

Lake City Reporter

LAKECITYREPORTER.COM

Tax deal on tap at board meeting

County to consider abatement for local cold-storage firm.

By **DEREK GILLIAM**
dgilliam@lakecityreporter.com

The county commission could approve tax relief for a Columbia County business in exchange for investing in facility improvements and hiring more workers. The meeting will be held at the School Board Administration Complex starting at 5:30 p.m.

Also on the agenda are pay hikes for three newly created administrative positions and a vote on raising the bed tax by a penny.

United States Cold Storage plans on spending \$15.2 million to improve its equipment and facilities at 211 NE McCloskey Ave., and hire 15 additional employees if the county commission agrees to suspend 10 years of property taxes.

The county's estimated lost revenue from the tax exemption would be \$121,828 for the first year. During the current fiscal year, the county will collect more than \$17.5 million from taxes based on real property and real estate.

Parts of the agreement would require the company to "provide credible documentation" each year to establish the number of full-time employees working in the expanded business. If the company does not hire the additional 15 employees, the county can revoke the tax exemption.

The public hearing for the proposed tax exemption will be held at tonight's meeting. The job creation project between United States Cold Storage and the county was code named "Project Action."

The county commission also plans to assign pay grades for the three division managers created last year and bring those positions into the county pay plan.

County Manager Dale Williams said every employee in the county fits somewhere into the county pay plan, but because the division managers are new positions, they haven't been classified with a pay grade yet.

"The main objective is to have these positions that have been created, placed into the county pay plan," Williams said.

The three positions include managers for administration, Lisa Roberts; safety, David Kraus; and operations, Kevin Kirby.

Kurt Spitzer was hired as a consultant to review and provide recommendations on pay grades for the new positions. Williams said any recommendations from Spitzer were just that, recommendations. The final pay assignments would

COUNTY continued on 3A

NO. 1 STUDENT



Photos by JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Florida Gateway College speech professor Larry Gunter (left) hands Bill Brown a bouquet of flowers during a tree planting ceremony for Brown at FGC. Brown was the first student enrolled at Lake City Junior College. He retired on Feb. 15 after 24 years as director of purchasing. "We are both Vietnam vets. We have a special connection," Gunter said. "He's just a genuine human. What he shows is what he is. He's a stand-up guy."

Lake City Junior College's first enrollee ends his career there

Bill Brown retires after 24 years on the job at FGC.

By **DEREK GILLIAM**
dgilliam@lakecityreporter.com

Bill Brown once hunted ducks where the tree planted in his honor now grows. More than 50 years ago where Florida Gateway College's administration building now stands, there was a pond.

A lot has changed in 50 years, but Brown remembers it all started with one wooden building because he was the first student to enroll at

BROWN continued on 3A



Bill Brown hides his face in laughter as Tonia E. Lawson, FGC coordinator of purchasing and contracts, shares a joke during a tree-planting ceremony on Wednesday. A Cleveland pear tree was planted in Brown's honor.

Documents spark questions about Crist choice for Senate

By **GARY FINEOUT**
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — George LeMieux somehow convinced Gov. Charlie Crist's chief of staff during a late-night meeting that he deserved an interview to be considered for the U.S. Senate post to which he was ultimately appointed, according to newly unearthed documents.

However, the documents show that chief of staff

repeatedly said he did not recall what LeMieux said during that 1 a.m. meeting at a burger joint — and leaving a big mystery from Crist's four-year term unanswered: Why did he choose a man whom he had previously dismissed as unqualified for such a high office?

The documents, obtained by The Associated Press, were part of a civil case involving former Republican Party of Florida Chairman Jim Greer.

They contain a deposition given by former Crist chief of staff Eric Eikenberg, who held the late-night meeting with LeMieux.

Insiders have long wondered why Crist bypassed big-name political figures like Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney, U.S. Rep Bill Young and his own lieutenant governor, Jeff Kottkamp. Crist instead chose LeMieux, his onetime chief of staff, who had never held elected office.

Medicaid expansion approved by Scott

Three-year plan hinges on feds keeping promise to pay added costs.

By **GARY FINEOUT** and **KELLI KENNEDY**
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Rick Scott announced plans Wednesday to expand Medicaid coverage to roughly 900,000 more people under the federal health overhaul, a surprise decision from the vocal critic of President Barack Obama's plan.

Scott said he will ask the Legislature to expand the program under a bill that would expire in three years, after which it would require renewed legislative support. He's the seventh Republican governor so far to propose expanding the taxpayer-funded health insurance program.

Scott said he would support the expansion as long as the federal government pays 100 percent of the increased costs, which is the deal offered to states by the Obama administration for the first three years. After that, the federal government said it would pay 90 percent of the cost for the additional enrollees.

The governor said he gained new perspective after his mother's death last year, calling his decision to support a key provision of the Affordable Care Act a "compassionate, common sense step forward," and not a "white flag of surrender to government-run health care."

MEDICAID continued on 3A

Housing group banquet set for Saturday night

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

The Greater Lake City Community Development Corporation is a local organization founded to give residents better housing opportunities.

"Our mission is to assist low to moderate income families and individuals to become home owners and renters of decent, safe and sanitary affordable housing," said Ann McKellum, CDC assistant executive director.

The CDC provides housing certification for low- and moderate-income families. The agency is certified through the state and works in Columbia County. The agency has been in Columbia County since 2002. Lester McKellum serves as the organization's executive director.

Saturday the organization will host its annual banquet, which also serves as a fundraiser.

CDC continued on 3A

Afternoon accident



TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

A Toyota minivan sits damaged following a Wednesday afternoon crash near the intersection of Southeast Eloise Avenue and Southeast Baya Drive. See story, Page 3A.



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TODAY IN PEOPLE
Roberts returns to GMA.

COMING FRIDAY
Local news roundup.



Wednesday:
Afternoon: 3-7-4
Evening: N/A



Wednesday:
Afternoon: 5-5-8-7
Evening: N/A



Tuesday:
10-25-30-35-36

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Robin Roberts returns to 'GMA'

NEW YORK

Robin Roberts made her return to ABC's "Good Morning America" Wednesday, five months to the day after receiving a bone marrow transplant and a year since she started feeling symptoms of the ailment that has sidelined her since August.

Roberts looked thin and didn't bother to cover her hair loss with a wig. She wore a wide smile in taking her seat next to co-host George Stephanopoulos on TV's top-rated morning show.

"I have been waiting 174 days to say this," Roberts said. "Good morning, America."

The bulk of the ABC show turned into a celebration of her return as she's recovering from MDS, a blood and bone marrow disease. President Barack Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and basketball star Magic Johnson all sent taped greetings.

At the studio, ABC boss Anne Sweeney, news division President Ben Sherwood and Katie Couric all stood in the wings watching. When Roberts thanked her nurses on the air, all of the show producers in the control room a floor away stood and applauded. Sherwood delivered a champagne toast on the set after the show went off the air at 9 a.m.

"Can I go home now?" Roberts said, before delivering a tearful thank-you to her colleagues.

Stevie Wonder says UN Day Concert to be on TV

ATLANTA — Stevie Wonder says a concert devoted to peace is going from the stage to television.

"Stevie Wonder With Friends: Celebrating a Message of Peace" will premiere Saturday on Centric at 9



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anchor Robin Roberts, left, and George Stephanopoulos share a laugh during a broadcast of 'Good Morning America' Wednesday in New York. Roberts returned to the popular morning program after undergoing a bone marrow transplant five months ago.

p.m. EST. The musical celebration took place at the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters in New York last October. The concert will also air March 3 on BET at 11 a.m. EST.

"It was a great night," said Wonder, who hosted the concert. "People not only sang about it but their spirits were committed to see peace. In this society we are living in, there's a need for peace for all nations throughout the world."

The 90-minute concert celebrated the 67th anniversary of the UN's peacekeeping and crisis management efforts around the globe.

"Peace is something we can't just talk about, we got to be about it," the 62-year-old singer said. "The way people participated on that night showed their commitment. I was very, very happy."

Wonder hopes the televised event

will encourage others to take part in the next concert.

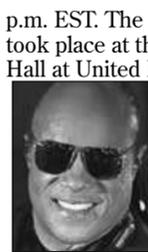
Chan film to tell story of looted antiquities

SEOUL, South Korea — Jackie Chan wants his latest film to spread the message about how China's national artifacts are being looted and sold. "Chinese Zodiac" or "CZ12" is about a man who finds and recovers 12

bronze zodiac animal heads historically depicted as being looted from China's Summer Palace by colonialists.

The blockbuster's director, writer, producer and star, Chan said he was upset after seeing three of the bronzes being auctioned while he lived in Hong Kong.

■ Associated Press



Wonder



Chan

Celebrity Birthdays

- Actor Gary Lockwood is 67.
- Actress Tyne Daly is 67.
- Actor Anthony Daniels is 67.
- Tricia Nixon Cox is 67.
- Former Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 66.

Daily Scripture

"Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends."

— Proverbs 17:9

Thought for Today

"Whether you think you can, or you think you can't — you're right."

— Henry Ford, American industrialist (1863-1947)

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.

AROUND FLORIDA

Florida near top in AP testing

TALLAHASSEE — Florida students rank fourth nationally in advanced placement test scores, an increase from sixth the prior year.

The College Board on Wednesday released 2012 results that also showed Florida had the highest advanced placement participation rate for a fourth straight year.

Students scoring 3 or better on a five-point scale receive college credit for taking advanced placement courses.

In Florida, 27 percent of 2012 high school graduates scored a 3 or higher. That's up from 24 percent in 2011. The state's participation rate was 53 percent, an increase from 47 percent the prior year.

Twenty-nine percent of Florida's Hispanic students scored a 3 or better. That's up one percentage point.

Among African-Americans graduates, 7.4 percent made 3 or higher compared to 7.1 percent last year.

Bill would reduce class penalties

TALLAHASSEE — Financial penalties would be reduced for school districts that violate Florida's class size limits under a bill moving in the Legislature.

A House education subcommittee approved the measure on Wednesday.

A 2002 state constitutional amendment limits classes in core subjects to 18 students in kindergarten through third grade, 22 in fourth through eighth grade and 25 in high school.

The state now penalizes districts for every class over those limits. The bill

would impose penalties only if a school's average class size violates the limits.

That's the way the penalties were applied during a phase-in period from 2006 through 2010.

