

Lake City Reporter

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STEVEN RICHMOND/Lake City Reporter

Tony Richards, owner of CarQuest Auto Parts on Pinemount Road, walks through the unfinished construction site in front of his parking lot. 'Every day they're still not working, it's hurting my business,' he said.

SUNDAY EDITION

Fantazia Circus
a family affair. **6A**

Fort White students
earn OSHA certificates. **1D**

Roadwork on hold; merchants see red

Subcontractors left unpaid, says FDOT; nearby businesses see loss of revenue.

By **STEVEN RICHMOND**
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The road construction project on West US 90 could face a delay of a year or more due to difficulties with the project's contractor, according

to a spokesperson with the Florida Department of Transportation.

In the meantime, FDOT says it has cut off funds to the contractor for failing to pay its subcontractors, and many local business owners claim the lingering construction

project has had a negative effect on commerce in the area.

Southern Development Corporation of Jacksonville, an infrastructure construction company, was awarded a \$11.1 million contract to four-lane a roughly mile-long section of West US90 between Lake City Avenue and

PROJECT continued on 6A

ATF: Drug network had neighborhood nearly 'under siege'

By **STEVEN RICHMOND**
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The 17 individuals arrested by local, state and federal law enforcement Thursday were known for being one of the most violent narcotics trafficking networks in Columbia County's recent history, a supervisor with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said Saturday.

The suspects, who range from age 20 to 81, were a loosely knit group who dealt primarily in crack cocaine and had access to a high quantity of cheap conventional firearms, according to Todd Lockhart, Group Supervisor for ATF Jacksonville, Group Two.

"They operated throughout Columbia County but were actually pretty specific to a three or four block area [around NW Long Street]," Lockhart said. "The violence associated with that, people were almost under

siege at times. The law-abiding citizens were kind of powerless to do anything, they were intimidated."

The bulk of the activity occurred around the home of Travis Lavelle Smith, 31, of 742 NW Long St., who went by the alias "Cook"—a moniker he received as the man behind the "cooking" process to produce crack cocaine, Lockhart said.

"Most of the subjects were already multi-convicted felons and armed career criminals," Lockhart said.

The 17 individuals were arrested during a fast-paced coordinated effort Thursday, authorities said, in hopes of avoiding a potentially dangerous power struggle created by a void in the narcotics network.

"There's always ambitious criminals trying to meet demand or fill a void," Lockhart said. "And we'll target them, too. It's going to be a bad time

NETWORK continued on 5A

Local 'Idol' headed to Hollywood

By **STEVEN RICHMOND**
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One talented Lake City woman will be headed to California next month after successfully passing the first round of auditions on the hit reality show American Idol.

Lake City native and class of 2012 CHS graduate Lauren Ogburn, 19, auditioned in Atlanta last July with thousands of other Idol hopefuls and came out victorious, becoming one of only 44 people who received invitations to Hollywood that day.

The audition was broadcast Thursday night.

"I sang 'Fancy' by Reba



COURTESY

Lauren Ogburn, 19, of Lake City, auditioned for American Idol in Atlanta and was accepted into the next round of competition in Hollywood, Calif.

McEntire," Ogburn said. "I'd never heard it done on American Idol, so I thought it was a good choice because there was nobody to compare it to."

The three-person judging panel responded favorably: Keith Urban praised Ogburn's authenticity and song choice, Jennifer Lopez said she gave her "goosies," and Harry Connick Jr. said he enjoyed the performance despite his criticism of Ogburn's wardrobe.

"I wore a tanktop that had a bald eagle with the American flag, jeans, American flag boots and an American flag bandana," Ogburn said, saying she was looking for a "rough around the edges look... [Connick Jr.] said it was a little overdone and too much, but said he enjoyed my audition."

Ogburn said she's been singing since she could talk and has developed her talents through a variety of performances in church and other community events, such as the Olustee Festival.

"I've never had vocal lessons," she said. "I tried to take vocal lessons one time for a month and I didn't like it. I've always wanted

OGBURN continued on 6A

COMPROMISED?



FILE

The Michaels crafts store at the Lake City Mall is shown.

Michaels probes possible breach of data

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Michaels Stores says it is investigating a possible company data security breach that may have affected its customers' payment card information.

The Irving, Texas, company said Saturday that it launched the probe after learning of possible fraudulent activity on some U.S. payment cards used at the home decor and crafts retailer.

Michaels Stores Inc. is working with federal law enforcement and data security experts, but has yet to confirm that its systems were compromised.

Management at the Michaels in Lake City referred a reporter to their corporate communications office, which then referred the reporter to a spokesman, Michael Fox. Fox's assistant then referred the reporter back to the press release.

CEO Chuck Rubin suggests Michaels customers review their account statements for unauthorized charges.

Target Corp. has said hackers recently stole about 40 million debit and credit card numbers. Neiman Marcus said a security breach last year may have affected about 1.1 million cards.

Chamber Ball sees 'passing of the buck'

By **STEVEN RICHMOND**
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The who's who of Columbia County business showed up dressed to the nines at the fourth annual Lake City-Columbia County Chamber Ball Saturday evening.

Chamber of Commerce members milled about the Banquet Hall at the Columbia County Fairgrounds chatting about the latest news and happenings on the Columbia County business scene.

Some members added a flair of mystery to their evening by donning Venetian-style masquerade attire, provided at the front door for the evening's theme, "Unmask the Night."

"Our bylaws say we have to hold an



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Joel Foreman (left), the outgoing 2013 Lake City-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce president, hands a dollar to John Kuykendall, the incoming 2014 Chamber president, in a buck passing ceremony at the Unmask the Night Chamber Ball Annual Dinner Saturday.

annual state-of-the-Chamber meeting," said Chamber Executive Director Dennille Decker. "So every year we try to do something differ-

ent and exciting." And it worked—tickets for the event sold out weeks

CHAMBER continued on 7A

Branford skate park opens amid much fanfare

By **STEVEN RICHMOND**
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BRANFORD—About three years ago, a boy named Josh Walker wrote a letter to the town council of Branford with one simple request—he wanted a skate park.



STEVEN RICHMOND/Lake City Reporter

LEFT: Bill Procko cuts the ribbon officially opening Procko Skate Park in Branford Saturday morning.

Three years, \$68,000 and several hundred tons of concrete later, the town of Branford offi-

cially opened Procko Skate Park Saturday, a 5,000 square foot skate park in Hatch Park dedicated to local enthusiasts, both young and old.

"It's been hard to keep the

PARK continued on 6A



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TODAY'S WEATHER
61 49
Partly Cloudy, 8A

- Opinion 4A
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TODAY IN BUSINESS
CARC thrift store settles into new home, 1C.



COMING TUESDAY
Coverage of Tennis Fitness Day.



Friday:
1-11-17-20-19



Friday:
8-20-21-29-32



Saturday:
9-6-8



Saturday:
7-8-3-5



Wednesday:
6-7-11-13-23-44 x3



Wednesday:
1-2-7-9-55-29 x3

AROUND FLORIDA

3 police officers suspended for Bieber escort

AOPA-LOCKA n official says three Florida police officers have been suspended for giving Justin Bieber an unauthorized escort from the airport.

Opa-locka Assistant City Manager David Chiverton said Friday that the officers were suspended with pay pending the outcome of an investigation.

Police escorts from the Opa-locka Executive Airport are not uncommon, but they must follow procedure. Chiverton says the one that accompanied Bieber on Monday had not been authorized.

According to Chiverton, investigators are still trying to get more information from the airport and the officers about where police escorted Bieber.

Bieber was free on bail Friday after an arrest on charges of DUI, driving with an expired license and resisting arrest. Miami Beach police say Bieber smelled of alcohol when he was stopped after drag-racing down a residential street early Thursday.

Florida Southern receives \$400K

LAKE LAND — Florida Southern College has been awarded \$400,000 in grants from the State of Florida's Division of Historical Resources to help restore and maintain the school's Frank Lloyd Wright architecture.



STEVEN RICHMOND/Lake City Reporter

Hands on the helicopter

Gary Marquis provides students at Summers Elementary an up-close-and-personal view of his Hughes 269 helicopter Friday morning. "It's part of our accelerated reading program," Principal Amy Stanton said. "We're trying to take literacy and put it together with STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics] topics."

The school announced the grant Friday. It says that the money must be matched dollar-for-dollar by the college, which means that \$800,000 will be spent within the next two years.

A chunk of the money will be spent on restoring the interior of the Annie Pfeiffer Chapel to its original appearance.

The school is home to the world's largest single-site collection of Frank Lloyd Wright archi-

ecture and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2012.

AP: Zimmerman painting is copy

ORLANDO — The Associated Press has demanded that George Zimmerman halt the sale of one of his paintings because the news agency says it directly copies an AP photo.

Zimmerman's painting depicts Jacksonville-based prosecutor Angela Corey holding her thumb and fingers together. An apparently made-up quote Zimmerman added to the piece reads, "I have this much respect for the American judicial system." Corey's office prosecuted Zimmerman for the 2012 shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. Zimmerman was acquitted of second-degree murder

last summer.

Zimmerman's brother, Robert Zimmerman Jr., posted an image of the painting Wednesday on Twitter and tweeted a day later that they were in negotiations with possible buyers.

A letter with the AP's demands said that Zimmerman's painting was a direct copy of an AP photo taken at the April 2012 news conference where Corey announced

Zimmerman would be charged with murder. It was taken for the AP by freelancer Rick Wilson. The news cooperative asked that any sale be blocked — and that, if there has been a sale, that the AP be paid damages.

Zimmerman sold another painting on eBay last month, with a winning bid of \$100,099.99.

On Twitter, George Zimmerman wrote Friday evening: "No worries AP, I'll just take whatever U sue me for off your tab when I'm done suing you :-). Or... I could put out how much U offered me 2.."

Responding to Zimmerman's tweet, Colford, the AP spokesman, said: "We don't know what he's talking about."

Kidnapping note prompts capture

ST. JOHNS COUNTY — Officials say they were able to track down a woman allegedly kidnapped by her boyfriend, thanks to a note she was able to pass to a stranger at a gas station in north Florida.

Investigators said the note asked the recipient to call the woman's father and not the police, but the stranger did contact St. Johns County Sheriff's deputies Friday afternoon. They spotted the car in which the woman had been taken about two hours later.

■ Associated Press

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Police: 3 dead after shooting in mall

ACOLUMBIA, Md. man carrying a shotgun opened fire at a busy shopping mall in suburban Baltimore on Saturday, sending store employees and customers scrambling for cover. Police said three people died, including the person believed to be the shooter. Five people were injured.

Police were still trying to determine the identity and motive of the gunman who 21-year-old Brianna Benlolo of College Park, Md., and 25-year-old Tyler Johnson of Ellicott City, Md.

Both worked at Zumiez, which sold skate apparel and accessories.

Police say the attack took outside Zumiez on the upper level of the Mall in Columbia, a suburb of both Baltimore and Washington.

Howard County Police Chief William J. McMahon said at a news conference that authorities ran into difficulty in identifying the gunman because of concerns that he might be carrying explosives and were proceeding with an "abundance of caution."

McMahon also called reports that the killings were "domestic" in origin "pure speculation."

"We do not know yet what caused the shooting incident," he said. "We do not have a motive."

Suspect charged with murder in SC shooting

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — A 20-year-old South Carolina State University student shot to death outside a dormitory was an engineering technology student who also played on the school's football team, the school said Saturday.

Brandon Robinson was a junior who played football as an outside linebacker and defensive end, the university said in a statement. He attended high school in Orangeburg and appeared in four games last season for SC State, according to the team's online roster.

"Brandon was a fine young man who was paying his way through



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Exploring dragon eggs

Tim Lanterman (right), the Osceola National Forest helicopter manager, shows HMC helicopter pilot Jorge Gomes plastic spheres nicknamed 'dragon eggs,' at the U.S. Forestry Division air tanker base near the Lake City Gateway Airport during a training exercise on Thursday. The spheres are filled with a potassium magnate powder and injected with antifreeze. Once they are dropped from the Bell 407 helicopter they ignite to help decrease the fuel load for prescribed burns.

college. All he wanted to do was play football for the university," Bulldog football Coach Buddy Pough said. "We are at (a) loss for words right now."

Robinson was shot to death Friday afternoon outside Hugine Suites after arguing with Justin Bernard Singleton, 19, of Charleston, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division said. Singleton was charged with murder and arrested early Saturday at an Orangeburg apartment complex. Singleton "pulled out a gun and fired at Robinson, hitting him in the neck area," according to an arrest warrant filed by a SLED investigator.

Singleton is a full-time, sophomore student at S.C. State majoring in business, university spokeswoman Sonja Bennett-Bellamy said Saturday. He does not participate in any of the school's athletics programs, but his mother manages a university-owned, off-campus student apartment complex, Bennett-Bellamy said.

Hospital considers order on pregnant woman

FORT WORTH, Texas — Hospital executives in North Texas were conferring Saturday with the district attorney's office to determine their next step following a judge's ruling that they must disconnect life support for a pregnant, brain-dead woman, according to a hospital official.

John Peter Smith Hospital spokeswoman J.R. Labbe said "discussions are ongoing" as administrators weigh the order issued a day earlier by Judge R. H. Wallace Jr. The hospital is owned by Tarrant County and is being represented in the contentious case by the DA's office.

Wallace agreed with a request by Erick Munoz to have life support removed for his wife, Marlise Munoz. She was 14 weeks pregnant with the couple's second child when her husband found her unconscious Nov. 26, possibly due to a blood clot.

■ Associated Press

Scripture of the Day

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." — Philippians 4:8

Thought for Today

A man is great by deeds, not by birth.
— Chanakya, Indian teacher (370–283 BC)

Celebrity Birthdays

Celebrity Birthdays can now be found on the Advice & Puzzles page. Today that's page 3D.

Correction

On Jan. 21, in "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. — Commemorations reach crescendo here," the Lake City Reporter misidentified a local civic club that attended a Sunday evening church service at the Newday Springs Missionary Baptist Church. Women from the Elks Lodge attended the service.

Submissions

The Lake City Reporter accepts photographs and caption information to run at the discretion of the editor. If you would like to see your organization in the newspaper, send the picture and information to associate editor Emily Lawson at elawson@lakecityreporter.com.

Lake City Reporter

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UNEMPLOYMENT

County, state rates still below nation

By TONY BRITT
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Columbia County's unemployment rate remained below the state and national average, falling to 5.8 percent for December, according to state figures released Friday.

