

Lake City Reporter

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SUNDAY EDITION

Columbia, Fort White bring home wins. **IB**

Doggie clothes a great last-minute Christmas gift. **IC**



FOR SALE?



FILE

A public hearing has been set for Monday, Jan. 13 at 5:15 p.m. in regards to the proposed merger and potential sale of Lake Shore Regional Medical Center.

Shands Lake Shore may go on the block

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

By the numbers

\$7.6 billion proposed cost of acquisition
\$3.7 billion Health Management Associates' debt that Community Health Systems will take on in merger
23 number of hospitals in state HMA operates or is a part of
2 number of hospitals CHS owns in state

owned by Lake Shore Hospital Authority of Columbia County," said Jack Berry, Lake Shore Hospital Authority executive director.

The facilities include the parking lots, the hospital, doctors' offices, the Lake

Shore Hospital Authority Administrative Complex, the hospital records building and all vacant lands.

In July Shands Lake Shore Regional Medical Center's parent company, Health Management Associates, agreed to a merger with Community Health Systems, Inc.

Under the agreement, Community Health Systems proposed to buy HMA in a \$7.6 billion deal. The \$7.6 billion acquisition by Community Health Systems will include assuming HMA's \$3.7 billion debt.

HMA operates or is a partner in 23 hospitals in the state, including Shands Lake Shore, Shands Live Oak and Shands Starke, while Community

MERGER continued on 7A

A brief history of LSHA, HMA

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

The Lake Shore Hospital Authority is an independent special state taxing district. It was established originally to construct and operate Lake Shore Hospital.

In 1987, the hospital was leased to Santa Fe Healthcare and in 1996, it was leased to Shands Healthcare.

Under the lease arrangement, the authority entered into an indigent care agreement with the hospital for the hospital to take care of Columbia County residents' emergencies.

Through the agreement the authority pays 50 percent of indigent in-patient care and 30 percent of indigent out-patient care.

As part of the lease agreement, the authority is obligated to levy a 1.5 mill tax devoted to indigent care at the hospital and must support an indigent clinic.

For more than 10 years, Shands Healthcare had a lease agreement with the Lake Shore Hospital Authority where Shands leased the Lake Shore Hospital facility from the Hospital Authority Board.

In May 2010 Shands

HISTORY continued on 7A

HUMANE SOCIETY

Bones finds a home



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter
Mary Booker adopted Bones on Friday.

Woman read of his plight in newspaper article, claimed him.

By **AMANDA WILLIAMSON**
awilliamson@lakecityreporter.com

Without a doubt, Mary Booker knew she wanted Bones.

She didn't know what he looked like, she didn't know his age and she didn't know how well he would behave. But, Bones — a medium-sized beige dog from the Lake City Humane Society — had been waiting for over a year to find a forever home.

"I knew I wanted him," she said. "He's been here the longest. I said, 'man, I got to go get him.'"

Bones, along with 9 other dogs and 4 cats, were selected by the Humane Society for a Christmas Adoption Special at Petsmart on US Highway 90. The society wanted to find homes for the animals who had lived at the shelter the longest, and by mid-afternoon Saturday they had succeeded in

BONES continued on 6A

54th Mass. may be there for Olustee re-enactment

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

A company of re-enactors representing soldiers from the 54th Massachusetts, US Colored Troops, is attempting to muster enough men to participate in the 150th Battle of Olustee Anniversary festivities.

The 54th Massachusetts was a unit of African Americans that participated in the Battle of Olustee. The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry and the 35th United States Colored Troops covered the Union's retreat as Confederate forces repelled them when Union troops tried to march on Tallahassee. Black forces comprised about one-third of Union forces at the Battle of Olustee.

The re-enactors have been invited to participate in the Olustee Battle Festival Parade as well as take part in the Battle of Olustee re-enactment in Baker County.

OLUSTEE continued on 7A

Spradley is statewide Volunteer of the Year

By **AMANDA WILLIAMSON**
awilliamson@lakecityreporter.com

After organizing nearly 8,000 volunteers equal to more than a \$1 million dollar in kind donation for the Columbia County School District, Volunteer Coordinator Dorothy Spradley earned the 2013 statewide Adele Graham Award for her efforts.

Every year, the Florida Association of Partners in Education recognize one district volunteer coordinator in Florida for his or her performance over the course of the year. According to Spradley, she is the first coordinator from a small district to be selected in several years.

"When I look at the slate of those who have been given this award in the past, there are from larger districts," she said. "I'm getting this

'I was quite honored... I don't feel like it's just me receiving the award. It's our whole county.'

— Dorothy Spradley, Columbia County School District Volunteer Coordinator

honor for Columbia County.... If you think about the amount of hours the volunteers give, there are a lot of programs we wouldn't have in this district if not for our volunteers."

Adele Khoury Graham, wife of former Florida governor and U.S. Senator Bob Graham, believed in the educational value for all districts to have staff and financial resources committed to recruiting, training

SPRADLEY continued on 7A



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Dorothy Spradley, the Columbia County School District Volunteer-Education Marketing Coordinator, was awarded the 2013 Florida Association of Partners in Education Adele Graham Award. The trophy and a check for \$500 was presented to her at a School Board meeting on Dec. 10. "I'm honored to receive this. I'm very honored because I know the caliber of those who are selected."

County unemployment rate lower than state

By **AMANDA WILLIAMSON**
awilliamson@lakecityreporter.com

Unemployment in Columbia County remained steady in November, showing a local jobless rate lower than the state average.

According to information released Friday by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Columbia

County's unemployment rate for November was 6.1 percent. In October, the figure was also 6.1 percent.

Statewide, the unemployment rate fell from 6.7 in October to 6.4 in November. The state's November rate was the lowest since July 2008, when it was also 6.4 percent. The monthly number keeps Florida below the national unemployment rate,

where it's been since March. The national jobless rate for November was 7.0, which also represented a 0.3 percent drop since October.

In November, Columbia County's labor force totaled 30,544. Of those, 28,688 were employed and 1,854 were actively seeking employment.

The month before saw a slightly higher labor force at

30,657. Out of October's work force, 28,790 were employed and 1,867 were unemployed.

In November 2012, Columbia County's unemployment rate was 7.5 percent. Statewide, the unemployment rate was 8 percent in 2012.

Monroe County held the lowest unemployment rate in the

JOBS continued on 3A



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TODAY'S WEATHER

83 61
 Mostly Cloudy, 8A

Opinion 4A
 Police 3A
 Obituaries 5A
 Advice & Comics 5D
 Puzzles 3B



TODAY IN NEWS

Brand new bikes for 65 local children, 7A.

ALSO IN NEWS

Christmas Dream Machine giveaway, 6A.



Friday:
2-3-15-35-5



Friday:
11-18-23-26-34



Saturday:
Afternoon: 3-5-1



Saturday:
Afternoon: 7-6-2-8



Wednesday:
2-5-9-24-34-40-x5



Wednesday:
7-24-37-39-40-1

AROUND FLORIDA

SeaWorld runs ads after performers cancel

ORLANDO

SeaWorld on Friday posted ads in a handful of newspapers around the nation in response to a critical documentary that inspired eight musical acts to cancel performances at the company's Orlando marine park.

Both the ad and open letter on its website, www.seaworldcares.com, describe SeaWorld as an advocate for animals and detail efforts to rescue and care for marine animals.

"Inaccurate reports recently have generated questions about SeaWorld and the animals in our care," the full-page ad said. "The truth is in our parks and people, and it's time to set the record straight."

On Friday, SeaWorld spokesman Fred Jacobs said in an email: "We did the ads because there was a great deal of dishonesty and misinformation in the online discussion of SeaWorld over the last several weeks, and we felt an open letter was the best way to provide the truth about SeaWorld."

The cancellations have had no effect on park attendance, Jacobs said in his email.

The documentary "Blackfish" explores what may have caused a 12,000-pound orca named Tilikum to kill veteran SeaWorld trainer Dawn Brancheau in 2010. Tilikum pulled her into a pool. The orca also was involved in two other



COURTESY

Operation Christmas Child

The North Central Florida area packed and shipped over 21,000 shoeboxes filled with school supplies, toys and personal hygiene items for Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's purse program that shares the Good News of Christ, and the joys of Christmas, with children around the world.

deaths. The documentary argues that killer whales, when in captivity, become more aggressive to humans and each other.

The newspaper ad said SeaWorld hasn't taken a wild killer whale into captivity for 35 years due to its successful breeding program. It also said that SeaWorld doesn't separate killer whale mothers and calves and that the compa-

ny has invested \$70 million over the past three years in its parks' killer whale habitats.

Warning: gunfire not for celebration

TAMPA — The family of a Tampa Bay-area boy hit by a stray bullet on New Year's Day 2012 is urging gun owners not to fire into the air to celebrate the

holidays.

Authorities blamed celebratory gunfire for Diego Duran's injuries. Now 14, the high school freshman still suffers from memory problems.

His family started a charity, Bullet Free Sky, to spread awareness about the dangers of celebratory gunfire. The Tampa Bay Times reports that at a news conference

Friday at a Tampa gun range, Diego's mother said the charity is "not anti-gun" but "pro-common sense."

Sandy Duran said that "when you shoot in the air, the bullets don't evaporate or disappear." She wants state legislators to increase penalties for shooting into the air, which currently is a misdemeanor in Florida.

Villages woman has 70 pen pals

THE VILLAGES — When Marjorie Martin checks her mailbox, cards and letters outnumber her bills at least 2-to-1.

That's because The Villages resident corresponds with 70 pen pals from around the world, she said. And days without letters are rare.

"It's nice to get a letter instead of a bill," she said.

Each day, Martin sits down at her well-lit kitchen table and writes two to five letters to her pen pals. Some she hand writes; others she types on her computer.

Some pen pals she has been corresponding with for more than two decades; others, for far less time.

Two of them even share her full name.

But Martin has something in common with all 70: They love letters and sharing their lives through them.

Martin has met several of her pen pals in person. They've attended pen pal picnics and even have stayed at each others' homes.

But there never has been an awkward moment meeting a pen pal, she said. Martin already knows a pen pal's personality through her letters.

Her devotion raises the question: Will she be a pen pal for life?

"As long as I can," she said. "As long as my memory and hands hold out.

■ Associated Press

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'Dynasty' fans on Robertson's hiatus

LOS ANGELES

When the A&E network suspended "Duck Dynasty" patriarch Phil Robertson for disparaging gay people, it may have followed a time-honored TV tradition of quickly silencing a star who, for better or worse, speaks his mind. But in doing so it also ruffled the feathers of possibly millions of fans of its most popular show.

Fourteen hours after it was learned that Robertson had been placed on indefinite "hiatus" for telling GQ magazine, among other things, that gays are headed to hell, more than a half-million people liked an impromptu Facebook page demanding the show be boycotted until he returns.

Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who had her picture taken with Robertson just last month, complained that his free-speech rights were being trampled. Bobby Jindal, governor of the state of Louisiana, where the show is filmed, complained that Miley Cyrus got a pass for twerking on TV while Phil got shown the door.

T-shirts, of course, went on the market with the words "I Don't Give a Duck About A or E, Bring Back Phil."

"It's a show that is promoting clean living and good moral values, and that's something we need more of today," one of the program's many fans, Rick Peter of Vernon, British Columbia, Canada, told The Associated Press.

It's also a show that 67-year-old Robertson, who sports a beard that seemingly should qualify him for immediate membership in the rock group ZZ Top, is at the center of.

When or if he'll return — or if he'll ever really go away, however — is an open question.

Usher: Bieber's mishaps are part of growing up

LOS ANGELES — Usher says though Justin Bieber had a wild year, people shouldn't count the pop singer out just yet.

"I mean more money more problems," the R&B singer said in an



TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

Food and fellowship for the holidays

Kay Daly, Christian Service Center of Columbia County executive director, and Rev. Russell Taylor, Christ Fellowship Baptist Church pastor, put food in a bag that will be given to local families as a Christian Service Center Christmas Basket.

interview Wednesday at the premiere of "Justin Bieber Believe" in Los Angeles. "The beautiful part about it is that those that are invested in a long term story you understand that there are peaks and valleys in every person's life some. Unfortunately the reality is he has to live with a camera in front of him, but what he chooses to do on or off camera is analyzed or scrutinized in some off way."

Earlier this year Bieber was caught on camera clashing with a paparazzo. While touring the pop star fainted backstage at a London show and had to be taken to a hospital. These incidents came after photos of Bieber appearing to smoke marijuana hit the Web. During the summer, he also had to apologize by phone to Bill Clinton, for cursing the former president and spraying his photo with cleaning fluid in a New York City restaurant kitchen.

His longtime manager Scooter Braun agreed that Justin Bieber had

a very crazy 2013.

"Pandora's box was opened. I mean he got a little bit into trouble," Braun began to explain as crowds screamed hysterically behind him upon Bieber's arrival.

"I don't know it's tough because the whole world is a critic," said Bieber's mother Pattie Mallette. "I think sometimes people dehumanize celebrities and I think what's so great about this movie is that you get to see his humanity."

"I think the media has been terrible on him," Bieber's grandmother Diane Dale fired back. "There are so many lies going around. A little bit is true but most of it is lies."

"Justin Bieber Believe," which opens in U.S. theaters Christmas Day, captures a behind-the-scenes look at the 19-year-old star. Bieber will release a new album, "Journals," on Dec. 23.

■ Associated Press

Celebrity Birthdays

■ Television journalist and broadcaster Diane Sawyer is 68.
■ Actor Ralph Fiennes, Lord Voldemort from the Harry

Potter films, is 51.
■ Soap Opera actress Lauralee Bell is 45.
■ American Idol season 6 winner Jordin Sparks is 24.

Thought for Today

"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer."
— Albert Camus, Nobel Prize-winning author

Scripture of the Day

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." — Luke 2:6-7

Lake City Reporter

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Correction

The phone number for Bob and Jo-Ann Pettigrew was printed incorrectly in the Operation Christmas Child article in Friday's edition of the Reporter. The correct phone number to reach the Pettigrews is 386-755-1958.

POLICE BRIEFS

Man arrested on drug possession, resisting

By STEVEN RICHMOND
srichmond@lakecityreporter.com

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office arrested a Lake City man Thursday accused of distributing marijuana and resisting an officer with violence, CCSO reports.

A sheriff's deputy made contact with Trevarius Sherrod Ingraham, 24, of 319 NW Albright Place, after a Dollar General manager placed a call about a suspicious black male fitting his description around 8:12 p.m. Thursday, according to the arrest report.

The store owner reportedly said a black male in red shorts and a black hoodie spent over an hour in the store without buying anything.

After leaving the scene, the deputy noticed Ingraham, wearing a black hoodie and red shorts, walking on Bascom Norris and Main near Cedar Park Apartments, according to the report.

As the deputy made contact with him, Ingraham began slowly backing away from the deputy, eyes wide open and body shaking, the report said.

The deputy felt a cluster of small plastic bags filled



Ingraham

with a soft material during a patdown of Ingraham, the report said.

Ingraham then tried to flee and threw the bags on the ground, the report said.

A scuffle between the suspect and deputy ensued, with the deputy throwing Ingraham to the ground at least three times before he was detained, the report said.

Due to redactions in the report, it is unclear how the deputy was finally able to restrain Ingraham and place him in custody.

The plastic bags were filled with a substance that tested positively for marijuana, the report said.

Ingraham was booked into Columbia County Detention Facility on \$29,000 bond.

He faces charges of resisting an officer with violence, intent to sell or deliver marijuana, possession of marijuana under 20 grams, drug equipment possession, destroying evidence, possession of a controlled substance and giving a false name.

3 injured in Live Oak collision

From staff reports

LIVE OAK—Three people are in stable condition following a minor collision Wednesday morning, the Florida Highway Patrol reports.

James Cleon Westberry, 77, Live Oak, was driving his 1998 GMC Sierra west on US 90 and attempted to turn onto Helvenston Street around 9:50 a.m. Wednesday, according to a crash report.

During his maneuver, Westberry turned in front of a 2003 Dodge Neon driven by Susan Marie Schnaudigel, 41, Live Oak, who was driving east on US90.

The right front of Westberry's vehicle then struck the right-front side of Schnaudigel's vehicle.

Schnaudigel and her passenger Olevia L. Bogan, 71, Live Oak, both sustained minor injuries and were treated at Shands Live Oak following the collision.

Westberry did not sustain any injuries. All individuals involved were wearing seatbelts. There was no suspicion of either driving operating under the influence of alcohol.

Westberry was cited for an improper left turn.

County considers need, consequence of initiating \$18 million radio upgrades

By STEVEN RICHMOND
srichmond@lakecityreporter.com

County Manager Dale Williams had a frank discussion with county commissioners about the need and feasibility of upgrading the county's outdated public safety communications network Thursday evening.

"I am thoroughly convinced as manager...that Columbia County is in dire need of a new communication system," Williams said. "We have some issues and those issues are best fixed by moving into a completely different arena and platform than what we currently use."

The county currently operates a very high frequency (VHF) tower system that is prone to interference and dead zones when public safety officials—law enforcement, EMS, firefighters, etc.—enter rural and indoor areas.

"I fear that one day I'll get a call from the sheriff or some other emergency response team saying 'I have lost an employee because they got out of their vehicle and could not communicate.' And that's scary. Very scary."

—Dale Williams, County Manager

Consultants, an independent telecom consulting firm, to develop an upgrade strategy and act as a neutral mediator during negotiations between Columbia and other telecommunications companies.

County staff received an offer from Motorola for the countywide upgrade based on rates from a similar project St. Johns County completed earlier this year.

However, the price-tag is roughly \$18.5 million, including \$2 million in incentives that will expire Dec. 31.

Domino effect

Dale Williams warned that Columbia County would be forced to finance the project, which would be the second-largest capital expense in Columbia's history behind the courthouse renovations.

"You are literally looking at debt service that will range somewhere between \$1.25 to \$1.75 million a year," Dale Williams

said. "You do not enter into a project like this without doing a lot of due diligence. We have got to decide how we're going to make those payments."

He added that executing an agreement of this magnitude would have a "domino effect" and would most likely postpone many of the county's future plans, including the construction of a new detention facility, salary increases and road improvement projects.

"This project is going to suck up fund balance. There is absolutely no way that I, in good faith, can sit here tonight and tell you we're in a position, in my opinion, to proceed with this," Dale Williams said.

Commissioners consulted with county attorney Marlin Feagle, seeking some way to enter into the contract with Motorola before the incentives expire while also including a clause that would allow the county to back out of the agreement should they not appropriate the money.

Sustainable funding
"If you're thinking we can just back out of it by not appropriating the money, I don't think that's that easy," Feagle said. "I'm not comfortable with the board signing these documents with the reservations you have."

Commissioners ultimately voted four to one to send Motorola a letter requesting a 90-day extension on their offer. Commissioner Ron Williams cast the lone dissenting vote, saying "I don't agree with that, either."

Regardless of Motorola's response, the commissioners will meet over a series of workshops in the coming months to find a sustainable source of funding for the project.