Statewide penalties totaled only \$267,000 in the last year of school average penalties. Since then they've ranged from \$10 million last year to \$5.8 million this year.

Man gets 9 years for police chase

CLEARWATER — A Florida judge revoked a man's driver's license for life and sentenced him to nine years in prison for leading police on a chase with his toddler in the back seat.

The July 9 crash ended when 22-year-old Derrick Deon Mims crashed a stolen sports utility vehicle into a public transportation bus. Police say the 2-year-old child wasn't injured but a passenger was taken to the hospital with serious injuries.

The Tampa Bay Times reports Mims pleaded guilty Tuesday to multiple charges, including fleeing and eluding, DUI with property damage and child abuse.

The 14-minute chase prompted the Gulfport Police Department to tweak its policy on police chases.

Boy finds gun, shoots woman

CALLAWAY — Authorities say a 3-year-old Florida Panhandle boy found a .38-caliber handgun under the mattress in his parents' bedroom and shot a family friend in the forehead.

The shooting happened Tuesday in Callaway. The

News Herald of Panama City reports 18-year-old Emily Allen told deputies she was lying on the bed when she heard a "loud bang." That's when she saw the child standing next to her with a gun.

Allen told investigators she only realized she'd been shot when blood started running down her face.

Deputies say Allen was expected to be ok.

The child's mother was in the other room. His father told deputies he kept the loaded gun between the mattresses.

Sheriff's investigators are working with the state attorney's office to determine whether charges will be filed.

Red light cameras help fight crime

HIALEAH — Police in Hialeah are using red light cameras to fight crime.

El Nuevo Herald reported Wednesday that police are installing cameras at eight intersections and equipping an undercover patrol with four high-definition cameras. It is part of an effort to curb a wave of robberies that recently hit the Miami suburb.

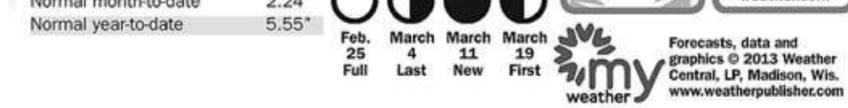
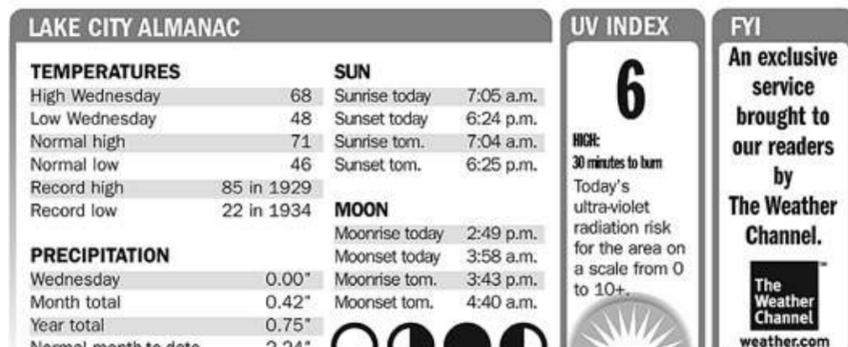
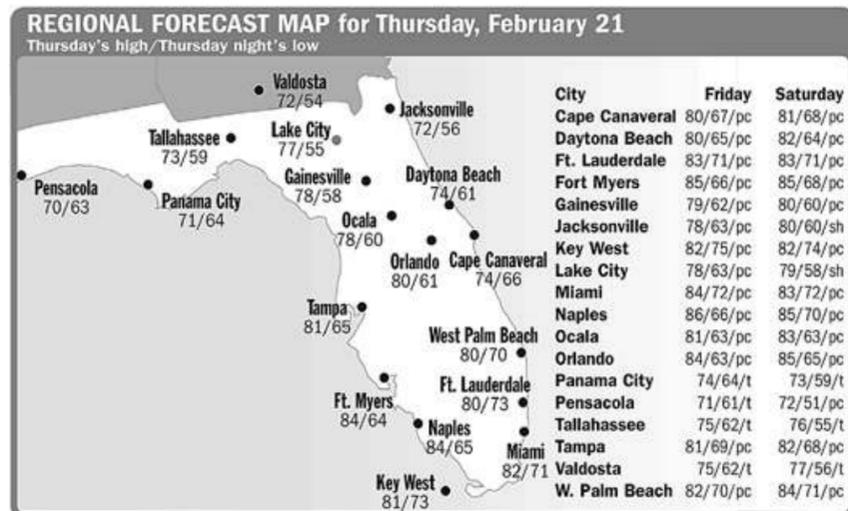
The cameras send alerts to police when tags of stolen vehicles are detected, or when a car's owner has an arrest warrant or suspected driver's license.

The system was established with \$200,000 in federal funds. During the first two weeks, cameras captured the license plates of more than 156,000 vehicles, including 14,790 which belonged to drivers with suspended licenses.

The American Civil Liberties Union says the cameras are giving residents the impression that they deter crime.

■ Associated Press

THE WEATHER



BROWN: A stand-up guy takes his bows

Continued From Page 1A

Lake City Junior College and Forest Ranger School back in 1962.

"That was a mouthful for the cheerleaders," he joked.

Brown served 24 years as an employee of the college before retiring Friday. He was the director of purchasing, and was proud of the work he did. The college planted his favorite tree, a Cleveland pear, behind the administration building.

He met his wife, Mary Ellen, when he went back to college at Valdosta State University, where he received a degree in accounting.

"I slid down the banister in my dorm, and he was at the bottom," Mary Ellen said. "We have been together ever since."

She said he served two tours in Vietnam, and he's been all over the world. In his military service, she said, Brown has dined with kings

and stayed in fancy hotels, but that never changed him.

"He's just a farm boy ... and the love of my life," Mary Ellen said.

At his tree-planting ceremony, about 50 people came to see Brown honored for his hard work and community service. Columbia County Sheriff Mark Hunter said Brown was someone he considered a mentor and whose advice he takes seriously.

"He's been involved in our community with a lot of different organizations and helping a lot of people," Hunter said. "Just a class-act guy, he would give you the shirt off his back."

School Board member Dana Brady said Brown was "like a father figure" to her, and she was sad to see him leave the college. Brady said he was a big help with her campaign and always had "the well-thought-out

answer."

Brown said he's not sure how he's going to spend his retirement, but he knows he wants to do something for the community because the community has been good to him.

The college has become a part of the community and has the best interests of the students at heart, Brown said.

"I'm just proud of that, and in some way I may have helped some kids get their schooling," he said.

District 2 County Commissioner Rusty DePratter has known Brown for 25 years. He said Brown is willing to help anyone and not expect anything back.

"If more of us could act like Bill, then the world would be a better place," DePratter said. "... It makes me proud to stand behind somebody like Bill."

Retirement proclamations



TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

Joe Allen (left) stands with Lake City Mayor Stephen Witt (center) and former Fire Chief Carlton Tunsil during Tuesday night's City Council meeting, where Allen and Tunsil were recognized for their years of work for the city. Allen and Tunsil recently retired.

COUNTY: Job-creating deal up for consideration

Continued From Page 1A

be finalized by Williams after the county assigns the pay grades. Also, any increase in pay would need to already be allocated in the budget approved by the county for salaries.

Before taking the position of administration manager, Roberts was assistant county manager and made \$63,959. A memo on division manager salaries recommended Roberts receive a 12.7 percent increase in pay to \$72,093.

The position of administration manager oversees the management

of \$4.3 million of the county budget.

The safety manager's responsibilities include management of almost \$7 million of the county budget. Part of the \$7 million the position supervises includes the Lifeguard Ambulance Service contract, which is more than \$1 million.

Kraus was a senior staff assistant before taking the safety manager position. His salary was \$54,933. Spitzer recommends a 27.3 percent salary increase for Kraus, bringing his salary to \$69,933.

The operations manager position administers \$20.2 million of the county budget.

Kevin Kirby took the operations manager position after serving as the public works director. His salary is \$88,039. Spitzer recommends a 21.5 percent pay increase to \$107,000.

Also, the county commission will hold a public hearing on increasing the bed tax by one cent. The increase would help pay for improvements at the Southside Recreation Complex.

CDC: Annual fundraising event set for Saturday

Continued From Page 1A

The event will take place at 6 p.m. at the Columbia County Fairgrounds exhibition hall.

The keynote speaker is Russell Wright. Entertainment and music for the event will be provided by Tony Buzzella and Melvin Goggins Jr.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at the CDC office, 363 NW Bascom Norris Drive. Dress for the event is formal.

"Our platinum sponsor this year is Rountree-Moore Automotive Group,"

McKellum said.

The theme for this year's event is: "Networking Builds Communities."

"The goal for this banquet is to raise funds to pour the foundation for another home for a low to moderate income family," McKellum said. "We're open for volunteers for anyone who wants to volunteer their time. All donations are appreciated."

The 2013 Greater Lake City Community Development Cooperation Inc. banquet marks

the eighth year the organization has held a banquet. The Greater Lake City Community Development Corporation is a nonprofit 501C3 organization. All contributions and donations are tax deductible.

"We also offer other community services such as computer classes and we are beginning our mentoring and technology classes," McKellum said. "We'll hold a meet-and-greet event on Saturday, March 2, from 10 a.m. to noon at the CDC office."

Injuries in crash minor

From staff reports

Two Lake City residents were involved in a traffic crash that caused one of the cars to overturn along Baya Avenue Wednesday shortly before 1 p.m., according to a Florida Highway Patrol media release.

Martha Elsie Breon, 79, was driving a Chevrolet Impala when she turned left onto Baya Avenue from Eloise Street and struck the rear passenger door of a Toyota Sienna driven by

Robert Scott Winstead, 42, causing the Sienna to overturn and come to a rest in the westbound lane of Baya Avenue, according to the media release.

Neither driver was taken to the hospital, and their injuries were listed as minor.

Breon was charged with a stop sign violation, according to the release.

Both drivers were wearing seat belts, according to FHP.

MEDICAID: Scott concedes

Continued From Page 1A

"Before I ever dreamed of standing here today as governor of this great state, I was a strong advocate for better ways to improve health care than the government-run approach taken in the president's health care law. I believe in a different approach. But, regardless of what I — or anyone else — believes, a Supreme Court decision and a presidential election made the President's healthcare mandates the law of the land," Scott said at a news conference.

