter are not eligible.
2. Entries will be judged solely on creative value. One winner will be chosen from each age group.
3. Decisions of the judges will be final.
4. Entries must be received by Lake City Reporter, no later than 3 pm on April 4, 2012. Entry form must accompany the drawing.
5. Winners' photo will be published in the Lake City Reporter, Sun., April 8, 2012 edition.
6. All entries must be from Newspaper Print. NO COPIES

EASTER COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____ Age: _____ Drop off or mail your entry to
 Address: _____ Phone: _____ Lake City Reporter, 180 E.
 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Duval St. Lake City, FL. 32055

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SUNDAY EVENING APRIL 1, 2012. Table with columns for Comcast, Dish, DirecTV, and time slots from 6 PM to 11:30 PM. Lists various TV programs and their descriptions.

WEEKDAY AFTERNOON. Table with columns for Comcast, Dish, DirecTV, and time slots from 12 PM to 5:30 PM. Lists various TV programs and their descriptions.

MONDAY EVENING APRIL 2, 2012. Table with columns for Comcast, Dish, DirecTV, and time slots from 6 PM to 11:30 PM. Lists various TV programs and their descriptions.

DEAR ABBY

Happy collection of foolish letters are all in good fun

DEAR READERS: It's April Fools' Day, the one day I can share some of those letters I receive from readers whose questions might not seem as appropriate on any of the other 364 days of the year (or 365 this leap year). Enjoy!



Abigail Van Buren www.dearabby.com

DEAR ABBY: I am a 23-year-old female who lives with my parents. I saw "The Little Mermaid" for the first time recently, and now I'm very worried.

The other day I walked in and caught my mom talking to my pet fish, Flounder. I have noticed Mom breaks into Broadway-style songs randomly, just like Ariel did in the movie. She also has the same red hair as Ariel. Mom is a lifeguard at the local pool.

Could my mom be part fish? If so, am I half-mermaid? I will await your reply before attempting underwater breathing. Please answer promptly. - SEA-ING THINGS CLEARLY

DEAR SEA-ING: Clean your goggles, honey, because you're seeing less clearly than you think. Your mother is not related to Ariel, and you are not a mermaid, but your letter is a fish tale.

** ** *

DEAR ABBY: For years I have heard about players winning thousands of dollars on casino slot machines. But every time I try to win one, I run out of cash before

hitting it. How can I win a jackpot before I go broke? Hurry your answer because my money is running out. - UNLUCKY IN JERSEY

DEAR UNLUCKY: Slot machines are not called "one-armed bandits" for nothing. While I can't advise you on how to win a jackpot, I can tell you how not to go broke. Try this: DON'T GAMBLE!

** ** *

DEAR ABBY: At what time does "today" turn into "tonight"? - CLOCK WATCHER IN UTAH

DEAR CLOCK WATCHER: Ask me tomorrow.

** ** *

DEAR ABBY: I have an amazing pool man. I have known him for quite a while. My neighbors have been complaining because he likes to work naked. His working in the buff never bothers me; I think he looks like a Greek statue and he does a great job. My pool has never looked better. I have had several pool cleaners before, but none of

them compare to the current one. What should I do? - CALIFORNIA GIRL

DEAR CALIFORNIA GIRL: Although I don't live nearby, it's not hard to see why no other pool cleaner compares to this one. Assuming your pool is fenced, I'm advising you to do nothing "butt" enjoy the view.

** ** *

DEAR ABBY: Why does our society insist on using the euphemism "sleeping together" in place of "having sex"? - CURIOUS IN KETTERING, OHIO

DEAR CURIOUS: That's easy - so the children won't know where they came from.

** ** *

DEAR ABBY: I was awakened at 3 a.m. by a barking police dog while someone was being arrested on my front lawn. This morning I discovered the dog had pooped on my grass. I'm considering complaining to the police about it, but don't want to seem ungrateful for the job they do. What do you think? - LISA IN ANAHEIM, CALIF.

DEAR LISA: I think you should be more tolerant. After all, the police dog was just doing his duty.