Local man arrested for marijuana

By STEVEN RICHMOND
srichmond@lakecityreporter.com

The Lake City Police Department arrested a man accused of possessing marijuana and cocaine Thursday afternoon, LCPD reports.

Officers made contact with Brandon Xavier Penson, 19, of 465 SW McFarlane Ave., who was a passenger in a blue Chevrolet truck that ran a stop sign at the corner of NW Wilson Street and NW Dixie Avenue around 5:11 p.m. Thursday, accord-



Penson

ing to the arrest report.

After pulling the men over, the officer noticed the smell of marijuana as he approached the truck and called headquarters for backup, the report said.

Penson had an existing violation-of-parole warrant for arrest and was detained on site, the report said.

Officers searched Penson and the vehicle and

found varying quantities of marijuana and cocaine that added up to 35.4 grams and 24.57 grams, respectively, as well as \$131 composed of ones, fives and tens, the report said.

Penson was booked into Columbia County Detention Facility without bond.

He faces charges of possession of a controlled substance, marijuana possession over 20 grams, marijuana and cocaine possession with intent to sell, narcotic equipment possession and violating parole.

JOBS

Continued From 1A

state at 3.7 percent. The highest unemployment rate in the state was Hendry County with 11.3 percent.

According to Denise Wynne, Florida Crown Workforce Board Lead Employer Services representative, jobs in government, natural resources and mining and construction lost jobs over the year. Annual job growth rates for professional and business services, finan-

cial actives and manufacturing exceeded the state rates in Columbia County.

"Jobseekers and employers alike are encouraged to make the acquaintance of their local workforce staff here at Florida Crown Workforce, which will be undergoing a name change as part of the State's branding campaign," Wynne said. "However, we will still be in the same locations in Lake City and Trenton. We have many services available to assist in bringing people and businesses together."

Christmas Eve services

■ **New Mount Pisgah**
New Mount Pisgah AMEC, 345 NE Washington St., is having a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, Dec. 24 from 7-8 p.m. Call 386-752-1830 for more information.

■ **Our Redeemer Lutheran**
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church on HWY 47 will have a candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 7:30 p.m. All are invited.

■ **St. James Episcopal**
St. James Episcopal Church is inviting the community to their

Christmas Eve services on Tuesday, Dec. 24. The 4:30 service will be a family service with a children's Christmas pageant. The 11 p.m. service will be a traditional candlelight service. St. James is located at the corner of SW Bascom Norris Drive and McFarlane Ave.

■ **Faith in Christ Church**
Faith in Christ Church, 282 SW Magical Terrace, is having its Christmas eve candlelight service at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 24. All are welcome.

November real estate market remains static from last year

By STEVEN RICHMOND
srichmond@lakecityreporter.com

Columbia County's real estate market remained relatively static for the month of November, according to a market detail report released by Florida Realtors.

The association reported 25 closed sales for single family homes for the month of November, unchanged from last year's 25 closed sales for the same month.

November's sales were also the second lowest of the year behind the 18 closed sales in February, and short of the year-to-date average of 33.4 closed sales per month.

Dan Gherna, executive vice president of the Lake City Board of Realtors, summed up November in one word—"Typical."

"Typically, November, December and January are slower months," Gherna said. "What I'm noticing is the median price drop, but that was due to

40 percent of sales being cash sales." Cash is the payment method of choice for Florida real estate buyers, it turns out.

Figures from the real estate site RealtyTrac show that almost two-thirds of real estate purchases in Florida were cash sales in November.

A big reason for that is the number of institutional investors buying real estate in the Sunshine State.

For Columbia County, November's median sale price of \$100,000 was down 7.4 percent compared to November 2012. However, a handful of high-priced sales pushed average sale price up to \$121,752, a 9.0 percent year-over-year change.

The number of active listings continued to climb as well, continued a slow upward trend from January's 365 to 428 for November.

"There's a lot more people entering the market, they're putting their toes in the water," Gherna said. "There's so much on the internet for consum-

ers to value property. A lot of it's junk, but there's enough you can get an idea of what you'd pay."

November also marked the first month since at least January 2009 without any short sales in Columbia County.

"Short sales are dropping everywhere, there's a lot of programs out there and prices are climbing slowly," Gherna said. "Some of the government programs lately have taken the sting out of the upside-down homeowners."

Despite a lackluster month, Gherna said 2013 overall will be an improvement over the past two years.

"As of [Friday, Dec. 20], we've had 383 houses with closed sales," he said. "Last year, we sold 331...291 in 2011. We're starting to see a smidgen of new construction."

The official data for December will be released Jan. 23, 2014.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

North Florida
HomeSeller
Homes • Acreage • Commercial

Holiday Hours for Waste Pickup

Closed Christmas Day & New Years Day
Monday & Tuesday.....Normal Schedule
Wednesday.....Pickup Thursday
Thursday.....Pickup Friday
Friday.....Pickup Saturday

Advanced Disposal 4176 S. US Hwy 441
752-1275

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Lauren Williams, ARNP

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OUR OPINION

The million pound club

Congratulations to the folks at Florida Gateway Food Bank for distributing more than one million pounds of food in their four-county service area this holiday season.

Again.

This is the second year in a row they've hit the million-pound mark.

The previous high point had been in the 300,000 range.

An expansive new facility in 2011 – plus an even greater outpouring of generosity from folks in Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee and Union counties – made all the difference.

Thanks to all involved, and keep up the great work.

TODAY IN HISTORY

On this date:

In 1775, Esek Hopkins was appointed the commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy.

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1910, a fire lasting more than 26 hours broke out at the Chicago Union Stock Yards; 21 firefighters were killed in the collapse of a burning building.

In 1912, Lady Bird Johnson, the wife of President Lyndon B. Johnson, was born Claudia Alta Taylor in Karnack, Texas.

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

In 1968, Julie Nixon married David Eisenhower in a private ceremony in New York.

In 1977, three dozen people were killed when a 250-foot-high grain elevator in Westwego, La., exploded.

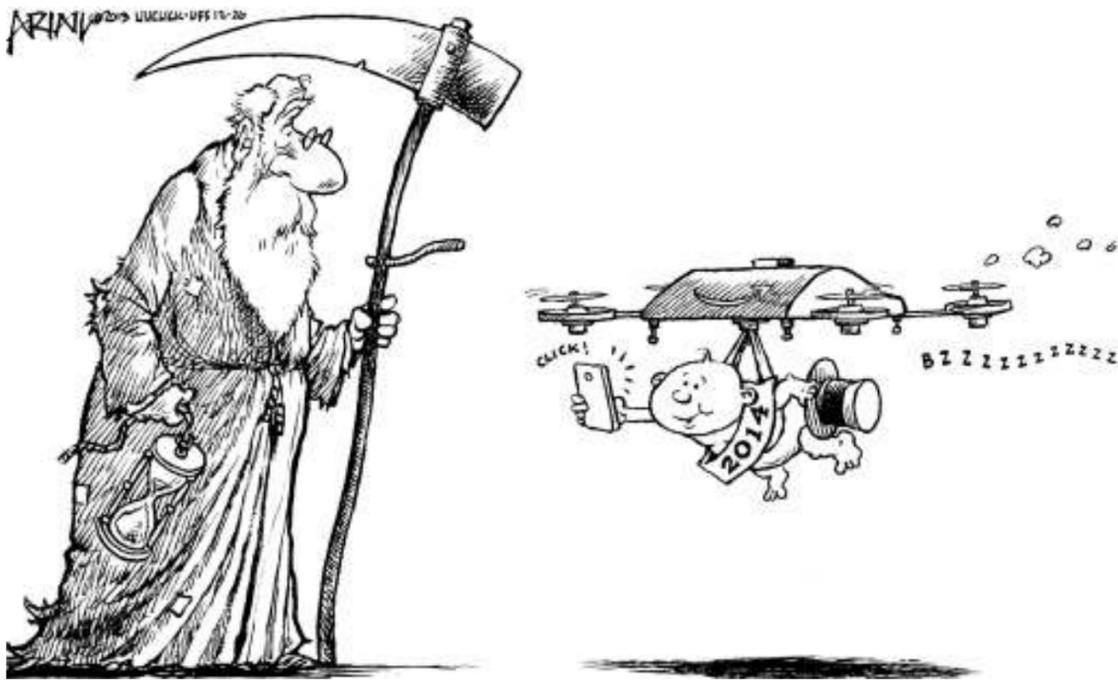
In 1984, New York City resident Bernhard Goetz shot and wounded four youths on a Manhattan subway, claiming they were about to rob him.

In 1991, the body of Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, an American hostage slain by his terrorist captors, was found dumped along a highway in Lebanon.

In 1992, a Libyan Boeing 727 jetliner crashed after a midair collision with a MiG fighter, killing all 157 aboard the jetliner, and both crew members of the fighter jet.

In 2001, Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers.

■ Associated Press



Working at bipartisanship

The budget agreement was hardly what either side would have liked, but its importance is that it is an agreement. Is this finally the end of the partisan strife that has been so debilitating since 2008 when the economic crisis further aggravated a political scene very short on sociability? Does it mean political peace in our time? Not bloody likely as the saying goes.

But it is recognition by concerned leaders in both camps that Americans are becoming fed up with a Congress that has stifled any resolution to most of the nation's problems, putting personal interests above those of the country. So the Republican chairman of the House Budget Committee and the Democratic chairman of the Senate's budget panel, not normally on the same wave length, turned months of conversations into a détente that if nothing else would postpone the warfare for the time being.

The agreement reached between Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Sen. Patty Murray of Washington means at least an end to the threat of another government shutdown until at least 2015. About \$63 billion in federal sequester cuts will be restored. Deficits will be reduced by \$22 billion over 10 years. There will be no extension of long-term benefits for the unemployed and pensions will be trimmed for military retirees and for new federal workers.

More importantly, however, it offers some further opportunity for constructive bipartisanship on fiscal issues instead of mindless, snot-nosed bickering. Beyond that neither side is satisfied with the



Dan K. Thomasson

amount of restored sequestration or much else, with factions in both parties charging a sell out by their own.

Nevertheless the radicals on the Right and Left went along and adopted the agreement. How long this will last is beyond the intellect of most of us to say. But guessing honed by decades of observing close up, leads me to predict not terribly long given the upcoming election next fall and the probability for outside agitation by ideologically driven special interest groups like the newly formed Heritage Action committee which seems to have displaced its mother house, the venerable conservative policy formulating Heritage Foundation, in importance and motivation under former South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint, a tea party leader.

Ryan, the former GOP vice presidential nominee and a likely seeker of the main job in 2016, called the agreement "a way to get our government functioning at its basic levels." That's hard to dispute given recent history.

The glimmer of hope for enough accord to avoid the destructive forces that have threatened to set back productive government almost to the status of a second Civil War is heartening if not terribly realistic in the long term.

As the electioneering begins for

the midterm balloting less than a year from now a divided Congress is almost a certainty to continue. Republican gerrymandered districts probably make it impossible for Democrats to take the House. Republican senators up for reelection face primary fights from ultra conservative candidates that probably will impede the GOP's chances of capturing the upper chamber. When you throw into the mix those seeking position early as presidential candidates, the future of bipartisanship looks rather bleak.

Still, by merely giving the electorate any respite from the threat of Armageddon, the agreement is most welcome for however long it lasts. It holds out the possibility that the resolution to some of our thorniest problems like immigration might be solved amicably with the best arguments of both sides incorporated. It would be nice to at least believe that changes in obvious deficiencies in the Affordable Care Act could be adopted without the rancor and bitterness of the past five years.

It would sort of be like what one gets when he plays a country western record backward. He gets his pickup back, he gets his wife back, he gets permanently sober and the train he loves to ride comes back into service.

That of course amounts to the unrealistic Christmas wish list of one who has been on the job long enough to know better – too long perhaps. We have been given a gift and can only hope that unlike the toys we buy for our children it lasts longer than a few weeks.

■ Dan K. Thomasson is former editor of Scripps Howard News Service.

Lake City Reporter

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Washington gift suggestions

In the spirit of good will to others, even if they are politicians, here are some gift suggestions culled from the catalogues.

For Ted Cruz, the Texas tea partying maverick senator who helped orchestrate the government shutdown for which he hasn't yet given us an explanation, we suggest "Magic Morsels" from Fairytale Brownies. We would perhaps add an ingredient from the 1960s, just to see if he is human.

For John Boehner, the House speaker from Ohio who is now on the Tea Party's naughty list for backing the budget compromise even though he spent the last two years bucking his own establishment Republicans, we suggest Dean and Deluca's sweet "Coal Stocking Stuffer." Dean and Deluca notes: "It's the nicest stocking stuffer possible for those who deserve a lump or two."

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who "presided over" the disastrous rollout of the Affordable Care Act, to use one of the nice names for it, might find a "voice clarifying amplifier" from Hammacher Schlemmer useful. It is a digital earpiece that amplifies human speech frequencies above background noise so that spoken words are clearly audible. Perhaps the next time peons tell her a computer program is not ready for primetime, she'll hear.



Ann McFeatters
amcfeatters@nationalpress.com

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Cal., who ran a tight ship when she was speaker, should receive a "fashionista Christmas tree," a prelit 5-foot (just her size) tree designed like a dressmaker's dress form also from Hammacher Schlemmer. Pelosi always looks so well put together you forget the Republicans ignore everything she says.

We think President Obama would enjoy the new Play it Again Polar Bear from Gump's in San Francisco. You ask the bear to play a song, any one of 12 Christmas carols, and he does it. Just like Obama tries to mollify whoever he is meeting with at any given moment.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the beleaguered Senate Republican leader, might find under his tree a "teepee to call your own." The Land of Nod catalogue notes that this teepee is "the perfect home away from home while trailblazing the playroom frontier," which of course is Congress.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, whose brash style (he hopes) will propel him to the White House in 2016, shoots from the hip so often he should have an Orvis denim long-sleeved shooter shirt which will make everyone think of Theodore Roosevelt, and not just because of girth.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., who would like to be the first Hispanic president and used to be for immigration before he was against it, really should have an iPhone owner's robotic avatar from Hammacher. It reflects an owner's facial features and personality traits. "You can customize its response in your own voice to match your personality such as "stop that!" or "wait a sec, bub."

You have to admit that Hillary Clinton, who has been first lady, senator and secretary of State, has everything. She's rich. She's smart. Neat clothes. Husband with great hair. Nieman Marcus' big gift this year is an ultimate outdoor entertainment system ranging from \$1.5 million to \$2.6 million. What a perfect way to make a presidential announcement!

Happy holidays, pols. Isn't it nice to know we're thinking of you?

■ Scripps Howard columnist Ann McFeatters has covered the White House and national politics since 1986.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



COURTESY

Last performances of 2013

On Friday, Dec. 27, at 8 p.m. the Jacksonville-based Shotgun Redd Band, newcomers to the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park, will take the stage with their country, rock and southern rock hits. Saturday, Dec. 28 at 8 p.m. Band of Brothers (pictured above), an SOSMP favorite, will entertain with its wide variety of music. Admission to both performances is free.

OBITUARIES

Patricia Milton Raulerson

Mrs. Patricia Milton Raulerson, 66, of Lake City, FL, passed away on Friday, December 20, 2013, at Suwannee Valley Care Center in Lake City, after an extended illness. Born June 22, 1947 in Lake City, FL., to the late Willie Milton and Bertha Mae Spikes. She was a member of Wellborn Baptist Church. She retired after 29 years from the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She is preceded in death by her parents; Willie and Bertha Milton, and her husband Quincy Raulerson. Survivors include two sons; Donny Thomas of Lake City, FL, and Wade (Manda) Thomas of Live Oak, FL; one daughter; Denise Joyce of Lake City, FL; stepchildren, Sherri (Don) Lee of Lake City, FL, and Allen (Stacey) Raulerson of Ft. Myers, FL, one brother; Ronnie Milton of Mayo, FL, three sisters; Joyce Spradley, Judy Bedenbaugh, and Janice Milton all of Lake City, FL, eight grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews also survive. Funeral Service for Mrs. Raulerson will be conducted at 11:00am, on Monday, December 23, 2013, at Gateway-Forest Lawn Funeral Home with Rev. Elmer Crews officiating. Interment will follow in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens. Visitation with the family will be held one hour prior to the service 10:00am -11:00am on December 23, 2013 at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations please be made to Haven Hospice, 6037 US Hwy 90 West, Lake City, FL, 32055 or to Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch, 2486 Cecil Webb Place, Live Oak, FL, 32064. Arrangements are under the direction of GATEWAY-FOREST LAWN FUNERAL HOME, 3596 S US Hwy 441, Lake City, FL, 32025, (386) 752-1954. Please leave words of love and comfort for the family at www.gatewayforestlawn.com

life of a farmer's wife, during a time when little to no equipment, other than muscle power, was available. Together they raised a family and lived a good life. She was a longtime member of Elim Baptist Church and avidly studied the bible, taught Sunday school, VBS, and happily professed Jesus Christ as her Savior. She later worked several years at the General Electric Battery Plant in Alachua. She was a loving wife, mother, grand, great and great great grandmother, who enjoyed gardening (she had a unique ability to nurse sick plants back to health), playing cards and working on puzzles. She loved to travel and some of her fondest memories were of the bus tours she would take with her sister in law and her close friends. She was preceded in death by her brother, Leroy Lowe, her sister, Ethel Smith and her loving husband of 71 years, Ethan Porter. Survivors include her sons, Norman (Annie Laura) Porter and Bobby (Mary Emma) Porter; and her daughter, Gwendolyn (Huey) Hawkins all of Ft. White, FL; grandchildren, Eathan (Janise) Porter Jr., George (Laura) Porter, Rebecca Ann (Keith) McCarty, David Porter, Sheri (Bill) Koon, Kevin (Diane) Porter, and Brian (Jolene) Hawkins; 14 great grandchildren & 3 great great grandchildren. The family would like to express their most heart felt thanks to the Neurology & Neurosurgery Departments at Shands UF for their care and compassion during Mrs. Porter's brief hospitalization and to Dr. Alan Goldblatt, for the years of care and friendship he's shown her during office visits and at her bedside. We will be forever grateful. Funeral services will be conducted at 3:00 p.m., on Monday, December 23, 2013 at Elim Baptist Church, Ft. White, Florida with Pastor Larry Sweat officiating, assisted by Rev. Charles Knight. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation with the family will be held one hour prior to service time (2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.) at the church. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations in "Cricket's" honor, be made to the Elim Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 448, Ft. White, Florida 32038. Gateway-Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 3596 South U.S. Hwy 441, Lake City, FL. 32025. (386) 752-1954.

Voncile "Cricket" Evelyn Lowe Porter

Voncile E. Porter, 94, of Ft. White, Florida, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Saturday morning December 21, 2013. She was born in Kendrick, Florida to the late Lawrence and Etoil [Criswell] Lowe. She graduated from Ft. White Public School, married Ethan Porter in 1937 and settled into the

Obituaries are paid advertisements. For details, call the Lake



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

LCPD: Once a family, always a family

Lake City Police Chief Argatha Gilmore and Sgt. Larry Shallar pose for a photograph with family members of fallen LCPD Officer Brandi Jackson after the swearing-in ceremony of Officer Marc S. Hardison on Thursday. Pictured are Jackson's daughter, Alivia (from left), 2; Gilmore; Jackson's mother, Sharolyn Krieghauser; Jackson's daughter, Avah, 4; and Shallar.