The governor said he still worries that the president's health care reform plan could "lead to less patient choice, worse care and higher costs" but he can't "in good conscience deny the uninsured access to care."

Scott stressed he won't simply deny new Medicaid recipients health insurance after the three years are up, but said he will spend that time measuring how the expansion impacts healthcare costs, quality and access.

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ANOTHER VIEW

Why not give us all a raise?

President Obama's proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$9 an hour wouldn't strengthen the economy, increase confidence or help very many workers.

The idea does have superficial appeal — "If you work full time," Obama says, "you shouldn't be in poverty." But if poverty were so easily dispatched, why not raise the wage so that every worker can be middle class, or even more affluent?

The real value of labor is set by the free market, not by government. If you're getting paid more than you're worth, someone else must be making up the difference.

The government can indeed force an employer to pay \$9 an hour, but it can't guarantee the workers will be offered the same number of hours, that they won't be laid off, or that the company will even make a profit and stay in business.

Obama talked about the minimum wage because it's an easy way for him to appear to be on the side of workers, and to make Republicans seem like Scrooge. It's harder for Obama to talk about the overall economy, which shrank in the last quarter. It's harder for him to talk about unemployment, which increased from 7.8 percent in December to 7.9 percent in January.

And it's harder to talk about median family household income, which declined by 1.7 percent in real terms between 2010 and 2011.

States already can set a higher minimum wage than federally required \$7.25. Florida's minimum wage is now \$7.79 per hour, not unreasonable. It's up 12 cents (1.5 percent) from last year's \$7.67. Perhaps there are surprising economic advantages from decreeing much higher wages; if they think so, Florida and other states are free to experiment.

Obama's proposal would mean a 15 percent increase by 2015. That cost is high enough to make companies dependent on low-cost labor reconsider any plans to expand.

If entry-level workers are to get \$9, those now making \$9 and \$10 also would need a big raise.

We join most Americans in agreeing with Obama that poverty is bad for families and bad for the economy, which is one reason there is such broad public support for public education.

The way to overcome poverty is to fight it at the individual level, through honest initiative, training, and experience. Most workers who start at minimum levels quickly get raises and move on to better-paying, more challenging assignments.

The raise Obama wants would increase a minimum-wage worker's total pay by about \$2,500 a year.

He didn't mention where the extra \$48 per week for a Florida worker would come from. It would come straight out of an economy that from 2000 to 2010 saw median household income fall an inflation-adjusted 7 percent.

If government has the power to make work pay more, let's give everyone a 15 percent raise and shorten the work week so we'll all have more time to spend our extra money.

Obviously, government has no such power. Only when the economy gets moving again will real wages rise. Proposing a 15 percent raise for the least productive workers at a time the economy has stalled and overall income is falling is irresponsible.

■ Tampa Tribune

Lake City Reporter

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My kingdom for a quote!

When the remains of Richard III were identified recently in England, just about every commentator mentioned the famous quotation associated with his name: "A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!"

Unfortunately for the last Plantagenet king of England, it is always difficult to find a spare horse in the midst of a battlefield rout. They are as scarce as a taxi on a wet night in New York City — or in Pittsburgh's case, as scarce as a taxi at any time in any weather.

What is more unfortunate is that the quotation was not among the king's last words, which were more likely "ouch" and "darn." He died of his wounds and was buried under a future parking lot, history's way of adding insult to injury.

No, the credit for King Richard's supposed eloquence goes to William Shakespeare, as usual, because the playwright pretty much invented the English language.

You may think this column is a sorry sight, but it is now a foregone conclusion that many of the things we carelessly say are Shakespearean in origin. For example, "a sorry sight" comes from "Macbeth" and "foregone conclusion" from "Othello."

The immortal bard invented dozens of such phrases, and the average person doesn't have to be wearing tights to say them.

That's not to suggest that Shakespeare invented every memo-



Reg Henry
rhenry@post-gazette.com

rable saying in the English language. He didn't say, even though it is a great truth: "Different strokes for different folks, and so on and so on and scooby dooby dooby." That was Mr. Sly of the Family Stone.

Now, at this stage of the column, you may be baffled enough to wander lonely as a cloud that floats on high (William Wordsworth) or maybe you have trod the pavement in a dead patrol or measured out your life with coffee spoons (T.S. Eliot). Or perhaps you are simply saying: "What the heck is this?" (Anonymous).

No less an authority than British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, a great man who did not limit himself in matters of inebriation and was good for a quote himself, observed as much.

"It is a good thing for an uneducated man to read books of quotations," he said. "Bartlett's Familiar Quotations" is an admirable work, and I studied it intently. The quotations when engraved upon the memory give you good thoughts. They also make you anxious to read the authors and look for more."

Very true. If I were marooned on a desert island, I would be content if

all I had was "Familiar Quotations" to keep me company — that and a well-stocked fridge and good plumbing. And maybe a DVD player.

It is true that my favorite quotations tend to be from a dead poet's society of the traditional greats — Wordsworth, Keats, Byron and the boys. But if anybody should criticize my narrow literary taste, then I would say to them: "Your mother was a hamster, and your father smelt of elderberries" (French soldier, "Monty Python and the Holy Grail").

One regret: Having kept company, one quotation at a time, with the greatest speakers, actors, singers, statesmen and writers of any generation, I am left feeling defeated that no quotation of mine shall ever be saved for posterity — not in Bartlett's, not at the bottom of those little calendars people used to turn one day at a time. Apparently everything worthwhile has been said.

If BrainyQuote.com were to include one of my sayings — such as my definition of a liberal: a person who believes that consenting adults may have any sort of sex but shouldn't be allowed a cigarette afterward — then it would be better than a Pulitzer to me. So much for good thoughts. I sound no better than a pygmy seeking to enter the hall of giants.

Only one thing to do: Flee the battlefield. A horse! A horse! A taxi! A taxi! Darn, where did they go?

■ Reg Henry is a columnist for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Cold War vestiges still afflict 2 cities

Two little-known Russian and American cities, the places where the nuclear superpowers began their bomb race more than a half-century ago, were separately catapulted into the news last weekend by a coincidence of unrelated events.

One suddenly became ground zero for a celestial occurrence. The other was victimized by subterranean happenstance. Together they are A Tale of Two Nuclear Cities, a Cold War tragedy that serves as a reminder of the unintended consequences that can make Americans and Russians 21st-century victims of the nuclear mistakes of a long-past era.

In Chelyabinsk, Siberia, a speeding meteor produced a shock wave that shattered windows and injured more than 1,000 people last week. Experts (who are more into info than irony) announced that the blast was equivalent to the energy produced by more than 20 atomic bombs of the size the United States dropped on Hiroshima.

In Hanford, Wash., officials revealed that an old underground storage tank holding radioactive liquid has been leaking at the Hanford nuclear reservation, America's most contaminated nuclear site. Authorities estimate that between



Martin Schram
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150 to 300 gallons have leaked into the surrounding land and groundwater. Officials are concerned about similar deterioration of some of the other underground tanks that also store waste from nuclear reactors.

Beginning in the mid-1940s, Chelyabinsk and Hanford were the sites of highly secretive nuclear-weapons plants that were the first engines of the nuclear-arms race. The facilities ended up polluting surrounding land and water with massive amounts of radioactive contamination. Local residents of these bucolic settings were unaware of the dangers their governments introduced — even as nuclear radiation contaminated their bodies, their rivers, their lands and brought genetic disability and early death.

Today, Russia has closed its aged bomb-making plants, but it still stores plutonium at Mayak. There have been no reports of damage to that facility,

nor of damage to the nearby chemical weapons facility at Shchuchye.

Half a world away, folks who grew up in picturesque Hanford — on the Columbia River, which is famous for its salmon — told similar stories of parents who worked at the nuclear plant and died in their 40s.

The leakage problem at Hanford involves 149 older metal tanks that consist of just a single shell. Many date back to the 1940s; they were not designed to be in service this long. Hanford also has 28 newer tanks that have double shells and are not believed to be leaking; but they are reportedly almost full. Inslee said the state was assured years ago that problems such as leakage from older tanks had been dealt with. He added that the prospect of federal spending cuts would increase the risks at Hanford.

Today, it is tragic testimony to the superpowers' shared nuclear folly that neither ever attacked the other with any of the thousands of nuclear bombs each rushed to produce at the Chelyabinsk and Hanford facilities. But the products of those facilities wound up inflicting death, disease and disfigurement upon many of their own citizens.

■ Martin Schram writes political analysis for Scripps Howard News Service.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black history to American history, are we ready?

While traveling last week, my 15 year old son shared

with me that his current study of Black History did not attribute the technology of the current traffic signal to Garrett Morgan, or even to a black inventor at all. I thought about his comments and almost concluded indifference. Realizing he mentioned it because it was significant to him, I hesitated. He explained that the mention of Mr. Morgan was significant to protect the contributions of a black person in the creation of the technology that would later become the traffic signal we use today. I couldn't avoid wondering why he seemed unsatisfied when he knew that a black man contributed to the invention. When you know that I love you, why must you hear it often? Just as he reasoned it was because it brought a sense of pride that increased his esteem and confidence in his identity, the answer to an age-old question seemed to appear out of nowhere. The debate about the melting pot.

Merriam-Webster defines a melting pot as a place where a variety of races, cultures or individuals assimilate into a cohesive whole. What exactly is the "cohesive whole"? Is true progress to lose identity or to share in the appreciation of that which distinguishes one from the other? If I travel to any place, and there exists segregation in the

Historically Speaking



Bea Coker

community, such that residences, entertainment and the lifestyles of its citizens are distinguished by race, culture or nationality, that to me isn't an embrace of the "melting pot" concept. Further, in those places and abroad, the measure to me of whether they exist productively is determined by progress. If any one of the demographics fall short of the other, such that there exists a disparity, there is a continuing need that might be unique to that group. I am not ashamed by the realities of difference, I am challenged by it and compelled to identify and bring resolve, such that the team is stronger. I challenge myself, my family and friends to find opportunities to improve themselves because we are improving the whole. In my humble opinion, the measure of whether or not we still require the celebration of black history isn't answered by anything but progress. We will continue to need the celebration of black history as long as we continue to make progress that places advancement and productivity no further than that which lies in

our history.

