



LEESBURG, FLORIDA

Saturday, January 25, 2014

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The Daily Commercial

LIFE SUPPORT CASE: Judge sides with family in case of brain-dead pregnant woman, **A5**

CLASSES: More local schools reported improper numbers, **A3**



LINDA CHARLTON / SPECIAL TO THE COMMERCIAL

The da Vinci Robotic Surgery System is shown up close, with items depicting organs.

CLERMONT

Medicine's future on display

Robotic surgical system allows doctors to work remotely

ROXANNE BROWN | Staff Writer
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The da Vinci Robotic Surgery System at South Lake Hospital is proof that technology has grown by leaps and bounds in the medical world.

Real life physicians act as its brain, operating it during surgery using a video camera they control with a joy-stick-like device. But the robot's arms are the ones inside patients that are used for minimal-invasive surgeries, especially when it comes to those in hard to reach areas or needing a tight grip or the smoothest of movements.

A monitor allows physicians to view a surgery as its happening and makes some surgeries possible even when the doctor having to perform it, is located hundreds of miles away from the patient.

The system is worth approximately \$1.5



LINDA CHARLTON / SPECIAL TO THE DAILY COMMERCIAL

Judaea Childs works the controls of the robotic surgery simulator.

"It's a hands-on experience that a textbook could never provide to a child."

Dr. Synthia Conti

Health Science instructor at East Ridge Middle School.

million to \$2 million and South Lake Hospital is the only hospital in Lake County to offering it. About 14 area doctors, varying in expertise from general surgery and urology to gynecology have been trained to use it.

On Thursday, students enrolled in the

health programs at two area high schools got to see and test out another robot which looks just like the real one. Their visit was an effort to introduce them to some of the technologies they may have a chance to work with in their own medical futures and motivate them

into continuing on with their educations to get there.

"It's a hands-on experience that a textbook could never provide to a child," said Dr. Synthia Conti, the Health Science instructor at East Ridge Middle School. "Of course, they (students) have heard about certain technologies and medical related advances,

SEE SURGERY | A4

State, local job outlook improves

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's economy showed continued signs of improvement as the state's unemployment rate dropped again last month.

The state's unemployment rate for December was 6.2 percent. That's a slight drop from the previous month and the lowest it has been in 5 1/2 years.

Just as importantly, the latest round of figures show that the state's overall labor force is growing. One of the big reasons for previous drops in the unemployment rate was because people were leaving the labor force or had delayed their search for a new job.

Gov. Rick Scott trumpeted the new unemployment numbers when he announced them during a stop at a Miramar aviation company.

"Once again we continue to distance ourselves from the national unemployment rate and create

JUST THE FACTS

Lake County's jobless rate dropped through 2013

- Jan. – 8.3 percent
- Feb. – 7.6 percent
- March – 7.1 percent
- April – 6.9 percent
- May – 7.2 percent
- June – 7.6 percent
- July – 7.6 percent
- Aug. – 7.3 percent
- Sept. – 6.9 percent
- Oct. – 6.4 percent
- Nov. – 6.3 percent
- Dec. – 6 percent

opportunities for Florida families," Scott said in a statement.

Lake County's jobless rate dropped to 6 percent in December, the lowest rate of the year and more than two percentage points below the 8.3 percent seen in January. The November unemployment rate in Lake was the second lowest rate of the year at 6.4 percent, according to the Florida

SEE JOBS | A2

LEESBURG

Brothers' shooting still under investigation

MILLARD K. IVES | Staff Writer
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Leesburg police are still trying to determine what led to the fatal shooting that involved only two brothers at a local convenience store last week, but plan to present the findings of their investigation to the State Attorney's Office for possible charges.

Joshua Ryan Faile, 23, a 2008 First Academy of Leesburg graduate who was captain of his football team, was taken to the hospital on Jan. 18, shortly after officers were called to a "possible shooting" and found him slumped over inside a pickup truck at a gas pump at a Leesburg Circle K with a gunshot to

SEE SHOOTING | A2

LEESBURG

New Rural King opens with 106 employees

AUSTIN FULLER | Staff Writer
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Rural King's second store in Florida, at 1715 N. Citrus Blvd. in Leesburg, will hold its grand opening on Feb. 2 with 106 full- and part-time employees instead of the previously reported 80.

The store had a "soft open-

ing" on Monday, store manager Don Sheffer said. Business at the store has been good and it has "exceeded the expectations, so far," he added.

Sandi Moore, the executive director of the Leesburg Area Chamber of Commerce, said "things are looking up for Lees-

burg."

"Obviously this is a great win for our community to have jobs being created and to attract businesses that are going to create jobs within the community," she said.

Sheffer said Rural King has

SEE STORE | A2



AUSTIN FULLER / DAILY COMMERCIAL

The new Rural King store in Leesburg.

50¢



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TODAY'S WEATHER

Detailed forecast on page A8.



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Area Briefs

CLERMONT

New Beginnings will open new playground

The Leadership Lake Class of 2013 alumni will lay mulch at a new playground to be constructed at the New Beginnings Learning Center, at 792 E. Montrose St., and following the class project today, a ribbon cutting will be held at 11 a.m. to officially open the playground.

The class raised approximately \$8,500 to construct the commercial-grade playground at the new facility, which provides job- and life-skills training for struggling families. The money also funded a telephone system at the center.

EUSTIS

Short-term classes offered at Lake Tech

Lake Technical Center is offering several short-term affordable classes designed to give participants an edge in today's job market.

Some of the classes offered at the main campus, at 2001 Kurt St., in Eustis include: Adobe Photoshop, Computer Literacy, Introduction to Microsoft Excel, Intro to Microsoft PowerPoint and Intro to Quickbooks.

An Armed Security Class "G" class will be held at the IPS Gun Range, 13000 Frankies Road in Tavares and begins in March, as well as a Security Officer, and Public Safety Telecommunication class.

Online classes are also available.

For information about classes and registration, go to www.laketech.org or call, 352-589-2250.

EUSTIS

David Mallett performs at Olivia's Coffeehouse

Singer-songwriter, David Mallett will perform at Olivia's Coffeehouse and Bistro, 108 N. Bay St., in Eustis, at 3 p.m. Sunday.

In a career spanning four decades, Mallett has recorded 14 albums, performed in clubs, concert halls and festivals across the US, Canada and Europe, and has appeared on numerous broadcasts.

Tickets are \$14 advance, \$18 at the door, and doors open at 2 p.m.

Go to www.OliviassCoffeehouse.com to purchase tickets or call 352-357-1887.

TAVARES

Hazardous waste to be collected Thursday

The Lake County Solid Waste Division encourages Lake County residents to dispose of toxic materials at an upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday at the Central Solid Waste Facility, 13130 County Landfill Road.

Representatives will be on-hand to collect small quantities waste products such as lawn and gardening materials, photo and swimming pool chemicals, paint products, cleaning solutions, motor oil and used gas, batteries, fluorescent lamps, light bulbs and small propane tanks, and will be offering drive-thru disposal.

Infectious waste, solvents, chemical laboratory waste and radioactive waste are prohibited.

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Just email your photos and news to ... pamfennimore@dailyccommercial.com

Schools reported wrong class sizes

LIVI STANFORD | Staff Writer
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Six Lake County Schools have inaccurately reported their class sizes in violation of the state's class-size amendment, according to Chris Patton, spokesman for the district.

The classes were larger than what was reported.

Bill Mathias, school board mem-

ber, said a whistle blower tipped off the Florida Department of Education about one school, which had possible class-size violations over the limit set by the state.

As a result, school district officials did an investigation and found additional irregularities, resulting in five other schools with class sizes not accurately reported.

The six schools are: Mount Dora High School, Tavares Elementary School, Sawgrass Bay Elementary, Sorrento Elementary, Lake Minneola High School and Grassy Lake Elementary.

"We have made data edits to six schools and have submitted them to the Florida Department of

SEE SCHOOLS | A4



PHOTOS BY CINDY DIAN / SPECIAL TO THE COMMERCIAL

Eustis firefighters put out a blaze that claimed a mobile home.

Fire claims mobile home

CINDY DIAN
Correspondent

An air-conditioning company reportedly was repairing a heating element at a mobile home in Eustis on Friday when an explosion started a fire that destroyed the residence in Country Club Manor off of U.S. Highway 19.

"I've lived in this home for 25 years," homeowner Lester Slauter said. "Nothing is salvageable."

Nobody was injured and the Eustis Fire Department prevented any other structures from catching on fire.

Slauter, who served in the U.S. Army for 41 years, leaving with the rank of colonel, has no family liv-



ing in the area but he and his wife, Lynn, have friends who will help the couple.

The air-conditioning company's insurance will cover the loss.

Boys and Girls Club to unveil new bus

Staff Report

The Boys and Girls Club of Lake and Sumter counties will unveil its new Team Gamez Bus on Monday.

The Team Gamez Foundation, headed up by three-time Professional Golfers' Association tour winner Robert Gamez, helped make the new bus possible. A Las Vegas native who now lives in Orlando, Gamez has donated more than \$1 million to various children's charities in the two cities since his rookie year in 1990.

"Our goal at Team Gamez is to support charities that promote

healthy lifestyles and education for children," he said in a press release. "Educating children is the best way to ensure a productive adult."

The new bus will add much-needed transportation for the Boys and Girls Club's South Lake Unit, said Freddy Williams, the club's chief professional officer.

"We are so excited to partner with Team Gamez and see this bus on the roads of South Lake," he said.

The bus will be able to transport kids more quickly and efficiently, said Tracy Jones, the South Lake Unit's director

"We have been making multiple trips in a van to transport kids to the club daily, so this bus is really going to help make sure that the children can maximize their time at the Boys & Girls Club," she said. "This is going to be the Cool Bus!"

A bus unveiling will be held at 4 p.m. Monday at the South Lake Unit in Clermont, which meets at First Baptist Clermont, 498 W. Montrose Ave.

The Boys and Girls Club served more than 1,700 youngsters last year in locations in Leesburg (two sites), Eustis, Umatilla, Clermont, and Lady Lake.

LEESBURG

Goodwill plans relocation, expansion

AUSTIN FULLER | Staff Writer
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The Leesburg Goodwill store, currently located in the Lake Village Shopping Mall east of Lake Square Mall, will be moving across U.S. Highway 441 to a former OfficeMax store.

Along with its retail outlet, the new location also will house Goodwill's jobs office, currently housed a few doors down from the current store at Lake Village.

Judith Pariseau, Goodwill Industries of Central Florida's vice president for public relations, said the move across the street was necessary in order to "put more merchandise out on the floor."

The current Goodwill location has 17 full- and part-time employees. Another 13 will be hired to help run the larger store, bringing the total number of workers to 30, Pariseau said, adding the number could eventually grow to 50.

Robert Sargent, public information officer for the city of Leesburg, said although the city had no hand in the relocation, "any opportunity to add jobs in this environment is good."

"It was unfortunate to see a retail outlet, which OfficeMax was in that location, go away, but it is always very enthusiastic when you start creating jobs," he said. "No matter how small the number, any new jobs in this area is really, really good."

The OfficeMax building covers 23,500 square feet with 12,000 square feet of this available for selling space. Pariseau said the current location in Lake Village has about 10,000 square feet, with 8,500 square feet of selling space.

This does not include the job connection center at the mall, which has another 1,200 square feet. Moving the center to the OfficeMax store will boost its square footage by another 2,800 square feet, Pariseau said, adding there are no immediate plans to increase its three-person staff.

Pariseau said community support allowed Goodwill to purchase the new location at the end of 2013.

"The people of Leesburg have been very generous in their donations," she said of the need

SEE GOODWILL | A4

EUSTIS

Nature center plans anniversary celebration

THERESA CAMPBELL | Staff Writer
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The Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society and Trout Lake Nature Center are planning a joint big bash next month with a variety of family-friendly activities to celebrate the society's 50th year, and the nature center's 25th

anniversary.

The free celebration runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 15 at Trout Lake Nature Center in Eustis, where there will be demonstrations, animals, speakers, displays, art, photography, a native plant sale, children's craft activities, food vendors,

birthday cake and more.

"We never have had anything quite this big," said Joan Bryant, president of the center, who believes children will delight in seeing a variety of animals up close brought in from Central Florida Zoo and Uncle Donald's Farm.

Vendors will be showcasing pine needle basketry, stone knapping and duck-call carving. One of the demonstrators will show the art of atlatl throwing.

"The early natives used a method for throwing their spears and it was

SEE CENTER | A4

IN MEMORY

DEATH NOTICES

Mable L. Davis

Mable L. Davis, 80, of Mount Dora, FL passed away on Friday, January 24, 2014. Steverson, Hamlin & Hilbish Funerals and Cremations, Tavares, FL

James W. Lynch

James W. Lynch, 70, of Grand Island, died Thursday, January 23, 2014. Hamlin & Hilbish Funeral Directors.

Student shot to death outside SC State dorm

Associated Press

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — A student was shot and killed Friday outside an on-campus dormitory at South Carolina State University, and police were looking for four men who left campus.

Brandon Robinson, 20, died not long after he was shot outside of the Hugine Suites around 1:30 p.m., authorities said. The gunmen left cam-

pus before police could catch them, but authorities decided to lock down the campus so they could not return, said University Police Chief Mer-nard Clarkson.

“Our students are secure and safe as we keep looking for these individuals,” Clarkson said.

Clarkson said police haven’t figured out what led to the shooting. He said his officers know one person they

want to talk to, but he wasn’t ready to release a name.

The shooting shocked the entire campus, university President Thomas Elzey said. Greif counselors will be brought in to talk to students and staff.

“We, again, are extraordinarily sad about this. He was a very nice young man. And it hurts. It hurts us all,” Elzey said, trying to hold back tears.

Elzey said South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley offered any help the school needed.

The university lifted its lockdown Friday evening, but Clarkson said the school was letting traffic in and out of campus through only one gate.

South Carolina State also was the site of a fatal shooting in 2011, when police said three men met on campus for a drug deal.

GOODWILL

FROM PAGE A3

for a larger store.

Rev. Edgar Helms started Goodwill in 1902, and Goodwill Industries of Central Florida started in 1959, according to Goodwill Industries of Central Florida’s website. Goodwill is now a \$4 billion nonprofit, according to the website.

The Leesburg Goodwill store opened at its current location in June 1991, according to Parisseau. The job connection center opened in 2010.

Goodwill also has locations in Eustis and Clermont.

SURGERY

FROM PAGE A1

and I’ve talked about it to them, but it actually makes what they are learning real. This brings it to life before their eyes and that’s priceless.”

“I mean, what high school student has the opportunity to see and actually get to play with actual multi-million dollar equipment that real professionals use in the industry?”

Samuel Ali, 19, a senior at Eazst Ridge High School, who is planning on becoming a neurosurgeon, said for him, the experience opened his eyes to what may be lying ahead for him.

“It’s actually very interesting,” he said. “The fact that a robot can do what we can do, and in some cases better, is amazing. It also makes me think that by the time I finish school and start working, things might be easier for me as a surgeon. There might be more training to complete, but it may become easier.”

Before trying their own hands at making the robotic system move its arms and position different colored pegs that were serving as bodily organs, two shifts of students – the first from Lake



ROXANNE BROWN / DAILY COMMERCIAL

Dr. Jamin Brahmbhatt, MD, a urologist and robotic microsurgeon with The Pur Clinic in Clermont, shows visiting Lake Minneola High School health program students Shelby Stephens Mary Riley, both 17, some of the instruments he uses during surgery at South Lake Hospital.

Minneola High School and the second from East Ridge High School – got to hear what actual area doctors had to say about the history of and evolution of medicine and surgery over the years. They also talked about how things like the robot were aiding them during procedures and benefiting patients.

Dr. Jamin Brahmbhatt, a Clermont-based urologist and robotic microsurgeon with The Pur Clinic, said his lecture goal was to inspire the visiting students by giving them a peek into the way things are being done now in medicine.

“My goal was to show them the new technologies, but really, the bigger purpose behind today was to inspire them,” Brahmbhatt said. “As microsurgeons, we do surgery that requires reaching small organs and successfully completing precise and intricate procedures.

Some of the surgeries can also be very tax-

ing, so at one time, we could only do maybe one surgery like that per day. Using the robot, we can do up to three or four if necessary.”

“But the biggest benefit of the robot is that it makes us more efficient because it’s ergonomic, it has five-to-one motion scaling, it decreases tremor, it decreases surgeon fatigue, it decreases the need for an assistant and has been shown to improve recovery time for patients because of smaller incisions, and it allows for less movement that occurs once inside the body.”

Brahmbhatt said he felt motivated as well. “It’s exciting,” he said. “One of the very students here today may one day be responsible for designing the next micro robotic console or may be the one sitting behind the console, running the controls during a surgery.”

Dr. David Wright, a general surgeon with Mid Central Flori-

da and Associates in Clermont, who also spoke during one of the morning’s two sessions, shared his insight about some of the breakthroughs the robot has facilitated.

“The robot’s visualization is three dimensional, just like me and you looking at each other, as opposed to being two-dimensional, which is what you see when you look at a television screen,” Wright said, adding that the robot has really made his and his patient’s lives easier.

The robot can sew, dissect, cut, cauterize, complete vessel sealing and use stapling devices.

“This is our future,” Wright said. “We’ve been busier and busier doing procedures with this robot, and we’ve had happier patients with less pain and less recovery times.”

Paul Johns, chief operating officer of South Lake Hospital, said while he is proud the hospital can now offer the robot and keep

patients from having to travel long distances to get treatments elsewhere, he is even prouder to be partnering with area schools and providing a peek into the future for their students.

“We need surgeons who truly understand how this works, who have a handle on the importance of technology and what it means for everybody,” he said. “We might have a future surgeon right here in this room using the robot as we speak,” Johns said.

The hospital has partnering with South Lake’s three high schools more and more, and will continue to do so in the future, spokesperson Kim Couch said.

“Our community outreach with the schools in our area is something we want to continue to grow,” she said. “So when I found out we would have this robot that travels the region for an entire day, I wanted to get as many groups in here as possible.”

Diviana Polanco, 14, a student at Lake Minneola High School who hopes to be an anesthesiologist or a pharmacist, said she is in awe of the medical advances that have occurred over the years – including the robot.

“It’s very helpful, but even more than that, it’s cool,” she said. “It’s like motivation for me because even though I may never get to use the robot myself, it helps me to keep trying towards what I want to do in the health field, because who knows what new technologies will bring for everyone.”

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SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE A3

Education,” Patton said.

While stating that he could not comment on whether school officials purposely did not report the accurate class size numbers, Patton said “the employee investigation is con-

tinuing and still open at this point.”

The errors in the data “represent less than .12 percent of the total full-time equivalent students reported in October, resulting in 49 FTE’s,” he said.

Mathias said he did not want to rush to judgment, because school board members have yet to be briefed on the details.

“If I am told a principal did it

for the benefit of the children, then I would have a completely different opinion than if it was done purposely,” he said.

School board members will discuss the Class Size Reduction Compliance Plans for each school at Monday’s school board meeting.

Patton said the district could receive fines from the FDOE as a result of the violations.

CENTER

FROM PAGE A3

called an atlatl,” Bryant said.

The birthday cake will be cut at 11:30 a.m.

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by local dignitaries and served to the crowd, followed by Craig Huegel, author and Florida native plant expert, speaking at 12:30 p.m. on “Landscaping for Wildlife at Trout Lake Nature Center and Your Backyard,” which will be followed by a book signing and native plant sale.

Inside the center’s museum, Beacon College and the Bear Waggon will show insect displays, while Dr. David Stock of Stetson University will present “Beaks & Feet, Getting

Something to Eat,” a program about birds.

The In Focus Photo Club will give “how-to” tips on nature photography, and the Florida Archaeological Society will present a program on “Prehistoric Florida.”

Bryant said she is being joined by 30 volunteers in planning the event to celebrate the history of the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society and Trout Lake Nature Center.

Lake Nature Center would not exist,” Bryant said, noting society members purchased the land and were the founders of the nature center.

Attendees to the Feb. 15 celebration at Trout Lake Nature Center are encouraged to park at Winn Dixie at the corner of State Road 19N and County Road 44 in Eustis, where there will be complimentary bus-ing to the center.