Dec. 24

Communion Service

Haven Hospice, 6037 W US 90, will host a Holy Communion service on Christmas Eve at the Community Room at Haven Hospice at 6 p.m. The thirty minute service, "A Family Tradition," will include Christmas carols, the reading of the Christmas story and serving communion. Everyone is invited. Call Chaplain Donna Carlile at 386-752-9191 for more.

Dec. 25

Christmas dinner

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

Dec. 31

New Year's Eve party

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

Jan. 5

Zumba Class

Sarah Sandlin, Zumba Instructor for the City of Lake City, is offering a free Zumba class on Jan. 5 at the Teen Town city building at Youngs Park from 4-5 p.m. This will be a beginner's class where you'll learn all the basic moves of this popular dance form. After the free class, a regular Zumba class will be held for \$5 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Email Sarah at lakecityzumba@gmail.com for more.

Jan. 14

Medicare Seminar

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

Bay Street Bassworks

Bay Street Bassworks will perform at the Levy Performing Arts Center at Florida Gateway College on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. This group is an internationally-acclaimed touring ensemble performing selections from a wide variety of genres ranging from Bach to Be-Bop. A new "flex ticket" system is being offered this year so each ticket can be used at any Lake City Community Concert. Single concert tickets are \$20/adult and \$5/student K-12. See www.communityconcerts.info, or call (386) 466-2013, or visit the Lake City Chamber of Commerce for details.

Jan. 15

Olustee Planning

The Blue Grey Army will have a planning meeting for the 2014 Olustee Festival at 5:30 p.m. in the Columbia County School District Central Building, Room 153, at 409 SW St. Johns St. The festival will be Feb. 14-16. For information, call 755-1097.

Jan. 17

Masonic Banquet

Gold Standard Lodge #167 will be hosting their annual Masonic Banquet on Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Westside Community Center. For tickets and more information, contact Chris at 386-623-3611 or Mike at 386-867-6675.

Jan. 18

King Breakfast

The Presley EXCEL and Scholars Program and Youth for Christ Ministry invite the community to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 85th Birthday Observance Breakfast at the Woman's Club, 257 SE Hernando Street. Brooke Mobley of Davita Kidney Specialists of Northern Florida will be the guest speaker. Tickets may be purchased for \$20; tables may also be reserved. Call 386-752-4074 for more.

Volunteers needed

Shands LakeShore

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

Lake City Medical

Lake City Medical Center is looking for volunteers. If you have any extra time and a heart for volunteerism, please call (386) 758-3385 for more information or visit the hospital's website at Lakecitymedical.com or you can stop by the front desk and pick up a paper application.

United Way

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

752-5604, ext. 101.

Hospice of Nature Coast

Hospice of the Nature Coast has opportunities for volunteers in the Lake City and Live Oak areas. Volunteers provide general office support and non-medical assistance to patients and their families. Hospice volunteers support hospice patients/families through activities such as: telephone calls, socialization, light meal preparation, spiritual support, shopping or errands, and staffing information booths at seasonal festivals. Specialized training will be provided. Contact Volunteer Manager Alvia Lee at 386-755-7714 or email alee@hospiceofcitrus.org for more information and reservations. For more information about hospice services in the Lake City and Live Oak areas, call Hospice of the Nature Coast at 386-755-7714 or visit us on the web at www.hospiceofcitrus.org.

Ongoing

Donate Books

The Friends of the Library need books for our book sale. Our greatest need is for gently used paperback fiction. Please bring your donations to the main library.

Housing assistance

The Greater Lake City Community Development Corp. Inc. provides services to area resident wanting to become homeowners. CDC offers financial literacy training, credit review, pre- and post-ownership counseling and homeownership education by professional instructors and credit counselors. The agency office is at 363 NW Bascon Drive. For more information call (386) 752-9785, email greaterlakecity@hotmail.com or visit its website at greaterlakecitycdc.com.

Program available

The Five Wishes Workshop is available to community groups, civic clubs, and churches in Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee counties. Larry Geiger, public relations manager for the Hospice of the Nature Coast, will facilitate the workshop at no cost. Five Wishes is a easy to complete legal living will document that spells out the medical, personal, emotional and spiritual needs. To schedule a workshop, contact Geiger at 755-7714 or (866) 642-0962.

Open registration

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

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

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

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Theater is more real life than pretend for Fort White's Joyner

By AVALYN HUNTER
Special to the Reporter

FORT WHITE
‘T’he play’s the thing, wherein to catch the conscience,” says the title character of Shakespeare’s Hamlet. But for Fort White High School drama teacher Harry Joyner, a play’s the thing for teaching students about life.

Take, for example, the school’s recent production of Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*, a play about the Salem witch trials which was performed at the school on November 26 and at the Columbia County School Board auditorium on December 13.

“We started with having all my students research the play’s background and the history on which it’s based,” Joyner said. “After the auditions, the cast rehearsed two or three times a week after school from early October on, memorizing their lines and working on presentation. They had to learn how to think on their feet, too, and how to stay focused when something doesn’t go as planned.”

There was plenty of work for the other students as well.

‘Tremendous vehicle for teaching’

“Frank Hubert (one of the directors at Lake City’s Alligator Community Theater, who served as director for *The Crucible*) and I were the only adults involved in the production, so the kids actually handled most of the organizational and managerial work,” Joyner said proudly. “It was a tremendous vehicle for teaching cooperation, responsibility, and mutual accountability. One student, Nathan Harnen, made all the set pieces, but everyone had to work together to make the whole thing happen. The older students looked out for the younger ones and they really came together as a community.”

The acid test of the young thespians’ skills came when they performed for the middle school students at Fort White.

“I was concerned as to how it would be received,” Joyner admitted. “It’s a complex subject, and middle schoolers get bored easily. But after ten minutes they were hooked – you could have heard a pin drop out in the audience. When the play ended, they were silent for a moment before they started applauding. It was the greatest tribute my students could have had.”

Joyner, now in his 30th year of teaching, didn’t set out to become a drama teacher. A journalism major at the University of Florida, he was initially certified for teaching English, a subject he still teaches; he has also taught television and media production. But a personal interest in drama developed through participation in productions at his church combined with the rich tradition of English literature revolving around the stage made it all but inevitable that Joyner would move into drama at the school. He began teaching the subject seven or eight years ago and has never regretted it.

Street theater for festival

While the drama classes will not be putting on another play in the spring, that doesn’t mean they will be idle. Last year, the students set up a “Readers’ Theater” and a street theater show as part of the annual Olustee Festival, and Joyner – himself a member of the Blue/Grey Army – hopes that they will receive permission to put on a medicine show as part of the 2014 festival.

“Traveling salesmen of that time period would put on a show to attract attention to whatever elixir they were selling,” Joyner explains. “Besides having a student playing the role of the man hawking the medicine, we would have students delivering soliloquies from Shakespeare to bring in an audience for the sales pitch. We would also have students in the audience helping to set the atmosphere and the period.”

In addition, Joyner hopes to have what he calls a “flirtation show,” in which street performers demonstrate nineteenth-century customs of sending courtship messages through

the use of gloves, handkerchiefs, parasols, and flowers.

A member of the Columbia County Museum’s board of directors, Joyner is working on setting up a docent program there as another outlet for his young actors.

“Docents dress in character for a given period and time, providing a living explanation of history at a museum or historical site,” Joyner explained. “I’m hoping that they will be able to give readings for smaller children, helping them become acquainted with history.”

In previous years, Joyner and his students have also participated in setting up practice scenarios for the Columbia County Emergency Response team.

What the future holds

Asked regarding the future of the drama program at Fort White, Joyner loses a bit of his impish twinkle though not his basic optimism.

“I’m not sure how it will go,” he said. “I love working with it, but I’m not all that far from retirement and I don’t know who there will be to take over. We’ve also been handicapped by not having an auditorium on the campus, which would be useful as a community center as well as a place to stage plays or musical events. If the facilities were available, I’d love to do a dinner theater production. That brings in audience participation and would help my students sharpen their improvisational skills.”

Drama may seem far removed from the skills needed for success in the modern world, but Joyner thinks otherwise.

“You don’t succeed in many areas without discipline, self-confidence and the ability to present yourself according to your audience,” he pointed out. “Drama teaches those. It also helps students identify their gifts and receive affirmation for using them constructively. It isn’t a substitute for other learning, but it helps them integrate learning in other areas into something they can present and use publicly. And those are skills that will serve them long after they’ve left the stage.”

CHRISTMAS DREAM MACHINE



Photos by STEVEN RICHMOND/Lake City Reporter

Chad Brown and Sherry Morgan, volunteers with the Christmas Dream Machine, prepare to hand out a gift during the nonprofit’s 25th annual toy drive at the Lake City Mall Saturday morning.

More than 700 children get gifts

By STEVEN RICHMOND
richmond@lakecityreporter.com



It would’ve been difficult to deck the halls with boughs of holly at the Christmas Dream Machine in the Lake City Mall—gifts for 738 children covered nearly every square inch of floor space during the nonprofit’s 25th annual gift pickup Saturday.

“We’re handing out gifts for children from working, economically-challenged families who were sponsored by the community,” said Meally Jenkins, the event’s founder and director.

The Dream Machine crew of 22 volunteers set up a Christmas tree Nov. 1 featuring brief profiles of each of the needy children and families being sponsored across Suwannee, Hamilton, Union and Columbia Counties.

Members of the community then came by and made their gift and cash donations to individual children and the cause.

“I’ve been doing this about seven years,” said volunteer Chad Brown while sifting through the piles and piles of gift bags. “It sounds weird, but you get addicted to the feeling. You feel good. You forget about doing for yourself and just focus on helping out. This shows how the community can come together.”

The Dream Machine’s inspiration dates back 25 years, shortly after the untimely death of Jenkins’ father, Thomas Jenkins. What started as a humble gesture out of the back of Meally Jenkins’ car eventually grew into the event it is today.

Jenkins credits much of the event’s success to people who were once on the receiving end of the charity event who returned years later to make Christmas possible for another generation of children.

“This shows that people really care,” she said. “None of us are getting paid for this. Everything we get goes right back to the children. The money and gifts go where they need to go. It’s really a wonderful thing.”

BONES

Continued From 1A

placing five animals — four dogs and one cat.

As time ticked by on Friday, the event didn’t look good for Bones. He barked from his crate, watching as dog owners entered the pet store with furry friends in tow. Though his description told potential adopters he was alert and friendly, they seemed to drift to other crates. Most wanted simply to look. The rest wanted puppies. Tiny Gerald, a Chihuahua, was the first to be adopted.

“My list of good dogs that need a home: Bones, Joey, Darla and Butch,” said Michael Brown, a Human Society employee. “Bones is not the longest we’ve ever had, but he’s been here a while. A lot of people have been asking about him lately, so I’m sure his time is coming.”

Minutes later, his new owner appeared.

“I’m here for Bones,” Brooker said as soon as she stepped up to the rows of black crates.

A resident of Lake Butler, she works at the Columbia County Detention Facility. While at work Friday morning, Brooker read the article in Friday’s Lake City Reporter about the adoption event and Bones.

“I wanted to get a companion for the dog I have now,” she said, adding that about eight years ago she adopted a mutt from a local animal shelter. Her current dog, Randy, is very energetic. Brooker hopes the two get along great.

“I’m excited to get to know Bones,” she said. “He’s cute as he can be.”

She plans to keep his name because “it suits him.” He earned the name for his skinny frame, said Humane Society volunteer Stephanie Roberts. No matter how much Bones eats, he burns it off.

“We’re overjoyed,” said volunteer dog trainer Lorraine Moore. “He deserved a home. Now he’s got a forever home. He’s got an actual home. When Stephanie called me on the phone, I said, ‘oh, I didn’t get the chance to say goodbye.’”

But Moore quickly rushed back to Petsmart and was able to see Bones — hopefully for the last time. Brooker had already slipped a brand new leash and collar around his neck.

“I’ve got a good heart feeling about this,” Brown said. “When you have people come in like that, that’s got to be a God-sent sign. Some



Photos by JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Olivia Ruffo, 3, pets Darla, 2, a bulldog mix who is described as very willing to please.

people just know.”

Only two dogs were adopted on Friday. Lake City Humane Society administrative assistant Holly Dunlap stopped by that evening to see how well the event had played out. While she was pleased the two dogs had found homes, Dunlap glanced sadly at the other eight.

Friday also saw one of the four cats find a new home with a grandmother who wanted to surprise her grandson. Since her grandson couldn’t keep the cat at his house, the grandmother plans to keep Destiny with her.

For the Christmas Adoption Special, the Humane Society reduced the adoption fee for the 14 animals by over 50 percent. Every adoption came with a free veterinarian visit and two free obedience lessons. In addition, the ten dogs featured at the Christmas Special have been working with Moore for about a week in order to become more leash friendly and better trained.

“It’s Christmas time,” Dunlap said before the event. “We have dogs that have been here for over a year. To me, it’s so sad that these dogs have been here this long.”



Lake City Humane Society volunteer Stephanie Roberts plays with Joey, 4, an Australian cattle dog/basset hound mix. Joey has been waiting for a since April.



Robert McGaffick (from left) and his parents Dixie and George, met Gerald, a 1-year-old Chihuahua mix, for the first time during the Lake City Humane Society’s Christmas Adoption Special in front of the Petsmart on Friday. Gerald was one of four dogs given away for free in an effort to get the dogs who have been with the Humane Society a home. They donated a check for \$50 to the Humane Society. Robert was hoping to find another companion after his faithful Schnauzer, Pepperoni, died on Dec. 3. “I’ve always been a dog person,” he said. “I’ve been looking for a buddy.”

Brand new bikes for 65 local kids

By **STEVEN RICHMOND**
srichmond@lakecityreporter.com

Christmas came early for a group of children who received their very own bikes and trikes during the third annual Miracle at Olustee held across from the city's Public Safety Building Saturday morning.

The event, so named for its previous location at Olustee Park previous years, was a collaborative effort between Walmart Transportation Center #7835, Children's Home Society, the Lake City Police Department, the Richardson Community Center and the Florida Gateway College Nursing Program.

A crowd of 24 families and their children, many adopted from the Children's Home, crowded around rows of colorful children's bicycles and tri-cycles—77 in total, according to Walmart staff at the event.

"We set aside bicycles for each of the families," said Lauren Brown with the Children's Home. "Every kid in the family, whether or not he or she was adopted, will get a bike."

Kimberly Padgett, the mother of three biological and five adopted children, beamed with tears in her eyes as she took pictures of her eight children lined up with their new gifts. She just finished a two-and-a-half year adoption process to bring the children into their new home Tuesday.

"It's a blessing, it's overwhelming to see the kids so happy," she said. "They've never had anything like



Photos by **STEVEN RICHMOND**/Lake City Reporter

The Padgett family children try out their new bikes donated by the Children's Home Society and Walmart Transportation Center #7835 at the Miracle at Olustee Christmas charity event Saturday morning. "They've never had anything like this. A lot of them came from a bad background or parents who were into drugs and alcohol. For many of them, it's their first real Christmas," mother Kimberly Padgett said. From left: Ethan, 7, Sarah, 5, Kaleb, 5, Haley, 7, John Wesley Jr., 9, Kelsey, 4, Kaylynn, 3, and Khloe, 3.



PJ Lindblow, 18, a recruit with LCPD's Explorer program, fits Jaelin Morrison, 4, for a new helmet Saturday morning. LCPD donated helmets to all the children who received bikes as part of the Miracle at Olustee charity event.



Mayor Stephen Witt hangs out with Santa Claus during the Miracle at Olustee bike giveaway. "I think this is awesome," Witt said. "It's a wonderful time of year for these kids. This was a great community effort."

this. A lot of them came from a bad background or parents who were into drugs and alcohol. For many of them, it's their first real Christmas."

Children also received wrapped gifts courtesy of Florida Gateway College's Nursing Program and new helmets for their bikes from LCPD and their Explorers program.

To top it all off, St. Nick had time to stop by.

"I want a Wii U," Dakota Cline, 9, said while sitting on Santa's lap. "I'm gonna play it all day and all night."

His mother chirped about him needing to make up his mind, having already requested a Playstation 4 some weeks ago.

Mayor Stephen Witt also made his rounds and wished a Merry Christmas to the families.

"I think this is awesome," Witt said. "It's a wonderful time of year for these kids. This was a great community effort."

SPRADLEY

Continued From 1A

and recognizing volunteers, said previous Adele Graham Award winner Lina Morris of Nassau County at the Dec. 10 School Board meeting. On Graham's 70th birthday, her four daughters surprised their mother with the lifetime gift of financially supporting the award.

"Their generous sponsorship guarantees the contributions of Adele Graham will continue for future generations," Morris said.

Since its inception in 2001, the Adele Graham Award has been presented to 13 lucky volunteer coordinators in the Sunshine State, including Spradley and Morris.

"There are a lot of hardworking women in the Association," Spradley said. "When I think about being given this honor, I think they are the movers and shakers in their districts. It is quite an honor."

Spradley currently recruits, trains and places volunteers in Columbia County School District. Last year alone, she organized 7,922 volunteers who provided an excess of 122,577 hours of services to the district, an in-kind donation of \$1,083,749. Those volunteers help support teachers and booster clubs within the district.

"We are just indebted to all our volunteers," Spradley said, adding that she's amazed at all the support the community provides for education.

Spradley started her nearly 33 years with the Columbia County School District as a fourth-grade teacher with Summers Elementary. After Lana Boone left her position as

school-based volunteer coordinator at Summers to become principal at Columbia City Elementary, Spradley moved into her position. Soon, she replaced the district-wide volunteer coordinator.

"At the beginning, I loved teaching," Spradley said. "At the beginning of the school year, I wasn't getting my class roster along with everyone else... I started developing programs that had more student contact. Now, to me, I feel like I have the best of both worlds."

As district-wide coordinator, Spradley wears many hats. She works with volunteers, students, business partners and any organization who wants to recognize the district or its volunteers. She also secures grants for the school, as well as work with veterans for the VITAL program. Finally, she coordinates Take Stock in Children to find mentors for the children who need them.

"That's one of the most rewarding," Spradley said, adding that she helps students in 9th through 12th grade to locate scholarships for after graduation. "It's rewarding to see those students make it through four years of high school, and then maybe become one of the first people in their family to go to college."

As Spradley accepted her award at the Dec. 10 school board meeting, she started to cry. She thanked Columbia County School Board and District for helping her along the way.

"I just didn't see it coming," she said. "It actually hit me when they handed the award to me. I was quite honored. ... I don't feel like it's just me receiving the award. It's our whole county."

OLUSTEE

Continued From 1A

Raymond Wozniak, a lieutenant with K Company of the 54th Massachusetts re-enactors in Atlanta, said the group is the oldest, continuous re-enactment company with the 54th Massachusetts.