Local Wisdom:

Helen Morgan:

Helen Morgan has been a resident of Columbia County her entire life. She was married to the late James Morgan, a minor league baseball player that was quite famous in his time. The couple had four boys and two girls, and now Helen enjoys nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She continues to be a member of Falling Creek Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of the Rev. Clarence Hayes. Mrs. Morgan worked for Gold Kist for many years before moving on to employment at the state hospital, where she retired. She shares that the happiest time in her life, second only to becoming a Christian, was witnessing the re-election of President Barack Obama. I asked Mrs. Morgan to talk about the theme for black history this year, which is "We Need Unity." She shared that in contrasting her neighborhood present and past, there is a reduced sense of concern among its citizens. She recalled years ago, larger numbers of children played outside in the streets and backyards. The responsibility of ensuring their safety fell on everyone and children were protected by the concern of the entire neighborhood. Today, she shares that she observes self-serving attitudes, with less time, care and concern for each



Garrett Morgan

other, not to mention that the youth don't seem to frequent the outside as they did in the past. No longer popular are the neighborhood gatherings, with barbeque and street playing. "We made progress, but got too busy to enjoy it," stated Mrs. Morgan.

Mrs. Morgan has and will continue to be a reminder in the community of the wisdom of our elders. She has given us 83 years and we look forward much more.

Test Your History Knowledge

Local History:

1890, Finley High School was founded by E.T. Holmes of Jacksonville. This was the first black school in Lake City and it was located in Watertown.

National History:

Garrett Morgan was the son of former slaves, born in Paris, Ky., on March 4, 1877. His early childhood was spent attending school and working on the family farm with his brothers and sisters. While still a teenager, he left Kentucky and moved north to Cincinnati, Ohio, in search of opportu-

nity. Morgan did not attend school beyond elementary school, but he hired a tutor while living in Cincinnati and continued his studies in English grammar. In 1895, Morgan moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he went to work as a sewing machine repairman for a clothing manufacturer. In 1907, the inventor opened his own sewing equipment and repair shop. It was the first of several businesses he would establish.

In 1920, Garrett Morgan moved into the newspaper business when he established the Cleveland Call. Garrett Morgan was one of the first to apply for and acquire a U.S. patent for an inexpensive device to produce traffic signals. The patent was granted on Nov. 20, 1923. Garrett Morgan also had his invention patented in Great Britain and Canada. The Morgan traffic signal was a T-shaped pole unit that featured three positions: Stop, Go and an all-directional stop position. This "third position" halted traffic in all directions to allow pedestrians to cross streets more safely.

Garrett Morgan's hand-cranked semaphore traffic management device was in use throughout North America until replaced by the automatic red, yellow and green traffic light signals currently used around the world. The inventor sold the rights to his traffic signal to the General Electric Corp. for \$40,000. Shortly before his death in 1963, the United States government awarded Garrett Morgan a citation for his traffic signal.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

■ To submit your Community Calendar item, contact Jim Barr at 754-0424 or by email at jbarr@lakecityreporter.com.

Feb. 21

Debutants meeting

The Debutants Society will have an informational meeting from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Columbia County Public Library, 308 NW Columbia Ave. The meeting is for girls and boys in ninth through 12th grades who might be interested in becoming members. Minister Jan Harrison is the organization contact person.

Gardening talk

Master Gardeners Bill Whitley and Gerry Murphy

will give a program about Spring Vegetable Gardening at 5:45 p.m. in the Fort White Library on State Road 47. The program is free and open to the public.

Retired educators

Columbia County Retired Educators will meet at 1 p.m. in Room 120 of the Columbia County School District Adult Center. District 4 director Carolyn Stephen will attend. For more information, call Will Brown at 752-2431. Any retired person interested in education is welcome.

Cast auditions

High Springs Community Theater will hold cast auditions for the Neil Simon play "Rumors" at 7 p.m. today and at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, at the theater, 130 NE First Ave. in High Springs. Casting needs include four adult couples over 21 years old, two police officers and other adults, both male and female. Rehearsals will begin March 4, and performances will be April 12 through May 5. For more information, email director Terry Beauchamp at ouiserb@aol.com or call (352)

335-9137 and leave a message.

Revival services

Voice of Deliverance Church will have a revival service at 7:30 p.m. with Sister Joyce Igo.

Feb. 22-27

Pet adoption

Lake City Humane Society and PetSmart will be holding a "Big Tent Adoption Event" in the Publix Shopping Center. The Humane Society and North Florida Animal Rescue will have dogs and

cats available for adoption on display and volunteers on hand to answer questions. All animals will be spayed or neutered and have current vaccinations. Dogs also will have microchip identifiers. Hours will be 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call the Humane Society at (386) 752-1178.

Feb. 22

Play performances

High Springs Community Theater is performing Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" on weekends through March 3. Performances will be at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$11 for evening shows and \$9 for seniors on Sundays only. Tickets are available at The Framery of Lake City, 341 S. Marion Avenue, (386) 754-2780, online at highspringscommunitytheater.com, and at the door, if seating is available. The theater is at 130 NE First Avenue in High Springs.

OBITUARIES

George D. Anthony

Mr. George D. Anthony Jr. 67, of Lake City, FL departed this life on February 16, 2013 at the Select Specialty hospital in Gainesville, FL. He was born on May 12, 1945 in Brunswick,



GA to the late George and Marian Hargrove Anthony. On April 10, 1970 he was joined in Holy matrimony to Elnora Bennett and together they had (3) children. George was retired from the state of FL Division of Forestry after 25 years of service. After retiring he and his wife Elnora relocated to the Lake City area. He joined the Philadelphia (MB) Church. George leaves to celebrate his legacy Wife Elnora Anthony, (2) Sons George D. Anthony III (Camish), Corey R. Anthony both of Palm Beach, FL. (1) daughter Gacoma D. Anthony of Atlanta, GA. (5) Grandchildren, (8) Nephews and (4) Nieces and a host of other relatives and friends. Visitation for family and friends will be from 5:00 until 7:00pm Friday at the Philadelphia Baptist Church, CR 242, Lake City, FL. The home going celebration will be Saturday, February 23, 2013 at 11:00am at the Philadelphia Baptist Church with Pastor I.L. Williams officiating. Interment will follow in the Philadelphia Memorial Garden Cemetery. **MIZELL FUNERAL HOME**, 365 NW Washington St., Lake City is in charge of arrangements. (ph #) 386-72-3166. Please sign guest register at www.mizellfuneralhome.com

Rufus Bass

Mr. Rufus Bass, 84, a resident of White Springs, Florida, died Wednesday, February 20, 2013 in the V.A. Medical Center. He was born on August 12, 1928 in Quincy, Florida to the late, Henry and Vassie Manning Bass and moved to this area from Thomasville, Georgia in 1952. He was a veteran of W.W. II having served in the Army Air Corp. He was a heavy equipment operator for many years having worked for Owens-Illinois for the majority of the time. He was a "sawyer" by trade working for area sawmills in his spare time. Mr. Bass enjoyed playing the guitar and reading the Bible. Mr. Bass was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn Glover Bass. Mr. Bass is survived by his children, Ricky Bass (Katie) of White Springs; Terry Bass (Debrah Lynn) of White Springs; Charles Bass (Emma) of Avon Park, Florida; Marilyn "Cookie" Bass of Lake City; Deirdra DeMaris Randall (Willard) of North Carolina; Delane Bass and Donna Sue Hill (Jeff) both of Perry, Florida; two brothers, Henry Bass of Panama City, Florida and Manuel Bass of Asheville, North Carolina. Ten grandchildren and numerous great and great-great grandchildren also survive. Graveside funeral services for Mr. Bass will be conducted at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 21, 2013 in the Riverside Cemetery. The family will officiate the service. The family will receive friends for ONE HOUR PRIOR to the service at the cemetery. The reason he did

not want a preacher to preach his funeral was his life was his testimony and no one could preach what he lived. Arrangements are under the direction of the **DEES-PARRISH FAMILY FUNERAL HOME**, 458 S. Marion Ave., Lake City, FL 32025 (386)752-1234 please sign our on-line family guestbook at parrishfamilyfuneralhome.com

Evona Carol Williams

Mrs. Evona Carol "BUNNY" Williams, 76, a lifelong resident of Lake City, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 in the Shands at Lake Shore Regional Medical Center. The daughter of the late Allen and Ollie Davis Drake, Mrs. Williams had been a homemaker and a very loving and doting wife, mother and grandmother. She loved to vacation in the mountains but her true passion was in tending to and cooking for her children and grandchildren. She was well known for her willingness to help others. Mrs. Williams was a mem-

ber of the Lake City Church of God. She was preceded in death by two step-sons, Johnny Williams and Sammy Williams. Mrs. Williams is survived by her husband, Sidney Williams; a son, Johnny Sullivan (Lee) of Branford; two daughters, Martha Parker (Jeff) of Lake City and Dawn Leslie (widow of Doyle) of Lake City; step-son, Gary Williams (Sandy) of Lake City; step-daughter, Sylvia Lynch (F.M.) of Lake City; a daughter-in-law, Joan Williams of Lake City; a brother, Dennis Drake (Dean) of Claxton, Georgia and a sister, Eloise Bedenbaugh (Winford) of Live Oak, Florida. Seven grandchildren, Richard Odom, Billy Brady, Carmen Sullivan, Dustin Brady, Cody Croft, Morgan Gabey and Ryan Gabey and five great-grandchildren also survive. Funeral services for Mrs. Williams will be conducted at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, February 22, 2013 in the Chapel of the Dees-Parrish Family Funeral Home with Rev. Lonnie Johns officiating. Interment will follow in the Hopeful Baptist Church Cem-

etery. The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00 Thursday evening at the funeral home. Arrangements are under the direction of the **DEES-PARRISH FAMILY FUNERAL HOME**, 458 S. Marion Ave., Lake City, FL 32025 (386)752-1234 please sign

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Drug overdose deaths up for 11th consecutive year

Prescription painkillers said to be main cause.

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — Drug overdose deaths rose for the 11th straight year, federal data show, and most of them were accidents involving addictive painkillers despite growing attention to risks from these medicines.

"The big picture is that this is a big problem that has gotten much worse quickly," said Dr. Thomas Frieden, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which gathered and analyzed the data.

In 2010, the CDC reported, there were 38,329 drug overdose deaths nationwide. Medicines, mostly prescription drugs, were involved in nearly 60 percent of overdose deaths that year, overshadowing deaths from illicit narcotics.

