

Lake City Reporter

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SUNDAY EDITION

Kids Dental Health to stay in town. **IC**

IC



New track coach wants to raise the bar. **IB**

IB



LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Springs discussion will flow freely

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

Springs legislation will be one of the hot topics during Florida's upcoming legislative session as local representative Elizabeth Porter (R-Lake City) and her allies look to gain ground on

water issues. Many North and Central Floridians have been keeping their eyes on SB 1576, also known as the Florida Springs and Aquifer Act, introduced by Senator Charlie Dean (R-Inverness). "Springs legislation is definitely at the foremost of most

peoples' conversations and certainly in the leadership in the House and the Senate," Porter said. "I think where [SB1576] may run into some difficulty is the expense, the cost of it. I don't know that as a state we can afford to do what that legislation would force us as a state to do."

The bill proposes using revenue from the documentary stamp tax to fund a variety of regulations and springs protection measures. "That's such an easy target, doc stamps," Porter said. "Everybody wants to put their fingers in that

SESSION continued on 6A

10 issues to watch in session

The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Florida lawmakers will start the 2014 session Tuesday with a budget surplus and an eye on the November elections. But they still will have to address some tough questions before the session ends May 2. Among the questions: How can Florida better protect vulnerable children? Is it time to overhaul the state pension system? And should the state allow resort casinos to set up shop? Here are 10 issues to watch during the next two months:

Flush with cash

Tallahassee is always a happier place when the state has a budget surplus. And lawmakers will go into the session with a roughly \$1 billion cushion. Gov. Rick Scott proposed a \$74.2 billion budget plan that includes tax cuts and increased spending on education and child welfare. Lawmakers don't have to follow Scott's recommendations, but cutting taxes and spending money on kids could be popular ideas in an election year.

Gun bills have good shot

When National Rifle Association lobbyist Marion Hammer speaks, Republican lawmakers listen. And Hammer looks like she will be successful again this session with proposals such as a bill that would make clear people can fire warning shots in self defense. Democrats, meanwhile, want to repeal or substantially change the controversial "stand your ground" law, but the chances of that happening in the Republican-controlled Legislature are slim — or maybe none.

Clean-up concerns

Senate Appropriations Chairman Joe Negron, R-Stuart, is one of the most-powerful people in the Legislature. He also happens to live in part of Southeast Florida where residents are riled about pollution being discharged from Lake Okeechobee into nearby waterways. Negron is leading efforts to get money for a collection of projects aimed at addressing the pollution issue. Meanwhile, lawmakers also are looking at a series of other water-related issues, such as trying to better protect the state's natural springs.

School choice

This year's legislative session, like all others, will include myriad bills and budget issues that affect the public-education system. But one issue that could become controversial is a proposal to expand a voucher-like program that helps pay for low-income students to go to private schools. House Speaker Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, has promised a "massive expansion" of what is known as the Florida Tax

ISSUES continued on 6A

COUNTY SALARIES STRETCHED THIN



Consultant recommends pay raise of 1 to 3 percent

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

A recently published salary survey of county employees highlighted a growing concern the board of commissioners has had for years — Columbia County wages are stagnant and falling behind neighboring counties of similar size. The discussion on making cost-of-living adjustments to employee salaries has been growing since 2008, the last time county employees received such relief, and will play a prominent role in a series of planning workshops leading up to Columbia's fiscal year 2014-15 budget. Management consultants Cody & Associates, Inc. performed the \$23,700 study at the county's request and compared benchmark positions in various departments to 18 comparable entities in size and scope,

such as Suwannee, St. Johns, Gadsden and Okeechobee counties, as well as the City of Lake City and Florida Gateway College. Using those benchmarks, the study created an average of each position's recommended starting salary, excluding low- and high-end outliers to add "greater validity to the survey." The survey determined the following information for each of the county's six organizational units:
•BOCC — Approximately 73 percent of the positions surveyed were below the survey adjusted averages;
•Sheriff — Approximately 81 percent of the positions surveyed were below the survey adjusted averages;
•Tax Collector — All of the positions surveyed were below the survey adjusted averages;
•Property Appraiser — Approximately 59 percent of the

BY THE NUMBERS

This chart represents the number of employees in each salary range that was surveyed. Not all county staff were surveyed.
> \$100,000 - 6*
90,000-99,999 - 1
80,000-89,999 - 0
70,000-79,999 - 4
60,000-69,999 - 11
50,000-59,999 - 22
40,000-49,999 - 56
30,000-39,999 - 193
20,000-29,999 - 208
< 20,000 - 134**
*Listed in report; some constitutional officers omitted.
**Includes full time, part time, temporary and volunteer staff.
positions surveyed were below the survey adjusted averages;
•Supervisor of Elections — Approximately 50 percent of the

positions surveyed were below the survey adjusted averages;
•Clerk of Courts — Approximately 93 percent of the positions surveyed were below the survey adjusted averages. "We realize that there are significant differences in cost of living in other areas of the state in comparison to Columbia County," Cody & Associates wrote in its report to the county commission. "Therefore, when using data outside of Columbia County, we made appropriate adjustments to this data to reflect the cost of living differences." The company used the 2012 Florida Price Level Index from a Feb. 6, 2013 study conducted by the University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research as an indicator of counties' cost of living indices. Based on those findings,
SALARIES continued on 6A

Visions come to life at Home and Patio Show

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

A parade of red lawn mowers formed a bright display on the Columbia County Fairgrounds Saturday afternoon for the 11th annual Home and Patio Show, organized by the Rotary Club of Lake City Downtown. Among the visitors interested in the show's offerings, Fort White resident Jared Willis eyed the brand new mowers

— some of them bigger than the one he currently has at home. Green's Marine, Sporting Goods and Power Equipment showcased a wide selection of brands, including Hustler, Ferris and Echo. "We live on 10 acres, and there's always something that needs to be repaired," Sherry Willis said. Over the course of the year, the Rotary Club contributes the funds

SHOW continued on 7A



AMANDA WILLIAMSON/Lake City Reporter

Fort White resident Jared Willis glances over a new riding mower at the Home and Patio Show on Saturday. The Rotary Club of Lake City Downtown organizes the event every year to showcase a variety of home improvement businesses in the community.



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TODAY'S WEATHER
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Advice & Comics 5D
Puzzles 2B



LOCAL
CHS students head to cook-off in Orlando, 3A.



SCHOOLS
Mark Kirby gives his Oscar picks, 1D.

Photo of the Day



COURTESY

Miss CHS Pageant contestants

The Miss CHS Pageant will be held Saturday, March 8 at 6 p.m. in the Columbia High School Auditorium. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. Participating in this year's pageant are: Abigail Blizzard (from left), Chase Broome, Alanis Koberlein, Gillian Norris, Savannah Thomas, Willow Russell-Martinez, Ashley Jones, Samantha Ziegau, Kristah Couey, and Mackenzi Nichols. Proceeds from the pageant will benefit the CHS Beta Club.

Scripture of the Day

"You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."
— Psalm 75:24-26

Thought for Today

If what you want is contentment, it is better and easier to change yourself and what you want than it is to change the world around you. — William B. Irvine, professor of philosophy at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and author of "A Guide to the Good Life" (Born 1952)

Winning Lottery Numbers

Cash 3: (Saturday) 7-9-9

Play 4: (Saturday) 9-4-6-9

Fantasy 5: (Friday) 1-2-25-28-31

Florida Lotto: (Wednesday) 3-36-37-41-47-48-x4

PowerBall: (Wednesday) 11-12-17-38-42-2-x2

AROUND FLORIDA

State ranked last in National Guard-civilian ratio

JACKSONVILLE
Despite ever-present threats from hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters, Florida ranks last in the ratio of Army National Guard troops to civilian residents.

Numbers provided to area newspapers by the Florida Army National Guard show there are 10.3 guardsmen per every 100,000 civilians in the state.

Commentary reported Saturday alongside the statistics state that Florida Army National Guard leaders are worried about the low numbers. The state's adjutant general said his forces are already stretched thin and that budget cuts could make the situation worse.

"I'm deeply concerned," said Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw. "During the hurricanes we had in 2004 and 2005, we pretty much used up everything we had then, and we had more than we have now."

Titshaw said calling in units from other states as reinforcement isn't always the best option.

"Say a hurricane is bearing down on Daytona Beach from the Atlantic Ocean," he said. "Georgia is not going to give up their assets

STATE OF THE STATE

■ Governor Rick Scott will deliver his fourth State of the State Address on Tuesday, March 4 at 11 a.m. at the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee.

to help us because that storm could turn and impact Georgia."

Florida would then be forced to look for help from farther away, and that takes time, he said.

At a meeting of the nation's governors with President Obama on Monday, 47 governors gave the president a letter opposing further cuts to National Guard forces.

Lt. Col. James Evans, spokesman for the Florida National Guard, said the allocation of troops hasn't kept pace with the nation's shifting demographics.

Mom given 17 years for starving child

INVERNESS — A judge in central Florida has sentenced a mother to 17 years in prison for starving and abusing her 17-month-old daughter.

The Citrus County Chronicle reports that the child weighed just

14 pounds when authorities found the girl at the mother's home.

Circuit Court Judge Richard "Ric" Howard said during Friday's sentencing hearing that he sentenced the mother to 17 years because her daughter was 17 months old when investigators found her last year. Howard said he also sentenced the woman to 14 years of probation to represent the child's weight when she was found. Howard said he wanted the mother to live with the memory of those numbers during her time in prison.