Florida's unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in December, while the national figure was 6.7 percent.

Denise Wynne, Lead Employer Services Representative with Florida Crown Workforce Board, said agricultural employment opportunities contributed to the improved numbers.

"There were also seasonal increases in retail trade and couriers and messengers because the holiday season contributed in part to the decrease in the unemployment numbers this month, though it's important to remember that the numbers will fluctuate a bit month-to-month, so you get a better 'snapshot' of the economic forecast by looking at over-the-year performance," she said by email.

"The holidays and agricultural employment played a large part in the decrease in the unemployment numbers. To a lesser degree in our region, but through the central and southern portion of the state, tourism has started to trend up."

In December there were 30,485 people in the Columbia County labor force and 28,709 were employed. There were 1,776 county residents without jobs.

In November the unemployment rate was 6.2 percent when the local labor force consisted of 30,580 people and roughly 28,697 had jobs. An estimated 1,883 county residents were jobless.

In December 2012 the Columbia County labor force consisted of 30,804 county residents and 28,530 had jobs, creating the 7.4 percent unemployment rate. An estimated 2,274 county residents were unemployed.

Wynne said there are several areas that are currently experiencing job growth:

- Trade, transportation and utilities (food and beverage stores);
- Professional and business services (employment services);
- Construction (specialty trade contractors); and
- Leisure and hospitality (food services and drinking establishments)

In December, Monroe County had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 5.3 percent.

Hendry County had the state's highest unemployment rate at 10.2 percent.

Wynne said officials are expecting to see job growth in several areas as the statistics for 2014 are compiled.

"Nine of the ten major industries in the state experienced positive job growth over the year, including construction, financial activities and manufacturing," she said. "Locally we continue to see a large number of positions posted in the medical, educational, corrections and aviation fields."

FEDERAL COURT

LCPD ex-captain's appeal tossed

By TONY BRITT
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The U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals has rejected a former Lake City Police Department captain's claims of his racial discrimination by the city.

A three-judge panel affirmed a district court's ruling of summary judgment against former LCPD captain Rudolph Davis Sr. in a 15-page ruling released Friday.

Judge Paul Huck wrote that Davis did not present sufficient evidence for a reasonable jury to find he was fired due to racial discrimination.

Lake City Police Department Chief Argatha Gilmore was pleased with the ruling.

"We were always convinced that the city did nothing inappropriate with the termination of Rudolph



Davis

She added she was "just happy that the court was able to look at everything that Mr. Davis presented and saw that there was no evidence to prove this case."

Davis said the ruling signals an end to his case.

"As far as I know this is pretty much it for my case," he said Friday, noting he hadn't spoken to his attorney yet. "I saw it all the way to the end and that's what I'll always do. I don't regret anything I did because I know what I did was right..."

Davis said he holds no grudges,

though he stands by his claims.

"... I don't have any hard feelings against anyone, Gilmore or the city manager [Wendell Johnson]. I still stand by my statement from the beginning that I was wrongfully terminated according to the policy of the city."

Huck wrote in the ruling that Davis's accusations were significantly narrowed during oral arguments before the court.

"The only remaining claim for us to consider is Davis's retaliation claim based on his termination in violation of Title VII," the document said.

On Nov. 16, 2009, the city terminated Davis after Gilmore determined he was not suited to be her second-in-command.

"Davis was functioning in the mentality of a sergeant or officer," the ruling said, summarizing

the city's position. "While Gilmore was putting in long hours, Davis was a clock-watcher, resentful of Gilmore's oversight and unwilling to do what it would take to turn the department around."

The ruling also addressed Davis's claims that the city gave shifting reasons for his termination.

"We find Davis's attempt to create an issue of fact as to shifting reasons for his termination unconvincing," Huck wrote for the court. "The record evidence, even when viewed in the light most favorable to Davis, shows the city consistently voicing the same non-retaliatory reason for Davis's termination."

In March 2013 U.S. District Court Judge Marcia Morales Howard dismissed Davis's racial discrimination and retaliation lawsuit following a hearing the previous December.

POLICE REPORTS

Report: Man tried to eat pot before arrest

By STEVEN RICHMOND
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A man caught in possession of marijuana may have had a case of the munchies when he tried to eat the evidence, CCSO reports.

Thomas



Johnson

Jerome Johnson, 25, of 611 SW Dexter Circle, was the passenger in a vehicle with an illegal amount of window tinting traveling down Franklin Street near Marion Avenue around 2:10 a.m. Sunday, according to the arrest report.

While asking the driver for his information during a traffic stop, the deputy noticed blunt wrapping paper and a nugget of marijuana sitting on Johnson, the report said.

Johnson appeared to grab the nugget and throw it on the car's floor before the deputy handcuffed and placed him in the patrol vehicle, the report said.

The deputy returned to the car to continue speaking with the driver and noticed a bag of white substance reminiscent of cocaine,

according to the report.

The deputy also detained the driver—who's identity and charges were redacted from the report—but could not locate the nugget of marijuana Thomas allegedly threw on the floor, the report said.

However, the deputy noticed the suspect had difficulty speaking and placed a hand on his neck to keep him from chewing, the report said.

Thomas then spit out the small nugget of marijuana from earlier, the deputy said.

Thomas also said the white substance—which later tested positively for cocaine—was cut with over-the-counter pharmaceuticals made to appear like cocaine, the report said.

There were two active warrants for Thomas, as well: One from Columbia County for violation of parole and fleeing a law enforcement officer, and one from Suwannee County for violation of probation for grand theft, the report said.

Thomas was booked into Columbia County Detention Facility on no bond. He faces charges of possession of a controlled substance, marijuana possession under 20 grams, drug equipment possession, tampering with evidence and the two active

2 travelers arrested for fraud

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON
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Two people passing through Columbia County were arrested after Florida Highway Patrol troopers discovered high-grade marijuana, 39 fraudulent credit cards and two fraudulent driver's licenses in their vehicle, according to FHP.

Eldric Devan Griffin, 31, of Pensacola, and Keisha Gilbert, 27, of Tucker, Ga., both face charges of impersonation, illegal use of credit cards and possession of a counterfeit driver's license. Griffin was also charged with marijuana possession.

A trooper stopped a black 2007 Chevrolet Avalanche on State Road 93 for illegal window tint,

according to the FHP arrest report. After the officer detected a strong air freshener, he asked Gilbert to step out of the driver's seat. Her clothes smelled of raw marijuana, the arrest report stated.

Both subjects appeared nervous and provided conflicting statements about their trip to Florida, the report continued.

The K-9 unit alerted to possible drugs in the vehicle.

A thorough search of Griffin revealed approximately eight grams of high-grade marijuana in a plastic bag hidden in his crotch area, the report stated. Both Griffin and Gilbert were detained in the FHP Tahoe while officers conducted a probable cause

search of the vehicle.

Thirty-nine fraudulent credit cards were reportedly found in plastic bags concealed in the headliner of the pick-up truck. An additional 19 cards were discovered in Gilbert's purse, FHP said. According to the report, six of the cards were fraudulent and three were named to a male subject not at the scene. Officers found two separate driver's licenses — one in Gilbert's purse and one in Griffin's wallet — registered to a Cameron Duran but with Gilbert's and Griffin's picture, the report said.

Both are still currently in the Columbia County Detention Facility. Gilbert's bond is set at \$255,000, and Griffin's bond is \$257,000.

Patient tasered after biting cop

By STEVEN RICHMOND
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The Lake City Police Department said their officers tasered a male mental patient twice after he bit one of them.

Police were called to Meridian Behavioral Healthcare around 8:50 a.m. Monday in response to a male patient that was upset and being destructive, according to a press release.

The staff at Meridian

said they needed assistance getting the man to enter an isolation room and take medication, the release said.

The patient was initially cooperative and walked with officers toward the room, but braced himself against the doorframe and refused to enter, according to police.

As the struggle continued, the patient bit Officer G. Register on the shoulder, the release said.

Register responded by using a Taser, but to no effect—Officer M. Hardin then tasered the patient again and was able to end the patient's resistance and secure him in the room, the release said.

Meridian nursing staff then took custody of the patient, police said.

No charges were filed due to the patient's mental status, LCPD said.

Shooting suspect turns herself in at county jail

From staff reports

A woman who allegedly pinned her husband between two cars then shot him in the leg turned herself in Wednesday, LCPD reports.



Sheppard

Ruby L. Sheppard, 33, surrendered to the Columbia County Detention Center without incident, according to an LCPD news release.

Around 6:00 p.m. Monday, Sheppard reportedly drove into the parking lot of Annie Mattox Park near NE Denver Street and attempted to run over her husband, Anthony L. Sheppard, 43, who was at the park with family and friends celebrating Martin Luther King Day, LCPD said.

Witness said Mrs. Sheppard pinned

her husband between two cars, got out and started a verbal argument with him while he was trying to extricate himself, the release said.

Mrs. Sheppard returned to her vehicle, retrieved a semi-automatic handgun and began pistol whipping her husband, the release said.

Their 21-year-old son attempted to break up the fight, but was pushed out of the way by his father when Mrs. Sheppard aimed the gun at her son, the release said.

She then fired the gun, shooting Mr. Sheppard a single time in the upper left thigh before she fled the scene in her vehicle, the release said.

Mr. Sheppard's family brought him to Shands at Lake Shore to be treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Police found Mrs. Sheppard's vehicle at her residence later that night.

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ANOTHER VIEW

Another higher education formula

The state Board of Governors has developed a “performance funding model” aimed at ensuring universities produce graduates ready for the workplace. Holding universities more accountable is long overdue.

But forgive us if we’re skeptical this latest education fad, being pushed by lawmakers, will result in academic excellence and a dynamic workforce.

It’s appropriate to demand more efficiency of state universities and to ensure they meet the needs of the marketplace. But this top-down approach also could easily transform universities into degree factories focused on producing graduates who will quickly find a job, rather than helping students develop the skills needed to thrive in an ever-evolving economy.

Students, after all, should be free to follow their academic passions, rather than being pressured into seeking what state leaders deem sensible degrees.

... [P]romoting specific degrees could ultimately undermine Florida’s education quality and economic vitality. Students themselves, rather than government officials, are likely to be most adept at responding to the job market.

As Peter Cappelli, director of the Center for Human Resources at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, recently wrote in *The Wall Street Journal*:

“... guessing about what will be hot tomorrow based on what’s hot today is often a fool’s errand. The problem is that the job market can change rapidly for unforeseeable reasons. Today, we frequently hear that computers and information technology are and will be the hot fields, but both have gone from boom to bust over time. Students poured into IT programs in the late 1990s, responding to the Silicon Valley boom, only to graduate after 2001 into the tech bust.”

The board and lawmakers are correct to demand more accountability, particularly on spending. Some of the metrics, such as costs per undergraduate degree and a six-year graduation rate, should promote fiscal stewardship and student focus.

Measuring the percent of bachelor’s degree graduates employed and the pay rates of baccalaureate graduates also should be useful to parents and students, though they may not necessarily reveal whether those graduates have the adaptability for a fluid marketplace.

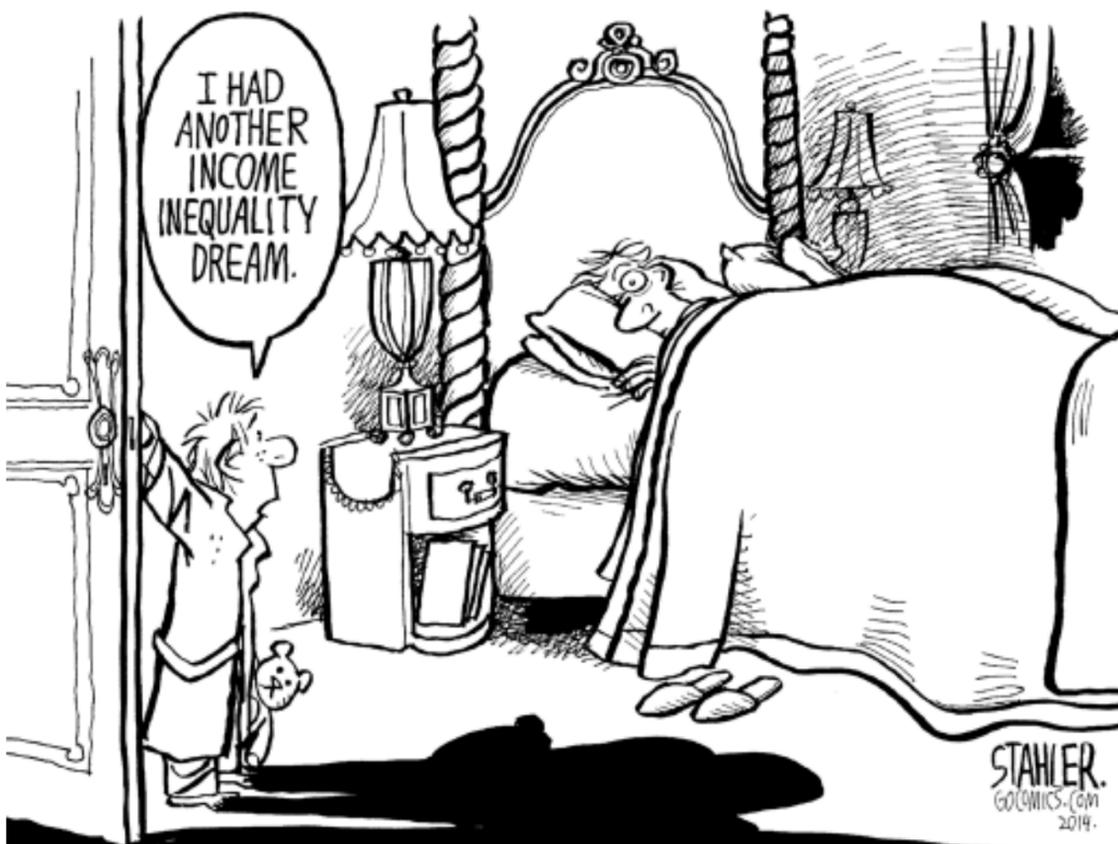
New Chancellor Marshall Criser III stresses the measurements allow for flexibility and will recognize the different challenges of different universities...

Criser says schools will be able to “measure their performance against themselves,” and will be rewarded for improvement. That’s encouraging.

But cutting a portion of the base funding for schools that don’t measure up and reallocating those funds to high-performing universities seems likely to fragment the system ... — without regard for the impact on students.