The report appears in Tuesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

It details which drugs were at play in most of the fatalities. As in previous recent years, opioid drugs — which include OxyContin and Vicodin — were the biggest problem, contributing to 3 out of 4 medication overdose deaths.

Frieden said many doc-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hydrocodone pills, also known as Vicodin, are arranged at a pharmacy in Montpelier, Vt. Drug overdose deaths rose for the 11th straight year, federal data show, and most of them were accidents involving addictive painkillers like Vicodin and Oxycontin.

tors and patients don't realize how addictive these drugs can be, and that they're too often prescribed for pain that can be managed with less risky drugs.

They're useful for cancer, "but if you've got terrible back pain or terrible migraines," using these addictive drugs can be dangerous, he said.

Medication-related deaths accounted for 22,134 of the drug overdose deaths in 2010.

Anti-anxiety drugs including Valium were among common causes of medication-related deaths, involved in almost 30 percent of them. Among the medication-related deaths, 17 per-

cent were suicides.

The report's data came from death certificates, which aren't always clear on whether a death was a suicide or a tragic attempt at getting high. But it does seem like most serious painkiller overdoses were accidental, said Dr. Rich Zane, chair of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

The study's findings are no surprise, he added. "The results are consistent with what we experience" in ERs, he said, adding that the statistics no doubt have gotten worse since 2010.

Some experts believe these deaths will level off.

"Right now, there's a general belief that because these are pharmaceutical drugs, they're safer than street drugs like heroin," said Don Des Jarlais, director of the chemical dependency institute at New York City's Beth Israel Medical Center.

"But at some point, people using these drugs are going to become more aware of the dangers," he said.

Frieden said the data show a need for more prescription drug monitoring programs at the state level and more laws shutting down "pill mills" — doctor offices and pharmacies that over-prescribe addictive medicines.

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Lake City Reporter

Replacement ears 'printed'

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Printing out body parts? Cornell University researchers showed it's possible by creating a replacement ear using a 3-D printer and injections of living cells.

The work reported Wednesday is a first step toward one day growing customized new ears for children born with malformed ones, or people who lose one to accident or disease.

It's part of the hot field of tissue regeneration, trying to regrow all kinds of body parts. Scientists hope using 3-D printing technology might offer a speedier method with more lifelike results.

If it pans out, "this enables us to rapidly customize implants for whoever needs them," said Cornell biomedical engineer Lawrence Bonassar, who co-authored the research published online in the journal PLoS One.

This first-step work crafted a human-shaped ear that grew with cartilage from a cow, easier to obtain than human cartilage, especially the uniquely flexible kind that makes up ears. Study co-author Dr. Jason Spector of Weill Cornell Medical Center is working on the next step — how to cultivate enough of a child's remaining ear cartilage in the lab to grow an entirely new ear that could be implanted in the right spot.

Wednesday's report is "a nice advancement," said Dr. Anthony Atala, director of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, who wasn't involved in the new research.

Three-dimensional printers, which gradually layer materials to form shapes, are widely used in manufacturing. For medicine, Atala said the ear work is part of broader research that shows "the technology now is at the point where we can in fact print these 3-dimensional structures and they



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Cornell University biomedical engineer Lawrence Bonassar holds the scaffolding for an ear his laboratory is creating using a 3-D printer and cartilage-producing cells.

do become functional over time."

Today, people who need a new ear often turn to prosthetics that require a rod to fasten to the head. For children, doctors sometimes fashion a new ear from the stiffer cartilage surrounding ribs, but it's a big operation. Spector said the end result seldom looks completely natural. Hence the quest to use a patient's own cells to grow a replacement ear.

The Cornell team started with a 3-D camera that rapidly rotates around a child's head for a picture of the existing ear to match. It beams the ear's geometry into a computer, without the mess of a traditional mold or the radiation if CT scans were used to measure ear anatomy.

"Kids aren't afraid of it," said Bonassar, who used his then-5-year-old twin daughters' healthy ears as models.

From that image, the 3-D printer produced a soft mold of the ear. Bonassar injected it with a special collagen gel that's full of cow cells that produce cartilage — forming a scaffolding. Over the next few weeks, cartilage grew to replace the collagen. At three months, it appeared to be a flexible and workable outer ear, the study concluded.

Now Bonassar's team can do the process even faster by using the living cells in that collagen gel as the printer's "ink." The 3-D technology directly layers

the gel into just the right ear shape for cartilage to cover, without having to make a mold first.

The next step is to use a patient's own cells in the 3-D printing process. Spector, a reconstructive surgeon, is focusing on children born without a fully developed external ear, a condition called microtia. They have some ear cartilage-producing cells in that tissue, just not enough. So he's experimenting with ways to boost those cells in the lab, "so we can grow enough of them from that patient to make an ear," he explained.

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SPORTS

Story ideas?

Contact
Tim Kirby

Sports Editor
754-0421
tkirby@lakecityreporter.com

Thursday, February 21, 2013

www.lakecityreporter.com

Section B

GAMES

Today

■ Fort White High softball at Suwannee High, 6 p.m.

■ Fort White High baseball vs. Newberry High, 6 p.m. (JV-5 at Keystone Heights High)

■ Columbia High softball at Gainesville, 7 p.m. (JV-5)

Friday

■ Columbia High girls tennis vs. Vanguard High at Jonesville Tennis Center, 3 p.m.

■ Fort White High track at East Coast Classic in Bunnell, TBA

■ Fort White High softball vs. Santa Fe High, 6 p.m.

■ Columbia High softball at Suwannee High, 7 p.m. (JV-5)

■ Columbia High baseball vs. Suwannee High, 7 p.m. (JV-4)

■ Fort White High baseball at Buchholz High, 7 p.m. (JV-5)

Saturday

■ Columbia High baseball at Chiles High, 2 p.m. (JV-11 a.m.)

■ Fort White High track at Bradford Invitational or Ocala Forest Invitational, TBA

BRIEFS

RUNNING

Tortoise 5k run/walk at O'Leno

The fifth annual Race the Tortoise 5k run/walk is 8 a.m. March 2 at O'Leno State Park on U.S. Highway 41-441, 17 miles south of Lake City. Entry fee through Thursday is \$10 for ages 14 and younger and \$20 for all others (\$25 after Thursday). The race is limited to the first 300 registrants, and all will receive a T-shirt.

For details, call Cindy Preston at 454-0723.

FORT WHITE FOOTBALL Quarterback Club meeting Monday

The Fort White Quarterback Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday (moved from today) in the faculty lounge at the school. Formation of committees and fundraisers will be discussed.

For details, call Shayne Morgan at 397-4954.

■ From staff reports



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Columbia High's Ashley Shoup winds up for a pitch during the season opener against Wolfson on Feb. 5.

CHS off to 5-0 start after win

Lady Tigers knock off Trinity Christian, 7-1.

By BRANDON FINLEY
bfinley@lakecityreporter.com

Columbia High head coach Jimmy Williams said before the season that he may have his best Lady Tigers softball team that he's ever coached.

After a 5-0 start that capped off with a 7-1 win against Trinity Christian Academy, the Lady Tigers are doing everything they can to back up the words of their head coach.

After breaking in two new pitchers last year, the Lady Tigers have found a nice balance with Ashley Shoup and Erin Anders this year. Both are sophomores and complementing each other through the early part of the season.

Shoup picked up the win against Trinity Christian by pitching four inings, striking out four batters, walking two and allowing only one hit.

Anderson relieved the final three innings, struck out four batters, walked three and allowed one hit to

CHS continued on 2B



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Fort White High's Lane Pendergrast catches a fly ball hit by Columbia High's Dalton Mauldin on Feb. 12 in Lake City.

Indians pitch shutout against Bradford High

Fort White begins season with 3-0 record.

By BRANDON FINLEY
bfinley@lakecityreporter.com

FORT WHITE — Fort White High continued its fast start to the 2013 season by picking up a shutout victory at Bradford High.

Kevin Dupree allowed only one hit in picking up the 4-0 win against the

Tornadoes.

Dupree went four innings, walked three batters and struckout six before giving way to sophomore Rhett Willis.

Willis closed out Bradford with three innings of work. The sophomore was equally impressive holding the Tornadoes to one hit, striking out five batters and walking three to pick up the save.

A host of Indians were able to pick up hits in the

game while being led by Zack Gaskins' two-hit performance.

Other Indians with hits in the game were Kody Moniz, Anthony Gonzales, Kevin Dupree, Willie Carter and Trace Wilkinson.

Gonzalez had two RBIs in the game while Dupree provided one more for Fort White.

Moniz, Carter, Wilkinson and Gaskins scored the

INDIANS continued on 2B

I believe that better care begins at home.

We believe in compassionate care. We believe in industry-leading excellence. And we believe there's no place like home for healing. Maybe that's why so many patients and physicians turn to us every day for skilled nursing, rehabilitation and therapy services.

GENTIVA
Home Health

For more information, call 386-758-3490 or visit www.gentiva.com

FL Lic # HHA206340963
Gentiva accepts patients for care regardless of age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, being a qualified disabled veteran, being a qualified disabled veteran of the Vietnam era, or any other category protected by law, or decisions regarding advance directives. © 2009 Gentiva Health Services, Inc.

LEAVE THE CLEANING TO US!

CARPET CLEANING SPECIAL \$99
OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/13 FOR 4 ROOMS

Beyond Carpet Cleaning
CARPET | TILE | HARDWOOD | UPHOLSTERY | AIRDUCT

755-1992

*Combined living areas. L-shaped rooms and rooms over 300 sq. ft. are considered 2 areas. Baths, halls, large walk-in closets and area rugs are priced separately. Offer does not include protector. Minimum charges apply. Cannot combine with other offers. Residential only. Cannot be used for restoration or airduct services. Must present coupon at time of service. Valid at participating locations only. Certain restrictions may apply. Call for details.

FL#CAC1816408 AL#08158

Prices in effect thru 2/28/13 - **Try Some Good Snacks!**

We're All Service & Smiles!

(24oz. sport cap) **2/\$2**

Buy 1 Get 1 Free!

