

# Lake City Reporter

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**SUNDAY EDITION**

Cooking over an open flame is second nature to father, son duo. **ID**



Local optometrist on a mission to educate doctors **IC**



## Fire expands to 4,570 acres

So far, Columbia Line fire threatens no structures.

By HANNAH O. BROWN  
hbrown@lakecityreporter.com

A wildfire that began Thursday in the Pinhook Swamp just north of the Columbia County line has grown to an estimated 4,570 acres. No structures or private property are in immediate danger, authorities report.

The Columbia Line fire is contained completely within Osceola National Forest boundaries in Baker County, according to Kurt Wisner of the Suwannee Forestry Center. The fire, which started about two miles south of SR 2, has produced a dense plume of smoke that has been reported as far west as Panama City, Wisner said. Smoke is of the most

immediate concern at the moment. Winds traveling out the east-northeast direction have caused a westerly migration of the plume.

There is a potential for conditions to become hazardous on I-10 and I-75. Wisner noted that drivers should use caution and if dense smoke is encountered on the road, drivers should slow down and turn on their headlights.

The U.S. Forestry Service is now dealing with the fire. Access by land is reportedly limited and dense smoke has made airborne GPS measurements of the fire's exact dimensions difficult. Three helicopters are making water drops on the fire.

Wisner reported that a lightning strike could have started the fire, though at this point the cause has not been confirmed.



FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE/Special to the Reporter

The Columbia Line Fire began Thursday in Baker County, near the Columbia County line. This photo was taken on Friday morning when the fire covered 312 acres. The fire is now over 4,500 acres in size.

## Pet Problem



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

A shopping cart full of puppies is returned to the Lake City Humane Society Thursday. The problem of returned puppies after Christmas has lessened considerably in recent years. However, officials expect to see an influx of returned rabbits and grown-up baby chicks in the wake of Easter.

## Holidays not necessarily the time to give animals as gifts.

By HANNAH O. BROWN  
hbrown@lakecityreporter.com

This time of year used to be the time Terry Marques, executive director of Lake City Humane Society, would see an influx of surrendered puppies at the shelter. In the past, puppies as well as other pets that had been purchased as gifts would arrive at the shelter in the wake of the Christmas season.

According to Marques, the problem of surrendered animals from Christmas has lessened to the point of near insignificance. Though in its place are other culturally-influenced purchases of animals.

Marques said he can reliably

count on a surge of surrendered rabbits and chickens from the Easter season come June and July.

According to Marques, many people buy rabbits and chickens as Easter gifts for children, but often end up returning the animals because they do not get proper care.

"You know, rabbits are high maintenance," Marques said. "You've got to clean them cages at least every day, ideally twice a day and they need a lot of room and I don't care how big the cage is."

Rabbits, which Marques calls "pocket pets" along with gerbils and hamsters, are often perceived to require less care than a cat or dog.

However, that widely held assumption is far from accurate.

"You have to treat them like any other pet," Marques said. "Like any dog or cat, they require human companionship when they are kept as a domestic pet and they thrive emotionally and physically when they get that attention. So just to get one and stick it in a cage, you're not doing yourself or that animal any good. Really, what's the benefit for you and what's the benefit for the rabbit of keeping it in a cage all day?"

Marques said he said he had seen rabbits thrive as pets but that it is a time intensive process.

"It takes patience and work and attention, attention being the key word. If you don't give them attention, we're probably going to have that rabbit in a few months,"

**PET continued on 7A**



HANNAH O. BROWN/Lake City Reporter

Nicholas Kasper, 12, assembles a pollution education model at the Alligator Lake Spring Festival on Saturday. Kasper said the model demonstrated the effects of water pollution in everyday life.

## Festival focus is on education, nature activities for families

By HANNAH O. BROWN  
hbrown@lakecityreporter.com

Bluegrass music and the smell of corn on the cob filled the air while local experts guided families down the lush trails of Alligator Lake this Saturday at the Alligator Lake Spring Festival.

The festival, sponsored by Four Rivers Audubon and Gateway Habitat Organization, offered educational nature-centered activities to families with no cost for entry.

President of the Gateway Wildlife Habitat Organization, Lauri Shubert, taught kids about pollution in the Floridan aquifer with an interactive tie-dye activity.

In the activity, each color used to dye the material represented some ele-

ment of local river ecology. Blues represented the water, or the Floridan aquifer. Yellow represented nitrates, fertilizers, motor oil and other pollutants.

When the blue and yellow dyes mixed together they created a green hue, representing the algae that is produced from pollutants in local waterways.

Shubert spoke about educating children about the environment at a young age.

"They want to take care of what they know about," Shubert said. "It's important to educate them, get them outside, get them to love it and then they will take care of it."

Betty Fetters of the Blue Roof Grill, the restaurant that catered the event,

**FESTIVAL continued on 7A**



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**TODAY IN PEOPLE**  
Thomas Kinkadee dies

**COMING TUESDAY**  
Local news coverage.



**Friday:**  
12-19-38-42 MB 8



**Friday:**  
4-10-26-29-30



**Saturday:**  
Afternoon: 1-2-9



**Saturday:**  
Afternoon: 5-7-4-5



**Wednesday:**  
4-15-26-28-35-47 x5



**Wednesday:**  
1-24-33-45-49 PB 6

## AROUND FLORIDA

# DEA searches Florida Walgreens in painkiller probe

MIAMI — Federal drug agents have searched six Walgreens pharmacies and a company distribution center in Florida as part of an investigation into prescription painkiller drug abuse, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials said Friday.

The distribution center in Jupiter and the six pharmacies — two in Fort Pierce and one each in Hudson, Port Richey, Fort Myers and Oviedo — all showed signs of suspiciously high distribution of the highly addictive drug oxycodone, a DEA investigator wrote in an affidavit for the search warrants.

Such large amounts, investigator Marjorie Milan wrote, indicates “a pharmacy that fills prescriptions issued by physicians at pain clinics and/or a pharmacy which services primarily drug-seeking individuals who abuse the medication.”

The searches for pharmacy records conducted Wednesday are the latest in a crackdown by federal and state authorities on “pill mills” and other illegal sources of prescription drugs in Florida, which has become the nation’s leading source of oxycodone and similar drugs. The DEA says that prescription drug abuse now exceeds abuse of all illegal drugs combined, except marijuana.

Michael Polzin, a spokesman for Deerfield, Ill.-based Walgreens, said it is cooper-

ating in the investigation.

Earlier this year, the DEA moved to suspend the sale of similar controlled substances at two CVS pharmacies in the Orlando area, and the shipment of them from Cardinal Health Inc.’s Lakeland, Fla.-based center that supplied the stores. A federal appeals court recently upheld those suspensions.

DEA records cited in the Walgreens affidavit show sharp increases in oxycodone purchases at each of the locations. For example, the pharmacy in Fort Myers went from selling 95,800 units of oxycodone in 2009 to more than 2.1 million units in 2011 — good for 67 percent of all the oxycodone purchased by pharmacies in that same zip code in 2011.

In the first two months of this year, the DEA added, 53 Walgreens pharmacies are listed in the agency’s top 100 purchasers of oxycodone. In 2009, none were on the list.

Earlier this year, the DEA released figures showing that Florida may be losing its distinction as the nation’s leading illicit source for painkillers because of the ongoing law enforcement crackdown and several new laws. Florida also last year began operating a prescription drug tracking system and database aimed at combating illegal diversion of the drugs.

About 85 people, including at least 13 doctors, have

been arrested in South Florida over the past year on pill mill-related charges, according to federal prosecutors.

### Ground broken on 225-acre Fla. elephant sanctuary

FELLSMERE — Officials have broken ground on a new elephant sanctuary in Florida.

The National Elephant Center is being built on a 225-acre plot of land west of Sebastian on Florida’s Atlantic coast.

Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers (<http://bit.ly/HVD5uO>) reports its first phase will transform 25 to 30 acres of orange grove into pasture for up to 10 elephants.

The project is a collaboration of 73 zoos.

### Coast Guard recognizes 3 longest-serving members

TAMPA — The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Division will recognize three of its longest-serving members in Tampa.

Joe and Betty Hagan, and Cliff Martin were recognized Saturday for their combined 59 years and 15,708 hours of service to the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the civilian volunteer arm of the active-duty U.S. Coast Guard.

The event took place during its Annual Awards Luncheon in Tampa.

### Scott repeals 45-year-old ban on dyeing of bunnies

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Rick Scott has signed a bill that lifts a 45-year-old ban on the dyeing of bunnies, chicks and other animals.

The provision was part of a wide-ranging agriculture bill Scott signed into law Friday. The bill takes effect July 1.

Animal welfare groups opposed the bill, which had been filed at the request of a Broward County groomer who wanted to dye his show dogs.

The ban had been put into place to prevent people from buying the colored animals during Easter because they would often be released afterward and die.

The Tampa Bay Times reports (<http://bit.ly/laemFP>) that while the provision of the bill allowing people to dye animals different colors got the most attention, the measure also once again allows the selling of all baby bunnies, chicks and ducklings.

### 2 Fantasy 5 players each win \$126,027.09

TALLAHASSEE — Two winners of the “Fantasy 5” game will collect \$126,027.09 each, the Florida Lottery said Saturday.

The winning tickets were bought in Miami and Largo,

lottery officials said.

The 354 tickets matching four numbers won \$114.50 each. Another 10,856 tickets matching three numbers won \$10 each, and 105,817 tickets won a Quick Pick ticket for picking two numbers.

The numbers drawn Friday night were 4-10-26-29-30.

### Woman struck, killed by train in central Fla.

MELBOURNE — Police say a woman was struck and killed by a train on the Florida East Coast Railway tracks in Melbourne.

Melbourne police spokesman Pete Mercaldo told the Orlando Sentinel (<http://bit.ly/HmMtlq>) the train was heading south when it hit 21-year-old Lauren Chudkosky early Friday.

Railway and law enforcement officials are investigating.

No further details were immediately available.

### Scott signs Fla. bill inspired by child’s death

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Rick Scott has signed a bill inspired by 2-year-old Caylee Anthony’s death.

The bill (HB 37) was signed Friday. The new law increases the maximum penalty from a year in jail to five years in prison for knowingly making a false statement to police about a missing child.

Caylee’s mother, Casey

Anthony, was acquitted of murdering her last year in Orlando but convicted on four counts of lying to investigators.

Caylee wasn’t reported missing until 31 days after she vanished in 2008.

Casey Anthony completed her four-year maximum sentence while awaiting trial on the murder charge.

She could have gotten up to 20 years in prison if the bill had been in effect at that time.

### Man charged after allegedly sawing off dog’s leg

BELLE GLADE — A Florida man is being charged with animal cruelty for allegedly sawing off his dog’s leg.

Forty-eight-year-old Luc Jean Baptiste of Belle Glade is accused of duct-taping his dog’s mouth shut and hog-tying her before sawing through her right front leg.

The Palm Beach Post (<http://bit.ly/HD8eRB>) reports the 10-year-old pit bull mix has been taken into custody by Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control. Officials say she has a severe infection in her uterus, a sign that she may have been used for breeding.

It’s not known if Baptiste has an attorney. A witness told authorities Baptiste cut off the leg because it was injured.

— Associated Press

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

# ‘Painter of Light’ Thomas Kinkadee dies

BY JOHN S. MARSHALL  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Artist Thomas Kinkadee, whose brushwork paintings of idyllic landscapes, cottages and churches have been big sellers for dealers across the United States, died Friday, a family spokesman said.

Kinkadee, 54, died at his home in Los Gatos in the San Francisco Bay Area of what appeared to be natural causes, David Satterfield said.

Kinkadee called himself the “Painter of Light,” and his sentimental paintings, with their scenes of country gardens and churches in dewy morning light, were beloved by many but reviled by the art establishment.

He claimed to be the nation’s most collected living artist, and his paintings and spin-off products were said to fetch some \$100 million a year in sales, and to be in 10 million homes in the United States.

Those light-infused renderings are often prominently displayed in buildings, malls, and on products — generally depicting tranquil scenes with lush landscaping and streams running nearby. Many contain images from Bible passages.

“I’m a warrior for light,” Kinkadee, a self-described devout Christian, told the San Jose Mercury News in 2002, a reference to the medieval practice of using light to symbolize the divine. “With whatever talent and resources I have, I’m trying to bring light to penetrate the darkness many people feel.”

Before Kinkadee’s Media Arts Group went private in the middle of the past decade, the company took in \$32 million per quarter from 4,500 dealers across the country, according to the Mercury News. The cost of his paintings range from hundreds of dollars to more than \$10,000.

According to his website, Kinkadee’s paintings have been reproduced in hand-signed lithographs, canvas prints, books, posters, calendars, magazine covers, cards, collector plates and figurines. The website touts his Disney collection and offers a gallery locator, where fans can find nearby dealers.

Its online store offers a wide range of works and products with Kinkadee images including artworks, prints, and coffee mugs.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Sept. 15, 2006 file photo, artist Thomas Kinkadee unveils his painting, “Prayer For Peace,” at the opening of the exhibit “From Abraham to Jesus,” in Atlanta. Kinkadee, whose brushwork paintings of idyllic landscapes, cottages and churches have been big sellers for dealers across the United States, died Friday, April 6, 2012, a family spokesman said. He was 54.

His artistic philosophy was not to express himself through his paintings like many artists, but rather to give the masses what they wanted: warm, positive images, Ken Raasch, who co-founded Kinkadee’s company with him, told the Mercury News.

“I’d see a tree as being green, and he would see it as 47 different shades of green,” Raasch said. “He just saw the world in a much more detailed way than anyone I’ve ever seen.”

A biography on the website said Kinkadee rejected “the intellectual isolation of the artist” and instead, made “each of his works an intimate statement that resonates in the personal lives of his viewers.”

“I share something in common with Norman Rockwell and, for that matter, with Walt Disney, in that I really like to make people happy,” he said.

He called Rockwell his earliest hero. “I remember my mom had a big collection of copies of (Saturday Evening Post) magazines, and that was really my introduction to those great illustrators,” he said.

Kinkadee was born and raised in the Placerville, Calif. He studied at the

University of California at Berkeley and the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena.

He said art was a major outlet growing up.

“I was always the kid who could draw,” he said. “I had this talent, and it was the one thing that gave me some kind of dignity in the midst of my personal environment.”

As a young man, Kinkadee traveled by boxcar from California to New York with fellow fledgling artist, James Gurney, sketching the American landscape along the way.

The site says that with these sketches in hand, the two were able to get published “The Artist Guide to Sketching” in 1982, a book that helped land him a job creating background art for animated films.

Also that year, he married his childhood sweetheart, Nanette, to whom he frequently paid tribute to by hiding her name and those of his four daughters within his paintings.

“Thom provided a wonderful life for his family,” Nanette said in a statement. “We are shocked and saddened by his death.”

## Celebrity Birthdays

■ Comedian Shecky Greene is 86.

■ Basketball Hall-of-Famer John Havlicek is 72.

■ Singer Peggy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 71.

■ Steve Howe (Yes) is 65.

■ Former House Republican Leader Tom DeLay is 65.

■ Movie director John

Madden is 63.

■ Rock musician Mel Schacher (Grand Funk Railroad) is 61.

■ Actor John Schneider is 52.

■ Singer Julian Lennon is 49.

■ Actress Patricia Arquette is 44.

■ Rock musician Darren Jessee is 41. Actress

## Daily Scripture

**“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”**

— Galatians 2:20 NIV

## Lake City Reporter

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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.

# Last man standing

Columbia County's last remaining tobacco grower still makes the grade.

By JENNIFER CHASTEEN  
Special to the Reporter

At the turn of the 20th century tobacco was king in Columbia County. Today, the Roosevelt and Travis Dicks family is the county's sole survivor in an industry that once dominated the local agricultural landscape.

According to UF/IFAS records, there were 1,900 acres of tobacco planted in Columbia County in 1987. By 1997 it had dropped to 720 acres and by 2012 fewer than 40 acres are being planted in tobacco at the Dicks' farm.

A government buyout program provided an opportunity for farmers to get out of the tobacco program, explains UF/IFAS Horticulture Columbia County Extension Agent Jacque Bremen. Most farmers didn't have family members who wanted to continue growing tobacco under the present contract system. That is why there is only one father/son grower operation left here, Bremen said.

The Dicks family is part of an Extension agriculture advisory group that targets and addresses modern day farming and marketing challenges of local farmers. Extension has provided farmers with information and guidance on improved production (plant varieties, fertilizer, pesticides) and integrated pest management for over a half-century. Modern farmers have better plant stock, better bug and weed control, better herbicides and fertilizers than ever before. Today's technology has also taken a lot of the hand work and hard labor out of farming.



Travis Dicks (left) stands with his father, Roosevelt, beside containers filled with hydroponically grown tobacco seedlings ready to transplant on their family farm. The Dicks family is the last commercial tobacco grower in Columbia County.

JENNIFER CHASTEEN/Special to the Reporter

"It's not nearly as (physically) hard as it used to be," said Travis Dicks, a fourth generation farmer and Columbia County Agriculture Advisory Committee member. Dicks and his father Roosevelt Dicks run the family farm located off Tustenuggee Avenue. "It used to take all your energy just to do tobacco," Travis Dicks said. "Now you can grow a little bit of peanuts, corn, grow cattle and handle it all right. Things have changed."

Traditionally farmers grew tobacco sets, or baby plants,

in seed beds on the farm, pulling and then transplanting them by hand. Now sets are grown in high density hydroponic beds in commercial greenhouses from high quality, genetically superior seed stock.

Methods are now more mechanized, reducing the time seedlings spend out of the ground and greatly increasing plant survival rate and plant production.

In cooperation with the Extension program, this year the Dicks family planted a trial

plot consisting of 12 different varieties of tobacco. The information gleaned from this test plot will help farmers in the future determine which plant varieties and water and nutrient combinations work best.

Not only have planting methods changed but the way tobacco is sold is different. Modern farmers sell in a high-stakes, direct contract market where competition is fierce. Without careful planning and management the farmer has everything to lose.

"Now you have to make a

high yield and a high quality product, but it's still a high risk. You can still make a little bit of profit off of it. Your fuel and fertilizer are your biggest costs," said Travis Dicks. "You have to stay in the game. If you quit for even one year, you lose everything - your contract, insurance - it's hard to get back in."

The Columbia County Tobacco Warehouse Barn, located off Lake Jeffery Road, was once the hub of the community during the harvest season. Cured tobacco,

packed in big rolls tied with burlap sheets, was hauled to the warehouse to be auctioned. Farmers brought their families and made it a community event. There was entertainment, food and the community even held a yearly Tobacco Queen pageant.

"It used to be that everybody hereabouts was raised on a small farm," reminisced Roosevelt Dicks. "The young'uns helped and a feller could grow his crop and the last of July, first of August, take it to the auction. The warehouse was full of people - everybody ate ice cream and snow cones. You could come outta there with enough to trade in your pickup truck or get you a new tractor."

"Come spring, we would hitch up the mule and plow a patch in the cypress swamp to start seedlings. We'd put cypress logs around the plant bed and nail cheesecloth over it to protect it. The young'uns would put a water barrel on a sled pulled by the mule and ladle out water to the plants."

Now farmers invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment. School kids working the farm as summer jobs were the biggest source of help back then. Today the crops are planted mechanically for the most part and harvested with the help of migrant labor.

In the last century we've gone from the horse-drawn wagon age to the digital age, said Extension Agent Bremen. The number of small farms have dwindled down to a handful in Columbia County, but crop yields are much greater than in the past and done in smaller spaces thanks to modern technology.

## GOP superdelegates: It's over, Romney is nominee

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's over, and Mitt Romney is going to be the GOP nominee for president.

That's the growing consensus among Republican National Committee members who will automatically attend the party's national convention this summer and can support any candidate they choose.

Even some members who support other candidates begrudgingly say the math doesn't add up for anyone but the former Massachusetts governor.

"I would be surprised if Romney doesn't get the number he needs," said Jeff Johnson of Minnesota, who supports former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Bob Bennett of Ohio was more blunt.

"Look, Gov. Romney's going to be the nominee, and he's going to have enough votes," said Bennett, who is publicly neutral but said he supported Romney four years ago.