Criser is confident “data-based” performance funding will benefit students, taxpayers and the economy. We hope he’s right. But the experiment should be monitored closely. Don’t be surprised if Florida’s future marketplace needs elude government formula.

■ Tampa Tribune



Roots and Boots kicks it ‘old school’ at FGC

If you attended the country music concert at Florida Gateway College Friday night, you saw a 90-minute flashback to the early 1990s. Joe Diffie, Aaron Tippin and Sammy Kershaw brought their “Roots and Boots” tour to the Howard Center.

I thought it was one of the best shows FGC has produced in its young concert series.

If you weren’t there, imagine the scene of the popular VH1 “Storytellers” series where an artist performs acoustic sets in a casual setting, discusses his work and showcases the raw talent he possesses.

The three gentlemen sat on stools at the front of the stage and were flanked by five musicians — three guitars and two keyboards — as they entertained.

The show was right-sized for the Howard Center and the setting really allowed the three past country stars to connect with a crowd that really seemed to appreciate their accomplishments and their genuine ability to perform.

Each of these guys’ careers broke on the scene in Nashville around 1990. They all told their



Todd Wilson
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stories about how long they played music before they landed a record deal. They described past jobs, honky tonks and what they did before their big break.

Each of the singers performed several of their hits that showcased their work. They did not sing every hit, but they each did a nice representation of their work. When one sang, the other two provided harmony.

Between the three guys, there are a total of 11 hits that made it to No. 1 on the country charts. Diffie has seven No.1 singles, Tippin has three and Kershaw has one. Tippin is the only one with a No. 1 in this century, with the lady-favorite “Kiss This” topping the charts in 2000.

If you were there, you witnessed

an historical moment because, according to reports, Diffie has signed a new record deal with another label and the “Roots and Boots” trio will dissolve after their current performance contracts are fulfilled. Besides the Lake City show, there are only a couple left.

FGC concerts continue to impress and offer an artistic variety for our community to enjoy. Congratulations to President Charles Hall and the Board of Trustees for believing the college was the proper organization to bring more entertainment options to Lake City.

FGC’s Mike McKee and his staff of dedicated personnel work diligently to secure sponsors and tackle the logistics required to take a show from a signed contract to a curtain-up performance. It’s an undertaking that always turns out smooth at showtime and the crowd appreciates it.

If it’s not on your radar, look for the upcoming shows that remain on this season’s schedule. Support the arts in Lake City.

■ Todd Wilson is publisher of the *Lake City Reporter*.

Beautiful, messy childhood

When Henry came to visit, he stood at the French doors in the living room, pressing his nose against the glass, and we talked, he and I, about trees and birds and passing clouds and other fine things that we love.

“Henry,” I said, “do you know what kind of trees those are?”

He grinned his smart Henry grin and said, “Palm trees!”

He was right, of course. Henry is my 2-year-old grandson. He has soft dark curls and chocolate brown eyes that shine with a light all their own. And he’s about 3 feet tall, a fact I just estimated by measuring from the nose prints he left on the glass and adding a few inches for the top of his head.

I wish you could see him. I wish I could see him, too, along with his cousins and their parents and uncles and aunts.

Talk about a beautiful mess. My husband and I share five grown children, their others, and four grandchildren, ages 3 and younger. They all live in California, 500 miles from our home in Las Vegas, a distance my mother would have called the far side of the moon. We visit often, but not often enough. That’s how it is with people who own your heart. Enough is never enough.

This morning I tried again to clean Henry’s nose prints off the glass. Couldn’t bring myself to do it. It’s been two weeks and I’m still not ready to let them go. Every time I walk through that



Sharon Randall
www.sharonrandall.com

room and see those nose-shaped smudges all lined up like fat little birds on a wire, I picture Henry standing there, grinning up at me, and I light up like Christmas, all over again.

Call me easy, but I’ve had similar reactions to various handprints and footprints, big and small, bathtub rings and turkey carcasses and empty pizza boxes and crushed beer cans and the inevitable stale Cheerio that I find on the floor after a visit from my children and grandchildren.

I love those things. They seem to say, “We all got together and had ourselves a good time.”

Years ago, I’d have seen them not as signs of a good time, but just stuff to clean up. I still clean them up, eventually. But I’m in no big rush to get rid of them.

Messy isn’t always a bad sign; sometimes it’s just a sign of life.

I wish I’d learned that sooner. I wish, when my children were growing up, I’d spent less time worrying about cleaning up after them and more time lighting up at the way they made me feel.

For the record, I always delighted in my children and my house was

often a mess. But I might not have minded so much had I known then what I know now: Today’s mess is tomorrow’s treasured memory.

Life, at its best, is messy and chaotic and unpredictable and basically beyond control. Especially with children.

A little order can do a lot for your peace of mind, and even for your sanity. But creating order should never be more important than finding joy — if only the joy of survival.

Looking back, I wish I could’ve saved every fort my oldest built in the living room. Every flower my daughter picked for me from the neighbor’s yard. Every note my youngest played on the piano or banged on the drums. All the things they said or did or drew or spilled or broke.

We can’t save all the pieces of our lives. But we can try to savor each piece as it comes along and remember it when it’s gone.

My daughter called last night to tell me a story. While reading to Henry, she had pointed to an illustration and asked, “What kind of tree is that?”

“Palm tree,” he said, quickly, “like Nana’s house.”

I will savor that. Long after his prints are washed from my windows, the memories will remain imprinted on my heart.

Meanwhile, I’ll keep hoping for another visit and a chance to make another beautiful mess.

■ Sharon Randall can be contacted at P.O. Box 777394, Henderson, NV 89077.

Lake City Reporter

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

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BY EMAIL: news@lakecityreporter.com

Marcele Curry celebrates 103rd birthday

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON
awilliamson@lakecityreporter.com

Marcele Curry has lived a century's worth of history — the Titanic's maiden, yet only, voyage; the Great Depression as it shook the world; Hitler as he raged across Europe; and the first American as he stepped on the moon.

On Thursday, she celebrated her 103rd birthday at the Health Center of Lake City.

"A nurse a while back wanted me to tell her what it was like in the old times," Curry said. "It's not like it is now. My grandmother didn't have a refrigerator or a washing machine. We got along without them."

Born in Dover, a small town on the outskirts of Plant City, Curry grew up working in the strawberry fields. She attended Cork Academy for high school and church. It was there she taught Sunday School before she married Leroy Curry, who would soon become a preacher.

Curry grew up with her two sisters, playing basketball and participating in chores around the home. Her mother would ask her to rake the yard or wash the clothes. Without a washing



AMANDA WILLIAMSON/Lake City Reporter
Marcele Curry celebrates her 103rd birthday at the Health Center of Lake City on Thursday. The staff bought her balloons and cupcakes to mark the occasion.

machine, the chore meant she had to wash the clothes in a pot outside, boil them and then put them through three pots of clean water. Finally, she had to hang

them on the line to dry.

After she married, she moved with her husband to various churches throughout Florida. The two settled in Branford,

and Leroy Curry preached at Parkview Baptist Church. Curry spent her free time sewing and tending the yard.

"Fishing, that was my husband's hobby and I went with him every once in a while," she said. Curry and her husband would travel to the banks of the nearby Suwannee River, and he would toss a line into the river's brown water.

Before Leroy passed away, Curry began to landscape their front yard. He died in 1984, before the project was finished. Yet, she continued to plant red-and-yellow flowers in her garden.

"And it was beautiful," she said. "The flowers were gorgeous. One lady even asked me who fixed up my yard."

Up until Curry reached her 90s, she worked her own yard — raking, weeding and planting her flowers. She has several bird baths and bird feeders scattered throughout the greenery. When the blue birds and cardinals visit, Curry loves to watch them.

"Whenever you take her driving, it's always the trees she notices," said Nancy Bond, Curry's granddaughter. "She's just been a blessing to everyone who has ever known her. She's an amazing woman — never

drank, never smoked and ate three balanced meals a day."

Curry has been at the Health Center of Lake City for about five weeks and hopes to return home next week. After Curry broke her hip, Bond placed her in the local rehabilitation center to recuperate.

"Nancy is the sweetest granddaughter there every was," Curry said. "She takes care of me. Everything there ever was, she takes care of it. She just watched over me."

In addition to participating in the activities of daily living, Curry attends therapy and visits with her granddaughter, Bond, every day.

"She asks a lot of the time why she's still here," Bond said. "We just always tell her that God's left her here for us. He's left her here to help us."

Curry had a son and a daughter, both already deceased. She also has four grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

For Curry's birthday, the Health Center staff celebrated by bringing her balloons and cupcakes from a nearby bakery.

"It's just another birthday," Curry said. "I'm not too elated about it."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Jan. 26

At the Library

Warren Catterson, author of "Table for Two: Back for Seconds," will be at the library on Sunday, Jan. 26 for a 2 p.m. program. Author and chef Warren Catterson has studied at the Southeast Institute of Culinary Arts in St. Augustine. Join us as we celebrate National Library Week with Chef Warren Catterson presenting a dynamic cooking demonstration and sharing tips and recipes from his cookbooks.

Pinkney Hills

The New Pinkney Hills Cemetery will have a meeting at the New Mount Salem Community Church on Sunday, Jan. 26 at 5 p.m. County Commissioner Scarlet Frisina will be there to discuss matters at hand. Call President Marion Wright at 754-8923 for more.

Jan. 27

Early Learning meeting

The Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway Inc., Executive/

Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 27 at 3:00 p.m. at the Coalition Office, 1104 SW Main Blvd. Call Stacey DePratter at 386-752-9770 for more.

Lake City Aglow

For the seventh year in a row, Lake City Aglow will usher in the new year with the ministry of Deborah Smith. She is the guest speaker at the Monday, Jan. 27 meeting to begin at 7 p.m. at the New Beginnings of Life Church, 184 SW Windswept Glen. Call 386-935-4018 for more.

Jan. 28

Pageant entries due

Applications for the Olustee Festival Pageant are due Tuesday, Jan. 28. The Pageant will be held Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Columbia County Schools Administrative Complex. Tiny Miss (13-23 months), Miniature (2-4 years), Little Miss (5-6 years), and Petite Miss (7-9 years) will compete at 3 p.m. Pre-Teen Miss (10-12 years), Junior Miss (13-15 years), and Miss Olustee (16-

20 years) will compete at 7 p.m. Pageant awards include educational scholarships, savings bonds, trophies, crowns and banners. The first place winners will ride in the Olustee Festival Parade on Feb. 15. The pageant is open to girls age 13 months to 20 years who reside or attend school in Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, Union or Suwannee Counties. The pageant will include talent, sportswear and photogenic categories. Applications may be obtained on www.olustee-festival.com or by contacting Elaine Owens at 386-965-2787.

Early Learning meeting

The Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway Inc., Program Quality Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 9:00 a.m. at the Coalition Office, 1104 SW Main Blvd. Call Stacey DePratter at 386-752-9770 for more.

Jan. 29

Early Learning meeting

The Early Learning Coalition of Florida's

Gateway Inc., board meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 9:00 a.m. at the Coalition Office, 1104 SW Main Blvd. Call Stacey DePratter at 386-752-9770 for more.

Jan. 30

Jewelry sale

The Hospital Auxiliary is sponsoring a one day Gold and Silver jewelry sale in the first floor conference room of the hospital on Jan. 30 from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the hospital.

Feb. 1

Annual WV Day

The Annual WV Day will be held Saturday, Feb. 1 at 1905 SW Epiphany Ct. The event will be catered. Call 386-984-6938 for more. RSVP deadline is January 22.

Tutor Training

The Columbia County Public Library literacy program needs volunteers to tutor English-speaking adults who would like to improve their reading and writing skills. A tutor training workshop will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 1 p.m. For more information, contact the literacy program at 386-758-2111 or email columbialiteracy@neflin.org.

Bird Walk

Four Rivers Audubon will sponsor its monthly Lake City Bird Walk at Alligator Lake on Saturday, Feb. 1. Meet at the pole barn at 8 a.m. Loaner binoculars are available. Contact Judge Mundy at 386-758-9558 for more.

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NETWORK

Continued From 1A

for any armed traffickers in Columbia County because of the partnerships we have."

The 14-month long investigation focused partly on the string of violent incidents surrounding the individuals, including four shootings—two fatal and two nonfatal—investigators believe they can track back to the suspects.

"These homicides were committed by members of this organization or at behest of it, or out of competition with this organization," he said. "We are not meaning to give the impression that all of these people are heavily armed. There were certain key enforcers and managers that controlled the operation."

According to Lockhart, there was even a kind of gun rental service the suspects could use during disputes with others involved.

While he was not at liberty to discuss the details, Lockhart said "numerous and extensive controlled purchases were made by undercover and confidential informants. Extensive electronic surveillance was also used."

Following the first story in Friday's edition of the Lake City Reporter, six more of the original 17 were booked and processed into the Columbia County Detention Facility on the following charges and bonds:

•Travice Davis, 25—possession of controlled substance and possession of controlled substance with intent to sell, \$60,000;

•Elijah Dunning, 49—possession of cocaine with intent to sell and the sale of cocaine, \$60,000;

•Michael Harper,



Davis



Dunning



Harper



Pierce



Wilson

•Lawyer West, 27—possession of controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, \$60,000.

Lockhart lauded the "crucial and important role" CCSO, LCPD, DEA, FDLE and the State Attorney's Office played through the course of the investigation.

"It truly was an equal, incredible partnership," he said.

He said to expect more details to emerge in the near future as law enforcement expect additional arrests and information during their ongoing investigation.

20—three counts of possession of a controlled substance and three counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, \$180,000;

•Roger Mayo, 54—two counts of possession of cocaine with intent to sell and two counts the sale of cocaine, \$120,000;

•Arnett Pierce, 29—possession of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, \$60,000;

OBITUARIES

Berndt "Benny" Paetzold

Mr. Berndt "Benny" Paetzold, 84 of Live Oak, passed away on Thursday, January 17, 2014 at the Suwannee Health Care Center in Live Oak. Mr. Paetzold was a son to German immigrants and had lived in the Live Oak area since 1995 and previously in Lake City with the late Clark and Evelyn Sirmans. When able, he enjoyed riding his bicycle and was of the Church of Christ faith.