"I formed the unit up for the filming of 'Glory' back in 1989 and we've just been going along ever since," he said.

"Glory" told the story of the July 1863 Battle of Fort Wagner, South Carolina, in which the regiment, 600 strong, suffered 281 casualties, including 79 dead.

Wozniak said he's only missed four Olustee Battle Re-enactments of the more than 30 re-enactments that have been held. Wozniak has been a re-enactor since 1962.

He was with the 104th

Illinois Infantry before "Glory" was filmed and about a decade ago the 104th Illinois was re-activated to be a brother company to K Company 54th Massachusetts.

"Loyal white men wanted to associate themselves with the 54th Massachusetts," he said.

Wozniak was excited about the possibility of the 54th Massachusetts re-enactors taking part in local events.

"I want the regiment to participate in the parade," he said. "I'm the only officer that's started out with the 54th in 1989 and is still with it. For the 150th anniversary we wanted to make sure we had maximum participation because a lot of these men have to come from all around the country — even as far as California."

He said the 54th participation at the Battle of Olustee Re-enactment has varied over the years and they

wanted to make sure they had maximum participation for the 150th Anniversary commemoration.

Marvin Greer and James Hayes, members of K Company 54 Massachusetts, are coordinating the recruitment of the troops to take part in local festivities.

They reached out to all the different companies of U.S. Colored Troops re-enactors throughout the country and noted participation would be invitation only.

Wozniak said they are still in the process of seeing who can attend.

"I think we're going to have a pretty good turnout," he said. "We've gotten positive commitments from Philadelphia, Charleston (South Carolina), Chicago and Michigan," he said. "We'll try to scoop them all up for the event."

Wozniak said he feels its important that the

54th Massachusetts be represented in the 150th Anniversary events.

"We are very grateful to the Blue-Grey Army for what they've done for this event, which consistently since "Glory", has given a good position in the re-enactment to the participation of the 54th and the two other black regiments that fought in the Battle of Olustee," he said. "I feel it's important to give back to the city and participate for what the Blue-Grey Army has done to put on this event very faithfully year after years."

While Wozniak is playing a key role in getting the 54th Massachusetts in the parade, he won't be able to take to the battlefield for the re-enactment due to a medical condition.

"This is really hurting me because I've been re-enacting for 51 years and I expected to age-out maybe 10 years from now, so I

turned it over to the very capable non-commissioned officers of the 54th," he said, noting he still plans to attend the event.

The 54th's maximum attendance at the Olustee Battle Re-enactment events reached its peak right after the filming of Glory when there were approximately 90 re-enactors at the local event representing the 54th Massachusetts.

Wozniak said he thinks there will be at least 60 re-enactors representing K Company for Battle of Olustee events.

Wozniak also addressed the growing controversy about the placement of a Union Monument at the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park.

"I'm very concerned about the neo-Confederate attempt to block a federal monument there on park property," he said, noting he voted for the monument

to go forward. "I contacted some folks, I e-mailed the governor and I'm just appalled that the haters would kind of forget there were two armies there and try to prevent we loyal men from honoring the sacrifice of these brave men who saved our nation."

Wozniak said he feels that the Union monument should be on state land and near the Confederate monument adjacent to the little museum on park property.

"There were two armies there, not one, and I feel that the sacrifice of so many brave men should be equally honored," he said. "Foreign visitors are surprised that the United States even allows tributes to the Confederacy, considering what they tried to do to the nation. How is it that in this day we are having difficulty recognizing that we are one nation under God, as surely we have all pledged."



STEVEN RICHMOND/Lake City Reporter

Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

Tori Jackson sings a rendition of "Silent Night" during the candlelight vigil for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Saturday night. The event was sponsored and organized by the Homeless Services Network and United Way of Suwannee Valley, as well as other local community groups. The event's creators choose Dec. 21 to highlight the longest—and most difficult—night of the year for the homeless nationwide. There are reportedly 1,278 homeless individuals and children in Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee Counties last year, according to the local Homeless Services Network.

MERGER: HMA agreed to merger in July

Continued From 1A

Health Systems owns two Florida hospitals.

Koby Adams, a Lake Shore Hospital Authority Board member, said there are several steps, per state statutes that the Lake Shore Hospital Authority must follow in order to consider selling the hospital.

Following the public hearing Adams said a consultant will probably be hired to provide a valuation of the facilities.

The hospital lease has been amended in the past, but this deal is different.

In the event of a sale, the Lake Shore Hospital Authority Board would be dissolved.

"The process would be to implement statutory process to disband the hospital authority and stop the property taxes for indigent care," Adams said.

Adams said in speaking to Berry, he believes that after the public hearing if the public indicates it wants

the hospital to be sold and the hospital authority decides to move forward with the sale, it could take anywhere from two to five years to complete the sale and disband the hospital authority.

"It is a long, lengthy time, but we have to go by the steps the legislature implemented," Adams said. "There are timelines that have to be followed throughout the process."

He said benefits for the public from the sale of the hospital could be immediate, one being the cessation of property taxes by the LSHA board.

Adams said there could be questions about who would pay for indigent care.

"With the changes with Medicare and with the Affordable Care Act, we don't know exactly how everything is going to be affected down the road," he said. "That's part of the process."

HISTORY

Continued From 1A

Health Care and HMA formed a partnership to jointly own and govern Shands' three community hospitals — Shands Lake Shore, Shands Live Oak and Shands Starke.

HMA began managing the facilities on July 1, 2010 and Shands Lake Shore Hospital had its named changed to Shands Lake Shore Regional Medical Center as part of the new partnership. Rhonda Sherrod was tapped to serve as the single, senior administrator to run all three facilities. HMA paid \$21.4 million for 60 percent interest in the three hospitals. A new lease was created where HMA was listed as a partner and tenant operating the hospital.

THE WEATHER

22 SUN Mostly cloudy HI 83 LO 61	23 MON Storms and rain showers evolving HI 74 LO 45	24 TUE Mostly sunny HI 61 LO 34	25 WED Partly cloudy HI 63 LO 36	26 THU Partly cloudy HI 65 LO 40
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REGIONAL FORECAST MAP for Sunday, Dec. 22

Sunday's highs/Sunday night's low

City	Monday	Tuesday
Cape Canaveral	85/64/sh	71/51/sh
Daytona Beach	82/54/sh	66/46/pc
Fort Myers	85/66/pc	75/57/pc
Ft. Lauderdale	82/70/pc	78/65/sh
Gainesville	79/50/ts	63/38/pc
Jacksonville	79/51/ts	63/41/pc
Key West	81/74/pc	76/69/pc
Lake City	79/50/ts	63/38/pc
Miami	84/70/pc	79/66/sh
Naples	81/68/pc	75/58/sh
Ocala	80/53/pc	65/42/pc
Orlando	84/58/sh	65/46/sh
Panama City	65/43/sh	57/40/pc
Pensacola	63/41/sh	56/41/pc
Tallahassee	67/40/ts	62/32/pc
Tampa	80/63/pc	74/50/pc
Valdosta	68/42/sh	58/31/pc
W. Palm Beach	82/69/pc	76/64/sh

NATIONAL FORECAST: Thunderstorms will extend from the central Gulf Coast to the Mid-Atlantic Coast. Rain will be likely from the upper Ohio Valley through much of the Northeast. Northern New England will have freezing rain. Snow will be likely from northern Illinois to Michigan.

NATIONAL FORECAST MAP 3 p.m. today

YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL EXTREMES High: 87°, Immokalee Region, Lower 1st, Rolla, ND

LAKE CITY ALMANAC

TEMPERATURES

High Saturday	82
Low Saturday	55
Normal high	67
Normal low	43
Record high	85 in 1931
Record low	19 in 1901

PRECIPITATION

Saturday	0.00"
Month total	5.09"
Year total	54.40"
Normal month-to-date	1.60"
Normal year-to-date	46.55"

SUN
Sunrise today 7:23 a.m.
Sunset today 5:35 p.m.
Sunrise tom. 7:23 a.m.
Sunset tom. 5:35 p.m.

MOON
Moonrise today 10:26 p.m.
Moonset today 10:37 a.m.
Moonrise tom. 11:20 p.m.
Moonset tom. 11:10 a.m.

UV INDEX

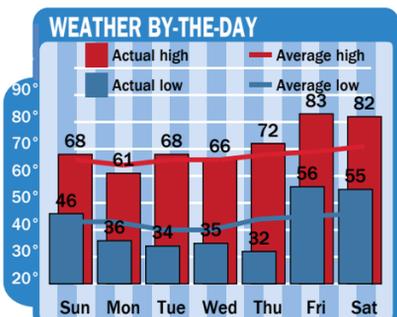
3

Moderate
40 mins 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.

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CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W
Albany NY	64/60/0.0	66/53/r	Des Moines	24/21/0.0	20/2/sn	Oklahoma City	32/30/5.7	33/18/pc
Albuquerque	41/32/1.4	40/23/pc	Detroit	35/33/3.3	44/22/r	Omaha	25/19/0.0	18/1/pc
Anchorage	28/24/0.0	29/11/sn	El Paso	48/35/0.2	51/27/pc	Orlando	84/63/0.0	85/64/sh
Atlanta	71/51/0.0	70/52/ts	Fairbanks	12/-4/0.0	9/-12/sn	Philadelphia	66/45/0.0	70/57/sh
Baltimore	71/54/0.0	71/58/ts	Greensboro	59/49/0.0	73/55/ts	Phoenix	57/46/0.0	62/41/s
Billings	28/21/0.0	17/8/sn	Hartford	53/39/0.0	60/52/sh	Pittsburgh	61/55/4.1	62/37/r
Birmingham	73/62/0.5	67/46/ts	Honolulu	75/68/0.1	81/71/sh	Portland ME	37/33/0.5	33/28/r
Bismarck	0/-13/0.0	0/-25/pc	Houston	75/62/6.6	65/35/pc	Portland OR	50/41/0.3	49/43/r
Boise	27/21/2.0	34/27/pc	Indianapolis	48/35/1.4	47/26/r	Raleigh	-5/0/0.0	76/59/ts
Boston	54/41/0.0	57/44/sh	Jackson MS	79/68/0.0	73/42/sh	Rapid City	17/2/0.0	12/-7/pc
Buffalo	52/36/6.1	46/28/r	Jacksonville	82/57/0.0	82/65/fg	Reno	48/26/4.1	43/24/pc
Charleston SC	80/53/0.0	80/63/fg	Kansas City	27/21/0.2	25/3/pc	Sacramento	55/34/0.0	62/38/s
Charleston WV	73/60/0.4	68/43/ts	Las Vegas	60/41/0.0	56/39/pc	Salt Lake City	32/25/0.8	33/24/pc
Charlotte	73/48/0.0	73/60/ts	Little Rock	71/48/2.8	52/29/pc	San Antonio	72/69/0.3	61/34/pc
Cheneyne	28/18/0.1	30/15/ft	Los Angeles	60/46/0.0	71/51/pc	San Diego	61/50/0.0	64/51/pc
Chicago	33/30/0.0	33/13/sn	Memphis	75/66/0.1	56/31/pc	San Francisco	55/48/0.0	57/48/s
Cincinnati	64/59/1.08	59/30/sh	Miami	82/75/0.0	84/73/pc	Seattle	46/42/0.5	50/44/r
Cleveland	57/39/1.00	55/29/sh	Minneapolis	23/17/0.0	19/5/sn	Spokane	27/19/0.0	34/28/sn
Columbia SC	30/28/4.2	30/10/sn	Mobile	75/68/0.0	75/54/ts	St. Louis	37/33/7.6	35/17/pc
Dallas	53/35/1.61	44/28/pc	New Orleans	78/68/0.0	76/48/sh	Tampa	84/68/0.0	82/68/pc
Daytona Beach	82/60/0.0	83/64/pc	New York	54/43/0.0	61/51/sh	Tucson	53/46/0.0	57/34/pc
Denver	19/12/0.0	32/15/pc	Oakland	57/39/0.0	60/42/s	Washington	72/51/0.0	72/59/ts



WEATHER HISTORY

December 22, 1989, brought extremely cold temperatures to the nation's midsection. Record low temperatures were reported in 135 cities, including 35 that set record December lows. The morning low was -34 degrees at Cutbank, Mont., before chinook winds helped the city warm to 40 degrees above zero.

SPONSORED BY

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INTERNATIONAL

CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco	84/75/0.0	86/75/s	La Paz	59/42/0.0	53/37/ts	Rio	82/73/0.0	84/71/pc
Amsterdam	46/42/0.0	46/44/r	Lima	75/66/0.0	77/66/cd	Rome	59/41/0.0	59/37/fg
Athens	55/35/0.0	59/41/s	London	53/50/0.0	53/42/r	San Juan PR	84/77/1.0	82/76/sh
Auckland	69/59/0.0	71/60/pc	Madrid	48/24/0.0	50/32/s	Santiago	84/68/0.0	80/69/pc
Beijing	39/15/0.0	37/15/s	Mexico City	75/57/0.0	73/44/s	Seoul	30/19/0.0	33/17/s
Berlin	44/35/0.0	42/41/pc	Montreal	19/17/0.0	26/17/sn	Singapore	84/75/0.0	89/77/ts
Buenos Aires	84/75/0.0	89/77/s	Moscow	32/28/0.0	28/28/sn	St. Thomas VI	84/75/0.2	85/75/r
Cairo	68/48/0.0	68/51/s	Nairobi	73/59/0.0	78/57/ts	Sydney	82/70/0.0	80/66/pc
Geneva	44/35/0.0	37/33/fg	Nassau	82/71/0.0	82/73/s	Tel Aviv	69/42/0.0	69/42/s
Havana	84/73/0.0	84/69/pc	New Delhi	60/55/0.0	69/50/s	Tokyo	50/35/0.0	51/33/s
Helsinki	42/37/0.0	42/39/pc	Oslo	48/32/0.0	53/50/r	Toronto	33/32/0.0	35/30/sn
Hong Kong	62/57/0.0	60/50/pc	Panama	89/75/0.0	89/75/ts	Vienna	42/30/0.0	37/32/pc
Kingston	86/75/0.0	87/77/r	Paris	46/39/0.0	46/42/cd	Warsaw	41/32/0.0	37/32/pc

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

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Wins all around

Indians stay unbeaten after win over Raiders.

By **TIM KIRBY**
tkirby@lakecityreporter.com

FORT WHITE — A crowd came out to celebrate the school holidays at Friday's Fort White High basketball game and the Indians did not disappoint the packed house.

Fort White beat Santa Fe High, 72-60, in the first District 5-4A matchup between the two teams this season.

The Raiders had an early 8-7 lead, then Fort White took control of the game with a 13-0 run to close out the first quarter. Melton Sanders had five points in the run and Chris Cottrell scored four of his seven points in the quarter. Christian Helsel and Joe Powers also had baskets.

Both teams got scoring from five players in the second quarter that ended with Fort White leading 34-24. Sanders led the Indians with five points in the quarter and Richard Rodriguez had a basket in his return to the line-up.



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

INDIANS continued on 2B Fort White High's Melton Sanders runs through a trio of Santa Fe High defenders while making a shot Friday.

Columbia knocks off Orange Park in district road game.

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

ORANGE PARK — Columbia High closed out its pre-Christmas schedule in impressive fashion with a district win at Orange Park High on Friday.

The Tigers got off to a slow start, but one the long-range shots started falling, it was easy pickings for Columbia in the 58-41 win over the Raiders.

"We've got to come out the gate faster," Columbia head coach Horace Jefferson said. "Once we were able to start hitting some shots, we were alright. Overall, it was a good game, because it was a district win. That's what we are trying to do."

Orange Park hit back-to-back shots from behind the arc to begin the game, before an Andrew Moemeka blocked a shot to stall the Raiders.

Columbia came down the court and missed a third-straight attempt, but Dilan Hall was there to rebound the basketball and

CHS continued on 3B

Sydney and Mark may not know each other.
But they share a common enemy.



UFHealth
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA HEALTH

UFHealth.org

As an infant, Sydney Thomas was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Mark Atkinson has been working for more than 25 years developing treatments to prevent – and even cure – diabetes. Dr. Atkinson's work at UF Health is shedding new light on Sydney's disease. And it's an invisible connection that's helping us move medicine forward.

UF Health and Shands Lake Shore Regional Medical Center, an innovative alliance to enhance our community.

SCOREBOARD

TELEVISION

TV sports

Today
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
5 p.m.
 FSN — Southern U. at Baylor
 FSI — E.Washington at Seton Hall
7 p.m.
 FSI — California at Creighton
NFL FOOTBALL
1 p.m.
 CBS — Regional coverage
 FOX — Regional coverage
4 p.m.
 FOX — Regional coverage
4:25 p.m.
 CBS — Doubleheader game
8 p.m.
 NBC — New England at Baltimore
SOCCER
8:25 a.m.
 NBCSN — Premier League, Tottenham at Southampton
10:55 a.m.
 NBCSN — Premier League, Everton at Swansea City
WINTER SPORTS
2 p.m.
 NBC — USSA, Copper Mountain Grand Prix, ski slopestyle and snowboard halfpipe, at Frisco, Colo. (same-day tape)
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
1 p.m.
 ESPN — California vs. UConn, at New York

Monday
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
2 p.m.
 ESPN — Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl, East Carolina vs. Ohio, at St Petersburg
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
9 p.m.
 ESPN2 — Diamond Head Classic, semifinal, at Honolulu
NFL FOOTBALL
8:25 p.m.
 ESPN — Atlanta at San Francisco
NHL HOCKEY
7:30 p.m.
 NBCSN — Minnesota at Philadelphia
SOCCER
2:55 p.m.
 NBCSN — Premier League, Arsenal vs. Chelsea, at London

FOOTBALL

NFL standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE										
East										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
New England	10	4	0	.714	369	311				
Miami	8	6	0	.571	310	296				
N.Y. Jets	6	8	0	.429	246	367				
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	300	354				
South										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
y-Indianapolis	9	5	0	.643	338	319				
Tennessee	5	9	0	.357	326	355				
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	221	399				
Houston	2	12	0	.143	253	375				
North										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Cincinnati	9	5	0	.643	354	274				
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	296	277				
Pittsburgh	6	8	0	.429	321	332				
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	288	362				
West										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
x-Denver	11	3	0	.786	535	372				
x-Kansas City	11	3	0	.786	399	255				
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	343	311				
Oakland	4	10	0	.286	295	393				

NATIONAL CONFERENCE										
East										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Philadelphia	8	6	0	.571	364	349				
Dallas	7	7	0	.500	393	385				
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	251	357				
Washington	3	11	0	.214	305	434				
South										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	359	270				
Carolina	10	4	0	.714	328	208				
Tampa Bay	4	10	0	.286	258	324				
Atlanta	4	10	0	.286	309	388				
North										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Chicago	8	6	0	.571	406	391				
Green Bay	7	6	1	.536	362	339				
Detroit	7	7	0	.500	346	321				
Minnesota	4	9	1	.321	363	425				
West										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
x-Seattle	12	2	0	.857	380	205				
San Francisco	10	4	0	.714	349	228				
Arizona	9	5	0	.643	342	291				
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	316	324				

x-clinched playoff; y-clinched division
Today's Games
 Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 Indianapolis at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
 Denver at Houston, 1 p.m.
 Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 New Orleans at Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Dallas at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Cleveland at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
 Minnesota at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
 Tennessee at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Arizona at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Giants at Detroit, 4:05 p.m.
 Oakland at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
 New England at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.
 Chicago at Philadelphia, 8:30 p.m.
Monday's Game
 Atlanta at San Francisco, 8:40 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 29
 Green Bay at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Dallas, 1 p.m.
 Detroit at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Carolina at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
 Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
 Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
 N.Y. Jets at Miami, 1 p.m.
 Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.
 Denver at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
 Kansas City at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
 St. Louis at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
 San Francisco at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.