Romney's chief rival, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, is pledging to stay in the race, hoping a victory in his home state's primary April 24 will give his campaign new life. But Santorum has fallen far behind Romney in the race for convention delegates, and RNC members are taking notice, even though most are publicly staying neutral, preferring to let primary voters decide the nominee.

The Associated Press has polled 114 of the 120 superdelegates, party members who can support any candidate for president they choose at the national convention in August, regardless of what happens in primaries or caucuses.

In the latest survey, conducted Tuesday to Friday, Romney has 35 endorse-

ments, far more than anyone else but a modest figure for the apparent nominee. Gingrich has four endorsements, Santorum has two and Texas Rep. Ron Paul got one.

RNC members have been slowly embracing Romney. He picked up 11 new endorsements since the last AP survey a month ago, after the Super Tuesday contests. Over the course of the campaign, however, Romney methodically has

added endorsements from every region of the country. In the U.S. territories, where voters help decide the nominee but can't vote in the general election, Romney has dominated.

Romney has endorsements from all three RNC members in Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. He was endorsed by two of the three members in Puerto Rico.

Romney may be strug-

gling among voters in the South, but he was endorsed by two of the three committee members in Mississippi, Henry Barbour and Jeanne Luckey. Romney even has support from Robert Asher of Pennsylvania.

Santorum's only endorsements are from members in Iowa and Alabama. In Pennsylvania, state GOP chairman Robert Gleason is publicly neutral.

"I talked to Rick the other day," Gleason said. "He

didn't even ask me to support him."

Texas GOP chairman Steve Munisteri said he talked to Santorum for about 20 minutes on Tuesday, when Santorum was in the state for a fundraiser.

Santorum told him "what I already believed, which is we're only a little over the halfway mark and that he thinks he'll do really well in the Southern states," said Munisteri, who has yet to endorse anyone.

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ONE  
OPINION

## 9/11 suspects go before untested tribunal

If Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other suspects in the 9/11 attacks had been tried in U.S. civilian criminal courts in 2009, as the Obama administration desired, they would likely have been found guilty, if the evidence is as strong as the government says it is.

Their trials would have been in open court in Manhattan and, since most of the world seems to be well-versed in the U.S. legal system thanks to the TV series "Law & Order" and its offshoots, the trials would be seen to be fair.

Moreover, by now the defendants would be well into the appeals process and perhaps three of them several steps closer to the death penalty.

But Congress, through a lack of confidence in a criminal justice system and a thinly concealed desire to see the defendants railroaded to convictions, blocked bringing the defendants to the U.S. mainland.

Congress ordered that America's great continuing legal black eye and embarrassment – the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba – be kept open and the defendants tried there. The remoteness and the extreme security of that venue guarantee that the five will virtually be tried in secret.

According to the Justice Department, U.S. civilian courts have tried 195 cases of terrorism since 2001, 91 percent of them resulting in convictions. The judges and prosecutors of the Manhattan criminal court where the 9/11 conspirators would have been tried especially have great expertise in terrorism cases.

Instead, the five will be tried before an untested military tribunal that has been under almost constant revision since President George W. Bush proposed it in 2002 and is still something of a legal work in progress.

This trial should have been over.

■ Scripps Howard News Service

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### LETTERS POLICY

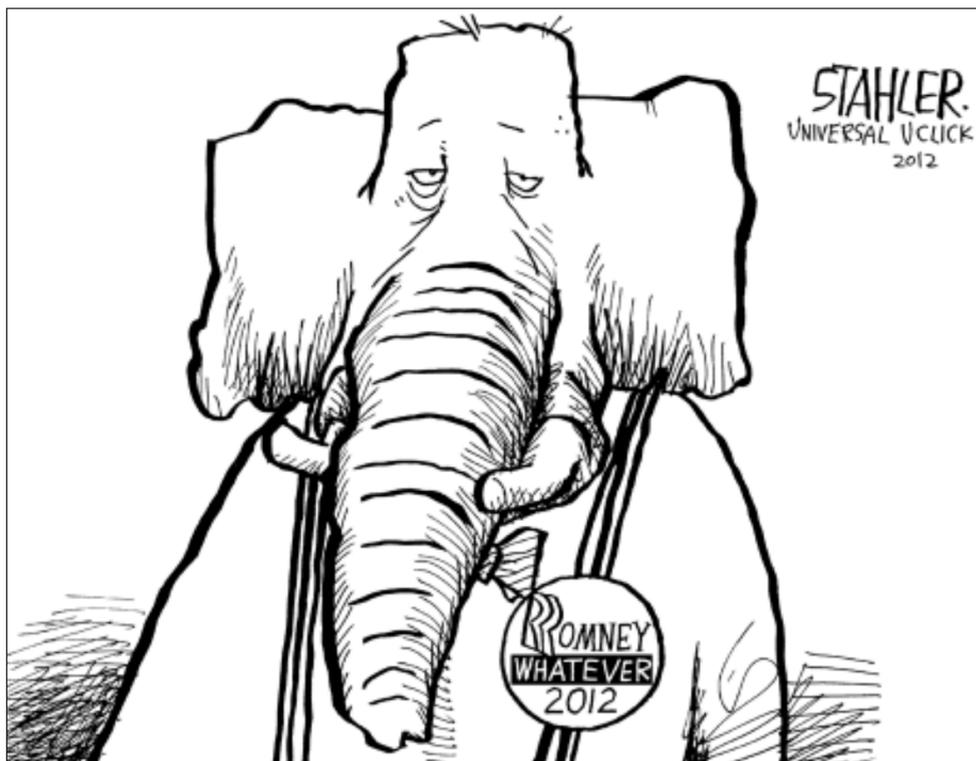
Letters to the Editor should be typed or neatly written and double spaced. Letters should not exceed 400 words and will be edited for length and libel. Letters must be signed and include the writer's name, address and telephone number for verification. Writers can have two letters per month published. Letters and guest columns are the opinion of the writers and not necessarily that of the Lake City Reporter.

BY MAIL: Letters, P.O. Box 1709, Lake City, FL 32056; or drop off at 180 E. Duval St. downtown.

BY FAX: (386) 752-9400.

BY E-MAIL:

news@lakecityreporter.com



## Taking a bow, making an exit

In just a few days, I will join the ranks of the voluntary unemployment force. Done. Finito. Sayonara and goodbye. The moment I have dreamed about, schemed about and walked the floor over is at hand. I'm finally retiring.

Can you tell how giddy I am?

I started planning my retirement late last summer and finally got around to telling people sometime last fall. Since then, I can't tell you how many people have asked me, "Sooo, are you retired yet?" Not yet, was my standard reply, but my day isn't far off.

There's more to the retirement process than clearing out your desk, getting the old pocket watch and clocking out for the last time. You have to consider the finances of it and how you're going to live off what's become known in the lingua franca as a "fixed income." That said, even if your income is fixed at a pretty good rate, there won't be any more raises or bonuses. And that being said, you have to figure out, OK, now how am I going to adjust my standard of living so that I don't get pinched too hard, yet still get to do many of the things I like to do. And then there's medical and life insurance to consider, not to mention your 401(k) or other savings and how you plan to use it in your retirement.

The checklist goes on and on and I spent months making like a pilot walking around his plane to make sure there wasn't something I forgot before I started the engine and lifted off the runway. The thing that scared me most were those



Joe Palmer

treysurf@comcast.net

horror stories about people who didn't stop to consider A or B after the going away party ended and the first rocky patches of retirement – and I'm sure there'll be some – began.

I know my retirement specialists will be happy to see me go because I've probably bugged them to the point of distraction with telephone calls, voice mails and e-mails. I've even asked a couple of them to talk with my wife and answer her questions because she's more detail oriented than I am in most financial matters. They've done such a good job that they all deserve raises and promotions in my book.

There are a few things I will miss about my career. I've made some good friends over the years that I likely will lose track of eventually. We all have good intentions and we really mean to stay in touch. But the reality is that it doesn't happen many times and the friends we made as newbies on the job fade like our youth. I'll miss the excitement of that special project that comes along now and then. You know, the one that gets you all pumped up and ready to slay dragons barehanded.

But there are a whole lot of things I won't miss. Please allow me to enumerate a few:

The nearly 70-mile round trip drive between my house and my soon to be former office. Goodbye road ragers and traffic jams.

Getting up at the crack of dawn to make that drive. Yuck!

All the cakes and goodies my nice coworkers bring to work. Between that and not going out to lunch each day, maybe I can finally lose some weight. Left to my own devices, I could survive off a bean burrito and a glass of tea for the day.

Weeks too long; weekends too short; the ratcheting sound of my alarm clock and knowing I gotta do it all over again the next day.

Folks say I'll get bored. Nonsense. I have an old sailboat that needs remodeling, the second draft of my first novel to write and a massive yard project to tackle. I need to add four feet to my deck. Being in the Fernandina Pirates Club, I can now play pirate anytime I wish during the day. I have a young grandson and granddaughter to entertain and spoil and the last time I checked, my favorite fishing spot on the beach was still churning out nice catches of whiting and pompano all spring and summer. It just ain't American to get bored fishing.

I've always wanted to do some volunteer work in the community and now I'll have the time.

One piece of advice to aspiring retirees. Don't announce it too soon. Folk will bug you to death. But boy, when it comes, it sure feels good to gloat a little.

■ Joe Palmer is a columnist in Fernandina Beach.

ANOTHER  
VIEW

## A better World Bank pick

The World Bank will be interviewing candidates for its next president in a process meant to be open, transparent and merit-based. President Obama's nominee, Jim Yong Kim, president of Dartmouth College, has the inside track, though developing-country aspirants, such as Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, are better qualified. There are also many Americans who would make a better choice.

The World Bank is one of the Bretton Woods institutions created in the aftermath of World War II. It's a vestige of the times when belief in large international institutions as the solution to global problems reigned. The primary function of the World Bank is to lend for longer-term projects to reduce global poverty.

There's little evidence such lending has done anything significant for the developing world. The biggest decrease in poverty in India and China came when those two countries moved to liberalize their economies. With the world's largest populations, those nations are home to most of the world's poor.

On the other hand, the existence of cheap money through the World Bank distorts incentives and investment and results in the misallocation of resources, resulting in growth that is lower than it could be. It also creates tremendous opportunities for graft and corruption, with all their attendant ills.

The optimal solution would be to shutter the World Bank. As it is, more than half its client base can find credit on the open market and has no need for the World Bank's services. There's less and less justification to have a World Bank, other than to keep 10,000 bureaucrats employed.

Because we're not likely to be rid of the World Bank anytime soon, the best way to minimize the damage is to appoint a president who understands the importance of markets in development. The president of the World Bank traditionally has been American, because the United States is the single largest shareholder, with an almost 16 percent stake.

Dr. Kim, an American, is a physician and anthropologist with a significant background in public health and almost no knowledge of economics. Worse, as New York University's William Easterly has pointed out, Dr. Kim has displayed considerable skepticism about the impact on the poor of what he calls "neoliberalism." He prefers to ignore the mountains of evidence that economic growth is the most effective way to reduce poverty.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is Nigeria's finance minister, and she not only has been instrumental in rooting out corruption in that country but has been successful in attracting private capital to a country once widely regarded as a basket case. Ms. Okonjo-Iweala also is an economist. She has the baggage of a considerable time spent at the World Bank but seems aware of the importance of markets in the development process, and she is less likely to damage the fragile institutions in those countries than a Kim presidency.

In an ideal world, there would be no World Bank. When selecting the institution's next leader, America - and the world - have a lot more talent to offer than Dr. Kim.

■ Scripps Howard News Service

## From remote exurbs, cities don't look so bad

When the GIs came home from World War II, they married, produced the baby boom and moved en masse to a relatively new way of living for most Americans, the suburbs. The suburbs sprouted quickly in the farmland that had once surrounded the cities and soon came to be known as bedroom communities.

Families in search of larger but more affordable homes on large lots moved farther and farther out, leaving even the suburbs behind to create ever more remote developments that came to be known as exurbs.

Well into the last decade their growth outpaced even the housing bubble. Like many trends, it seemed likely to continue indefinitely - until it didn't. The recession brought development in the remote urban fringes to an abrupt halt, according to a new



Dale McFeatters

mcfeattersd@shns.com

Census report, leaving behind a forest of foreclosed signs amidst half-built subdivisions.

Economist Robert Shiller, co-creator of a respected housing index, told the Associated Press, "The heyday of exurbs may well be behind us."

It would be going a little too far to say that the migratory tide has reversed itself, but for the first time in 20 years or so the growth of cities and their inner suburbs has surpassed that of the exurbs. One key reason: Urban areas are where the jobs are. As an example of the

dramatic change in the exurbs, AP offers exurban Kendall County, Ill., 50 miles southwest of Chicago. From 2000 to 2010, it was the nation's fastest growing county. By the end of 2011, its growth had stalled and its growth rate dropped it to 236th among U.S. counties.

The recession was the principal culprit in the end, perhaps only temporary, of suburban sprawl but so were high gas prices, long commutes on jammed highways, the tendency of couples to delay having children and the growing preference of retirees for walkable neighborhoods with amenities. And what is the fate of the exurbs? Just as inner suburbs are growing up to be cities in their own right, the exurbs will grow up to be the suburbs of these new urban centers. And the cycle continues.

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

# 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 8

### Easter service at state park

A program of devotional and song will be the feature of the 45th Annual Easter Sunrise Service at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, White Springs on Sunday, April 8. Gates will open at 6:15 a.m. Carillon concert begins at 6:45 a.m. Service begins at 7 a.m. Admission to the park is free. Refreshments will be served immediately following the service. The service will be held on the east lawn of the Stephen Foster Carillon Tower. Please come join us for this inspirational service.

### Sunrise service

Old Providence Baptist Church, Hwy. 245, will have an sunrise service Sunday, April 8 at 6:45 a.m. with breakfast afterwards. For information call 755-1648.

### Easter services

Come worship with New Dayspring Missionary Baptist Church, 709 NW Long Street Lake City, on Easter Sunday. Sunrise Service will be at 7 a.m. with a breakfast after the service. There will be an Easter program at 9:45 a.m. and a worship service at 11 a.m.

### Easter services

You are welcome to worship with the Philadelphia Baptist Church family in our Resurrection Worship Service at 8 a.m. Sunday, April 8. Sunday school and breakfast is at 9:30 a.m. followed by Easter pageant at 11 a.m.

### Easter services

Greater Truevine Baptist Church, 217 NE Kingston Lane, will have a sunrise service at 6 a.m. on April 8. Breakfast will be served after the service. Our Easter Service will begin at 10 a.m. We invite everyone to come and fellowship with us.

## April 9

### Cancer support group

The Women's Cancer Support Group of Lake City will meet at Baya Pharmacy East, 780 SE Baya Drive, from 5:30 to 6:30 PM on Monday, April 9. Information at 386-752-4198 or 386-755-0522.

## April 10

### Historical society meeting

The Columbia County Historical Society will have its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at the downtown library. Guest speaker will be Jesse Quillen,

## Coloring Contest Winners



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Alex Gurney (from left), 11, Jaycie Wade, 6, and Kirsten Swift, 8, pose with their drawings Friday after being awarded an Easter basket containing a sports bag, soccer ball, fruit snacks and candy after winning the Lake City Reporter Easter Coloring Contest. More than 30 children entered the contest in three categories, ages 3-6, 7-9 and 10-12.

the new Columbia County Economic Development Director. The meeting is free and open to the public. For questions call Sean McMahon at 754-4293.

### Grief workshop

Good Grief, An Overview of Grief and Loss will be offered to the public on Tuesday, April 10 at 2 p.m. at the Wings Education Center, 857 SW Main Blvd. The workshop, facilitated by Jerry Tyre, will offer an overview of grief and suggest ways of coping with a recent loss. There is no cost. For information or to register, contact Vicki Myers at 755-7714 Ext. 2411 or 866-642-0962. The Wings Education Center is a program of Hospice of Citrus County, Inc./Hospice of the Nature Coast licensed 1985, serving north central Florida.

### Homeless network meeting

The monthly meeting of the Homeless Services Network of Suwannee Valley will be conducted at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, at the Columbia County Public Library West Branch. The network includes agencies and individuals interested in the services available to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The local United Way is a community impact and fundraising organization which, utilizing volunteers on all levels, identifies unmet community needs

and seeks to alleviate those needs through United Way of Suwannee Valley initiatives and the funding of 22 affiliated health and human service agencies. For further information contact Jennifer Lee, homeless coordinator, United Way of Suwannee Valley, 386-752-5604 x 107.

## April 11

### Newcomers luncheon

The regular meeting of the Lake City Newcomers and Friends will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 11 at Eastside Village in the Community Clubhouse off of Baya Avenue. Our program will be our Annual Fashion show, come and see our own Lake City Newcomer models, modeling the fashions of Belk's, JC Penney and Bon-Worth. Lunch is \$11.00.

### Builder's assn. lunch

The Columbia County Builders' Assn. invites you to join us April 11th at the Holiday Inn to hear NAHB Chairman of the Board, Barry Rutenberg speak. We are excited to have a local businessman who has achieved national success speak at our General Council lunch. Buffet will open at 11:30 a. m. Cost of lunch for CCBA members is \$12 and non-CCBA members is \$15, including tax and gratuity. For this special lunch, we do require reservations. To

RSVP by April 7, call: 386-867-1998.

## April 12

### Law enforcement run

The 2012 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Florida will be April 12 at 10 a.m. at the DOT on South Marion Ave in Lake City. T-shirt and hats available now. For more information contact Mike Gordon or Sarah Wheeler at the Columbia County Sheriff's Office.

### Northeast Florida Forage School

The UF/IFAS Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group will be hosting an educational meeting for forage, hay and cattle producers in Northeast Florida on Thursday, April 12 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The program will be held at the Baker County Extension Service Agricultural Center Auditorium in Macclenny. Topics presented include: Warm and Cool Season Forages, Improvement of Existing Pastures, Soil Fertility, Weed Control, Soil Amendments and Equipment Maintenance.

Check-in will begin at 4:30 p.m. with presentations starting promptly at 5 p.m. A \$10 per person registration fee to cover materials and dinner. Please register by April 10.

## OBITUARIES

### Martha Fletcher Lee

Mrs. Martha Fletcher Lee, 81, of Lake City, FL, passed away after a lengthy illness on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at Shands at the University of Florida Hospital in Gainesville, FL. She was born in 1930 in St. Augustine, FL, and was the daughter



of the late John L. and Dolly Savell Fletcher. She moved to Lake City, FL, in 1952 and had attended nursing school at Touro Infirmary in New Orleans, LA and had been a Registered Nurse at the VA Hospital in Lake City from 1952-1966. She then retired and was a homemaker taking care of her family. She was a member of Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Augustine, but had recently attended the Long Branch Congregational Methodist Church in White Springs, FL, and loved reading, watching television and loved and cared about animals. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her loving grandmother, Emma "Gooney" Savell. Survivors include her loving husband of 55 years: Jeffrey W. Lee, Lake City, FL; one son: Jeffrey Fletcher Lee, Pensacola, FL; and four precious cats. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral services will be conducted on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 2 PM at Gateway-Guerry Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow in Prospect Cemetery in Hamilton County north of White Springs, FL. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 from 5 PM

to 7 PM at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Long Branch Congregational Methodist Church, P. O. Box 453, White Springs, FL 32096. GATEWAY-GUERRY FUNERAL HOME is in charge of all arrangements. Friends

may leave words of love and encouragement at [www.gatewayguerryfh.com](http://www.gatewayguerryfh.com).

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

## Florida Tax Payers

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://fcats.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, [kmerriken@hotmail.com](mailto:kmerriken@hotmail.com)

**Jonah 1:17; Matthew 12:38-41. Read Jonah to my Dad on his death bed then said, "See you later Dad". Happy Easter 2012.**

Paid for by Kenny Merriken, son of Loyal Nathan Merriken

Contact Derek Barber at the Extension Office at (386)752-5384 to register or for additional details.

information or for tickets, call (386) 754-4340 or visit [www.fgcertainment.com](http://www.fgcertainment.com).