The city of Eustis is serving as the main sponsor of the event.

Obama focus on 'opportunity,' less on 'inequality'

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Income inequality is out, "ladders of opportunity" is in.

Eager to dispel claims that President Barack Obama is engaging in "class warfare" as he heads into his State of the Union address next week, the White House is de-emphasizing phrases focusing on economic disparity and turning instead to messages about creating paths of opportunity for the poor and middle class.

The adjustment reflects an awareness that Obama's earlier language put him at risk of being perceived as divisive and exposed him to

criticism that his rhetoric was exploiting the gap between haves and have-nots.

On Dec. 4 Obama delivered a sweeping economic address where he declared that "increasing inequality is most pronounced in our country, and it challenges the very essence of who we are as a people." He used the word "inequality" 26 times in his speech that day.

A month later the word has all but disappeared at the White House. In his most recent remarks about his economic agenda, the president made no mention of chasms between rich and poor. Rather, he stressed poli-



AP FILE PHOTO

President Barack Obama gives his State of the Union address during a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington.

cies that help move low income people into the middle class.

"We have to make sure that there are new ladders of opportunity into the middle class, and that those ladders — the rungs on those ladders are solid and acces-

sible for more people," Obama said last week, expanding a metaphor from his 2013 State of the Union address.

The modification in language does not represent a shift from Obama's underlying economic message,

which White House officials note has been a consistent and prominent theme of his political life.

One senior White House official said the December speech and its attention to economic inequality was designed to highlight one symptom associated with shrinking opportunities for the middle class. But the official, who asked for anonymity to discuss the strategy behind the economic message, said the president's overarching message has been his desire to reverse that trend and expand opportunities.

"What you want to do is focus on the aspira-

tional side of this, lifting people up, not on just complaining about a lack of fairness or inequality," said Paul Begala, a former top adviser to President Bill Clinton who consults with White House officials. "Watch the State of the Union, I'd be surprised if he uses phrases like inequality, which suggests a leveling down. If you talk about the middle class, it suggests a lifting up."

Obama's December speech was well received by Democrats and liberals, but conservatives jumped on it, arguing that Obama was laying a foundation for economic redistribution.

Judge orders hospital to remove life support from pregnant woman

NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — A judge on Friday ordered a Texas hospital to remove life support for a pregnant, brain-dead woman whose family had argued that she would not want to be kept in that condition.

Judge R. H. Wallace Jr. issued the ruling in the case of Marlise Munoz. John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth has been keeping Munoz on life support against her family's wishes. The judge gave the hospital until 5 p.m. Monday to remove life support.

Munoz was 14 weeks pregnant when her husband found her unconscious Nov. 26, possibly due to a blood clot. Both the hospital and the family agree that the fetus could not be born alive at this point. However, John Peter Smith Hospital had argued that it had to protect the life of the unborn child.

Erick Munoz says he and his wife are paramedics who were clear that they didn't want life support in this type of situation. Her parents agreed. His attorney argued to the judge Friday that keeping the woman on life support would set a dangerous precedent for future cases of pregnant, brain-dead women.

Attorneys for the family declined to say what the next steps were, pending a potential appeal from the hospital.

The Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, which is representing the hospital in the lawsuit, said the hospital was expected to issue a statement later Friday in response to the ruling.

Hospital officials have said they were bound by a state law prohibiting withdrawal of treatment from a pregnant patient. Several experts interviewed by The Associated Press have said



AP FILE PHOTO

Erick Munoz stands with an undated copy of a photograph of himself, left, with wife Marlise and their son Mateo, in Haltom City, Texas.

the hospital is misapplying the law because Marlise Munoz would be considered legally and medically dead.

"Marlise Munoz is dead, and she gave clear instructions to her husband and family — Marlise was not to remain on any type of artificial 'life sustaining treatment', ventilators or the like," the lawsuit said. "There is no reason JPS should be allowed to continue treatment on Marlise Munoz's dead body, and this Court should order JPS to immediately discontinue such."

The case has raised questions about end-of-life care and whether a pregnant woman who is considered legally and medically dead should be kept on life support for the sake of a fetus. It also has gripped attention on both sides of the abortion debate, with anti-abortion groups arguing Munoz's fetus deserves a chance to be born.

Earlier this week, Erick Munoz's attorneys said that the fetus, now believed to be at about

22 weeks' gestation, is "distinctly abnormal." They attorneys said they based that statement on medical records they received from the hospital.

Not much is known about fetal survival when mothers suffer brain death during pregnancy. German doctors who searched for such cases found 30 of them in nearly 30 years, according to an article published in the journal BMC Medicine in 2010.

Those mothers were further along in pregnancy — 22 weeks on average — when brain death occurred than in the Texas case. Birth results were available for 19 cases. In 12, a viable child was born. Follow-up results were available for six, all of whom developed normally.

In refusing to take Marlise Munoz off life support, the hospital has cited a provision of the Texas Advance Directives Act that reads: "A person may not withdraw or withhold life-sustaining treatment under this subchapter from a pregnant patient."

Fear of slowing growth pushes down markets; Dow drops by 318

JOSHUA FREED and PAUL WISEMAN
AP Business Writers

Fear is back in the market.

Investors are worried about slower economic growth in China, a gloomier outlook for U.S. corporate profits and an end to easy money policies in the United States and Europe. They're also fretting over country-specific troubles around the world — from economic mismanagement in Argentina to political instability in Turkey.

Those fears converged to start a two-day rout in global markets this week, capped by a 318-point drop in the Dow Jones industrial average Friday. It was the blue-chip index's worst day since last June. The Dow plunged almost 500 points over the two-day stretch.

The turbulence coincides with a global economic shift: China and other emerging market economies appear to be running into trouble just as the developed economies of the United States and Europe finally show signs of renewed strength nearly five years after the end of the Great Recession.

The trouble began Thursday after a Jan-

uary survey showed a drop in Chinese manufacturing activity. Days earlier, China reported that its economic growth last year matched 2012 for the slowest pace since 1999.

"It is interesting how even a mild tremor in China's growth causes such anxiety around the world," said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University.

Slower growth in China is bad news for countries that supply oil, iron ore and other raw materials to the world's second-biggest economy. Some of those countries, such as Indonesia and South Africa, were already struggling with an outflow of capital as rising U.S. interest rates drew investors to the United States.

Since the global financial crisis hit in 2008, the Federal Reserve has flooded markets with cash to push interest rates lower and encourage U.S. businesses and consumers to borrow and spend. But last month, as signs of growing economic strength emerged in the U.S., the Fed cut back — reducing its monthly bond purchases to \$75 billion from \$85 billion.

Singing or sinking? Justin Bieber hits new low with arrest

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES — For more than a year, Justin Bieber has had more tabloid hits than Billboard hits: The singer's music career has taken a backseat to his wild boy antics, and a new arrest for a DUI charge marks a new low for the Grammy-nominated pop star.

Bieber's arrest Thursday is another sign of the crazy lifestyle that has taken over the 19-year-old's image — but a more serious one given the gravity of his alleged offenses. Authorities say Bieber failed a field sobriety test early Thurs-

day and he is facing driving under the influence charges after driving nearly twice the speed limit on a Miami Beach street. Police said he also resisted the arrest and smelled of alcohol.

After he was charged, some key industry watchers were hesitant to talk about the Canadian-born singer's woes and what it would mean to his imploding career.

But rapper Macklemore, 30, was sympathetic. He said if he had become a mainstream musician when he was Bieber's age, people would also see his struggles.



AP PHOTO

Justin Bieber smiles in his booking photo in Miami.

"I think it's challenging for anybody to have your life be a spectacle and to be challenged and critiqued and judged. And it's definitely hard if you've never had any

normalcy in your adult life or in your teenage life," said Macklemore, who has struggled with substance abuse. "I think that's very challenging. I think if I had blown up at 22 or 23, I think you would have seen me do some (crazy stuff) in public."

"Journals" was released in December and has had some success: some singles have hit then Top 40 thanks to digital sales. But it's miles away from the phenomenal, chart-topping success he enjoyed when he debuted as a cherub-faced, soft-voiced teenager in 2009.

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Bombings rock Egyptian capital, killing 6 people

MAGGIE MICHAEL
and SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO — A truck bomb blasted the main security headquarters in Cairo on Friday, one of a string of four bombings hitting police in the Egyptian capital within a 10-hour period, killing six people. The most significant attack yet in the city fueled a furious backlash against the Muslim Brotherhood amid rising fears of a militant insurgency.

In the hours after the blast, angry residents — some chanting for the “execution” of Brotherhood members — joined police in clashes with the group’s supporters holding their daily street protests against the government. Smoke rose over Cairo from fires, and fighting around the country left 14 more people dead.

The mayhem on the eve of the third anniversary of 2011’s once hopeful revolution pointed to the accelerating, dangerous slide Egypt has taken since last summer’s military ouster of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi: A mounting confrontation between the military-backed government and Islamist opponents amid the escalating militant violence.

Saturday, the anniversary of the start of the 18-day uprising that ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak, raised the potential for new



KHALIL HAMRA / AP

An Egyptian man stands in rubble after an explosion at the Egyptian police headquarters in downtown Cairo on Friday.

violence, as both military supporters and the Islamists vowed to take to the streets with rival rallies.

After Friday’s blasts, interim President Adli Mansour vowed to “uproot terrorism,” just as the government crushed a militant insurgency in the 1990s. The state “will not show them pity or mercy,” he said. “We ... will not hesitate to take the necessary measures.”

That could spell an escalation in the crackdown that the government has waged against Morsi’s Muslim Brotherhood ever since his July 3 ouster.

Thousands of Islamists have already been arrested and hundreds killed, with authorities accusing the

group of being behind militant violence. The Brotherhood, which allied with some radical groups while in power, denies the claim, saying it is aimed only to justify the drive to eliminate it as a rival. The crackdown has expanded to silence other forms of dissent, with arrests of secular activists critical of the military, security forces and the new administration.

For activists, that has raised deep concerns over a return of a police state despite the government’s promises of democracy.

But among a broad swath of the public, those concerns are eclipsed by fear of the wave of militant bombings and shootings

since the coup, which have largely targeted police but increasingly hit in public areas taking civilian casualties. And the public fury has been funneled at the Brotherhood: After Friday’s bombings, TV stations aired telephone calls from viewers pleading with army chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to definitively crush the group.

“Execution for Morsi and his leaders,” one man shouted through a megaphone to an angry crowd that gathered outside the Cairo security headquarters hit in Friday’s first bombing. A woman held up a picture depicting the Brotherhood as sheep, screaming, “Morsi is the butcher and el-Sissi will slaughter him.”

The day’s violence began with the 6:30 a.m. blast at the capital’s security headquarters, located on downtown Bab el-Khalq Square. Security camera footage that became public showed a white pickup truck pulling up the building’s gate. A man gets out of it, jumps into another car and drive off. Two policemen inspect the truck for a moment, then return into the headquarters, and two minutes later, it explodes.

The powerful blast ripped down a main avenue that at any other time of day would have been packed with cars and pedestrians — knocking out windows of shops for more than 500 yards. The

eight-story headquarters’ facade was shattered, with air conditioning units left dangling out of broken windows, and a crater was blasted into the pavement, as deep as a standing man.

The explosion also wrecked Cairo’s renowned Islamic Arts Museum, directly across the street, blasting out its windows, causing ceilings to collapse, smashing display cases of porcelain and glasswork and breaking water pipes that sprayed over manuscripts. Museum experts said key pieces in its unique collection of Islamic artifacts were damaged.

Abdullah el-Sayed, a 26-year-old salesman who lives behind the headquarters, said he was woken up by the blast, followed by heavy gunfire by frantic policemen. “They were devastated. They were firing their guns in panic as if to call for rescue,” he said.

He said he plans to return to his home village in Fayoum south of Cairo because he no longer feels safe. “It’s not worth it anymore to stay here. Every day I ride the metro and go past here,” he said.

After the blast, several police officers sat on the sidewalk weeping outside the building, as ambulances rushed in, with a body nearby on the ground under a sheet. Some in the crowd of residents who gathered looked distraught at the damage.

35 feared dead in Quebec blaze

Associated Press

LISLE-VERTE, Quebec — Using steam to melt the ice, investigators searched the frozen-over ruins of a retirement home Friday for victims of a fire that left about 35 people feared dead and cast such a pall over the village of 1,500 that psychologists were sent door to door.

“People are in a state of shock,” Quebec Minister of Social Services Veronique Hivon said.

The cause of the early-morning blaze Thursday was under investigation, and police asked the public for any videos or photos of the tragedy that might yield clues.

At least five people were killed and about

30 others were missing after the flames raced through the three-story building in below-zero cold Fahrenheit. Canada’s prime minister said there was little doubt the death toll would climb.

Witnesses told horrific tales of seeing people die. Most of the 50 or so residents probably never had a chance to escape — many were over 85 and used wheelchairs or walkers. Some had Alzheimer’s.

Pascal Fillion, who lives nearby, said he saw someone use a ladder to try to rescue a man cornered on his third-floor balcony. The man was crying out for help before he fell to the ground, engulfed in flames.

Fires light up night sky in Ukraine

MARIA DANILOVA
and YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — As riots spread from Ukraine’s embattled capital to nearly half of the country, President Viktor Yanukovich promised Friday to reshuffle his government and make other concessions — but a top opposition leader said nothing short of his resignation would do.

Hours after the president’s comments, huge fireballs lit up the night sky in central Kiev and plumes of thick black smoke rose from burning tires at giant barricades erected by protesters.

Clashes resumed at the barricades, which are just yards from lines of riot police and also made up of bags of ice and scraps of furniture.



DARKO VOJINOVIC / AP

Protesters confront police in central Kiev, Ukraine, on Friday.

Angry demonstrators hurled firebombs, rocks and fireworks at officers. Riot police responded with tear gas and several dozen protesters were rushed to a makeshift medical triage area to be treated.

“We will force the authorities to respect us,” 27-year-old protester Artur Kapelan said. “Not they, but we will dictate the conditions of a truce.”

The fighting had

stopped earlier this week as opposition leaders entered into face-to-face talks with Yanukovich.

But hundreds of demonstrators in ski masks and helmets were still armed with sticks, stones and firebombs at the Kiev barricades.

After nearly two months of ignoring mass demonstrations calling for his ouster, Yanukovich offered to meet some of

their demands, after crowds angered by the deaths of at least two protesters and allegations of abuse by authorities besieged government buildings in scores of cities in western Ukraine.

At a meeting with religious leaders, Yanukovich vowed that, at a special parliament meeting on Tuesday, he would push through changes to his Cabinet, grant amnesty to dozens of jailed activists and amend harsh anti-protest legislation.

But Vitali Klitschko, an opposition leader who is a former world heavyweight boxing champion, declared the only way to end the street protests — known as the Maidan after the central Kiev square occupied by demonstrators — is for Yanukovich to resign.

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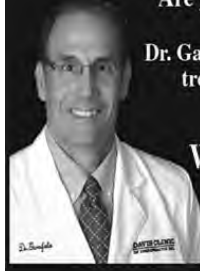
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Both sides in Syrian talks to meet in ‘same room’

LORI HINNANT and ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

GENEVA — Bending to intense international pressure, Syria’s government and the Western-backed opposition agreed Friday to face each other for the first time since the start of the uprising against President Bashar Assad.

After three days of hostile rhetoric and five hours spent assiduously avoiding contact within the United Nations, the two sides will meet “in the same room,” said the U.N. mediator trying to forge an end to the civil war that has

left 130,000 people dead since 2011.

Mediator Lakhdar Brahimi met separately with Assad’s delegation and representatives with the Syrian National Coalition, who arrived at the U.N. European headquarters five hours apart to ensure their paths would not cross.

“We never expected it to be easy and I’m sure it’s not going to be, but I think the two parties understand what’s at stake,” Brahimi said. “Their country is in very, very bad shape.”

Brahimi, a famously patient

mediator, is credited with efforts to stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan after the U.S. ousted their governments. But he faces a formidable task to build peace in Syria, which has been flooded with al-Qaida-inspired militants. The conflict has become a proxy war between regional powers Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Syria’s government has made military gains and has capitalized on the influx of foreign militants, while the coalition nearly collapsed as it wavered on whether to attend the talks at all.

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Voices

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VOICE

Rep. King lays an egg on farm bill

Chickens and eggs have provoked a controversy in Congress over what comes first, interstate commerce rules or state laws. According to Rep. Steve King, a Republican from Iowa (the nation's largest egg-producing state), California's new law requiring that all eggs sold in the state come from chickens kept in non-confining cages violates the interstate commerce clause of the Constitution.

In response, King persuaded his colleagues to pass the Protect Interstate Commerce Act (also known as the King amendment) as part of the House version of the U.S. farm bill. It prohibits states from enacting any laws that set standards for agricultural production that exceed those in other states governing the same production. But the amendment is misguided and overly broad, and it does far more than release egg farmers in one state from having to follow the stricter rules of another state in which they do business.

Animal welfare advocates, state legislators and some legal experts say it will also invalidate hundreds of state laws on animal protection, food safety and even labor welfare. Many of these laws have been on the books for years, their constitutionality accepted and unchallenged. Or, if they have been challenged, they have survived.

In a recent radio interview, King dismissed all the hand-wringing about his bill, saying it is designed to target the California legislation. He added that he could not "identify unintended consequences."

Well, a lot of other people can. State laws requiring labeling of farm-raised fish could be struck down, critics say. So could various state bans on the use of certain dangerous pesticides on produce, Maryland's ban on arsenic in poultry feed and restrictions that some states have passed to protect against invasive pests. Opponents of the King amendment say it could also affect California's prohibition on the sale of foie gras made by force-feeding ducks and geese — a law that has already been challenged in court and found to be constitutional.

Ideally, laws that sensibly protect farm animals, consumers of agricultural products and the people who work in these industries would all be federal laws, uniformly governing all 50 states. But it hasn't worked out that way. States have put in place health and welfare laws that set reasonable, up-to-date standards when the federal government has lagged behind.

The Senate version of the farm bill does not include this amendment. As House and Senate conferees reconcile the bill, they should throw out the King amendment.

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OTHER VOICES

Obama's talk on marijuana is a breath of fresh air

Sometimes sea changes come so slowly that when they finally arrive, they barely make it into the news.

So it was the other day when President Obama, in a magazine interview, said that marijuana, long classified as one of our worst drugs, is really about the same as alcohol.

"As has been well documented, I smoked pot as a kid, and I view it as a bad habit and a vice," Obama said. "I don't think it is more dangerous than alcohol."

This story ran on Page A6 of The Seattle Times. That's probably because the implication of these words — that pot should be legalized, or at a minimum, decriminalized — has already been embraced by voters here. It's another example of how the "change" president has spent his years mostly following big cultural changes, not leading them.

Still, that the president just declared a major plank of the War on Drugs to have been wrongheaded is big news. So big that his own Office of National Drug Control Policy hasn't gotten the memo.

"The administration steadfastly opposes legalization of marijuana and other drugs because legalization would increase the availability and use of illicit drugs, and pose significant health and safety risks to all Americans," the drug czar's website says.

Well, alcohol poses significant health and safety risks, too. It's just not a crime to drink, which is the key distinction. Obama wasn't encouraging pot use _ at

Danny Westneat

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

least to my ears. He was saying it makes no sense to treat people as criminals for it.

Why have we been doing so for 40-plus years?

I guess this all strikes me as a big deal because I came of age in the "Just Say No" time of zero, or little, tolerance. The hypocrisy of arresting 700,000 people a year for what most politicians themselves had probably done got so thick it led to that uncomfortable era of "urine-test journalism," when we reporters would go around grilling politicians whether they'd ever smoked pot.

After youthful marijuana use felled a U.S. Supreme Court nominee, Douglas Ginsburg, in the late 1980s, it became a litmus-test question even in local politics. I remember a King County, Wash., executive candidate, Bruce Hilyer, who later became a Superior Court judge, fumbling the question at a televised debate and staring flummoxed into the cameras. (He eventually admitted to smoking pot when he was younger, and went on to win the primary but lost the general election.)