Playoff scenarios

AFC
 Denver — clinched playoff spot
 Indianapolis — clinched AFC South
 Kansas City — clinched playoff spot
DENVER
 Clinches AFC West and first-round
 by with:

— Win and Kansas City loss
 Clinches home-field advantage
 throughout AFC playoffs with:
 — Win and Kansas City loss and New
 England loss or tie
NEW ENGLAND
 Clinches AFC East with:
 — Win or tie, OR
 — Miami loss or tie
 Clinches first-round bye with:
 — Win and Cincinnati loss or tie and
 Indianapolis loss or tie, OR
 — Tie and Cincinnati loss and
 Indianapolis loss
 Clinches playoff spot with:
 — Cincinnati loss or tie
CINCINNATI
 Clinches AFC North with:
 — Win and Baltimore loss or tie, OR
 — Tie and Baltimore loss
 Clinches playoff spot with:
 — Win and Miami loss or tie, OR
 — Tie and Miami loss
BALTIMORE
 Clinches playoff spot with:
 — Win and Miami loss and San Diego
 loss or tie

MIAMI
 Clinches playoff spot with:
 — Win and Baltimore loss and
 Cincinnati loss
NFC
 Seattle — clinched playoff spot
SEATTLE
 Clinches NFC West and home-field
 advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
 — Win or tie, OR
 — San Francisco loss or tie
NEW ORLEANS
 Clinches NFC South and first-round
 bye with:
 — Win
 Clinches playoff spot with:
 — Arizona loss, OR
 — Tie and San Francisco loss or
 tie, OR
 — Tie and Arizona tie, OR
 — San Francisco loss and Arizona tie
CAROLINA
 Clinches playoff spot with:
 — Win, OR
 — Tie and Arizona loss, OR
 — Tie and San Francisco loss, OR
 — Arizona loss and San Francisco
 loss

SAN FRANCISCO
 Clinches playoff spot with:
 — Win, OR
 — Arizona loss, OR
 — Tie and Arizona tie
PHILADELPHIA
 Clinches NFC East with:
 — Win and Dallas loss or tie
CHICAGO
 Clinches NFC North with:
 — Win and Detroit loss or tie and
 Green Bay loss

College bowl games

Saturday
New Mexico Bowl
 Colorado State 48, Washington St. 45
Las Vegas Bowl
 Fresno State vs. Southern Cal (n)
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
 Buffalo vs. San Diego State (n)
New Orleans Bowl
 Tulane vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (n)
Monday
Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl
 At St. Petersburg
 Ohio (7-5) vs. East Carolina (9-3),
 2 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday
Hawaii Bowl
 At Honolulu
 Oregon State (6-6) vs. Boise State
 (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday
Little Caesars Pizza Bowl
 At Detroit
 Bowling Green (10-3) vs. Pittsburgh
 (6-6), 6 p.m. (ESPN)
Poinsettia Bowl
 At San Diego
 Northern Illinois (12-1) vs. Utah State
 (8-5), 9:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday
Military Bowl
 At Annapolis, Md.
 Marshall (9-4) vs. Maryland (7-5),
 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Texas Bowl
 At Houston
 Minnesota (8-4) vs. Syracuse (6-6),
 6 p.m. (ESPN)
Fight Hunger Bowl
 At San Francisco
 BYU (8-4) vs. Washington (8-4),
 9:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 28
Pinstripe Bowl
 At New York
 Notre Dame (8-4) vs. Rutgers (6-6),
 Noon (ESPN)
Belk Bowl
 At Charlotte, N.C.
 Cincinnati (9-3) vs. North Carolina
 (6-6), 3:20 p.m. (ESPN)
Russell Athletic Bowl
 At Orlando
 Miami (9-3) vs. Louisville (11-1),
 6:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
 At Tempe, Ariz.

JUMBLE

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

CIMMI

SHALS

CEDIVE

HOIPAB

Answer here:

Kansas State (7-5) vs. Michigan (7-5),
 10:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Dec. 30
Armed Forces Bowl
 At Fort Worth, Texas
 Middle Tennessee (8-4) vs. Navy (7-4),
 11:45 a.m. (ESPN)
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
 Mississippi (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5),
 3:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
 At San Antonio
 Oregon (10-2) vs. Texas (8-4),
 6:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl
 At San Diego
 Arizona State (10-3) vs. Texas Tech
 (7-5), 10:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 31
AdvoCare V100 Bowl
 At Shreveport, La.
 Arizona (7-5) vs. Boston College (7-5),
 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
 At El Paso, Texas
 Virginia Tech (8-4) vs. UCLA (9-3),
 2 p.m. (CBS)

Liberty Bowl
 At Memphis, Tenn.
 Rice (9-3) vs. Mississippi State (6-6),
 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Chick-fil-A Bowl
 At Atlanta
 Texas A&M (8-4) vs. Duke (10-3),
 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Jan. 1
Heart of Dallas Bowl
 At Dallas
 UNLV (7-5) vs. North Texas (8-4),
 Noon (ESPN)

Gator Bowl
 At Jacksonville
 Nebraska (8-4) vs. Georgia (8-4),
 Noon (ESPN)

Capital One Bowl
 At Orlando
 Wisconsin (9-3) vs. South Carolina
 (10-2), 1 p.m. (ABC)

Outback Bowl
 At Tampa
 Iowa (8-4) vs. LSU (9-3), 1 p.m.
 (ESPN)

Rose Bowl
 At Pasadena, Calif.
 Stanford (11-2) vs. Michigan State
 (12-1), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Fiesta Bowl
 At Glendale, Ariz.
 Baylor (11-1) vs. UCF (11-1),
 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Jan. 2
Sugar Bowl
 At New Orleans
 Alabama (11-1) vs. Oklahoma (10-2),
 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 3
Orange Bowl
 At Miami
 Ohio State (12-1) vs. Clemson (10-2),
 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Cotton Bowl
At Arlington, Texas
 Missouri (11-2) vs. Oklahoma State
 (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (FOX)

Saturday, Jan. 4
BBVA Compass Bowl
 At Birmingham, Ala.
 Vanderbilt (8-4) vs. Houston (8-4),
 1 p.m. (ESPN)

Sunday, Jan. 5
GoDaddy.com Bowl
 At Mobile, Ala.
 Arkansas State (7-5) vs. Ball State
 (10-2), 9 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 6
BCS National Championship
 At Pasadena, Calif.
 Florida State (13-0) vs. Auburn
 (12-1), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

BASKETBALL

NBA schedule

Today's Games
 Boston at Indiana, 6 p.m.
 Toronto at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
 Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.
Monday's Games
 New York at Orlando, 7 p.m.
 Detroit at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
 Milwaukee at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
 Atlanta at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
 Indiana at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
 Dallas at Houston, 8 p.m.
 Utah at Memphis, 8 p.m.
 Toronto at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
 L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
 Golden State at Denver, 9 p.m.
 New Orleans at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

AP Top 25 schedule

Today's Game
 No. 10 UConn at Washington,
 3:30 p.m.
 No. 11 Wichita State vs. North
 Carolina Central, 8 p.m.
 No. 12 Baylor vs. Southern U., 5 p.m.
 No. 17 Iowa State at George Mason
 at the Stan Sheriff Center, Honolulu,
 5:30 p.m.
 No. 25 Iowa vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff,
 2 p.m.

THAT SCRAMBLED GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

Yesterday's Jumbles: **EVENT** **ABYSS** **MISFIT** **VARIABLE**
 Answer: Declining their offer to join the poker game would be his — **BEST BET**



Fort White High's Rykia Jackson fights to strip the ball against Santa Fe High on Friday.

Lady Indians fall to Santa Fe

By **TIM KIRBY**
 tkirby@lakecityreporter.com

FORT WHITE — Fort White High's girls basketball team hosted Santa Fe High and faced a tall order against one of the top-ranked teams in the state. The Lady Indians hung tough, but couldn't keep up the pace in a 46-34 District 5-4A loss. Santa Fe led 15-7 at the end of the first quarter, but lost a chance to take a commanding lead. The Lady Raiders missed 10 of their first 12 free throws in the period. That futility increased to

5 of 19 in the first half, but Fort White wasn't doing much better. The Lady Indians were 4 of 13 in the first two quarters, and Santa Fe led 23-14 at intermission. Kasha Cook, who got started with five points in the second quarter after none in the first quarter, led a Fort White comeback after halftime. With Cook scoring eight points, Fort White opened the quarter on a 9-2 run and closed to 25-23 with 4:20 left in the period. Santa Fe ended with 7-2 surge to push its lead to 32-25. Cense Armstrong had

a couple of baskets early in the fourth quarter for Fort White, but Santa Fe rolled. The Lady Raiders made 10-of-12 free throws down the stretch. Cook led Fort White with 15 points and Armstrong scored 13. Rykia Jackson chipped in four points and Alexa Hatcher had a basket. Dymeria Clayton scored 11 points in the first quarter and finished with 22 to lead Santa Fe (10-2, 4-1). The Lady Indians (3-7, 3-4) are off until Jan. 7 when both Fort White teams will visit Bradford High.

INDIANS: Still undefeated on year

Continued From Page 1B

The third quarter was another high-scoring affair with Fort White extending its lead to 55-42. Jalen Wyche, who hit a 3-pointer in all four quarters, added two other buckets for a seven-point quarter. Sanders, with six points, and Wyche, with five, helped hold the Raiders at bay in the final quarter. An 8-4 spurt at the beginning of the quarter sealed the win. During late-game foul time, Fort White was 6-of-6 from the stripe with two from Quan Porter and four from Sanders. Sanders finished with a

game-high 20 points, followed closely by Wyche with 18. Cottrell also hit double figures with 11. Porterscored nine points, with six from Powers, four from Dre Brown and the baskets from Helsel and Rodriguez. "We played a little sluggish, but we came out with intensity and I liked that," Fort White head coach Isiah Phillips said. "They play hard every minute, but they have to understand situations and play a lot smarter. We beat a good team in Santa Fe, but we can do better."

For Sante Fe (4-3, 1-2) Demerius Harris hit four 3-pointers and led with 18 points. Khan Taylor, who scored nine points in the third quarter, finished with 17. Nate Curtis scored 10. Santa Fe won the junior varsity game, 68-43. Santa Fe is hosting the Hitchcock's Basketball Challenge starting Thursday and will play against Kissimmee Osceola High at 8:30 p.m. Fort White (9-0, 5-0) also is playing in the Challenge and opens at 4 p.m. Thursday against Foundation Academy.

ACROSS

1 Lavish party
 5 Cereal bit
 10 — Abdul-Jabbar
 12 Matched socks
 13 Mountaineer's tool (2 wds.)
 14 Dock work
 15 Comparison word
 16 "Norma —"
 18 Wolfed down
 19 Outshine
 23 Soft touch
 26 Pen part
 27 Billionth, in combos
 30 Expire
 32 Desert phenomenon
 34 Life's work
 35 Is of use
 36 Des Moines state
 37 Riviera summer
 38 — and Perrins

DOWN

39 Catch off guard
 42 Pained cries
 45 Ebenezer's oath
 46 Olive —
 50 Sense of taste
 53 Salad green
 55 Battery terminals
 56 Hung on
 57 Aboveboard
 58 Transmission part

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	C	H	E	E	R			J	U	M	P	Y
H	E	L	M	E	T			K	I	S	S	E
I	N	S	I	D	E			O	M	E	G	A
			R	E	P			O	M	S		
U	M	A		P	E	R	K	Y		I	S	S
N	O	M		L	E	V	Y		A	M	A	H
S	U	B	R	O	S	A		K	U	B	L	A
A	L	L	A		L	A		L	A	N	G	U
F	I	E	F		D	U	D	E		E	V	E
E	N	S		P	E	E	V	E		S	A	D
			T	I	C			E	D	O		
S	T	R	A	T	A			R	E	C	A	L
T	O	O	T	H	Y			B	E	T	R	A
A	N	T	S	Y				P	O	I	S	E

9 Margin
10 Baby fox
11 More jolly
12 Defendant's answer
17 PD dispatch

20 Beat an incumbent
21 Cry and whine
22 Name in cheesecake
23 Muscle for pushups
24 Jai —
25 Poi source
28 Brad
29 Gawk at
31 Hard benches
32 Broderick of films
33 NASA counterpart
37 Historical period
40 Not all are "Honest"
41 A funny Murphy
42 Libra's stone
43 Opposite of wax
44 Trudge
47 Beatles' meter maid
48 Say decidedly
49 Pickup truck part
51 Tooth fillers' org.
52 Util. bill
54 Remind too often

Want more puzzles?</

GAMES

Thursday

■ Columbia High boys basketball at Jarvis Williams Tournament in Palatka, TBA (through Saturday)

■ Fort White High boys basketball in Hitchcock's Challenge at Santa Fe High, 4 p.m. (through Monday)

BRIEFS

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Registration for Boys Club hoops

The Boys Club of Columbia County offers a basketball program for girls and boys ages 7-14. Registration is under way at the Boys Club on Jones Way. Cost is \$45. Practices are twice weekly at the club.

For details, call 752-4184 or come by the club.

Sign-up extended for RCC/AMN

Richardson Community Center/Annie Mattox Park North is offering youth basketball leagues for boys and girls ages 5-7 and 8-10. Each league will have four teams, and will be limited to the first 40 children to sign up in each age group. Cost of \$50 and a birth certificate is due at registration. Registration at Richardson Community Center is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through Jan. 10 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 11. There is a coaches meeting at 6 p.m. Jan. 8 at Richardson Community Center. Coaches must be at least 18 years old.

For details, call Mario Coppock or Nicole Smith at 754-7095.

Breakfast fundraiser set

Richardson Community Center/Annie Mattox Park North and the Daughters of the Pride of B & S Combs Temple 1238 will host its annual pancake breakfast fundraiser on Jan. 11. Tickets are on sale for \$5 and may be purchased from any board member and at Brian's Sports, with all proceeds going to support the RCC/AMN and Lake City Middle School girls basketball program. The menu will consist of pancakes, Nettles sausage, eggs and orange juice.

For details, call Mario Coppock at 754-7095.

ADULT SOFTBALL

Winter league registration open

Columbia County Adult Softball winter league registration is under way through Jan. 10 with the following schedule: Women's league on Mondays, Church on Tuesdays, Men's on Wednesdays and Co-ed on Thursdays. Cost is \$250 at sign-up, along with a team roster and signed liability waivers and code of conduct.

For details, contact columbiacountyadultsoftball@gmail.com or call Pete Bonilla (623-6561) or Casandra Wheeler (365-2168).

FLAG FOOTBALL

Registration for Christ Central

Christ Central Sports offers flag football for girls and boys ages 5-12. Registration runs until Jan. 10. Cost is \$45. For details, call Ronny Busscher at 365-2128.

■ From staff reports

CHS: Tigers dominate Orange Park, 58-41, on Friday night

Continued From Page 1B

slam it home for the Tigers' first basket of the night.

Columbia trailed 10-5 before Robert Dace hit the Tigers' first 3-point shot of the night. It began a 21-2 run from Columbia.

Tre Simmons hit his first shot from beyond the arc and gave the Tigers their first lead of the game at 11-10 with 1:55 remaining in the first quarter. Both teams would remain scoreless during the final stretch of the period.

When the second quarter began, Columbia kept running.

A third-consecutive 3-point shot from the Tigers gave Columbia a 14-10 lead. This time, it was Robert Dace doing the damage.

Kelvin Jonas extended the lead to nine points with a rebound and a shot and Jordan Coppock hit another 3-pointer to make the run 19-2 over a stretch of 8:24.

Moemeka finished off the run with his only points of the first half, but made his presence known with four rebounds and two blocks during the first 16 minutes.

The Tigers entered half-time with a 27-18 lead.

The hot shooting didn't end after the break. Columbia's Darrell Jones connected on a 3-pointer to open the second half and gave the Tigers a 30-20 lead after Orange Park hit its first bucket.

Simmons then took over the contest with three more 3-pointers to give the Tigers a total of nine from deep in the game.

Columbia led by more than 10 on several occasions in the second half behind the play of a three-headed monster. Simmons led all Tigers with 13 in the second half and finished with 18 in the contest.

"That's the play like we have expected from Simmons all season," Jefferson said. "He's been passive when it comes to taking a shot, but he was

able to pull up and beat them off the shot. When he wasn't able to hit a shot, he was able to drive and distribute the ball."

Jones and Moemeka each finished with nine points in the second half.

Moemeka finished with a double-double in the game giving the Tigers 11 rebounds and four blocks.

"Andrew has been pretty impressive," Jefferson said. "I said after Palatka that he was playing solid and he played even better tonight. If he continues to improve, that means that we will continue to improve. I like where we stand as far as district play."

The Tigers are 4-4 on the season.

"The teams that we have lost to have a combined one loss between them, so they're pretty good," Jefferson said.

Christmas Tournament

Columbia will travel to Palatka High for the Jarvis Williams Tournament over Christmas break.

The Tigers open with Seminole High at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

"I've had a chance to look at Seminole, and they're 8-1," Jefferson said. "They're a disciplined team with a Princeton style. There will be a lot of screens and I expect them to shoot the ball well."

Jefferson said the biggest thing for the Tigers is to continue to work on their own flaws.

"We've got to continue to improve to take care of the ball," Jefferson said. "We're not passing it crisp enough. I'm telling our players to dribble right at their defenders against the zone. We have to make them adjust."

The Tigers are starting to get better play from their big men this season and Jefferson believes they can get even better from

inside.

"We have to make them understand that they have to play below the zone," Jefferson said. "They have to get behind them. We're missing a lot of opportunities to alley. We're shooting well and playing good defense, but there's things we can improve on."

Jefferson expects Seminole to come out in

zone and have to adjust.