He is survived by the family of Clark and Evelyn Sirmans. Graveside funeral services will be conducted on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 1:00 PM at Memorial Cemetery, Lake City, FL. Interment will follow. Arrangements are under the direction of **GUERRY FUNERAL HOME**, 2659 SW Main Blvd., Lake City. 386-752-2414

Bertha M. Sims

Mrs Bertha M. Sims passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 following an extended illness. She was 87 years old. She was the daughter of the late Franklin P. Stone and Allie Mae (Stone) Patterson. Mrs. Sims was born in Clarcona, Florida on June 11, 1926. She moved to Lake City from Orlando with her husband in 1945 after he returned from overseas service in WW II. She was a homemaker for many years, but later worked at Aero Corporation (now Timco) when it first opened. Her last years of employment were spent working in the dietary departments of Tanglewood (now Avalon) nursing home and Lake City Medical Center before retiring. She and her husband also owned a poultry farm for many years. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, crocheting, sewing and also helped

with many church activities. She had been a member of the Lake City Seventh Day Adventist Church for almost 60 years.

Bertha Sims is survived by her husband of 71 years, Gerald E. Sims, two daughters, Gerri (Charles) Clark, and Tess (Duffy) Soto and one son, Danny Sims, Sr. Her brother, Robert (Vivian) Stone, of Lake City also survives. She has seven grandchildren; Tina (Mark) Barta, Terri (Greg) May, Tracy (Wes) Davis, Tony Clark, Danny Sims, Jr. Jamie Sims, and Mandy (Ed) Smith; fifteen great grand children and three great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Funeral services will be conducted on Sunday, January 26, 2014 at 11:00 AM in the chapel of Guerry Funeral Home with Pastor Brenden White, Pastor of the Lake City Seventh Day Adventist Church, officiating. The family will receive visitors at the funeral home on Saturday from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Interment will be in Memorial Cemetery, Lake City, Fla. In addition to flowers, donations may be made to Haven Hospice Suwannee Valley Care Center at 6037 W US Hwy 90, Lake City, FL 32055. **GUERRY FUNERAL HOME**, 2659 S. W. Main Blvd. Lake City, FL is in charge of arrangements. Please sign the guestbook at www.guerryfuneralhome.net

William Alton Stansel

Mr. William Alton Stansel, 71, of Lake City, Florida passed away on January 21, 2014 at North Florida Regional Medical Center. He was born in Wellborn, Florida to Thomas and Nannie [Hiers] Stansel and had been a life long resident of Columbia County. He was a loving father and grandfather who enjoyed

playing golf, the Florida Gators, and spending time with his family and his dog Roscoe. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, Edward and Robert Stansel, and his sister, Hilda Dease

Survivors include his son, Kiley (Dana) Stansel of Sacramento, CA; daughter, Kelly (Darron) Lee of Lake City, FL; grandchildren, Hailey Stansel, Devin Lee, Megan Streetman, Taylor Barclay and Brittany Barclay.

A gathering of friends and family was held on Friday, January 24, 2014 at the funeral home.

GATEWAY-FOREST LAWN FUNERAL HOME, 3596 South US Hwy 441, Lake City, FL, 32025. (386) 752-1954. Please leave words of comfort for the family online at www.gatewayforestlawn.com

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

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PROJECT

Continued From 1A

Brown Road and complete associated infrastructure aspects, according to the FDOT.

The original bid had a completion date of Summer 2014, but according to FDOT District Two public information director Gina Busscher, Southern Development "probably won't meet that date."

"They are 23 percent finished with the work that needs to be done, but 50 percent of their time has elapsed," Busscher said Friday. "As of today, they have been given 74 extra days on their contract—27 for weather, 21 days for holidays, six days for utility conflicts and 20 days due to material-related procurement issues."

The next contractual completion date? Early September, 2014.

The project is a sore spot for local business owners who say they haven't seen any work done in the past three months.

"It's been a while—probably since mid-November," said Crystal Gest, Manager of a nearby Family Dollar. "They used to be out here every single day, but all of a sudden they just stopped."

The local business owners began to wonder if Southern Development was dealing with internal problems related to finances, management, or possibly even a bankruptcy.

"The bankruptcy rumors are unfounded," said Bill Mathews, the Southern Development's superintendent overseeing the construction. "Our manpower has been consolidated and moved to other jobs we're trying to complete at this time."

Representatives at the United States Bankruptcy Court, Middle District of Florida confirmed that no bankruptcy documents have been filed for Southern Development as of press time.

"We haven't abandoned the job site," Mathews said. "Southern [Development] anticipates getting back in there and finishing the project. We're really not concerned with the time factor...[The work] will go very fast once the infrastructure is in place...and anticipate we'll be finished well within that time."

He even said the claims that Southern Development hadn't done work since mid-November were untrue as well, saying they've had members of the crew at the site various days in November, December and January.

However, Mathews made no mention of details later revealed to a reporter by Busscher.

"Right now they are not working and have not been paid by FDOT the last two months," Busscher said. "They have eight subcontractors that have not been paid. They have to pay those people first before they get more money from the DOT."

In the worst-case scenario that Southern Development totally abandons the project for whatever reason, FDOT will step in to work with the contractor's bonding company to find a new team to finish the project.

"If they don't continue to do the work, we start negotiations with the bond company to get somebody out there to resume the work," Busscher said. "It has taken up to a year in certain cases. We're still waiting on Southern

Development to decide what they're going to do."

This is Southern Development's first project for the FDOT in Columbia County. They currently have other active projects in Duval County, as well.

Even if Southern Development returns to work tomorrow, they would still face damages should they pass the September deadline.

"If they go beyond their time, they would pay what's called 'liquidated damages,'" Busscher said. "Those range anywhere from \$1,000 to \$2,500 a day."

The FDOT is not legally able to pay the subcontractors. Rather, those companies would have to take legal action on their own.

Following a phone interview, Mathews did not respond to additional questions sent via email.

"It's been a nightmare," said Shanda Friend, owner of A Groom Above, a pet grooming business located in the heart of the construction on the corner of US 90 and Pinemount Road. "There's no way they're going to finish by the summer...We just want it finished. They've dug up and redid stuff so many times."

Carolyn Woolsey, who co-owns Floor and Decor/Cottage Casual and shares a parking lot with A Groom Above, said the increased traffic congestion has had a significant negative impact on her business.

"People have trouble turning in here because of the increase of traffic at the light," Woolsey said. "Sometimes the semi-trucks can't get in for flooring deliveries."

Andy Tong, owner of Happy Nails 2 in the shopping center near the intersection, said he may take action soon if something doesn't change.

"Our business has gone down about 30 to 40 percent since they started," Tong said. "I'm thinking about filing a claim with the Better Business Bureau if they don't get back to work."

Tony Richards, owner of CarQuest Auto Parts on Pinemount, said the construction made it difficult for both customers and deliveries to park at his property, going so far as to say his sales were down 50 percent.

"Sometimes the trucks had to stop in the middle of the road at night and take a cart back and forth to do deliveries," Richards said. "[Since November] sometimes we see them walking around, but they're not really doing much."

He said he believes Southern Development is trying to have as little of an impact as possible, but "every day they're still out working, it's hurting my business."

Busscher commented on the consequences should Southern Development leave the project with a tarnished reputation.

"They could be put on a list for companies not being able to bid for [DOT] projects in the state for a while," Busscher said. "Sometimes a year, sometimes indefinitely."

But whether FDOT will blacklist Southern Development depends on what happens before the contractor's new September 2014 deadline.

In the meantime, hundreds of feet of water piping and utility infrastructure remain strewn about the worksite, waiting to be installed.

"There's so much going on that's undone," Woolsey said. "As they say around here, 'git-r-done.'"

Fantazia Circus a family affair

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON
awilliamson@lakecityreporter.com

The tiny toy elephant trotted behind JJ the Clown as he cheered and whistled with the audience at the Fantazia Circus Friday afternoon. But soon, the toy began to weave, then it stumbled and then it fell down — it was completely out of battery life.

JJ twisted a large fake wind-up mechanism and up sprang the toy. It ran in circles, prancing and hopping before falling back to the ground. So, JJ wound him up again and again, but still the elephant didn't get up from the ground. He was broken.

The audience made a sad cry as the toy didn't move. But JJ picked up the elephant, stripped away its layers and a small dog emerged from the costume. Excited, the furry circus performer ran behind the curtain as the audience cheered after him.

For approximately an hour and 45 minutes, the Columbia County Fairgrounds was alive with sword-balancing acts, death-defying motorcycle stunts and mesmerizing aerial gymnastics.

"I love the circus," said Jeane Ybarra, ringmaster and circus performer. "I think I have sawdust in my veins. You know, when people go to the circus, there's always sawdust on



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

JJ the Clown pulls out a folding chair as he leaves four volunteers in an awkward position at the Fantazia Circus Friday.

the ring so that's what we say."

Ybarra is a fifth-generation circus performer and mother of the Ybarra Brothers, who perform on dirt bikes in the "Globe of Death." Ybarra's father used to own a circus in Brazil. She hopes to carry on his legacy. During the show, she corrals three dogs over hurdles and through hoops, as well as balances swords, fire and a flower pot on her head.

After an accident in 1991, she set aside an aerial act and picked up sword balancing.

"I like to see people happy," she said. "I like to take people out of their homes, away from the computer and get out to the circus. When you see people having fun with their kids, it's very nice."

As the building filled with colorful lights, festive music and the scent of popcorn, children and

their parents gathered around the circus ring. Flashes of color lit up the audience as children waved their flickering swords and magic wands. Pops of cotton candy blue stood out among the crowd.

Four-year-old Zina Marie couldn't get her cotton candy in her mouth quick enough. Her tiny fingers were tinged blue from the sugary food, but she chewed excitedly as she waited for the show to start.

After her school gave her a flyer for the show, she couldn't wait to go. Mostly, she was excited for the animals — and the cotton candy.

"My mommy got pink-flavored," she said. "I got blue-flavored."

Yesenia started the show with incredible contortionist moves, twisted her body into pretzel-like knots. Leonora Gabucio

followed her, performing aerial twists and turns on the silk ropes attached to the ceiling. Monica the Cowgirl hula-hooped her way into the audience's memory as she spun nearly 20 hoops on her waist at once. A collective gasp erupted from the small children.

Ali the Magician pulled flowers from nowhere and escaped from a closed box with a small child on top. Toward the end of the first half of the show, Chayane and Iran Rosales juggled metal cups, pins and hats. But what really drew the crowd's attention was when JJ the Clown pulled some participants to dance the YMCA and balance precariously on each other's laps.

Seven-year-old Savannah Charles loved the "Globe of Death" finale, impressed with her first experience at the circus.

"They just went faster and faster," she said. However, the elephant trick brought a smile to her face.

"It was tricky," she said. "At first, I thought it was a toy elephant. But really... I said, 'Oh man, a dog.'"

Savannah hopes to attend the Fantazia Circus next year. Until then, she was given a departing hug from Ringmaster Ybarra and a farewell.

"May all your days be Fantazia Circus days," Ybarra told the children and their parents.

PARK

Continued From 1A

skaters off of it," joked Bill Procko, the man behind the idea and fundraising. "And that's a good sign."

In February 2013, Procko, Tony Misiano (lead designer of the skate park) and a group of skateboarding children arrived at a town council meeting touting the benefits of having a skate park in the area.

"It's to encourage kids to get off the couch and do something physical," Procko said. "It's exciting to see kids find a passion in this like I did."

Procko, who now lives in O'Brien, was a sponsored amateur skater for several years and competed throughout the Southeast United States. He even built his own 10-foot high halfpipe on his property.

The park itself is designed around a "flow" concept where skaters can travel in a continuous, interpretive path around the park, and contains various skate park staples such as ramps, rails, bowl sections and more.

"It's sculpture with physics," said Misiano, owner of Misiano Skateparks. "We're all mathematicians—some of us are just dirtier than others," he joked. In efforts to cut cost, Misiano and his crew even camp in tents in Procko's front yard during the three months it took them to construct the facility.

Procko and Misiano received donations from many local businesses to get the park rolling. Procko thanked Suwannee American Cement, BP, S&S, Custom Pine Straw, Columbia Ready Mix Concrete, the Branford McDonald's, the Suwannee County Road Department and "anyone else I may have forgotten"

for making contributions to the park during the ribbon-cutting.

The park isn't limited to skateboards, either. Scooters and BMX bicycles are also welcome.

"We don't want to turn anyone away just because the kinds of wheels they like to use," Procko laughed.

Once Procko and members of the Branford town council cut the ribbon, skaters of all ages lined up to take turns performing grinds, grabs, ollies, kick-

flips and more.

Members of the Columbia High School Skate Club were out in force, as well.

"I think we should have a skate park in Lake City," said CHS Skate Club Treasurer Bobby Getzan. "Normally we have to drive to Gainesville, Tampa or Jacksonville. There aren't any skate parks in Lake City. Sometimes we find somewhere to skate and the cops tell us to leave."

Procko said he hopes to have tournaments and

charity events in the future, including those that could benefit his 10-year-old son, Evan, who was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. There is even construction underway for extensions to the park.

From beginners to professionals, the park caters to skaters of all talent levels and left plenty of room open for creative interpretation.

"It's like an empty canvas," Procko said. "Everyone puts their own art into it."

Columbia County Tobacco Free Partnership Meeting

The Columbia County Tobacco Free Partnership and the Columbia County Health Department have come together to form a partnership in order to create a tobacco free community. The partnership focuses on policies that effect our youth. In the New Year, we would like to focus on multi-unit housing cessation programs and promote the various tobacco cessation programs available to our community. We invite all community members, service workers, and school aged youth to attend the upcoming meeting to discuss tobacco-related issues in our county.



Columbia County Tobacco Free Partnership Meeting
134 SE Colburn Ave
Lake City, FL 32025

Monday, January 27, 2014
Time: 12:00pm

All partnership meetings are open to the public. For more information on how to make a difference in your community through your local Tobacco Free Partnership, please contact:

Shomari Bowden
Columbia County Health Department
(386) 758-1066 or Shomari.Bowden@flhealth.gov

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White Springs

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🌸 **January 27-31** - "Our Leading Lady"
with Alligator Community Theater

🌸 **February 3-7** - Blue Grey Army with Bud Thayer,
Cody Gray, and Tom Coleman

7 p.m. Monday-Friday
Only on Comcast Channel 8



OGBURN

Continued From 1A

to learn on my own. I do it by ear, I don't need backup music to sing on key. I feel like I don't need a vocal coach because I want to sing a song how I want to sing it, not like somebody else."

Much of her musical

influence comes from her uncle, father, grandfather and other family members.

However, she realizes the time will come when the judges test her ability to adapt to genres unfamiliar to her.