Immigrant bikes to stop deportations

MIAMI — A South Florida man is biking to Washington, D.C. to pressure President Barack Obama to halt deportations in the United States.

Francisco Diaz will kick off his 1,000-plus mile "Pedalling for 20 Million Dreams" trip in Homestead Sunday. U.S. Rep. Joe Garcia is among those attending the event. Diaz will also attend a 6 p.m. Mass at Ermita de la Caridad Catholic Church.

The 41-year-old carpenter lives

in the U.S. illegally. He arrived in 1998 and has been married to a U.S. citizen for 12 years but hasn't been able to adjust his status.

He is also urging Congress to enact immigration reform. In 2010, four Miami students walked to Washington to urge Obama to sign a similar order for millions of immigrant youth. His administration did two years later.

Wounded warriors take on child porn

TAMPA — Men who have seen and suffered the horrors of combat steel themselves each day for a job some find just as wrenching: fighting child sex crimes back home.

"I am just dealing with a different kind of terrorist," said retired Marine Cpl. Justin Gaertner, a 25-year-old native of New Port Richey who lost both legs above the knees three years ago while sweeping for mines in Afghanistan.

Gaertner is an unpaid intern in a new program that provides training in high-tech computer forensics to wounded, injured and ill special operations forces

members to help federal agents investigating online child sexual exploitation.

The program is called HERO, for Human Exploitation Rescue Operative Child-Rescue Corps.

Those who fight child exploitation welcome the help because they say they are outmanned by pornographers.

"There are special agents who refuse to do these investigations," said Kevin Power, a computer forensics special agent with Homeland Security Investigations in Tampa who is helping to train Gaertner. "And those who do it get burned out on it. But you can't let these people go. Someone has to put them in jail." Power has investigated child exploitation since 1997.

Gaertner joined the military at 18 because he "didn't want another man protecting my family's freedom."

He feared his injury would keep him from serving. But he has learned to walk again with the help of prosthetics, and, like other HERO interns, he is confident he is the man for this new mission.

■ Associated Press



COURTESY

DAR induction

Chaplain Gigi Register (from left), inducted Elizabeth Witt, Emma Moore and Geraldine Adamson into the Edward Rutledge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution at the February meeting.

Lake City Reporter

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See an error?

The Lake City Reporter corrects errors of fact in news items. If you have a concern, question or suggestion, please call the editor. Corrections and clarifications will run in this space. And thanks for reading.

Submissions

The Lake City Reporter accepts photographs and caption information to run on this page 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.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Liam Neeson chides NYC mayor on horse carriages

NEW YORK — Liam Neeson says he's "a little bit pissed off" at Mayor Bill de Blasio for wanting to shut down the horse-drawn carriage industry in NYC.

The actor made the comment during a Wednesday appearance on "The Daily Show." The actor complained to host Jon Stewart that critics have put out false information about how the horses are treated. He says the carriage drivers treat the horses like their own children.

De Blasio has declared his intention to shut down the industry, saying it's inhumane to keep horses in modern-day Manhattan. The Democrat wants to replace them with electric cars.

Carriage drivers say shutting down the stables would have the unintended effect of eliminating a rare outlet for surplus horses, which means they'll be sent to the slaughterhouse faster.

Obama hosts White House student film festival

WASHINGTON — Two days before the Oscars, President Barack Obama recognized the best of nearly 2,500 films made by K-12 students after the White House asked them for short videos on the role technology plays in their education.

It's one of his favorite subjects. "Today the Oscar goes to all of you because, among all the incredible videos we received, yours stood out," Obama said in the East Room, where two large screens were lit up to show the 16 films he said "are awesome."

"Like all great movies, yours do something special. They tell a story, they help us understand, in this case, the amazing things that are going on in classrooms and how technology is empowering our students and broadening their imaginations, challenging them to dream bigger and reach further," he added.

Obama wants virtually every classroom to have high-speed Internet by sometime in 2018.

At the festival, he announced \$400 mil-

lion in new pledges to move the project along, including donations from the software companies Adobe and Prezi. That's on top of \$750 million in commitments he announced last month from Apple, Verizon, Microsoft and other companies. That brings to more than \$1 billion the amount of cash and goods committed to the ConnectEd initiative.

Oscar host Ellen DeGeneres ready to dance

LOS ANGELES — Seven years after her Oscar debut, Ellen is back.

The 56-year-old TV personality talked with The Associated Press about her plans and preparations for hosting her second Academy Awards on Sunday.

AP: What made you say "yes" again?

DeGeneres: "It took my agent saying, 'Yes, you should do it.' And I said, 'OK.' Look, it's the greatest gig in the world. And it's also really, really hard. So, I wasn't going to do it, because I've done it before. And then I realized I'm too comfortable and too complacent and I should scare myself and take a chance."

AP: Describe the fear element.

DeGeneres: "It's live around the world, to a billion people watching, and every major person who is in the room that has done every major thing. I mean, I know a lot of them. But it's still scary. It's the energy in the room. There's a lot of really anxious energy and, so, you kind of pick that up. You can feel all that when you walk out. So I'm trying to remain calm."

AP: How will you be able to resist dancing along with the nominated songs, especially Pharrell Williams' "Happy"?

DeGeneres: "I know. I will be dancing like crazy, whether he likes it or not."

AP: What's your ultimate goal?

DeGeneres: "I hope that it didn't seem like it's as long as it's going to be. This year it's six hours. Did you know that? Here's what I hope: I hope when I say, 'Goodnight,' I hope people go: 'One more hour! One more hour!' And they start chanting and make me stay. That's what I hope."

■ Associated Press

COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL

Culinary students head to cook-off in Orlando

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON

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Chicken sizzled in the frying pan. A mango, pineapple and jalapeño salsa warmed in a pan next to the lime-flavored rice and southwestern soup. Grilled garlic asparagus waited to be plated while the Columbia High School gourmet cooking team prepared a strawberry cream cheese torte.

They have prepared the same meal every day of the week, practicing for Wednesday's statewide ProStart Culinary Competition Invitational in Orlando. The event will showcase the skills of more than 400 high school students, all competing to win a piece of the \$800,000 in available scholarship money. A total of 60 schools are scheduled to participate in the four different hospitality-inspired events — preparing a gourmet meal, creating a business proposal for a new



AMANDA WILLIAMSON/Lake City Reporter

Alexa Lyons prepares a strawberry cream cheese torte Friday afternoon. As part of the Columbia High School gourmet culinary team, she and her teammates will travel to the 2014 ProStart Culinary Invitational in Orlando on Wednesday.

restaurant, designing an edible centerpiece and competing in a waiter's relay race.

Three teams from CHS will attempt to earn a place among the top five winners and guarantee a position in the 2014 National ProStart Culinary Competition in May. They would also leave with scholarship money.

For the CHS gourmet team, it's their first competition as a group. Eric Brock, Hayden Stancil, Alexa Lyons and Kalie Baker decided last year they wanted to compete. They've been practicing since the beginning of the year.

"I'm extremely nervous," Hayden said. "There's so much we have to learn and have to do."

The recipes were created by the group — chile-marinated chicken resting over lime rice and drizzled with the mango and pineapple salsa, with grilled asparagus and a southwestern soup. The recipe must be

creative, delicious and visually appealing to the judges. All items must be kept warm while the others cook, so the team has perfected the time it takes to prepare each item. Like clockwork, they know when to start cooking the chicken, the rice and the dessert.

Throughout the competition, approximately 20 judges will pass CHS's station to check on their performance. Everything plays a role, said Cheryl Bender, the CHS culinary teacher. And every little thing counts. The group has to keep their space clean and organized while preparing their meal. Last year, the team had points deducted because of a wardrobe malfunction.

Sponsored by the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, the event in Orlando gives the students a glimpse into the culinary industry.

Bender just hopes the group has fun and does the best they

can. "They've been practicing for a long time and they're a good group," she said. "If you really, really want it, you'll work hard — and they have."

The team members have been encouraging each other — stay focused, one says. Redirect nervous energy, the other adds.

Though they are excited about the competition, they haven't quite decided what they plan to do in the future. Hayden wants to be a teacher, but thinks she may focus on culinary arts. Eric will graduate shortly with his associate degree in business. He hopes to own his own restaurant one day.

"I think the food is presentation-worthy and tastes good to us," he said. "But it's subjective. We've had judges say there's too much of one thing or not enough. It's hard to find a happy medium, but we're striving."

Businesses of the year finalists announced

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON

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Lake City-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce selected its finalists for businesses of the year, an annual award honoring a small and large business within the community.

According to executive director Dennille Decker, the chamber has a long-standing tradition of recognizing local businesses, as well as a Citizen of the Year.

The small business of the year finalists are Teeko.com, Campus USA, The Advertiser. The large business of the year finalists are Potash Corp-White Springs, the Lake City Reporter, TD Bank.

"The whole reason we are trying to honor them is they not only have a business, employ people and do good through their every-day work," Decker said, "but we want to honor people who give back, not just to the chamber but the community at large. Do you volunteer? Do you show up to different events? How have you contributed to the betterment of Columbia County?"

Recently, the chamber changed the format on how they select the award winners. They now have an open call for nominations. Chamber members submit their suggestions, which must be Chamber members and have been in business for three years.

Each business must answer a set of questions: Why do you deserve to be business of the year? What have you done that's innovative? How have you overcome hardship? What have you done for the community and for the chamber?

The answers are judged by a panel of eight, usually comprised of previous winners, previous chamber presidents, business community members and a board member.