Well now we have the president of the United States saying it probably should have been treated the same as, say, drinking vodka. So the anti-pot criminal crusade was a decades-long governmental mistake. Sorry about that!

Some critics are bashing Obama for encouraging nationwide dope smoking, but he was actually pretty negative about it, calling it "a waste of time and not very healthy."

He also pointed out, correctly I think, that "the experiment taking place in Colorado and Washington is going to be a challenge." Will pot use here rise? Maybe. Will there be more drug addiction or abuse? Will it spark a drive to legalize harder drugs? Obama raised the specter of that.

Right now my neighborhood is having some second thoughts about the experiment. A nearby corner is zoned for pot shops, and, depending on licensing decisions, could end up with as many as half a dozen in one block. "Little Amsterdam," some are calling it in protest.

But Obama's alcohol comparison is apt. You wouldn't want six liquor stores in a block, either, and we've figured out ways as a city to keep that from happening.

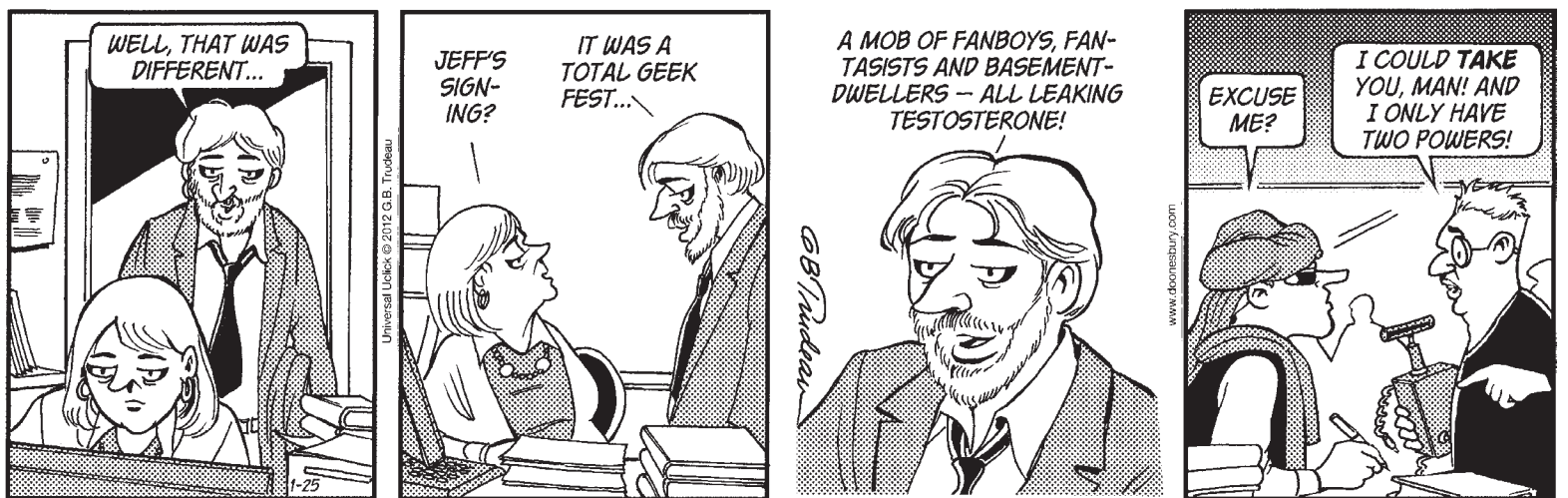
The experiment here might fail — such as if a lot more kids start smoking — and then we'll have to try something else.

But for my entire life honest talk about the drug issue has seemed impossible, because of the hectoring, shaming stance of the government and hypocrisy of the lawmakers (remember "I didn't inhale"?). It really is a big change now just to hear a different tone.

Danny Westneat is a columnist for The Seattle Times. Readers may send him email at dwestneat@seattletimes.com.

DOONESBURY

Editor's Note: Gary Trudeau is on vacation this week. Enjoy these strips from 2012.



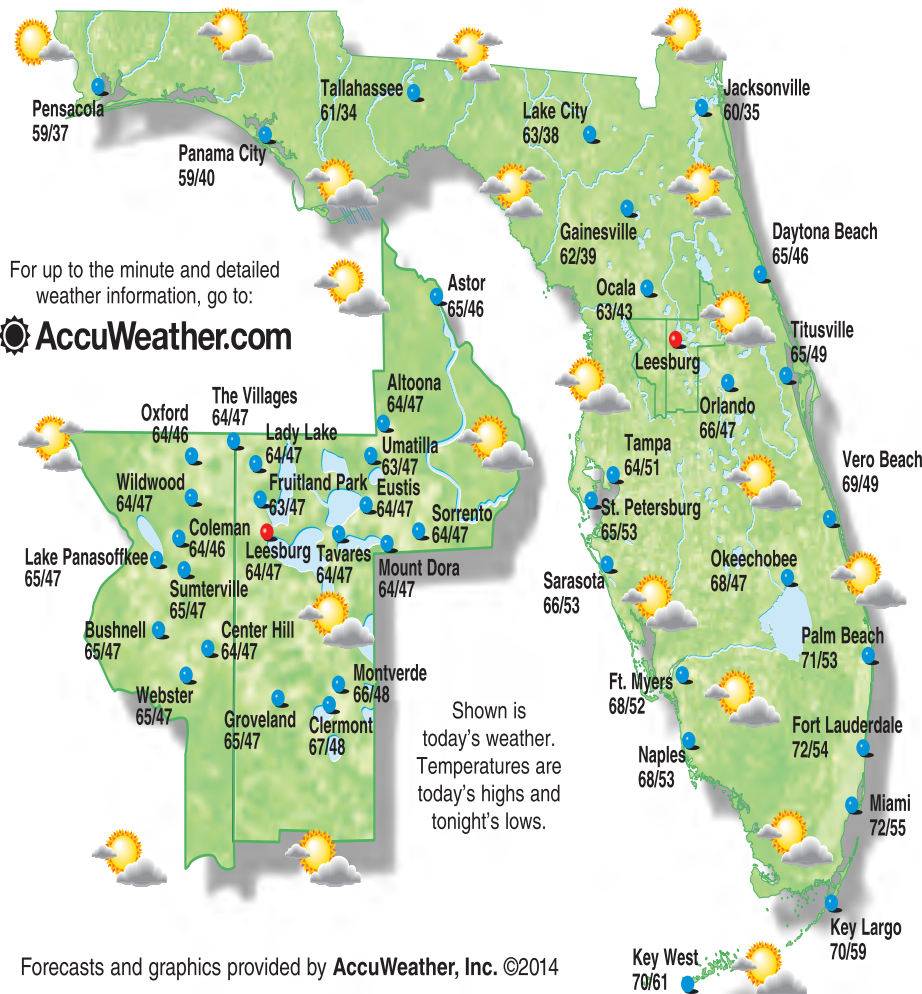


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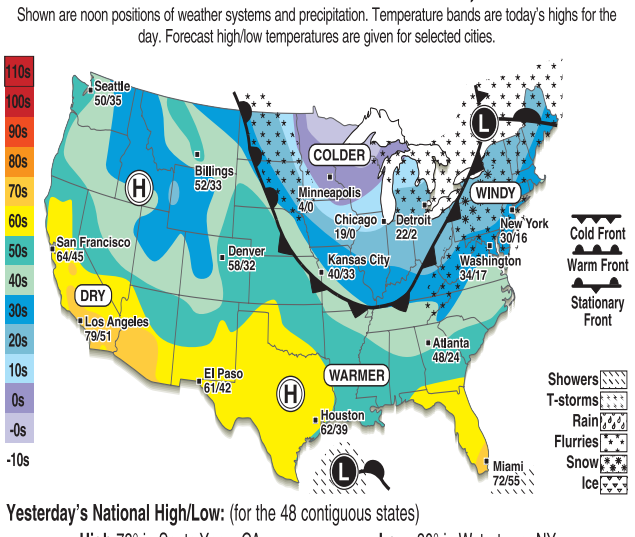
FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR LEEBSBURG

Table with 5 columns: TODAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY. Includes weather icons, descriptions, and high/low temperatures.



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Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are today's highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

UV INDEX TODAY (5) and SOLAR TABLE with sunrise/sunset times and moon phases.

THE SUN AND MOON table with sunrise, sunset, moonrise, and moonset times.

TIDES table for Homosassa and Daytona Beach.

NATIONAL CITIES

Large table listing weather forecasts for various national cities including Albany, Albuquerque, Anchorage, etc.

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WOMEN'S HOOPS: Closing in on milestone / B4



Orlando Christian Prep's Jonathan Joseph (12) takes a shot over Lake Minneola junior Avery Brown (5) during Friday's game at Lake Minneola. Orlando Christian Prep won 73-61.

BRETT LE BLANC / DAILY COMMERCIAL

MINNEOLA

OCP outlasts Hawks

MARK FISHER
Special to the Daily Commercial

DC More online
For more on this story, see www.dailycommercial.com.

The Lake Minneola Hawks (21-2) were swamped by a 9-2 run to open the second half that broke open a close game that they led at halftime Friday night.

The run by visiting Class 2A powerhouse Orlando Christian Prep erased a three-point lead for the Hawks that had been forged with tenacious defense.

The game was a clash of Central Florida prep titans and was close for most of the game

as both squads lived up to their resumes and records before the Hawks finally succumbed 73-61 to the multidimensional visitors. The Warriors improved to 22-0 with the victory over the Class 6A Hawks.

OCP led most of the first half, but were unable to shake the Hawks, who answered every Warriors run with one of their own as Anthony Brown put up 11 of his team-high 19 points in the first

half during a critical stretch in the second period that allowed the Hawks to finally tie the game 27-27 with a little over 1 minute remaining.

His twin, Avery Brown, was central to a late steal with 0:12 remaining that he dished to Drew Mendoza, who drew the defenders and dumped the ball to Chris Welch, who buried a long 3 for a 30-27 halftime lead. Avery would rake up 15 points for the Hawks.

Lake Minneola wins 3A-5 title

FRANK JOLLEY | Staff Writer
frank.jolley@dailycommercial.com

Chris Choong scored with two minutes to play Friday to lift the Lake Minneola boys soccer team to a 3-2 win against South Lake in the Class 3A-District 5 championship game at Bellevue.

By reaching the district title match, both teams advance to Thursday's regional quarterfinals.

Jordy Fernandez gave South Lake a

lead in the first half and Isai Rivas scored in the second half for South Lake.

Rickie Mortlock and Arielle Luna also scored for Lake Minneola.

BOYS BASKETBALL

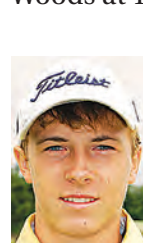
Tavis Smith scored 19 points Friday to lead Mount Dora to a 68-39 win on the road against Umatilla.

Mount Dora hosts First Academy of Leesburg at 7 p.m. Monday.

Jordan Spieth takes lead at Torrey Pines

DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Jordan Spieth turned out to be the star attraction Friday playing with Tiger Woods at Torrey Pines.



SPIETH

Spieth again showed game well beyond his 20 years with a 9-under 63 on the North Course, giving him a one-shot lead over Stewart Cink going into the weekend at the Farmers Insurance Open. Cink drilled a 3-wood from 280 yards onto the green at the par-5 ninth on the tougher South Course for a two-putt birdie and a 71.

Woods rarely gets upstaged at Torrey Pines, where his eight professional wins include the 2008 U.S. Open.

But in his first competition in six weeks, SEE PGA | B2



PHILAN M. EBENHACK / AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Wesley Johnson (11) puts up a shot in front of Orlando guards Victor Oladipo (5) and Arron Afflalo (4) during the first half of Friday's game in Orlando.

Harris' big game lifts Magic over Lakers

Associated Press

ORLANDO — Tobias Harris had 28 points and a career-high 20 rebounds to lift the Orlando Magic to a 114-105 victory over the obviously fatigued Los Angeles Lakers on Friday night.

Arron Afflalo added 23 points and Jameer Nelson scored 22 as the Magic won for only the second time in their last 14 games. Rookie Victor Oladipo had 15 points, 12 rebounds and five assists.

Pau Gasol led Los Angeles with 21 points and 10 rebounds. The

Lakers, playing the sixth game of a seven-game road trip, got 19 points and 14 assists from Kendall Marshall and 17 points from Jodie Meeks, but ran out of gas in the third quarter.

The Lakers led 65-55 with 9:27 left in the third quarter, but Orlando finished the period on a 36-15 run to seize control of the game. The Magic held the Lakers scoreless the last 3:30 of the quarter, scoring the final 11 points to take a 91-80 lead into the fourth quarter.

The Lakers scored the first six points of the fourth period to

cut the deficit to 91-86, but that was close as they would come. Orlando responded with an 8-0 run and never let the Lakers closer than six points the rest of the game.

Harris had a double-double in the first half with 17 points and 13 rebounds, but it wasn't enough to give Orlando an advantage.

Los Angeles countered with Marshall, who handed out 10 assists and scored seven points when the Lakers took advantage of shoddy Magic ballhandling to squeeze out a 55-53 lead.

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TENNIS

Too good for Federer, Nadal into Aussie final

JOHN PYE
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — The way Rafael Nadal managed to somehow retrieve a forehand midway through the second set shocked even Roger Federer, who has been on the receiving end of the Spaniard's unbelievable shots more than anyone else in Grand Slams.

It was a tipping point in their Australian Open semifinal. Federer had lost the first-set tiebreaker but was still throwing his whole arsenal at Nadal.

At 15-30 in the sixth game of the second set, Federer thought he'd wrong-footed Nadal with a volley deep into the left corner. Nadal lunged for a desperate forehand, swinging just as the ball was about to bounce for the second time and angling it back over the net. Federer, in good position but not expecting he'd need to play another shot, framed a volley. It gave Nadal a breakpoint, and he quickly broke Federer for the first time in the match.

He completed his 23rd win in 33 head-to-heads, and ninth in 11 Grand Slam matches, 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-3 in 2 hours and 24 minutes against the 17-time



Rafael Nadal celebrates after defeating Roger Federer during their semifinal on Friday at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia.

major winner.

A win over another Swiss, No. 8-seeded Stan Wawrinka, in Sunday's final, would give Nadal a 14th Grand Slam title and make him the first man to win all four majors at least twice in the Open era.

Nadal missed the 2013 Australian Open during a seven-month layoff for illness and a knee injury, but returned to win the French and U.S. Opens among his 10 titles for the season and finished the year at No. 1.

He won the Australian Open in 2009, beating Federer in the final, and lost in a five-set, 5-hour, 53-minute 2012 final to Novak Djokovic after ousting Federer in the semis. In other years, he's struggled with injuries — it's the only Grand Slam tournament he hasn't won at least twice.

"It's really, really emotional for me to be back on this court, and to be able to play another final — tonight I played the best match of the tournament," he said, elaborating later:

"Very emotional moments in the Rod Laver Arena in the past, very emotional moments this year especially because (this) is the Grand Slam that I really had more problems in my career."

Injuries kept him out of the 2006 Australian Open and hampered his progress in the 2010 and '11 quarterfinals.

"Lot of years I didn't have a chance to play in this tournament that I really love so much with the perfect conditions," he said. "So is very special have the

chance to be in the final here again."

By reaching his first major final with a win over Tomas Berdych on Thursday night, Wawrinka ensured he'd replace Federer as Switzerland's highest-ranked player for the first time.

But the 32-year-old Federer is confident of returning to his old winning ways, expecting some coaching from Stefan Edberg and continued improvement in his fitness to help after a slump in 2013, when he didn't reach any of the major finals for the first time in 11 years.

"I still think my best tennis is only ahead of me now," he said.

Nadal is now second on the list of players reaching Grand Slam finals, joining Ivan Lendl on 19 — Federer leads the list with 24. Another Grand Slam title would lift Nadal to equal second on the all-time list with Pete Sampras, who was in the crowd for the match.

Nadal has struggled with a blister on the palm of his left hand in his last two matches, but he removed the heavy tape that affected his serve in his quarterfinal win over Grigor Dimitrov and replaced it with one square of adhesive tape.

"The blister is OK," Nadal said. "The problem ... is the position of the blister, it's difficult." But, he added, he didn't feel any pain.

He certainly didn't show it if he did. He resisted just about everything Federer threw at him, scrambling to keep balls in play that usually would be winners.

Federer served and volleyed, he played with good touch, he played drop shots, he tried everything — even complaining to the chair umpire about Nadal's loud grunting after the tiebreaker — but his 50 resulting unforced errors doubled the number by his rival.

Left-handed Nadal hit 13 of his 28 winners on his powerful forehand side, attacking Federer's one-handed backhand yet again.

"I tried a few things ... then again, Rafa does a good job of neutralizing you," Federer said. "So I guess at times I couldn't quite do what I wanted to do, but that's because of Rafa."

Li Na will be hoping for third time lucky in the women's final today against Dominika Cibulkova. The 2011 French Open champion has reached the Australian Open final in three of the past four years, but is yet to win the title.

OLYMPICS

Dutch have it all to dominate frozen ovals

RAF CASERT
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — There is nothing more mythical in Dutch sports than an age-old 11-city race skating across lakes and canals in bone-numbing cold from dawn to dusk. No wonder the Netherlands is the greatest speedskating nation in the world.

And with Sven Kramer and Ireen Wust leading the way on the big Olympic oval in Sochi, they are bent on proving it again.

Time and again over the last half century, the Dutch have been at the top or near the top of the Olympic speedskating standings — a nation of 16.8 million defying giants like the United States, Russia or Germany. In Sochi too, the Dutch have a realistic chance of a half dozen gold medals on the big oval.

While the Netherlands will be challenged for a number of skaters, in-

cluding Ocala's Brittany Bowe — the daughter of Eustis High School boys basketball coach Mike Bowe, the Dutch have a longstanding tradition of excellence on Olympic ovals.

They won more long-track speedskating medals than any other nation in Vancouver, and federation sporting director Arie Koops said the only way forward is to become even more dominating.

What makes the difference? Check out the Netherlands in early wintertime when ice coats the trees and the first film of frozen water turns into a resistant sheet.

People get skates out of the cellar and attic, go out when they can, and all dream of if-and-when the Elfstedentocht — Eleven cities trek — marathon will be held.

"It is ingrained in our culture," said Peter Kolder, a youth coach of Kramer, who is a hot favorite to take three golds



Dutch skater Ireen Wust celebrates after winning the 10,000-meter race on Jan. 13 at the European speedskating championships at Thialf Stadium in Heerenveen, Netherlands.

in Sochi.

Even if the race happens only once in a generation when it is cold enough, kids go out by the tens of thousands, skating on countless canals and lakes in the hope that one day they might cross the finish line.

On such a tradition-bound foundation, the Dutch have smartly built a skating powerhouse that has made

the sport second only to football as a national winter pastime.

Also, look at the surroundings. Much of the Netherlands is below sea-level, the country is criss-crossed with canals and lakes, making dunes and dikes often the highest natural points as far as the eye can see. It means there is no competition from any sport like Alpine skiing. Snow is so rare

that Nordic events are non-existent.

So the Dutch have made the most of what they had to become a Winter Games contender. In the 1960s and early 1970s, when sports became a major television draw, they got some extra help from two great champions too.

The intense rivalry between Ard Schenk and Kees Verkerk not only yielded Olympic gold for the Netherlands, but also got the nation hooked on skating. Soon, throngs were following the stars around, to local and international competitions.

The whole world is awed by the vast stands full of orange-clad Dutch football fans at the World Cup. Skating ovals may hold fewer supporters, but the color orange is no less intense.

It is not only fanatical fans that drive on Dutch skaters. Their country may have plenty of waterways, but many win-

ters are not cold enough to turn them to ice.

Instead, one of Europe's most prosperous nations has built an abundance of artificial tracks.

While other speedskating powers have to make do with only a handful of big man-made ovals, the Dutch have no less than 17 dotted around a nation reaching about 350 kilometers (220 miles) from top to bottom, or twice the size of New Jersey. For good measure, they have two, possibly three more covered ovals planned.

By comparison, the United States has two such ovals for a population of 315 million. A talent in Miami would have to travel 1,300 miles (2,000 kilometers) to the closest top notch facility. In practice, that means moving house to live near an oval, whereas most Dutch skaters can train and be home by dinnertime.