(1.5oz. size) **2/\$1**
OR 79¢ each

DILBERT



BABY BLUES



BLONDIE



BEETLE BAILEY



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



SNUFFY SMITH



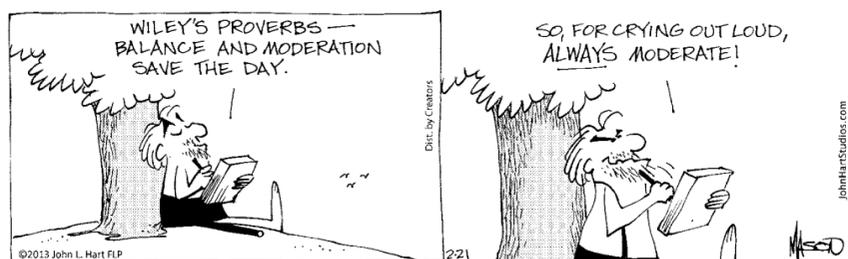
ZITS



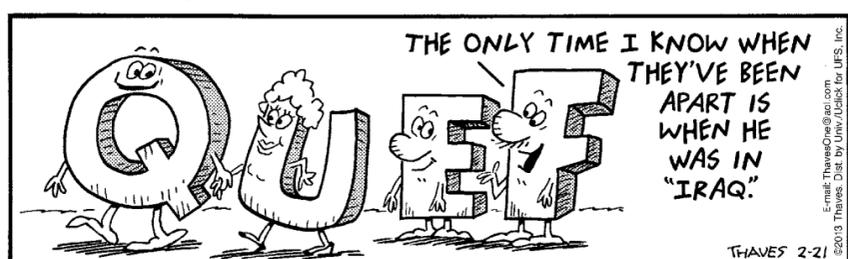
GARFIELD



B.C.



FRANK & ERNEST



FOR BETTER OR WORSE



DEAR ABBY

Gentleman is slow to seal couple's dates with a kiss



Abigail Van Buren www.dearabby.com

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 43-year-old single mom with three young boys. I am also a veteran and getting ready to go back to school. I have been dating a gentleman for two months now, and we get along great. He's three years older than I am and good with my kids and family.

I like him a lot and we seem to have a LOT in common - more than most. I really want him to kiss me, but I don't want to seem pushy. He's a real gentleman. We have gone from hugs to holding hands while sitting on the couch watching television. I don't mind taking things slow, but ...

How do I find out if he wants to kiss me or not? Sometimes it seems like it, but then he seems afraid to. How do I let him know it's OK? Sorry I seem like a teenager. - CONFUSED IN IDAHO

DEAR CONFUSED: This man isn't taking things slow. Glaciers have been known to move faster. Two months is a very long time to wait for a first kiss.

The next time you find yourself sitting on the couch and holding hands with him, you have my permission to turn to him and say, "I'd love it if you kissed me." If that doesn't do the trick, then face it - his feelings for you are only brotherly.

some money and is going on a cruise.

I asked her to repay me before the trip. She said she "needs the cruise for her mental health." I am shocked and very angry. When I lost my temper and told her off, she accused me of being "greedy and money-obsessed."

Abby, I helped her when she needed it! What should I do? - FURIOUS IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR FURIOUS: When your "friend" returns from her sea cruise, see if you can get her to agree to a repayment plan for the sake of YOUR mental - and financial - health. However, if she refuses, you may have to write off the loan as tuition in the school of experience.

DEAR ABBY: I have two sons who will graduate from college on the same day. My wife and I would like to attend both ceremonies, but for obvious reasons, we cannot. How do I resolve this dilemma? - FATHER IN TEXAS

DEAR FATHER: Divide and conquer. You attend one graduation and your wife the other. To decide which one, you and the Mrs. should draw straws.

DEAR ABBY: You have written about children in grocery stores before. Would you please address the risk to children by allowing them to stand in grocery shopping carts? I see it all too often, and I don't think the parents/grandparents realize that if the child falls out and lands on his or her head, neck or back, the child could end up paralyzed or dead. The adult must be the rule setter and protect the child. - CONCERNED SHOPPER IN NEW YORK

DEAR CONCERNED SHOPPER: I'm glad to oblige. Many markets equip their shopping carts with seat belts to secure tiny passengers and avoid this problem. That way, any liability that might stem from a child falling would lie directly where it belongs, with the adult who should have been using common sense.

DEAR ABBY: My oldest friend owes me a lot of money. I loaned it to her when she was being evicted. She has now come into

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

HOROSCOPES

THE LAST WORD Eugenia Last

Make whatever alterations are necessary to achieve happiness. Don't give in to demands being put on you by someone you feel is stifling you. A short trip will open your eyes to what's available if you are willing to make a move. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let situations play out naturally and eventually everything will fall into place. A change in your relationships will benefit you in the end, so don't lament something you cannot alter. Love is in the stars and socializing is a must. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):

talents. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make changes at home that will secure your reputation and your future. Deception and disillusionment are present. Proceed with caution. Don't reveal personal information or it may end up costing you financially. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Learning and trying new pastimes will lead to an interesting meeting with someone who is trying to achieve similar goals. Larger quarters or closer proximity to others will add comfort, opportunity and joy to your life. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let anyone talk you in to doing things on too grand a scale. Minimizing your job duties will result in higher profits. Contracts should be drawn up and signed to keep everyone in check and contributing what's expected. ★★★★★

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.

"AIGVJ TR FZO NIGTJVJF ROC. GOJ ZVMO FINI VBB RIHFR IW RFPWW FI SHIMO FZVF FZOX VHO AIHFZX IW AIGVJ'R VFFOJFTIJ." - DVGTBBO SVLBTV

Previous Solution: "The successful people of this world take life as it comes. They just go out and deal with the world as it is." - Ben Stein TODAY'S CLUE: 9 sjenbe 7

CLASSIC PEANUTS





Lake City Reporter CLASSIFIED

Take ADvantage of the Reporter Classifieds!
755-5440

Placing An Ad You can call us at 755-5440, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Some people prefer to place their classified ads in person, and some ad categories will require prepayment. Our office is located at 180 East Duval Street.

You can also fax or email your ad copy to the Reporter.
FAX: 386-752-9400 Please direct your copy to the Classified Department.
EMAIL: classifieds@lakecityreporter.com

Personal Merchandise 4 lines • 6 days One item per ad

Rate applies to private individuals selling personal merchandise totalling less than the category amounts listed below. Each item must include a price. This is a non-refundable rate.

Under \$100	Under \$500	Under \$1,000	Under \$2,500	Under \$4,000	Under \$,6000
\$3.50 Each additional line \$1.25	\$10.75 Each additional line \$1.10	\$17.15 Each additional line \$1.15	\$24.70 Each additional line \$1.45	\$28.40 Each additional line \$1.55	\$31.40 Each additional line \$1.65

Service Guide

Limited to Service type advertising only:
\$82.00
4 Lines • 1 Month
Each additional line \$9.00
Includes an additional \$3.00 per ad for each Sunday insertion.

Garage Sale

\$17.50
4 Lines • 3 Days
Includes 2 Signs
Each additional line \$1.65

Ad to Appear:	Call by:	Email by:
Tuesday	Mon., 10 a.m.	Mon., 9 a.m.
Wednesday	Tues., 10 a.m.	Tues., 9 a.m.
Thursday	Wed., 10 a.m.	Wed., 9 a.m.
Friday	Thurs., 10 a.m.	Thurs., 9 a.m.
Sunday	Fri., 10 a.m.	Fri., 9 a.m.

These deadlines are subject to change without notice.

Cancellations, Changes, and Billing Questions

Ad Errors- Please read your ad on the first day of publication. We accept responsibility for only the first incorrect insertion, and only the charge for the ad space in error. Please call 755-5440 immediately for prompt correction and billing adjustments.
Cancellations- Normal advertising deadlines apply for cancellation.
Billing Inquiries- Call 755-5440. Should further information be required regarding payments or credit limits, your call will be transferred to the accounting department.

General Information

Advertising copy is subject to approval by the Publisher who reserves the right to edit, reject, or classify all advertisements under appropriate headings. Copy should be checked for errors by the advertiser on the first day of publication. Credit for published errors will be allowed for the first insertion for that portion of the advertisement which was incorrect. Further, the Publisher shall not be liable for any omission of advertisements ordered to be published, nor for any general, special or consequential damages. Advertising language must comply with Federal, State or local laws regarding the prohibition of discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. Standard abbreviations are acceptable; however, the first word of each ad may not be abbreviated.



Services

BANKRUPTCY DIVORCE & CHILD ISSUES
Other court forms assistance
Reasonable / Experienced
386-961-5896

Legal

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA IN RE: ESTATE OF PROBATE DIVISION
File Number: 13-17-CP
JULIA D. MILLS NIBLACK Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE: You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of Julia D. Mills Niblack, deceased, File Number 13-17-CP, by the Circuit Court for Columbia County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 173 NE Hernando Avenue, Lake City, Florida 32055; that the total cash value of the estate is \$12,000.00 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:
NAME
Betty Gean Niblack Scott
ADDRESS
387 Winspear Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14215
NAME
Elouise Niblack Lumpkin
ADDRESS
2739 SW C.R. 778, Ft. White, FL 32038
NAME
Patricia A. Niblack
ADDRESS
5820 Lokey Drive, Orlando, FL 32810
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THE THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED
The date of the first publication of this Notice is February 14, 2013.
The undersigned certifies that a copy of hereof has been furnished to Xerox Recovery Services, Estate Recovery Team, P. O. Box 12188, Tallahassee, FL 32317 by U.S. Mail on the 11th day of February, 2013.
DARRYL J. TOMPKINS, P.A.
BY:
DARRYL J. TOMPKINS, ES-QUIRE
P.O. Box 519
Alachua, FL 32616
Telephone (386)418-1000
Florida Bar No. 363367

Legal

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROJECT NUMBER 2013-01 Southside Recreation Complex Concrete Pads and Sidewalks NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received in the Columbia County Manager's office until 11:00 A.M. on March 07, 2013, for Columbia County Project No. 2013-01. This office is located on the second floor of the Courthouse Annex at 135 Hernando Avenue, Room 203 Lake City FL 32055.
This project consists of constructing 4" thick 3000 PSI concrete bleacher slabs (6400 sf) and concrete sidewalks (960 sf) at Southside Recreation Complex.
Scope of work includes removing grass, grading, compacting, concrete placement, and incidental items.
The Bid Forms and Construction specifications may be obtained from the County's web site at <http://www.columbiacountyfla.com/PurchasingBids.asp>. Deadline for questions regarding specifications and/or bid documents must be received before 11:00 P.M. on March 05, 2013.
The successful bidder will be required to furnish the County Manager with proof of liability insurance prior to commencing work.
The Columbia County Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to add to the contract or delete from the contract to stay within their funding capabilities.
Columbia County Board of County Commissioners
Stephen E. Bailey, Chair

Legal

05537447
February 21, 28, 2013

100 Job Opportunities

05537366
Drawdy Insurance is seeking Professional 440 CSR or 220 Agent. Must have strong Communication and Computer Skills. Send confidential resume and salary requirements to 738 SW Main Blvd. Lake City, FL, 32056

BARTENDER NEEDED

Experienced & Dependable. Must have your own phone & car. 386-752-2412

CDL Class A Truck Driver.