For the 2014 year, the Chamber selected the finalists for small business from a pool of 10 nominees, and the finalists for large business from a pool of eight.

The Citizen of the Year has not been announced yet, since there is only one selected.

Promotion Physical Therapy won Small Business of the Year for 2013, while Lake City Medical Center earned the title of Large Business of the Year. Dennis Roberts became the Chamber's Citizen of the Year.

The Awards Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 2, at the Holiday Inn and Suites from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. During the luncheon, the winners for all categories will be announced. Single tickets sell for \$25, and a table for eight is \$200.

"We want to let them know we appreciate all they do for the community," Decker said.

'Stand Your Ground' discussed at LCPD Breakfast with the Chief

By AMANDA WILLIAMSON

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The trials of Michael Dunn and George Zimmerman came under fire during the Lake City Police Department Breakfast with the Chief Saturday morning at the Moose Lodge #624, as concerned citizens both questioned the legalities of the "Stand Your Ground" law and its ramifications.

LCPD Chief Argatha Gilmore invited Assistant State Attorney John Durrett and Third Circuit Public Defender Blair Payne to the quarterly session to discuss concerns raised during the last breakfast. A Columbia County resident had asked the police force about how he could handle trespassers on his property, and was given an introduction to "Stand Your Ground." The topic raised a lot of unanswered questions Gilmore hoped Durrett and Payne could clarify.

"If you are in a place where you have a lawful right to be, and not engaged in an unlawful act yourself, then you have the right to stand your ground, to meet force with force," Durrett said. "There is no obligation in the state of Florida any longer to walk away from impending great bodily harm, death or the commission of a forcible

felony upon you. What does that mean? It depends. You have to look at each circumstance individually."

According to Durrett, the law came into existence in 2005 when legislation eliminated an individual's duty to retreat when faced with bodily harm. Stand your ground creates immunity from criminal prosecution if it is found to be valid in a criminal case.

Historically, every state has had a self defense law in place, Payne said. In the past, people commonly referred to these rights as a castle doctrine, where individuals could justify the use of deadly force within one's home. But Florida is now one of approximately 22 states in America to institute 'Stand Your Ground,' he added. In Columbia County, instances of the law are very rare — with three out of 12,000 cases last year resulting in Stand Your Ground defense.

Though state officials are trying to push a variety of legislation to alter the law, Payne feels the only bill to have any traction is one allowing individuals to fire a warning shot into the air.

Bishop Ron Williams Jr., a Columbia County resident, feels the law allows for bias and racial profiling.

"It seems to me like the

only people who are dying are black kids because of perception and bias," he said. "I understand we've got a right to defend ourselves, but killing people just to kill them is getting under my skin right now. I just don't understand how an argument at a gas station ended up with someone dead."

His comment referred to the recent Dunn trial in Jacksonville. In November 2012, Dunn parked at a gas station next to a red Dodge Durango with four teenagers inside. He didn't like the loud music coming from the vehicle and asked them to turn it down. What happened next is known by only those who were there: Either Jordan Davis, a 17-year-old boy, threatened Dunn with a weapon or Dunn lost control. In the end, he fired 10 shots into the vehicle, killing Davis.

Though the trial echoed the Zimmerman case, the Stand Your Ground

defense was not used by Dunn's lawyers.

To answer Williams' concerns, Payne informed him he did not write the laws. Instead, the matter needed to be discussed with the Florida legislators.

"As long as a law is on the books, I'm going to use it to the best I can to defend my client," he said. "I think we've developed a culture of violence ... There's just a huge explosion of violence. People have become immune to the consequences."

During the breakfast with the police chief, the Lake City Police Department also introduced their new Android and iPhone application. The department wants to be on the cutting edge of technology, Gilmore said. The application will provide users the opportunity to find local crime statistics, commend an officer, submit a tip or read the latest police department tweets.

LAKE CITY COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING
CITY OF LAKE CITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lake City Community Redevelopment Agency for the City of Lake City, Florida will hold a meeting on Monday, March 3, 2014, at 6:45 P.M., in the Council Chambers located on the second floor of City Hall at 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA WILL MEET ON MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF CITY HALL AT 205 NORTH MARION AVENUE, LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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

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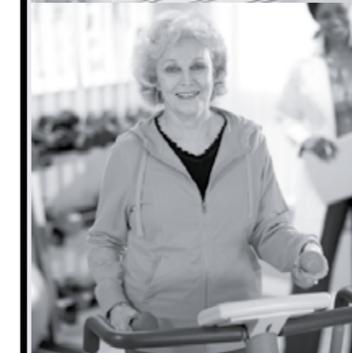
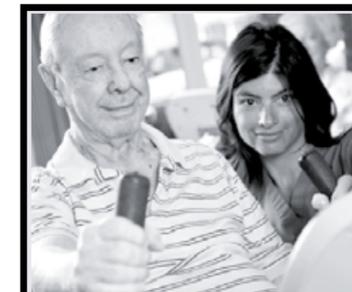
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Call to pre-register or for a tour.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Announcements

Pro Rodeo Queens

The 10th annual Miss Florida Gateway Pro Rodeo Queens Competition will be held on March 14 at the 20th annual Florida Gateway Pro Rodeo. Ladies age 4-18 are eligible to participate and win scholarships, tiaras, Montana Silver belt buckles, trophies and more. Applications are available at The Money Man, Smitty's Western Store, school offices and the Fair office. Or, they can be downloaded at www.columbiacountyfair.org. Call 386-752-8822 for more information.

CHS Yearbooks

Hunter Printing, 1330 SW Main Blvd., has about 20 like-new 2005 Columbia High School yearbooks for just \$10 each. Proceeds will go to the school museum. They also have available about 20 Pat Summerall memorial football programs from the 2013 football season, also \$10.

Attention caregivers

Are you a caregiver of a loved one suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's? Let the Columbia County Senior Services help relieve your stress through "In Home Care." Our CNAs are well-trained in caring for your loved one. Grant funding is available. Call J. Bisbrow at 755-0235 x 119 for more information.

March 3

Moral Monday

The local and state NAACP are joining forces on Monday, March 3 for a "Moral Monday" and are asking you to join in their call to action. A mass rally will be held at the capitol in Tallahassee for issues including affordable health care, medicaid expansion, ex-felons rights reservations and more. Contact ShaLeda at 386-984-6618 for more.

Seuss Stories

The Columbia County Public Library presents Seuss Stories on Monday, Feb. 3 at 3:30 p.m. at the Main Library. There will be crafts, snacks and a free book for each family that attends. A special presentation will be made by Janie Richardson from the Early Learning Coalition of Florida. Come for an afternoon of family fun and Read Across America with us. Call 386-758-2101 for more.

March 5

Friendship Luncheon

The Lake City Newcomers and Friends Club will meet on Wednesday, March 5 for a Friendship Luncheon at Ruby Tuesdays beginning at 11:30 a.m. Contact Rose Taylor at 755-2175 for more.

March 8

Pancake Breakfast

Bethel United Methodist Women will host a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 8 from 7:30-10 a.m. A \$5 per-plate donation is asked. The church is located on Hwy 441 South. All proceeds go to local missions.

Tobacco Cessation

Lake City Medical Center, 340 NW Commerce Dr., is hosting a free tobacco cessation class on Saturday, March 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. To register, call Katie at 352-275-7489. Participants will receive free Nicotine patches, gum and lozenges while supplies last. The class covers all forms of tobacco. Go to www.ahec-tobacco.com for more information.

Martial Arts

Laura Lindboe and



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Irrigating CHS

Columbia County landscape maintenance technicians Rebecca Perez and Greg Campbell work on an irrigation renovation project at Columbia High School on Friday.

the Academy of Martial Arts in Lake City present the 2014 Open Martial Arts Tournament on Saturday, March 8 held at Florida Gateway College. Spectator admission is \$8; children 3 and under are free. Register to compete or be an official at www.floridagatewaychallenge.com. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Laura at 386-623-0551.

March 11

Medicare Seminar

The LifeStyle Enrichment Center is hosting a free educational Medicare Seminar for residents 64 1/2 and older on Tuesday, March 11 from 5-6 p.m. Irv Crowetz will cover topics like what you need to know about Medicare, when to enroll and what is covered. RSVP to 386-755-3476 x107.

March 12

Newcomers

The Lake City newcomers monthly luncheon will be on Wednesday, March 12 at 11 a.m. at the Quang Dong Chinese Restaurant in the mall. The program will be an update on activities at the LifeStyle Enrichment Center by director Debbie Freeman. Contact Pinky Moore at 752-4552 for more.

March 13

Attracting Butterflies

UF/IFAS Suwannee County Master Gardeners will be offering an "Attracting Butterflies to your Garden" workshop on Thursday, March 13 at Heritage Park and Gardens in Live Oak. Participants will be able to take home a butterfly plant, educational materials and new knowledge. Seating is limited so reserve your spot by March 10 by calling Carolyn Saft at 386-362-2771.

March 15

Bowl-a-thon

CARC's 21st annual Bowl-a-thon will be held Saturday, March 15 at 1 and 3 p.m. Door prizes will be given away all afternoon; grand prizes are awarded to bowlers that raise the most money. Call

752-1880 x 105 for more info and to register your team.

Policeman's Ball

The Lake City Police Department is inviting the community to a Policeman's Ball and

Charity Gala to benefit the Columbia County Senior Services on Saturday, March 15 from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Robert B. Harkness Armory Florida National Guard, 490 NW Lake Jeffery Road. Contact Audre' Washington at 386-

719-5742 for more information.