Without Vonn, Stacey Cook leads surging downhill squad

ANDREW DAMPF
Associated Press

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy — When Stacey Cook completed her downhill run Friday, she raised both arms to the sky and flashed her pink mouth guard in a wide smile.

The fastest racer to that point — with the No. 13 bib — Cook ended up fifth to match Lindsey Vonn for the best result by the U.S. women's speed team

this season.

With Vonn out injured, this race marked a big breakthrough two weeks before the opening ceremony for the Sochi Olympics for Cook and a team that has struggled all season.

Cook was joined by teammates Julia Mancuso in ninth, rookie Jacqueline Wiles in 15th for her first World Cup points and Laurene Ross in 17th for her best result of the season.

The race was won by overall World Cup leader Maria Hoefl-Riesch on a course that was shortened slightly due to overnight snowfall.

The revised start put skiers directly into the course's best-known section, the To-fane Schuss — a long straightaway between two high rock outcroppings.

Cook missed the podium by a mere 0.03 seconds, showing the same speed that earned

her second-place finishes in consecutive downhills last season in Lake Louise, Alberta.

Cook also won a downhill training session earlier this season in Beaver Creek, Colo., but couldn't maintain her speed.

Mancuso won the only training session Wednesday and wasn't pleased that the course was shortened.

Mancuso finished seventh in Thursday's super-G and now has

two consecutive top-10 results after failing to break into the top 10 previously this season.

"Now it's just a matter of having that run where everything comes together, and I'm feeling positive it will come soon," Mancuso said.

Last season, every member of the speed team reached the podium.

Another downhill is scheduled for today, followed by a super-G

on Sunday to round out four consecutive days of racing

The 21-year-old Wiles is enjoying the repetition, too. As a rookie, all of the courses in Europe are new to her.

Usually, racers take a few years to study courses before they can really attack. Not Wiles.

Already two-time U.S. downhill champion, Wiles' chances of being selected to the Olympic team just got a big boost.

BASKETBALL

No. 6 Gators have room to grow offensively

KEVIN BROCKWAY
Halifax Media Group

Through the first 17 games of the season, Florida's best offense has been a good defense.

The Gators lead the Southeastern Conference in scoring defense at 59.7 points per game. Florida also has been adept at generating points off miscues, averaging 17.3 points off turnovers in its first four SEC games on layups and runouts in transition after steals and unforced errors.

But No. 6 Florida (16-2, 7-0 SEC) still has room to grow offensively going into its matchup on today against Tennessee. The Gators enter the game tied for 170th in Division I and eighth in the SEC in scoring offense at 72.4 points per game.

In its 68-61 win at

Auburn, Florida had a scoreless drought of 3:13 during a 14-0 Auburn run. The empty possessions included a missed 3-pointer from DeVon Walker, a missed front end free throw on a one-and-one by Will Yeguete, a missed 3-point attempt by Kasey Hill and back-to-back turnovers by Michael Frazier II and Scottie Wilbekin.

"We can do a better job of taking care of the ball," Yeguete said. "Offensively, we are going to be better if we play defense. It starts with being a better defensive team for us."

Florida has posted a negative assist-to-turnover ratio in five of its last eight games. But the Gators have still managed to overcome some sloppy stretches with stellar defense.

"We just lose focus,"



MICHELLE LEPIANKA CARTER / AP

Alabama's Algie Key (0) and Levi Randolph (20) try to stop Florida guard Scottie Wilbekin during the second half of Thursday's game at Coleman Coliseum in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Florida beat the Crimson Tide 68-62.

Yeguete said. "We are kind of just there in the moment. We generally did a good job of guarding them in that first half besides the last three or four min-

utes in the first half. We just start losing focus. You have to stay in the moment."

Florida coach Billy Donovan acknowledged that he thinks the

Gators could be more cohesive offensively. He attributed UF's recent assist-to-turnover struggles to early-season injuries and suspensions that have hampered the team's chemistry on the offensive side of the ball.

"Some of that chemistry has been somewhat disrupted because we've had different guys out," Donovan said. "It's going to take us some time to continue to play, utilize each other's strengths and talents and abilities to help us be better as a team."

Florida received a lift offensively from the return of senior forward Casey Prather, who had a team-high 21 points against Auburn. Prather had missed UF's previous two games with a bone bruise in his

right knee. The 6-foot-6 senior from Jackson, Tenn., is ninth in the SEC in scoring (17.3 ppg). He's also been UF's most consistent scorer, reaching double figures in all 15 games he's appeared in this season.

"He's playing to his identity," Donovan said. "He's slashing to the basket. He's getting to the free-throw line, he's offensive rebounding, he's getting out in transition (and) he's taking pull-up, mid-range jump shots. He hasn't taken a lot of 3s, but when they're wide open and they're there, he's going to take them. So I think he's kind of played to his identity and that's kind of helped him, I think, evolve into who we thought he could be when we recruited him."

Chattanooga's Jim Foster seeks 800th win

STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Chattanooga's Jim Foster is on the verge of joining a select group of coaches.

A victory today over Samford would make Foster just the 11th NCAA women's basketball coach with 800 career wins. Foster would be the first in the 800-win club to coach four different schools.

Foster is downplaying the milestone, because like most coaches he doesn't like to think beyond the next game. Foster remembers his previous milestone victories mostly for how they affected his team.

"The one that sticks out in my mind more than any other was the 500th," Foster said. "It was the semifinals of the SEC tournament. We beat Arkansas by two or four points or something (81-78) to go play LSU in the finals. That was my last year at Vanderbilt. ... We ended up with a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament that year. If we'd lost the game, we wouldn't have had a No. 1 seed."

The only women's coaches with 800 wins are former Tennes-



PAUL EFIRD / AP

Chattanooga coach Jim Foster talks to the officials during a game in November against Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn.

see coach Pat Summitt (1,098-208), North Carolina's Sylvia Hatchell (925-324), Rutgers' C. Vivian Stringer (915-336), Stanford's Tara VanDerveer (911-204), former Texas coach Jody Conradt (900-309), Bentley's Barbara Stevens (899-246), Connecticut's Geno Auriemma (859-133), Georgia's Andy Landers (837-280), Montana's Robin Selvig (808-261) and Scranton's Michael Strong (803-180). Stevens seeks her 900th victory today when

Bentley hosts St. Anselm in a Division II game.

Foster is 799-310 in his 36-year career. Foster and Stringer are the only men's or women's college coaches to win at least 200 games at three different schools. Foster went 248-126 at St. Joseph's from 1978-91, 256-99 at Vanderbilt from 1991-2002 and 279-82 at Ohio State from 2002-13. He is 16-3 in his first season at Chattanooga.

"I think by any measure, he's had a phe-

nominal career," said Auriemma, who began his coaching career working for Foster. "He's done it at a high level, and he's done it the right way, where he gets the right kind of people in his program, and he makes sure they graduate and he makes sure they play the way the game is supposed to be played."

Foster said he was on an eighth-grade CYO team when he got his first coaching assignment.

"The coach got frus-

trated and quit," Foster said. "The parish priest told me I was the coach the rest of the year. I was a player-coach at 13."

Those humble beginnings launched a Hall of Fame career. Not only is he good at developing players, Foster also knows how to train promising coaches.

Auriemma was his assistant, first at the high school level and later at St. Joseph's. They remain close friends, and Foster told the story last week of how he and his wife recently sent Auriemma a picture of the Connecticut coach reading a book to the children of Auriemma, Foster and St. Joseph's men's coach Phil Martelli.

"If it wasn't for him, I don't know that I ever would have decided to go down this road," Auriemma said.

Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw also worked for Foster at St. Joseph's.

"He was my mentor right from the start," McGraw said. "He gave me my first college job. We've been friends. He's my son's godfather. We've kept in touch over the years whenever I've had a problem. My first few years

at Notre Dame, I probably called him weekly, maybe twice a week. ... He's always been so important in my career and my life. I have so much to thank him for."

This milestone victory would cap an eventful 12 months for Foster.

Ohio State fired Foster at the end of the 2012-13 season, the only year the Buckeyes failed to reach the NCAA tournament during his tenure. Since then, he has taken the job at Chattanooga and entered the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

Foster says he enjoys being at a program outside the major conferences.

"Every Division I school at the highest level takes themselves a little bit too seriously and what they do a little bit too seriously," Foster said. "This is a game. We are in the education business. All of that other stuff — all of the minutiae — is just a byproduct. The reality of it is it's about those two hours (during a game). It's about the players."

But the next time Chattanooga wins, its coach will get most of the attention.

SEC teams battling for No. 3 behind Florida, Kentucky

Associated Press

A look at five things to watch in the Southeastern Conference

this week:

GAME OF THE WEEKEND

Tennessee at No. 6 Florida. The Volunteers

could use a quality road win to boost their NCAA tournament hopes. Although Florida has made back-to-back trips to the NCAA regional finals while Tennessee has failed to earn a bid each of the last two years, the Vols have dominated this series lately. Tennessee has won all three of its games with Florida during Cuonzo Martin's three-year tenure as the Vols' coach. The Vols now must try to end Florida's 25-game home winning streak.

LOOKING AHEAD

Florida and Kentucky are widely considered to be the top two teams

in the Southeastern Conference, but there's a clump of programs behind them vying for national attention. Missouri and Georgia are both off to a 4-1 start in league play while LSU and Tennessee are among four teams at 3-2.

PLAYER TO WATCH

Kentucky hopes big man Willie Cauley-Stein can bounce back from his recent slide. The 7-foot sophomore has emerged as one of the nation's elite defensive players — while also showing progress on the offensive end — but has av-

eraged just 1.0 points, 3.3 rebounds and 0.7 blocks over the last three games while battling foul trouble and ineffective play.

KEY STATS

Arkansas is now 45-6 at home and 2-21 in true road games during coach Mike Anderson's tenure. The Razorbacks were expected to be a factor in the SEC this season, but still haven't shown they can break through on the road. ... Georgia and South Carolina combined for 86 free throws in the Bulldogs' 97-76 victory on Wednesday. Georgia tied a school record with 50 free-throw at-

tempts. ... Auburn has lost 15 straight games against SEC competition.

ON THE WOMEN'S SIDE

Vanderbilt senior guards Jasmine Lister and Christina Foggie have developed into one of the nation's top backcourt duos. Foggie is averaging 19.3 points per game, while Lister has 16.8 points per game. Both are averaging more than 20 points per game in SEC competition. Their production has helped the 16th-ranked Commodores (16-3, 5-1 SEC) win 13 of their last 14 games.

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NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Peyton Manning spreads the wealth in Denver

ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Seattle's "Legion of Boom" secondary led by All-Pro Richard Sherman and Earl Thomas may be able to slow down, say, Demaryius Thomas, in the Super Bowl. That doesn't mean Peyton Manning will have to tap the brakes on Denver's Lamborghini offense.

Manning doesn't have just one go-to receiver like most quarterbacks.

He has five.

The Seahawks will match up the NFL's top pass defense this season against the best passing offense of all time in the Super Bowl at East Rutherford, N.J.

"That's the matchup everybody is going to be talking about, Peyton Manning vs. the Legion of Boom," Hall of Famer and Fox color analyst Troy Aikman said. "I'm excited to see it. That's why I spoke about how disappointing it would be if conditions keep that part of it from happening the way we'd like to see because of the impact the weather may have on the passing game."

Even if wintry weather curtails his passing prowess, Manning can downshift as easily as he can dial up a deep pass. With the bunch formations and picks and rubs that got under Bill Belichick's skin, the turbo-charged Broncos have morphed into a yard-chewing,



JACK DEMPSEY / AP

Denver quarterback Peyton Manning (18) is congratulated by wide receiver Demaryius Thomas after throwing a touchdown pass to Wes Welker during an early season game against Philadelphia in Denver. No team in the 93-year history of the NFL ever scored more than 606 points that Denver put up this year.

clock-eating machine in the playoffs.

With Manning dinking and dunking his way downfield, Denver's three most time-consuming drives of the season have all come in the last two weeks, 7-minute masterpieces that rendered Philip Rivers and Tom Brady short-tempered sideline spectators to Manning's magic.

He simply has more outlets than defenses have answers for.

"It's hard to catch a break with him, catch a tendency or something that you can jump," Sherman said of Manning, who sports a 40-1 TD-to-interception ratio in the red zone this season, including the

playoffs — and that one interception bounced off his receiver's chest, no less.

Of all the records Manning and the Broncos set this season, the one that stands out to Denver wide receivers coach Tyke Tolbert is this: No team in NFL history ever had five players reach the end zone 10 or more times until Demaryius Thomas (14), Knowshon Moreno (13), Julius Thomas (12), Eric Decker (11) and Wes Welker (10) did it this season.

"That tells you about the players we have on our team, the way Peyton spreads the ball out, how anybody can score at any given time," Tolbert said.

No other team has

ever had more than three players hit double-digit TDs.

This quintet helped the Broncos break the once-unfathomable 600-point barrier and each of them also caught 60 or more passes. No team had ever had five players do that before, either.

Manning says his unprecedented 55 TD passes and 5,477 yards through the air are only temporary records which will be surpassed by Brady or Drew Brees in no time — or by any number of other quarterbacks if owners get their way and expand the regular season to 18 games. But Tolbert thinks the 5-10 guys have nothing to sweat.

The beauty of the Broncos' offense is in its balance.

Manning targeted his three starting receivers almost identically: Demaryius Thomas (8.87 times a game), Welker (8.54), Decker (8.5). Julius Thomas, whose dozen scores broke Hall of Famer Shannon Sharpe's club record for tight ends, was targeted 6.42 times per game.

Take one away and another will burn you.

"Peyton doesn't discriminate," Decker said.

"He doesn't force passes," Demaryius Thomas said.

"He just takes what the defense gives him," said Julius Thomas, the power forward-turned-tight end who caught 65 passes for 788 yards after catching just one pass in his first two seasons.

"He just goes down the line and finds whoever is singled up," offensive coordinator Adam Gase said.

"Or whoever's wide open," suggested backup tight end Jacob Tammie, who was left all alone for a TD in Denver's win over New England last week.

"Yeah, that's the truth, we've got a lot of weapons on our offense," said fellow fill-in Bubba Caldwell, who caught two TD passes against San Diego last month when Welker was sidelined. "If you shut down one guy, we've got like four or five other guys that we can go to at any

other time."

The common thread among Manning's many targets, including Moreno, who had three TD catches to go with his 10 TD runs, is a refreshing unselfishness in an age where prima donnas so often demand passes and attention.

"To be an outstanding team, you have to be selfless, not selfish," Broncos coach John Fox said. "I think that speaks to the character of those guys in that room. They don't get all pouty about things like that."

Manning wouldn't put up with such shenanigans anyway.

"The only thing that makes all of us happy is if we win games, whether that's blocking all day and having zero catches or whatever it is," Welker said.

That's what Decker did before breaking out for eight TDs in December, his blocks on screens springing Demaryius Thomas, who led the league's receivers with 718 yards after the catch.

"Our whole group is like that and Decker knows that at any point in time that day can be your day," Tolbert said. "Like when we went to Kansas City, I mean, who'd have thought he'd have four touchdowns? But any day a guy can go out there, it can be a receiver, it can be a tight end, it can be a running back, any day can be your day."

Ex-Cowboy Josh Brent gets 180 days, probation

SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

DALLAS — Former Dallas Cowboys player Josh Brent was sentenced Friday to 180 days in jail and 10 years of probation for a drunken car crash that killed his friend and teammate, Jerry Brown.

Brent was convicted Wednesday of intoxication manslaughter for the December 2012 crash on a suburban Dallas highway that killed Brown, who was a passenger in Brent's car. Brent could have been sentenced to up to 20 years in prison.

Brent, a Cowboys defensive tackle, and Brown, a linebacker on the practice squad, also played together at the University of Illinois and were close friends. They were headed home from a night of partying Dallas teammates when Brent lost control of his Mercedes and crashed. Officers who arrived on scene saw Brent trying to pull Brown's body from the wreckage.

Blood tests pegged Brent's blood alcohol content at 0.18 percent, which is more than twice the state's

legal limit to drive of 0.08 percent. Prosecutors told jurors that the burly, 320-pound lineman had as many as 17 drinks on the night of the crash.

One of Brent's attorneys, George Milner, argued that Brent wasn't drunk and was only "guilty of being stupid behind the wheel of a car." He contended that Brent couldn't have had nearly as much to drink as prosecutors said he had, and that the police blood tests were flawed.

Brent's attorneys pushed their case for probation Thursday, calling a Dallas County official who testified that the county currently has 34 intoxication manslaughter cases that resulted in probation.

Kevin Brooks, one of Brent's attorneys, said the one-time defensive tackle would be easy to monitor because of "who he is and who he was." Brent retired from football last year.

Brown's mother, Stacey Jackson, has also publicly forgiven Brent. When asked Thursday if she holds Brent responsible for her son's death, she said: "He's still responsible, but

you can't go on in life holding a grudge. We all make mistakes."

Prosecutors pushed for prison time for Brent, who went to trial only weeks after another Texas intoxication manslaughter case sparked widespread public outrage. In that case, a defense expert argued that the defendant, a 17-year-old boy who caused a drunken crash that killed four people, deserved leniency because his parents coddled him into a sense of irresponsibility — a condition the expert termed "affluenza." The teen wasn't given prison time.

On Thursday, prosecutor Rebecca Dodds emphasized Brent's 2009 drunken driving arrest in Illinois to press the state's argument that he deserves prison time. In that case, he served 30 days in jail after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge.

"Probation doesn't work for Josh Brent," Dodds told the jury during closing statements in the punishment phase.

Brent played in all 12 games for the Cowboys in 2012 before the crash. Brown made the practice squad that season.



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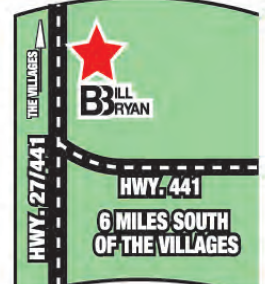
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AP FILE PHOTOS

Manager Dustin Humes fixes a drink in a small room which is out of the view of patrons at Vivace Restaurant, in Salt Lake City.

Mormons defend strict liquor laws

BRADY MCCOMBS
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The Mormon church has issued a sweeping defense of Utah's famously strict liquor laws, drawing a line against tourism, restaurant and bar industry advocates who have helped ease alcohol regulations in recent years.

Ahead of the upcoming legislative session, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints posted to its website a hefty multimedia policy statement urging lawmakers to uphold rules that church leaders say are "closely tied to the moral culture of the state."

The posting features an explanation of the church's stance, a video interview with one of the faith's top leaders and graphic presentations of supporting statistics.

"It's very important that we avoid an alcohol culture," said D. Todd Chris-

tofferson, of the Quorum of the Twelve, the church's second-highest governing body, in the video.

Experts say church leaders are flexing their considerable political muscle with a move that could have a chilling effect on efforts to change state liquor laws this session.

"In Utah politics, no one wants to go up against the LDS church," said Damon Cann, a political scientist at Utah State University.

The majority of Utah legislators are Mormons and an estimated two-thirds of the state's residents belong to the faith.

Avoiding alcohol is a fundamental part of being considered a fully practicing member of the Mormon church, religious experts say. Those who drink alcoholic beverages can't worship in temples and face social stigma, said Matthew Bowman, assistant

SEE MORMONS | C3



A drink is made in the food prep area in the back of Dojo sushi restaurant in Salt Lake City.

Pope: Internet is a 'gift from God' for dialogue

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The Internet is a "gift from God" that facilitates communication, Pope Francis said in a statement released Thursday, but he warns that the obsessive desire to stay connected can actually isolate people from their friends and family.

Francis made the observations in a message about Catholic Church communications, meditating on the marvels and perils of the digital era and what that means for the faithful going out into the world and interacting with people of different faiths and backgrounds.

"To (have a) dialogue means to believe that the 'other' has something worthwhile to say, and to entertain his or her point of view and perspective."

Pope Francis

In comments that will likely rile the more conservative wing of the church, Francis suggested that in engaging in that dialogue, Catholics shouldn't be arrogant in insisting that they alone possess the truth.