"Motown will be very different for me. I'm not going to be used to it and I won't know many of the songs," Ogburn said. "Everytime

I sing a different genre, I want to make it country."

As she prepares for the next step in a long road ahead, she draws inspiration from the support of her local community.

"Thank you for everyone in Lake City that's supported me," she said. "I know this is the greatest town I could be from because the support is amazing."

FACES & PLACES

Scenes from Saturday's Chamber of Commerce Ball and Annual Dinner at the Columbia County Fairgrounds.

Photos by **JASON MATTHEW WALKER** | *Lake City Reporter*



Gloria Markham and Dusty Markham.



Dennille Decker (from left), Abbie Chasteen and Tina Roberts.



Kat Cammack (from left), U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho (R-Gainesville) and Carolyn Yoho.



Heather Crawford (from left), Jessica Brinkley and Hope Crawford.



Michael Sexton and Jennifer Sexton.

CHAMBER

Continued From 1A

in advance, she said.

Following recognitions of past presidents, retiring directors, the current board of directors and Chamber Builders, exiting President Joel Foreman spoke to the 376-seat audience about his experience the past 12 months.

"I'm happy to report to you all tonight that your Chamber is very strong, very self-reliant and full of enthusiasm for our business community," Foreman said.

He then focused on three

highlights during his time as Chamber president:

- "Retail Strategies is another example of this Chamber partnering with our city and county to really try to improve the quality of life for folks in Columbia County. We've got outside consultants coming in, trying to identify opportunities for [businesses] to come in," he said, adding it was his goal to make Lake City-Columbia County competitive with cities like Gainesville, Jacksonville and Valdosta.

- "In 2013, we focused on The Ichetucknee Partnership," Foreman said. "I am personally very proud of what TIP has

accomplished. A quick way to know if it's working—talk to any school kid in Columbia County and ask them who Bellamy is...We're doing things that are going to affect our springs for a generation."

- "We've retained about 90 percent of our members year-to-year," he said. "In fact, it's about 15 points higher than comparable chambers. That's a reflection I think of our membership and what we do."

Foreman then "passed the buck" to newly-elected President John Kuykendall, who also offered a few words.

"It's a great honor to be president of a Chamber that's so viable and has so much

going on," Kuykendall said. "Our area of emphasis this year is going to continue to be Retail Strategies. I am just so excited about what they're doing."

He lauded Lake City as a great place to live, relating it to 1960s Gainesville, saying there was no place he would rather live.

The Chamber then held an auction for the honor to house "Pat" the Chamber Champion, a taxidermied alligator head that derives its name from Alpata, the Seminole word for "Alligator" and original name of Lake City pre-1859.

And in an oddly appropriate twist of fate, Pat's new home

will be at Gator's Dockside following owner Jerry Roberts' winning bid of \$1,255.

"It feels great, I'm very excited," Kuykendall said of being the new president following the presentations. "I look forward to continuing work with Retail Strategies. It's very important to the community to keep shoppers here. We want people to shop and live in Lake City."

He also looked forward to continuing efforts like Get Fit Lake City, citing Columbia County's obesity problem and his desire to make Lake City one of the fittest in the state.

"It's going to be a great year," he said.



Lianping Rowland (from left), Liqing Hart and Yaping Morgan.



Kristi Feagle and Mark Feagle.



Lisa Waltrip and Greg Waltrip.



Boras Ochsenius (from left), Whitney Mynatt, Sabrina Roberts and Jerry Roberts.



Allison McGrath and Matt McGrath.

THE WEATHER

26 SUN Partly cloudy Light wind HI 61 LO 49	27 MON Chance of rain showers HI 67 LO 43	28 TUE Chance of rain showers HI 52 LO 34	29 WED Partly cloudy HI 49 LO 29	30 THU Mostly sunny HI 56 LO 34
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REGIONAL FORECAST MAP for Sunday, Jan. 26

Sunday's highs/Sunday night's low

City	Monday	Tuesday
Cape Canaveral	78/61/sh	71/51/sh
Daytona Beach	75/54/sh	62/46/sh
Fort Myers	80/61/pc	76/52/pc
Ft. Lauderdale	81/66/pc	79/64/pc
Gainesville	69/47/sh	55/37/sh
Jacksonville	68/45/sh	52/36/sh
Key West	78/68/pc	77/65/pc
Lake City	69/47/sh	55/37/sh
Miami	81/66/pc	80/65/pc
Ocala	71/49/sh	58/40/sh
Orlando	76/56/sh	66/47/sh
Panama City	64/37/r	49/29/r
Pensacola	63/36/sh	43/29/sh
Tallahassee	66/35/r	49/23/r
Tampa	73/56/r	67/45/sh
Valdosta	64/36/r	48/26/r
W. Palm Beach	80/65/pc	78/59/pc

NATIONAL FORECAST: A storm system will produce widespread snow from the Upper Midwest, through the Great lakes and into the upper Ohio Valley. Snow will fall along and behind a cold front from the Northern Rockies to the Northern Plains.

NATIONAL FORECAST MAP

3 p.m. today

YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL EXTREMES High: 77°, Lompoc, CA Low: -11°, Waskish, MN

LAKE CITY ALMANAC

TEMPERATURES

	SUN
High Saturday	61 Sunrise today 7:24 a.m.
Low Saturday	39 Sunset today 6:02 p.m.
Normal high	67 Sunrise tom. 7:23 a.m.
Normal low	43 Sunset tom. 6:03 p.m.
Record high	85 in 1950
Record low	16 in 1905

PRECIPITATION

Saturday	0.00"
Month total	0.20"
Year total	0.20"
Normal month-to-date	2.60"
Normal year-to-date	2.60"

MOON

Moonrise today	2:59 a.m.
Moonset today	1:52 p.m.
Moonrise tom.	4:00 a.m.
Moonset tom.	2:51 p.m.

Jan 30 New Feb 6 First Feb 14 Full Feb 22 Last

UV INDEX

5

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

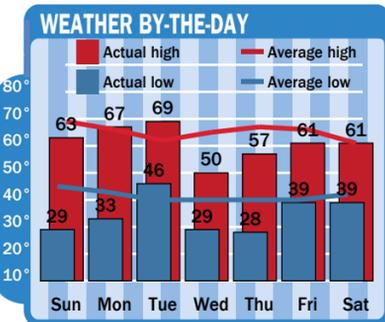
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The Weather Channel
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CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today
	Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Hi/Lo/W
Albany NY	78/71/0.00	84/66/pc	Des Moines	39/19/0.00	40/-3/sn	Oklahoma City	66/35/0.00	66/20/pc
Albuquerque	45/24/0.00	56/27/pc	Detroit	28/17/0.03	25/7/sn	Omaha	44/28/0.00	43/-2/pc
Anchorage	36/30/0.06	40/35/fg	El Paso	55/31/0.00	68/39/pc	Orlando	70/45/0.01	72/57/pc
Atlanta	46/17/0.00	48/37/pc	Fairbanks	28/21/0.00	29/17/pc	Philadelphia	26/19/0.04	22/22/pc
Baltimore	28/19/0.00	27/23/pc	Greensboro	-18/0.00	42/30/pc	Phoenix	72/60/0.00	75/49/pc
Billings	45/32/0.00	34/5/sn	Hartford	30/15/0.00	18/16/pc	Pittsburgh	25/19/0.03	26/20/sn
Birmingham	44/23/0.00	51/37/pc	Honolulu	75/63/0.00	78/65/sh	Portland ME	32/15/0.00	16/12/pc
Bismarck	32/15/0.04	28/-12/sn	Houston	55/28/0.00	67/54/pc	Portland OR	43/30/0.00	47/34/s
Boise	24/22/0.00	28/24/pc	Indianapolis	32/19/0.04	32/2/sn	Raleigh	-18/0.00	44/30/pc
Boston	37/15/0.00	19/19/pc	Jackson MS	57/21/0.00	60/41/cd	Rapid City	47/36/0.00	38/-2/sn
Buffalo	24/15/0.06	19/13/fl	Jacksonville	57/36/0.00	58/49/pc	Reno	46/24/0.00	57/24/pc
Charleston SC	55/16/0.00	53/38/pc	Kansas City	47/40/0.00	53/8/pc	Sacramento	66/41/0.00	71/35/pc
Charleston WV	28/24/0.08	36/28/pc	Las Vegas	61/48/0.00	67/42/pc	Salt Lake City	35/19/0.00	38/21/pc
Charlotte	39/19/0.00	43/31/pc	Little Rock	59/30/0.00	64/42/pc	San Antonio	34/30/0.03	74/46/pc
Cheyenne	54/33/0.00	42/8/pc	Los Angeles	75/57/0.00	68/53/pc	San Diego	69/62/0.00	63/55/fg
Chicago	33/15/0.00	26/-5/sn	Memphis	52/28/0.00	57/29/pc	San Francisco	60/50/0.00	58/49/pc
Cincinnati	34/19/1.16	34/10/sn	Miami	75/54/0.00	76/66/pc	Seattle	43/33/0.00	49/38/fg
Cleveland	30/19/1.17	26/10/sn	Minneapolis	19/1/0.00	17/-18/sn	Spokane	28/26/0.00	31/26/pc
Columbia SC	44/37/0.00	53/7/pc	Mobile	57/30/0.00	60/48/pc	St. Louis	42/37/0.00	53/8/pc
Dallas	63/30/0.00	68/34/pc	New Orleans	52/32/0.00	61/50/pc	Tampa	62/45/0.00	71/60/cd
Daytona Beach	68/42/0.02	69/57/pc	New York	28/21/0.00	21/20/pc	Tucson	69/57/0.00	72/42/s
Denver	40/32/0.00	50/30/pc	Oakland	62/43/0.00	64/41/pc	Washington	32/23/0.00	29/26/pc



WEATHER HISTORY

The world record for 12-hour rainfall was set on this date in 1980 when Grand Let in the South Indian Ocean (east of Madagascar) recorded 46 inches of rain. The 24-hour rainfall record belongs to Cilaos on La Reunion Island (76 inches of precipitation) and was set in 1952.

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INTERNATIONAL

CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today	CITY	Saturday	Today
	Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco	86/71/0.00	87/75/s	La Paz	50/41/0.00	55/39/ts	Rio	96/75/0.00	96/75/pc
Amsterdam	41/37/0.00	41/39/pc	Lima	82/71/0.00	80/69/cd	Rome	55/41/0.00	51/32/pc
Athens	62/51/0.00	62/46/pc	London	53/42/0.00	53/35/pc	San Juan PR	84/73/0.00	82/75/sh
Auckland	75/55/0.00	75/64/s	Madrid	62/44/0.00	60/39/s	Santiago	82/66/0.00	82/66/ts
Beijing	44/24/0.00	44/19/pc	Mexico City	69/46/0.00	71/44/s	Seoul	50/35/0.00	44/19/sn
Berlin	17/6/0.00	15/8/s	Montreal	21/14/0.00	22/-13/sn	Singapore	82/75/0.00	84/73/pc
Buenos Aires	71/55/0.00	77/68/s	Moscow	10/-7/0.00	6/-2/fg	St. Thomas VI	82/72/0.00	84/74/r
Cairo	78/51/0.00	73/60/s	Nairobi	82/57/0.00	82/55/s	Sydney	71/67/0.00	71/62/pc
Geneva	37/26/0.00	41/35/pc	Nassau	77/68/0.00	77/66/pc	Tel Aviv	71/46/0.00	73/55/s
Havana	78/59/0.00	80/55/pc	New Delhi	57/50/0.00	64/48/pc	Tokyo	55/37/0.00	57/53/cd
Helsinki	23/-7/0.00	19/3/fg	Oslo	44/37/0.00	46/33/pc	Toronto	28/21/0.00	28/6/sn
Hong Kong	69/62/0.00	69/64/r	Panama	87/77/0.00	87/75/ts	Vienna	30/15/0.00	26/12/s
Kingston	86/75/0.00	86/75/ts	Paris	50/37/0.00	46/35/cd	Warsaw	8/0/0.00	10/8/s

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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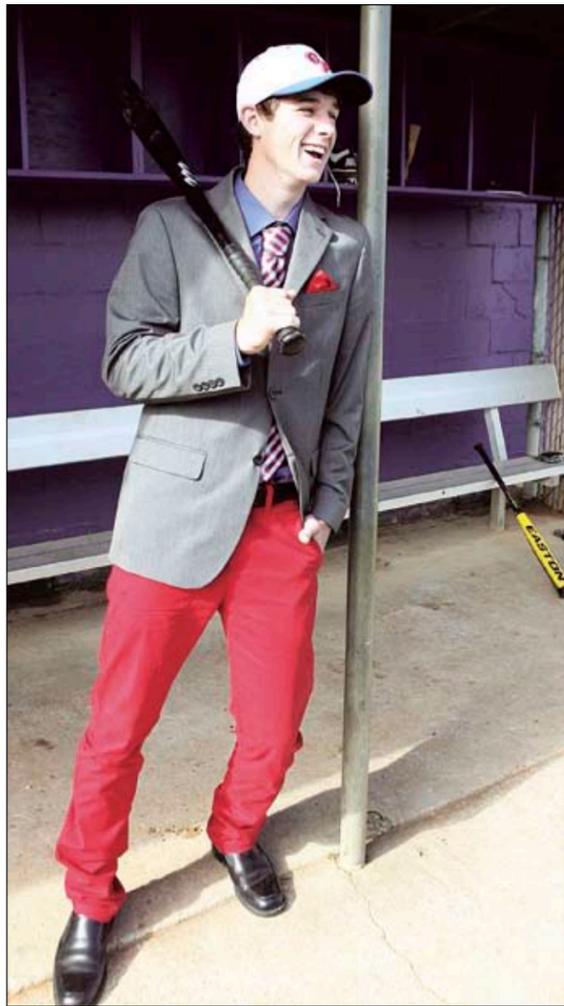


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Next-level athletes



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Columbia High's Daulton Mauldin signed with the College of Central Florida in Ocala on Tuesday.

Mauldin signs with the College of Central Florida

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

Columbia High shortstop Dalton Mauldin became the first player for the Tigers to sign a scholarship this season by inking a deal to play with the College of Central Florida in Ocala on Tuesday.

Mauldin said it was an easy choice to sign with

Central Florida after a visit.

"I went down and talked to coach Marty Smith and he wanted me to do a workout," Mauldin said. "He showed me around the school and it was a really nice facility. It's perfect really. It's all you could want. The school is real nice and they have a very nice gym."