### Hazardous waste disposal

The Columbia County Toxic Roundup will be Saturday, April 14 at the Columbia County Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Safely dispose of your household hazardous wastes, including old paint, used oil, pesticides and insecticides. The process is quick, easy and free of charge to residents. There is a small fee for businesses. Help keep our environment safe! For information call Bill Lycan at (386)752-6050.

### March for Babies

The March of Dimes March for Babies will be April 14 at Olustee Park in downtown Lake City. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and walk begins at 9 a.m. Entertainment and food will begin at 10 a.m. We are still looking for teams, volunteers and ambassadors who were born premature or with birth defects. Please call Kathy McCallister, March of Dimes community director 386-623-1505 or register online [marchforbabies.org](http://marchforbabies.org).

### Project Starr

Martin Orthodontics presents the second annual Project Staff Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 701 SW State Road 47 in Lake City. Bring your pet, have your picture taken and receive a free 4" by 6" photo. Dr. Celia Martin will make a donation to the Lake City Humane Society and other pet rescue groups for every picture taken. There will be refreshments as well as best costume and best trick contests. Donate pet supply items to be entered to win a iPod and other prizes. For information call 155-1001.

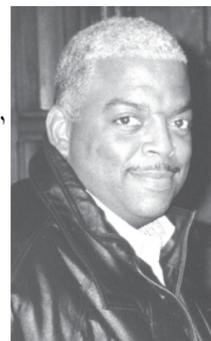
### White Springs H.S reunion

The White Springs High School Homecoming is scheduled for Saturday, April 14. Homecoming activities are planned for all who attended (not necessarily graduated) White Springs High School, along with any former teachers, principals and superintendents. The school cafeteria will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a barbecue lunch served at noon. Cost is \$12.50 per person. Mail registration to Irene Morgan, 9644 SE 154th Ave, White Springs, Fla. 32096. Call 397-2453 for information.

### RHS Alumni

Richardson High School Alumni will have a roundup committee meeting April 14 at noon at the Richardson Community Center. For information call 752-0815.

## Darryl Earl Lane



September 18, 1963

April 9, 2011

Your presence we miss;  
Your memory we treasure.  
Loving you always -  
Forgetting you never.  
Forever with the Lord...  
Always in our hearts.  
Just a memory away.

Wife Madelynn - Mama Bettye -  
Sisters Mikki & Renee  
Mentor-Dad Dr. Talbert - Uncles -  
Aunts - Nieces - Nephews - Friends

# 2 new artists added to Jam lineup

## Suwannee River Jam planned May 2-5.

LIVE OAK - Jamie Davis and Eric Paslay, two hot new country artists, have been added to the lineup for the Suwannee River Jam May 2-5 at the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park in Live Oak.

And, fans have a chance to win two Jam tickets and a May 4 performance by Jamie Davis around their campfire. The prize package includes Jam tickets and everything needed for your camping weekend including tent, sleeping bags, two meet and greets with Jamie Davis along with a souvenir bag from the Suwannee River Jam Crew. See the SOSMP website at [www.musicliveshere.com](http://www.musicliveshere.com) or go to [www.suwanneeriverjam.com](http://www.suwanneeriverjam.com) for more information.

Jamie Davis, born in Gainesville but a graduate of Branford High School in Suwannee County, is a Nashville recording artist who plays many venues in Florida. He and his band recently performed two sold out shows at Double Down Live in Gainesville before a performance at :08 Seconds also in Gainesville where he included many songs from his new album, High Weeds and Rust. The new album includes anthems such as "Closing the Woods Down," "I HEART Honkytonk," "Summertime in the South" and the passion-filled "Ain't Foolin Around."

"I don't remember a sin-



Country artist Jamie Davis



Country artist Eric Paslay

gle moment of my childhood where music wasn't a huge part of my life," said Jamie of his musical career. "I was blessed to have had the family and friends I have. They gave me a very strong musical foundation - my grandma, my brother, my mom and my dad. Some of my earliest childhood memories involve me sleeping in my dad's guitar case backstage

at "Billy's Bar" or some town event."

Texas native Eric Paslay (Pass-Lay) started playing guitar at age 15. He was always surrounded by music growing up in Temple, Texas near Austin and grew up hearing stories about his grandfather's band - Arnold Schiller and the Moonlight Serenaders.

Eric had aspirations of being a songwriter and

moved to Nashville to attend a music program at Middle Tennessee State University. During his schooling, Eric interned with Cal IV publishing and applied for a job in their tape room after graduation. He was denied the job because the boss feared he would stop writing songs. A few months later, Cal IV signed Eric to his publishing deal.

Seven years after his

move to Nashville, Eric signed with EMI Records Nashville. During those seven years he continually worked on his songwriting and played countless gigs around town. Eric Paslay has written or co-written every song on his debut album. He currently has a songwriting cut, "Friday Night," on Lady Antebellum's Own The Night, as well as

the #1 Jake Owen single, "Barefoot Blue Jean Night," which Eric co-wrote with Dylan Altman and Terry Sawchuk.

Tickets are still available for the Suwannee River Jam by calling The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park, call 386-364-1683, email [spirit@musicliveshere.com](mailto:spirit@musicliveshere.com), go to [www.musicliveshere.com](http://www.musicliveshere.com), or go to [suwanneeriverjam.com](http://suwanneeriverjam.com).

# UF Performing Arts hosts six April performances

## Gainesville shows all have April dates.

GAINESVILLE - University of Florida Performing Arts hosts six performances in April, which include a world-renowned orchestra, a blues icon and a classic Broadway musical.

Five-time Grammy winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Buddy Guy returns to the Phillips Center at 7:30 p.m. April 21. One of the music industry's most accomplished guitarists, Guy earned the Billboard Magazine Century Award and was presented with a Presidential National Medal of Arts.

A new production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific will be presented at the Phillips Center at 7:30 p.m. April 23. Based on the 2008 Tony Award-winning Lincoln Center Theater production, South Pacific tells the story of two couples and how their happiness is threatened by the realities of World War II and their own prejudices.

Renowned for its inspired programming, vitality and vibrant spirit, the Australian Chamber Orchestra is joined by four-time Grammy-winning soprano Dawn Upshaw for a special performance at 7:30 p.m. April 20 at the Phillips Center.

The Squitieri Studio Theatre, located inside the Phillips Center, will host two performances in April - the chamber ensemble Trio Cavatina (2 p.m. April 15) and the country/rock trio Buffalo Rome (7:30 p.m. April 20).

UFPA will also host a free performance at the Phillips Center at 7:30 p.m. April 13 - Fort Benning Army Band. Tickets may be requested (limit four per request) by visiting the Phillips Center



Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Buddy Guy



Soprano Dawn Upshaw performs with the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Box Office or sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: University of Florida Performing Arts, P.O. Box 112750, Gainesville, FL 32611-2750. Ticket prices range from \$30-60 for reserved seating, depending on the show (Fort Benning Army Band is free).

## NOTICE OF MEETING COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE CITY OF LAKE CITY

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Community Redevelopment Advisory Committee for the City of Lake City, Florida will hold a meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 5:30 P.M., in the Council Chambers located on the second floor of City Hall at 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida.

### THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Update on the North Florida Broadband's Interest in old Powers Building (Vann Property)
- Washington Street Project

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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

AUDREY E SIKES  
City Clerk



HANNAH O. BROWN/ Lake City Reporter

President of the Gateway Wildlife Habitat Organization Lauri Shubert educates Malachai Speer, 10, Kayle Nelson, 13, and Brian Esing, 13, about the effects of pollution on the Floridan aquifer through an interactive tie-dye activity.

## FESTIVAL: Environment, education is the focus

*Continued From Page 1A*

estimated that around 200 people had come through to eat on Saturday, hours before the festival had concluded.

Fetters' restaurant offered homemade pulled pork, summer sausages and sides suited for summer such as cole slaw and baked beans.

A brand new Chimney Swift tower was unveiled at the event.

Jerry Krummrich, retired fish biologist and volunteer for Four Rivers Audubon, completed construction of the tower about a week ago.

According to Krummrich, the population of Chimney Swifts has declined nationally. The tower, which stands 16 feet tall, will provide a place for the species to nest and breed.

"It was fun to build it but it would be truly just a great joy to see a bird use it. That would be really special," Krummrich said.

Krummrich who is an avid bird watcher said that many species of birds were spotted in the guided bird walk hosted by the festival on Saturday. Krummrich said he had seen bald eagles, osprey, red shoulder hawks, herons, egrets, ibis as well as other species of birds in the park.



HANNAH O. BROWN/ Lake City Reporter

## Source: NBC producer fired over 911 call

By FRAZIER MOORE  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — NBC News has fired a producer for editing a recording of George Zimmerman's call to police the night he shot Trayvon Martin, a person with direct knowledge of the matter said Saturday.

The person was not authorized to talk about the situation publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. The identity of the producer was not disclosed.

An NBC spokeswoman declined to comment.

The producer's dismissal followed an internal investigation that led to NBC apologizing for having aired the misleading audio.

NBC's "Today" show first aired the edited version of Zimmerman's call on March 27. The recording viewers heard was trimmed to suggest that Zimmerman volunteered to police, with no prompting, that Martin was black: "This guy looks like he's up to no good. He looks black."

But the portion of the tape that was deleted had the 911 dispatcher asking Zimmerman if the person who had raised his suspicion was "black, white or Hispanic," to which Zimmerman responded, "He looks black."

Later that night of Feb. 26, the 17-year-old Martin was fatally shot by Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer in Sanford. Though Martin was unarmed, Zimmerman told police he fired in self-defense after Martin attacked him.

Questions subsequently have arisen over whether Zimmerman was racially profiling the teen, a theory the edited version of the tape seemed to support.

On Tuesday, NBC said its investigation turned up "an error made in the production process that we deeply regret." It promised that "necessary steps" would be taken "to prevent this from happening in the future" and apologized to viewers.

## PET: Holidays not always time for animals

*Continued From Page 1A*

Marques said.

A similar culturally-inspired trend occurred in the 90s with the release of Disney's 101 Dalmatians. Marques said animal shelters all over the country experienced a deluge of Dalmatian surrenders in the months following the film's release.

Dalmatians were originally bred to be guard dogs, possessing an alert and active demeanor. Though, in many cases the protective nature of the breed resulted in unforeseen aggression.

"Dalmatians are ferocious, I mean ferocious," Marques said. "Every single one that we got was due to aggression issues towards children."

Marques said that the animals make great pets for a responsible adult, but are sometimes too high-strung for a chaotic family environment.

Because these sometimes poorly researched decisions to adopt an animal are often unsuccessful, the Lake City Humane Society discourages animals to be adopted as gifts.

The emotional effect on surrendered pets is "devastating," Marques said.

The shelter offers connections to training services and assistance with basic care for pet owners who have fallen on to hard times or who just need assistance in learning to care for their pet.

Marques said the shelter tries to identify why an animal is being surrendered by its owner and then provide what assistance they can to keep the animal in the home.

"We don't want your animal, we want it to stay where it is," Marques said.



HANNAH O. BROWN/Lake City Reporter

Jessica Brady holds her puppy Malichi close to her while Dottie List of the Art League of North Florida paints a butterfly on her face.

ATTENTION COLUMBIA COUNTY RESIDENTS...

# Toxics Round-Up

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Columbia County Commission are sponsoring a project to collect, recycle, treat and properly dispose of these Household Hazardous Wastes.

## WANTED

Aerosol Cans	Fluorescent Lamps	Paint Thinners
Antifreeze	Gasoline	Pesticides
Batteries	Household Cleaners	Photographic Solutions
Computers	Household Electronics	Poisons
Corrosives	Insecticides	Pool Chemicals
Diesel/Transmission Fluid	Medications	Propane Tanks
Emergency Flares	Oil Filters	Televisions
Fertilizers	Paint & Paint Products	Used Oil

**Saturday, April 14th**  
**Columbia County Fairgrounds,**  
**9am-3pm**

CALL BILL LYCAN AT  
**386-752-6050 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

// DANGEROUS! // NOT WANTED! //

- If a container leaks, pack it in a larger container with an absorbent material such as cat litter or oil absorbent.
- Do not mix different or unknown materials together.
- Containers **MUST** be labeled.
- If you cannot identify the contents then label it unknown.
- Pack the containers in boxes with dividers.
- Explosives such as ammunition, dynamite and blasting agents.
- Reactives such as crystallized ethers, picric acid and sodium and phosphorus metals.
- Radioactive or infectious wastes.

Bluegrass music and the smell of corn on the cob filled the air while local experts guided families down the lush trails of Alligator Lake this Saturday at the Alligator Lake Spring Festival.

# THE WEATHER

<b>8 SUNDAY</b> MOSTLY SUNNY HI 79 LO 52	<b>9 MONDAY</b> ISOLATED SHOWERS HI 81 LO 55	<b>10 TUESDAY</b> MOSTLY SUNNY HI 82 LO 55	<b>11 WEDNESDAY</b> MOSTLY SUNNY HI 81 LO 52	<b>12 THURSDAY</b> PARTLY CLOUDY HI 82 LO 54
--	--	--	--	--

### REGIONAL FORECAST MAP for Sunday, April 8

Sunday's high/Sunday night's low

City	Monday	Tuesday
Cape Canaveral	76/59/pc	78/60/pc
Daytona Beach	78/56/sh	80/57/pc
Ft. Lauderdale	80/67/pc	82/67/pc
Fort Myers	84/60/pc	84/61/pc
Gainesville	80/55/pc	82/56/s
Jacksonville	81/60/pc	82/59/s
Key West	80/70/pc	80/70/pc
Lake City	81/55/pc	82/55/s
Miami	80/69/pc	82/70/pc
Naples	82/60/pc	83/61/pc
Ocala	81/54/pc	83/57/s
Orlando	83/60/pc	83/61/pc
Panama City	78/62/sh	75/58/s
Pensacola	77/63/pc	77/58/s
Tallahassee	81/54/sh	78/51/s
Tampa	81/57/pc	81/58/pc
Valdosta	81/54/pc	77/49/s
W. Palm Beach	77/66/pc	77/66/pc

**NATIONAL FORECAST:** An area of low pressure will produce a mix of rain and snow showers across far northern portions of New England today. A few showers will also be possible over portions of the Great Lakes. Scattered thunderstorms will develop over portions of Texas, as well as across parts of New Mexico and southern Colorado.

### NATIONAL FORECAST MAP

3 p.m. today

**YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL EXTREMES** High: 89°, Harlingen, Texas Low: -1°, Stanley, Idaho

### LAKE CITY ALMANAC

TEMPERATURES	SUN
High Saturday	77
Low Saturday	48
Normal high	78
Normal low	53
Record high	90 in 1967
Record low	36 in 1975

PRECIPITATION	MOON
Saturday	0.00"
Month total	trace
Year total	5.27"
Normal month-to-date	0.71"
Normal year-to-date	11.55"

April 13 Last	April 21 New	April 29 First	May 5 Full

### UV INDEX

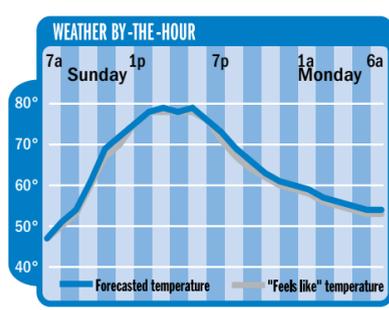
**10**  
VERY HIGH: 10 minutes to burn  
Today's ultra-violet radiation risk for the area on a scale from 0 to 10+.

### FYI

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

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today
Albany NY	57/33/0	56/35/pc	Des Moines	54/47/14	69/42/pc	Omaha	61/49/37	70/38/s
Albuquerque	64/47/0	75/47/t	Detroit	62/32/0	61/42/pc	Orlando	79/61/0	80/60/s
Anchorage	34/30/10	41/24/s	El Paso	78/53/0	81/61/t	Philadelphia	61/41/0	68/45/pc
Atlanta	70/48/0	78/49/pc	Fairbanks	26/17/0	46/17/s	Phoenix	81/56/0	93/67/s
Baltimore	64/38/0	69/50/pc	Greensboro	65/40/0	74/47/pc	Pittsburgh	58/33/0	62/37/sh
Billings	45/27/0	52/33/pc	Hartford	58/30/0	59/40/pc	Portland ME	50/27/0	50/36/sh
Birmingham	72/50/0	76/51/pc	Honolulu	76/72/0	83/69/s	Portland OR	52/31/0	61/45/c
Bismarck	52/37/0	52/28/pc	Houston	82/60/0	81/63/pc	Raleigh	64/37/0	75/47/pc
Boise	55/32/0	71/46/s	Indianapolis	62/38/0	65/44/pc	Rapid City	48/30/0	61/35/pc
Boston	52/38/0	53/43/pc	Jackson MS	76/47/0	80/57/pc	Reno	53/28/0	69/38/s
Buffalo	52/31/0	52/38/sh	Jacksonville	72/45/0	78/59/pc	Richmond	65/38/0	72/43/pc
Charleston SC	70/41/0	77/55/pc	Kansas City	57/48/01	71/43/s	Sacramento	61/36/0	72/42/pc
Charleston WV	63/31/0	70/43/pc	Las Vegas	67/46/0	83/59/s	St. Louis	67/42/0	68/45/s
Charlotte	66/37/0	77/49/pc	Little Rock	73/47/0	73/53/pc	Salt Lake City	53/28/0	72/50/s
Cheyenne	50/28/0	66/35/s	Los Angeles	80/54/0	71/52/s	San Antonio	82/66/0	81/61/c
Chicago	65/34/0	64/45/pc	Memphis	72/47/0	76/52/pc	San Diego	76/53/0	72/55/s
Cincinnati	64/29/0	65/40/pc	Miami	82/68/0	79/66/s	San Francisco	56/41/0	63/50/pc
Cleveland	57/27/0	54/44/pc	Minneapolis	51/45/15	58/36/pc	Seattle	53/35/0	56/48/c
Columbia SC	72/39/0	79/52/pc	Mobile	75/56/0	82/60/pc	Spokane	45/29/0	63/36/pc
Dallas	78/59/0	77/62/t	New Orleans	79/65/0	80/60/pc	Tampa	82/61/0	82/56/s
Daytona Beach	76/65/0	75/57/s	New York	59/40/0	62/48/pc	Tucson	79/48/0	90/58/s
Denver	55/24/0	72/42/s	Oklahoma City	71/58/0	72/55/pc	Washington	63/42/0	71/44/pc



### WEATHER HISTORY

On this date in 1990, twenty-two cities reported record low temperatures for the date, as readings dipped into the 20s and 30s across much of the eastern U.S.

### SPONSORED BY

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Lake City Reporter

### INTERNATIONAL

CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today
Acapulco	81/64/0	89/75/s	La Paz	57/36/0	54/39/sh	Rio	84/75/0	85/72/t
Amsterdam	45/41/0	50/45/sh	Lima	81/70/0	79/65/pc	Rome	63/54/0	64/47/sh
Athens	78/55/0	71/51/s	London	52/45/0	59/41/sh	St. Thomas VI	84/75/0	84/73/t
Auckland	66/54/0	67/57/pc	Madrid	54/37/0	65/42/s	San Juan PR	85/75/15	84/74/t
Beijing	68/34/0	70/45/s	Mexico City	77/52/0	74/52/sh	Santiago	86/50/0	77/51/c
Berlin	41/34/0.11	44/31/c	Montreal	46/32/0	49/37/c	Seoul	54/32/0	62/44/pc
Buenos Aires	82/52/0	72/54/c	Moscow	36/28/0	43/37/sh	Singapore	88/77/0	85/78/t
Cairo	99/75/0	98/58/s	Nairobi	79/63/0	76/61/t	Sydney	79/64/0	76/63/pc
Geneva	54/48/0	54/35/pc	Nassau	86/73/0	77/63/pc	Tel Aviv	91/57/0	86/64/pc
Havana	84/75/0	80/63/sh	New Delhi	99/79/0	101/75/s	Tokyo	54/43/0	56/44/s
Helsinki	34/25/0	34/20/pc	Oslo	41/23/0	40/30/pc	Toronto	59/32/0	58/35/sh
Hong Kong	73/68/0	77/70/sh	Panama	91/75/0	86/73/t	Vienna	50/39/0	44/30/pc
Kingston	88/77/0	84/74/sh	Paris	55/41/0	57/48/pc	Warsaw	45/36/0	42/27/pc

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

# Bust out of your 30-year mortgage!

# 3.29%

# APR Fixed!

Other rates and terms also available!