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

HOROSCOPES

THE LAST WORD

Eugenia Word

properly so you can make a little extra cash on the side.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Too much will lead to disaster. Emotions will skyrocket and love troubles will lead to excessive behavior if you don't remain calm and assess your situation realistically. If you aren't being treated properly, move on. An alternate route looks positive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You need a little adventure in your life. Embark on a new hobby or travel somewhere you've never been. Focus on love, self-improvement and striving for a better and healthier lifestyle. Take the initiative and make things happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Review your personal and professional position. You can alter your status if you offer your time or expertise to others. Giving back to your community or helping to raise money for a good cause will enhance your reputation and

bring opportunities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let the little things bother you when you have so much to gain by jumping in feet-first and testing the waters. Whether it's your personal or professional life, you will excel if you take an all-or-nothing approach.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Not everyone will be honest with you. Ask questions if you feel you are being given the run-around. Make whatever changes are required to make your home and personal life better. A new approach to an old project will bring good results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Invite friends over or fix up your home to better accommodate your needs. What you have to offer others can turn into a profitable venture. Include the people you enjoy spending time with most in your moneymaking plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put what you want in writing and consider the pros, cons and consequences before you begin. You may need to fine-tune your ideas to fit your current situation. You can make positive changes if you are fully prepared.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let your anxiousness lead you in the wrong direction. You aren't likely to get the best advice. Bide your time and rely on experience to guide you now. Invest your time, energy and attention in love and romance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take time out for you. Pampering or doing something you enjoy will ease your stress and help you think clearly about your plans. New options will open up if you diversify. Finding new ways to utilize your skills will pay off.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't take the words or actions of others to heart. Make whatever changes you feel are necessary, but do so secretly. It's better to have everything in place before you share or present your plan to those eager to criticize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Dig in and help someone in need. The experience you gain and the impression you make will pay off. Uncertainty at home may lead to a family feud. Be prepared to mediate in order to keep the peace.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let anyone take advantage of your kindness and generosity. You can offer suggestions, but not handouts. A service you have to offer should be marketed

CELEBRITY CIPHER

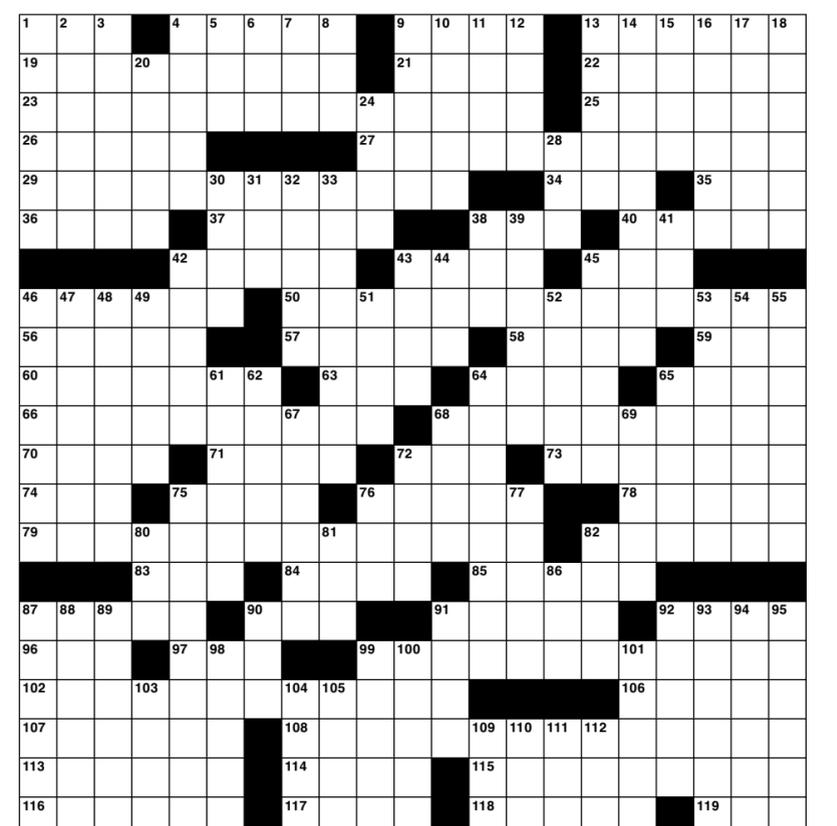
by Luis Campos
Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.
" U P U P Z P N W S V E R V N X A P V Z , X M P G M P P Z R P V E P Z N N X V A P E M W Y P V O E H M W O P E F O X M P G M P P Z N . " - H V X U F R R F V Y N