MAULDIN continued on 2B



BRANDON FINLEY/Lake City Reporter

Columbia High's Deontae Crumitie has committed to the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Battle, Crumitie commit to UAB

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

The University of Alabama-Birmingham picked up a package deal of Columbia High football players with cornerback Roc Battle and left tackle Deontae Crumitie.

The two seniors helped lead the Tigers to 10-win seasons in each of the last

two years.

The two players committed earlier last week, but without a head coach in place, Columbia head coach Brian Allen said that it would depend on whether the new head coach would accept the commitment.

Former Jacksonville State head coach Bill Clark

CHS continued on 2B



BRANDON FINLEY/Lake City Reporter

Columbia High's Roc Battle has committed to the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Michael may not recognize Lowyn. But 8 months ago his cooling technique saved her life.



UFHealth
 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA HEALTH

UFHealth.org

When Lowyn Yancey was born, a pinched umbilical cord kept her brain from getting oxygen for several minutes. A cooling technique developed by Dr. Michael Weiss at UF Health helped her brain recover, and today she's a healthy little girl. Michael and Lowyn share an important, if invisible, connection – one that helps us move medicine forward.

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Section C

Valerie's settling into new home

CARC's thrift store partner has gained many new clients.

By TONY BRITT
tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

Sometimes a change in location can provide a business with renewed energy and vigor — and hopefully increased sales.

For Valerie's Resale, a thrift store whose proceeds benefit CARC - Advocates for Citizens with Disabilities, a new location has provided new enthusiasm and some new clientele.

CARC, which provides services for physically or mentally challenged clients, serves more than 50 people in the area.

Valerie's Resale has been at its current location since last fall. The business was formerly located on Marion Avenue.

Stephen Bailey, CARC executive director, said the move to the new locale gives the store more exposure.

"We've gained a different clientele as well as maintained the clientele we had before," he said. "Altrusa helped us by bringing in volunteers that actually helped us do the sorting of the merchandise



TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

Cindy Creel, Valerie's Resale manager, organizes "Sound of Music" collectible plates on the store's shelf. Proceeds raised at the store benefit clients of CARC-Advocates for Citizens with Disabilities.

and go through inventory backlog that had been sitting in the old store."

Valerie's Resale, 2535 NW Bascom Norris

Drive, Suite 101, is open on Monday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Tuesday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Furniture, clothing, household goods, linens, shoes, hats, pocket books and a variety of other items are on sale.

"We survive off of donations from the community," Bailey said. "Donations are a huge help to us. The proceeds from Valerie's

Resale helps fund the mission of CARC. The ultimate goal of the move

CARC continued on 2C



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Ask the Fool

Why No Dividend?

Why do some companies pay no dividends, and why would anyone invest in them? — J.L., Charlotte, N.C.

A company can do several things with its earnings, such as reinvest it in the business, pay it out to shareholders as a dividend, pay down debt and/or buy back shares. (Reducing the number of shares outstanding makes each remaining share worth more.)

Some companies, typically smaller, younger or faster-growing ones, often need to put all their earnings toward growth. Yahoo! and Roomba maker iRobot, for example, pay no dividend, while Starbucks only started paying one in 2010.

Dividends are attractive because they offer a relatively reliable income that tends to increase over time if the company remains healthy. (The Motley Fool owns shares of Starbucks, and its newsletters have recommended Starbucks, iRobot and Yahoo!)

Struggling companies may reduce or eliminate their payouts, as RadioShack has done. But strong, growing firms with meager or no dividends can still reward you well, as their stock prices advance.

While some investors seek hefty dividends payers (a free trial of our "Motley Fool Income Investor" newsletter at fool.com/shop will introduce you to a bunch), others seek more aggressive growers. A combination can work well, too.

What are "defensive" stocks? — R.C., Detroit

Defensive stocks are tied to companies whose fortunes don't fluctuate too much in relation to the economy. During a recession, people might delay buying cars or fancy jewelry, but they'll still buy groceries, fuel, medicine, electricity and diapers.

Food, tobacco, energy and pharmaceuticals, for example, are defensive industries. They're seen as more stable than their "cyclical" counterparts, such as the homebuilding, steel, automobile and airline industries. Cyclical industries aren't necessarily to be avoided, but expect some bumpiness.

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



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4 Reasons Not to Short Stocks

If you're thinking of "shorting" stocks, think again. Shorting stocks essentially reverses the "Buy low, sell high" rule. In a nutshell, via your broker, you borrow and sell shares of a stock that you expect to fall. You later have to buy them back (hopefully at a lower price) to replace them. So you're aiming to sell high and then buy low.

Shorting stocks can be fun and profitable, but it's risky:

(1) For starters, in general, stocks and the stock market tend to rise over time, so you'll be swimming against the current. Stocks in the S&P 500 have gained, on average, 9 percent annually between 1928 and 2012. Those who short stocks are betting against the odds and history.

(2) Being wrong can be very costly. When you're "long" in a stock, having bought it in the usual way, you can lose up to 100 percent of your money, but your gains could

be huge — 100 percent, 500 percent or more. With shorting, if the stock falls to zero, your maximum gain is only 100 percent of your money. But if it keeps rising and you keep waiting and hoping, you can lose much more than your initial investment.

(3) Being right doesn't always work out, either. You might find a company that seems guaranteed to fail, with poor leadership, no profits, significant cash burn, a missing or shrinking competitive edge, scandals or investigations. Still, despite your very reasonable thinking, the company might remain in business much longer than expected, and its stock could even rise. The stock market isn't always a sensible place, at least in the short run.

(4) The costs are steep. Depending on the broker and the stock, you might face fees. If you're using margin while shorting, you'll be charged margin interest on your borrowings. And if the shorted stocks pay dividends, you'll be responsible for paying them. That can add up.

The best way to make money in stocks is to buy high-quality companies at good prices and hold for the long term.

My Dumbest Investment

Hook, Line and Sinker

Early in my attempts at investing, I got a flier with information about Bodytel, a developer of wireless telemedical devices. (I don't think it even exists anymore.) I did no due diligence on the stock. I fell for the hype hook, line and sinker.

I lost almost every cent, but it taught me never to invest without checking up on where I was putting my money, no matter how great an opportunity it seems to be. Even though I lost money, the experience made me a better, and more careful, investor. — L.F., online

The Fool Responds: Bodytel was a penny stock and serves as a great example of why such stocks are usually best avoided. Bodytel had a Bluetooth-enabled blood glucose meter to offer, and that might have had many investors intrigued, but an exciting story and prospects are not enough. A glance at one of its 2007 earnings reports would have shown zero revenue and growing losses.

If an investment seems too good to be true, it very well may be. Great investments generally don't need people hawking them via fliers.

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



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The Motley Fool Take

Brewing Profits

Shares of Starbucks (Nasdaq: SBUX) advanced about 40 percent in 2013 and have averaged roughly 17 percent annually over the past decade. It's still an attractive portfolio candidate.

With more than 13,000 stores in the Americas already, it's reasonable to expect U.S. sales growth to slow. But there's more to Starbucks. For one thing, it has a strong international presence, with much more room to grow. (It boasts more than 19,000 stores in more than 60 countries.)

Starbucks stores in China, for example, have been enjoying robust sales growth. The company opened 317 new stores there in 2013 and plans to open 750 in 2014. Management and investors have high hopes for India, too, as there has been a very positive customer response to Starbucks' recent entry there.

Starbucks is also moving beyond coffee. It now owns and offers La Boulange bakery products, Evolution Fresh juices and Teavana teas. With Teavana, management believes that Starbucks can "do for tea what it's done for coffee" by growing and expanding the tea industry and the tea bar concept while introducing a wide array of handcrafted tea beverages and tea-inspired food.

Meanwhile, Starbucks also offers its wares through supermarkets, and in recent years has introduced its Verismo single-cup espresso machine, its Starbucks Card mobile payment system, and more.

Starbucks stock offers a dividend yield near 1.3 percent, too.

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

Founded in 1868 on Avery Island, La., I'm still run there by the same family. I'm known for a red sauce that was reportedly developed in the 1860s with Capsicum frutescens peppers. The peppers are mixed with salt and vinegar and aged in oak barrels. My little bottles are labeled in 22 languages and dialects, and you'll find them for sale in more than 165 countries and territories. The world's most famous pepper sauce, it's found in soldiers' rations and on restaurant tables, too. I'm privately held, though, so you can't buy stock in me. Who am I? (Answer: McIlhenny)



Outdoor-gear expo has luxury for people, dogs

By PAUL FOY
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Wilderness gear is going soft, and not just for people. Dogs are getting their own luxury outdoor items.

A trend at the world's largest outdoor-gear trade show is equipment and apparel that's also fashionable, easy to use or comfortable — from roomy spoon-shaped sleeping bags and pillow-top air mattresses to espresso makers and camp stoves that do double duty boiling water and charging electronic devices. Other vendors offer rugged leashes, life vests and even energy bars just for dogs.

Barebones Inc., maker of a \$2,000 safari-style tent, held a "glamping" festival at last summer's Outdoor Retailer expo, which featured a wider assortment of luxury gear than the winter show. Glamping stands for glamorous camping, and the Utah company says the 160-pound tent lets people enjoy the outdoors without having to rough it.

With network and cable news anchors sporting jackets by The North Face on camera in the field, manufacturers don't have to be reminded that backwoods fashion has hit the mainstream.

"We don't pay for anything like that, but we like it when anyone wears our high-quality products," said Todd Spaletto, president of The North Face.

Peter Metcalf, CEO of Salt Lake City-based Black Diamond Inc., introduced U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to his company's "soft" and "sensual" line of jackets and stretch-woven pants as the Outdoor Retailer Winter Market opened Wednesday. About 22,000 people are in

Salt Lake City for the expo that runs through Saturday.

Jewell was CEO of Recreational Equipment Inc., or REI, for more than a decade before joining President Barack Obama's cabinet last year. She was wearing a fleecy white REI jacket.

The merchandise bazaar for a lifestyle of outdoor adventure brings together 1,000 of the world's manufacturers and distributors.

The expo has taken place in Utah since 1996 and pours \$40 million into the local economy annually.

Attendance is up 40 percent since 2006, according to the show's organizer, Nielsen Expo Outdoor Group. The twin show in August brings out a larger crowd and is dominated by water sports.

Registered dogs are welcome even if the public is not. Nearly a dozen vendors at this week's show are hawking specialized pooch gear, and dog parties are part of the activity on the show floor.

The dog outfitters say they're going after a \$53 billion pet industry and taking spoils from the big chains like PetSmart Inc. and Petco.

Kurgo Dog Products, from Salisbury, Mass., makes a jump seat that can restrain a dog inside a moving car. Also on display are rugged leashes, collars, harnesses and booties.

Competitors bow to Ruffwear Inc., the leader of the pack. Soon after he started making collapsible water and food bowls in 1994, the company's founder, Patrick Kruse, was selling 8,000 a month to retailer L.L. Bean. Now he sells 47 different dog products, including a life jacket.

"We were the first to give dog products an outdoor perspective," Kruse said.

and once they bring them out on the floor, they put the clothes up," she said. "The work teaches them to put the clothes in the right category."

Creel said she enjoys her work.

"I like working here because of the customers," she said. "We get the same customers in here week after week and you get to know your customers. We're a very good organization and we do a lot. The people in the community help us out a lot because everything we get in here is donated to us. We depend a lot on the people in the community."

CARC

Continued From 1C

was to increase the revenue to help us increase the amount of money that we're able to put back into the clients' programs and it has done that for us. It's helped to have an increase in sales."

Cindy Creel, Valerie's Resale manager, said about eight CARC clients also work at the store.

"They come down here and sort through clothes, hang them on the racks

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Fabulous and unique, this Arthur Rutenberg floor plan, built by Bryan Zecher Homes blends the traditional and contemporary in a spacious and innovative new design. The design features include recessed ceilings in the great room and master suite, 90-degree sliding glass doors opening to the Lanai between the great room and casual dining room, the kitchen features a large island with curved seating bar that is open to the casual dining room and great room, the master suite showcases dual vanities, walk-in shower, private water closet and oversized walk-in closet. The private den/office or flex room offers another great space to the traditional 3 bedroom plan. MLS #5059 \$229,000



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PUBLIC NOTICE
ON INVITATION TO BID
ITB-001-2014
Sealed bids will be accepted by the City of Lake City, Florida, 205 N Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida 32055 until February 20, 2014 at 11:00 A.M. at which time all bids will be opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers located on the 2nd floor of City Hall, 205 N Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida. **PRICE CREEK WATER TREATMENT PLANT NEW ACCESS ROAD CONSTRUCTION**
Bid specifications may be viewed on the City website: procurement.lcfla.com or at www.demandstar.com. Contact the Procurement Department at (386) 719-5816 or (386) 719-5818 for more information.

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Moses achieves membership in 2014 Chairman's Council

From staff reports

Philip J. Moses, Jr., CPA/PFS, financial advisor, was recently named a member of the 2014 Chairman's Council.

Chairman's Council honors are presented only to those financial advisors who have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to personal service and professional integrity. Members of the Chairman's Council represent the top echelon of the firm's financial advisors, which is a privilege limited to a select few.

This marks the 8th con-



Moses

through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC.

Moses, who joined Raymond James in 1998, has more than 41 years of experience in the financial services industry.

About Raymond James Financial

Raymond James Financial (NYSE-RJF) is a

Florida-based diversified holding company providing financial services to individuals, corporations and municipalities through its subsidiary companies. Its three principal wholly owned broker/dealers, Raymond James & Associates, Raymond James Financial Services and Raymond James Ltd., have approximately 6,200 financial advisors serving approximately 2.5 million accounts in approximately 2,500 locations throughout the United States, Canada and overseas. In addition, total client assets are approximately \$436 billion.

Housing market to grow at slower pace in 2014 — but still growing

From staff reports

ORLANDO — The year 2013 was a good year for many Florida homeowners and homebuyers — thanks to low mortgage rates, high home affordability, strong home price growth, increasing home values and a steadily improving jobs market, according to economists at Florida Realtors' 2014 Real Estate and Economic Summit Tuesday in Orlando.

This year should bring continued growth in the state's housing sector, said Florida Realtors' Chief Economist John Tuccillo, though at a slower pace than in 2013 due to changing market and economic conditions.

"The real estate market is going to grow, and we'll probably see about a 10 percent increase in residential sales," Tuccillo said. "Home values will rise at roughly about five percent a year, which is in line with historical trends. In the last 18 months, home values have gone up about 12 percent — I don't think we'll see that [this] year."