Flatbed exp. for F/T SE area. 3 years exp or more. Medical benefits offered. Contact Melissa or Sandy@ 386-935-2773

CDL Driver 2 yrs exp clean MVR

for local company. Apply between 8am & Noon only. 247 NW Hillandale Glen, Lake City. No phone calls

Head Teller-Lake City

Seeking energetic individual who enjoys working with public. Supervisory and teller exp REQ. Professional appearance REQ. Great pay and benefits! App REQ and avail at www.sunstatefcu.org. Fax to 386-462-4686. DFWP, EOE

Mechanic needed with tools and experience. Southern Specialized Truck & Trailer. 386-752-9754

SALES POSITION

Available for motivated individual. **Rountree -Moore Ford**, Great benefits, paid training/vacation. Exp. a plus but not necessary. Call Anthony Cosentino 386-623-7442

Legal

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100 Job Opportunities

PROGRAM SPECIALIST
P/T position for multi tasker with marketing, communication, and HR / public administration skills. Must have good people skills as well. Must have experience in Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Must have good oral and written communication skills. Bachelors degree preferred or 4 years previous experience in related field. Position requires you drive your personal vehicle on agency business. Please send resume to Box 05102, C/O The Lake City Reporter, P.O. Box 1709, Lake City, FL, 32056

120 Medical Employment

05537417
Medical Assistant
Must have HS Diploma and Phlebotomy certification with min. 1 yr exp. Qualified candidates please email resume to: jsmith@ccofnf.com

F/T LPN needed for family practice office. 1 page resume's only will be accepted. Fax resume to 386-487-1232.

Local medical office looking for a **PT Billing Clerk.** Experience Preferred. Please send resume to PO Box 1256, Lake City, FL 32056

Office Staff needed For Medical Practice. 155 NW Enterprise Way, LC Fax 386-755-3369

240 Schools & Education

05536525
Interested in a Medical Career? **Express Training** offers courses for beginners & exp
• Nursing Assistant, \$479 next class- 1/7/2013
• Phlebotomy national certification, \$800 next class-1/14/13
• LPN 03/11/13
Fees incl. books, supplies, exam fees. Call 386-755-4401 or expresstrainingservices.com

310 Pets & Supplies

PUBLISHER'S NOTE
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 wild-life must be licensed by Florida Fish and Wildlife. If you are unsure, contact the local office for information.

407 Computers

Complete Dell Computer
\$80.00
386-755-9984 or 386-292-2170

430 Garage Sales

PUBLISHER'S NOTE
All Yard Sale Ads Must be Pre-Paid.

630 Mobile Homes for Rent

2 & 3 BR MH. \$400 - \$700. mo. Plus Deposit. Water & Sewer Furnished. **Cannon Creek MHP** 386-752-6422

RV Lots or Cottage avail for nightly or extended stay. Between Lake City & G'ville. Access to I-75 & 441 (352)317-1326.

640 Mobile Homes for Sale

2006 16X80 3/2 \$25,400 --- 2007 32x44 3/2 \$33,500--- BOTH HOMES INCLUDE DELIVERY TO YOUR LAND. Several Repo's Coming In The Next 10 Days--- Call North Pointe Homes For Details. Call 352-872-5566

2013 DOUBLEWIDE

\$33,995 inc. set-up, trim-out & A/C
Call 386-288-8379.

3BR/2BA 28X64 in a great location, a lot of upgrades, fireplace. Only \$2,500 down \$399 a month. Call Paula at 386-752-1452 or E-mail ammonspaula@yahoo.com

BANK REPO 3BR/2BA Double-wide '09 Excellent condition. Only \$999 down \$377 a month. Call Paula 386-752-1452 or E-mail ammonspaula@yahoo.com

MUST SEE 2013 2x6 walls, R30 insulation, OSB wrap, house wrap, real wood cabinets, and thermal pain windows. Payment \$399 per month call John T 386-752-1452.

New 2013-28x48-3/2 JACOBSEN

\$35,400 Delivered Only. OR \$39,995 Delivered and Set up. Big Rooms. North Pointe Homes, 4545 NW 13th St., Gainesville, 352-872-5566

Nice Location in Columbia County, older 3/2 DWMH in need of some repairs. \$43,600. William Golightly, **Poole Realty** 386-590-6681 MLS 82213

WANTED...CASH PAID for your Mobile Home, Singlewide or Doublewide flood homes welcome. Call 386-288-8379

Palm Harbor Homes

Demo your mobile home/free tear down at Palm Harbor
New mobiles \$39K off list
John Lyons 800-622-2832 ext 210

ACROSS

- 1 Cunning ways
- 6 Abandon
- 11 Pressing
- 12 Little finger
- 13 Afternoon nap
- 14 Send a secret message
- 15 Web-footed mammal
- 16 Links org.
- 17 Flock females
- 19 Cloister dwellers
- 23 Tire pressure meas.
- 26 Comic strip dog
- 28 Grassy field
- 29 Spunkiness
- 31 Airport exits
- 33 Chopin composition
- 34 Planks
- 35 Turned chicken
- 36 Hairy twin of Genesis

640 Mobile Homes for Sale

WOODGATE VILLAGE!
Nice 3BR/2BA DWMH w/fenced yd, workshop; \$39,900 **DANIEL CRAPPS AGENCY, INC.** 755-5110 #79078

650 Mobile Home & Land

2br/2ba on 3.51 ac, 1,512 sqft DW perfect Rental or First home. Large deck, MLS # 82216, \$65,000 **Results Realty** 386-397-3473 **Brittany Stoekert**

710 Unfurnished Apt. For Rent

05536760
\$89 Deposit Pools, B-ball, gym & more!
*FREE after school program
Windsong Apts
386-758-8455

2bd and 1bd Apts. Avail now. Everything included. Close to VA, closed in yard. 727-415-2207

2BR/1BA \$600/MO & \$575 Sec.

Dep. Lovely, Private, re-done CR 242, 2 miles West of RT 247 386-365-7193 or 867-6319

A Landlord You Can Love!

2 br Apts \$600. & up + sec. Great area. CH/A washer/dryer hookups. 386-758-9351 or 352-208-2421

Amberwood Hills Apts.

Private Patio area. Beautiful yard. Washer/dryer hkup. Free water & sewer. 1/1, 2/1. Move in special. 386-754-1800. www.myflapts.com

Brandywine Apartments

Now Renting 2, & 3 bedrooms, CH/A. 386-752-3033 730 W. Grandview Ave. Lake City, FL "This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer" Equal Housing Opportunity TDD # 1-800-955-8771

Columbia Arms Apt. located 1/2 mi from V.A. & Winn Dixie. Pet Friendly. Pool, laundry & balcony. 386-754-1800. www.myflapts.com

Gorgeous Lake View

2br/1ba Apt. CH/A \$500 month & \$500 deposit. No pets. 386-344-2170

710 Unfurnished Apt. For Rent

Branford Villas Apartments
Now Renting 1 & 2 bedrooms, CH/A. 386-935-2319
517 SE Craven St. Branford, FL "This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer" Equal Housing Opportunity TDD # 1-800-955-8771

Great area West of I-75, deluxe 2br apts, some w/garage. W/D hookups & patio. \$700-\$750 plus SEC. 386-438-4600 or 965-5560

Greentree Townhouse

Move In Madness. 2/1, 2/1.5. Free water & sewer. Balcony & patio. Laundry. Behind Kens on Hwy 90. 386-754-1800 www.myflapts.com

NICE Apt Downtown. Remodeled 1 bedroom. Kitchen, dining, living room. \$450. mo plus sec. 386-362-8075 or 386-754-2951

Redwine Apartments

Pets welcome. with 5 complexes, we have a home for you. 386-754-1800. www.myflapts.com

UPDATED APT. w/tile floors/fresh paint. Great area. 386-752-9626

Wayne Manor Apts.

Spacious 2bedroom washer/dryer. Behind Kens off Hwy 90. 386-754-1800 www.myflapts.com

Windsor Arms Apartments.

Move in! 2/1, 2/1.5, 2/2. Pet Friendly. Free 200 ch. Dish. Washer/dryer hkup. 386-754-1800. www.myflapts.com

720 Furnished Apts. For Rent

ROOMS FOR Rent. Hillcrest, Sands, Columbia. All furnished. Electric, cable, fridge, microwave. Weekly or monthly rates. 1 person \$135, 2 persons \$150. weekly 386-752-5808

730 Unfurnished Home For Rent

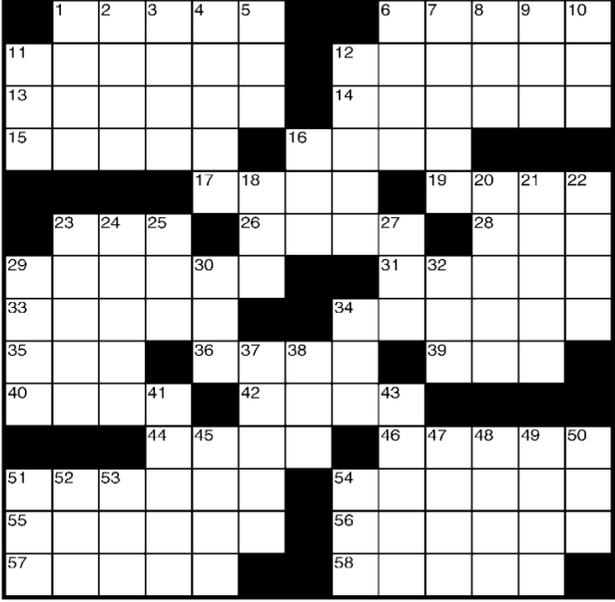
3bd/1.5ba Brick Home in town, \$715 mth Security Dep \$450. Call 386-935-1482 or 386-752-4701