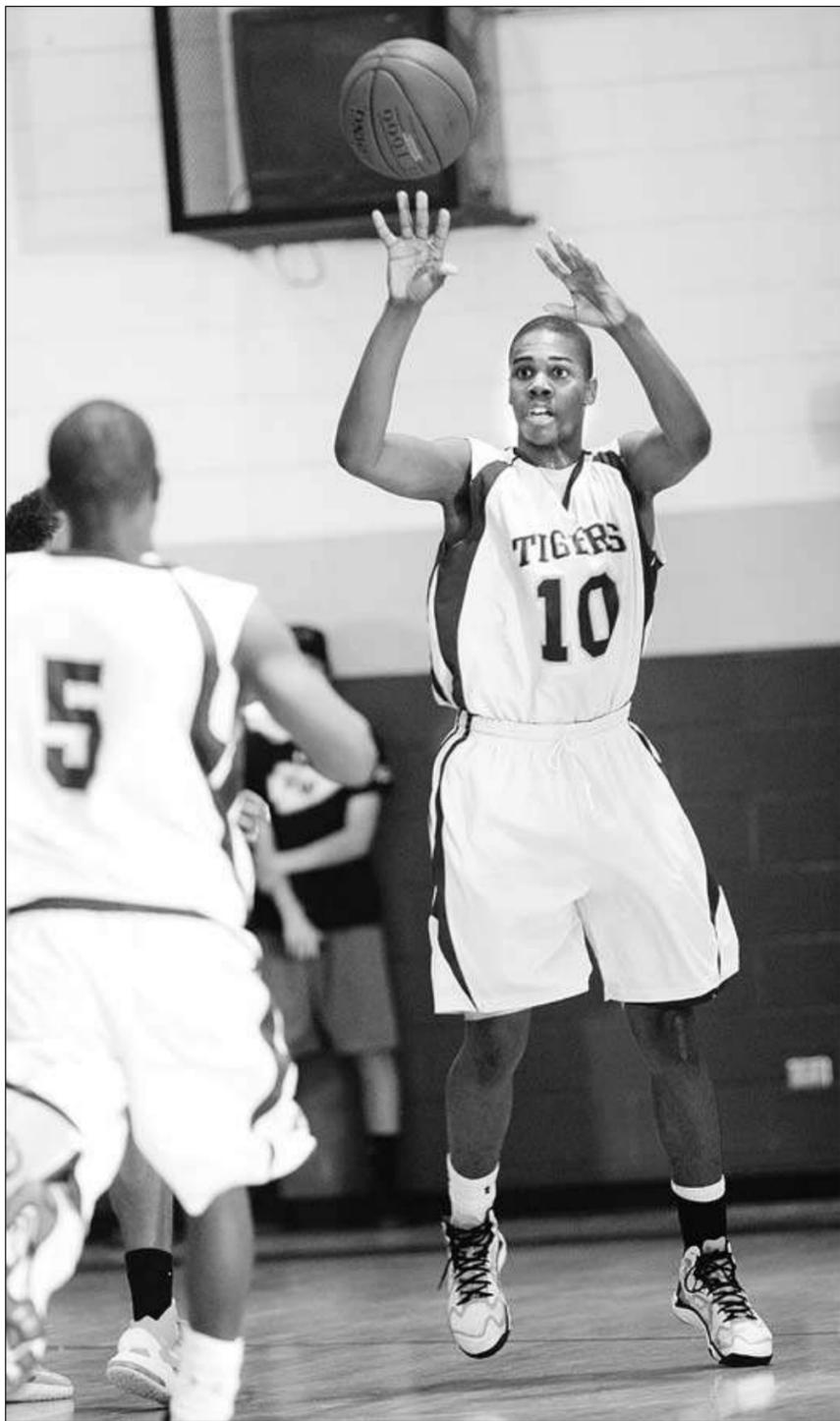
"I don't think many people want to play us in zone," Jefferson said. "We're a pretty good shooting team. I think once we attack their zone that we will see a lot of man. However, we have to take what we are given and play Tiger basketball."

With a win, the Tigers will play the winner of

Santaluces and Seabreeze high schools at 4:30 on Friday.

Columbia would play the loser of the Santaluces and Seabreeze matchup at 10:30 a.m. on Friday if it falls to Seminole.

The championship game of the Jarvis Williams Tournament will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Columbia High guard Dilan Hall throws the ball to an open teammate during a game against Fort White High on Dec. 5.

Indians open up tourney Thursday

By TIM KIRBY

tkirby@lakecityreporter.com

FORT WHITE — Fort White High will play in the 2013 Hitchcock's Basketball Challenge, which begins Thursday at Santa Fe High.

The Challenge features 16 teams divided into two brackets. The format insures a minimum of three games and will continue on Friday, Saturday and Monday.

Fort White opens against Foundation Academy at 4 p.m. Thursday.

The Indians did not play in a holiday tournament last year, which proved to be a mistake according to head coach Isiah Phillips.

"We did not have the intensity the second half of the season last year," Phillips said. "The two-week layoff hurt us. This year, we will stay busy and keep them focused. We will

stay on the ground and take one game at a time."

In the other half of Fort White's mini-bracket, Suwannee High plays Bell High at 10 a.m. in the opening game of the tournament. The winners play at 6 p.m. Friday and the losers play at 11:30 a.m.

Also in Fort White's field of eight are Miami Northwestern Senior Community High vs. Eastside High at 7 p.m. Thursday, and Buchholz High vs. Williston High at 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

The host team's bracket of eight has: Ocoee High vs. Hilliard Middle-Senior High at 1 p.m. Thursday; Delray Beach Atlantic High vs. Lake Weir High at 5:30 p.m. Thursday; Cornerstone Academy vs. Hawthorne Junior-Senior High at 2:30 p.m. Thursday; Kissimmee Osceola High vs. Santa Fe at 8:30 p.m. Thursday.

JUMBLE

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

LATYL

GORRI

BEERMM

HISSUQ

A: _____

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.

ACROSS

- 1 Wisecrack
- 5 See
- 8 Groovy
- 11 Yachting
- 12 Arm bone
- 14 "Xanadu" group
- 15 Christmas tree choice (2 wds.)
- 17 Marble
- 18 Very very
- 19 Fixes software
- 21 Every
- 23 Seabird
- 24 Ring-shaped cake
- 27 Tennis great Arthur
- 29 Outback bird
- 30 Geometric figure
- 34 Checkout staples
- 37 — — creek
- 38 Story start
- 39 Rendezvous

DOWN

- 41 Round dwelling
- 43 Campus sports org.
- 45 Surpassed
- 47 Broadcast
- 50 Interest amt.
- 51 Holly companion
- 54 Decorate cupcakes
- 55 Give off, as rays
- 56 Blizzard maker
- 57 Corn serving
- 58 England's Isle of —
- 59 Mild
- 1 Punch
- 2 Hairy twin
- 3 Vend
- 4 Sampled
- 5 Wild shrub
- 6 North Pole worker

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	B	A	S	H		F	L	A	K	E					
K	A	R	E	E	M		P	A	I	R	E	D			
I	C	E	A	X	E		L	A	D	I	N	G			
T	H	A	N		R	A	E			A	T	E			
			S			S				P		A	S	S	
P	A	T		N	I	B				N	A	N	O		
E	L	A	P	S	E		M	I	R	A	G	E			
C	A	R	E	E	R		A	V	A	I	L	S			
	I	O	W	A			E	T	E		L	E	A		
			S				S	T	A	R	T	L	E		
O	W	S			B	A	H			D	R	A	B		
P	A	L	A	T	E					E	N	D	I	V	E
A	N	O	D	E	S					W	A	I	T	E	D
L	E	G	A	L						G	E	A	R		

- 7 Sooner city
- 8 Longest bone
- 9 Straighten
- 10 Fishing floats
- 13 Big name in soul
- 16 What Hamlet smelled (2 wds.)
- 20 "It's — real"
- 22 Calcify
- 24 Gamble
- 25 Ms. Thurman
- 26 Worn-down pencil
- 28 Certain sib.
- 30 Twitch
- 31 — Fawkes Day
- 32 CD preceders
- 33 Have lunch
- 35 Noble
- 36 Punctual (2 wds.)
- 39 Comet feature
- 40 Hardest to find
- 41 Agave
- 42 Sigh or murmur
- 44 Malicious
- 45 Sheriff Andy's kid
- 46 Pocket jingler
- 48 Lava spewer
- 49 Gloom's partner
- 52 RSVP word
- 53 Meadow grazer

Saturday's Jumbles: MIMIC SLASH DEVICE PHOBIA
 Answer: The astronaut volunteered for the spacewalk because she wanted — SOME SPACE

www.RMNissan.com

DINO "SANTA'S ELF"
DANIEL
ROUNTREE MOORE NISSAN
SALES MANAGER

BRIAN "SANTA" BLAIR
ROUNTREE MOORE NISSAN
GENERAL MANAGER

JEFF "SANTA'S ELF" MOSLEY
ROUNTREE MOORE CHEVY
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Section C

Christmas gifts: Last-minute tips

Christmas is just days away. Here are some gift ideas to help you beat the clock.

By TONY BRITT
tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

Only a precious few hours remain for those who haven't yet finished their Christmas shopping.

Although it doesn't normally pay to procrastinate, some local merchants said they have merchandise that will serve as great last minute gift ideas.

Scott Moore, McDuffie Marine - Sporting Goods general manager and salesman, 1866 U.S. Highway 90, said traffic has been very good at the store and they've sold a variety of items as Christmas gifts.

Some of the better-selling items this Christmas have been the Bubba Blade fillet knife, Yeti coolers, rods and reels, Costa Del Mar sunglasses and camouflage outfits for hunters. He said all of those items will also serve as excellent last minute gifts.

"For a fisherman, a Bubba Blade is a great last minute gift, as well as Guy Harvey T-shirts, that's always popular

with outdoorsmen and women," he said. "The Costa Del Mar sunglasses are also good gift items and we sell a lot of them. We've got a 126-display case in stock and we have a lot of variety. If anybody gave me any of those as gifts, personally I would be very excited."

Moore said there is plenty of inventory on hand for last minute shoppers.

"We got so busy so early this year that I was able to restock a lot of these items

and get them in so that we wouldn't get to the point that we're real low on merchandise on those last two days before Christmas," he said.

Patti Wilson, owner of Wilson's Outfitters, 1291 SE Baya Dr., said Christmas sales had been slow, but are beginning to pick up as Christmas nears.

"I think people are starting to get ready

GIFTS continued on 2C



TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

Mike Woods (left) looks at a pair of Costa Del Mar sunglasses with Scott Moore, McDuffie Marine - Sporting Goods general manager. Moore said the sunglasses make an excellent last minute gift.

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Ask the Fool

Projections
Are Guesses

Where can I find Wall Street's projections for a company's upcoming quarterly report? — *M.M., Warsaw, Ind.*

Expected earnings are published at a variety of online sites, such as finance.yahoo.com. (Enter a company's ticker symbol there, and then click on "Analyst Estimates" on the next page.)

But consider not paying too much attention to these guesses. Many times they're based on comments and guidance from the company itself. If a company is telling analysts what it expects to earn, and then earns it or exceeds the estimate, how impressive is that, really?

Fuller analyst reports, though, sometimes available via your brokerage, can be informative. They can deliver insights into a company's health and competitive position as well as the challenges facing its industry.

Just be wary of estimates of future numbers, as the future is hard to predict accurately. And take ratings such as "strong buy" and "outperform" with a grain of salt, too.

Analysts issue very few "sell" ratings, as they'd rather not tick off companies that might give their employers business.

What are "balanced" mutual funds, and should I invest in them? — *G.K., Portland, Ore.*

Balanced funds hold both stocks and bonds, offering gains from stock appreciation and stock dividends, as well as income from bond interest. Many fund families offer balanced funds, often with different asset mixes. The Vanguard Balanced Index Fund, for example, aims to be about 60 percent stocks and 40 percent bonds.

You don't necessarily need a balanced fund, since you can invest in separate stock and bond funds. Remember, too, to include some international exposure, for diversification. (Many foreign economies are growing much faster than America's.)

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



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Save More

In October, the U.S. personal savings rate dropped to 4.8 percent from 5.2 percent in September. If those numbers seem reasonable to you, think again.

Our savings rate has generally been in the low- to mid-single digits over the past 20 years, but it spent much of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s in double digits. We should do better.

Some argue that by saving more, we fill banks with more money that they can lend out to businesses to lubricate the machinery of our economy. Others would like to see consumers spend more instead of saving, to boost revenues of businesses.

We should think of ourselves first, though, as we need to provide for ourselves and our families. Most of us, after all, will be relying on ourselves for much of our retirement income.

Crunching a few numbers can help you see how well you're doing. If you think that socking away \$5,000 per year for 25 years will be enough to provide for your retirement, consider this: Even with 10 percent annual returns, that would grow to only

about \$540,000, which will give you \$21,600 if you make a conservative 4 percent annual withdrawal.

If you average just 7 percent growth, it will total less than \$340,000, offering a first-retirement-year income of \$13,500. Trying to live on such sums is probably a stretch for many people, even with Social Security income. (And most people won't have socked away \$5,000 annually for 25 years, anyway.)

An old rule of thumb has been to save and invest 10 percent of your income each year, but those starting late or those who would like to be more secure in old age should aim significantly higher.

You can try out different retirement saving-and-investing scenarios at dollartimes.com/calculators/retirement.htm and bankrate.com/calculators/index-of-checking-savings-calculators.aspx.

Saving more and investing better is the best path to prosperity. The sooner you start, the better off you'll be in the long run. Visit fool.com/how-to-invest to learn how to grow your money effectively — or read "The Little Book of Common Sense Investing" by John Bogle (Wiley, \$16).

My Dumbest Investment

Global Double-Crossing

Global Crossing was one of my stupidest investments. I lost five grand between the tech boom of the 1990s and the tech bust of 2000.

I believed all the company's hype about laying down fiber-optic cables around the world. — *N.S., online*

The Fool Responds: Well, Global Crossing did have a network of fiber-optic cable. But that never stopped it from posting many years of net losses. The company failed spectacularly in 2002, as it filed for bankruptcy protection after having once been valued at more than \$80 billion. It emerged from bankruptcy in 2004 with new shares — old shares became worthless, leaving those investors out of luck, as often happens with bankruptcies.

As recently as 2011, when Level 3 Communications bought Global Crossing, a Fool analyst noted: "Like its new parent, Global Crossing hasn't produced a single quarter of profitability. The company, which boasts \$1.1 billion in net debt, managed just \$82 million in free cash flow over the trailing 12 months."

When investing, try to separate a company's grand visions and projections from its actual accomplishments and financial performance. Favor competitive advantages — and profits.

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

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

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

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 began in 1867 in Cincinnati, producing circus posters, placards and labels. I printed my first deck of playing cards in 1881. Today, based in Kentucky, I'm the leader in premier playing cards. (I've created some games, too, and also sell poker chips and gaming accessories.) My brands include Bee, KEM, Aviator and Hoyle. My Bicycle brand has been in continuous production since 1885. During World War II, working with the U.S. government, I made special card decks for U.S. prisoners of war that contained hidden escape routes. I became a subsidiary of Jarden in 2004. 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!

Frustration and fury over data breach at Target

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and BREE FOWLER
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Potential victims of credit card fraud tied to Target's security breach said they had trouble contacting the discounter through its website and call centers.

Angry Target customers expressed their displeasure in comments on the company's Facebook page. Some even threatened to stop shopping at the store. Target apologized on Facebook and said it's working hard to resolve the problem and is adding more workers to field calls and help solve website issues.

The fury and frustration come as the nation's second-largest discounter acknowledged Thursday that data connected to about 40 million credit and debit card accounts was stolen as part of a breach that began over the Thanksgiving weekend.

The theft is the second-largest credit card breach in U.S. history, exceeded only by a scam that began in 2005 involving retailer TJX Cos. That incident affected at least 45.7 million card users.

Target disclosed the theft a day after reports that the company was investigating a breach. The retailer's data-security troubles and its ensuing public relations nightmare threaten to drive off holiday shoppers during the company's busiest time of year.

Christopher Browning, of Chesterfield, Va., said he was the victim of credit card fraud earlier this week and believes it was tied to a purchase he made at Target with his Visa card on Black Friday. When he called Visa on Thursday, the card issuer could not confirm his suspicions. He said he hasn't been able to get through to Target's call center.

On Monday, Browning received a call from his bank's anti-fraud unit saying there were two attempts to use his credit card in California — one at a casino in Tracey, Calif., for \$8,000 and the other at a casino in Pacheco, for \$3,000. Both occurred on Sunday and both were denied. He canceled his credit card and plans to use cash.

"I won't shop at Target again until the people behind this theft are caught or the reasons for the breach are identified and fixed," he said.

Customers who made purchases by swiping their cards at its U.S. stores between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15 may have had their accounts exposed. The stolen data included customer names, credit and debit card numbers, card expiration dates and the embedded code on the magnetic strip found on the backs of cards, Target said.

There was no indication the three- or four-digit security numbers visible on the back of the card were affected, Target said. The data breach did not affect online purchases, the company said.

Eric Hausman, a Target spokesman, said the company is engaged in "an ongoing investigation."

Target hasn't disclosed exactly how the breach occurred but said it has fixed the problem.



TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

Becky Holloway (left) shows Jackie Abernathy a sampling of colorful Christmas sweaters for dogs. Holloway said the sweaters have been a popular gift item for pet owners this Christmas and they make great stocking stuffers.

GIFTS

Continued From 1C

to finish up their shopping and get ready for Christmas," she said.

She said T-shirts, Yeti coolers, case knives and Turvis Tumblers have been popular this Christmas.

Wilson said the Turvis Tumblers

are always good as a last minute gift item.

"We've got Reef flip-flops and they're always popular," she said. "We've also got Old Henry and Schrade case knives, Yeti coolers, hats and camouflage for your hunters. Then there's T-shirts, we've got by Guy Harvey and Salt Life T-shirts. Anything like that always makes people happy."

Pet owners are often as loyal to

their pets as their animals are to them. Many buy gifts for their pets, often at the 11th hour.

Becky Holloway, owner of The Pet Spot, at 872 SW Main Blvd., said Christmas sales have been very good this year.

"People are getting all kinds of things for their pets — getting them groomed and boarding them. Christmas time is a very busy time," she said.

Good Samaritans return envelope with \$1,500

TAMARAC — A South Florida woman unknowingly dropped an envelope containing \$1,500 while putting stamps on letters at the Tamarac post office on Monday. But she got all the cash back, thanks to a good Samaritan couple from Jupiter.

Tiina Purin and her boyfriend Jon Raskin were looking for a house on Monday when they stopped by the post office. Raskin stepped on the envelope while they were in line. They picked it up, but no one around them claimed it.

"I got a scrap piece of paper, and I wrote 'Found envelope' with my

phone number on it and brought it inside," Purin said.

The couple went back to house-hunting.

Meantime, Van Heel realized the money was missing when she stopped by the bank.

She retraced her steps back to the post office, which was about to close. After hearing her story, the workers gave her the paper with Purin's phone number. She called Purin and the couple met her to give back the money on Tuesday.

"We left the house with a smile on our face," Purin said of the meeting.

Van Heel, who moved to South Florida from China 10 years ago is starting a business. She says every penny counts.

"I was very glad to see what a difference it was going to make in her life an how thankful she was to not only have the money but to see that there were people who were willing to return the money," Raskin said. "I've always heard that you should be the good that you want to see in the world."

■ Associated Press.