Previous Solution: "A wise man can learn more from a foolish question than a fool can learn from a wise answer." - Bruce Lee
TODAY'S CLUE: g s i n b o s
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SUNDAY CROSSWORD

TWO-FOR-ONE SPECIAL By Patrick Berry / Edited by Will Shortz

- Across
1 Border-crossing necessities
4 Black cloud formers
9 Unresponsive state
13 A flat equivalent
19 Hitchcock thriller set in Brazil
21 It's all downhill from here
22 Nation bordering Svizzera
23 Ordeal that's no big deal?
25 Gaze upon
26 It's much followed in North Africa
27 Large cloth sign with nothing on it?
29 Toy hammer?
34 Ending with sex or symbol
35 Seek redress from
36 "Anything ___?"
37 Potential pet
38 Smartphone buy
40 Swine's diet
42 Full range
43 For ___
45 "So that's your game!"
46 Gulf of Oman port
50 Soft yet easily breakable "Star Trek" creature?
56 Available
57 "Save Me" singer Mann
58 Break in logic
59 Fire starter?
60 Magic, for instance
63 Refresher
64 European of the Iron Age
65 In days gone by
66 Hemispherical computer add-on?
68 "Ride 'em, cowboy!," e.g.?
70 In its current state
71 "As if that weren't enough ..."
72 Perpetually, to Pope
73 What only one Best Picture winner has had
74 In the distance
75 Dieter's target
76 "The cat's meow" or "a dog's life"
78 "___ Eyes" (1969 hit for the Guess Who)
79 Big house that's not as big?
82 Site of one of the Seven Wonders
83 Rower's need
84 "I hate the Moor" speaker
85 Young builder's supply
87 Point of rotation
90 Plus
91 Floors
92 Casino souvenir
96 "Entourage" agent Gold
97 Back stroke?
99 Goddess of gas?
102 Get part of one's shirt under control?
106 Poppies, e.g.
107 Undamaged
108 What the Gorgon Stheno does in Greek myth?
113 Render unproductive?
114 Dressage gait
115 Noisy water heater
116 Old Soviet naval base site
117 Vodka brand
118 "Borrow"
119 Rubber-stamps
Down
1 Early enough
2 At the back
3 Ones going on a long walk?
4 Old machinery coating
5 Actress Vardalos
6 ___ Mail
7 "You know better!"
8 Belarus, once: Abbr.
9 Venae ___ (large blood vessels)
10 It can make you dizzy
11 Yom Kippur War politician
12 Revolutionary device?
13 Longtime Redskins coach Joe
14 The Andrea Doria, for one
15 Chemistry Nobelist Otto
16 King of Naples in "The Tempest"
17 Cheese off
18 Baseball team once owned by Ray Kroc
20 Like kiwi fruit
24 With proficiency
28 Pinch
30 Exam administered four times a yr.
31 "Lou Grant" production co.
32 Caribbean resort island
33 Army heads
38 Pledge of Allegiance finisher
39 Like most canned tomatoes
41 Defensive return
42 Reacted to shocking news
43 "Watch your ___!"
44 Took a few seconds?
45 Podium personage
46 They're not popular in offices
47 ___ oneself (share private thoughts)
48 Workhorse's quality
49 Phoebe of "Drop Dead Fred"
51 Sunni sermonizer
52 Communication system of old
53 Exchanged, as words
54 Reckless driver's loss, possibly
55 Becomes clear
61 More copious
62 Wisdom tooth, e.g.
64 Caesar's first wife
65 Maker of Bug-B-Gon
67 Adds, as to a recording
68 Print shop unit
69 Salty language
72 Interrupter of Dagwood's naps
75 Kentucky Derby and Epsom Oaks, for two
76 Old sofa's problem
77 Concerned about the environment
80 Can of Newcastle
81 Young chap
82 ___ Bud, schoolgirl in "The Mystery of Edwin Drood"
86 M.A. seeker's test
87 Director and star of "Looking for Richard"
88 Free of creases
89 Shaw defined it as "insufficient temptation"
90 Disney subsidiary
91 Drive-___
92 Holder of plunder
93 Regarding this matter
94 How Sam's Club buys goods
95 Free tickets
98 Extremist
99 George Jetson's boy
100 Scrumptious
101 Outside shot?
103 Cry often made while snapping the fingers
104 Elects
105 Read but never post
109 "Too many to list" abbr.
110 Poseidon's domain
111 Launch platform
112 Record with many beats: Abbr.



Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 8, 3, 7, 3, 4, 6, 9, 2, 1, 4, 8, 7, 1, 4, 9, 5, 6, 5, 7, 3, 2, 7, 6, 8, 2, 5, 1, 7, 1, 6, 4, 2.

Answers to last Sunday's Crossword.

CHICAS ETCETERA PACKANIMAL
DEMOTETHREECARIMEANIT
TAMLINCRUNCHTIMETURNSTO
DUELSHEMHOOGIST
MONSTERABC BREEITSI
EVELSENDSUP PRESSCONFERENCE
RETAGHOETETRAPOKES
CROWDPLEASERSQUEEZEPLAYECU
SIRSAACUFFALESLAP
STAMENS T SLO T INFANT
PANCACKEBREAKFAS T S T N T SEARCH
ALTAR SUMOSARIASATEIT
NEEDLE XER CLUTCHPERFORMANCE
AENEID GAPESINASPOT
FIRM GAS SOLID SMUT
IRE CRUMPLEZONE COMPACTDISC
RAVED EARNSTHYLAAILA
SQUASHBLOSSOMS EKESOUTMALL
TIER OUIS INC PREEMIE
ARES DOA TAN ANNAN
ROADMAP PINCHRUNNER CLERGY
ACTUATE ENTHUSED TAXIED
JAMSESSIONS COVENTRY SITARS

Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 2, 5, 3, 4, 9, 1, 6, 7, 8, 4, 7, 1, 3, 8, 6, 5, 9, 2, 8, 9, 6, 7, 5, 2, 1, 4, 3, 6, 2, 4, 1, 7, 9, 3, 8, 5, 3, 9, 5, 9, 2, 8, 4, 1, 7, 1, 8, 7, 5, 3, 4, 9, 2, 6, 5, 3, 8, 9, 1, 7, 2, 9, 4, 6, 4, 2, 8, 6, 5, 7, 3, 1, 7, 1, 9, 2, 4, 3, 8, 5, 9.

Aggressive parents force egg hunt cancellation

By P. SOLOMON BANDA
Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — An annual Easter egg hunt attended by hundreds of children has been canceled because of misbehavior last year. Not by the kids, but by the grown-ups.

Too many parents determined to see their children get an egg jumped a rope marking the boundaries of the children-only hunt at Bancroft Park last year. The hunt was over in seconds, to the consternation of eggless tots and the rules-abiding parents.

Organizers say the hunt in Old Colorado City has gotten too big for the hundreds of children and parents now attending. They canceled this year.

Last April's egg hunt, sponsored by the Old Colorado City Association, experienced a few technical difficulties, said Mazie Baalman, owner of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and sponsor of the event.

There was no place to hide the plastic eggs, which were filled with donated candy or coupons redeemable at nearby businesses. So thousands of eggs were put in plain view on the grass. A bullhorn to start the event malfunctioned, so Baalman, master of ceremonies, used a public address system that was hard to hear.

"So everybody thinks you said 'Go,' and everybody goes, and it's over in seconds," Baalman said. "If one parent gets in there, other parents say, 'If one can get in, we all can get in,' and everybody goes."

Parenting observers cite the cancellation as a prime example of so-called "helicopter parents" — those who hover over their children and are involved in every aspect of their children's lives — to ensure that they don't fail, even at an Easter egg hunt.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Easter Bunny gives a high-five to one of the participants in the Old Colorado City Easter Egg Hunt in Colorado Springs Colo. last year. Organizers have canceled this year's event, complaining of parental behavior. They say that last year aggressive parents swarmed into a tiny Colorado Springs park last year, determined that their kids get an egg.

"They couldn't resist getting over the rope to help their kids," said Ron Alsop, a former Wall Street Journal reporter and author of "The Trophy Kids Grow Up," which examines the "millennial children" generation.