Answer to Previous Puzzle



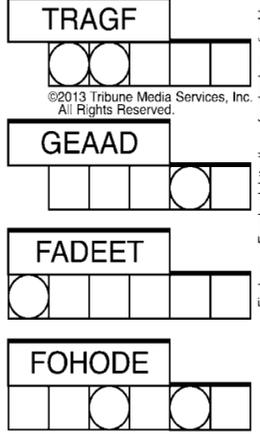
- 10 Start of a bray
- 11 GI entertainers
- 12 Coke rival
- 16 Went first
- 18 Adversity
- 20 Extreme
- 21 Poor
- 22 Talk back
- 23 Blossom bit
- 24 Smelled bad
- 25 - be an honor!
- 27 Freud topic
- 29 A - pittance
- 30 Bruce - of kung fu
- 32 "Ooh" companion
- 34 Tampa Bay pro
- 37 Tale
- 38 Puffin kin
- 41 Bargain events
- 43 Uniform material
- 45 Masculine
- 47 Surrounded by
- 48 Epsilon follower
- 49 Footnote abbr. (2 wds.)
- 50 Titanic message
- 51 Grey Cup org.
- 52 El Dorado loot
- 53 Zodiac sign
- 54 Surefooted pet

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



JUMBLE

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

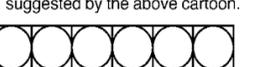


Print your answer here:

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VENUE GLORY COUSIN ACTIVE
Answer: Running the cremation society made it possible for him to - "URN" A LIVING

750 Business & Office Rentals

A Suite Available in Midtown Commercial Center
Call Vicki or Joe 386-935-2832.

Medical, Retail and Professional Office space on East Baya near Old Country Club Rd.
Call 386-497-4762 or 386-984-0622 (cell)

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE UNIT

Oakbridge Office Complex
725 SE Baya Dr - Call 752-4820

805 Lots for Sale

14.69 ac tract on Lake Jeffrey Rd. Has well & septic and power ready for site built or MH. \$65,000
MLS #82567 **Results Realty, Brittany Stoekert 386-397-3473**

Beautiful lot on Suwannee River. Lot has a well and anaerobic septic system. MLS# 78842, \$35,000
Brittany Stoekert 386-397-3473 Results Realty

Eastside Village Realty, Inc. MLS #76668 - \$32,000 Must be 55+, Buildable lot for site built homes only. In Forest Country. Call Denise Bose 752-5290

Eastside Village Realty, Inc. MLS #80401 - \$60,000. Must be 55+ 130x750 right on Suwannee, Beautiful lot, minutes from Royal Springs, Denise Bose 752-5290

Nice 5 acre lot located in quiet setting River Rise s/d, Homes only, paved street. \$65,000
MLS #76151 **Results Realty, Brittany Stoekert 386-397-3473**

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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82718 - Beautiful Brick home. Upgraded granite counter tops, new paint, carpet & appliances.
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82763 - This great open floor plan home has had new flooring, paint, appliances, a/c and light fixtures.
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82794 -Great house in Great neighborhood. Granite counter-tops, Florida room, vaulted ceilings. **Century 21 Darby Rogers 752-6575 , \$129,000**

82843 - Home sits on 4.2 acres and has a 3br/2.5ba brick home, large great room w/ brick fireplace.
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82845- Cute as can be, solid built home with large kitchen, newer cabinetry, & granite counter-tops.
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810 Home for Sale

Access Realty- Two story 1895 Victorian house w/ electrical upgrades throughout. double -deck porches, MLS 71594 - \$149,900.
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Coldwell Banker Bishop Realty 3BD/2BA newly renovated with fireplace. New appliances, carpet & More. Sherry G. Ratliff \$94,900 386-365-8414
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LIVE OAK! Cute home in city limits; 3BR/1BA & 1,294 SqFt \$49,500 **DANIEL CRAPPS AGENCY INC.** 755-5110 #81410

Eastside Village Realty, Inc. MLS #81958- \$115,000. Must be 55+, 3br/2ba, Site Built w/ lots of room, split plan mstr suite, FL. Rm. Call Denise Bose 752-5290

Eastside Village Realty, Inc. MLS #81959 - Must be 55+, 2br/2ba, \$79,900. Site Built Home w/eat in kitchen, laundry rm, scrn porch. Denise Bose @ 752-5290

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MLS # 81985 **Swift Creek Realty.** \$229,900 800-833-0499

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Remax- Pam Beauchamp 386-303-2505, 3BR/2BA, 2161sf, 6 ac MOL, Roman shades, Italian tile, crown molding, master has tray ceilings. #82646 \$299,900

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Dale Earnhardt Jr. watches as his crew gets his car ready in the garage during practice for the NASCAR Daytona 500 Sprint Cup Series auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Wednesday in Daytona Beach.

NASCAR's big names take time to find right sponsor

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH — For sale! Made-for-TV premium ad space on the hood of the car of NASCAR's most popular driver.

Believe it. Even Dale Earnhardt Jr. has coveted sponsorship up for grabs. In fact, his No. 88 Chevrolet lacks a primary sponsor for about one-third of the 36 Sprint Cup races this season.

The perfect corporate sponsorship has yet to materialize for Earnhardt and team owner Rick Hendrick. Both are preaching patience, believing the right deal will eventually fall into place, and not a dire sign that big business has soured on NASCAR.

"We're just looking for the right corporations that are a good fit for us, that are long-term, that want to be in the sport for a while," Earnhardt said. "You don't just take the first guy that comes along."

Earnhardt is one of the lucky drivers that can afford to be picky in the race for cash.

But Hendrick is not alone when it comes to teams still trying to make all the sponsor pieces fit for a season that opens with Sunday's Daytona 500. Stewart-Haas Racing — owned and oper-

ated by three-time Cup champion Tony Stewart — has about 20 races spread out over three cars that need a top sponsor.

Not even NASCAR's biggest stars are immune from the economic pinch that plagues a sport dependent on Fortune 500 dollars.

Earnhardt's sponsorship dried up when Pepsi, through Diet Mountain Dew and Amp, sliced its sponsorship from 20 races to five in 2013. The National Guard did bolster its support of the No. 88, going from 16 to 20 races. Earnhardt, who's made the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship each of the last two seasons, is somewhat hindered in finding the right fit because of conflicts with committed corporate sponsors. For example, his Pepsi deal is the reason he ditched Budweiser when he signed with Hendrick Motorsports for the 2008 season.

At Daytona, Earnhardt has the National Guard on the No. 88 for "The Great American Race." His sponsorship deals run low around mid-summer, so there's time to sign new business partners.

Earnhardt is one of the superstar faces of NASCAR. Even as the wins have dried up, he was still voted NASCAR's most popular

driver for each of the last 10 years. He can't be associated with any fleeting or cheesy sponsors.

"You have to think about what's good for his image," Hendrick said. "Some of that has stopped us. There's been a lot of interest."

Hendrick announced at Daytona he locked up Lowe's for five-time champ Jimmie Johnson's No. 48 Chevy for 2014. Lowe's has sponsored Johnson for the first 399 races of his Cup career. With a new paint scheme, Lowe's again will be on the side of the car for start No. 400 in the Daytona 500.

Lowe's, in fact, is likely one of the biggest sponsor spenders in NASCAR. While most numbers are never publicly announced, NASCAR insiders say it costs about \$18 million to \$20 million a year to fund an elite driver's car for a full season. Some of the low-budget teams try and get by on around \$5 million.

"You can have the best financed team in the series, but if they don't know how to apply it, it doesn't matter," Stewart said. "There's teams that have taken less money and gotten better results out of it because they know how to use the money, where to put it."

Dramatic 1st Daytona 500 practice with Gen-6

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH — It took all of 15 minutes for NASCAR's new Gen-6 race car to throw drivers a few curves of its own at the first practice for the Daytona 500.

Ryan Newman lost control of his Chevrolet right in front of Carl Edwards and Mark Martin, and all three cars sustained damage. It's the third time in a week that a wreck has collected Martin, who also suffered damaged cars in a crash started by Matt Kenseth last week and another triggered by Tony Stewart in Saturday night's exhibition race.

Newman had no idea what caused him to spin.

"My car came around, I don't know if it was the air off of Carl's car or what," he said. "Carl came over and said 'Hey man.' I said, 'I don't even know what to tell you yet.'"

The accident happened as drivers are still adjusting to the new car, a process that has been bumpy so far. Dale Earnhardt Jr. triggered a multi-car accident in January testing, Kenseth started an accident last

Friday and the wreck in the exhibition race cut the 19-car field to 12.

Edwards was just as vexed as Newman.

"I was up close to Ryan and then all of a sudden his car just got a little loose and there was no space," Edwards said. "I could have given him more space, but I don't think either one of us really understands why his car got so loose. It was just all of a sudden and he was turned sideways. It's really interesting and something I'm going to be careful of during the race."

Edwards said he believes the finicky cars could contribute to an entertaining season-opening Daytona 500 on Sunday.

"Race cars are supposed to be hard to drive, it's supposed to be on the edge, you are supposed to be sliding around," Edwards said. "We as drivers, it is our responsibility to learn how to drive them. If this (warm) weather stays like this, and we can run cars sideways down the corner and give each other a little bit of room, it's going to be an awesome 500."

Meanwhile, Earnhardt and defending Sprint Cup champion Brad Keselowski

also had issues in the first practice session, which was paced by two-time Daytona 500 winner Michael Waltrip. Earnhardt blew an engine, and Keselowski had a fuel system problem that limited his track time.

"Something went wrong with the fuel system in the car," Keselowski said. "That's not what you want when you're in front of the pack because when your car slows down, they've got nowhere to go and it could cause a wreck. So we're going to spend a little extra time to make sure we've got whatever it is figured out."

Earnhardt had to wait for an engine change, which will send him to the back of the field for Thursday's qualifying race.

"I'm sure there is some logical explanation as to what happened, but, we'll just put a new one in and start at the back of the qualifier and race up through there," Earnhardt said.

Waltrip was fastest in the first practice, turning a lap at 198.347 mph. Kasey Kahne led the less-eventful second practice — only 27 of 45 drivers practiced — with a lap at 197.737 mph.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drivers, Tony Stewart (14), Kasey Kahne (5), and Martin Truex Jr., (56) run, during a Daytona 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race practice Wednesday in Daytona Beach.

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