March 16

2nd Anniversary Party

High Springs Music in the Park Series celebrates their 2nd year anniversary with a party at James Paul Park on March 16 beginning at 2 p.m. There will be food, cake, live music and great friends.

March 17

Academic Recognition

The Presley Excel and Scholars Program invites the community to an academic recognition program for students in grades K-12 who have a report card with no grade under a B or S. The program is Monday, March 17 at 6 p.m. at the New Pisgah A.M.E. Church, 245 NE Washington Street. The program is sponsored by Dr. Jean Felert Cadet. Parents of each qualifying student should contact Bernice Presley at 386-752-4074 on or before Monday, March 10. There will be a special award for three honors students who write the best one-page typed, printed in ink, or neat cursive paper on the topic "Why I Feel Education is the Key to Success." The deadline for the essay is Monday, March 10.

Hydroponic business

UF/IFAS will host a short course on starting a successful hydroponic business at the Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center in Live Oak on March 17-18 and March 21-22. Attend either session. The cost of the course is \$325 for primary participant registration and \$240 for

secondary participant registration. The optional grower tour is \$30 per person. Call Sarah White or Karen Hancock at 386-362-1725 for more information.

Executive Committee

Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway, Inc. will hold an Executive Committee Meeting on Monday, March 17 at 3 p.m. at the Coalition Office, 1104 SW Main Blvd. Call Stacey DePratter at 386-752-9770 with questions.

SCORE Workshop

There will be a SCORE Entrepreneur's workshop on March 17 from 6-8 p.m. at the Columbia County Public Library, 308 NW Columbia Ave. The workshop is free to attend but an RSVP is required. Do so at 386-752-2000 or scorelakecity@gmail.com.

March 29

Car Show fundraiser

The Suwannee Relay for Life team is hosting a Car Show Fundraiser on March 29 in the South Oak Square in Live Oak. Registration is from 9-11 a.m. Judging begins at 2:30 p.m., awards will be given at 3 p.m. Registration before March 14 is \$20; after is \$25. Goodie bags are available for the first 50 registrants. Call 386-590-2232 for more.

April 19

Quilt raffle

A king size Gator quilt will be raffled at the LifeStyle Enrichment Center, 628 SE Allison Ct., on April 19 at 1 p.m.. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Only 300 tickets will be printed. Proceeds benefit the Sewers' Activity Fund Drawing. Call 438-9910 for more information.

OBITUARIES

Truett George, Jr

Mr. Truett George, Jr, 78, passed away February 27, 2014, at the Haven Hospice E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville, Florida. He was born on December 4, 1935, in Louisville, KY.



Truett graduated from Male High School in Louisville, KY, in 1954. He later attended college at the University of Louisville and Columbia University in New York. While he lived in Louisville, he was an active member of the Louisville Jaycees and he served in the Kentucky National Guard. He spent parts of his life in New York, NY, Nashville, TN, New Orleans, LA, and Savannah, GA.

In 1974, drawn by the allure of the crystal clear waters of the Ichetucknee Springs, Truett moved to Fort White, FL, where he lived the rest of his life. A talented artist and hard-working entrepreneur, he founded and operated a stained glass studio, Advent Glass Works, Inc. Through Advent, Truett designed, built, and restored stained glass windows for churches throughout the United States. He joined the Stained Glass Association of America in 1978 and later became a board member. In 1993, he was elected president of the SGAA for a two-year term. In 2006, he was elected a Fellow in the SGAA. Truett was a community leader and very active in local politics. At one point, he served as chairman of the Columbia County Democratic Party. He was a member of the Fort White Town Council from 1991 to 1998. He was elected Mayor of Fort White in 1998, and he served as Mayor until his death. He was a member of the Lake City Lion's Club and the Elks Club. He was an avid Florida

Gator fan and a Gator football season ticket holder for over thirty years. His first language was sign language. At one point in his life, Truett was a boxer, an airplane pilot, a photographer, and a traveling salesman. He had numerous hobbies over the course of his life, including golf, fishing, and snorkeling. He loved music, talking politics, wood-working, traveling, socializing with his Lion's Club friends on Tuesday nights, and spending time with his family. He was an avid reader, and he filled his home with books. He was gregarious, stubborn, charming, full of life, and a gifted raconteur, always with a story to tell.

Truett was preceded in death by his parents, Truett George, Sr., and Bertha Hogue George. He is survived by his wife of almost 44 years, Merry S. George; his daughter, Tina Coyle (Pat), of Park Ridge, IL; his son, Scott George of Louisville, KY; his

daughter, Dr. Merry Jennifer Markham (Sam) of Gainesville, FL; his son, Clay George, of Fort White, FL; five grandchildren: Blaine Coyle, Kevin Coyle, William Coyle, Madeline Markham, and Oliver Markham; brother Kenneth George (Darlene), of Bon Aqua, TN; brother Boyce George, of Louisville, KY; five nieces, two nephews, and numerous other relatives and friends who loved him dearly.

Visitation will be from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at Dees-Parrish Family Funeral Home - 458 S. Marion Ave, Lake City, FL. Funeral services will be at 2:00 pm on Friday, March 7, 2014, at the First United Methodist Church - 973 S. Marion Avenue, Lake City, FL. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Haven Hospice, 4200 NW 90th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32606. Arrangements are under the care of the DEES-PARRISH FAMILY

FUNERAL HOME, 458 S. Marion Ave., Lake City, FL, 32025. Please sign the guestbook at parishfamilyfuneralhome.com

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

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SESSION

Continued From 1A

pie. When you start splitting it up among all of the special interests that want a little piece of that pie, your piece winds up not being very big at all."

Early estimates put funding like that upwards of \$350 to \$400 million, but senators have since backed away from those figures, moving predicted funding levels closer to Governor Scott's desire to pledge \$55 million into springs-related funding this year.

Porter said fresh funding was likely considering Florida's recovering economy, adding that legislators aren't "focused on squeezing every single dollar out of the budget as they would've four or five years ago."

However, many legislators, particularly those in districts without freshwater springs, are reluctant to dive head first into springs protection efforts—though Porter hopes to convince them otherwise.

"It's more than just the water supply, levels and health of the springs. It really is an economic engine for us up here," she said.

Analysts predict this year's session would be geared slightly more toward securing funding for springs projects themselves as opposed to sweeping statewide changes.

Another issue to watch will be HB 493, a piece of legislation representative Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala) introduced as his attempt to remedy the ongoing Olustee monument dispute. Under this bill, lawmakers would have to approve the addition to any monument to a state park.

"I would not even attempt to take a guess [HB 493's outcome]," Porter said. "There is a lot on tap for this session. It may not be one of the priority bills...It probably will see at least one committee because he is a chair."

Porter, a staunch critic of Baxley's bill, said she has been having ongoing discussions with U.S. representative Ted Yoho (R-Gainesville) and staff with the U.S. Forest Service to have the issue resolved without state intervention.

Aside from springs and monuments, Porter has been working on a handful of other house bills she's either sponsored or co-sponsored, according to House records:

- HB 21 County Employees—Authorizes governing body of county to determine available benefits of county employees; provides for applicability of certain provisions relating to Florida Retirement System;

- HB 223 Professional Geology—Revises licensure examination requirements for professional geologists; provides requirements for registration as geologist-in-training;...exempts registered geologists-in-training seeking licensure as professional geologist from retaking fundamentals of geology part of licensure examination;

- HM 285 United States Department of Education—Urges Congress to abolish U.S. Department of Education;

- HB 295 Employment After Retirement of School District Personnel—Revises provisions relating to re-employment of retirees as instructional personnel on contract basis; provides legislative intent & findings to clarify authorization to award contracts; provides requirements for judgment in certain civil actions or administrative proceedings;

- HB 355 Postsecondary Education Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability—Revises textbook affordability policies and procedures to include other instructional materials; requires policies and procedures to be adopted by Florida College System institutions and state universities; requires institution to post information on course schedule relating to required & recommended textbooks & costs; requires recommendations to Governor and Legislature to reduce student costs.

Florida's 2014 legislative session begins Tuesday.

ISSUES

Continued From 1A

Credit Scholarship Program. But groups such as the Florida Education Association teachers union have long opposed voucher-like ideas.

Tax cuts on tap

As Republicans have dominated Florida politics since the late 1990s, one of their go-to issues has been cutting taxes. Gov. Rick Scott hopes to tap into that as he runs for re-election this year. Scott is pitching \$500 million in tax and fee cuts, including the rollback of a vehicle-registration fee increase approved in 2009. Senate President Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, and House Speaker Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, have already com-

mitted to making \$500 million in cuts, though details remain to be worked out.

Health care fights

The 2013 legislative session was filled with debate about whether Florida should expand Medicaid under the federal Affordable Care Act. While Democrats will try to resurrect the issue this year, a Medicaid expansion is all but dead. But the health-care world could see a couple of major lobbying fights, including a hospital-industry battle about state approvals of new trauma centers. Also, a debate has been raging about a House proposal to allow nurse practitioners to provide care without the supervision of physicians.

Retirement revamp

House Speaker Will

Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, has made a top priority of trying to move the state away from a traditional pension system for future government workers. A group of Republican senators banded together with Democrats last year to kill a proposed shift into 401(k)-style plans. But Weatherford and his allies are back this year with other alternatives. This could become one of the most-intriguing political issues of the session.