"To (have a) dialogue means to believe that the 'other' has something worthwhile to say, and to en-

ertain his or her point of view and perspective," Francis wrote. "Engaging in dialogue does not mean renouncing our own ideas and traditions, but the pretense that they alone are valid and absolute."

According to church teaching distilled by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Catholic Church holds the "fullness of the means of salvation" — a message that has long been taken to mean that only Catholics can find salvation. Church teaching also holds that those who don't know about Jesus but seek God can also attain eternal salvation.

SEE POPE | C3

CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH IN WILDWOOD HOST FUNDRAISER PANCAKE BREAKFAST: From 7 to 10 p.m., at Tierra Del Sol Country Club in The Villages. Funds support the Wildwood Soup Kitchen and other K of C charities. Cost is \$7 per person. Tickets available at the door.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH INSTALLS NEW PASTOR TODAY: At 6 p.m., Jon-Marc MacLean will be installed as the new co-pastor at Hope Lutheran Church, 250 Avenida Los Angeles, The Villages. Call 352-750-2321 for information.

SUNDAY

REVIVAL SERVICES WITH EVANGELIST TOM FARRELL: At 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. today and 7 p.m. through Fri., Jan. 31, Grace Bible Baptist Church, 1703 Lewis Road, in Leesburg. Call 352-326-5738 or go to gbbconline.com.

CHARLES HAUGABROOKS IN CONCERT: For services at 9:15 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m., First Christian Church, 1701 Vine St., in Leesburg. Haugabrooks has been a regular singer for television ministries, sacred concerts throughout the U.S., and other public venues. For information, call the church at 352-250-9502 or go to www.firstchristianleesburg.com.

"THE CHURCHMEN" PERFORM AT LADY LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: At 10 a.m., 109 W. McClendon St., in Lady Lake. At 6 p.m. on Sunday evening the movie, "Facing the Giants" will be shown, with free popcorn. Call the church at 352-753-1136.

LINDSAY HUGGINS IN CONCERT AT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE: At 10:30 a.m., 32151 David Walker Dr., in Tavares, singing all styles of music including the hymns of the church and Southern Gospel. For details go to www.lindsayhuggins.com, or call the church at 352-343-0577.

GUITARIST RICHARD KISER IN CONCERT AT TUSCANOOGA BAPTIST CHURCH: At 11 a.m., 18609 Tuscanooga Road in Groveland. Kiser is well known for his award-winning, finger-style guitar picking. For details, call the church at 352-429-3230.

MONDAY

FAITH LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: From 5:30 to 7 p.m., 2727 S. Grove St., in Eustis. Offering structured preschool for 3 and 4-year-olds and free VPK available. Before and after school care for all students. For information, call the school at 352-589-5683.

FAIRWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH SINGLES BIBLE STUDY: From 6 to 7 p.m., with Rick Warren's book "Purpose Driven Life." Registration not required. Call the church, 251 Avenida Los Angeles, The Villages, 352-259-9305.

"HOSPICE 101" PRESENTED BY JUDY FLICKINGER: Based on her book, "Spirit Matters," Flickinger will speak on her ministry as a parish nurse and her hospice community work. She will also host a book signing at the event, held at the United Church of Christ at The Villages, 12514 County Road 101 in Oxford.

SEE CALENDAR | C3

Let our lives and Gospels bring glory to God

Many people tell me they could never write. But I believe everybody can, it is just talking on paper. Many people also feel they couldn't preach. But every day we preach sermons, sometimes without uttering a word.

So, when people read the Gospel According to Rick, or you, is what they're reading helpful?

There are four gospels in the New Testament, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and



RICK REED
REFLECTIONS

John, with John's being written last. They were written for different audiences.

Gospel means "good news." And is used more than 90 times in the English Standard Version, the translation I know predominant-

ly use.

The word doesn't appear in the Old Testament, yet Paul wrote in Galatians 3:8, "Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'In you shall all the nations be blessed.' So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith."

The words "good news" appear 15 times in the Old Testament, though some of those attributions didn't mean the good news we receive in the Gospel.

Isaiah prophesized the Messiah would proclaim good news to the poor. Jesus fulfilled it when He began His public ministry reading from Isaiah in the synagogue at Nazareth: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He

has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Though His words are truth and lead to freedom, it wasn't what Jesus said as much as what He did.

Our actions also speak louder than words.

Paul admonished the Philippians, "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the

SEE REFLECTIONS | C3

Gathering Places for Spiritual Worship

Command That Mountain



Photo: iStockphoto.com/Cady5463

God tells us that when we believe in His Word, we possess limitless power through Him, the Creator of the universe. Jesus said "...if you have faith and do not doubt...but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done." (Matthew 21:21) Be patient and have confidence in your Heavenly Father's will for you. Pray to Him and He will answer your prayer in His time and in His way. Try not to be discouraged, keep in touch with God in worship and remember, you, too can command that mountain.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Acts 9:26-43	Acts 10:1-33	Acts 10:34-48	Acts 11:1-30	Acts 12:1-25	Acts 13:1-12	Acts 13:13-35
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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For information on listing your church on this page call Michelle at 352-365-8233 or e-mail to michelle.fuller@dailycommercial.com

Bushnell
St. Catherine United Methodist Church
9848 CR 738B, Bushnell
352-446-4149
Sunday Worship Service 9:00am
Everyone Welcome
www.stcatherineumc.org

Clermont
Liberty Baptist Church
11043 True Life Way, Clermont
352-394-0708
Senior Pastor Chris Johnson
Sun. Svc. 10:40am, Family Prayer Svc. 6:00pm
Unashamed Students Service 6:00pm
Sun. Bible Fellowship 9:30am
Wed. Bible Study 6:30pm,
Kids 4 Truth Clubs 6:30pm
Groups for all ages, Nursery provided all services
www.lbcclermont.org

Eustis
First Church of Christ, Scientist
Grove and Lemon Avenues, Eustis
352-357-3899
Sunday Service 10:30am
Sunday School 10:30am
Wednesday Testimonial Meeting 12:15pm
Christian Science Reading Room
108 E. Magnolia Ave., Eustis

First United Methodist Church of Eustis
"A Place where You Matter"
600 S. Grove Street, Eustis
352-357-5830
Senior Pastor Beth Farabee
Coffee and Fellowship 9:00am
Contemporary Worship 9:30am
Traditional Worship 11:00am

Life Without Limits Ministries
150 E. Barnes Avenue, Eustis
352-399-2913
Bishop Robert Dixon
Sunday School 9:00am
Sunday Worship Service 10:00am
Wednesday Family Bible Study 7:00pm
www.lifewithout-limits.com

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
317 S. Mary St., Eustis (corner S. Mary & Lemon St.)
352-357-4358
Rev. John W. Lipscomb III, Rector
Sunday Holy Eucharist Services 8:00am & 10:30am
Adult Sunday School 9:20am,
Children's Chapel
Thurs. Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 10:00am
www.stthomaseustis.com

Fruitland Park
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
2201 Spring Lake Road, Fruitland Park
352-787-1500
Father Ted Koelln
Sunday Service 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
Wednesday Healing Service 11:30am
www.holytrinityfp.com

LIFE Church Assembly of God
04001 Picciola Rd., Fruitland Park
352-787-7962
Pastor Rick Welborne
Sunday Deaf Impaired 10:00am
Sunday Evening 6:00pm
Wednesday Prayer and Youth Service 7:00pm
Sunday School 9:00am
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm

Pilgrims' United Church of Christ (UCC)
509 County Road 468, Fruitland Park
www.pucc.info
352-365-2662 or office@pucc.info
Rev. Ronal Freyer Nicholas, OSL, Pastor
Rev. Robert Van Valkenburg,
Pastoral Associate Emeritus
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Groveland
Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
15641 Stucky Loop, Stucky (West of Mascotte)
352-429-3888
Rev. Clarence L. Southall-Pastor
Sunday Worship Service 11:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Bible Study-Wednesday 7:00pm
Youth Bible Study-Wednesday 7:00pm

Groveland
Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)
547 S. Main Ave., Groveland
352-429-2960
Pastor Ken Stoyer
Sunday Worship Service 11:00am
Adult Sunday School 9:30am

Leesburg
Bethany Lutheran Church
1334 Griffin Road, Leesburg
352-787-7275
Sunday Service 8:00am & 10:30am
Wednesday Bible Study 10:00am
Sunday Bible Study 9:15am

Emmanuel Baptist Church of Leesburg
1710 U.S. Hwy. 441 E., Leesburg
352-323-1588
Pastor Jeff Carney
Sunday Celebration Service 10:30am
Wednesday Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00am
Wednesday Praise & Prayer 6:30pm
Sunday Bible Study 9:15am
Wednesday Epic Youth Ministry 6:30pm
www.EmmanuelFL.com

First Baptist Leesburg
220 N. 13th St., Leesburg
352-787-1005
Sunday Service 8:15am, 9:30am & 10:45am
Sunday Bible Study 8:15am, 9:30am & 10:45am
Wednesday Night Activities 6:00pm
www.fbcleesburg.org

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Leesburg
13th & Line St., Leesburg
352-787-1921
Sunday Service 10:30am
Sunday School 10:30am
Wednesday School 3:30pm

First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg
200 S. Lone Oak Dr., Leesburg
352-787-5687
Sunday Service 10:00pm
Sunday School 8:45am
www.firstpresleesburg.org
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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
130 S. Lone Oak Drive, Leesburg
352-787-3223
Sunday Worship October-April 8:00am & 10:30am
Sunday Worship May-September 9:15am
Christian Education October-April 9:15am
www.gloriadeielca.net

Lakes and Hills Covenant Church
Rev. Ken Folmsbee, PhD, Pastor
Worship Service 10:15am
Bible Study 9:00am
@ Women's Club of Leesburg
700 S. 9th Street, Leesburg
Church Office
106 S. Palm Ave., Howie-in-the-Hills
352-552-0052
www.lakeshillscovenantchurch.org

Legacy Community Church
Located at Lake Square Mall, Leesburg (suite 331 next to JCPenney)
Pastor Theo Bob-352-250-0156
Pastor Buddy Walker-352-978-0509
Spanish Pastor Luis Fuentes-352-552-1357
Sunday Worship Service 9:30am
Legacy is a multicultural, multiracial, generational, Christian Church
www.legacycic.org

St. Paul Roman Catholic Church
(In union with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orlando & The Vatican)
1330 Sunshine Avenue, Leesburg
Weekday Masses M-F 8:30am
Sacrament of Penance
Saturday 2:30-3:30pm (or by appointment)
Saturday Masses 4:00, 5:30, 7:00pm (Spanish)
Sunday Masses 7:00, 9:00, 11:00am, 12:30pm
Office Hours M-F 8:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00

Seventh Day Adventist
508 S. Lone Oak Dr., Leesburg
352-326-4109
Worship Service 9:30am
Sabbath School Service 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00pm

Leesburg
The Healing Place
1012 W Main Street, Leesburg
352-617-0569
Facilitator: Phyllis Gilbert
Sunday Service and Kids Club 11:00am
Wednesday Bible Study and Kids Club 6:00pm
(Nursery open for all services)
"Come as you are and leave different!"

Minneola
New Life Presbyterian Church, PCA
18237 E. Aphsawa Road, Minneola
Music Ministries
407-920-0378
Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Worship 10:45am

Mount Dora
Congregational Church
650 N. Donnelly St., Mount Dora
352-383-2285
Reverend Dr. Richard Don
Sunday 11:00am
(Communion 1st Sunday of the month)
Monday Bible Study 9:00am & 6:00pm

St. Philip Lutheran Church
1050 Boyd Drive, Mt. Dora
352-383-5402
Pastor Rev. Dr. Johan Bergh
Sunday Service 9:30am
(Childcare Provided)
Fellowship 10:45am
www.stphiliplc.com

Okahumpka
Corpus Christi Episcopal Church
3430 County Road 470, Okahumpka
352-787-8430
Sunday Eucharist Service 9:00am
Evening Prayer 4:00pm
Fellowship following both services
Thursday Morning Prayer 9:30am
www.corpuschristiepisopal.org

Tavares
All Saint's Roman Catholic Chapel
11433 U.S. 441, River Plaza #11, Tavares
407-391-8678
352-385-3880
Sunday Latin Mass 8:00am & 10:00am

First Baptist Church of Tavares
124 N. Joanna Avenue, Tavares
352-343-7131
Sunday Contemporary Service 8:30am
Sunday Traditional Service 11:00am & 6:00pm
Sunday Bible Study (all ages) 10:00am
Wednesday Fellowship Meal 5:00pm
Wednesday Life University 6:15pm
Wednesday Prayer Service 6:15pm
"Providing direction for all generations"
www.fbctavares.com

Tavares First United Methodist Church (UMC)
Corner of Old 441 & SR 19, Tavares
352-343-2761
Pastor John Barham
Traditional Service 8:30AM & 11:00am
Contemporary Cafe Service 10:00am
Children of Light-Youth & Family Service
1st Sunday of each month 6:00pm
www.fumctavares.com

Webster
The Final Hour Ministries
P.O. Box 523, Webster
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Email: finalhourministries@gmail.com
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www.thefinalhourministries.org

Lighthouse Foundation Ministries International INC.
11282 SR 471, Webster
352-793-2631
Pastor Patricia T. Burnham
Sunday Services 8:30am & 6:00pm
Thursday Night 7:00pm
3rd Saturday Food Basket Give-A-Way
www.lighthousefoundationministries.org

Linden Church of God
4309 CR 772, Webster
Pastor Doyle D. Glass
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00pm
Sunday School 9:45am
Wednesday Night (Family Training Hour) 7:00pm

MORMONS

FROM PAGE C1

professor of religion at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia.

In Utah, liquor licenses are issued to restaurants based on state population quotas, creating a long waiting list. In establishments that do serve alcohol, portion sizes are tightly controlled. And in some restaurants, drinks must be mixed in a backroom or behind a partition that detractors have come to call a "Zion curtain." Other alcohol sales are limited to state-run liquor stores, where beer is not refrigerated and ancillary items like margarita mix aren't sold.

Christofferson said the church is not proposing banning alcohol and doesn't want to impose its rules on the entire state. But, he said, the state's current laws strike the right balance between allowing people to drink while limiting social costs of alcohol abuse.

"We've got a reasonable system and it seems to be working, and I believe that the efforts to chip away at this that have gone on for years and years are counterproductive," Christofferson said.

Utah's rules governing the sale of beer and alcohol have slowly loosened as tourism and business leaders have worked to "normalize" the laws to make the state more friendly to out-of-state visitors. In 2009, for example, the state did away with a requirement for bars to operate as members-only social clubs.



AP FILE PHOTO

Manager Lindsay Pitts makes a mojito in the bar which is beyond the view of patrons in the kitchen of La Jolla Groves Restaurant in Salt Lake City.

Lawmakers haven't announced any major proposals to loosen Utah's liquor laws during the 2014 legislative session, which starts Monday. But tourism and restaurant associations have made clear their intention to continue pushing for "normalizing" the state's liquor rules to attract more tourists and chip away at the outside percep-

tion the Utah's rules are abnormal.

In the video, Christofferson disputes the notion that Utah's liquor laws are significantly different from those in other states and points to statistics to back the church's assertion that the current system keeps people safe.

Utah had the lowest number of alcohol-related traffic deaths per capita in 2012, the church points out, citing federal highway statistics.

The church's stance comes as no surprise. Mormon leaders have long worked to defeat efforts to relax the laws and commonly take public stances on moral and public safety issues.

But, the decision to have an apostle front the cause is noteworthy and "ups the ante," Cann said.

The church didn't say why they chose this year to roll out the campaign, but Morgan Lyon Cotti of the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics said it's reasonable to presume the church felt the efforts to ease laws had reached a tipping point.

Despite the church's statement, Scott Beck, president of Visit Salt Lake, remains optimistic that legislators will continue to be open to finding ways to make liquor laws more suitable for urban and tourist areas.

"We agree that we have a culture that should be celebrated. That's part of what we do," Beck said. "But we hope there is dialogue about the opportunity to normalize some of our liquor laws."

REFLECTIONS

FROM PAGE C3

gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God."

While their life was a sign of the destruction of their enemies, it could also be a sign that helps lead to their salvation.

Too many use Christians as an excuse from seeking God. It's not a valid excuse, all must give an answer, but we are supposed to be lights shining in a depraved world leading others to Jesus, not away from Him.

Let our lives and our gospels bring glory to God and lost souls into the kingdom.

I would like to thank those who prayed for me this past week. It has been difficult but I hopefully press on with thanks for your encouragement.

Rick Reed is a columnist who lives in Mount Dora. To reach him call (352) 383-1458, or email him at RICOH007@aol.com.

POPE

FROM PAGE C1

Pope Benedict XVI was a strong proponent of engaging in interreligious dialogue, but Francis has offered a softer approach in his sermons and gestures. In one famous off-the-cuff homily, he suggested that even atheists can find salvation. He also riled some conservatives when he washed the feet of two Muslims during the Holy Thursday re-enactment of Christ washing the feet of his apostles.

Archbishop Claudio

Mario Celli, the head of the Vatican's social communications office, said he didn't think Francis was making an official policy statement on interreligious dialogue, noting that the message was merely a reflection, "not a conciliar or dogmatic text."

But he acknowledged that Francis is shaking things up in much the same "providential" way Pope John XXIII shook up the church in launching the Second Vatican Council.

"We are realizing that there are sensations of, I wouldn't say difficulty, but of discom-

fort sometimes in certain circles," he said. "I think step by step we must rediscover a sense of the path, of what the pope wants to tell us."

In his message Thursday, Francis said the Internet offers "immense possibilities" to encounter people from different cultural and traditional backgrounds and show solidarity with them.

"This is something truly good, a gift from God," he wrote. But he warned: "The desire for digital connectivity can have the effect of isolating us from our neighbors, from those

closest to us."

He called for communications in the digital era to be like "a balm which relieves pain and a fine wine which gladdens hearts" and for the church's message to not be one of bombarding others with

Christian dogma.

"May the light we bring to others not be the result of cosmetics or special effects, but rather of our being loving and merciful neighbors to those wounded and left on the side of the road," he said.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE C1

Call 352-748-9199.

WEDNESDAY

CHRISTIAN 12 STEP MEETING "WALKING THE 12 STEPS WITH JESUS": From 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays at the First Baptist Church, 550 Hatfield Dr., room 110, in Umatilla. The Christ-centered program is an overcomer's group for addictions, alcoholism and co-dependency. For details, call 386-868-9989.

GROWING IN CHRIST CLASS AT FAIRWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH REGISTRATION DUE: For the class to be held on Feb. 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the church 251 Avenida Los Angeles in The Villages. Call 352-259-9305, or go to www.fairwaycc.org for details.

REVIVAL EVENTS BEGIN TODAY AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WITH DR. WAYNE BRIANT: Today, fellowship lunch at noon; elementary hot dog party at 5:30 p.m. and revival service at 6:30 p.m. Daily events continue through Saturday. Services on Sunday will be held at 8:30 a.m., 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Bible study at 9:45 a.m. Call the church, 802 N. County Road 470 in Lake Panasoffkee, 352-793-5510 for information and times of all events.

FEB. 1

FREE STAINED GLASS

TOURS AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: From 10 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. today and from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Sunday. For information, call the church at 352-383-2005 or go to www.mtdorafumc.org.

FAIRWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH "GROWING IN CHRIST" CLASS: From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the church, 259 Avenida Los Angeles, The Villages. Lunch served. Call the church at 352-259-9305 for details.

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOUNT DORA SERVE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST: From 7:30 to 10 a.m., at the church, 3720 N. State Road 19A between Eustis and Mt. Dora. Tickets are \$4 and baked goods will be available for sale.

THE DOWN EAST BOYS PERFORM AT BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH: At 6 p.m., 5640 County Road 48 in Okahumpka.

Free event. Call the church at 352-728-0900 for details.

FEB. 2

SUITCASE DRIVE FOR LOCAL WOMEN'S SHELTERS UNDERWAY: The United Church of Christ at The Villages is collecting used suitcases through Feb. 2 for the Shepherd's Lighthouse in Belleview and The Haven in Leesburg. Items can be dropped off at the church, 12514 County Road 101 in Oxford. For information, call 352-748-9199, or go to www.villagesUCC.org.