## Pay off your home in 10 years!

**IF** you have **30% or more equity** in your home...  
**IF** you want to avoid **high closing costs**...

## Free'n Clear IN 10 YEARS!

Apply online at [campuscu.com](http://campuscu.com) or call 754-9088 and press 4 today!

# 3.29% \$199

10-year **FIXED** APR<sup>1</sup> First Mortgage (Please call for other rates & terms) **TOTAL CLOSING COSTS<sup>1</sup>** (Loans of \$200,000 or less)

## CAMPUS USA credit union

Membership is open to anyone in Alachua, Columbia and Suwannee counties!<sup>2</sup>

Apply Now!

1. Offer does not apply to existing CAMPUS loans. Offer is for new loans only. Credit approval, sufficient income, adequate property valuation (maximum LTV of 70%), and first mortgage position are required. Owner-occupied property only. Offer excludes mobile homes; certain other restrictions apply. Property insurance is required; flood and/or title insurance may be required at an additional expense to the borrower. Example: a \$100,000 loan at 3.25% for 120 months would require 119 monthly payments of \$977.40 and one final payment of \$960.37, total finance charge of \$17,454.57; for a total of payments of \$117,287.57. The amount financed is \$99,833.00 the APR is 3.285%. APR=Annual Percentage Rate. 2. Credit approval and initial deposit of \$5 required. Mention this ad and we'll waive the \$15 new member fee. This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

## BRIEFS

### CHS FOOTBALL Q-back Club meeting Monday

The Columbia County Quarterback Club will meet at 6 p.m. Monday. 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 SWIMMING CST sign-up begins Monday

Registration for Columbia Swim Team is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Columbia Aquatic Complex. There also is registration April 16-19. The CST Dolphins is a summer recreational competitive swim league designed to introduce competitive swimming to swimmers ages 5-18. Participants must be able to swim 25 yards unassisted. Swimmers can register throughout the summer. For details, call Michele Greene at 755-4688 or go to [cstdolphins@yahoo.com](mailto:cstdolphins@yahoo.com).

### FORT WHITE FOOTBALL Q-back Club meeting Tuesday

The Fort White Quarterback club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the teachers lounge at the high school. For details, call club president Harold Bundy at 365-5731.

### YOUTH BASEBALL Fort White's 15U registration

Fort White Babe Ruth Baseball has registration for 15-under league play from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$75. For details, call Millissa Blakley at 365-4133.

■ From staff reports

## GAMES

- Today**
- Columbia High softball at Madison County High, 7 p.m. (JV-5)
  - Fort White High softball at Gainesville High, 7 p.m. (JV-5)
  - Columbia High baseball vs. Fort White High, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Fort White High track in District 4-2A meet at Baldwin High, 10 a.m.
  - Columbia High weightlifting at Palatka High, 3 p.m.
- Thursday**
- Columbia High baseball vs. Newberry High, 5:30 p.m.
  - Fort White High softball at Union County High, 6:30 p.m.
  - Columbia High softball vs. Bell High, 7 p.m. (JV-4:30 vs. P.K. Yonge School)
  - Fort White High baseball vs. Taylor County High, 7 p.m.
- Friday**
- Fort White High softball vs. Lafayette High, 7 p.m. (JV-5)
  - Columbia High softball at Suwannee High, 7 p.m.
  - Columbia High softball vs. St. Augustine High, 7 p.m.

# Orange and Blue debut

Brissett, Driskel light up UF offense in spring game.

By **MARK LONG**  
 Associated Press

**GAINESVILLE** — Florida's quarterback competition will continue in the fall — and without a front-runner — after Jacoby Brissett and Jeff Driskel failed to separate themselves during four weeks of practice and Saturday's spring game.

Brissett completed 9 of 16 passes for 233 yards and two touchdowns. Driskel hit 12 of 14 passes for 147 yards, and ran for a score.

Brissett took the first snap with the first-team offense, a likely indicator that he's ahead, and completed deep passes to Latroy Pittman and Michael McNeely. Driskel, who lost the backup job to Brissett in the middle of last season, found Andre Debose for a 44-yard gain.

Both sophomore quarterbacks showed considerably more pocket presence than they did in 2011, but neither did enough to make coach Will Muschamp pick a starter.

"I think you saw both those guys take command of our football team," Muschamp said. "Both guys made vertical plays down the field, good decisions where they took the ball. You saw what I've been seeing from 14 practices previous to today. We can win with both guys."

Both struggled in relief of John Brantley in 2011, raising questions about how quickly Muschamp can turn things around in Gainesville.

The Gators beat Ohio State in the Gator Bowl to avoid their first losing season since 1979. And the offense, which ranked 105th in the nation, was the program's worst in more than two decades.

Offensive coordinator Charlie Weis left after one season to take the head-coaching job at Kansas. Muschamp replaced him with Boise State's Brent Pease, who chose to adapt to Florida's offense instead of installing a whole new playbook and new terminology for the players.

That could benefit



Florida quarterback Jacoby Brissett (12) scrambles to find an open receiver.



Florida's Omaris Hines (20) attempts to evade defenders Jabari Gorman (21) and Loucheiz Purifoy (15) as he drives down the field.

Brissett and Driskel the most.

They looked fairly comfortable Saturday, although they didn't face any blitzes and didn't have to play against some of Florida's best defenders, including safety Matt Elam (groin), linebacker Jon Bostic (back), cornerback Marcus Roberson (neck) and defensive tackle Dominique

Easley (knee).

Much of their yardage came late, too, and against third-teamers. The teams combined for 279 yards over the final six drives, and scored 27 of the 41 points in the final 4:09.

Driskel capped a 70-yard drive with a 1-yard run that put the Blue team ahead 21-14 with 53 seconds remaining. Brissett rallied the

Orange team with a 34-yard touchdown pass to Trey Burton with 23 seconds remaining. But Brissett's two-point conversion pass sailed high and through the end zone.

The QBs couldn't be much different.

Driskel is a scrambler who was recruited by

**GATORS** continued on 3B

### FROM THE SIDELINE



**Brandon Finley**  
 Phone: (386) 754-0420  
[bfinley@lakecityreporter.com](mailto:bfinley@lakecityreporter.com)

## New-look offense brings Pease

**T**here was plenty of sun and at least for a spring game the Fun n' Gun returned to the Florida Gators' offense.

There were moments when I had to pinch myself. After two disappointing seasons filled with John Brantley starring as Captain Checkdown, the Florida offense finally brought some excitement.

Not only were the Gators passing the ball all over the field, but they were throwing it for big chunks at a time. It was something that was noticeably missing from Charlie Weis' play calling last year.

Credit new offensive coordinator Brent Pease. The former Boise State signal caller knows what Florida fans desire.

Pease knows that Gators won't be happy with three yards and a cloud of dust. He knows that the faithful that pack the stands on Saturday afternoons wearing orange and blue won't be content with bland playcalling.

Pease brought flair with his play selection. He brought new life to an offense that was left for dead after the likes of Tim Tebow and Percy Harvin left for the NFL.

Most importantly he brought 381 yards of passing from two quarterbacks looking to take over for John Brantley when the Gators open the regular season against Bowling Green this fall.

**SPRING** continued on 3B



Phil Mickelson pumps his fist sinking an eagle putt on the 13th green during the third round of the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club on Saturday in Augusta, Ga.

## Mickelson on trail of Hanson

Leaderboard packed for final round in Augusta.

By **EDDIE PELLIS**  
 Associated Press

**AUGUSTA, Ga.** — Two players from different ends of the spectrum each made Augusta National look vulnerable Saturday.

Now, Peter Hanson and Phil Mickelson will be paired together for the final round at the Masters.

Hanson, making only his second appearance at the year's first major, shot 7-under 65 to take a one-shot lead over Mickelson, who put on a short-game clinic Saturday to land in good position for a fourth green jacket.

After his day of precise shot-making ended with an approach to near tap-in range on No. 18 for a birdie, Hanson finished at 9-under 207. Mickelson, meanwhile,

shot 30 on the back — one shy of the course record — to close a round of 66 that left him at 8 under.

"I was just trying to do the boring stuff," Hanson said. "Trying to hit every shot, put it in play off the tee, give myself a chance."

And leave the excitement to Phil.

He delivered, never more than on the 15th hole, when he opened up his 64-degree wedge and took a full swing from the back of the green. The flop shot landed 4 feet away for a birdie that got him to 7 under.

"There was some risk in that one," Mickelson said.

To close the day, Mickelson posted a 3 on the par-4 18th — making him 3 for 3 in the birdie department there this week: Not a bad memory to fall back on should he have a chance to win it come closing time Sunday.

There are others in the mix after a crazy day at

Augusta in which eight players had at least a share of the lead.

Louis Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open champion, played his third straight day of solid, under-the-radar golf and finished at 7 under.

Bubba Watson finished at 6 under and Matt Kuchar was 5 under, while Hunter Mahan, Pádraig Harrington, Henrik Stenson and Lee Westwood were in a group at 4 under.

Hanson, who plays most of his golf in Europe, has two top-five finishes in World Golf Championship events this season and received an exemption on the PGA Tour for the rest of the year if he wants it.

His pairing with Mickelson will feel familiar. They were in the same threesome on Thursday and Friday, which Hanson spent going on and off the leader-

**MASTERS** continued on 3B

# SCOREBOARD

## TELEVISION

### TV sports

**Today**  
**CYCLING**  
9 a.m.  
NBCSN — Paris-Roubaix, Saint-Quentin to Roubaix, France

**GOLF**  
2 p.m.  
CBS — Masters Tournament, final round, at Augusta, Ga.

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**  
1:30 p.m.  
TBS — N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay  
2:10 p.m.

WGN — Washington at Chicago Cubs

8 p.m.  
ESPN — Chicago White Sox at Texas  
**MOTORSPORTS**  
2 p.m.

SPEED — MotoGP Moto2, at Doha, Qatar (same-day tape)

3 p.m.  
SPEED — MotoGP World Championship, at Doha, Qatar  
**NBA BASKETBALL**  
1 p.m.

ABC — Chicago at New York  
**SOCCER**  
3:25 p.m.

ESPN2 — Spanish Primera Division, Valencia at Real Madrid  
**TENNIS**  
1 p.m.

ESPN2 — WTA, Family Circle Cup, championship match, at Charleston, S.C.

**Monday**  
**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**  
1 p.m.

MLB — Miami at Philadelphia  
4 p.m.

MLB — Regional coverage, L.A. Angels at Minnesota or San Francisco at Colorado

7 p.m.  
ESPN — Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs  
**NBA BASKETBALL**  
9 p.m.

ESPN2 — Phoenix at Minnesota  
**SOCCER**  
2:55 p.m.

ESPN2 — Premier League, Chelsea at Fulham

## BASKETBALL

### NBA standings

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	30	24	.556	—
Philadelphia	29	25	.537	1
New York	28	27	.509	2½
Toronto	20	36	.357	11
New Jersey	20	37	.351	11½

##### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Miami	39	15	.722	—
Atlanta	33	23	.589	7
Orlando	32	23	.582	7½
Washington	12	44	.214	28
Charlotte	7	46	.132	31½

##### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	43	13	.768	—
Indiana	34	21	.618	8½
Milwaukee	27	28	.491	15½
Detroit	21	34	.382	21½
Cleveland	18	35	.340	23½

##### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	39	14	.736	—
Memphis	31	23	.574	8½
Dallas	31	25	.554	9½
Houston	30	25	.545	10
New Orleans	14	41	.255	26

##### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Oklahoma City	40	15	.727	—
Denver	30	25	.545	10
Utah	29	27	.518	11½
Portland	27	29	.482	13½
Minnesota	25	31	.446	15½

##### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	35	21	.625	—
L.A. Clippers	33	22	.600	1½
Phoenix	28	27	.509	6½
Golden State	21	33	.389	13
Sacramento	19	36	.345	15½

x-clinched playoff spot

#### Late Thursday

Chicago 93, Boston 86

L.A. Clippers 93, Sacramento 85

#### Friday's Games

Indiana 103, Oklahoma City 98

Atlanta 101, Detroit 96

Memphis 97, Miami 82

New Jersey 110, Washington 98

Cleveland 84, Toronto 80

Portland 99, Dallas 97, OT

San Antonio 128, New Orleans 103

Milwaukee 95, Charlotte 90

Denver 105, Phoenix 99

Utah 104, Golden State 98

Houston 112, L.A. Lakers 107

#### Saturday's Games

Boston at Indiana (n)

Minnesota at New Orleans (n)  
Dallas at Memphis (n)  
Atlanta at Charlotte (n)  
Orlando at Philadelphia (n)  
Portland at Milwaukee (n)  
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix (n)  
Denver at Golden State (n)  
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers (n)

#### Today's Games

Chicago at New York, 1 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Boston, 6 p.m.  
Detroit at Miami, 6 p.m.  
Cleveland at New Jersey, 6 p.m.  
Toronto at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.  
Utah at San Antonio, 7 p.m.  
Houston at Sacramento, 9 p.m.

#### Monday's Games

Washington at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
Toronto at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
Detroit at Orlando, 7 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 8 p.m.  
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
Oklahoma City at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.  
Golden State at Denver, 9 p.m.  
San Antonio at Utah, 9 p.m.  
Phoenix at Minnesota, 9 p.m.  
Houston at Portland, 10 p.m.

## BASEBALL

### AL standings

#### East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	1	0	1.000	—
Tampa Bay	1	0	1.000	—
Toronto	1	0	1.000	—
Boston	0	1	.000	1
New York	0	1	.000	1

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	1	0	1.000	—
Chicago	0	1	.000	1
Cleveland	0	1	.000	1
Kansas City	0	1	.000	1
Minnesota	0	1	.000	1

#### West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	1	0	1.000	—
Texas	1	0	1.000	—
Seattle	2	1	.667	—
Oakland	1	2	.333	1

#### Friday's Games

Texas 3, Chicago White Sox 2

Baltimore 4, Minnesota 2

Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 6

L.A. Angels 5, Kansas City 0

Seattle 7, Oakland 3

#### Saturday's Games

Toronto 7, Cleveland 4, 12 innings

Detroit 10, Boston 0

Kansas City 6, L.A. Angels 3

Minnesota at Baltimore (n)

N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay (n)

Chicago White Sox at Texas (n)

Seattle at Oakland (n)

#### Today's Games

Boston (Buchholz 0-0) at Detroit (Scherzer 0-0), 1:05 p.m.

Toronto (Carreno 0-0) at Cleveland (Lowe 0-0), 1:05 p.m.

Minnesota (Hendriks 0-0) at Baltimore (Hammel 0-0), 1:35 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Hughes 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Hellickson 0-0), 1:40 p.m.

Kansas City (Sanchez 0-0) at L.A. Angels (E.Santana 0-0), 3:35 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (Floyd 0-0) at Texas (Harrison 0-0), 8:05 p.m.

#### Monday's Games

L.A. Angels at Minnesota, 4:10 p.m.

Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, 7:05 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.

Boston at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.

Seattle at Texas, 8:05 p.m.

Kansas City at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.

## FOOTBALL

### NFL Draft order

#### First Round, April 26

- Indianapolis
- Washington (from St. Louis)
- Minnesota
- Cleveland
- Tampa Bay
- St. Louis (from Washington)
- Jacksonville
- Miami
- Carolina
- Buffalo
- Kansas City
- Seattle
- Arizona
- Dallas
- Philadelphia
- N.Y. Jets
- Cincinnati (from Oakland)
- San Diego
- Chicago
- Tennessee
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland (from Atlanta)
- Detroit
- Pittsburgh
- Denver
- Houston
- New England (from New Orleans)
- Green Bay
- Baltimore
- San Francisco
- New England
- N.Y. Giants

## TENNIS

### Davis Cup

#### WORLD GROUP Quarterfinals

(Winners to semifinals, Sept. 14-16)  
At Monte Carlo Country Club Roquebrune, France

#### United States 2, France 1 Friday Singles

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France, def. Ryan Harrison, United States, 7-5, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2.

John Isner, United States, def. Gilles Simon, France, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5.

#### Saturday Doubles

Bob and Mike Bryan, United States, def. Julien Benneteau and Michael Llodra, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6(4)

#### Reverse Singles Today

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France, vs. John Isner, United States

Gilles Simon, France, vs. Ryan Harrison, United States

## HOCKEY

### NHL schedule

#### Late Thursday

Carolina 2, Montreal 1, SO  
Minnesota 2, Chicago 1, SO  
San Jose 6, Los Angeles 5, SO  
Nashville 2, Dallas 0  
Columbus 5, Colorado 2  
Calgary 3, Vancouver 2  
Anaheim 3, Edmonton 2, OT

#### Friday's Game

Phoenix 4, St. Louis 1

#### Saturday's Games

Chicago 3, Detroit 2, SO  
Boston 4, Buffalo 3, SO  
New Jersey 4, Ottawa 2  
Pittsburgh 4, Philadelphia 2  
Calgary 5, Anaheim 2  
Washington at N.Y. Rangers (n)  
Toronto at Montreal (n)  
Tampa Bay at Winnipeg (n)  
N.Y. Islanders at Columbus (n)  
Carolina at Florida (n)  
Phoenix at Minnesota (n)  
St. Louis at Dallas (n)  
Nashville at Colorado (n)  
Edmonton at Vancouver (n)  
Los Angeles at San Jose (n)

#### End regular season

Miami at Cincinnati (n)  
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego (n)

#### Today's Games

Atlanta (Minor 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Niese 0-0), 1:10 p.m.

Miami (Zambrano 0-0) at Cincinnati (Arroyo 0-0), 1:10 p.m.

Philadelphia (Worley 0-0) at Pittsburgh (McDonald 0-0), 1:35 p.m.

Colorado (Nicasio 0-0) at Houston (Norris 0-0), 2:05 p.m.

St. Louis (Lynn 0-0) at Milwaukee (Wolf 0-0), 2:10 p.m.

Washington (Zimmermann 0-0) at Chicago Cubs (Samardzija 0-0), 2:20 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Harang 0-0) at San Diego (Richard 0-0), 4:05 p.m.

San Francisco (Cain 0-0) at Arizona (Collmenter 0-0), 4:10 p.m.

#### Monday's Games

Miami at Philadelphia, 1:05 p.m.

San Francisco at Colorado, 4:10 p.m.

Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, 7:05 p.m.

St. Louis at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.

Washington at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.

Atlanta at Houston, 8:05 p.m.



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

## Practice makes perfect

Columbia High student Josh Wacha, 15, heads the ball into the goal while practicing his soccer skills at the CYSA fields on March 26. 'I have to push myself. I won't get better without practice,' Wacha said.

## BRIEFS

### FISHING Bass tournament on Saturday

Suwannee River Breast Cancer Awareness Association and Shands Live Oak have an open bass tournament planned for Saturday at Clay Landing. Fee is \$70 per boat with an optional \$10 per boat big bass pot. For details, call Jamie Albritton at (386) 209-0166, Donnie Feagle at 365-1191 or Ruben Thomas at 288-4691.

### GOLF Tebow Foundation Classic Saturday

The Tim Tebow Foundation Celebrity Golf Classic is Saturday 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](http://timtebowfoundation.org).

### Bucs Booster Club tournament

The BHS Buccaneer Booster Club Golf Tournament is April 28 at Suwannee Country Club. Format is three-person scramble. Entry fee of \$50 per person includes cart, green fees, lunch and a prize. There are hole (\$100) and full team (\$250) sponsorships available. For details, call Rob Cassube at 623-3833.

### Voices for Children tourney

Voices for Children of the Suwannee Valley Corporation is hosting a golf tournament on May 4 at Quail Heights Country Club. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Cost is \$65 per person or \$240 for a four-person team. Hole sponsorships are \$125. For details, call Wanda W. Bruce at (386) 364-7720.