In addition, Tuccillo said the commercial market will continue its modest recovery in 2014.

Freddie Mac Vice President and Chief

Economist Dr. Frank Nothaft agreed with Tuccillo's assessment. He predicted U.S. home sales would grow about five to six percent in 2014, with home sales rising in Florida as well.

"The median time on the market for a Florida home is down to about a month and a half," Nothaft said. "We're seeing that in every single price point class. Clearly the market has improved substantially. And the amount of vacant housing oversupply (nationally) is the least in 10 years."

Nothaft dismissed fears that 2013's rising home prices could signal another real estate "bubble" in the making, noting that the current increases are "off a really low price base" and prices remain well below their peak before the mortgage crisis.

"Prices are nowhere near where they were in 2006," Nothaft added. "Looking at national trends, about two years after that, on average, prices fell about 50 percent. A house worth \$400,000 fell to about \$200,000 in 2008. Even with the price gains we've seen since then, that house is worth about \$250,000 now — so I don't see that as a bubble."

Mortgage rates will gradually rise in 2014 as the

Federal Reserve discusses tapering back its bond-buying program, he said. "Mortgage rates have gone from dirt cheap to cheap and now I expect them to rise to low — maybe 5 to 5.5 percent toward the end of next year — still very low to where they've been historically," Nothaft pointed out.

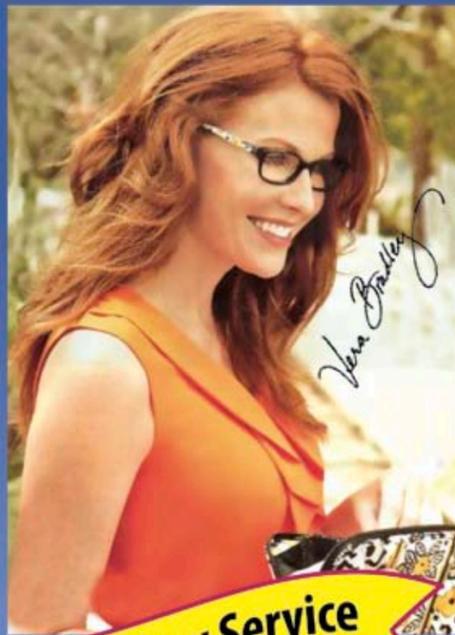


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TRAVEL TALES



Sandy Kishton

Zip lining is a do-not-miss experience

It was our first time attempting a zip line. On one of our road trips, Sue Towns and I found ourselves in Rockbridge, Ohio at Hocking Hills Canopy Tours. We were both excited and nervous. They started by harnessing us up, providing us with a helmet and gloves then did a ground training session to show you how to brake and, if necessary, pull yourself back up if you stop short and get stuck. We couldn't imagine if that really happened – hanging in the air in the middle of the line between two trees with nothing but space and the ground below. Then we came to the start of the canopy tour. It's called a canopy tour because we were literally going through the woods just under the tree tops or canopy. When we received our instructions, it was all a little overwhelming and somewhat intimidating because it seemed like we had to remember a lot of information. Then as we got to the first platform to zip, it was a little scary.

TRAVEL continued on 4D



Martha Ann Ronsonet

Even for gardeners, the cold is welcome

The garden is always changing, which is not necessarily a bad thing. Trees and shrubs grow and mature, changing sunny areas into shade gardens, and giving a different appearance to our landscape in time, but they also die and you may suddenly have a sunny spot. It may open up an opportunity for a new look or a place for a special plant you've admired. We've finally had a few cold snaps for North Florida this year. Not the coldest I can remember, but enough to make it look as if winter has arrived. On the bright side, the cold may help control a few pesky insects and invasive plants or weeds. I have a few special plants that are borderline cold hardy or tropical and need protection to survive. I love the frost cloth that is available at garden centers. It's lightweight, easy to handle and reasonably priced. It can be left on the plants for a while (days)

GARDEN continued on 4D



Plugged in

Fort White students receive OSHA, NCCER certifications

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON
awilliamson@lakecityreporter.com

With a large percentage of electrical distribution workers nearing retirement, Fort White High School is working to prepare its students for the vacant positions with industry-specific certifications.

Though an average day may catch Marcus Bell's class in the Energy Academy hanging from the ceiling to test a harness or studying construction knots, the students learn how to work with electricity and alternative energy through hands-on activities.

"Our plan is to offer every kid the chance to be well rounded for their every day life," said Fort White High School principal Keith Couey. "The more I can provide our kids with hands-on activities, the better off they will be. ... If they can touch it, they can learn it. If they learn it, they can know if they like it or not."

According to Bell, the program gives students a jump-start to take over jobs in the electrical industry. By the time students finish the Energy Academy, they will be certified with the National Center for Construction, Education and Research for Electrical Level One and with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The Energy Academy takes two years.

When they finish, students will be qualified to work as an entry-level commercial or residential electrician or in electrical distribution. Classes include introduction to construction math, hand tools and blueprints, as well as electrical safety, electrical theory and electrical code.

"I figured [the program] would give me something to fall back on," said Energy Academy "I'm still not sure what I want to do, just take some college and see what happens."

For Pierce and most of the students, the academy is challenging but fun. Pierce's favorite aspect of the class is the hands-on activities, since he isn't one for book work.

Already he has acquired his OSHA certification and his NCCER certification in electrical level one.

"It's nice," he said. "I figured it's one thing I won't have to do later on in life."



COURTESY

Zachary O'Sickey, (from left) Kameron Herschleb, Robert Alford and Jeremy Martin work on a circuit testing unit in the Energy Academy at Fort White High School.

Many employers are now requiring their employees to have an OSHA certification prior to employment. Responsibility usually falls on the job seeker, which means they could end up paying \$135 to \$350 for the certification.

Through Fort White High School, the certification is free to students.

"When I'm trying to find a job and get some money, these classes give me something to put down on a resume," Pierce said.

Since starting the program, he has used the skills to work on his car and help his grandmother around her house. He's wired her dishwasher and fixed her breaker box —both tiny fixes that could cost big money if she had to call a professional electrician, Bell said.

Bell plans to work with the teachers at Fort White High School to provide them

with basic OSHA training to carry into their respective classes.

"Every one of the subjects, the first chapter in the book is always safety," he said.

Assistant Principal of FWHS Mary Keen agrees, adding that regardless of whether its clinical or the land lab the school's students need to know the safety requirements.

Thirty-four students acquired OSHA 10 certification this year, 29 earned the NCCER Core and three earned the electrical NCCER. Seven of those students have now progressed to learning about alternative energy, such as solar panels and wind turbines.

Next year, the school may start an eighth-grade pre-apprentice program. Since the program's start, the school has partnered with Gainesville Regional Utilities to provide on-site knowledge to Bell and Progress-Duke Energy.

4-H PROGRAMS

7M youth strive for better communities

By CYNTHIA HIGGINS
4-H Agent/University of Florida/
IFAS Extension Columbia County

For those of you who may not be familiar with 4-H, it's the nation's largest youth development and empowerment organization. Nationally, there are over 7 million 4-H youth, and in Florida, over 200,000 youth participate in 4-H youth development programs. In Columbia County, there are over 2,500 youth participating in 4-H programs. These programs are sponsored by the USDA, State Land Grant Universities (in our case, the University of Florida), and Board of County Commissioners.

4-H has been in existence for over 100 years, and was developed as a catalyst for change. Corn clubs were started to help boys learn current best management practices for growing corn and agriculture commodities, while the girls joined tomato clubs to learn how



JEN CHASTEEN/Special to the Reporter

Clovers of Columbia 4-H Club member Emy Chasteen holds her 4-H Laying Hen Project entry during the 2013 Columbia County Fair.

to produce and preserve food for their families. Remember, this was over 100 years ago and most Americans lived in rural areas on farms and ranches with very traditional roles and responsibilities. The premise of 4-H was to teach the youth, who in turn influenced the adults. Over 100 years

later, 4-H still uses a learn-by-doing approach to help youth gain the knowledge and skills they need to be responsible, productive citizens in both rural and urban settings.

4-H has "mission mandates," or high priority programs, that have been identified by our

stakeholders. These high priority programs include S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and math), healthy lifestyles, and citizenship and leadership. These are the programs that are being stressed through club work, school enrichment programs, workshops and camps. Through these hands-on educational events and activities, 4-H members are learning to make wise choices, contribute to their communities, and gain knowledge and skills to help them become productive members of society.

How does 4-H work?

4-H members join community clubs, run by one or more trained and screened caring adult volunteers. Each club is different, depending on what the members want to do. Members work on educational projects that interest them, and are

4-H continued on 4D

Improving literacy for local VPK students

The Rotary Club of Lake City is reading to local VPK classrooms throughout Columbia County in January. After reading the book "Is Your Mama a Llama?" each student will receive their own book to take home. Literacy is a Rotarian focus and by providing books that can be read at home we are encouraging children to begin reading

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at an early age. Internationally, we are providing a men's

and women's latrine to a school in Honduras that does not have bathroom facilities. The Rotary mission is to promote education and provide an opportunity to improve health and hygiene. This project, funded in part by your local club, is a meaningful way to support this mission.

A big "thank you" to the citizens of Columbia County for filling up

the red kettles for the Salvation Army. The club's ringing and your donations raised over \$10,000 for the Salvation Army to continue the great work that they do in our community. These donations will be combined with donations raised by other local civic organizations to continue the great work that the

ROTARY continued on 4D



WONDERWORKS/Courtesy

The Florida Museum will display "Wolf to Woof" from Feb. 15 to Sept. 1.

Wolf to Woof coming to UF in February

From staff reports

GAINESVILLE — Visitors will soon be able to uncover the mysteries of man's best friend at the Florida Museum of Natural History's new temporary exhibit, "Wolf to Woof: The Story of Dogs," opening Feb. 15.

"Wolf to Woof" is the largest and most comprehensive traveling exhibit on the history, biology and evolution of dogs. It shows how dogs have secured a special place in human society as an incredibly diverse and versatile species that serves as hunters, herders, guards and companions.

"The canine/human relationship is something so

MUSEUM continued on 4D

SUNDAY EVENING

JANUARY 26, 2014

Table with columns for Comcast, Dish, DirecTV, and time slots (6 PM to 11:30). Rows list various TV programs and their descriptions.

WEEKDAY AFTERNOON

Table with columns for Comcast, Dish, DirecTV, and time slots (12 PM to 5:30). Rows list various TV programs and their descriptions.

MONDAY EVENING

JANUARY 27, 2014

Table with columns for Comcast, Dish, DirecTV, and time slots (6 PM to 11:30). Rows list various TV programs and their descriptions.

DEAR ABBY

Couple is short on hospitality when parents are their guests



Abigail Van Buren www.dearabby.com

DEAR ABBY: When parents who live many miles away from their adult children visit their homes, to what extent should they be treated as "guests"?

I have gone together for three years. He's a wonderful, sweet man who has never raised his voice to me.

Bill doesn't seem to crave a drink when he's with me, but he does crave being in bars in the company of men who sit for hours over drinks and then get out on the Interstate.

We are in our early retirement years and the thought that his drinking will get worse has made me afraid.

We have discussed my feelings many times, and he says he has cut down the amount he drinks and there's nothing to worry about.

this sick feeling in the pit of my stomach. — SICK FEELING IN TEXAS

DEARSICKFEELING: Listen to your intuition. I don't know how often Bill "craves" the company of men who sit for hours in bars becoming increasingly inebriated.

Because of the language in your letter, it appears you are already familiar with alcoholism and how it affects relationships.

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

CELEBRITIES BORN THIS DAY

Ellen DeGeneres, 56; Wayne Gretzky, 53; Eddie Van Halen, 59; Christopher Massey, 24; Jose Mourinho, 51; Kirk Franklin, 44; Anita Baker, 56; Manti Te'o, 23; Vince Carter, 37; Gary Hooper, 25.

HOROSCOPES

THE LAST WORD Eugenia Word

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get involved in a cause or sign up for a fundraiser that requires your physical, mental or financial assistance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Re-evaluate your relationships with others. Consider how you can make improvements that will benefit you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get your priorities straight. Make decisions that will improve your reputation, status and your future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The more adaptable you are, the easier it will be to move forward.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a step back and find a way to balance your energy and emotions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Improve your reputation by showing an emotional side that others rarely get to see.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check out an investment that interests you, but don't borrow in order to take part.

how you feel; allow others the same freedom and much can be accomplished. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be drawn to someone or something that gets you thinking about your future and how to incorporate the things you enjoy doing into a lucrative pastime.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Join in the fun and focus on love, romance and playful action, but don't go over budget.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take an innovative approach to the way you do things at home, or sign up for a course that will help you be more diverse with your talents and skills.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone is waiting for you to divulge personal information to use against you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may want to be in charge, but if you do so aggressively, you will face opposition.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take an innovative approach to the way you do things at home, or sign up for a course that will help you be more diverse with your talents and skills.

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.