CELEBRATE THE ARTS PRESENTS CHARLES HAUGABROOKS: At 3 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Tavernas. Specializing in gospel music, he has performed extensively across the United States and abroad. Admission is free. For information call the church at 352-343-2761.

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2014 LAKE COUNTY Community Service Awards

Arts/Cultural

An individual whose personal or professional talents/activities in the cultural arts have contributed to the enrichment of Lake County.

Public Service

An outstanding elected or employed official of state, county or city government; or a volunteer who has made contributions toward improving Lake County's quality of life.

Hall of Fame Business Award

For career business achievement of 20 years or more.

Sports/Athletics

A person who has achieved in sports through performance or in promotion of athletic events in Lake County.

Business Achievement

A business leader whose achievements within his or her field have aided the economic business climate of Lake County.

Categories:
Small (less than 11 employees) • **Medium** (12-39 employees)
Large (more than 40 employees) • **Entrepreneur**

Chris Daniels Memorial Public Safety Award

To recognize an individual in the area of Public Safety who has demonstrated superior performance in their career, and has shown a commitment to better the Lake County through community involvement. This would include those persons in Lake County in the careers of law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services and emergency management.

Education

An employed, elected or volunteer educator who has shown innovation and dedication to public or private schools in Lake County.

Special Judges Award

Awarded at the discretion of the judges for particularly outstanding contributions to Lake County

Humanitarian

An individual whose volunteer activities have improved the quality of life in Lake County.

Lake County Leadership Award

An individual whose guidance & leadership has impacted Lake Co

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Nominating someone is easy. Nomination forms will be printed in the Thursday editions of the Daily Commercial, can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce offices and City Halls throughout Lake County or you can contact Janice Jones (phone: 352-483-5440 or email: JonesJ@ci.eustis.fl.us.com) and have one sent to you. You can also access and submit the nomination form on-line at www.dailycommercial.com

If selected, your nominee will be honored at the 2014 Lake County Community Service Awards Dinner on April 30, 2014.

SO SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION. MAKE YOUR NOMINATIONS TODAY!

Nominations must be postmarked by February 21, 2014

Mail to: LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS
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UMATILLA

Lake, Sumter businesses honored by Gov. Scott

AUSTIN FULLER | Staff Writer
austin.fuller@dailycommercial.com

One company each in Lake and Sumter County have been recognized by Gov. Rick Scott as innovative businesses.

Recognized with 2013 Governor's Innovators in Business Awards were Electron Machine Corporation in Umatilla and Highway Systems Inc. in Sumterville. Electron manufactures equipment that measures the density of a liquid flowing through a pipeline, while Highway Systems makes supports for highway signs and light poles.

Electron Machine Corporation won the export excellence award in a major market. Company President C.A. Vossberg said approximately 50 percent of the company's

business — around \$1 million in sales — is outside of the United States.

"Our products are used in industry worldwide and, unfortunately, a lot of industry is expanding outside of this country," Vossberg said.

The company makes an inline refractometer that measures the density of the liquid as it flows through a pipeline.

"That can be used in various industries, such as the food industry to determine how much sugar is dissolved in water; it can be used in the chemical industry to determine the strength of an acid; it can be used in the paper industry to determine how much water is left in the organic material that they used after making the paper process," Vossberg said.

Electron has 20 employees. "As far as I'm concerned,

the real recognition goes to all the staff that work here," Vossberg said. "We have a very loyal staff that's dedicated in what they do, and they've been with us for a long time."

Vossberg's grandfather, Carl Vossberg Jr., founded the company in 1946 and the company has been in Umatilla since the early 1950s.

"We're proud to manufacture something in the United States and in Lake County in particular," Vossberg said.

Highway Systems was the winner of the business expansion award in a mid-market. It manufactures the structures that hold signs over highways and road signs, as well as the structures and poles that hold and support traffic signals.

Jason Bell, the president and owner of Highway Sys-

tems, said the company expanded in sales, physical facilities and number of employees in 2013. It added 12 workers last year and two so far this year for a total of 35 employees.

Bell said the company finished a 14,000 square-foot expansion in 2013 and is currently working on a 18,750 square-foot expansion that should be finished in early April. With the expansions, the total plant will be 49,000 square feet, according to Bell.

"The workload that we have is really pushing the expansion, basically to get everybody under the roof, instead of having to have some people work outside, you know, on a slab," Bell said.

He expected the additional space will boost his production by about 40 percent.

Bell said in fiscal year 2013,

sales increased by \$5.7 million over 2012, for a total of \$17 million in sales last year.

"For all my employees, actually, it means a lot to us, because we've been working really hard," Bell said of the award.

Highway Systems' customers include contractors working for the states of Florida, Georgia and Texas, and even the states themselves. Its biggest market is Florida.

According to the press release the awards, "recognize Florida companies in select industries that have influenced the state's economic growth and diversification over the last year."

Electron is at 15824 County Road 450 W. in Umatilla and the Highway Systems is located at 1749 County Road 525 E. in Sumterville.

JPMorgan boosts CEO Dimon's pay to \$20M

STEVE ROTHWELL
Associated Press

NEW YORK — JPMorgan Chase almost doubled Chairman and

CEO Jamie Dimon's pay for 2013, rewarding the executive for settling probes against the bank.

Dimon will receive total compensation of \$20

million in 2013, consisting of \$18.5 million in stock options and a base salary of \$1.5 million, the bank said in a statement Friday.

That compares with \$11.5 million a year earlier, down from \$23 million in each of the previous two years.

The bank says it took

several factors into account when deciding on Dimon's pay, including the "sustained long-term performance" of the bank.

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Canadian dollar	1.1076	1.1115
Mexican peso	13.5255	13.3941

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Nasdaq National Market

Table of stock market data including columns for Name, Div, Last, and Chg. Includes various stock tickers and their corresponding prices and changes.

Table of stock market data continuing from the previous section, listing various companies and their market performance.

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Mutual Funds

Large table of mutual fund data with columns for Name, NAV, Chg, and %Rtn. Lists numerous mutual funds such as AOR, Acadian, Acorn, and various international and domestic equity funds.

Mutual Fund Footnotes: b - Fee covering market costs is paid from fund assets. d - Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee. f - front load (sales charge). m - Multiple fees are charged, usually a marketing fee and either a sales or redemption fee. n - Not available. p - pre-launch. s - fund's net asset value. s - fund shares during the week. x - fund paid a distribution during the week.

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2007 BUICK LACROSSE L12003A	2012 HYUNDAI ACCENT LT12242A	2011 HYUNDAI ELANTRA PL1966	2010 HYUNDAI TUCSON L9702A
\$6,994	\$12,853	\$15,991	\$18,433
2005 HYUNDAI XG350 L11308A	2007 HYUNDAI SANTA FE L12163A	2011 HYUNDAI SONATA L11605A	2011 HYUNDAI TUCSON PL1962
\$6,995	\$12,991	\$16,491	\$18,471
2006 HYUNDAI SONATA LT12180A	2006 GMC ENVOY L12142A	2013 HYUNDAI ACCENT L11573A	2012 KIA SORENTO L12098A
\$6,995	\$12,995	\$16,810	\$18,491
2003 TOYOTA RAV4 PL1961A	2011 HYUNDAI ELANTRA L11575A	2012 HYUNDAI SONATA L12062A	2012 HYUNDAI SONATA L11656B
\$7,995	\$13,494	\$16,821	\$18,494
2010 HYUNDAI ELANTRA LT11903A	2012 CHEVROLET SONIC LT12153A	2010 BUICK LUCERNE LA4152B	2009 DODGE CHALLENGER LT11651A
\$9,964	\$13,741	\$16,831	\$18,494

UNDER \$15,000

2007 HONDA FIT L11639B	2009 CHEVROLET IMPALA L12045A	2011 HYUNDAI SONATA L11709B	2011 CHEVROLET EQUINOX L11680A
\$10,491	\$13,991	\$16,831	\$18,893
2011 HYUNDAI ACCENT L11488A	2012 HYUNDAI ELANTRA L11876A	2012 HYUNDAI SONATA LT12243A	2009 HONDA CR-V L12131A
\$10,851	\$13,994	\$17,491	\$18,991
2011 HYUNDAI ELANTRA L11384B	2009 HYUNDAI SONATA L11964B	2013 HYUNDAI SONATA LT12151A	2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE L11815A
\$11,783	\$14,353	\$17,493	\$18,993
2007 PONTIAC SOLSTICE L11925A	2012 HYUNDAI ACCENT LT12125B	2012 CHEVROLET MALIBU L12113A	2011 HYUNDAI SONATA L12065A
\$11,894	\$14,491	\$17,533	\$19,203
2009 HYUNDAI ELANTRA L10193A	2012 FORD FUSION LT11887A	2013 HYUNDAI SONATA L12120A	2014 KIA OPTIMA L11910B
\$11,991	\$14,494	\$17,591	\$19,274
2007 HONDA ACCORD LVT1641B	2008 HYUNDAI VERACRUZ L11949A	2010 HYUNDAI VERACRUZ L11949A	2012 HYUNDAI SANTA FE L12194A
\$11,993	\$15,493	\$17,871	\$19,991
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Price stings for faux-sporty Volkswagen Tiguan

SUSAN CARPENTER
The Orange County Register

When Volkswagen released its year-end sales figures this month, it tried to put a happy face on some pretty abysmal news. While its clean diesel models now account for 23.5 percent of all VW sales — the best in company history — overall retail was down for each of its 13 models except for the Beetle convertible. VW's U.S. sales were down 6.9 percent overall last year while the rest of the market grew by 7.6 percent.

Ouch. Chalk it up to European pricing, stiff competition and names that are downright odd; freaky-sounding models such as the Touareg SUV got clobbered last year.

The Tiguan, which shares the same linguistic affliction, was least affected. Sales of the midsize crossover were still down, but only by 5.4 percent in 2013, due to the popularity of the small SUV segment and a 2014 model refresh that added a subscription safety system and made the Tiguan available with VW's R-Line sport trim.

Driving the Tiguan R-Line one recent week, I played the usual guessing game with my 10-year-old, who has co-piloted everything from a Nissan Versa to a Ferrari 458 Italia. When I asked him to name its price, he hesitated before offering, "\$40,000?"

He was close. The Tiguan starts at a reasonable \$23,305, but the price quickly ratchets up as customers add options that upgrade the cloth seats and 16-inch wheels of the base model to add more substantial rims, navigation, a backup camera, heated seats, keyless entry, push-button start and other features that are increasingly standard on vehicles from other manufacturers. The R-Line, with its panoramic roof, premium audio, emergency telematics and sport styling, is the top-of-the-line Tig and has pricing to match: \$36,880.

Named after a nonexistent animal — a tiger combined with an iguana — the Tiguan is in a pricing No Man's Land as a marginally exotic five-seater whose primary competition is American, Japanese and Korean and lower-priced for the same equipment. Lacking the cache of Audi, BMW or Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen needs to offer more than it does for the thousands extra it charges piecemeal.

If only it cost \$10,000 less.



VOLKSWAGEN / MCT

ABOVE, BELOW: The 2014 Volkswagen Tiguan underwent a refresh that added a subscription safety system and made the Tiguan available with Volkswagen's R-Line sport trim.

2014 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN R-LINE

■ **POWERTRAIN:** Direct-injected, turbocharged, inter-cooled, 2.0-liter, inline-four cylinder, four valves per cylinder, DOHC, six-speed automatic transmission

■ **HORSEPOWER:** 200

■ **TORQUE:** 207 pound-feet

■ **CURB WEIGHT:** 3,404 pounds

■ **WHEELBASE:** 102.5 inches

■ **OVERALL LENGTH:** 174.3 inches

■ **EPA-ESTIMATED FUEL ECONOMY:** 21 mpg city, 26 mpg highway, 23 mpg combined

■ **BASE PRICE:** \$36,880

■ **PRICE AS TESTED:** \$36,880

Prices exclude destination charge.

Then VW might have a contender on its hands, since the overall driving experience of the Tiguan is quiet, comfortable, intuitive and versatile.

Like any crossover worth its name, the Tiguan can be had with an all-wheel drive option, but that, too, costs extra — \$1,955. Front-wheel drive is standard. Surprisingly for a German and, specifically, a Volkswagen, the Tiguan is not available as a more fuel-efficient and fun-to-drive diesel but with the same perky turbocharged, 2.0-liter, four-cylinder gasoline engine used in the GTI. It's a terrific and punchy



little engine that offers a lot of driving satisfaction, especially when paired with the six-speed automatic transmission and paddle shifters. For an even sportier drive, there's also a sport mode that doesn't feel substantially more responsive when pressing pedal to metal, though it does make the engine scream a little louder with higher shift points.

Sprite and satisfying as the GTI engine is, it has a couple bugaboos for the price-conscious. It runs most efficiently on recommended premium fuel, but doing so yields average: 23 mpg combined.

Despite its sporting R designation, the R-Line offers no engine enhancements — just a stiffer suspension working in concert with the trim's low-profile 19-inch alloy wheels and a leath-

er-wrapped, squared-off steering wheel.

At least the ride quality is smooth, and the sound inside the cabin is pleasantly quiet — the better to hear the premium Fender audio streaming a Pandora playlist or an emergency alert through VW's new Car-Net telematics system. Free for six months, after which, like everything else on the Tiguan, it costs, the subscription service works similarly to GM's OnStar and offers automatic crash notification, roadside assistance, stolen vehicle location assistance and remote vehicle access, among other things.

Most of what makes the R-Line sporty is cosmetic, such as the leather seats, metallic finish door trim and aluminum sport pedals. It's unlikely the baby-sized spoiler extending from the slight-

ly sloped roof over its rear liftgate produces any down force whatsoever, even if the Tiguan's driver was game to indulge its (largely empty) sporting premise. Weighing 3,400 pounds and offering a fire-trail-capable 6.9 inches of ground clearance, this small SUV just isn't that kind of car.

The Tiguan is, however, quite practical. Like a lot of people in the days following the new year, I've been juggling various home improvement projects, most of which have involved the usual hauling of giveaways to Goodwill and oversized replacement items.

With the rear seats in their upright position, the cargo hold was large enough to carry two ceiling fans (in boxes), even without scooting the rear seats forward 6 inches, as they're designed to do. Those seats collapse easily in a 40/20/40 configuration using pull tabs for the seatbacks and buttons that flip over the headrests so the seats fold flat. The Tiguan also has the option of a front passenger seat that folds all the way forward. And if that still doesn't provide enough interior space for all of one's toys, a towing hitch option can haul up to 2,200 pounds.

With its Tiguan, VW claims it's putting the sport in SUV. If only it would truly do so without nickel and diming customers for everything extra.

Technology in vehicles is latest privacy battlefield

ALISA PRIDDLE
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — As the nation and world struggle with ever-more-complex questions of privacy related to personal data mined from the Internet, Ford Motor Co. found itself trying to assure the public last week it doesn't use on-board technology to spy on driver behavior.

Trying to put out a brush fire ignited by a Ford executive's comment, the automaker said laws are needed to protect driver privacy in vehicles that can

gather as much data as a smart phone.

Recently at the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Ford marketing head Jim Farley sparked a fury among privacy advocates. During a panel discussion he said, "We know everyone who breaks the law; we know when you're doing it."

"We have GPS in your car, so we know what you're doing. By the way, we don't supply that data to anyone."

Last week, Ford CEO Alan Mulally received a letter from Sen. Al

Franken, D-Minn., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on privacy, technology and the law, seeking more information on the data Ford collects and how it is used. In 2011 Franken proposed a law to protect the privacy of location data in mobile devices.

Mulally plans to respond to Franken by early February as requested.

"What (Farley) said was not right," Mulally told reporters on the sidelines of the North American International Show. "We

"People are hyperaware and reactionary about data. It is good that the issue is coming to the forefront."

Doug Newcomb,
technology analyst

do not track the vehicles. That's absolutely wrong. And we'd only send data to get map data if they agree that that's OK to do that, but we don't do anything with the data; we would never do that."

With data breaches now seemingly com-

mon, the debate over how and when collected auto-related driving data can be used is likely to intensify. Vehicles produced by Ford and other automakers, as well as myriad mobile devices, can receive and send massive amounts of information. Black boxes capture detail on the car's performance while modems and smartphones transmit information to and from the cloud.

The technology that allows for such voracious data gathering can be used for good purposes. Knowing a car's

location can be lifesaving when it alerts emergency services to an accident. Police can track dangerous criminals.

But consumers don't want their driving patterns sold to marketers, their vehicles' speed fed to local law enforcement, or their lives subject to arbitrary privacy invasions.

"People are hyper-aware and reactionary about data," said technology analyst Doug Newcomb of Newcomb Consulting in Portland, Ore. "It is good that the issue is coming to the forefront."

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Sunday	Friday, 5:00pm
Monday	Friday, 5:00pm
Tues. - Thurs.	One day prior, 5:00pm

ADJUSTMENTS

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2

Legal Notices

003 Legal Notices

IN THE COUNTY COURT, FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE No.: 12-CC-3971

SLEEPY HOLLOW FIRST ADDITION HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., A Florida Not-for-Profit Corporation, Plaintiff,

vs.

CHRISTOPHER P. NUNES; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CHRISTOPHER P. NUNES; BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; and UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment in Foreclosure dated the 25th day of November 2013, and entered in Case No. 12-CC-3971 of the County Court of the Fifth Judicial Circuit in and for Lake County, Florida, wherein Sleepy Hollow First Addition Homeowners' Association, Inc., is Plaintiff and Christopher P. Nunes is Defendant, the Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Lake County Courthouse, First Floor Lobby, 550 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida 32778 beginning at 11:00 a.m. on the 24th day of February, 2014, the following described property as set forth in the Summary Final Judgment in Foreclosure, to wit:

Lot 20, Sleepy Hollow Subdivision First Addition, According to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 49, page(s) 43 and 44, public records of Lake County, Florida.

Parcel No.: 29-19-25-190100002000.

003 Legal Notices

This property is located at the street address of 2617 Athens Drive, Leesburg, Florida 32748.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER SALE.

FRASHER LAW FIRM, P.A.
140 South Beach Street, Suite 404
Daytona Beach, Florida 32114
Telephone (386) 872-3602
Facsimile (386) 872-3603
E-Mail frasherlaw@aol.com

By: Louis A. Frasher, Esquire
Florida Bar No.: 470181

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Nicole Berg, the ADA Coordinator, at the Office of Trial Court Administrator, Lake County Judicial Center, P. O. Box 7800/550 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida 32778, telephone number (352) 253-1604, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing impaired, call 711.

Ad No. 00424606
January 25 & February 1, 2014

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Bunny's Towing Service, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

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2000 GENERAL MOTORS CORP
1GKCS18W6YK281179

Ad. No. 00424415
January 25, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION

Case No. 35-2009-CA-006917
Division 10

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,

vs.

UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS AND TRUSTEES OF MICHAEL PESHO, DECEASED; BARBARA PESHO, KNOWN HEIR OF MICHAEL PESHO, DECEASED, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS AND TRUSTEES OF MICHAEL PESHO, DECEASED CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN LAST KNOWN ADDRESS UNKNOWN

You are notified that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Lake County, Florida:

LOT 69, CHELSEA OAKS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 53, PAGE 89 THROUGH 91, PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Commonly known as 2267 MERRY RD, TAVARES, FL 32778 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Ashley L. Simon of Kass Shuler, P.A., plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 800, Tampa, Florida 33601, (813) 229-0900, on or before or 30 days from the first date of publication, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated: DECEMBER 27, 2013.