Tuition targeted

Taking a cue from Gov. Rick Scott, lawmakers appear poised to take steps to hold down tuition in state colleges and universities. Among other things, legislative leaders have expressed support for changing a law that allows universities to raise

tuition as much as 15 percent a year. Also, they say they want to make the Florida Prepaid College Program more affordable. Questions remain, however, about whether lawmakers will approve extending in-state tuition rates to undocumented immigrants.

Child protection

The state has faced scrutiny during the past year because of highly publicized incidents of children dying of abuse and neglect. Also, it has been stung by reports of sexual predators being free to commit new crimes. While the details of the issues are different, both come back to the state Department of Children and Families. Lawmakers will try to take steps during the session

to improve child protection, while also cracking down on sexually violent predators.

No safe bets in gambling issue

The Senate has spent months gathering information about whether to revamp gambling laws, including whether to allow high-end resort casinos in South Florida. But as the session starts, it is unclear whether lawmakers and Gov. Rick Scott will agree on a plan. House Speaker Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, is calling for gambling expansions to go before voters. Meanwhile, House and Senate leaders want to know how Scott will handle a critical gambling deal that runs out in 2015 with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

SALARIES

Continued From 1A

it was determined Columbia County ranked 5.04 percent below the statewide average cost of living.

However, "increases in salaries in the local operating area (Columbia and surrounding counties) and other agencies throughout the state have been averaging from one percent to two percent over the past few years," Cody & Associates said. "Based upon our information and experience...salary increases in the range of one and a half percent to three percent can be anticipated for this next fiscal year."

The report then listed each of the county's official positions and by what percentage their starting salaries differed from the adjusted average minimum.

For example, the report indicated the starting salary for a Columbia County 911 dispatcher was 21.47 percent below the 18 compared counties and agencies' average minimums.

Of the county's 21 emergency dispatchers, 11 have been working in the position for less than two years.

"We have a high turnover," Emergency Operations Center Director Tom Brazil said. "The vast majority of it is money."

But what's not indicated in the report, Brazil said, are the costs associated with the training and certification of new dispatchers—on average, the county will spend roughly \$12,000 over six to 12 months on each new dispatcher before they're able to handle the position with minimal supervision.

"It's a fairly significant part of the budget," he said. "What really hurts is when you lose a dispatcher who's fully trained...I think addressing the salaries has been long overdue. You've got to be competitive with your surrounding areas."

Cody and Associates' made the following recommendation:

"Consider increasing salaries from one to three percent to attain closer comparability and equity with like agencies and positions throughout the state and region," they wrote.

A one percent across the board increase to the county's roughly \$18.5 million payroll would equate to an additional \$185,000 a year.

However, even if commissioners voted for a one percent increase, many positions would still trail the survey's recommended average by double digit percentages.

Some of those positions and their double digit disparities include:

- Laborers, -18 percent;

- Entry-level secretaries, -26.23 percent;
- Upper-level revenue clerks, -16.27 percent;
- Deputy sheriffs, -10.71 percent;

As indicated near the beginning of the story, not all positions had negative deficits—all departments, excluding the tax collector, retain positions that pay above the recommended minimums, some by a double digit margin.

"What I think most people don't look at between the private and public sector is that the county has good benefits," Commissioner Ron Williams said. "Pension, health insurance 100 percent, paid holidays off, annual leave, sick leave... We have a good program when it comes to what the employee gets beside their salary."

However, special interest groups such as "Support Our Sheriff" have been vocal critics about wages, arguing that many sheriff's deputies look for supplementary sources of income, such as second jobs.

Commissioners acknowledged the need and say the salary survey is the first step toward addressing the issue, but must find a way to balance it with other issues requiring county funding, such as the deteriorating jail and communication system, stormwater mitigation issues, year end projects, recreation improvements and so on.

"You can't just look at salary adjustments only and say that's all we're going to address because all of those things on that list are important," County Manager Dale Williams said. "[The commissioners] are looking at it in a proper way—the big picture. They will come to a conclusion as to how much they can logically spend in order to implement the corrections based on the survey, but that number won't be known until several months down the road."

Dale Williams indicated during a Thursday workshop that a "one size fits all" solution won't be feasible considering the unique needs of different positions, such as the 911 dispatchers.

"We're going to have to look at it from a depart-

mental type basis," he said. "There may be provisions that apply to only certain departments when we get through."

One issue at the forefront of the salary survey focuses on the dynamics of seniority.

"You could start working for the county making \$20,000 a year," Ron Williams said. "But then I got a guy that's been there eight years making \$21,500. How much money do you allot to put separation between a new employee and one that's been there longer making almost the same as [the survey's recommendation]?"

The county is still in the early stages of its budget and planning deliberations and has until Oct. 1 to create a budget for the next fiscal year.

"The process has started and during each one of these workshops more info will be provided and decisions will be made," Dale Williams said.

For more information on the salary survey and other issues facing next year's county budget, visit www.columbiacountyfla.com. Under "all meetings and downloads," select the Feb. 27 Board of County Commissioners meeting, or call 386-758-1005.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

'Helping Hands' named Project of the Year

By AVALYN HUNTER
Special to the Reporter

FORT WHITE — In the race to produce citizens able to compete and contribute in a highly technological society, it's easy to see the need for schools to teach "hard" skills in basic and applied sciences, math, and medicine. Basic knowledge and skills in science and math are also easily tested, making it relatively easy for a school to measure its success in these areas.

Unfortunately, "soft" qualities such as listening skills, compassion, empathy, a willingness to sacrifice for others, and a strong ethical compass tend not to grab as much attention, and they are not easily tested except by real-life experience. Yet these traits are needed to create and maintain a society worth living in, regardless of its technological level. And school activities can be a valuable part of teaching these abilities, as demonstrated by the Student Government Association at Fort White High School.

Working with their sponsor, Deirdre Houk, and with St. James' Episcopal Church, they recently completed a project called "Helping Hands," which benefited the homeless of Columbia County. Their work was recognized by the Florida Association of Student Councils, which named "Helping Hands" its Project of the Year. More importantly, the SGA students learned a lesson they will never forget about the joy of giving to others.

Planning for the project began in Houk's student leadership classes back in October 2013.

"I had worked with ministries for the homeless through my church, so it was something I was inter-



Fort White students show off the trophy they won from the Florida Association of Student Councils for their 'Helping Hands' project being named Project of the Year.

ested in from the start," said project co-chairman Raeann Meyerhoff, representing a project leadership committee that included co-chairman Tristan Nelson and members Brittany Alexander, Samantha Tusing and Gina d'Antonio.

"When we started discussing it in class, we decided the best way to get going was to partner with an already-established homeless ministry. One of our student resource officers, Deputy Kimberly Ray, attends St. James and was able to put us in touch with the ministry leaders there. They normally provide meals for the homeless on Mondays and Tuesdays and were happy to let us work with them."

Houk's high school students already had supply

drives and food drives in progress while they were looking for the right partner and continued those drives up into January, posting fliers around the school and offering a pizza party for the class that could collect the most. Donated clothing and non-perishable food items were then sorted and grouped into "goody bags" for easy distribution. Middle school leadership students assisted the high schoolers in arranging for chili to be cooked and donated for the lunch.

When the big day came on January 28, the SGA students worked at St. James during the morning to prepare and package the chili lunches. They then took the lunches and supplies to a prearranged location in

the community for distribution.

"The church people told us they normally served 75 to 80 lunches on a meal day, but I guess the word got around because people just kept coming and coming. I think we ended up serving about 100," said Houk.

The students who participated in the project found themselves deeply touched.

"It was an eye-opener for a lot of us," said student Sadie Wilbur. "Most of us are from fairly well-off families and we've never been without a place to live or food and clothes. It was a reality check for us, seeing how good people could become homeless through no fault of their own, and a lesson about not being selfish."

Brittany Alexander agreed.

"I didn't even know there were homeless people around here before," she said. "If I thought about it at all before this, I just thought they were mostly drug addicts or bums. Instead, I

found out they were people like us."

One student in particular made a lasting impression on a local family.

"A couple came with their little boy and he didn't have a coat or jacket," said Montine Humphries. "We were able to find him one and they almost cried, they were so grateful. It was the best part of the day. I wish we had been able to make more of a personal connection like that with more of the people we were serving, but we were so busy that we didn't have as much time for that as we would have liked."

When the day ended, the only regret the FWHS SGA students had was that they could not do more.

"We'd like to do this a couple of times next year, maybe even monthly if we could arrange to do something on weekends," said project co-chairman Tristan Nelson. "It made us feel that we were making a difference in our community."

SHOW

Continued From 1A

raised by the Home and Patio Show back to the community. They provide physicals to children free of charge and scholarships to Florida Gateway College students.

"The Home and Patio Show is pretty much to support the local business community," said Rotary Club of Downtown Lake City president Austin Seay. "Whatever vision you have for inside or outside your home, you could come by and talk to someone here one-on-one. Pretty much anything you could think of for the house, there's a vendor."

The event ran Saturday until 5 p.m. and runs today from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. There's no entrance fee and it's free to park. Two buildings at the fairgrounds house everything from carpet, construction and real estate to gardening supplies and pest control. On Saturday, the Home and Patio Show drew a steady crowd of people visiting the more than 40 booths on site.

Florida Gateway Landscape and Irrigation has been a part of the show since it started. Aside from a decal on the company's trailer, the show provides the only advertising it does year-round — enough to keep the 25-year-old company busy.

"It's just wonderful to be in the community, see old friends, make new friends and offer our services," said owner Terry Litteral.

As for how this year's Home and Patio Show pans out, Litteral said the proof will be in the sales and business leads he receives over the weekend. But, as of day's end on Saturday, he felt like it was looking pretty good.