### ADULT SOFTBALL Tournament set for April 21

The Columbia County Adult Softball League has

women's and men's tournaments planned for the weekend of April 21. Each tournament will have 10 teams, entered on a first come/first served basis. Registration is at Brian's Sports. For details, call Tad Cervantes at 365-4810.

### FORT WHITE FOOTBALL Applebee's, yard sale fundraisers

The Fort White Quarterback Club has a fundraiser every Wednesday during April at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar. Submit a flyer and Applebee's will donate 10 percent of the bill. The Fort White Quarterback Club has a yard sale of donated items from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 5 at the Fort White Train Depot. Merchandise and donations are now being accepted and all proceeds will go to the Quarterback Club. For details on drop-off times and locations, call Dana Brady at 365-3103; Gloria Jackson at 497-4808; April Parnell at 623-6694 or Priscilla Newman at 719-2586.

■ From staff reports

**2 Daily Jumbles**

**2 Daily Crosswords**

**EVERY SUNDAY IN SECTION B SPORTS**

The first puzzles will have Friday's answers, and the second will have the answers for the first.

**Lake City Reporter**

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BAULM

SUTEQ

YWYAAN

NRUIJO

Answer: ○○○○○

Yesterday's

# Masters not thrilled by Woods' tantrum

By **NANCY ARMOUR**  
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Tiger Woods' latest temper tantrum did not go over well with some fans at the Masters.

Woods caused a scene with his boorish behavior at buttoned-down Augusta National on Friday, scowling, cursing, tossing clubs. He even went so far as to give one a swift kick after his shot on the 16th tee landed in the bunker.

"It's not what you want to see," said Charles Hatcher III, who was at the course on Saturday with his 11-year-old son, Charles IV, and his father, Charles Sr. "Golf is a gentleman's game, and you should treat it as such."

Especially at Augusta.

The home of the Masters oozes decorum. Members wear their green jackets no matter how high the temperatures climb; there are no garish video boards or corporate logos to take away from the simple beauty of the shrubs and the Georgia pines. "Patrons" know their golf and their history, and show a proper appreciation for both.

"I'm not making excuses, trust me. What he's been through — largely brought on by himself — and not playing up to expectations, and the expectations he puts on himself, it's hard sometimes to keep your emotions in check," said two-time U.S. Open champion Curtis Strange, working as a broadcaster at the Masters. "With that said, you have to be somewhat aware of the stage you're on."

"This isn't Bay Hill or even some other tournament event," Strange said. "This is the Masters."

Expectations that Woods would win a fifth green jacket skyrocketed two weeks ago when he won at Bay Hill — his first PGA Tour victory in 30 months. But his chances began imploding



Tiger Woods during the third round of the Masters golf tournament on Saturday in Augusta, Ga.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

with a flurry of wayward tee shots, blocked approaches and missed putts from close range.

As his game melted down, so did he. He cursed the bad shots or took mock swings in anger — sometimes doing both. He hung his head or looked skyward with exasperation after the missed putts. He flipped clubs and, after that poor tee shot on 16, booted his 9-iron about 15 yards.

Diego Maradona would have been proud. Ben Hogan, not so much.

"Am I conscious of it? No," Woods said after Saturday's round, in which he limited himself to glares and one angry toss. "Certainly I'm frustrated at times. I apologize if I offend anybody by that. But I've hit some bad shots. It's certainly frustrating at times not to hit the ball where you need to hit it."

This was hardly the first glimpse of Woods' temper. It's easy to gauge his level of frustration at any tournament by reading his lips after a bad shot or two. Last

year at Augusta National he cursed so much CBS would have been justified if it had used a "parental discretion is advised" disclaimer.

Fans, however, expected to behold a new, improved Woods when he returned from the sex scandal that cost him his marriage and nearly two years of a magnificent career, promising to respect the game and the fans who pay dearly to watch him play.

"You couldn't even think of Jack (Nicklaus) doing

something like this," Jon Hayden said. "It's egregious."

Hatcher said he still recalls hearing Arnold Palmer tell the story of losing his temper during a tournament early in his career, and his father being so horrified he threatened to never let his son play again.

Now 47, Hatcher was 15 when he heard Palmer speak.

"Feet of clay," Hatcher's father said. "We all have them."

A person close to Augusta National operations said no one from the tournament had talked to Woods about his behavior in the second round, but Woods is subject to discipline by the PGA Tour.

Tour policy states that players can be disciplined for conduct unbecoming a professional even at tournaments that are co-sponsored or approved by the PGA Tour, such as the major championships. The tour doesn't comment on discipline, however, so whether he's fined might never be known.

"I certainly heard that people didn't like me kicking the club," Woods said. "But I didn't like it, either. I hit it right in the bunker. Didn't feel good on my toe, either."

Even if fans disapprove of his antics, they still like Woods.

Hayden's family had tickets from the early 1950s, and his father used to make him memorize the pairings as they made the drive — on local roads, there was no interstate then — to the Masters. He said he was "shocked" as he watched Woods on television Friday.

"But yet," his friend Allen O'Reilly said, "we're following him."

Indeed, Woods' gallery Saturday morning was, by far, the biggest on the course. Fans lined up 2 and 3 deep just to catch a glimpse of him. Every good shot prompted cheers of, "Good job, Tiger!" or "Go get 'em, Tiger!" and even his bad shots drew supportive groans.

After an even-par 72, he is 3 over for the tournament.

"Coming back here after winning Bay Hill, when he lost his shot, he lost his temper a couple of times because he's such a competitor," Dan Higginson said. "I didn't like to see him kick that club, but he's such a huge competitor it drove him nuts."

## MASTERS: Set for thrilling Sunday

Continued From Page 1B

board and Mickelson spent trying to stay patient after a triple bogey on No. 10 in the first round put him in a hole.

The main visual from that day was Mickelson, the fan favorite, tromping around in the scrub with part of the gallery, well left of the 10th fairway. They were looking for a ball they never found.

"It's Thursday," Mickelson said when asked which day this week has been most important to this run. "Because at some point on this golf course, I'm going to get hot, make birdies, maybe an eagle here or there. At some point, I'm going to get on the leaderboard. Staying in it on Thursday allowed me to make a run."

Hanson and Mickelson also squared off at the last Ryder Cup, when Mickelson beat Hanson 4 and 2 as part of Europe's victory at Celtic Manor.

This one's for the green jacket — the prize Fred

Couples slipped on 20 years ago this week.

Playing great at 52 years young, Couples slept on the lead Friday night, striped his first drive down the center of the fairway, then, in a nod to the cheering fans, turned to the gallery, shrugged and said: "However long it lasts."

Answer: not long. He played the first five holes at 4 over before steadying himself with two birdies. He finished at 2 under and doffed his cap to a crowd that still loves him. He'll have one of the later tee times Sunday — probably not to contend for the title, but certainly with a top 10 in reach on the 20th anniversary of his crowd-pleasing win at Augusta.

Couples' playing partner, Jason Dufner, also struggled and shot 75 to finish at 2 under.

But no pairing had it worse than Rory McIlroy and Sergio Garcia. They came into the day a shot off

the lead, but neither broke 40 on the front side.

Not waiting for a Sunday to melt down, McIlroy shot 42; Garcia shot 40. It was a terrible twosome and when both players made birdies on No. 12 to stop some of the bleeding, they jokingly hugged as they headed off the green.

They were embracing again as they walked off the 18th green.

"If you can't laugh at yourself, who can you laugh at?" McIlroy said in a joint TV interview with Garcia. "It's good to have this guy by my side even if we didn't play so well."

Playing much earlier in the day was Tiger Woods, who began his round hoping to make up at least some part of an eight-shot deficit. After an even-par round in which he couldn't control his swing, he was exactly where he started — 3-over par and needing the leaders to move backward over the remainder of the day.

## SPRING: Game sets tone for future

Continued From Page 1B

The good news for Gator fans is that it looks like head coach Will Muschamp and Pease will have a hard decision on their hands.

Make no mistake, the competition isn't over.

No team has ever won a championship by having the best spring.

But a spring can set a tone and that's what the Gators did with the way they competed on Saturday.

Brissett had the bigger arm and completed more

big passes throughout the game, but wasn't quite as accurate as Driskel.

Brissett was 9-of-16 passing, while Driskel didn't hit as many big plays but completed 12-of-14 passes during the game.

While Brissett took the first snap of the game with the first-team offense and came out to start the second half as well, don't take it as too much of an indicator that he will be the starter in the fall.

What you can take from

it is that Brissett may be a little ahead of Driskel at this point.

There's a summer's worth of work left to come, however, and a battle is surely set to rage.

Florida may be looking at a transfer from whichever competitor loses the job, but the Gators can't worry about that.

And the Gators shouldn't worry either, because if the spring is an indication, good things are to come.



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Former Florida quarterback Chris Leak answers questions during a sideline interview while visiting for the Orange & Blue Debut Saturday.

## GATORS: O-line most improved

Continued From Page 1B

former Florida coach Urban Meyer to run the spread option. He admits he locked onto one receiver too often as a freshman.

"Just knowing the playbook gives you confidence," Driskel said. "Last year, I was kind of a little clueless out there just kind of locking onto one guy. I feel like I'm going through my progressions more and just playing instead of thinking."

Brissett is a pocket passer with a big arm and unafraid to take chances down the field.

"I love throwing the ball deep," Brissett said. "I love getting the drive over in one play, two plays, so we don't have to stay on the field that long."

Driskel would seem to be the better choice to play

behind an experienced offensive line that was shaky much of last season. But Muschamp made it clear Saturday that the O-line has made the most progress of any position group and could emerge as a strength in August. That could mean Brissett is the better fit for the pro-style system Muschamp wants.

"Last year, unfortunately, we played both of them," Muschamp said. "Right now, I'm really happy that both of them played. It was tough to go for them because at any level — I don't care if it's high school, college or pro — the quarterback position is so critical and to put so much on those young guys on a football team coming in here as true freshmen is tough. We certainly benefit-

ted from it, though."

Brissett and Driskel still have to make progress for the Gators to contend in the always-tough Southeastern Conference in five months. Muschamp has charged them with getting receivers together over the summer for workouts, key to developing the kind of on- and off-field chemistry Florida has lacked the last two seasons.

"Right now is a huge, huge indicator to see who takes a leg up and see who's going to get our football out there and do team drills," Muschamp said. "They've got to take control of our football team. ... I feel comfortable our offense will, but those guys need to take the next step as far as that's concerned."

# Heat still touting LeBron James as the MVP

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

MIAMI — Whenever LeBron James gets asked about the NBA MVP award, he seems to answer carefully, as if to avoid any suggestion that he's campaigning for his third trophy.

In fairness, James doesn't have to do much lobbying.

Everyone else in the Miami Heat locker room takes care of that. And they say the James-for-MVP movement should be going strong.

Not only did the Heat win a marquee game on Wednesday night — they beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 98-93 — but James won a head-to-head matchup against the player who is generally considered to be his top competition in the MVP race. He finished with 34 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds, while Kevin Durant had his 30-point night also marked by a career-worst nine turnovers.

"Every night I go out on the court, I try to play like the MVP for our team," James told the reporters surrounding his locker after the game. "I've always said that. ... It doesn't matter to me. For us, we got better tonight as a team. And I was the MVP for our team and just trying to lead those guys, lead us to a victory. That's what it's all about."

James might have been considered a lock for the MVP award a month ago, when he and the Heat were both rolling along.

But just about everything after the All-Star break has been a grind for Miami, which gets Thursday off — James said he would be looking for the city's best massage — and plays host to Memphis on Friday.

Scoring is down by nearly nine points a game. The Heat aren't shooting as well, teams are shooting a better percentage against them,



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Heat's LeBron James is fouled by Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday in Miami.

and that's all happened while James has dealt with injury woes like a dislocated left ring finger, an aching elbow and the aftereffects of banging his head on the court in a hard fall against Phoenix last month.

On Wednesday, James twisted his ankle falling over a videographer, winced and grabbed his back after some inadvertent contact with a referee, took what he thought was excessive contact twice while attempting dunks — getting pulled

down by Russell Westbrook from behind on one of those, a play James later described as "scary" and "dangerous" — and gritted his teeth after his finger started bothering him again down the stretch.

And even shooting 37 percent, Miami still won.

"I think he's the best two-way player in this league," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He does it in a night-in, night-out basis and he does it in a way where most teams would not ask a play-

er to shoulder that type of responsibility. But the fact remains: He must play at an MVP level at both ends of the court for us. We've talked about him playing like a defensive player of the year, to defend all five positions, while at the same time playing four positions offensively."

James' two biggest plays against the Thunder may be ones that don't show up in the box score.

Oklahoma City had two possessions in the final

4 minutes where it had shots for a one-point lead. James snuffed out both. He ran Westbrook down and blocked a layup with 3:49 left — ironically, it was at the same spot on the court where Westbrook grabbed him around the left shoulder and right side of his waist and sent him sprawling to the floor two quarters earlier — to preserve a 92-91 Heat edge.

Then with 1:30 remaining, the score then 94-93, Durant backed James down

on the low post and tried a turnaround. James contested it well, so well that not only did Durant miss, but his shot bounced off the top of the backboard.

Oklahoma City didn't score again, and James and the Heat were soon enjoying their payback win. On March 25, James was held to 17 and the Heat lost at Oklahoma City 103-87.

"A great player," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said of James after Wednesday's game. "You're not going to hold down a great player often. He missed some shots the first time we played them and we made him take some tough ones. He was feeling good. His jump shot was falling and he was getting some buckets in transition."

It's not a stretch to say that James wants his third MVP in four seasons, and in what probably is no surprise either, Durant acknowledged before the game that he would like to win the award.

Durant thinks it's too early to have the conversation — and when it is time, he indicated he'd be like James, saying he'd rather not tout his own merits.

"I can't worry about that," Durant said when asked about his own MVP candidacy. "If you worry about that type of stuff, that's when you take your focus off the game, start doing stuff that you don't want to do on the floor. I can't worry about that. It's not in my control. All I can control is how hard I work, how hard I play, and whatever else falls in line after that, we'll see."

The Heat say they saw plenty on Wednesday.

"Two MVP candidates, you have to want that matchup," Heat forward Udonis Haslem said. "LeBron accepted the challenge and that's what we expect him to do as our leader and our MVP candidate. You have to step up to the plate and that's what he did."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mississippi's Zach Kirksey watches his home run against Florida during an NCAA college baseball game on Sunday in Oxford, Miss. Mississippi won 7-6. Mississippi hit two homers off the Gators, but Florida leads the SEC with 41 home runs on the season. Florida (24-5, 6-3 SEC) is also the nation's top-ranked team.

## Good SEC teams can still hit the longball

By DAVID BRANDT  
Associated Press

The longball hasn't completely vanished from college baseball.

In fact, homers might be more important than ever, even as changes to the sport's ubiquitous metal bats have drastically reduced offensive production.

"It's always been a part of our game and it always will be — especially if you want to be good," Kentucky coach Gary Henderson said. "The goal is always to have a balanced team and that includes power. There are lots of ways to win a baseball game, but it sure is helpful to have the threat of scoring in bunches."

Power numbers across college baseball dipped drastically last season after the Ball-Bat Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) was introduced to deaden the powerful metal bats that made scoring so easy for decades. From 2010 to 2011, home runs were cut by nearly 50 percent nationally. The numbers are about the same again this season.

The change has forced SEC programs to rely more on pitching, defense and speed.

But many of the Southeastern Conference's best teams are still finding a way to put the ball out of the park — even if the numbers aren't quite as gaudy. Florida (24-5, 6-3 SEC) has been one of the nation's top-ranked teams all season and leads the SEC with

41 homers. Kentucky (28-2, 7-2) is right behind them with 36 — bashing six in a non-conference victory over Dayton on Wednesday.

The Wildcats also lead the league with a .333 batting average and 66 doubles. They took advantage of a relatively easy non-conference schedule, winning their first 22 games of the season, but really started to gain respect after a three-game sweep of defending national champion South Carolina and series victories over Tennessee and Georgia.

Catcher Luke Maile said a deep and powerful lineup — along with an improved bullpen and defense — has led to Kentucky's surprising rise. Maile is hitting .333 and is fourth in the SEC with eight homers. Five Kentucky starters have at least four homers.

"Even when our six or seven hitter is up, we have the chance to hit it out of the yard," Maile said. "Not everyone can say that, but we've done it pretty consistently. It's a big advantage because we can jump out to big leads or erase deficits when we need to do that."

Kentucky hosts Mississippi (20-8, 5-4) in a three-game series this weekend. The Rebels have also found a way to retain some of their power — senior Zach Kirksey leads the SEC with 10 homers in just 71 at-bats. Matt Snyder has also hit five homers and is second in the league with 12 doubles.

Kirksey's seen a huge

improvement from last season, when the 6-foot-0, 214-pounder hit just .192 with three homers.

"It was tough doing so poorly last year, but I learned a lot about my swing and myself," Kirksey said. "These bats make you a better hitter. You can't be a front-foot hitter. You have to have a mechanically sound swing to be able to drive the ball. If you've got the strength it will still go."

Ole Miss coach Mike Bianco said a year of adjustment to the new bats has allowed teams to remake their rosters.

He said power is still a component to college baseball, it's just not quite so dominant. The Rebels are third in the SEC with 24 homers.

"This year we have a little better mix" on offense, Bianco said. "But yeah, if you look at the teams that are having success, you've got to have a chance late in the game to not just hit a homer, but at least get an extra-base hit. That might be two runs instead of one."

Snyder says he's noticed a psychological difference in the power of the home run. They used to be so common that teams barely noticed when a 3-run homer flew out of the ballpark. Now, it can signal the end of the game.

"If you knock one off the scoreboard, it really means something because everyone knows you hit the ball well," Snyder said. "It can change the game with one pitch."



# Scenes from the Swamp



JAYLEN WATKINS (14) breaks up a pass intended for Jordan Reed (11). JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter



Florida's Latroy Pittman (13) breaks a tackle made by Ben Peacock (27) during the 2012 Orange & Blue Debut game in Gainesville at the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on Saturday. Blue beat Orange 21-20. JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter



Florida's De'Ante Saunders (26) and Jabari Gorman (21) force Quinton Dunbar (1) out of bounds. JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

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Section C

## Vision Works

Lake City optometrist is on a mission to keep doctors educated in hopes of providing better care.

By HANNAH O. BROWN  
hbrown@lakecityreporter.com

After years of volunteer service in and out of his field, Dr. Ron Foreman, a local optometrist, will serve as the president of the Southeastern Council of Optometry in 2012.

SECO is an international organization that provides progressive education to professionals in the vision care industry in the United States and around the world.

"It has a very noble objective," Foreman said of SECO. "It's just simply to keep our doctors as educated as we possibly can and then that transfers down to care. If they do a good job that will flow down to the public."

Once a year, SECO hosts a 6-day conference in Atlanta, offering a wide array of courses taught by professors in the field. Around 80 instructors attend, teaching over 8,000 attendees.

"You have an exchange of ideas with the very very people that you only talked about, the biggies in my profession,"

Foreman said.

Foreman said members of the SECO council make sure to include courses that teach an expansive range of techniques in the field.

Holistic approaches such as eye exercises that aid in vision development and the effects of nutrition on vision are also offered.

"If you're in the profession, you come to Atlanta, there will be a course offering for you and that's why we get so many people," Foreman said.

As president of SECO, Foreman will travel within the country and abroad to inform established as well as up and coming professionals what SECO has to offer.

According to Foreman, SECO is a widely respected and prestigious organization. Consequently, Foreman has found himself in some influential circumstances.

Foreman spoke casually about recently sitting down to dinner with the president of Colombia.

In two weeks he will be in the Caribbean, a week later he will be in London. He also plans a trip to Ireland.



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Lake City resident Dr. Ron Foreman was selected as 2012 president of SECO International on March 19. Foreman has maintained a private practice -- North Florida Eye Care -- in Lake City since 1976. 'SECO has got a reputation second to none anywhere. This is pretty cool for someone coming out of Lake City,' Foreman said. 'It's all about education and spreading it world wide. This is all apolitical. Nothing more, nothing less.'