W C L Z A S O X Z N J S A H S T F R Z A A Z O A F D X C A F J S I F A . C M X Z U D L A Z O D W C A A W Z U F C W Z A F D A C T J S W N D T A . . G Z A Z O J ' A J J W Z

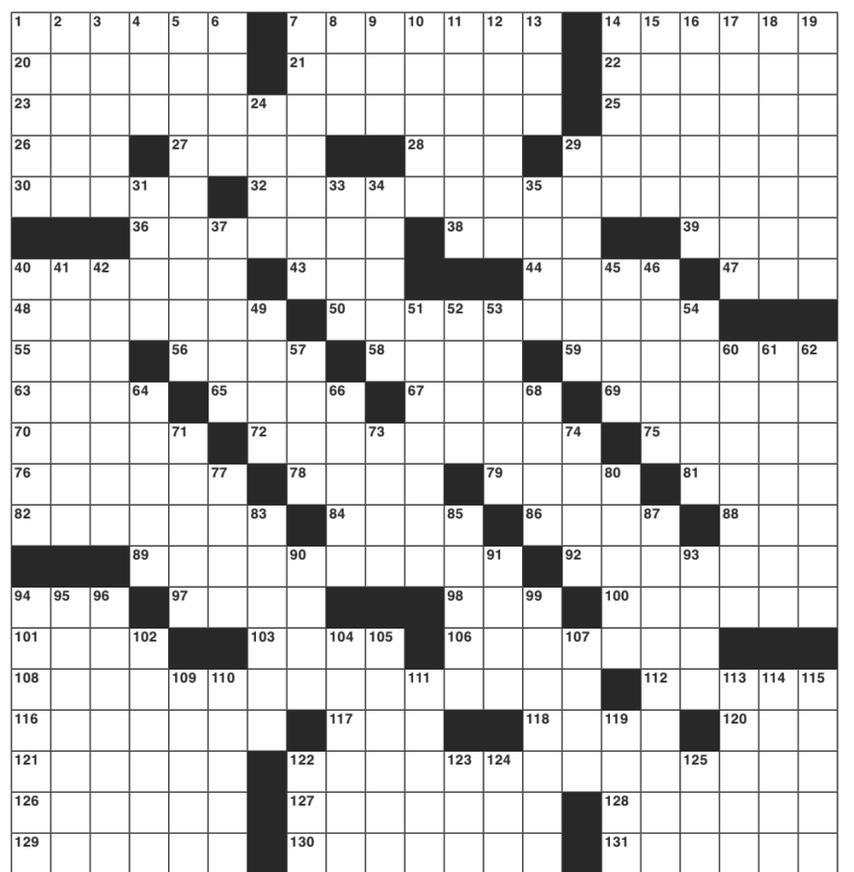
Previous Solution: "I think there's a little confusion between humor and gross passing for humor. That's kind of regrettable." — Bob Newhart

TODAY'S CLUE: El svenbo H © 2014 by NEA, Inc., dist. by Universal Uclick 1-27

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

OLDEN GOLDIES By DAN SCHOENHOLZ / Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS 1 Egyptian resurrection symbol 7 Ought to have, informally 14 "Come on, help me out" 20 Tropical juice type 21 Weapon for 27-Across 22 Total 23 Traffic cop's answer upon being asked "Describe your job"? [1975] 25 Certify 26 Fraternity letter 27 Fictional user of a 21-Across 28 Follower of A, B or AB, informally 29 Positions in old monasteries 30 Like some rollers after use 32 Post-tornado highway detritus, perhaps? [1974] 36 Scarlett's sister-in-law and best friend in "Gone With the Wind" 38 Brand 39 Inter 40 Chilling 43 Big inits. in health products 44 Hub 47 Speck 48 Chemical compounds in tea 50 Remark about a female stoner? [1980] 55 Epitome of simplicity 56 Cracker brand 58 Lose it 59 DNA structure 63 British heads 65 Jour's opposite 67 Familia members 69 Get closer 70 Repeated cry accompanying a gavel hit 72 Roast pig after a pig roast? [1956] 75 Stressed 76 Fume 78 Close 79 Base figs. 81 ' Pea 82 Attempts 84 "If I _____" 86 Moolah 88 See 9-Down 89 Napa Valley excursion, maybe? [1963] 92 Sundry 94 R&B's _____ Hill 97 Pulitzer-winning novelist Jennifer 98 Java 100 Displayed for scoring, as in gin rummy 101 Santa _____, Calif. 103 Ghana neighbor 106 Yes-men 108 Data request from a good ol' furnace repairman? [1953] 112 Regatta racer 116 Believer in a strong centralized government 117 Roulette, e.g. 118 On the job 120 "Yoo- _____" 121 Not bankrupt 122 Frontiersman awakening in a foul mood? [1969] 126 About whom Nabokov said "She was like the composition of a beautiful puzzle — its composition and its solution at the same time" 127 Teed off 128 Marcos who collected shoes 129 Rendezvous 130 Lawn care tools 131 Some Civil War shots DOWN 1 Long pitch 2 Dragon fruit plants 3 Generating some buzz? 4 Templeton, e.g., in "Charlotte's Web" 5 Words stated with a salute 6 Setting for David's "The Death of Marat" 7 Everything being considered 8 Bray part 9 Hockey great whose name is a homophone of 88-Across and 123- and 124-Down 10 Barely ahead 11 Recluses 12 Pup 13 True or false: Abbr. 14 Sun spot 15 _____ nous 16 Supposed ancestor of Dracula 17 Spotted horse 18 Big name in TV talk 19 "Dig in!" 24 _____kiri 29 Old "From one beer lover to another" sloganer 31 Fed 33 Dive shop rentals 34 PC whizzes 35 iPod model 37 Name that starts a well-known "ism" 40 Speechless 41 Backless seat for one 42 Secret language device 45 Space cadet 46 Marsh hunter 49 Bit of jewelry 51 Input 52 Stated 53 Warren _____, baseball's winningest lefty 54 Flock : sheep :: drove : _____ 57 Jerusalem's Mount _____ 60 "Truthiness," e.g., before Stephen Colbert 61 Etiologist's study 62 Had a haughty reaction 64 Line in writing



- 66 Shopper in the juniors section, maybe 68 What may not come out in the wash? 71 "Side by Side by Sundheim," e.g. 73 Mass gathering site 74 Push 77 Leader after Mao 80 Guck 83 Try to hit, as a fly 85 Indian head 87 Like clockwork 90 Trying to break a tie, say 91 Spa class 93 "Lohengrin" lass 94 Cure, in a way 95 Support 96 As a rule 99 To-dos 102 Stella _____ (beer) 104 1997 Demi Moore title role 105 Jittery 109 Cigar butt? 109 Singer John with the 1988 title track "Slow Turning" 110 "Cómo _____?" 111 Like beef for fondue 113 Dish in a bowl 114 Odyssey maker 115 Features of much Roman statuary 119 Georgia O'Keeffe subject 122 Gullet 123 See 9-Down 124 See 9-Down 125 Pennant race mo.

Grid of numbers for the crossword puzzle, showing starting positions for clues.

Answers to last Sunday's Crossword.

Grid of answers for the crossword puzzle, including words like DEWAR, FLOW, CHAP, MALE, EXILE, RARE, LABANIMAL, CASABLANCA, FALALALALALA, OMEN, ONE, SCANT, ODDSON, ATOZ, NEALS, SMEE, TABLET, BOLTS, STARWARS, BLADE, CLU, CESAR, BOT, SOFA, THATCH, ONUP, ERDE, PET, CHOCULA, IDDO, DAHL, ASHE, KROSS, METRICAL, AMANAPLANACANALPANAMA, RAWONION, KAMEN, IPAD, CRAW, TUDE, TOADIES, ABS, HIRE, SITS, CARATS, ABLE, END, SATCH, ELS, ENRON, RASTAMAN, I, COSA, IS, SAACS, UTES, SLANT, SMOG, ADORES, PAINE, GPARAJA, MAGNACARTA, BALACLAVAS, PYROMANIA, ICES, AMICI, MOEN, LIMN, TEEM, OSAKA

Grid of numbers for the crossword puzzle, showing starting positions for clues.

TRAVEL

Continued From 1D

After getting across the first one, we thought it was exhilarating and we loved the adrenaline rush. As the morning went on, it was just awesome.

The guides lead us along a network of cables including 10 zip lines, 5 sky bridges and the finish with a rappel down a rope.

The cables and bridges soared over a natural cave along the Hocking River and past fern-covered rock formations. The cables were tied to white oaks, sycamore and a few other types of trees that I can't remember the names of. In one spot there was a turkey buzzard hovering that Sue was worried about. The longest zip line we did was 572 feet and we were at heights of over 60 feet.

It was truly one of the best experiences of my life. We both loved it.

Since this trip, we've had the opportunity to zip again in Ketchikan, Ala., with a larger group. There were 8 of us. It was probably more fun to watch everyone else as they were first-timers.

Here, in the middle of the zipping, they had a "challenge" area. Now this was new to us. And I don't think there was one of us who enjoyed that part. We had to walk across a rope bridge that consisted of ropes hanging in "U" shapes to step on, and the other was wood plank steps hanging from rope that moved out ahead of you as you stepped on each one. The hardest part about these two bridges were the ropes and planks were so far apart, a lot of our strides didn't quite match up, making it difficult.

And someone in our group did what we feared last time, got stuck in the middle of a line. It was funny when it was someone else and we were glad it wasn't us.

At the end of this tour they offered the opportunity to complete the rock climbing walls. Four of the eight of us tried it, but only three of us succeeded. Surely you know that Sue and I were two of the three and we did the more challenging one.

I'd definitely like to zip line again but next time I want to find one with more open air, canyons or over water. Now that sounds like fun.

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

GARDEN

Continued From 1D

without harming them. Another plus is that sunlight and moisture can penetrate the frost cloth. Plastic covering can cause damage by transferring the cold to the foliage where it touches. Sheets and blankets as well as plastic should be removed from your plants during the day if the temperature goes above 40 degrees. Plastic may actually cook the leaves if the sun shines on them. Be sure to water the soil around the plant 24-48 hours before a hard freeze, if it doesn't rain. Plants can incur more damage if they are dry. Secure the frost cloth all the way to the ground to trap warmth from the soil. Even if the leaves get killed, the plant will probably survive and come back from the roots. A frost blanket can raise the temperature underneath it as much as 15 degrees.

The hydrangeas are a mass of black, droopy leaves, but will be fine when spring arrives. Some of our soft perennials (jacobinia, firespike, Persian shield, cannas, salvia) have melted away and the warm season annuals that have persisted through the fall have finally succumbed.

The hardy evergreen plants that I have learned to add, keeps the winter landscape from looking so barren. It hasn't been cold enough to hurt the "sometimes tender" cast iron plant, holly ferns and split-leaf philodendron. The lawn is still green but has stopped growing — again the mature trees add a layer of protection.

The camellia blossoms have turned brown but new ones are beginning to open. They are cold hardy in our area and you can have camellia blooms from fall to spring, if you choose varieties with different bloom times. We have plenty to choose from as there are over 300 different species. Their blooms come in many colors: white, pink, rose, red and variegated, some with splotches or stripes, and bloom sizes from golf ball to salad plates. They also come in different forms (formal to peony). Camellias prefer shifting shade and protection from the hot afternoon sun. To help prevent scale, they need good air circulation. They also need rich organic soil, very well drained. Spray with a light horticultural

oil if you have a scale problem. Plant them a little high, as planting too deep will eventually cause them to die. Spider mites, which causes bronzing of the leaves, are usually a problem if camellias get too much sun.

January is the time for successful transplanting, while the plant is dormant, or not actively growing. Have the hole dug and ready to receive the plant root ball. Form a saucer around the root ball to hold water and water in well. Watering after transplanting is very important to the life of the plant, until new growth appears, then you can relax, but watch for wilting during dry times. After most plants are established you can let them fend for themselves like plants in the wild.

Our citrus trees have emerged unscathed so far. It takes more than four hours of freezing weather to damage the fruit. If they are protected by a large tree canopy they can survive better than a tree in the open. You can tell if the fruit is damaged by simply cutting into it. If the fruit has been frozen you can see white spots in the flesh, but can still use the juice within a few days of freezing. Satsuma, tangerine, kumquat, grapefruit, oranges, lemons and limes, in that order, are the most cold hardy. For the more tender citrus you may bank the trunks with builder's sand to about 12 inches to protect the graft from freezing. Remove the sand in the spring. If the top is cold-damaged the graft and roots are protected and will grow true to the variety. After freezing temperatures are past, cut back any damaged tips. Citrus need well-drained soil. I wrap the trunks near the soil line to help protect them from cold with pipe insulation.

If you choose to fertilize, use a citrus special, beginning in March, then every other month through September. Citrus are somewhat shade tolerant but they are more productive in full sun. We don't fertilize our citrus unless they are newly planted.

Do not be tempted to prune the dead wood from your damaged plants, it gives them added protection from future freezes. Wait until you see new growth peeking through, then you can clean up.

MUSEUM

Continued From 1D

special and unique in nature," said Tina Choe, Florida Museum exhibit developer. "As a dog owner, I am thrilled to share this experience with our visitors."

The exhibit reveals an in-depth history of dogs and their connection with wolves through four themed sections featuring artifacts, multimedia displays, photomurals and dioramas.

Visitors may participate in interactive, hands-on activities like climbing into an avalanche scene to see what it's like to be saved by a search-and-rescue dog. Visitors may also guess what dogs are saying in a "howling area" and test their nose against a dog's powerful sense of smell.

The museum will host an opening celebration event for the exhibit on Feb. 22 that will include a dog adoption drive and service dog demonstrations. Admission



WONDERWORKS/Courtesy

Admission for the 'Wolf to Woof' museum exhibit is \$7 for adults, \$4.50 for ages 3-17 and free to museum members and University of Florida students with valid ID.

is \$7 for adults (\$6 Fla. residents and seniors); \$4.50 for ages 3-17 and free to museum members and University of Florida students with a valid Gator 1 card.

The museum will display the exhibit through Sept. 1.

For more information, visit <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/exhibits>.

4-H

Continued From 1D

also able to attend county 4-H workshops, trips, tours and camps. If a club is not available, 4-H members can be members at large, and still have the opportunity to participate in all the countywide events and activities. This coming summer, there are plans for a 4-H robotics workshop as well as 4-H summer camp. There is always something going on in 4-H.

Why belong to 4-H?

Research shows that young people involved in the 4-H program get better

grades and have a higher elevated level of engagement at school. Young people in 4-H are 2.3 times more likely to exercise and be physically active; and are 3.3 times more likely to actively contribute to their communities when compared with non-4-H members. In addition, 4-H is fun. Members learn citizenship and leadership skills and are able to practice those skills at the county, district, state and national levels.

The cost to join 4-H is \$3 (which covers 4-H insurance) and 4-H is open to any boy or girl in kindergarten through twelfth grade. If you would like more information on how to

get your child, aged kindergarten through high school, involved in UF/IFAS Extension 4-H in Columbia County, Contact Cindy Higgins, 4-H Agent, Jennifer Chasteen, 4-H Program Assistant or Linda Brown, 4H Secretary Specialist at the UF/IFAS Extension Office Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm; 758-1168, 752-5247.

All programs and related activities sponsored for, or assisted by, UF/IFAS Extension are open to all persons with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, and political opinions or affiliations.

ROTARY

Continued From 1D

Salvation Army does for our community.

As we look forward to March and the rodeo, we are preparing to host our annual "Cow Chip Bingo" fundraiser. Proceeds benefit both Tough Enough to Wear Pink and the

United Way of Suwannee Valley. Tickets are \$10 each and only 2,500 tickets will be sold. The winning ticket will win \$2,500 with a chance to win an additional \$100,000. Tickets can be purchased at the local United Way office, 5th Generation Farms, as well as through club members. We are very pleased to have partnered with 5th

Generation Farms, which is offering a coupon on the back of the tickets. We encourage everyone to visit their store, purchase a ticket, and support one of our local businesses.

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

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