For the Rotary Club of Lake City Downtown, service is about getting into the community it serves, Seay said.

For more information on the club, visit its website at rotarydowntown.com.



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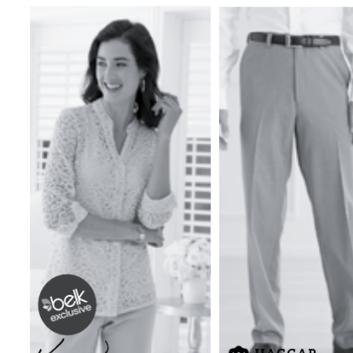
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THE WEATHER

2 SUN Partly cloudy Light wind HI 79 LO 50	03 MON Partly cloudy HI 79 LO 49	04 TUE Partly cloudy HI 65 LO 45	05 WED Chance of rain showers Cloudy HI 65 LO 50	06 THU Isolated storms Cloudy HI 63 LO 47
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REGIONAL FORECAST MAP for Sunday, March 2

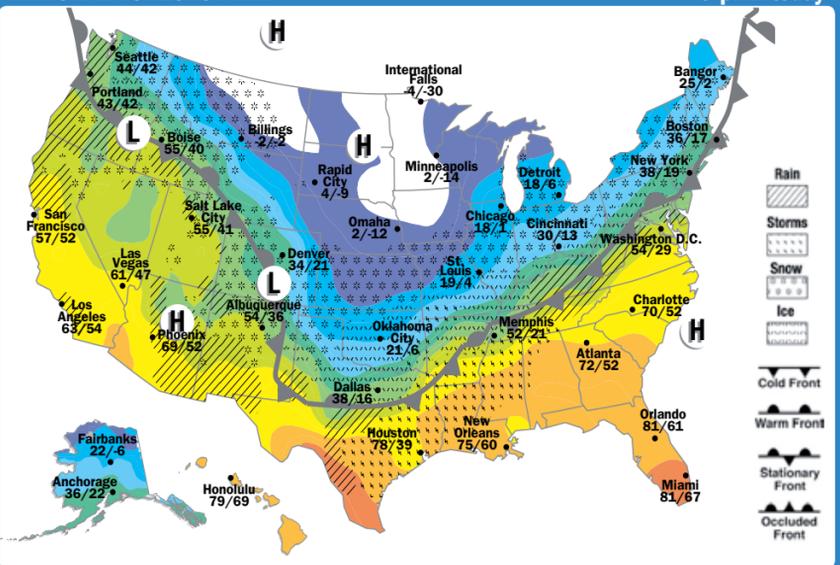
Sunday's highs/Sunday night's low

City	Monday	Tuesday
Cape Canaveral	83/62/pc	77/61/pc
Daytona Beach	82/60/pc	72/58/pc
Fort Myers	83/61/pc	79/60/pc
Ft. Lauderdale	83/67/pc	83/70/pc
Gainesville	81/53/fg	67/48/cd
Jacksonville	80/52/fg	61/47/cd
Key West	79/70/pc	79/70/s
Lake City	81/53/fg	67/48/cd
Miami	82/68/pc	84/70/pc
Naples	80/63/pc	80/64/pc
Ocala	82/53/fg	69/51/cd
Orlando	83/61/pc	77/59/pc
Panama City	65/46/ts	59/49/pc
Pensacola	64/39/ts	55/48/pc
Tallahassee	75/46/ts	66/46/pc
Tampa	78/60/pc	73/57/cd
Valdosta	76/47/ts	61/44/pc
W. Palm Beach	83/64/pc	82/69/pc

NATIONAL FORECAST: A strong winter storm will produce rain and snow from the southern Plains to the Northeast, with some ice over the mid-Mississippi Valley. A frontal boundary will produce rain and snow over the Northwest, with snow likely over Rockies.

NATIONAL FORECAST MAP

3 p.m. today



YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL EXTREMES

High: 91°, Brady, TX

Low: -31°, Langdon, ND

LAKE CITY ALMANAC

TEMPERATURES

High Saturday	71	SUN	Sunrise today	6:55 a.m.
Low Saturday	42		Sunset today	6:30 p.m.
Normal high	72		Sunrise tom.	6:54 a.m.
Normal low	48		Sunset tom.	6:30 p.m.
Record high	87 in 1997			
Record low	26 in 2002			

PRECIPITATION

Saturday	0.00"	MOON	Moonrise today	7:34 a.m.
Month total	0.00"		Moonset today	8:13 p.m.
Year total	1.97"		Moonrise tom.	8:15 a.m.
Normal month-to-date	0.14"		Moonset tom.	9:16 p.m.
Normal year-to-date	6.65"			

March 1 March 2 March 30
First Full Last New

UV INDEX

8

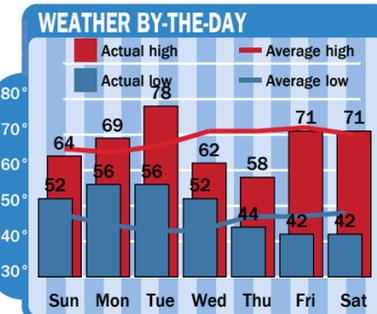
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radiation risk
for the area on
a scale from 0
to 10+.

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WEATHER HISTORY

An unusual warning was sent out to residents near Lake Tahoe, Calif. on this date in 1983. People were warned not to go out cross country skiing as they might ski into power lines. The snow depth near lake level was measured at an astonishing 215 inches.

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CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W
Albany	31/1/0.00	25/8/sn	Des Moines	21/6/0.00	0/-13/pc	Oklahoma City	46/39/0.00	21/6/i
Albuquerque	60/39/.01	54/36/sn	Detroit	30/17/0.00	19/4/sn	Omaha	19/5/0.00	2/-12/pc
Anchorage	30/19/0.00	36/22/fg	El Paso	78/52/0.00	67/45/sh	Orlando	77/51/0.00	81/60/fg
Atlanta	61/41/.02	72/52/pc	Fairbanks	16/-2/0.00	22/6/pc	Philadelphia	40/17/0.00	41/20/r
Baltimore	44/14/0.00	47/24/r	Greensboro	-2/21/0.00	66/50/pc	Phoenix	71/57/37	69/52/sh
Billings	-3/-13/.05	-2/2/sn	Hartford	33/0/0.00	33/15/fi	Pittsburgh	47/18/0.00	30/18/i
Birmingham	66/46/0.00	72/48/pc	Honolulu	75/69/.32	79/69/sh	Portland ME	28/3/0.00	32/7/fi
Bismarck	-7/-14/0.00	5/-11/pc	Houston	80/64/0.00	78/39/ts	Portland OR	45/37/.01	43/42/r
Boise	44/38/0.00	55/40/sh	Indianapolis	49/26/0.00	23/9/sn	Raleigh	-2/8/0.00	68/51/pc
Boston	36/16/0.00	36/17/fi	Jackson MS	77/52/0.00	74/39/sh	Reno	1/5/20	4/9/cd
Buffalo	34/10/0.00	16/8/sn	Jacksonville	70/48/0.00	76/53/fg	Reno	53/36/0.00	56/36/pc
Charleston SC	57/46/0.00	72/54/pc	Kansas City	29/17/0.00	7/-8/sn	Sacramento	66/52/0.00	65/50/pc
Charleston WV	48/24/0.00	46/22/fg	Las Vegas	62/48/0.00	64/47/pc	Salt Lake City	55/48/.02	55/41/sh
Charlotte	56/31/0.00	70/52/fg	Little Rock	62/46/0.00	53/20/r	San Antonio	57/48/0.00	79/34/ts
Cheyenne	19/5/.07	27/16/pc	Los Angeles	60/55/30	63/55/sh	San Diego	64/57/57	63/53/sh
Chicago	30/19/0.06	18/1/fi	Memphis	68/46/0.00	52/21/ts	San Francisco	61/53/04	57/52/pc
Cincinnati	52/28/0.00	30/13/i	Miami	81/60/0.00	81/67/pc	Seattle	45/41/02	44/42/sn
Cleveland	45/21/0.00	21/5/sn	Minneapolis	6/-2/0.00	2/-14/pc	Spokane	19/12/0.00	20/16/sn
Columbia SC	39/26/0.00	12/-2/sn	Mobile	72/52/0.00	73/56/fg	St. Louis	43/35/0.00	19/4/i
Dallas	81/51/0.00	41/16/i	New Orleans	75/57/0.00	75/60/pc	Tampa	72/51/0.00	78/62/pc
Daytona Beach	72/49/0.00	78/58/fg	New York	36/17/0.00	35/20/sn	Tucson	66/57/03	65/47/sh
Denver	28/10/0.03	34/21/cd	Oakland	68/54/02	60/50/pc	Washington	45/23/0.00	54/29/r

INTERNATIONAL

CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W	CITY	Saturday Hi/Lo/Pcp.	Today Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco	84/71/0.00	86/73/s	La Paz	64/39/0.00	64/35/ts	Rio	89/78/0.00	87/69/ts
Amsterdam	46/41/0.00	46/33/pc	Lima	82/71/0.00	82/69/cd	Rome	53/46/0.00	55/37/r
Athens	55/53/0.00	59/51/r	London	48/33/0.00	46/35/pc	San Juan PR	85/74/0.00	83/72/pc
Auckland	68/60/0.00	69/57/pc	Madrid	55/44/0.00	57/46/r	Santiago	87/68/0.00	87/68/pc
Beijing	53/26/0.00	44/24/pc	Mexico City	78/51/0.00	78/53/pc	Seoul	53/35/0.00	51/32/cd
Berlin	51/32/0.00	55/37/pc	Montreal	24/6/0.00	26/4/pc	Singapore	89/77/0.00	89/75/pc
Buenos Aires	75/68/0.00	77/66/pc	Moscow	35/17/0.00	35/21/s	St. Thomas VI	83/75/0.00	83/73/pc
Cairo	87/51/0.00	86/64/cd	Nairobi	82/59/0.00	82/55/ts	Sydney	74/65/08	71/64/r
Geneva	46/35/0.00	44/33/r	Nassau	78/71/0.00	80/68/pc	Tel Aviv	78/48/0.00	77/68/pc
Havana	78/60/0.00	80/55/s	New Delhi	66/55/0.00	66/50/r	Tokyo	51/44/0.00	53/42/r
Helsinki	35/24/0.00	35/30/cd	Oslo	46/42/0.00	44/41/r	Toronto	28/17/0.00	33/8/cd
Hong Kong	77/66/0.00	71/64/pc	Panama	91/75/0.00	89/75/pc	Vienna	55/33/0.00	53/37/s
Kingston	84/73/0.00	86/71/ts	Paris	48/39/0.00	50/33/r	Warsaw	44/30/0.00	51/28/pc

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



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SPORTS

Story ideas?