While traveling, Foreman will share knowledge of the vision care advancements in the United States with industries in other countries.

"We are the most

advanced country in the world in terms of education and the care that's delivered," Foreman said.

Technological advancements such as contacts infused with

antibiotics to provide 24-hour therapy and fluid injections that treat macular degeneration are just some of the cutting-edge ideas that are currently rising in the American industry.

For a carpenter's son from Des Moines, Iowa, it seems that Foreman has hit the big time.

Though when looking at his history, it is clear that he has paid **VISION continued on 2C**

## Wyoming town with lone resident sold for \$900,000

By BOB MOEN  
Associated Press

BUFORD, Wyo. — Buford is a small place for sure, but so is the world.

A remote, unincorporated area along busy Interstate 80 that advertised itself as the smallest town in the United States, Buford was sold at auction for \$900,000 on Thursday to an unidentified man from Vietnam.

It's owner for the last 20 years, Don Sammons, served with the U.S. Army as a radio operator in 1968-69.

After meeting the buyer, an emotional Sammons said it was hard for him to grasp the irony of the situation.

"I think it's funny how things come full circle," he said.

The buyer attended the auction in person but declined to meet with the media or to be identified. Sammons and others involved in the auction would not discuss the buyer's plans for Buford.

It will take about 30 days for all the paperwork to be completed before ownership of the place located almost equidistant between Cheyenne and Laramie

in southeast Wyoming changes hands, Sammons said.

The new owner will get a gas station and convenience store, a schoolhouse from 1905, a cabin, a garage, 10 acres, and a three-bedroom home at 8,000 feet altitude — overlooking the trucks and cars on the nearby interstate on one side and the distant snowcapped mountains in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado on the other.

The town traces its origins to the 1860s and the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. Buford had as many as 2,000 residents before the railroad was rerouted.

Sammons, who moved to the Buford area about 30 years ago from Los Angeles to get away from the busy city life, bought the trading post on Jan. 31, 1992. He plans to retire from his unofficial title as "mayor" and write a book about his experiences in Buford, he said.

"I felt my time here has been very happy for me, and hopefully the new owner will be able to enjoy what I've enjoyed over the years — conversations with people, the uniqueness of the area and so on — and keep the history alive," Sammons said.

As workers boarded up the windows of the convenience store behind her, Rozetta Weston, a broker with a Cheyenne real estate auction company that represent-

**TOWN continued on 2C**



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Area resident Gary Crawford, center, and others wait for an auction of Buford, Wyo., to start Thursday in Buford. The unincorporated site, which bills itself as the smallest town in America with a population of 1, was sold to an unidentified man from Vietnam for \$900,000.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gold coins and bars are shown at California Numismatic Investments in Inglewood, Calif. The price of gold, which has climbed for years like a blood pressure reading for anxious investors, plunged Wednesday to its lowest level in three months.

## Is this the end of the gold rush?

By BERNARD CONDON and MATTHEW CRAFT  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The price of gold, which has climbed for years like a blood pressure reading for anxious investors, plunged Wednesday to its lowest level in three months.

Gold fell almost \$58 to \$1,614 per ounce. It has declined 15 percent since September, when it hit a peak of \$1,907. It had more than doubled since the financial crisis three years earlier.

Surprisingly, the fall came on an ugly day in the stock market — the Dow Jones

industrial average lost 125 points. Last year, a day like Wednesday would have caused fearful investors to buy gold as a protective investment.

"It's difficult to forecast, but I think the gold bull market is over," said Cetin Ciner, a professor of finance at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. He likened the surge in gold to dot-com stocks before they collapsed.

Some investors buy gold as a hedge against inflation, and minutes from a Federal Reserve meeting that came out Tuesday afternoon suggested that the central bank **GOLD RUSH continued on 2C**

## Ask the Fool

## The Big Index

Q What's the S&P 500? — C.B., Lima, Ohio

A It's an index of 500 of America's biggest companies, selected by the folks at Standard & Poor's. Though the U.S. stock market encompasses thousands of companies, these 500 together make up more than 75 percent of the market's total value.

The companies mostly have market capitalizations of at least \$4 billion, and include names such as 3M, Alcoa, Best Buy, Boeing, Caterpillar, Corning, Dell, Estee Lauder, FedEx, Ford, Gap, Goldman Sachs, Harley-Davidson, Hasbro, International Paper, Kellogg, Kroger, McDonald's, Oracle, PepsiCo, Schwab, Southwest Airlines, Target, Visa, Whirlpool, Whole Foods Market and Xerox.

Companies removed from the index in the past few years include RadioShack and Eastman Kodak, while those added include Chipotle Mexican Grill, Netflix, Dollar Tree and priceline.com.

You can invest in the S&P 500 easily via an index fund such as the low-cost Vanguard 500 Index. Learn more at [fool.com/mutualfunds/mutualfunds.htm](http://fool.com/mutualfunds/mutualfunds.htm).

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Q How can a stock get diluted? — G.S., Kinston, N.C.

A Stock dilution happens when a company issues additional shares of its stock (via a "secondary offering"), which decreases the value of existing shares. Imagine that you own one of a pizza's eight slices. If the pizza is cut into 10 pieces instead, you'll own a tenth instead of an eighth. Your ownership share has shrunk.

Additional shares aren't necessarily bad. Sometimes shares are issued to raise money used to generate additional sales and earnings — perhaps by acquiring another company. If so, then economic dilution might not occur.

Some new shares do destroy company value, though. This can happen, for example, if shares are used to finance a merger that fails to meet expectations, or to overpay a CEO who hasn't helped the company grow and prosper.

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



# The Motley Fool

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## Fool's School

## Fisher's 15 Points

Earlier this year, we reviewed the investment philosophy of Philip Fisher, one of the world's best investment thinkers. Here are eight of his famous "Fifteen Points to Look For in a Common Stock" from his classic book, "Common Stocks, Uncommon Profits" (Wiley, \$22). They can help you identify well-managed companies with excellent prospects.

(1) "Does the company have products or services with sufficient market potential to make possible a sizable increase in sales for at least several years?"

(2) "Does the management have a determination to continue to develop products or processes that will still further increase total sales potentials when the growth potentials of currently attractive product lines have largely been exploited?" Great companies keep innovating.

(5) "Does the company have a worthwhile profit margin?" Some companies make big bucks despite small margins — via great sales volume. But in general, the bigger the profit margins, the better. And ideally, they should be growing.

(7) "Does the company have outstanding labor and personnel relations?" It's a plus for a company to have happy employees.

(8) "Does the company have outstanding executive relations?" Among other things, executive compensation should be within industry norms.

(11) "Are there other aspects of the business, somewhat peculiar to the industry involved, which will give the investor important clues as to how outstanding the company may be in relation to its competition?" Understanding a company's industry will help you see which companies are best positioned to succeed.

(12) "Does the company have a short-range or long-range outlook in regard to profits?" It's the long run that matters most. Look for big goals and smart strategies.

(14) "Does the management talk freely to investors about its affairs when things are going well but 'clam up' when troubles or disappointments occur?" Annual CEO letters to shareholders can give you a sense of management candor. It's better to see recognition of risks and mistakes than whitewashing and blaming. Above all, seek management integrity.

## My Dumbest Investment

## Bad Options

I invested money in an option recommending service and actually almost broke even. I became suspicious that its recommendations were being "sold" too aggressively after a couple of small wins, so I stopped following any more advice. I recently heard from a government fraud department that the company's principals were being charged with just that: fraud. — C.B., Peterborough, Ontario

**The Fool Responds:** When receiving financial advice, watch out for anything that smells fishy, such as big promises and guaranteed returns. Our friends at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) offer tips about newsletters and fraud here: [sec.gov/investor/pubs/cyberfraud/newsletter.htm](http://sec.gov/investor/pubs/cyberfraud/newsletter.htm). They note that some advisers are paid to promote various investments and that they're required to disclose such arrangements. Some may break the law and not disclose, but others may offer vague or hard-to-find disclosures. Other advisers may be quietly invested in what they recommend.

You can check with the SEC to see if a newsletter has ever gotten in trouble. The SEC also warns: "Don't invest in small, thinly traded companies unless you're prepared to lose every penny."

Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Boil it down to 100 words (or less) and send it to The Motley Fool c/o My Dumbest Investment. 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 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? (Answer: Levi Strauss)

**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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## Name That Company

I trace my roots back to a 1940 drive-in restaurant with car-hop service. French fries replaced potato chips on my menu in 1949, the same year that Triple Thick Milkshakes debuted. Today I'm the world's leading restaurant retailer, with more than 33,000 locations. I serve nearly 68 million people in 119 countries each day. If you'd spent \$2,250 on 100 shares of my stock when I went public in 1965, you'd have 74,360 shares today (due to 12 stock splits), worth more than \$7 million. I also help more than 4 million families with sick children 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!

## Retailers report positive March sales

By MAE ANDERSON  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Retailers from discounter Target to department-store chain Macy's reported better-than-expected sales in March in the latest sign that Americans are feeling better about the economy.

A combination of warm weather and high demand for spring fashions boosted revenue for the month, but analysts say there's much more than higher temperatures at play: Americans who cut back on spending in the slow economic recovery are encouraged by the improving job market.

There's a growing belief we reached bottom a while ago," said Joel Bines, managing director of the retail practice of AlixPartners. "Rather than confidence that things have turned the corner, it's confidence that things are unlikely to get worse from here."

Even though only a handful of retailers report monthly figures, industry watchers say March figures are a reason to be optimistic. That's because the numbers offer a snapshot of consumer spending, which

Overall, revenue at stores open at least one year — an indicator of a retailer's health because it excludes results from stores that opened and closed during the year — rose 4.1 percent, according to a preliminary tally of 22 retailers by the International Council of Shopping Centers. That figure is within the range of the group's March estimates, but several retailers from luxury chain Saks Inc. to food and fragrance retailer Limited Brands Inc., had monthly gains that beat their own expectations.

accounts for more than 70 percent of all economic activity.

Wearing a weather beaten cowboy hat, Gary Crawford, who lives about 4.5 miles northeast of the trading post — "Post Office Box 7" — said the trading post is important to the surrounding residents who mostly live on widely scattered ranches.

"At different times, this has been a community gathering place where you caught up with your neighbors and shoot the breeze, learn what's going on, who is around," Crawford said. He looked forward to meeting the new owner. "I think we may have very nice, new neighbors," he said.

## TOWN: Small Wyoming town sold

Continued From Page 1C

the buyer, said the buyer was excited to own a "piece of the United States." But she declined to discuss the buyer's future plans for Buford.

Weston said the buyer and a companion arrived in Wyoming — their first trip to the United States — on Monday, touring Cheyenne and the University of Wyoming at Laramie before the auction.

Williams & Williams Co. of Tulsa, Okla., conducted the auction on a sunny, windy day outside the trading post, which has been closed since Dec. 31. The number of bidders was not released.

Dozens of people, including some of the 125 residents who live in remote areas and get their mail at the outdoor post office boxes on the property, showed up for the event. Officials with Williams & Williams stood out in their business suits among the locals dressed in jeans and western attire.

Inside the convenience store, most of the candy, snacks, pop, beer and all the Marlboro cigarettes had been sold off already. Bags of charcoal, whistles made from animal antlers and dozens of T-shirts proclaiming Buford as the smallest town in the United States remained unsold.

All of this with a bustling private practice, three sons and six grandchildren.

"It's done for the love of the profession, that's kind of a hokey comment but it's true. If you don't care about it you are not going to sacrifice all the time and travel," Foreman said.

## VISION: Doctor on mission to educate

Continued From Page 1C

his dues along the way. Foreman methodically worked his way up to the presidency at SECO.

"I went there for the first time in 1975 as a 25-year-old third-year optometrist," Foreman said.

He first served as a Florida Trustee, then as

Secretary of the Executive Committee. Then he became treasurer, vice president, and president-elect.

Locally, Foreman has served as the Lion's Club president twice, chairman of the March of Dimes and vice president of the Chamber of Commerce.

## GOLD RUSH: Is this the end?

Continued From Page 1C  
inflation remains under control.

Gold's attraction as an asset of refuge during crises also seems to have diminished. The economy has picked up, and worst-case scenarios in the United States and Europe have faded.

"Fear has been gold's best friend, and so to the extent that fear is dissipating, gold should fall," said Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist at Wells Capital Management. "We might look back at these Fed minutes as the line in the sand."

Gold has been hit in recent weeks by striking gold sellers in India, the world's largest buyer of physical gold, who are upset over government tariffs. Another bearish sign was a surge Wednesday in the dollar, which tends to rise when gold falls.

- ADVERTISEMENT -

## Early IRA Funding Can Pay Off Over Time

You've got until April 17 to contribute to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) for the 2011 tax year. That's not a lot of time, but if you have some money available, and you haven't completely funded your IRA for 2011, consider doing so before the deadline. And once you've "maxed out" on your IRA for last year, why not get a jump on 2012?

Actually, you could have started contributing to your 2012 IRA as early as Jan. 2. In fact, if you can get into the habit of fully funding your IRA each January, you'll give your money 15 extra months of growth potential, as opposed to waiting until mid-April of the following year. If you factor in all the years you'll be contributing to your IRA before you retire, those extra months of growth opportunities, repeated over decades, could end up providing you with a fair amount of extra cash when you start tapping into your IRA at retirement.

Of course, you may not find it all that easy to come up with the full IRA contribution amount at one time. (In 2012, you can put up to \$5,000 into a Roth or traditional IRA, or \$6,000 if you're 50 or older.) But if you look at your entire financial picture, you may be able to think of some resources. Here are a few suggestions:

• **Put your tax refund to work.** In 2011, the average tax refund was about \$3,000, according to the IRS. If you received that amount in 2012, and you applied it toward your IRA, you would already have met half the contribution limit (if you are 50 or older) or more than half (if you're younger than 50).

• **Take advantage of interest payments or dividends.** If you own income-producing

investments, you may find that they can help you fund your IRA early. For example, if you own dividend-paying stocks, and you don't typically reinvest the dividends, consider putting some of these funds into your IRA. (Keep in mind, though, that stocks can reduce or discontinue dividends at any time). And you can do the same thing with any interest payments you receive from bonds.

• **Put other "windfalls" into your IRA.** If you receive a windfall, such as a bonus from your employer or a gift of cash, think about putting it into your IRA.

If none of these options present themselves, and you can't afford to write out a big check to fund your IRA very early in the year, do the best you can to reach the contribution limit as soon as possible. To make this happen, consider setting up a monthly automatic transfer from your checking or savings account into your IRA. Even if you were to divide these transfers into 15 equal payments totaling \$5,000 (or \$6,000 if you're 50 or older), you would still be funding your IRA more quickly than if you would have scrambled to contribute in the last few months before the tax filing deadline.

No matter when you do it, fully funding your IRA is a great way to help build resources for retirement. But the earlier, the better — so do whatever you can to beat that tax deadline each year.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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Florida Law 828.29 requires dogs and cats being sold to be at least 8 weeks old and have a health certificate from a licensed veterinarian documenting they have mandatory shots and are free from intestinal and external parasites. Many species of wildlife must be licensed by Florida Fish and Wildlife. If you are unsure, contact the local office for information.

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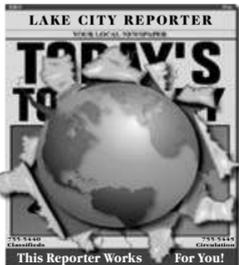
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**Genie Norman and Mary Kay Hollingsworth**  
TasteBuddiesLakeCity@gmail.com

## Taste Buddies visit Homerville

**J**imbo's Log Kitchen in Homerville, Georgia has been "Putting on the Hog" since 1936. Homerville is 65 miles north of Lake City on Highway 441. When you get to Homerville turn left at the second traffic light (there are only two) and go west on Dame Avenue about a mile. Taste Buddies were joined by Carolyn Castagna, Pat Vanous, Sandra Foreman, Rosemary Coleman and Diane LeGette recently for lunch at Jimbo's and we put a taste of the South in our mouths in one of the best Southern traditions, bar-b-que.

On your right as you enter Jimbo's is an open pit oven where stacks of chickens and roasts are browning and spitting over hot coals. The smell is tantalizing and makes your mouth water before you even sit down. Jimbo's is owned and operated by Mark Steedley and has been a family operation since it opened in 1936. Mark has added many of today's touches and you will find something to appeal to everyone's appetite.

The menu has a wide range of selections including the usual bar-b-que plates of chicken, pork and beef. Daily except Saturday there is a huge buffet with many selections including fried chicken, ham, squash casserole, cornbread dressing, green beans, full salad bar and usually banana pudding and peach cobbler. The selections change daily but there is a wide range of just good home cooking available. Some of the other items off the menu are steaks, shrimp, catfish, grilled ham steak, Brunswick stew, flower pot bread, bar-b-que nachos and numerous salads.

A favorite at our table on our recent visit was the bar-b-que chicken sandwich generously filled with chopped chicken. The small one is \$3.99 and the large one is \$4.99. Go for the large or you'll be wishing that you had. The chicken is finely chopped, sauced and the whole thing is then placed on a press. The bun comes out steaming hot and crispy toasted. Pour more of the warm sauce on that and you are a happy camper. We also tried the pork plate, brisket sandwich, pork sandwich, the most delicious French fries which are battered and the ultimate favorite was the battered and fried corn on the cob. It was unanimous that the fried corn on the cob was worth the trip.

The décor is South Georgia rustic with old signs and farm equipment adorning the walls. A nice touch is a large **TASTE BUDDIES** continued on 2D

# Fired

Cooking foods over an open flame is second nature for father and son duo.



Thomas Henry, the chief cook of the Budmeisters BBQ Team, seasons a Boston butt with hickory brown seasoning. 'Some people get scared of cooking big chunks of meat,' he said. 'You have to take your time with it, cook it low and slow. That makes it tender, fall-off-the-bone and juicy.'



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

By **LAURA HAMPSON**  
lhampson@lakecityreporter.com

**W**hen the days get longer and hotter locals head outside to fire up the grill or smoker. But for Thomas Henry of Lake City barbecuing is a sport without an off-season.

Henry's Budmeisters BBQ Team has won nine grand champion titles in eight years at competitions across the southeast.

Henry and Josh Henry, his son and grilling partner, compete nearly every weekend.

Last weekend the duo won second place in pork and chicken categories at the Junior League of Ocala's Pig Out BBQ Bash. This weekend the team will be in Tavares for the Planes, Trains & BBQ competition.

They won a grand champion title March 10 at the Pig on the Pond invitational competition in Clermont. At the Fire Ant Festival BBQ Bash in Ashburn, Ga. on March 23 and 24, the team won third overall, first in ribs and third in pork.

In Lake City Budmeisters took home grand champion at September's Smokin' Pig Fest. They also took home first in ribs and pork. The team is sponsored by

**FIRE UP** continued on 2D

At right: Henry displays two trophies -- carved out of logs with a chainsaw -- he won while participating at the 2012 Fire Ant Festival BBQ Bash in Ashburn, Ga., on March 24. He has been participating in barbecue competitions for at least eight years and in that time has won nine grand championships, three reserves and many other awards.



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

At left: While many people are used to slathering their meat with barbecue sauce, Henry insists that the layers of sauce can hide the taste of the meat. He suggests using a variety of rubs and has recipes for different meats, including hickory bacon for pork and ribs; hickory for briskets; apple butter for chicken, Bourbon molasses for steak and venison and a garlic lover's rub as a universal meat seasoning.

## At 95, oldest clown keeps the smiles coming for fans

By **MATTHEW BROWN**  
Associated Press

**BILLINGS, Mont.** — Floyd "Creeky" Creekmore is one of the quieter acts in the circus, his larger-than-life clown shoes shuffling methodically as he works the crowd, igniting surprised giggles and slack-jawed wonder from children that look up to encounter Creekmore's wrinkled eyes smiling through thick makeup.

At 95 years old, the former Montana rancher recently dubbed the oldest performing clown in the world has fewer magic tricks up his oversized sleeves than he once did. He gave up juggling several years ago after a stroke, and has long since parked the home-made bicycle he once incorporated into his acts.