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Story ideas?

Contact
Robert Bridges
 Editor
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 rbridges@lakecityreporter.com

Sunday, December 22, 2013

www.lakecityreporter.com

Section D

TASTE BUDDIES



Genie Norman and Mary Kay Hollingsworth
 TastebuddiesLakeCity@gmail.com

Warm your bones, soup's on the stove

Well, the frenzy of the holidays is here! If you're like us, shopping, wrapping packages and attending parties is just about to wear you out. We're planning menus for Christmas Eve, Christmas morning breakfast, Christmas lunch, Christmas dinner, and on and on. Right now at the end of the day, we just want something simple and quick to throw together for dinner.

With all the hustle and bustle, we can't think of anything better on these cool days than a bowl of pure comfort? During the winter months, we love to make homemade soup or throw something in the crockpot that warms your heart and your bones! While we have our everyday standbys like Chicken Noodle or Veggie soup, there are a few that are extra special that we think you will enjoy as well.

TASTE continued on 2D

HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED?



The Suwannee Valley Community Foundation board. Bottom row, from left: Tom Brown, Audrey Bullard, Bettye Lane and James Montgomery. Top row, from left: Joe Persons, Richard Johnson, Mike Null, Keith Hitson, Keith Leibfried, Avery Roberts and Daniel Crapps. (Not pictured: Darren Driver and Dr. Ben Norris).

Suwannee Valley Community Foundation can help you decide

By **AMANDA WILLIAMSON**
 awilliamson@lakecityreporter.com

A community theater in Lake City, a food bank in Hamilton County and a play-ground in Union County — Suwannee Valley Community Foundation supports projects throughout its five-county jurisdiction that builds the community through philanthropic donations from residents.

Founded in 2002 by local attorney Tom Brown, the Foundation

secures, manages and distributes resources to build on the Suwannee Valley region. The non-profit serves the residents of Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee and Union counties.

"When I die, what's going to happen to my money?" said James Montgomery, chairman of the Advisory Board for The Suwannee Valley Community Foundation. "Are parts of the family going to go out to buy a new car? Well, no, I want that money to go to something good."

Instead, the Foundation allows Montgomery to establish endowments for several organization

he supports. If he had decided on his own to

FOUNDATION continued on 2D

GARDEN TALK



Nichelle Demorest
 dndemorest@ufl.edu

Mistletoe: Is it friend or is it foe?

The American mistletoe, Phoradendron serotinum, takes the spotlight during this time of the year, for a couple good reasons. Not only is the mistletoe plant used as festive holiday greenery under which many kisses are stolen, but mistletoe plants are now readily observed adorning the leafless branches of many deciduous trees. They are a native group of plants that have been around for thousands, or even millions, of years.

Take a look up into some deciduous trees and you may see one, two, or even dozens of round balls of happy and healthy looking green plants. Mistletoes have green stems, thick oval leaves, and they often grow to reach a diameter of two feet. A wooded area with a heavy infestation of mistletoe can offer up quite

MISTLETOE continued on 3D



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YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN ONE OR BOTH

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

Engagement

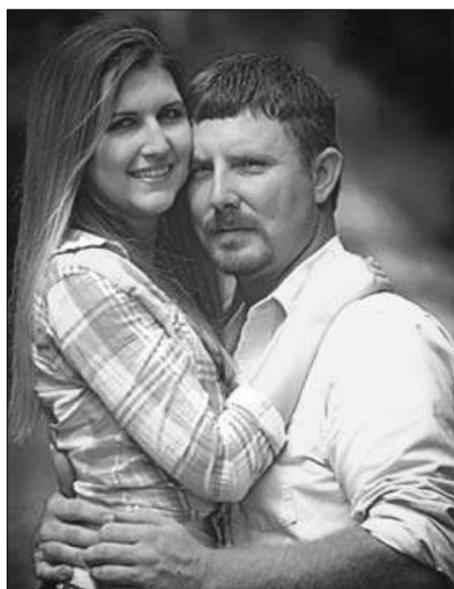
McDonald to wed Bell



Lori and Coby Williams and James and Lynn McDonald, of Lake City, are pleased to announce the upcoming wedding of their daughter Priscilla Catherine

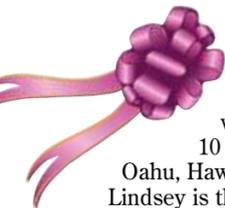
McDonald to Charles Wayne Bell, Jr. Bell is the son of Tina and Charles W. Bell, of Live Oak. The couple will be married on Saturday, Jan. 4 at 4 p.m. at the Pinemount Baptist Church in McAlpin. A reception will follow at the Westside Community Center in Lake City.

Priscilla is a 2007 graduate of Columbia High School and currently attends Florida Gateway College. Charles is a 2002 graduate of Live Oak Christian Academy and is currently employed with Bryant Tree Service.



Wedding

Hale and Boyd wed in Hawaii



Lindsey Rebecca Hale and Mark Richard Boyd were married Oct. 10 on the island of Oahu, Hawaii.

Lindsey is the daughter of Billy and Terran Hale of Lake City, and granddaughter of Pat and the late Jerry Carswell Hale and Kathryn M. Hale. Mark is the son of Bernadette Boyd of Palm Coast.

Lindsey is a 1998 graduate of Columbia High School. She graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from Florida State University in 2001. She went on to complete her graduate education at the University of Florida where she obtained a Master's in Nursing and Nurse Midwifery in 2005. She is now employed by FABEN Obstetrics and Gynecology in Jacksonville where she works as a Midwife/Nurse Practitioner.

Mark is a 1994 graduate of Flagler Palm Coast High School. He went on to join the US Navy where he remained on active duty until 2008. He graduated from the University of North Florida in 2012 with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. Mark has remained active with the US Navy Reserves since 2008 and is currently employed by Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville as a Registered Nurse.

After honeymooning in Maui, Hawaii, the couple now resides in Jacksonville.



Positive results of a joint effort in the Christmas parade

Rotary International consists of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world. Local Rotary Clubs bring together dedicated individuals and business people to exchange ideas, build relationships, and take action for the common good of our local communities, our nations, and our world.

The Rotary Club of Lake City would like to thank all of the Christmas Parade participants and the wonderful citizens of Columbia County who came out to enjoy the parade. We truly appreciate the wonderful community that we have the opportunity to support. We would also like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for supporting our local businesses and community with so many different events for the Holiday Season. Lastly, through the generous support of our parade participants, we have raised \$1,500 to be donated to the Christmas Dream Machine.

We also help when international tragedies strike. The Typhoon that struck the Philippines left thousands of people without basic necessities, so we have raised a \$1,000 and purchased a "Shelter Box" which will provide a

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



Robert Turbeville
386-961-2595

tent, basic food, blankets, water and other needed items for a family for a week in order to help them get back on their feet.

Please continue to help assist the Salvation Army by coming by to see us and help us fill the Red Kettles as we ring the bell in front of Wal-Mart.

As we look forward to January, we are preparing to provide up to 1,200 books to 4-year-olds across counties in North Florida. Our club members will be reading a story about "Service above Self" and then providing the books as a gift to be taken home by each 4 year old in the VPK program.

The members and prospective invited members of the Rotary Club of Lake City meet at noon every Thursday for a lunch at First Baptist Church of Lake City.

■ Robert is the Rotary Club of Lake City President. He has been a Chamber member since 1999.

TASTE

Continued From 1D

We also came across a yummy Crockpot Hopping John recipe that gives you all the traditional New Year's "good luck" ingredients in one bowl.

One of our all-time favorites is a Corn and Sausage Chowder that we've adapted from a recipe in a cookbook called Thyme's Remembered, published by the Junior League of Tallahassee. This recipe is super simple but oh so satisfying. Cornbread muffins go great with this soup too! Honestly, we never shared this with anyone that hasn't liked it but most usually loved it.

Corn & Sausage Chowder

Serves 6

- 1 roll of Jimmy Dean regular sausage and large onion, chopped (or you can substitute a 10 oz bag of frozen chopped onions)
- 1 small red bell pepper, chopped fine
- 3 large potatoes, peeled & cubed (or you can substitute 2 cans cubed potatoes)
- 2 tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 2 cups water
- 1 17 oz. can creamed corn
- 1 16.5 oz can whole corn, drained
- One 12 oz can evaporated milk (DO NOT use condensed milk – it tastes terrible!)

Directions:

Brown sausage in soup kettle; drain, leaving a small amount of grease in the pan. Sauté onions and bell pepper until translucent. Add potatoes, sausage, salt, pepper,

basil and water. Cover and simmer 15 minutes or until potatoes are fork tender. Stir in corn and milk. Cover and heat thoroughly but do not bring to a boil.

You don't have to wait for New Year's Day to enjoy this Hoppin' John recipe! Heck, some of us need an extra dose of good luck anyway. We promise that this is a keeper so don't be turned off by the number of ingredients after all you have a complete meal in one pot.

Hoppin' John in the slow cooker

Serves 8-10

- ½ lb. dried black-eyed peas, soaked overnight, drained & rinsed
- 3 cups chopped turnip or collard greens or mustard greens
- 1 (10 oz) can diced tomatoes and green chiles
- 1 medium chopped onion
- ½ cup chopped green bell pepper
- ½ cup chopped celery
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 (32 oz) cartons vegetable stock (I use Kitchen Basics Brand)
- 1 smoked turkey leg, sausage or ham (1 cup) (I use ham and smoked sausage or kielbasa)
- 1 1/2 cups instant rice e.g. Success rice
- 2 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. hot sauce, to taste
- 1 packet of Goya ham seasoning, optional but makes it really good

Directions:

In a slow cooker, combine black-eyed peas, greens, diced tomatoes, onion, bell pepper, celery and garlic. Stir in vegetable stock. Submerge meat in mixture. Cover and cook on high for 5-6 hours or until peas

are tender. Open packet and add rice, cover and cook for 20-30 minutes or until rice is tender. Stir in salt, pepper before serving. Add hot pepper if desired or let each person add their own. NOTE: Black-eyes peas and greens symbolize coins and paper money in the coming year. This dish has them all so you are bound to have good luck or good fortune.

Genie was fortunate to be invited to the famous Cloisters on Sea Island for lunch on a recent trip to St. Simons. It is a gorgeous private resort, recently restored/renovated. Located directly on the ocean it is a playground for the rich and famous. You can just imagine how wonderful the food is that they serve in their restaurants. She tried the collard soup and after a chat with the waiter she was informed that the chef would share the recipe if she was interested. So, the recipe was emailed to her and it is wonderful and really simple. You might want to try this one too so it is available on these busy days when you need to warm up something quickly for a meal. The Cloisters served it with cornbread mini-muffins but we'll share that recipe another time.

White Bean & Collard Soup

- 10 Oz soaked white beans (soak overnight)
- 2 links Andouille Sausage, cut into small slices
- 1 Vidalia onion, diced
- 2 oz minced garlic
- 1.5 lbs. cooked collard greens
- 1 gallon chicken stock
- 1 oz oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

In a large pot, sweat the onions, garlic and sausage in the oil over a medium-low heat. When onions are translucent, add stock and white beans and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer and cook for an hour or until beans are thoroughly cooked. Add Collard greens and season. Yields about 1 gallon

(This is the Chef's recipe and we have revised it slightly so you can try either. We use canned cannellini beans and kale can be substituted for collards.)

This is our last column before the Holidays and we want to wish you all the very best this season and hope you make special memories with your loved ones.

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FOUNDATION

Continued From 1D

create endowments, Montgomery would have had to hire a lawyer. But through the Foundation, he simply has to provide them with the money and direct them where to send it. The rest gets written into his last will and testament. Not only does it provide a streamlined process for establishing the endowment, but the Foundation also invests the money so that the organization honored will receive a yearly check for as long as it exists.

Currently, the Foundation has assets of \$1.5 million. But the Suwannee Valley organization does not handle the money.

"We're too small an organization for that," Montgomery said, adding that the local Foundation works as an affiliate of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida in Jacksonville.

According to Montgomery, a person can decide on an organization he or she is passionate about and place a certain amount of money into a restricted fund. Through the restricted endowment, the named organization receives a check in the donors name every year forever.

A donor can also select to start an unrestricted fund, which pools into a collective account ran by the Advisory Board of the Suwannee Valley Community Foundation.

Every year, the board can spend 4 percent of its unrestricted fund on community projects. This year, Montgomery said, the organization had \$80,000 to give away but only donated half.

"We don't go looking for people," he said. "So many people have no idea who we are."

After the Foundation funded a playground in Providence, the community of Raiford quickly asked if they could have a playground constructed in their tiny town as well.

"Little Raiford, they simply have no money to build a playground," Montgomery said. "I've never seen a project that has as much appreciation as what we got from Raiford."

The Foundation usually only assists non-profits, preferably a 501(c)(3) that needs help with projects. It will not provide operating expenses for an organization, Montgomery said.

"We want something to be shown for it," he said. "What did we give that money for? Can we see it?"

All donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible, but an endowment can only be started with a certain amount of funds. The endowments have to be around \$20,000 to \$25,000 to be accepted by the organization.

"This organization exists, and non-profits, is there any way we can help?" Montgomery said.

December camping? Must be North Florida

Winter opportunities abound within 50-mile radius of Lake City.

By **KATHALYN GAITHER**
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

It's December, yet there are still RVs heading down the highways. Visit a state park and you can see lines of tents dotting the campgrounds. How can that be, when there are record cold weather temperatures nearly every time you turn on the news? There's only one conclusion — you must be living in Florida.

But in the holiday spirit, try to show some empathy to those without the option of camping outdoors in December, and share this novel experience with family and friends who come to visit over the holidays. Invite them to bring along some camping gear when they come. Even in their wildest imagination, the thought has probably never crossed their minds — that camping could be an option in December.

With 171 national award-winning state parks in Florida, they are really in for a treat. Within about a 50-mile radius of Lake City alone, there are more than a half dozen outstanding state parks where you can pitch a tent, park an RV, or even camp with your horse.

O'Leno State Park in High Springs is a testament to Florida's diverse terrains. A mosaic of hardwood hammocks, sandhills and river swamps create a natural backdrop. Several sinkholes throughout the park remind visitors of the karst topography that occurs in many



A group of bikers is shown at O'Leno State Park is shown in December.

COURTESY PHOTO



The Santa Fe River is shown at River Rise Park.

COURTESY RICHARD RITARI



A bird is shown at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park.

COURTESY ED STANTON

Florida areas. One feature at O'Leno State

Park is something of an anomaly. The Santa Fe River — which is a tributary to the Suwannee River — at one point just disap-

pears into the ground. It's true — now you see it, now you don't. What's really cool is that it reemerges three miles south in River Rise Preserve State Park.

So besides a disappearing river, what else is so great about O'Leno? Guests can canoe, kayak, fish, hike, ride your horse, and of course, camp. The park offers full-facility RV and tent camping featuring in-ground grills, picnic tables and centrally located restrooms.

Not far from O'Leno is River Rise Preserve State Park. And like the saying, "what goes up, must come down." Likewise, "what goes down, must come up" and this is where the Santa Fe River rises — hence the name River Rise. It is surely a sight not seen every day and worth the visit to experience the novel beauty.

Guests can fish in designated areas and the primitive camp park has maintained restrooms, showers and a covered pavilion. Of course, probably one of the main attractions of the park is the very nice, very clean 20-stall barn so your equines get a feel of home away from home, as well.

A little further southeast, in Micanopy, is Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park — 21,000 acres with more than 20 distinct biological communities. Wild horses, deer, bobcat and more than 270 species of birds are among the 400 vertebrates identified in the park.

Family and friends from out-of-state would probably jump at the chance to camp in a beautiful natural environment with lots of outdoor activities — in December. Learn more about what all of Florida's state parks have to offer, visit www.FloraStateParks.org.

The library's 2013 year in review

The Columbia County Public Library recently completed its Community Read: "A Land Remembered" by Patrick Smith. We received grants from Altrusa International in Lake City and the Florida Humanities Council to purchase several hundred copies of the book to distribute free of charge to the county schools and to anyone who wanted to read this classic book. We also had several interesting programs associated with the book's theme. This was my first venture into a community reading project and I feel it was very successful and would like to do it again.

If you did not participate in the Community Read, but your interest in reading the book has been piqued, the Library not only has copies of "A Land Remembered," but other books written by beloved Florida author, Patrick Smith. These include Forever Island, Allapattah,

AT THE LIBRARY



Debbie Paulson
386-758-1018
dpaulson@neflin.org

The River is Home, Angel City, The Beginning: a Novel, and In Search of the Russian Bear: an American Writer's Odyssey in the Former Soviet Union. In addition to the books, the Library also has available for checkout the DVD Patrick Smith's Florida: a Sense of Place.

The Library owns many children's and young adult fiction books about Florida, including Escape to the Everglades by Edwina Raffia, The Treasure of Amelia Island by M.C. Finotti, and Solomon by Marilyn Bishop Shaw, to name only a few.

We also have numerous junior biographies on Seminole Chief Osceola.

Also ending was the Library's year-long celebration of Viva Florida 500, the Florida Department of State's initiative to celebrate the discovery of Florida in 1513 by Ponce de Leon. The Friends of the Library sponsored many interesting and fun programs throughout 2013 that touched on Florida's rich history and culture. Of particular interest were the presentations by local historians on the history of Watertown, Lake City, and Columbia County. The year ended with the closing of a time capsule the Library received from the Department of State. It will be reopened in 2038 and contains items of local interest and current prices.

Viva Florida 500 was so successful all over Florida in 2013 that it is going to continue in 2014 and beyond as Viva Florida. The logo will

remain the same except the 500 will be removed. The Florida Department of State surveyed Florida businesses, tourism locations, etc. to see if the promotion made a difference in their sales and visits and apparently it did.

If you are interested in reading about Florida history, please visit the Columbia County Public Library. For more information, you may contact me at dpaulson@neflin.org or 386-758-1018.

■ Debbie Paulson is the director of the Columbia County Public Library.

Bicknell graduates from Southern Miss

From staff reports

The University of Southern Mississippi held spring commencement exercises during ceremonies on the Hattiesburg campus Friday Dec. 13.

Southern Miss President Rodney Bennett conferred undergraduate, graduate and specialist's degrees at the ceremony, held at Reed Green Coliseum. Mississippi Supreme Court Justices James Kitchens and Randy

Pierce served as commencement speakers.

Southern Miss graduates from the local area include: **Cason Warren Bicknell** Bachelor of Science, Lake City.

A dual-campus university, Southern Miss serves students on campuses in Hattiesburg and Long Beach, in addition to five teaching and research sites in Mississippi. Further information is found at www.usm.edu.

MISTLETOE

Continued From 1D

an unusual site of green gumballs sitting among bare branches.

The scientific name, Phoradendron, means "thief of the tree" in Greek. Although not a true parasite, the developing plant sends root-like structures called haustoria through the bark and into the conducting tissue of the host tree. Even though mistletoe produces its own food through photosynthesis, it steals the water and nutrients it needs from the tree. Ultimately, this little thief can weaken or destroy the trees it infests, especially the trees that are already stressed from other factors such as drought or insects.