Contact
Tim Kirby

Sports Editor
754-0421
tkirby@lakecityreporter.com

Sunday, March 2, 2014

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Section B

GAMES

Monday

■ Fort White High weightlifting vs. Santa Fe High, Hawthorne High, 4 p.m.

■ Fort White High JV baseball vs. Suwannee High, 6 p.m.

Tuesday

■ Columbia High girls tennis at Orange Park High, 3 p.m.

■ Columbia High softball vs. Middleburg High, 5:30 p.m.

■ Fort White High softball at Hamilton County High, 6:30 p.m.

■ Fort White High baseball at Keystone Heights High, 6:30 p.m.

■ Columbia High baseball at Lafayette High, 7 p.m. (JV-4:30)

Thursday

■ Columbia High tennis at Middleburg High, 2:45 p.m.

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

■ Columbia High baseball at Cedar Creek Christian School, 6:30 p.m.

■ Fort White High baseball vs. Williston High, 6:30 p.m. (JV-6:30 at Williston)

■ Columbia High softball at Trinity Christian Academy, 7 p.m. (JV-5)

Friday

■ Columbia High tennis vs. Fleming Island High, 3 p.m.

■ Columbia High JV softball at Santa Fe Tournament, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

■ Fort White High softball vs. Keystone Heights High, 6 p.m.

■ Columbia High softball vs. West Nassau High, 7 p.m.

■ Columbia High baseball vs. Fort White High, 7 p.m. (JV-4:30)

Saturday

■ Columbia High baseball vs. Wakulla High, 2 p.m. (JV-noon)

■ Columbia High JV softball at Santa Fe Tournament, 2 p.m.

BRIEFS

MARTIAL ARTS

Tournament set for Saturday

Laure Lindboe & Academy of Martial Arts in Lake City present the 2014 Open Martial Arts Tournament Saturday at Florida Gateway College. Admission is \$8 (free for children 3 and younger). For details, call Lindboe at 623-0551.

CHS FOOTBALL

Q-back Club meeting Monday

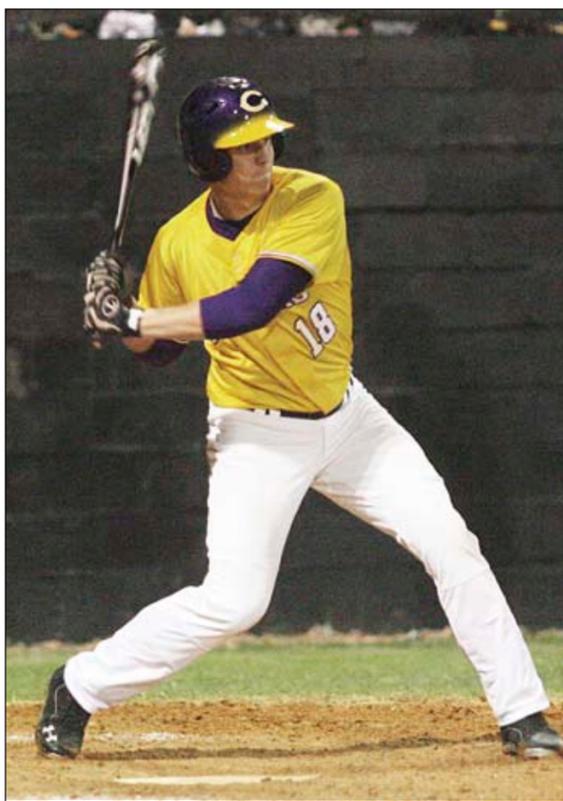
The Columbia High Quarterback Club will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the Jones Fieldhouse.

FORT WHITE CHEER

Clinic, tryouts set for March

Cheerleading tryouts for Fort White varsity, junior varsity and middle school squads are 9 a.m. March 22 in the high school gym. There is a tryout clinic from 3:30-5:30 p.m. March 18-20 in the gym. A mandatory parent meeting for those interested in trying out is 6 p.m. March 13. For details, call Kathy DePratter at 497-5952, Ext. 158, or e-mail deprat@columbiak12.com.

■ From staff reports



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Columbia High's Alex Milton prepares to swing at a pitch while playing Suwannee High on Tuesday.

Tigers bounce back against Trojans, 13-3

Vaughn strikes out eight in four innings on Friday.

By BRANDON FINLEY
bfinley@lakecityreporter.com

Columbia High rebounded from its only loss of the season in impressive fashion with a 13-3 win against Hamilton County High on Friday.

Caleb "Mr. Friday Night" Vaughn picked up his second win in as many Fridays with a four-inning performance in which he struck out eight batters on two hits.

"When I'm pitching under the Friday night lights, I still get butterflies," Vaughn said. "It's a different feeling this year. As seniors, we're trying to pick up the slack and there's no better feeling than knowing you have people supporting us."

Vaughn wasn't the only senior with a standout performance. Levi Hollingsworth went 3-for-3

at the plate and hit a two-run homer.

"He's the type of kid that is capable of doing that every night," Columbia head coach Heath Phillips said after the game. "He's a big strong kid that can continue to get better if he stays within himself."

The Tigers jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the second inning and never looked back. Jordan Culp drove in Hollingsworth and Kaleb Thomas for the 2-0 lead and Dalton Mauldin followed with a double to score Steven Rendel and Culp.

The Tigers exploded for five more in the third inning starting with Hollingsworth's two-run homer to score Alex Milton.

"They were pitching away from me and I just extended my arms," he said. "It's good to get that off my chest and get my season underway. I'm just looking to build off that."

CHS continued on 2B

Sheppard wants to raise CHS bar



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Travis Sheppard is Columbia High's new track head coach.

New track coach brings experience

By BRANDON FINLEY
bfinley@lakecityreporter.com

Columbia High will usher in a new coach for track and field this season as Travis Sheppard takes the reins for the Tigers.

Sheppard is no stranger to the track as he had a

standout career in South Carolina during his time in the sport.

"I graduated West Lawrence High School in South Carolina and hold three school records," Sheppard said. "As soon as I graduated I went into the Army for eight years of

active duty. One year, I was in a combat zone in Iraq. In 2005, I started coaching at my alma mater. In 2008, I coached Lauren Ellis to a Class 4A state championship in the 400 open. I had three back-to-back

TRACK continued on 3B

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Lady Tigers putting in road work at 7-0

By BRANDON FINLEY
bfinley@lakecityreporter.com

With another win under their belts, the defending state champion Lady Tigers of Columbia High can finally prepare to come home with a 7-0 record.

"We're not playing our best right now, but we're finding a way to win," head coach Jimmy Williams said after his team's 12-1 win against Madison County High on Friday. "It's a different way, but that's all you can ask for. I know we're not playing our best, but we're dang sure finding a way to win whether its 1-0 or whatever. I'm proud of that. I think we're about to hit a stride. The first part of our schedule was really tough and we were playing on the road. I think we're going to be able to turn it up a notch in the next several games."

Columbia never trailed in the contest. In the top of the second Brandy Morgan led off with a triple and Kamdyn Kvistad followed with a single to score Morgan for the early 1-0 lead. Then Columbia exploded.

The Lady Tigers followed up with seven runs in the third innings. Lacey King bunted for a single and Tatum Morgan walked before Kayli Kvistad singled to knock both runners in. Brandy Morgan singled to score Kayli Kvistad and Kamdyn Kvistad followed with a single to put two more runners on base. Erin Anderson singled to score Brandy Morgan and

Kamdyn Kvistad. The Lady Tigers batted around with and King ended the scoring by batting Leslie Ann Ronsonet and Anderson for an 8-0 lead after three innings.

"We're starting to score runs in bunches," Williams said. "We're starting to find those big innings. At any time, we can come up and get five."

In the fourth inning, Columbia added two more runs for a 10-0 lead. Anderson hit a double to score Brandy Morgan and Hollianne Dohrn followed with another double off the fence to score Anderson.

With a 10-1 lead in the top of the fifth, Kayli Kvistad scored King off a single to make it 11-1. Passed balls allowed Kayli Kvistad to round the bases for the 12-1 final.

Ashley Shoup pitched five innings with three hits, four strikeouts and no walks to pick up her first win of the year.