But when the Shrine Circus comes through Billings, where Creekmore lives with his 96-year-old wife, Betty, Creeky the Clown returns to life.

At home in his kitchen, while Betty dozes in the living room, Creekmore pulls on a multi-colored, striped jacket and dons a bright orange



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Floyd "Creeky" Creekmore puts on his makeup before a performance in Billings, Mont. Guinness World Records has anointed the world's oldest performing clown, and it's none other than Creekmore, a former Montana rancher who's been donning the big nose and bright makeup for almost eight decades.

wig topped by a yellow hat. He glues on a rubber nose, carefully ties his shoes.

When his shaky right hand sends a line of make-up askew on one side of his face, Creekmore just makes the other side a little crooked, too.

"I'll stay back from the crowd so they don't notice," he says.

Others have laid claim to the title of world's old-

est clown, including an 81-year-old member of the Moscow Circus, Oleg "The Sun Clown" Popov and Andy "Bumbo" Beyer of Santa Ana, Calif., who was widely publicized as the oldest until his retirement three years ago at the age of 91.

But turns it out that Creekmore had a 20-month advantage all along, clowning away in his low-key style

**CLOWN** continued on 2D

## Gardening North Florida style

**W**hat exactly is 'Gardening North Florida style'? We feel it encompasses everything positive about living and growing in this breathtakingly beautiful

and dynamic part of the country. Some of the benefits of home gardening are added beauty, value, enjoyment, food and health. North Florida Gardening is a style that consciously eliminates wasteful water, fertilizer and chemical usage while achieving these premiums.

We have a lot to gain by gardening, but we also have too much to lose if we use the wrong cultural practices for North Florida. All of the reasons that made you put down roots in Columbia County, literally and figuratively, are the same reasons to make informed and responsible choices.

Deep sandy soils, intense summer heat, rainy seasons and drought - a concoction of these factors and others make North Florida's gardening possibilities very unique and challenging. But combine this with the porous nature of the karst soil understructure leading to the aquifer, and we become responsible to every living thing when we choose to manipulate the land above.

### GARDEN TALK



**Nichelle Demorest**  
dndemorest@ufl.edu

**GARDEN TALK** continued on 2D

# Are you giving out 1,000 business cards a year?

If you're not, then you're missing the cheapest, most effective advertising for your business. That's only four business cards each business day.

However, there are good and bad business cards, so I'll be offering some pointers. Often, your business card is the first impression of you and your business.

First, here are the NEVERS.

1. NEVER use cards that you get for free because you allow the printer's name on the back of the card. You'll look cheap.

2. NEVER use a card with information that is scratched out. Business cards are cheap! Print new ones.

3. NEVER use fill-in-the-blank cards. It looks like the employee using it is unimportant or short-term for the company.

4. NEVER use outdated pictures of yourself.

5. NEVER use a font size less than 10 points (8 at the very least). If your cus-

tomers can't read it without glasses, it's ineffective.

6. NEVER carry your cards in your wallet – it makes them look shop-worn and the edges are bent. Use a card case.

7. NEVER put your price list on the back. It will eventually become outdated and yet those cards will still be out in the market place.

8. NEVER make your own cards on a printer. If it's an ink jet, the cards smear when they get wet. Secondly, everyone sees the perforations on the card paper and knows they're homemade.

9. NEVER hand out business cards like you're dealing playing cards. Always include a comment with the card that will give the person a reason to keep it.

Business cards are so inexpensive that you can afford to print several different designs and test them. Which one gets the most comments? Which one generates the most leads?



**Sheri Carder**

sheriacarder@fgc.edu

Here are the MUSTS:

1. First, your card should look and feel professional. Spend the extra money to have your card professionally printed on quality cardstock, 80 to 100 lbs.

2. Have a professionally designed logo. It should be used on all of your business branding. Colors, fonts, and pictures should be the same on your sign, your uniforms, vehicles, and your cards, stationary, and invoices.

3. Include your unique slogan or "tag line" that identifies your business, especially if your business name doesn't reveal what your business does, for instance: "Smith and Company". Stay away from

corny slogans that say nothing about your business, like "Where the customer is king...."

4. Include all your important contact info: address, web site, social network, Skype phone number, fax, cell phone.

5. Use color. Avoid black and white cards.

6. If you're not sure someone remembers your name, simply hand them a business card and save them the embarrassment.

7. ALWAYS carry your business cards. Keep some in your car. Never say "Google me" because you don't have a card. It's especially important to carry business cards if your name is oddly spelled (like mine) and people can't find you because they can't spell it or if you use only cell phones are aren't listed in the regular phone books.

You may CONSIDER:

1. Printing the card vertically, not horizontally.

2. Choosing a different size from the standard 3.5" x 2" business card.

3. Using a die cut, so that the card stands out. For instance, use rounded corners, not square. Have a design cut out of the middle of the card. Choose a non-rectangular shape – a circle or a triangle.

4. Using something other than card stock. I know one company who uses poker chips as business cards.

5. Making your card into a mini-brochure by making it a tri-fold.

6. Magnetizing it.

7. Printing on both sides to be able to offer more information. However, I favor leaving the back side blank because I often use it for notes.

8. Putting a map on your card back so clients can find you. Backs of cards can also be used for appointment dates, discount coupons, or loyalty cards.

9. Making your card stand out by using not paper, but wood, steel, plastic, leather, or foil. Make it holographic. Make it a mini-DVD. Attach it to a mini calendar. Consider a

pop-up or two-sided folding card. Laminate it. Foil stamp or emboss it. Use reverse printing (white type on a dark background). Use a zippered card or use grommets.

10. Buying 1,000 – 2,000 cards is not much more expensive than buying 250 or 500.

The most powerful marketing tool you have is your business card – because you hand them out personally and that's the beginning of a business relationship.

There are certainly many choices for a business card and mistakes to avoid. However, the biggest mistake is: cards that aren't distributed. So, be sure you're giving out at least four business cards each day. Even the best designed business card works only if it's used.

■ Dr. Carder is the business professor at Florida Gateway College. Registration for summer and fall semesters 2012 will begin on April 11.

## CLOWN: At 95, he keeps the smiles coming for fans

*Continued From Page 1D*

in eastern Montana. He now carries the imprimatur of Guinness World Records, which declared him world's oldest performing clown in February after friends applied on his behalf.

Fellow performers and family members says Creekmore has started to slow down, yet gives no sign of ending his periodic performances.

"Even if his body is telling him no, his mind won't stop," said grandson Tom McCraw.

Back in his kitchen, Creeky is almost ready to

go. He picks out a disappearing handkerchief and a gag-rope as props, offers a goodbye to Betty — "Doesn't he look good?" she remarks from the dining room table — and eases into his son's Volkswagen Beetle. A few minutes later he's mounting the steps into the crowded Shrine Auditorium.

Just inside the entrance, he's approached by gaggles of glow-stick waving, popcorn-spilling children. Creeky shakes hands, tries out his rope trick, throws out

grins.

"Don't pinch the nose," he warns an over-eager boy sporting a Mohawk haircut.

Creeky stays on his floppy feet through the flashing lights of the tiger tamer's act, endures the roar of a daredevil motorcycle act accompanied by hard-thumping rock and roll.

When some jugglers take the stage Creeky ducks out to the lobby for a quick rest, then is back at his post in time to see a favorite performance, a dog act that includes a pair

of long-jumping Afghans and a massive St. Bernard in a tight red dress.

During intermission Creeky is competing for the crowd's attention with elephant rides and a 7-foot-tall Chuck E. Cheese. His voice barely audible amid the din, Creeky manages to spark laughter with each brief interaction.

It's a routine Creekmore nailed down over eight decades, since his introduction to clowning in the 1930s.

When the Barnum and

Bailey Circus passed through the Montana city of Great Falls and other youths sought odd jobs in exchange for tickets to the show, Creekmore says he sought out the clowns, looking for insights.

At 15, Creekmore had moved out of his family's house to work on a string of central Montana ranches while he put himself through high school.

His interest in clowning was known in his hometown of Coffee Creek. So when he was invited to perform

in a local parade he pulled together a costume from old clothes and lipstick — and found himself hooked on the laughter he drew.

After retiring from a lifetime of ranch work and homebuilding in 1981, he joined the Shriners, a spinoff of the Freemasons that holds circus performances to raise money for the group's hospitals. He's since been a mainstay of the Shrine circus. A wall in his house is covered with awards from clowning competitions across the country.

## FIRED UP: Grilling is second nature for father and son duo

*Continued From Page 1D*

Budweiser North Florida Sales and First Street Music and Sound Co. of Lake City.

For Thomas Henry, Lake City public works director, the passion for cooking started early. "Mom taught us to cook all kinds

of things," said Henry, the youngest of five brothers. Grilling and smoking is his favorite way to cook just about everything, he said.

Like most competitive barbecuers, Henry has secret techniques developed over years of practice.

Competition is very stressful, he said. Teams are judged on their pork, chicken, ribs and beef brisket based on a point system. Events are timed, so their is no room for error, he said.

"Low and slow is key for

good barbecue," he said. Trying to cook too fast is the biggest mistake people make, he said. Also because beer and barbecue go well together, people usually get drunk, forget about the fire and burn the meat, he said.

In fact, cooking foods quickly over an open flame is grilling. Barbecuing uses indirect heat and smoke to slow cook food over several hours.

Quality meat, a good grill and a good teammate are the essential for competi-

tions, he said.

Grocery store butchers can help a backyard barbecuer pick out a good cut of meat with enough marbling for good flavor, he said. A flavorful dry rub and injection is also important for tender, tasty meat, he said.

"Some people get scared of big chunks of meat," he said, as thicker cuts are harder to cook thoroughly with drying out. For a Boston butt, Henry uses his own hickory-bacon rub and an injection of almost

equal parts apple juice and dissolved sugar. For about nine pounds of meat, he'd smoke it for about nine or ten hours with hickory and peach wood, he said.

The public will get a taste of Budmeisters' creations in June when Henry's Award Winning Bar-B-Q, a concession trailer near Harveys Supermarket, opens with Josh Henry manning the kitchen.

For more information or to purchase Budmeisters seasoning call 623-0498.

## GARDEN TALK: North Florida style

*Continued From Page 1D*

April is typically one of our driest months, so this is a good time to consider ways to conserve moisture in the lawn and garden. A fresh coat of mulch is not only attractive, but it helps to hold moisture in the soil and keep weed germination down. A series of rain barrels will effectively harvest water during any passing rain showers for use later. Careful placement of landscape drip or micro-irrigation lines will put the water only where needed and cut down on waste.

All southern lawn grasses are not to be treated the same. Do you know what is growing in your lawn or the growth requirements? Centipedegrass will decline if you treat it

like your neighbor's St. Augustinegrass. There are times of the year when the lawn will benefit from fertilizer and other times when the fertilizer will not be utilized. Pesticides may have a place in pest management, but by knowing how to care for your particular lawn grass, much chemical use can be avoided.

Gardening North Florida Style is all about North Florida. It involves understanding the soil, the plants that thrive and the proper care needed to create pleasant landscapes and bountiful gardens. And caring about our environment and precious natural resources.

The University of Florida/IFAS Columbia

County Extension will be presenting a 2-day workshop "Gardening North Florida Style" on April 23 and 24 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Extension Office in Lake City. Sign up for these jam-packed days of hands on activities, demonstrations, displays and instruction on multiple topics including citrus, propagation, edible landscapes, micro-irrigation, raised beds, composting, native plants, edible weeds, lawn care, and more.

Learn from UF Faculty and Master Gardeners. 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.

## TASTE BUDDIES: A visit to Homerville

*Continued From Page 1D*

round table in the back corner where the regulars eat every day. Bet there are a lot of stories passed around that table as people come and go there all day long. The waitresses are friendly and efficient making you feel welcome and glad that you stopped by. When you check out you'll need to buy a bottle of their special sauce that Mark recommends that you serve warm. By the way, Homerville is Genie's

hometown so every time she visits she has to have lunch at Jimbo's as she usually runs into somebody from her childhood and can catch up on the local news. So, if you are traveling north on Woodpecker Trail don't miss Jimbo's.

Address is 577 West Dame Avenue, Homerville, Ga. and telephone number is 912 487-2142. Buffet is served every day but Saturday. Hours of operation are 6:00 a.m. to 9:00

p.m. every day but Sunday. On Sunday hours are 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Email us at TasteBuddiesLakeCity@gmail.com

■ Genie Norman and Mary Kay Hollingsworth are Columbia County residents who love good food and fun, at home and out. Their column on area restaurants appears twice monthly. You can contact them at TasteBuddiesLakeCity@gmail.com.

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# Ham prices high heading into Easter

By JOSH FUNK  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Ham will be the centerpiece of many Easter dinners this weekend, but the cost of that traditional main dish may make it harder for families to live high on the hog.

Ham prices have been higher than usual for the past two years because the cost of pig feed has gone up, and some major pork producers are spending millions to convert barns as they phase out cramped cages used to confine pregnant sows.

Ham has been selling wholesale for 75 to 80 cents per pound this spring, which is in line with last year's prices but well above the 55 cents per pound average for the previous five years.

A recent check at one Omaha-area supermarket found boneless Hormel hams selling for about \$2.20 per pound, with bone-in hams slightly cheaper. With sales offered this week to attract Easter shoppers, it was possible to get a bone-in ham for as little as \$1.28 per pound.

Paula Vejvoda of Omaha said she's had her Easter ham in the freezer since Christmas, when she bought it on sale so she could economically feed her two daughters, two exchange students and husband.

"You really have to watch the ads and see who has the best price," Vejvoda said.

That's good advice for families, but hard to do



Paul Farris, second from left, of Boston, distributes hams and chickens in the Franciscan Food Center food pantry at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston. Ham prices have been higher than usual for the past two years because the cost of pig feed has gone up.

when you're trying to provide ham for hundreds of people at a food pantry.

Joyce Lonergan, food pantry director at St. Anthony's Shrine in downtown Boston, said she tries to arrange to have a special meal at each holiday to help boost people's spirits, but the prospect

seemed daunting when the pantry began shopping for hams back in January. They were selling for \$2.30 per pound, not the 99 cents per pound paid last year.

With added donations and some breaks from suppliers, St. Anthony's was able to secure ham steaks

and chickens for the holiday meal.

"We've made it work only because people have been so generous," Lonergan said.

Livestock economist Shane Ellis said the price of ham isn't likely to drop soon because pork producers' costs aren't decreas-

ing. Feed, which is mainly corn, is running about \$6 a bushel — not far from the record \$7.99 per bushel set last June.

Pork producers also are switching from gestation crates to more open pens amid public pressure from consumers and animal welfare advocates who believe the smaller cages are cruel. One major producer, Smithfield Foods, recently said it expects to spend nearly \$300 million by 2017 to convert its barns.

The switch also requires more labor to manage the sows because they tend to fight. Some of those costs are likely to be passed on to consumers.

Americans consume about 51 pounds of pork a year on average, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

While ham is a traditional element of many Easter meals, Ellis said prices typically peak in June, near the height of the grilling season when demand is highest. The low point is usually at the end of the calendar year because that's when large numbers of hogs reach the market.

Many organizations, like the Food Bank for the Heartland, don't even attempt to deliver a special

holiday meal to the people they help because their goal is to offer the most nutritious food at the lowest possible price.

Donations from business and individuals have been down over the past two years, making it harder to keep up with the need in the 93 counties in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa that the food bank serves, spokesman Brian Barks said.

Most food pantries, shelters and other programs receiving food from the Omaha food bank this Easter will receive staples like pasta, peanut butter or canned chicken. The food bank recently received

**Ham prices have been higher than usual for the past two years because the cost of pig feed has gone up, and some major pork producers are spending millions to convert barns as they phase out cramped cages used to confine pregnant sows.**

4,200 3-pound hams from the USDA, but Barks said those were gone within a couple of weeks.

"Meat has almost become a luxury item at the food bank," he said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A giant female panda named Tian Tian is seen exploring her enclosure at Edinburgh Zoo in Edinburgh, Scotland.

## UK zoo's pandas meet for date, but will they mate?

Keepers open a 'love tunnel' between pair

LONDON — Zoo officials have created a private love nest for Britain's only pair of giant pandas in hope the fertility-challenged animals will mate — and Wednesday may be their last chance for quite a while.

Keepers at Edinburgh Zoo have opened a "love tunnel" between the enclosures of male Yang Guang and female Tian Tian in a bid to encourage mating, and have turned off the "panda cam" that allows people to watch the pandas online.

It is hoped the privacy will encourage the animals.

Giant pandas have difficulty breeding, with females fertile for only two or three days a year.

Zookeepers brought the pair together Tuesday after tests showed Tian Tian had ovulated. The

zoo said that despite "encouraging" signs and some wrestling, they had not mated so far.

The 8-year-old animals met twice Wednesday and had come "closer than ever before" to mating, but again failed to do so, a zoo spokeswoman said.

The zoo may try one last time Thursday, if the female panda's hormones showed signs she would still be receptive to mating.

The animals — whose names mean Sunshine and Sweetie — arrived from China in December.

They have been drawing a steady stream of visitors to the zoo, which has had to allocate time slots to accommodate those hoping to view the pandas.

The pair, who are on loan, were also removed from public view in January when they were treated for colic.

They are the first pandas to live in Britain in nearly two decades.

— Associated Press

## Space tourist is just one way to describe Simonyi

By D. GORDON BLANKINSHIP  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Charles Simonyi may still be described as a space tourist even though the Microsoft billionaire has no plans to take a third vacation on the International Space Station and hasn't hung out in outer space for a few years.

He's still obsessed with space and is heavily involved in the Seattle Museum of Flight's new space gallery, which is named in the philanthropist's honor.

Since 2002, Simonyi has been running his own company called Intentional Software that specializes in creating industry-specific computer software, and he recently he took on a new title: book publisher.

The son of a Hungarian physicist, the 63-year-old just made one of his dad's dreams come true by helping translate the senior Simonyi's epic about physics into English.

"A Cultural History of Physics" by Karoly Simonyi, who died in 2001, is a heavy tome with an intimidating name but inside the non-scientist will find lots of pictures and stories that offer a whimsical side of physics.

Flip through the book, which has had five editions in Hungarian and three in German, and you'll find a full-page diagram showing how the scientists of the 17th century enjoyed dismissing each other's theories. A diagram and an explanation by Sir Isaac Newton of how rainbows are formed are on another page.

An illustration of a cat with its hair standing on end may catch your attention toward the end of the book. If you stop to find out why the cat is on the page, you'll find an explanation of quantum mechanics and radioactive decay.

Charles Simonyi left Hungary at 17, and says his interest in space as a child helped him learn English — two of his first English words were "propellant" and "nozzle." His knowledge of space trivia led him to win a junior astronaut contest at age 13. The prize was a trip to Moscow to meet one of the first cosmonauts, Pavel Popovich.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charles Simonyi, the only civilian to visit the International Space Station twice, poses for a photo next to the Soyuz TMA-14 descent module that took him to the International Space Station on his second trip into space, at the Seattle's Museum of Flight's new space gallery, which is named after him, in Seattle. The Microsoft billionaire is still obsessed with space, but has no plans to take a third trip, instead he's focused on publishing a physics book written by his father and continuing to work with the museum.

The project was personal for Simonyi but has elements of other things he does for work and fun: it was a challenge, it's about science and it has the potential to help people learn.

The man who led the Microsoft teams that developed Word and Excel also is great at explaining scientific concepts. From the stories he shares about his father, that's a quality he likely inherited from the former physics professor, who Simonyi says inspired generations of Hungarian electrical engineers.

Charles Simonyi left Hungary at 17, and says his interest in space as a child helped him learn English — two of his first English words were "propellant" and "nozzle." His knowledge of space trivia led him to win a junior astronaut contest at age 13. The prize was a trip to Moscow to meet one of the first cosmonauts, Pavel Popovich.

His next project will be writing a book about his space trips in 2007 and 2009

with Virginia-based Space Adventures, which cost him a total of \$60 million. The idea was inspired in part by all the questions he was asked on a website he set up during his space travels called "Charles in Space."