CLERK OF THE COURT
Honorable Neil Kelly
550 W. Main Street
Tavares, Florida 32778
By: /s/ KAREN HALL
Deputy Clerk

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Map line
- 5 Laughable
- 10 Archipelago
- 12 Puzo subject
- 13 TV tryout
- 14 Funeral heaps
- 15 Coffee dispenser
- 16 Cart puller
- 18 Daiquiri need
- 19 Dakota city
- 21 High pair
- 22 Climbing flowers
- 24 Noggins
- 25 Grapefruit cocktails
- 29 Turn down
- 30 — m^âch^e
- 32 Complete
- 33 Private room
- 34 — alai
- 35 "Ninotchka" star
- 37 Show gratitude to
- 39 Bothered
- 40 Following
- 41 Bus units
- 42 Jury member

- 2 Brother of Isis
- 3 Completely redone
- 4 — gratias
- 5 Little rascals
- 6 Dissenter's vote
- 7 Serengeti setting
- 8 Reunion group
- 9 Moves cautiously
- 11 Eye rudely
- 17 Do an old newspaper job
- 20 Answer
- 21 Man of morals
- 23 Literalists
- 25 Capitol group
- 26 Tenor Bocelli
- 27 Demi Moore movie
- 28 Spooky gathering

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P	A	U	L	A		A	R	U	B	A
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M	A	N	E	S		C	O	O	K	E
P	L	E	A	T		A	U	D	E	N
S	T	Y	L	E		L	I	S	T	S

Yesterday's answer

- 29 "The Rehearsal" painter
- 31 Picard's first officer
- 33 Braille bits
- 36 Diamond club
- 38 With it

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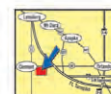
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SAGE: Easy to grow and often overlooked / E2



The dining room features a long modern bay with windows that created space for built-in shelves and storage.

Bungalow makeover is both eco-friendly and cat-friendly

LYNN UNDERWOOD
Star Tribune

Aurora the cat crept over to the pet door and then disappeared. Her litter box was on the other side, concealed within a maple cabinet in her owners' Minneapolis mudroom. A moment later, a motion detector triggered a fan to ventilate the area.

This cat-friendly — and owner-friendly — feature is one of many updates and improvements Heidi Hardner and Bill Humphrey have made to their early-1900s bungalow. They added a total of 500 square feet on the main and second floors to expand the kitchen and master suite and create a handy mudroom. And they did it all with an eye on sustainability,

"The pet features are really for us. We don't want to see litter boxes, step in food bowls or have cats jumping into the sink to try to get a drink while we're brushing our teeth."

-Heidi Hardner
Bungalow designer

by incorporating eco-friendly products and practices such as geothermal heating and cooling, a metal roof and recycled materials. Plus, the home's new modified shape blends with the modestly scaled homes in their Fulton neighborhood.

"We kept the home's original front porch," Humphrey said. "Even with the addition, it's

still a reasonable size. And the changes on the back and sides are subtle."

The couple's remodeling project, designed by Wynne Yelland and Paul Neseth of Locust Architecture, earned the EcoBlend award last fall, a new category, added in 2012, to the 7-year-old B.L.E.N.D Awards (Buildings and Landscapes Enhancing the Neighborhood through Design) in Minneapolis. The award program is designed to encourage and recognize builders, architects and homeowners who incorporate eco-friendly design and sustainable building practices into new and remodeled projects in the city, while respecting neighborhoods' overall character.

SEE MAKEOVER | E3

Grow, harvest and brew tea from your garden

SARAH WOLFE
Associated Press

When temperatures fall, there's nothing better than a piping hot cup of tea.

And as craft and organic tea seeps into the mainstream, tea gardens are becoming a popular way for brew lovers to bypass the store and enjoy the benefits of herbal tea without additives or preservatives.

"It just tastes and smells better," says chef Kimmy Tang, who snips

mint, lavender and lemongrass from her garden for herbal teas at her 9021PHO restaurants in Los Angeles.

"I also know that it's 100 percent organic. I don't use any chemicals to help them grow, and I can taste the difference."

It may sound daunting, but British gardener and author Cassie Livesidge says many tea garden staples may already be at your fingertips.

"Honeysuckle, mint, rosemary. They're all quite common plants,

SEE TEA | E6



ABIGAIL GEHRING / AP

Oat tops, rose hips, hibiscus and red raspberry leaf, ingredients for tea, steep in the sunlight.

How to cultivate avocados, raspberries and grapes



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Muscadine grapes are generally tolerant to insect and disease pests and can be successfully grown without pesticides.

Q My avocado tree is not producing fruit. Can you tell me why?

A Avocado trees are cloned so that good fruit characteristics are retained. Buds from the selected variety are grafted onto a rootstock, and those buds grow into the branches that will carry the selected fruit. Avocados do not come true from seed. Seedling plants will have recombined genes from the two parents, and will not have the same characteristics as the fruit they came from.

It may take many years for a seedling avocado to pro-



JUANITA
POPENOE

LAKE COUNTY
EXTENSION

duce fruit, and then the fruit may or may not be good. If you know that this is not a seedling avocado, then there are some other possibilities. Some varieties of avocado will bear heavily every other year, and bear very little fruit in the off year. Even grafted trees will take three to four years to produce fruit. Avocados do not like to have their roots wet, so trees in

poorly drained soils will not thrive. Some varieties of avocados require cross-pollination, and will need other varieties of avocados growing nearby and flowering at the same time to provide pollen. More details on varieties and requirements can be found at edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg213.

Q I want to grow red raspberries in my backyard. What are the best varieties for Central Florida?

A Red raspberries will not grow in Central Florida. It is too hot here. Even the thornless blackberries

SEE POPENOE | E3



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Easy-to-grow sage is often overlooked

CINDY MCNATT
The Orange County Register

I've been wondering lately if, as gardeners, we haven't forgotten about the sages. If there is a plant that is as easy to grow in our region, that attracts as many hummingbirds and butterflies, that can waft a scent like pineapple through the entire landscape while making its way into our kitchen, I'd like to know about it.

Salvias do all that with color and style, yet we don't see them planted as we used to.

Consider that two kinds of sage occur naturally in Southern California, which includes growing zones 10a, 10b and 11a: *Salvia apiana* (California white sage) and *Salvia mellifera* (black sage). These plants smell so wonderful when we brush against them on hikes. No reason why their kin won't thrive in our gardens.

Salvias occur naturally on many continents, from Europe to Western Asia to North and South America, plus Africa, according to Betsy Clebsch, who wrote the go-to book of sages, "The New Book of Salvias," still available from Timber Press. Clebsch describes hundreds of sages in 344 pages that include photographs.

I like the back of the book where she groups salvias into flowers by season, shade lovers and sun lovers and wa-

ter-wise kinds, and lists those grown for foliage and not so much the flowers.

I only grow two: *Salvia clevelandii*, which gives my garden a "California" smell, and the culinary sage, *Salvia officinalis*. I've grown many more. One I miss is *Salvia uliginosa*, which wasn't ugly at all, but a bog sage with true, sky-blue blossoms, a color that is hard to find in the flower world.

One of my favorite people of all time, Pliny the Elder, mentioned salvia in his early encyclopedia, "Natural History." It was probably *Salvia officinalis*, since Pliny was interested in household remedies and edible plants. *Salvia*, in Latin, means "to heal."

With every size, shape, color imaginable, all salvias belong to the mint family, and all mints have square stems. Curious if a plant is truly a sage? Roll a piece of the stem between your fingers. If the stem is square, you've got your answer.

Salvias tend to get woody after a while and dislike a hard pruning back to the wood. When a sage is too large for its allotted space in your landscape and ready for a serious whacking back, it is probably better to start over with a new plant.

This isn't as expensive as it sounds, since salvias are notoriously easy to root from cuttings.



BRUCE CHAMBERS / MCT

Minnie mouse sage (*Salvia microphylla* 'Hot Lips') grows near the Fullerton, Calif., Arboretum offices.

On the whole (but not always in the case of bog sage), salvias will want full sun, fast drainage and to live a little on the dry side. They're not overly fond of moisture during the winter, and if you have problems, you'll find them where soils are overly wet.

You can find many forms of salvia, from annuals to perennials and shrubs. Colors lean to reds, pinks and blues with an occasional yellow in the mix.

A favorite for beginners is *Salvia microphylla* "Hot Lips," a bright red and white flowering shrub with a mint-scented leaves. Too much water can do this one in.

Salvia argentea, the silver sage, is a new darling for foliage lovers. This biennial lives for two years, not long for a landscape plant. Al-



CINDY YAMANAKA / MCT

Culinary sage grows in a home garden.

low it to go to seed and it will quickly die back. But the bonus is it is easy to start from seed. Feel free to propagate more plants to replace those that die back.

If you love the smell of our native chaparral, try *Salvia clevelandii*, a large gray shrub whose scent drifts easily on the wind. It's not the most attractive plant — I grow it only for its fragrance — so feel free to disguise it behind other shrubs in a sunny spot.

Salvia elegans, or pineapple sage, is a favorite among gar-

deners not only for its scent, but to flavor teas and other cold drinks.

Culinary sage comes in many forms. *Salvia officinalis* can be planted in purple and green, a green and yellow variegated, or all gray and fuzzy plants like the famous "Berggarten" cultivar popular with cooks.

Salvia sclarea, or Clary sage, is used in perfumes and potpourri, while smudge sticks or sage wands are traditionally made with our native white sage and used by Native Americans to bless people

and places.

Starting *Salvia* from cuttings is super easy, and these plants root within weeks. Follow these directions:

■ Choose the tip growth of salvia plants in late spring or early summer when the growth is new, but not too soft. A six-inch piece of tip growth will do. Non-blooming stems root faster than stems that have bloomed.

■ Remove all of the leaves on the cutting except for the top two. Remove flowers and flower buds.

■ Use a pencil to make a hole in moist, loose potting soil with plenty of Perlite in the mix. You can insert two to four cuttings per 4-inch pot.

■ You may dip your cuttings in rooting hormone, but it's not totally necessary.

■ Insert cuttings two inches deep in each hole, and firm the soil around each cutting so the nodes where the lower leaves were removed come in contact with the soil.

■ Water the pot and let it drain thoroughly.

To create a greenhouse, slip the entire pot into a one-gallon zip-top baggie.

■ If any of the leaves touch the side of the baggie, trim the leaves with scissors so they don't touch.

■ Place the pot in light shade.

■ Air out the pot every few days to exchange fresh air for old. Zip closed again.

■ You will know your plants are rooted when a slight tug reveals the plant is rooted to the soil. New growth can indicate the plants have rooted, also.

■ Leave the baggie open and grow on until the plants look vigorous enough to hold their own in the landscape.

LSOTV

LAKE SUMTER TELEVISION

Programming Highlights for week of January 20

Hometown Health
Good Things for Those Who Wait

In our January episode we'll bring you stories from our specialists about Feet & Exercise, Info from an Ovarian Cancer Luncheon, Winter Allergy Woes, Bulging Discs and much, much more

Airs: M/W/F @ 6a & 6p and T/Th/Sat @ 11a & 11p

Tune in for features on the I M Well Center, The Amazing Race for Charity, The Leesburg Partnership and lots more in January's Episode

PROFILES

Airs: M/W/F @ 7a & 7p and T/Th/Sat @ 10:30a & 10:30p



Follow this group of teens who live the extreme adventure of their lives, in some of the most spectacular places in the country. This week it's Episode 7 as the teens continue their adventures in the Carolinas!

Airs: M/W/F @ 7:30a & 7:30p and T/Th/Sat @ Noon & Midnight

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7 home organization tips

LISA BOONE
Los Angeles Times

You don't have to be a hoarder to feel overwhelmed by the prospect of an organized home. For most of us, an environment where every paper is in its place is nothing more than an elusive fantasy.

How to get organized? "Start somewhere," said Los Angeles organizing consultant Kim Anker-Paddon. "It doesn't matter where. I usually start with something that is bothering the client but is not so big that it's overwhelming."

Anker-Paddon shared some simple tips on how to get organized in 2014:

1) Bring less into your house. I encourage people to raise the bar on what they buy and what they keep. Most of the people I work with have a lot of stuff. Instead of just liking something, keep the things you love that add to your life in some way. Once things are in the house, it's harder to get rid of stuff. Donate things to the best charity possible rather than sell them, unless you are really good at it. And if your goal is to get organized, it's best to get the stuff out of the house.

2) Know exactly where you will put what you're bringing into the house. Think about it before you acquire the object. Many clients can't find what they are looking for so they go out and buy it again.

3) Find a convenient home for items. Putting things away should be just as easy as putting them down. Think about where you use objects. Create zones or areas where you do

certain activities. Keep supplies for those activities together. Make it convenient so you can put supplies down and come back to it later.

4) Know exactly why you keep each piece of paper. Paper is the biggest problem that I encounter. We all keep too much of it. Set up systems to streamline the paper flow. Keep important papers near your desk. Right now you should be keeping tax-related papers as they arrive. I encourage people not to spend too much time on filing. If you have an overly detailed filing system, you'll have a harder time finding things. It should be really simple. Assign big categories: credit cards, taxes. The same is true with your desktop. Keep a shredder someplace handy. If you don't like shredding, gather boxes or bags of papers and take them to an industrial shredder such as Shred It.

5) Have fun organizing. When inspiration hits, run with it. Trade with a friend: Have someone help you with a closet or a pantry and help them in return. You will have some company and it's more enjoyable. If organization doesn't come easily to you, get some help. You can have someone help you set up a system and then you can maintain it.

6) Watch out for perfectionism. This really impedes getting organized. People think they have to be perfect. It's not always a neat and tidy process.

7) Delegate. All of my clients work really hard and have a lot going on in their lives. Getting some help makes all the difference for them.

MAKEOVER

FROM PAGE E1

"The idea of blending without having a house that's historically nostalgic is a big accomplishment," Yelland said. "But this project was less about a green checklist and more about how we could maximize what Bill and Heidi wanted, without adding excessive square footage, and make the envelope more efficient."

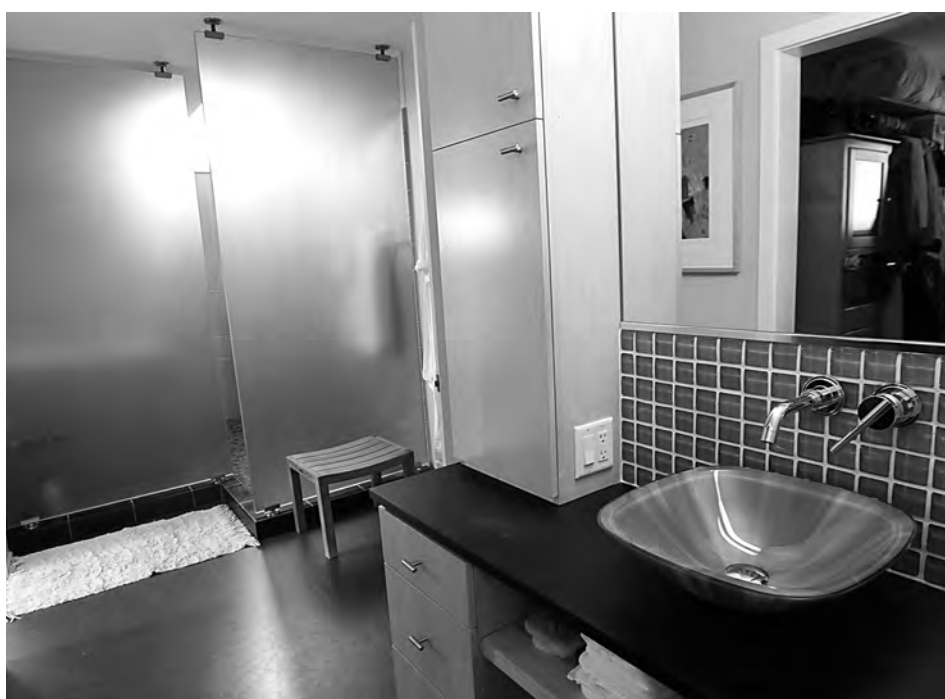
Hardner and Humphrey bought the three-bedroom house in 1997. By the time they approached Locus Architecture, they had assembled a 60-page "idea book" to show Yelland and Neseth.

"It spooked us at the beginning," Yelland admitted. "The kind of people who would make such a document would be very thorough about all the details."

The architects and homeowners agreed that they needed to put on some kind of addition to achieve an expanded kitchen and new mudroom on the main floor and a roomier and modernized bedroom and bathroom on the second floor.

"We had to shoe-horn all that into a tight building space," Yelland said. The couple also requested the use of energy-efficient features wherever possible. "We wanted a contemporary aesthetic that would blend the old and new parts and also have sustainability," Hardner said.

The final design was driven by the narrow lot size and setback restrictions, as well



ELIZABETH FORES / MCT

The walk-in shower walls are a translucent aqua, and the vessel sink is as green as grass. The floor is covered with dark blue Marmoleum.

as the couple's day-to-day living requirements. On the dining room side, Yelland designed a long modern bay with windows that created space for built-in shelves and storage and a new mudroom, which could be entered from the back yard.

On the back of the home, he devised a two-story addition, rebuilding a new roofline and replacing the old asphalt with a durable metal roof that would last 50 years. "The new roofline looks neither modern or old to me," Yelland said. "It spans the two."

From the exterior, you can see the master bedroom's contemporary asymmetrical gable, which draws in light for Hardner's orchids and provides a sunny nook for their two cats. In fact, the felines influenced many of the interior's amenities.

"The pet features are really for us," Hardner said. "We don't want

to see litter boxes, step in food bowls or have cats jumping into the sink to try to get a drink while we're brushing our teeth."

That's why the litter box is hidden in the mudroom cabinet, accessed by two pet doors covered with the same fabric as the nearby window seat. The dining room's whimsical maple cabinetry has multiple levels for the cats to climb. In the upstairs shower, there's a motion-activated drinking fountain.

"There's no good place for kitty litter' seems at least as worthy of a design solution as 'There's no room for my pots and pans' or whatever else you would hope to cure in a remodel," Hardner said.

There's also plenty of room for pots and pans, inside pull-out drawers, in the couple's transformed kitchen. The clean-lined contemporary space is anchored by a massive center island covered

with PaperStone, a recycled product. Fused glass pendants by local artist Malcom Potek are suspended above. The new appliances include an induction cooktop. "We're nerds," Hardner said, noting that she and Humphrey are both physicists. "We like the idea of using new technology." And for the cats, there's a tiny door opening to the pantry where their food bowls are stored.

Today the revitalized bungalow consumes much less energy, will last for many more decades and is customized for Humphrey, Hardner and their cats. The couple's favorite spot is the kitchen island, where they can relax and bathe in the natural light from the floor-length windows. Aurora and Nokomis spend a lot of their time on the new window seats.

Interiors: Bathroom remodeling

ROSEMARY SADEZ FRIEDMANN
McClatchy-Tribune

Real estate agents tell us the kitchen and the master bath are the two most important rooms in a home that a buyer looks at, even if not consciously. So if you're thinking of selling, even if you plan to live in your home a few more years, consider upgrading those rooms if they look like they need it.

Let's talk about what most people like in master bathrooms.

Remember when a master bathroom wasn't worth much if it didn't have a tub? Well, we are told that most remodels skip the bathtub. Showers are in. Toilets are more exposed now as opposed to having their own private room. If some privacy is still wanted, a simple partition is what is being built. Those aren't my thoughts on the matter, but those of the people who want to remodel their current bath.

Light in the bathroom is always important. The trend now is to add a window in the room or at least a skylight. Yes, plenty of vanity lighting and

overhead lighting still dominate the scene. And even the shower is being brightened up with more lighting. Some showerheads come with LED lights in them.

Back to the toilet. Wall mounted ones are quite popular and in demand nowadays. Look them up and see what you think. But don't worry if you don't like the looks of the wall mounted ones. The two-piece toilets are still very popular.

Don't even think of using a shower curtain in the master bath. You'd be tagged as out of touch. A frameless glass enclosure is the right choice so you can be back in touch with style.

If nothing else, at least consider upgrading the fixtures. New faucets can make a huge difference in a bathroom. New pulls on the old cabinets can also make the room feel refreshed. If you have wallpaper in the master bath and it is peeling here and there, remove it and paint instead. Wallpaper in the master bathroom is losing its popularity.

POPENOE

FROM PAGE E1

do not seem to thrive in our climate because we do not get enough cold in the winter and get too much heat in the summer.