"That's the perfect metaphor for millennial children. They (parents) can't stay out of their children's lives. They don't give their children enough chances to learn from hard knocks, mistakes."

Alsop and others say the parenting phenomenon began in earnest when baby boomers who decorated their cars with "Baby on Board" signs in the 1980s began having children. It has prompted at least two New York companies to

establish "take your parent to work day" for new recruits as parents remain involved even after their children become adults.

Lenny Watkins, who lives a block away from Bancroft Park, took his friend's son, then 4, to the hunt in 2009. "I just remember having a wonderful time, him with his Easter basket," Watkins said, adding he can understand why a parent would step in.

"You have all these eggs just lying around, and parents helping out. You better believe I'm going to help my kid get one of those eggs. I promised my kid an Easter egg hunt, and I'd want to give him an even edge."

Jennifer Rexford, who used

to live near the park, said she participated in public Easter egg hunts with her boys, ages 3, 8 and 14. She doesn't anymore, because of "pushy parents" that she said she has dealt with at the hunts.

"It just seems to be the mindset. People just want the best for their kids," Rexford said.

Alsop said that dynamic is at play with parents who hover over their children, even into adulthood.

"I don't see any sign of it abating," he said. "It seems everything is more and more and more competitive, fast paced, and I think parents are going to see they need to do more to help their kids get an edge."

Vegas rail: Gamble or good thing?

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

VICTORVILLE, Calif. — On a dusty, rock-strewn expanse at the edge of the Mojave Desert, a company linked to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid wants to build a bullet train that would rocket tourists from the middle of nowhere to the gambling palaces of Las Vegas.

Privately held DesertXpress is on the verge of landing a \$4.9 billion loan from the Obama administration to build the 150 mph train, which could be a lifeline for a region devastated by the housing crash or a crap shoot for taxpayers weary of Washington spending.

The vast park-and-ride project hinges on the untested idea that car-loving Californians will drive about 100 miles from the Los Angeles area, pull off busy Interstate 15 and board a train for the final leg to the famous Strip.

Planners imagine that millions of travelers a year will one day flock to a station outside down-on-its-luck Victorville, a small city where shuttered storefronts pock the historic downtown.

An alliance of business and political rainmakers from The Strip to Capitol Hill is backing the project that could become the first high-speed system to break ground under President Barack Obama's push to modernize the U.S. rail network — and give the Democratic president's reelection prospects a lift in battleground Nevada.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has publicly blessed the train — it means jobs, he says — and it's cleared several regulatory hurdles in Washington.

Yet even as the Federal Railroad Administration considers awarding what would

be, by far, the largest loan of its type, its own research warns it's difficult to predict how many people will ride the train, a critical measure of financial survival, an Associated Press review found.

There are other skeptics, as well.

"It's insanity," says Thomas Finkbinder of the Intermodal Transportation Institute at the University of Denver. "People won't drive to a train to go someplace. If you are going to drive, why not drive all the way and leave when you want?"

Construction cost projections have soared to as much as \$6.5 billion, not including interest on the loan. Some fear taxpayer subsidies are inevitable.

Reid and other supporters point to research that shows 80,000 new jobs, but FRA documents show virtually all those would be temporary — no more than 722 would be permanent.

Victorville Mayor Ryan McEachron envisions a bustling transportation oasis with a hotel, restaurants, maybe even homes, on the proposed station site. He believes drivers can be enticed out of their cars, even in a region where the notion of rail travel can seem as distant as a New York subway.

The company is "going to have to market and market hard in order to get the ridership they need to support paying back the loan," the mayor says. "I think you can change the thinking."

Along with Reid, the president's most influential Democratic ally in Congress, the plan is being advanced by casino developer and contractor Anthony Marnell II, whose credits include building the Bellagio and Wynn Las Vegas and who heads Marnell Companies, the majority shareholder in DesertXpress.

BOOK: Help with gardening and more

Continued From Page 1D

said. Less water allows the plants to put down deeper roots.

"I love it. It's my therapy," she said of gardening. "It nurtures your soul and

your body."

"Gardening in the Deep South" is available at Chasteen's Downtown, 204 North Marion Ave., and Ronsonet Buick GMC, 490

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Ronsonet will have a book signing April 21 at the Fort White branch public library.

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