"I love talking about space flight," said Simonyi, who says the privilege of going to space can be measured by the fact that only about 500 people have ever left Earth's atmosphere. "If you've been there, then you kind of have this obligation to tell people about what it's like and share the experience."

Earlier this week, he dropped off a space toilet at the Museum of Flight.

Going to the bathroom in space is quite a bit more complicated than sleeping there, and Simonyi is enthusiastic about sharing all the personal, yet technical, details with anyone curious. He even made a video about the mechanics of bodily functions in zero gravity.

Sleeping is actually easier in space than on earth,

Simonyi said.

"You can sleep anywhere in any position — vertical, horizontal or at an angle," he said, adding that he slept in a room where the Russian space suits were kept. "It was out of the way and pretty quiet. I enjoyed it very much."

Thanks to Simonyi, the museum also has one of the Russian Soyuz space capsules he used to ride back to earth from the space station. Simonyi gave \$3 million to the museum to help build the space gallery, and has given the Soyuz capsule, a space suit, space toilet and other artifacts to the museum on a long-term loan.

Eventually the small cone-shaped capsule will sit beside the giant U.S. space shuttle trainer, for which the hangar-sized gallery was built.

Simonyi said he never felt claustrophobic on the space station or in the Russian ships to or from the station.

"I find the spacecraft very comfortable, very cozy," he said.

SUNDAY EVENING APRIL 8, 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 9, 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

Vietnam vet can't find words to acknowledge public thanks

DEAR ABBY: My husband served in Vietnam and proudly wears a Vietnam veteran insignia on his jacket or cap everywhere he goes. People approach him all the time and thank him for his service, which is wonderful. The big question is, how should he respond? He isn't quite sure what to say back to them - "You're welcome"? I'm not sure of the right response, either. So I told my husband I'd ask you. What's the proper thing to say when someone is kind enough to take a minute and say thanks? - VET'S WIFE IN PHOENIX



Abigail Van Buren www.dearabby.com

DEAR VET'S WIFE: A proper response when someone thanks him for his service would be any of those you offered, or a simple, "Thanks for saying that. I appreciate it."

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have dear friends who live in another country. They also have a vacation home in a very nice part of the U.S. They have often invited us to use their vacation place while they're away, since it stands empty 11 months of the year.

I have hesitated in the past because I know we would use utilities and it

would be of some expense to them. They are insistent that they will not let us pay for the use.

We would love to spend some time there. Is there anything we could do to show our appreciation without paying them? - APPRECIATIVE, BUT ...

DEAR APPRECIATIVE: Yes. After spending time in their vacation home, write a letter thanking them and describing the experience. Consider buying a gift for their vacation home. That way you will have repaid them without "paying" them.

DEAR ABBY: My little sister is almost 12. She has been having a lot of behavior problems. I thought it was the stupid videos she watches that made her act like that, but she's getting worse.

One night, her mood was terrible and I noticed she was texting. So while she

slept I took her cellphone and started reading the messages. Her texts were about her being a skank, drunk, sexually active, depressed, cutting herself and moving away soon. No one in the family knows or would ever allow this.

I feel the right thing to do is to tell our parents, but I don't want to make the situation worse. Her behavior and attitude stress us out, and her "friends" are the wrong crowd for her. I know it was bad for me to invade her privacy, but something needs to be done. What can I do? - SISTER WHO CARES IN TEXAS

DEAR CARING SISTER: Tell your parents what you have learned. Your sister's behavior problems and angry or depressed mood must have been noticed by them as well as you. Ask them not to reveal that you looked at the messages, but to insist on some answers from her until they get to the bottom of what's happening. If even half of what your sister is writing and receiving is true, she is headed for serious trouble.

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

HOROSCOPES

THE LAST WORD Eugenia Word

of your health and avoid unnecessary risks. ARIES (March 21-April 19): Speak up, or you may limit your chance to achieve equality in an important relationship or venture you want to pursue. Keep your feelings out in the open and ask questions if you are confused about the way someone treats you. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be pulled in different directions. Follow the path that offers the most stimulating or unique adventure. Sharing ideas can open a window of opportunity to engage in a worthwhile partnership. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't trust anyone when it comes to self-improvement. Live with what you have until you are certain the recommendations are feasible and the ends are truly what you want to achieve. Protect your health and assets.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't get caught up in the changes others make. Focus on things you enjoy doing and the people you want to be with. Take care

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Change will do you good. Love is on the rise, and getting close with the right person will lead to positive lifestyle changes. A work-related opportunity should be considered. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Use your imagination

and you will come up with a workable solution that concerns your home, family and love life. Greater opportunity is apparent if you pool your resources and talents together with someone who can contribute equally.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You won't get all the information you require in order to make a good decision. Ask questions or investigate what others are doing or saying before you make a choice that can alter your life forever.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Expand your interests and use your know-how to make your home and financial situation work in your best interests. A change will allow you to get involved in something you have wanted to do for a long time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Avoid anyone who is pushy or manipulative. Protect your emotions and keep life simple. Too much of anything will turn into a fiasco. Focus on making your home a better place.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look over your personal paperwork and determine what you must do to avoid trouble with institutions, agencies or debtors. Don't let anyone take advantage of your sympathetic nature. Keep your money and possessions in a safe place.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

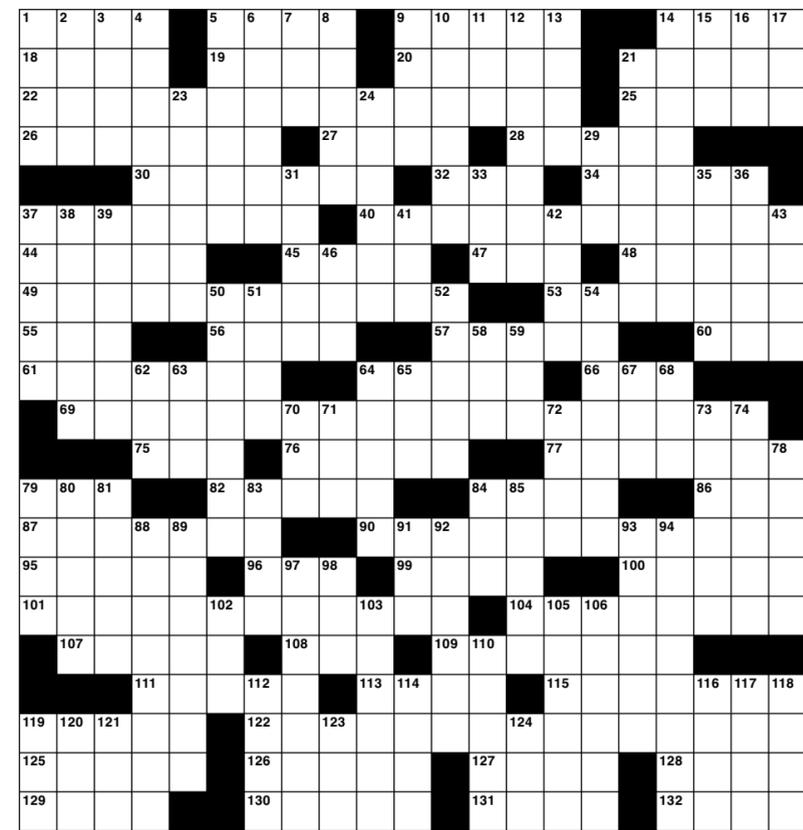
by Luis Campos. Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. P Z R H K C N G D O Z G L C M T K J B Z R K H N K E H K G O J Z O Z J T N H N P K L U N L Z P Z R H K C N R L A N D D B Z R K H N D P K H N O . N O O G N H G P V N L U K P V N H

Previous Solution: "I was Easter-Sunday. The full-blossomed trees filled all the air with fragrance and with joy." - Henry W. Longfellow. TODAY'S CLUE: F is always F.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

OF COURSE! By Patrick Merrell / Edited by Will Shortz

- Across 1 Drop 5 Diagnostic test, of a sort 9 Crosswise, when 18-Across 14 \_\_\_ bean 18 See 9-Across 19 Augusta National Golf Club, for the Masters 20 Class, abroad 21 SST component 22 Golf club repositioning? 25 "I bet I'll know it" 26 Botanical holder 27 Stock price movement 28 Yonder 30 Cloths with repeating patterns 32 When to get in, briefly 34 Three-time Best Director in the 1930s 37 Jennifer of tennis 40 Hole in one? 44 Take out \_\_\_ (get some assistance at the bank) 45 Stance 47 According to 48 Shoot two under 49 Comment after hitting a tee shot out of bounds? 53 Insect named for the Virgin Mary



- 115 Newly districted 119 Fragment 122 Woods stowed in the rear of a golf cart? 125 Action Man : U.K. :: \_\_\_ : U.S. 126 Long Island airport site 127 Legislative excess 128 Any of seven Danish kings 129 Revenuer 130 Loses 131 Sleightful 132 Reagan and others Down 1 There are 336 dimples on a typical golf ball, for instance 2 1970s Wimbledon victor over Connors 3 Meager 4 Terrestrial decapod 5 Aussie chick 6 "Chill!" 7 Inits. in bowling lanes 8 Swell 9 Operating in either of two ways 10 Carnival worker 11 Suffix with Milan 12 On the line 13 Protection from bug bites 14 Duffer's shots? 15 Whichever 16 Enthusiasm 17 Whiz 74 Swedish coins 78 Lincoln in-laws 79 Often-filtered material 80 Shaw who wrote "Rich Man, Poor Man" 81 Location of many organs 83 Org. with boats 84 Lawyer: Abbr. 85 Violate a peace treaty, maybe 88 Club thrown in disgust? 89 Installment 91 Anonymous: Abbr. 92 Herbal tea 93 Early Wagner opera 94 Quick survey 97 Like a real-estate deal that doesn't involve a mortgage 98 Crusty one 102 Oui's opposite 103 Object of curiosity on the first day of school 105 Put on the line 106 Some postal workers 110 Novelize, e.g. 112 University of Miami mascot 114 Egyptian menaces 116 Nephew of Caligula 117 Country in a Thomas Moore poem 118 Mil. awards 119 \_\_\_ Pepper 120 That guy 121 Hit Steely Dan album 123 The Indians, on sports tickers 124 As well

Grid of numbers for crossword clues: 5 4 2 1, 3 1 2 5, 1 4 7, 1 6 5, 2 9 7 6, 8 3 2, 6 8 9, 2 6 9 7, 4 7 3

Answers to last Sunday's Crossword.

IDS GNATS COMA GSHARP NOTORIOUS APEX ITALIA TRIVIAL TRAVAIL BEHOLD ISLAM BARRENBANNER MATTELMALLETT ISMSUE ELSE STRAY APPSLOPS GAMUT SALE OHO MUSCAT BRITTTLETRIBBLE ONTAP AIMEE LEAP AIM NBATEAM NAP CELT ONCE DOMEDMODEM RODEOORDER ASIS PLUS EERXRATHESE YON FLABS SLANG THESE SMALLERSLAMMER RHODES OAR IAGO LEGOS PIVOT AND TIERS CHIP ARI RUB ETHANEATHENA CORRALCOLLAR HERBS INTACT PURSUESPERSEUS NEUTER TROT TEAKETTLE ODESSA SKYY CADGE OKS

Grid of numbers for crossword clues: 3 8 9 1 7 4 6 5 2, 7 4 6 9 2 5 3 8 1, 5 1 2 6 8 3 4 7 9, 6 2 1 4 5 7 9 3 8, 8 9 7 3 1 6 5 2 4, 4 5 3 8 9 2 1 6 7, 2 7 7 4 5 3 1 8 9 6, 6 6 9 7 4 8 2 1 3, 1 3 8 2 9 6 7 4 5

# Airlines' treatment of passengers slowly improves

By JOAN LOWY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Flying is getting better. Honest.

For airline passengers grappling with fare increases, canceled routes and a seemingly endless parade of new fees, "better" may not be the first word that comes to mind. But based on more traditional yardsticks — lost bags, delayed flights, lousy service and bumpings from full planes — airlines are doing a better job, say private researchers who have analyzed federal data on airline performance.

Airlines are slowly, steadily recovering from their meltdown five years ago, when, under the strain of near-record consumer travel demand, their performance tanked. Industry performance for all four measurements was slightly better in 2011 compared with 2010, according to the report being released Monday.

"Airlines are finally catching up with what their promise is, which is getting you there on time 80 percent of the time with your bags," said Dean Headley, a business professor at Wichita



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Victoria Puerto checks her flight information and tickets near flight status boards at Miami International Airport in Miami. Airlines are slowly, steadily recovering from their meltdown five years ago, when, under the strain of near-record consumer travel demand, their performance tanked.

State University who has co-written the annual report for 22 years.

"They realize that people are paying a lot more money, and the system is more complex than it was, and they have to do a better job," he said. "To their credit, I think they are doing a better job."

With higher fuel costs, airfares are trending up,

although increases vary significantly depending on whether the passenger is flying between major airports, or is heading to or from a small or medium-sized airport, Headley said. As airlines cut back service to smaller airports, the cost of air travel in small and medium cities is increasing, he said.

"It really depends on the market you are in," Headley said, noting that in 2010 he paid \$275 to fly round-trip from Wichita, Kan., to Washington, where he released that year's report. This year, the same trip cost him \$360.

In judging quality of performance, low-cost carriers that mainly fly between large

hubs tend to fare the best, Headley said. The large airlines that have been around since before airline deregulation in the early 1980s tend to fall in the middle. Regional airlines, which often fly smaller planes that have more difficulty avoiding storms, generally pull up the rear.

Airline performance last year was likely helped by a mild winter in much of the country despite an "October surprise" snowstorm that snarled the Northeast, he said.

Hawaiian Airlines did the best job of arriving on time with an average of 92.8 percent, while JetBlue Airways had the worst on-time performance, 73.3 percent. A flight is considered on time if it arrives within 15 minutes of when it was originally due.

Nearly half the 15 airlines improved their on-time arrival performance in 2011, and seven had an on-time arrival percentage over 80 percent — Hawaiian, Southwest Airlines, AirTran Airways, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and Mesa Airlines. The average on-time performance for the industry was 80 percent last year, just a tad better than

2010's average of 79.8 percent.

Mesa had the highest rate of passengers with tickets who were denied boarding, at 2.27 per 10,000 passengers. Such "bumpings" are usually due to overbooking. JetBlue had the lowest rate of bumped passengers, .01 per 10,000 passengers.

Ten airlines improved their denied boardings rate in 2011.

American Eagle, which is owned American's parent company, AMR Corp. of Fort Worth, Texas, recorded the largest improvement, and Atlantic Southeast Airlines had the largest decline. JetBlue, with its near zero rate, and Hawaiian, with a rate of 0.11 per 10,000 passengers, were clearly the industry leaders in avoiding bumping incidents. Industry performance was better in 2011 with an average bumping rate of .78 per 10,000 passengers compared with 1.08 the year before.

AirTran had the best baggage handling rate, 1.63 mishandled bags per 1,000 passengers. American Eagle had the worst baggage handling rate, 7.32 mishandled bags per 1,000 passengers.

## Gray hair's in fashion, but what about at work?

By LEANNE ITALIE  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jeanne Thompson began going gray at 23. She colored her hair for years as she worked her way into management at a large Boston-area financial services company, then gave up the dye for good about a year ago.

The earth didn't shake, and the 44-year-old Thompson was promoted to top management the following year.

She is among a new type of gray panther, a woman who aspires to do well and get ahead on the job while happily maintaining a full head of gray.

"Women put pressure on themselves to color," the Exeter, N.H., woman said. "It's a bold statement to be gray because it's saying, 'You know what? I did let my hair go, but I'm not letting myself go.' People take me more seriously now. I never apologize for the gray hair."

But not everyone finds it so easy.

Laws, of course, exist to ward off discrimination in the workplace, yet legions of men and women have no interest in letting their gray fly. Not now, when the struggling economy has produced a stampede of hungry young job-seekers.

But gray heads have been popping up on runways and red carpets, on models and young celebrities for months. There's Lady Gaga and Kelly Osbourne — via dye — and Hollywood royalty like Helen Mirren, the Oscar-winning British actress.

Christine Lagarde, the International Monetary Fund chief, is one of the most powerful women in the world, and she keeps her hair gray. So does Essie Weingarten, founder and now creative director of the nail polish company Essie Cosmetics.

For regular working women, it's a trickier issue.

"I don't think a woman in the workplace is going to follow that trend," David Scher, a civil rights attorney in Washington, said with a laugh. "I think women in the workplace are highly pressured to look young. If I were an older working person, the last thing I would do is go gray."

Yes, he's a dude, and at 44 he has virtually no salt in his hair, but he wasn't alone



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sandra Rawline, 52, right, poses with her lawyer Robert "Bigs" Dowdy at the Law Offices of Tom F. Coleman in Galveston, Texas. Rawline has filed an age discrimination and retaliation lawsuit against her former company, Capital Title of Texas, and alleges that she was told to wear younger outfits and dye her gray hair.

in issuing a warning against workplace gray for women.

"While the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 was created to protect employees 40 years of age and older, some men and women may still encounter ageism in the workplace," said Stephanie Martinez Kluga, a manager for Insperity, a Houston-

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based company that provides human resources services to small and medium-size businesses.

"The long-standing perception that men with gray hair are experienced and women with gray hair are simply old may still be an issue that affects employees in workplaces across the U.S.," she said.

Some of today's new gray panthers also offer strong words of caution about exactly how well those anti-discrimination laws work.

Anne Kreamer is gray and proud, but she didn't unleash the color until she left her day job to become self-employed. She dedicates an entire chapter of her 2007 book "Going Gray" to workplace issues.

"We only fool ourselves about how young we look with our dyed hair," said the Harvard-educated Kreamer, a former Nickelodeon executive who helped launch the

satirical magazine Spy before writing the book exploring her journey to silver.

When it comes to gray on the job, Kreamer said, context counts. The color might be easier in academia over high-tech, for instance, and in Minneapolis over Los Angeles. Job description and your rung on the ladder might also be in play: chief financial officer versus a lower, more creative and therefore more gray-tolerant position like assistant talent agent, for example.

Kreamer dubbed the largely unspoken phenomenon "hair-colorism."

In 1950, 7 percent of women dyed their hair, she said. Today, it's closer to 95 percent or more, depending on geographic location. In the '60s, easy, affordable hair dye in a box hit store shelves, changing the follicle landscape for good.

"When women were going to work, it was like they could reinvent themselves and say, 'I'm no house frau anymore.' Hair dye got kind of linked in there and we never looked back," said Kreamer, who went prematurely gray and colored for 25 years. "It's still very complicated."

Sandra Rawline, 52, in Houston knows how complicated it can be.

A trial is scheduled for June in her federal lawsuit accusing her boss at Capital Title of Texas of ordering her to dye her gray hair in 2009, when her office moved to a swankier part of town. The suit accuses him of instructing her to wear "younger, fancier suits" and lots of jewelry, according to the Houston Chronicle.

## Tourists ask UK for help

Associated Press

LONDON — Troublesome tourists bombard British embassies with bizarre requests for help — seeking assistance booking restaurants, finding directions or making romantic advances toward locals, Foreign Secretary William Hague said Wednesday.

Announcing plans to bolster the response by diplomats to emergencies in other countries, Hague disclosed details of the wild demands made to embassies by traveling Britons.

A tourist in the United

States called diplomats last year after he discovered ants in his Florida rental home, while a visitor to Spain requested help finding a suitable spot for Christmas lunch.

"We are not the people to turn to if you can't find your false teeth, if your sat nav is broken and you need directions ... if you are looking for a dog-minder while you are on holiday," Hague said, in a speech at Britain's Foreign Office.

He said a visitor to Greece had requested assistance erecting a chicken coop, while an anxious Briton urged consular staff

into Rome's famous Trevi Fountain on his behalf, after forgetting to do so during a holiday.

According to tradition, tossing a coin into the waters guarantees a swift return to the Eternal City.

"Our commitment to good relations with our neighbors does not, I am afraid, extend to translating 'I love you' into Hungarian, as we were asked to do by one love-struck British tourist," Hague said.

He warned that some tourists risked wasting "time and scarce resources with ludicrous requests."

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