"Ashley had a good game," Williams said. "She had command of what she was doing and only missed one pitch all night. It was pretty impressive on her part. She only allowed three base runners all night. It's hard to score from the dugout."

Columbia opens its home schedule against Middleburg High at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Tigers track

Columbia High had a solid showing in its first

meet under new head coach Travis Sheppard at the Danny Brown Invitational at Bishop Snyder High in Jacksonville.

The team of Rakeem Battle, Latrell Williams, Gabe Kimble and Zedrick Woods led the way by finishing first in the 4x100 meter relay. Each event had 100 plus athletes according to Sheppard. Columbia finished with a time of 43.50.

Columbia finished 13th overall in the boys 4x800 meter relay with a time of 9:42.96. Cody Bass, Zachery Peterson, Chris Sellers and Timothy Pierce represented the Tigers.

Alex Weber finished fourth in the long jump with a 20-foot jump. Malechi Jean and Deontae Crumitie finished sixth and seventh, respectively, in the shot put.

Zedrick Woods just missed a first-place finish in the 100 meter dash with a time of 11.05. Battle was 12th.

Ashayla English finished 13th with a time of 13.77 in the girls 100-meter dash and 13th in the 200 meter dash with a time of 28.40.

Bernita Brown was 8th in the 400 meter dash with a time of 1:05.04. Emma Tucker finished 8th in the 800 meter with at 2:32.62 and 15th in the 1600 meter with a time of 5:42.87. Nicole Morse was 14th with a time of 5:41.64.

In the girls 4x100 meter relay, Jameson Carter, English, HalleyStanley and Charline Watson finished fourth with a time of 54.59

Ram-rodged



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Fort White High's Austin Dupree is ruled out as he slides to home plate against Newberry High on Feb. 18.

Fort White drops two games to Interlachen

By TIM KIRBY
tkirby@lakecityreporter.com

FORT WHITE — Fort White High's baseball and softball teams showed come-from-behind toughness only to lose games late.

Interlachen High came in and handed both hosts one-run district losses. The Rams won the baseball game, 4-3, while the Lady Rams won the softball game in extra innings, 8-7.

Brett Sellers provided the winning run in the baseball game with a lead-off homer in the sixth inning.

Fort White started with a nightmare first inning. Austin Dupree hit the first two batters and, after a sacrifice bunt, both scored on a throwing error on a strikeout. A stolen base, walk and RBI-single by Jase Forshee followed for a third run.

Dupree still faced the bases loaded, but got out of the inning with a pitcher to catcher to first base double play on a come-backer. Dupree allowed just one

base runner over the next four innings, as the Indians began chipping away.

With two outs in the bottom of the first inning, Trace Wilkinson and Willie Carter had infield singles and Rhett Willis singled in Wilkinson.

Steve Giardina led off the second inning with a single, but stayed at first base. Kodey Owens singled to start the third inning. He stole second and scored on a single by Carter.

Owens scored the tying run in the fifth inning after reaching base on a throwing error following a strikeout. Wilkinson was hit by a pitch and Owens moved to third on a wild pitch. He scored when Carter's ground ball was booted.

Dupree finished with three hits and one earned run in six innings. He walked one and struck out six. After an opening error, Willis relieved and pitched the seventh inning with two strikeouts.

Jeffrey Wright pitched five innings for the Rams (3-3, 2-1). The left-hander

gave up five hits and two earned runs with one walk and 10 strikeouts. Austin Glisson relieved after Wright walked Ryan Ellis to open the sixth inning. Glisson survived two walks and an infield single by Willis in the seventh inning.

Interlachen won the junior varsity game, 5-1.

Fort White's softball team faced a bigger hill to climb, after falling behind 5-0 in the first two innings.

The Lady Indians' comeback started with two runs in the third inning. They added one run in the fourth inning and three more in the sixth. Fort White tied the game with a run in the bottom of the seventh inning, but Interlachen (3-4, 1-3) pushed across the deciding run in the eighth inning.

Fort White baseball (3-3, 1-1) travels to Keystone Heights High at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Fort White softball (2-5, 0-3) plays at Hamilton County High at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Travis Sheppard, Columbia High's new track head coach, said that he will focus on the total program and that 'all events will be covered. We will reconstruct and build everything back to where it should be.'

TRACK: Coach looks for solid season

Continued From Page 1B

regional titles. I started coaching at Santa Fe in 2009 and we won back-to-back district championships with girls."

Now Sheppard tries to bring that success to a higher classification with the Tigers. He'll bring in plenty of accolades with him.

"I started with Columbia in January," Sheppard said. "I'm a USA track and field Level 1 coach. It means I'm nationally registered. Level 2 would put me at the college level."

And as any athlete knows, nutrition goes a long way into carving out athletic performance. Sheppard will be able to help the Tigers off the field as well.

"I'm currently getting my master's degree in health administration," Sheppard said. "I have my bachelor's."

Even in his first year, Sheppard won't make excuses for the Tigers. He wants to bring a winning attitude immediately.

"For the first season, I want to come in a build a solid structure with more consistency into the program," Sheppard said. "We want to be a consistent top three contender in the district every year. Last year, we didn't have a strong showing. We have a little more depth this year looking at the roster."

He'll work hand in hand with the football program as many of the track stars

play multiple sports with the Tigers.

"I am feeding off the success that they're having," he said. "The athletes that come in, we have them in shape and ready to fly around the field for coach. We want to keep them consistently coming in from the football program. The Woods twins stand out. We'll climb on the back of Zedrick and Zyric Woods along with Rakeem Battle. Alex Weber will stand out in the long and triple jump. Malechi Jean and Deontae Crumitie throw pretty well,

so we'll see how that all translates into ribbons and medals."

Of course he is looking for good things from the Lady Tigers as well.

"We have a couple of girls in Emma Tucker, the mile runner that's strong," Sheppard said. "Nicole Morse is strong. Abby Williams is a quarter-mile runner and looking for good things in her senior campaign. We also have a few girls that will make an impact as freshmen. They've been working hard and look pretty good."

JUMBLE

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

VOIDE

LIBND

GENLIM

AIRSOL

Ans. here:

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: OPERA GUPPY DEFUSE FORAGE
Answer: Their view of the Grand Canyon was — "GORGE-OUS"

- ACROSS**
- 1 Earthy prefix
 - 4 Out of town
 - 8 Gulf st.
 - 11 Wheel tracks
 - 13 "Swan —"
 - 14 Western treaty grp.
 - 15 Diva's tune
 - 16 Braincases
 - 18 Square dance call (hyph.)
 - 20 Doggone it!
 - 21 Grant grip
 - 22 "— Bravo"
 - 24 Daddy's sis (var.)
 - 27 Hoodwinked
 - 30 Electrical units
 - 31 Helper
 - 32 Wassail alternative
 - 34 Belly dance instrument
 - 35 Model Macpherson
 - 36 Trig function
 - 37 Aimed
- DOWN**
- 1 Diploma possessor
 - 2 Schilling's replacement
 - 3 Elevator guy
 - 4 Aluminum company
 - 5 Armed conflict
 - 6 FBI acronym
 - 7 Ginza cash
- 39 Bike part**
- 40 Transport for Sinbad**
- 41 MTV hosts**
- 42 Heart mate**
- 45 Ms. Allende**
- 49 Tumblers**
- 53 Draft animal**
- 54 Ingested**
- 55 Nomad dwelling**
- 56 Give off**
- 57 Lad**
- 58 Water, in Baja**
- 59 Airline to Stockholm**

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 8 Tea time, perhaps
- 9 Dalai —
- 10 Kind of prof.
- 12 New Orleans team
- 17 Exalted one
- 19 Actress Susan
- 22 Impolite
- 23 Percent ending
- 24 —, amas, amat
- 25 No way! (hyph.)
- 26 Leaf juncture
- 27 Coat with gold
- 28 Sooner city
- 29 Portuguese lady
- 31 Baldwin of films
- 33 Firm up
- 35 Tokyo, to shoguns
- 36 Tahini base
- 38 Guthrie of folk music
- 39 Bedwear, briefly
- 41 Panorama
- 42 Volvo rival
- 43 Prefix for pod
- 44 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
- 46 Mooches
- 47 Charles Lamb
- 48 Allows
- 50 Lose — — whisker
- 51 Mo. with no holidays
- 52 Play about Capote

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11		12	13				14		
15			16				17		
18			19				20		
			21			22	23		
24	25	26		27			28	29	
30			31				32	33	
34			35				36		
			37				38		
			39				40		
			41				42		
42	43	44		45			46	47	48
49			50	51	52		53		
54			55				56		
57			58				59		

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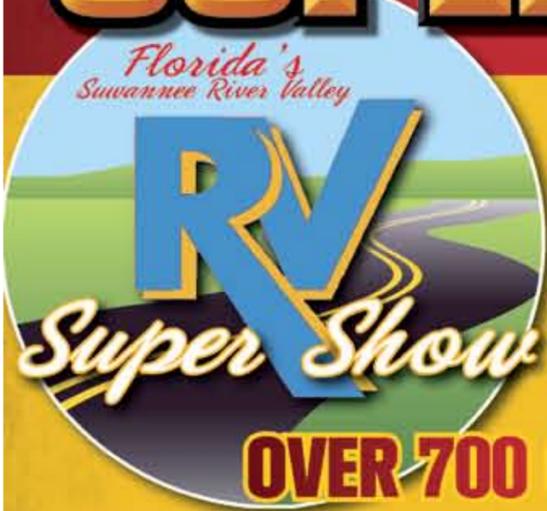
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