Healthy trees can tolerate a few of these free-loaders, but many people prefer to prune them out before they spread. The sticky white berries appear in late fall and are devoured by many wildlife species. Not only are berries transported to other

branches by sticking to fur and feathers, seeds are also deposited on nearby branches in bird droppings where they can germinate and produce another plant.

Pruning is the most effective control method, but care must be taken to remove the root-like haustoria growing into the host tree. If only the visible part of the mistletoe is removed, new plants often regrow from the haustoria left in the tree. At least six to twelve inches of the host branch below the attachment of the mistletoe should also be removed. If the trees are large, a professional tree service should be contacted. A specialized growth regulating chemical may also be available for application by a licensed pest control operator.

Mistletoe is a native plant and has numerous benefits for wildlife in Florida. There are 1,300 species of mistletoe worldwide, 20 of which are now endangered. Two kinds of mistletoes are native to the United States, one being

the American mistletoe which is found from New Jersey to Florida and west through Texas. Many birds, bees, butterflies and mammals have high stakes in the success of mistletoe.

So, is mistletoe a good plant or a bad plant growing in your tree? Ask the great purple hairstreak, the only butterfly in the U.S. that feeds on American mistletoe. After enjoying the flower nectar as an adult, she lays her eggs on the plant and her caterpillars thrive on a mistletoe diet. Or check with the little finches, chickadees, thrushes and other small birds that nest in hiding, protected from the keen eyes of predators. Or ask the teenager who clips a branch to hang in the doorway. Remind her to wash her hands because mistletoe is poisonous.

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

signature chefs auction

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SUNDAY EVENING DECEMBER 22, 2013. Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (3-ABC, 4-IND, etc.) listing programs and descriptions.

WEEKDAY AFTERNOON. Table with columns for time slots (12 PM to 5:30) and rows for various TV channels (3-ABC, 4-IND, etc.) listing programs and descriptions.

MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 23, 2013. Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (3-ABC, 4-IND, etc.) listing programs and descriptions.

DEAR ABBY

Distraught daughter won't let longtime couple tie knot



Abigail Van Buren
www.dearabby.com

him find the strength to stop allowing his troubled daughter to rule his life.
** ** *

DEAR ABBY: My hog-mouth husband and I are having a disagreement about food. When there is special food in the house, something we both like, he feels free to eat as much of it as he wants without leaving any for me. His argument is that if it's around for several days I have had "plenty of time to get my share." I feel it shouldn't be up to him to tell me how much to eat, and when.

He weighs almost twice as much as I do, and eats accordingly. It's particularly upsetting if I have invested hours in the preparation of a dish, only to find it's gone when I want my second helping. I think he is being inconsiderate at best. Am I wrong? — WHERE'S MY BEEF?!

DEAR "WHERE'S": Your husband is behaving like a selfish child. If you have

been cooking in large quantities, try preparing only enough for two portions for a while — a LONG while.
** ** *

DEAR ABBY: My 30-year-old niece passed away, leaving a 7-year-old daughter. Her grieving husband found a married woman two months later. She divorced her second husband, and now all three of them are living together.

Abby, the little girl is not allowed to tell anyone that her mommy died and has to tell all her friends that her father's new girlfriend is her mom. Is it right to keep her from talking about her mommy? — MARIA FROM TEXAS

DEARMARIA: Of course not! While the father and his girlfriend might wish to erase the child's mother from her memory, she is old enough to always remember not only that her mother died, but also that her father and this woman want to bury the fact that she ever existed. That child NEEDS to talk about her mother, and to forbid it will cause problems when she is older. Count on it.

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

HOROSCOPES

THE LAST WORD Eugenia Word

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A heartfelt talk will make a huge difference in the way you feel and how you move forward next year. Making a move to pick up new skills or change your residence or geographical location will open up your options. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Getting together with friends or peers, or reconnecting with someone you haven't seen in a long time, will lift your spirits and get you geared up for end-of-the-year festivities. Emotional interaction will improve a connection you have with someone special. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Share your feelings and you will find out exactly where you stand and what you need to do to improve your current situation with a friend, lover or peer. Be proactive. Make things happen and you will impact the situation favorably. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep things simple and within your budget. You don't have to spend a lot to win someone's affection. Spending time with the peo-

ple you love is what counts. Be hospitable and open your doors to friends and family. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need a change. Don't let someone pressure you into doing something you don't want to do. Follow your heart and pursue your dreams. Get your personal responsibilities out of the way and move on to activities that make you happy. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't share personal information. Emotional deception is apparent and discussions with individuals who brag or show off must not be allowed to dampen your day or your plans. Focus on love and romance, not on what someone else does or says. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Volunteer your services to those less fortunate. Not everyone will be as enthusiastic as you about helping others. Do what makes you feel good and try to get loved ones to pitch in as well. A

group effort can make a difference. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Jealousy will cause you grief. You have to be careful not to set a double standard when it comes to an important relationship. Love is in the stars, but affection will be required if you are going to make a lasting impression. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Getting together with old friends or traveling to a place you have fond memories of will lead to good times. Be honest with regard to the way you feel. A discussion will lead to favorable personal change. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on what you have, not on what you don't have. A rich life begins within, not with what you have accumulated. Strive to be your best, as well as being mindful of those you encounter. Self-improvement will result in compliments and added confidence. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Share your feelings. An overview of what you want to achieve and how you are going to go about it will intrigue someone who wants to spend more time with you. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A romantic encounter will lead to serious talks about your future and how you want to move forward. Don't lose sight of your goals. Be cognizant of what's best for the people who are influenced by your decisions. ***

CELEBRITY CIPHER

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.

" F . K K R I Z W I G C F G S L V I V Y K F C T N Z
J F L V B N E T B F K N . G Y L V F G S Z W I O F T K .
M X Z L Z Y B I K F S V L R F O A I D F G S T G C
R F L F G S Z T D O T Z B . " — D T N D Y B T G Y

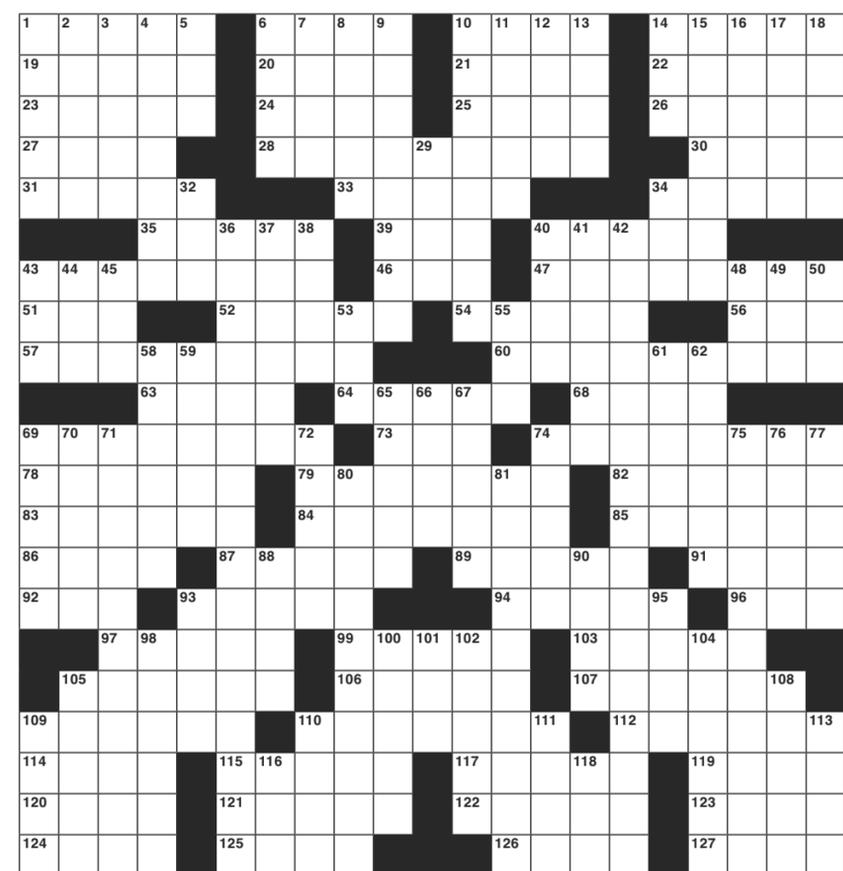
Previous Solution: "You can only look forward to a South Dakota winter if ... you're able to forget how bad it was the last time." — Dan O'Brien

TODAY'S CLUE: r s j e n b e w

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

A CUT ABOVE THE REST By JEFF CHEN / Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS**
- 1 Oceans
 - 6 Bats
 - 10 "The Clan of the Cave Bear" novelist
 - 14 Razz
 - 19 Tennis's Goran Ivanisevic, e.g.
 - 20 A band may be on one
 - 21 Torch-lit event
 - 22 River of forgetfulness in Hades
 - 23 Iron Age people
 - 24 It has nine rooms
 - 25 Ottoman
 - 26 Serve up on a platter, say
 - 27 Collectors of DNA
 - 28 Game twist
 - 30 Some basketball players: Abbr.
 - 31 Espies
 - 33 Profit from
 - 34 "I'm innocent!"
 - 35 Lab safety org.?
 - 39 3-D pic
 - 40 Diner fixtures, informally
 - 43 More rakish
 - 46 Canon offering
 - 47 Clown prop
 - 51 Sitcom ET
 - 52 Walt Disney's middle name
 - 54 Cable inits. since 1996
 - 56 "Be a _____"
- DOWN**
- 1 Grab
 - 2 Abbr. on a musical score
 - 3 Cause of a crybaby?
 - 4 Provider of an inside look?
 - 5 Nos. after a period, maybe
 - 6 Yen
 - 7 Last name in "Star Wars"
 - 8 Farm females
 - 9 Takes for granted
 - 10 Charitable giving, e.g.
 - 11 Trees with poisonous seeds
 - 12 Marquis's inferior
 - 109 Chinese hard-liner
 - 110 "Antigone" or "Elektra"
 - 112 One famed for heartlessness
 - 114 Last name in cookies
 - 115 Some notepad jottings
 - 117 It may be left hanging
 - 119 Take out
 - 120 Farmworker in "The Wizard of Oz"
 - 121 Scale unit
 - 122 Tony winner
 - 123 Spheres
 - 124 Ice cream brand
 - 125 Recess
 - 126 It's what's to be expected
 - 127 "The _____ the limit"
- ACROSS**
- 57 "Six Million Dollar Man" feature
 - 60 Cabbed it
 - 63 Most likely to be called up
 - 64 From the top
 - 68 Move, informally
 - 69 2400, on the SAT
 - 73 Dolt
 - 74 Like most checks and political candidates
 - 78 Green
 - 79 Not so nice
 - 82 Annual literary prize
 - 83 Picked up, in Britain
 - 84 Home of Velázquez's "Las Meninas"
 - 85 Breakfast dish
 - 86 They break at dawn
 - 87 Angelica and others
 - 89 Like some resolution, for short
 - 91 Showed no restraint, in brief
 - 92 Cask filler
 - 93 Linguistic quintet
 - 94 Parts of sows and cows
 - 96 Head of steam?
 - 97 Place to lounge
 - 99 Jazz great
 - 103 Cricket's sound
 - 105 Triply
 - 106 Like New Jersey among states admitted to the Union
 - 107 Subway fare
- DOWN**
- 13 First name in "Star Wars"
 - 14 Girl group with four #1 hits in the 1990s
 - 15 Often-decorative kitchen item, in Britain
 - 16 Aids for long drives
 - 17 Gas bill unit
 - 18 Crisp
 - 29 Lead-in to pop or pass
 - 32 Chicago setting: Abbr.
 - 34 Japanese computer giant
 - 36 [See above]
 - 37 Last place, with "the"
 - 38 Indy 500 winner
 - 40 2007 title role for Ellen Page
 - 41 In utero
 - 42 [See above]
 - 43 Sharp putdown
 - 44 1974 Fassbinder film subtitled "Fear Eats the Soul"
 - 45 Subj. of some 911 calls
 - 48 Figurehead, for short?
 - 49 Like some parenting
 - 50 QB Manning
 - 53 Ottoman V.I.P.
 - 55 RR stop
 - 58 Brown- (sycophants)
 - 59 Like one pre-Columbian civilization
 - 61 Parting word
 - 62 Taunting figure



- 65 Running pants?
- 66 Subj. for Galileo
- 67 N.B.A. Hall-of-Famer Thomas
- 69 Oscar winner Swinton
- 70 Oscar winner Tatum
- 71 [See above]
- 72 Winter month in Spain
- 74 Withdraw from the bank?
- 75 [See above]
- 76 Seashore fliers
- 77 Twosomes
- 80 [See above]
- 81 [See above]
- 88 "_____ kleine Nachtmusik"
- 90 Per
- 93 National rival
- 95 Her name is Norwegian for "beautiful woman who leads you to victory"
- 98 Van Gogh painting that once sold for a record \$53.9 million
- 100 Highlight of many a western
- 101 Fix
- 102 Ain't right?
- 104 Concerto movements
- 105 Broke
- 108 Didn't get involved
- 109 Pac-Man screen, e.g.
- 110 _____'clock scholar
- 111 Numbskull
- 113 Loch _____
- 116 Twosome
- 118 Canon offering, briefly

5	3			9	6	8
				8		3
8	9	1	3	2		
	8	4		9		6
		5		3		8
4		7	9			
3	7			4		2
			3	5	6	1
	5	2				

Answers to last Sunday's Crossword.

A	B	B	A		A	M	O	R	E		S	P	A		U	K	E	S					
B	R	A	C	E		R	O	P	E		S	H	A	N	G	R	I	L	A				
L	I	B	E	R	T	A	R	I	A	N		C	U	R	V	E	B	A	L	L			
E	L	O		S	I	M	O	N	L	E	B	O	N		I	R	A						
S	L	O		N	I	N	E		S	U	N		S	L	E	N	D	E	R				
T	O	N	E	L	E	S			A	T	R	E	S	T		E	E	R	O				
				S	E	A				D	O	G			E	E	K			E	G	O	
L	I	T	T	E	R			M	A	T	E			M	A	E	L		S	T	R	O	M
A	R	A	B			S	I	L	E	N	T			I	L	D	U	C	E				
L	I	N	E	S		G	A	S	O	H	O	L		S	T	R	E	T	C	H			
A	N	D	R	E	S		S	T	I	R	S	I	N		Z	A	N	I	L	Y			
W	A	Y	L	A	I	D		A	D	O	P	T	E	D		P	A	E	A	N			
				I	M	L	O	S	T			B	R	I	T	O	N			M	I	N	D
P	E	N	N	Y		A	N	T	E			E	A	S	T	O	R	A	N	G	E		
E	L	I			S	K	Y			A	M	Y			M	A	R						
W	A	L	K			E	X	T	R	A	S			C	S	I	M	I	A	M	I		
S	L	E	E	K	L	Y		H	E	R			P	A	I	N			E	L	A	M	
				P	I	E		F	E	A	T	H	E	R	B	E	D			B	R	A	
B	A	T	T	L	E	C	R	Y			H	A	P	P	Y	E	N	D	I	N	G		
B	R	A	I	N	D	E	A	D			A	N	S	E	L		A	R	N	I	E		
C	M	O	N			S	O	Y			S	K	I	T	S					J	O	E	S

6	7	8	1	7	8	2	9	9
1	7	9	9	2	8	7	6	
5	2	8	4	9	6	1	7	8
2	1	9	8	6	7	9	8	4
7	8	4	8	1	9	9	6	2
9	8	6	2	9	4	7	8	1
4	9	2	7	8	1	6	9	8
8	9	1	9	8	9	4	2	7
8	9	7	6	4	2	8	1	9



Letters to Santa

from local kids



Dear Santa...

I would like a Doc Mc- Stuffing Tent, and a Doc McStuffing Ordament. From Gracie P.S. Santa I would like for my family to have a perfect Christmas!

Christmas eve. i will leave some cookies and milk for you. This is my list: DS and an Xbox, clothes, car, Batman Halotoys, Ninjas, Legos, Bat-Cave. PS I have been extra good. Promise.
Derek Boston

Dear Santa...

My name is Lakia I am 10 year old. I what for Christmas is Ipad and Iphone color is black and Leaptop and Leap Frog. I like you Santa and I have been good.
Lakia

Dear Santa...

What I want for Christmas is a puppy, holiday barbie / a teddy and thanks for the present from last year.
by Gillian

Dear Santa...

i really want a Flutter By Fairy a Monster High Pillow and a Amenean girl doll acessiores, Christmas Dress 10-12. love caidence williamsonDear Santa I really want a monster high doll called duece gorgen and a girl monster high doll called clawdeen and spectra and abby and venus and gig. I want a monster high poster and a monster high ortament monster high makeup set and a monster high hair die k it and a monser high dancing outfit the one they use for fear leadind on monster high. I hope my family has a very Merry Christmas. love: elizabeth Gould

Dear Santa...

I am 8 years old. I hope that I am on your nice list. I have done my chores and taken care of my animals. I would like you to bring me an American girl doll, art set and a sewing maching.
Love, Anna Cathryn

Dear Santa...

I hope I get presents when you come. I know. I been bad a couple of times but I will try my best. I will set out cookies for you.
Corey

Dear Santa...

how is it up in the North Pole? And how are you santa and all the elves? I hope you have a great Christmas! Thank you for all the presets. I hope that you get what you want!
Donna

Dear Santa...

all i wont for Christmas is a dog.
Jerry

Dear Santa...

Can we have a Elf to come to our house so we can put him on our Christmas tree.
Love
Miley Nitz

Dear Santa...

I would like a Pogo Stick an electric scooter a Kinidle Fire and a cotton candy maker.
From Skye
To: Santa



Dear Santa...

My name is zoe Dear Santa Claus this Christmas I want to get a Flutterbye Flying fairy and doll house and a monster high doll and a baby alive baby. Please wear your red hat so you don't get cold.
I love Santa Claus

Dear Santa...

what I want for Christmas is wiiu Disney infiniyty and Xbox one. Love Andrew

Dear Santa...

Hey Santa how are you doing in the slay. I hope you dont crash in to tree and I want MW2 and Im a good kie.
Sign: Jeremy Cameron

Dear Santa...

Iv been a good girl this year wil you please bring me a bee bee gun and I will not shoot any body and I want some mon-ey and I love you. Love Charleigh

Dear Santa...

I want to have a Horse- book and socks. I have been good every single day. Then I want to have a animnal book a DS. How are the elves at the North pole and how is Mrs. Clause doing at the North pole? and American girl doll.
Love, Alyssa Heaton

Dear Santa...

Wake me up the night to open presents. I will give you cookie and milk. I will be wait for Christmas. Santa you like to bring presents for chlden. Are the elves good?
Christopher Mageuy

Dear Santa...

From Pearce Powers Dear Santa, I want a golf cart battery and, anything else you want to give me.

Dear Santa...

this year i want to ask you if you could please look at my letters. 1st i will really love to get a few things please visit my home on

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