There is one raspberry that will grow in south Florida, the myrtle raspberry, or *Rubus niveus*, introduced from India in 1948. It produces delicious black raspberries on thorny, drooping branches that grow 10 to 15 feet long. It needs well-drained soil, and fruits from early spring to early summer. Details on culture and propagation can be found at www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/myrtle_raspberry.html.

I recently bought a property with some grape vines. What do I need to do to get them producing?

Alive, they are most likely muscadine grapes. The common table or wine grapes that you see in grocery stores will not grow here because of disease. Researchers are working on disease resistance, but it is not available yet.

Scuppernong and muscadine are not exactly the same. There are hundreds of named muscadine cultivars, one of which is called scuppernong. They are all generally tolerant to insect and disease pests and can be successfully grown without pes-

ticides. The vines can be grown on trellises in a variety of ways, and the chosen design will determine exactly how to prune your vines — whether as short spurs or longer shoots. Go to edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs100 to see the various trellis and pruning systems.

The best time to prune in Central Florida is mid-January to mid-March. Don't worry if your vines drip watery sap from the cut ends for a while after pruning. They will need fertilizer in April after growth begins

and again in June/July. We will have a class on pruning on February 1 in the Discovery Gardens and will cover grapes as well as other landscape plants.

Visit the Discovery Gardens and our plant clinic with your plant problems and questions, week days from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ag Center, 1951 Woodlea Rd., in Tavares.

Juanita Popenoe is the director of the UF/IFAS Lake County Extension office and Environmental Horticulture Production Agent III. Readers may email Juanita at jpopenoe@ufl.edu.

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Rialto THEATRE	Ride Along	PG13	10:55 1:30 4:25 6:50 9:15*
	Philomena	PG13	10:00 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:05 9:25*
	American Hustle	R	10:00 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:15*
	The Book Thief	PG13	10:10 1:10 4:05 7:05 10:00*
	Nebraska	R	10:30 1:30 4:20 7:05 9:50*
	Saving Mr. Banks	PG13	10:10 1:10 4:10 7:00 9:45*
	Her	R	10:50 1:40 4:30 7:20 10:10*
	Inside Llewyn Davis	R	10:45 1:20 4:05 6:45 9:20*
			*Friday and Saturday only
LAKE SUMTER LANDING MARKET SQUARE	August: Osage County	R	10:15 1:30 4:30 7:15 10:00*
	Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit	PG13	10:05 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35*
	Saving Mr. Banks	PG13	10:00 1:00 4:05 7:00 9:45*
	The Wolf of Wall Street	R	10:00 1:40 5:20 9:00*
	Gravity 3D	PG13	10:15 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:30 9:45*
	Frozen	PG	10:45 1:15 4:15 6:45 9:15*
	Last Vegas	PG13	10:50 1:50 4:20 7:20 9:50*
	The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug	PG13	10:00 and 4:10 only
	Grudge Match	PG13	1:20 7:30 and 10:05* only *Friday and Saturday only
BANKSTON THEATRE	I, Frankenstein NO PASSES	PG13	11:00 1:45 4:45 9:30*
	I, Frankenstein 2D	PG13	7:00 only
	Lone Survivor	R	10:15 1:15 4:30 7:20 10:05*
	Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit	PG13	10:35 1:35 4:35 7:35 10:05*
	American Hustle	R	10:00 1:10 4:15 7:15 10:15*
	The Nut Job NO PASSES	PG	12:30 5:10 and 9:35* only
	The Nut Job 2D	PG	10:10 2:50 and 7:20 only
	Captain Phillips	PG13	10:00 1:05 4:05 7:05 10:00*
	The Legend of Hercules 3D	PG13	12:50 3:20 6:00 10:20*
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	Devil's Due	R	10:45 12:55 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:10*
			*Friday and Saturday only

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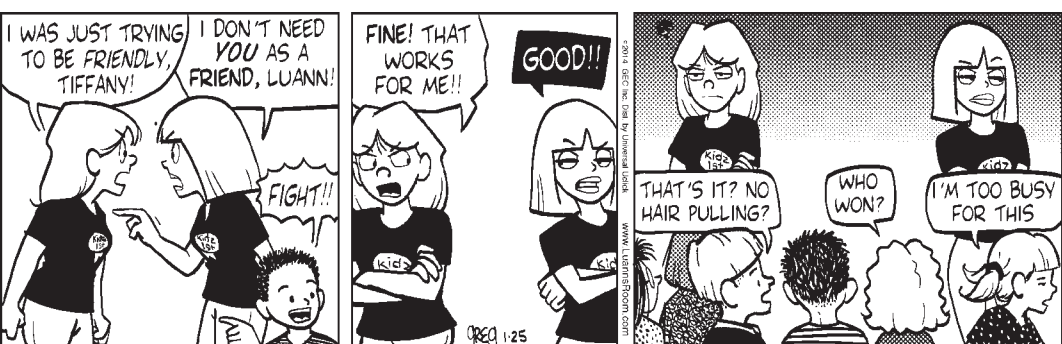
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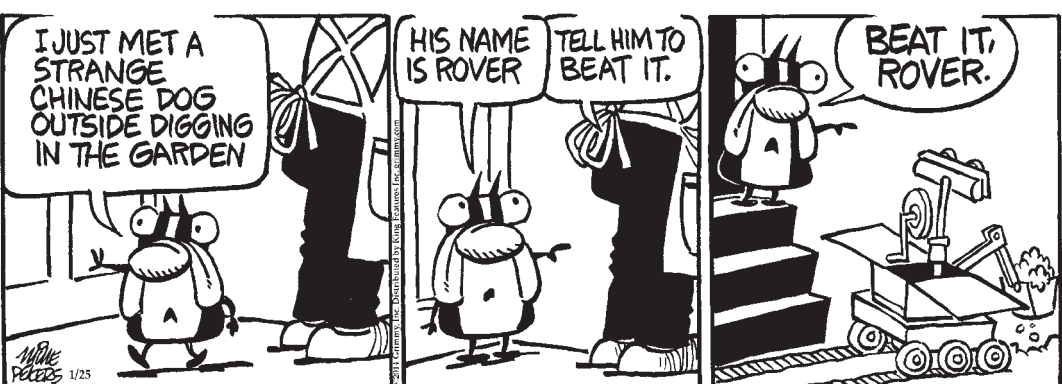
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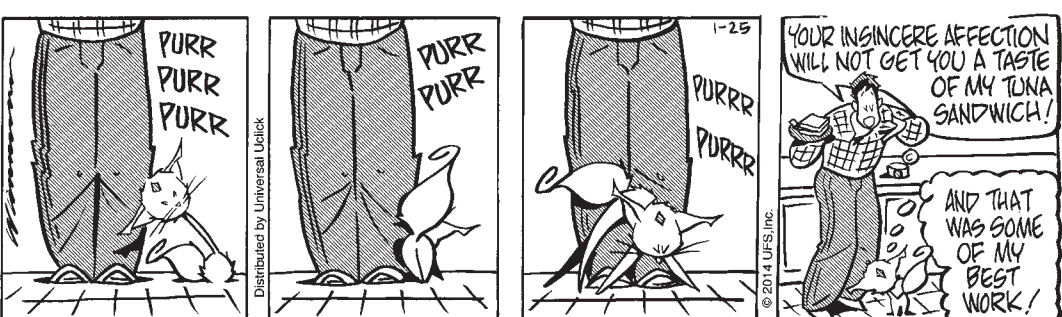
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



B.C.



ROSE IS ROSE



PEANUTS



HEATHCLIFF



Text announcing pregnancy is no cause for celebration

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, who recently turned 21, sent me a two-word text message, "I'm pregnant." She has been dating a marijuana-smoking young man for less than a year, and I'm disappointed by this outcome.



Dear Abby
JEANNE PHILLIPS

Her sister, who is a year older, already has two children by two men. No, they weren't raised by a harlot. I adopted them when they were early elementary-aged children. It's not my fault. I'm disgusted by their choices.

I haven't talked with her yet. I won't try to lecture her or tell her how she should live her life. The time for that is over. I feel it would be best to say nothing if I can't be positive. Suggestions? — **DISGUSTED IN THE SOUTH**

DEAR DISGUSTED: It would be better if you said nothing to your daughter while you are angry, or you may say something you will regret. It would not be out of line, however, to text her back and ask, "How do you and 'John' plan to support the baby?" If you don't plan to help her in any way, you should let her know NOW that she'll be on her own.

DEAR ABBY: Our 13-year-old is addicted to her phone. She stays on it for hours, and it's affecting the time she goes to bed. She's now starting to oversleep the alarm in the morning before school.

She's spoiled, and I'm afraid that removing or limiting phone privileges will lead to major problems with her protesting it. I don't want truant officers or social workers coming to my house because my wife and I can't discipline our kid.

How do you handle a spoiled brat without involving outside agencies? She's nice to people in school, but is lazy at home and totally self-centered. — **FRUSTRATED, EXHAUSTED DAD**

DEAR DAD: You and your wife created this "monster," and now it's your job to make things right. Of course your daughter won't like it when

you set rules, but you must establish some for her before your lack of parenting causes even more serious problems.

Set the rules and stick with them. If she won't follow them, there should be penalties for not doing so. Try this: Start with homework. When it's done, she can have her phone for a period of time. Inform her that if she oversleeps because she was up too late on her phone, you will take it at bedtime. And then follow through.

DEAR ABBY: I'm about to be 17 and just started living with my mom after being a runaway for three months. During that time, I made friends with people who were not good for me. However, I still feel I need to cling to these people and be there for them.

As I write this, one of the girls I was closest to is in prison and will be there for a long time. I have to pretend to be fine and act as if I don't care for her, but I do, desperately. My mom refuses to be understanding and talk about anything with me. I don't know what to do. — **TEEN IN LITTLE ROCK**

DEAR TEEN: Your mother appears to belong to the ostrich school of parenting. If she doesn't hear something, it doesn't exist. Clearly, you DO need to talk with someone about the feelings you're experiencing and why you feel the need to "cling to these people." Because your mother can't/won't do this, it's important that you talk to a counselor at school and ask for the help you need.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

How to play: Fill in the blank squares with the numbers 1 through 9 so that each horizontal row, vertical column and nine-square sub-grid contains no repeated numbers.

Puzzles range in difficulty from one to six stars.

The solution to today's puzzle will be in tomorrow's paper.

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

X C X T Q S C G O G M N
S W O S A J , F D C G O G M N S W
W V X J Q E T Y X L C Y G C B G N J T
D Q Y G L L Z B G V V X G R J T .

— W V X J E V X M Y Q X J C P T M Y J

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I FIND SADNESS AND STRIFE TO BE SO MUCH MORE INTERESTING WITH AN UPBEAT MELODY. — ZOOEY DESCHANEL

WORD SCRIMMAGE™

BY JUDD HAMBRICK © 2014 UFS / Dist. by Universal Uclick for UFS

1st DOWN: M₆ P₆ A₂ E₁ G₃ U₃ L₂

2nd DOWN: 3rd Letter + 6 PTS. D₃ D₃ I₂ E₁ K₁₂ H₇ L₂

3rd DOWN: 3rd Down + 60 PTS. I₂ R₂ O₂ X₁₂ T₂ F₇ T₂

4th DOWN: 4th Down + 30 PTS. O₂ L₂ E₁ I₂ L₂ Z₁₄ R₂

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN AVERAGE GAME 200-210 PTS
Directions: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters on each yardline. Add points to each word or letter using scoring directions. Seven-letter words get a 60-point bonus. All words can be found in Webster's New World College Dictionary.

FOUR PLAY TOTAL

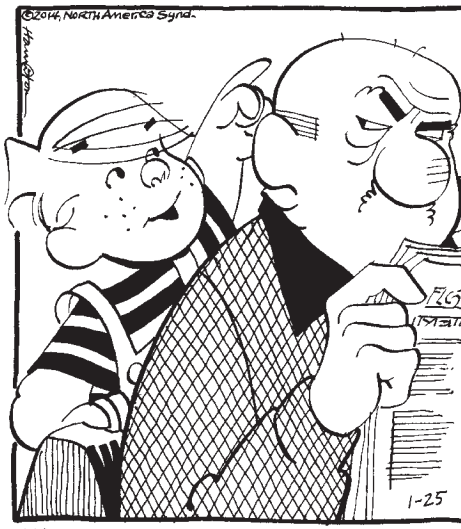
1-25-14 **JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW**

WORD SCRIMMAGE™ SOLUTION BY JUDD HAMBRICK
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C ₆ A ₂ M ₆ B ₆ E ₁ R ₂	1 st DOWN =	83	
D ₃ E ₁ I ₂ F ₇ Y ₇	2 nd DOWN =	80	
E ₁ N ₂ V ₇ I ₂ E ₁ R ₂	3 rd DOWN =	65	
S ₂ C ₆ L ₂ A ₂ F ₇ F ₇	4 th DOWN =	76	
AVERAGE GAME 195-205 PTS		JUDD'S TOTAL =	304

1-24-14

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MY BARBER WOULD BE HAPPY IF MY HAIR FELL OUT. HIS LIFE WOULD BE A WHOLE LOT EASIER."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"Daddy, somebody turned the mute button on for this key."

DILBERT



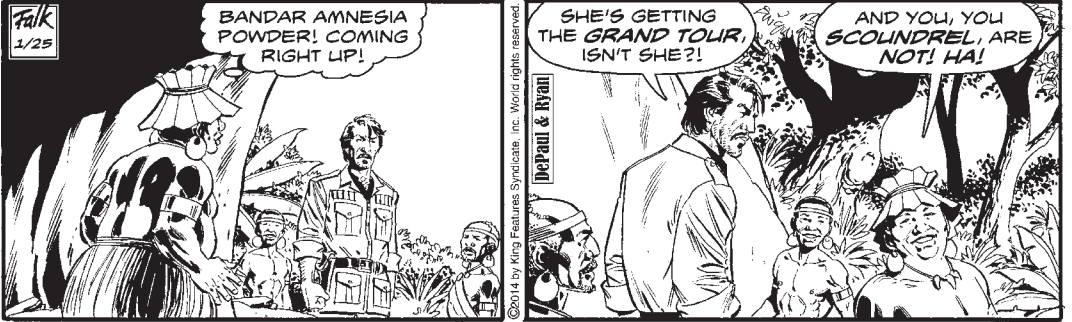
SHOE



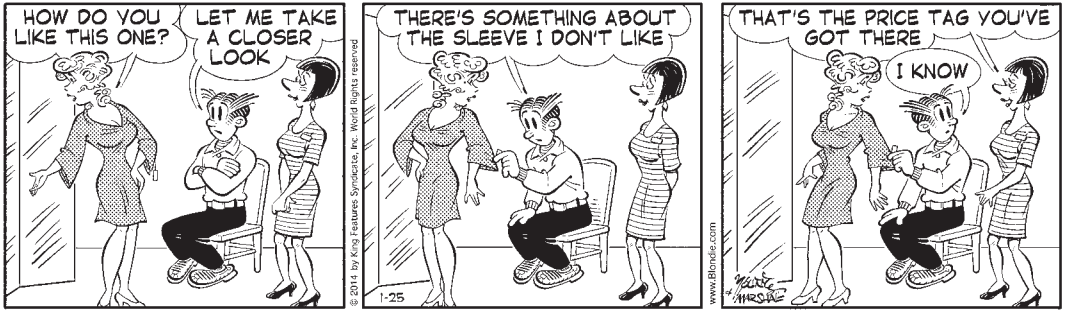
PICKLES



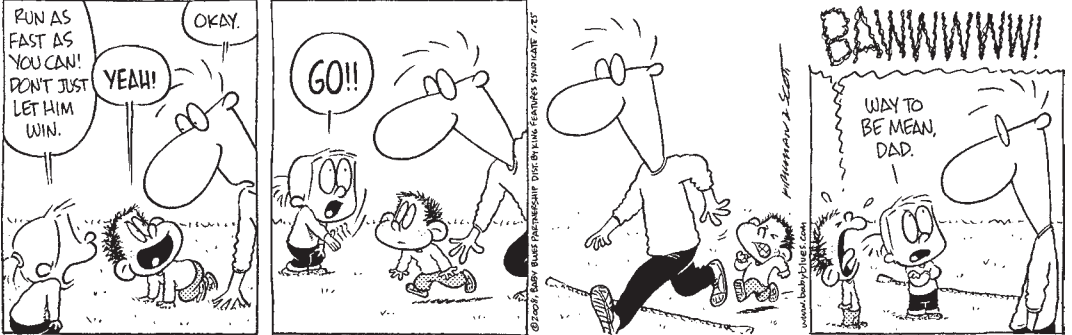
PHANTOM



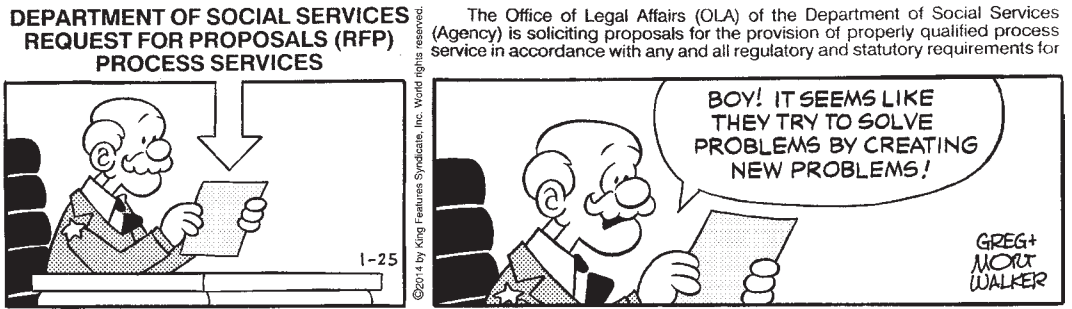
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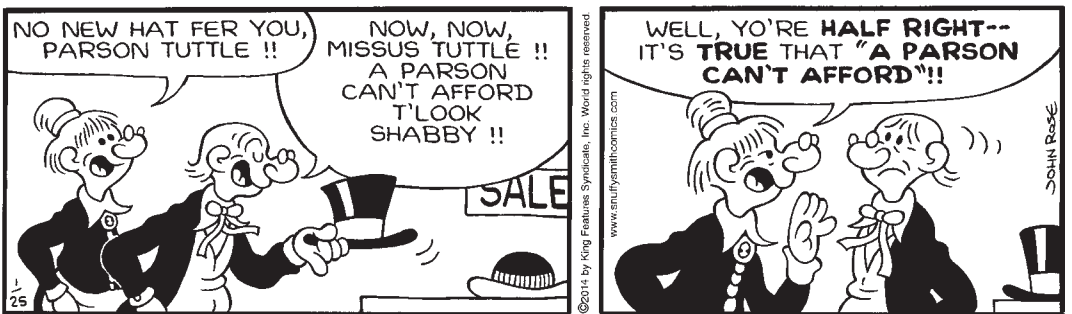
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Sap aside, pencil cactus is nice indoors and out

LEE REICH
Associated Press

Pencil cactus is a fitting common name for *Euphorbia tirucalli*, even though the plant would be useless for writing and is not really a cactus.

A single plant looks like many slender, green pencils, each stuck on the end or growing off the side of the one before it. A couple of small, elongated leaves perch incon-

spicuously and briefly at the end of the "pencils," relegating photosynthesis to the succulent, green stems.

Lack of thorns is one indication that this plant is no cactus. Even more telling is the milky sap that oozes from broken or cut stems. That sap and the plant's flowers — not very showy and rarely appearing indoors — put pencil cactus in the spurge family, along with more famil-

iar houseplants such as poinsettia and crown-of-thorns.

On the positive side, the sap has been used in its native Africa as folk medicine, and to repel mosquitoes and kill rats. It's also a potential source of latex rubber and oil — 10 to 50 barrels of oil per acre by one reckoning. On the negative side, the sap has been implicated as a potential carcinogen and, if it gets in the eyes, is said to cause temporary blindness. At the very least, it is somewhat toxic and irritates skin, as does the sap of many spurge family plants.

MAKING NEW PLANTS

All that is necessary to get a pencil cactus started is to snap a few stems, each 2 or 3 inches long, from an existing plant (again, avoiding touching the sap). My pencil cactus cuttings came from a living fence I happened upon during a recent visit to Florida.

There was no need to keep those cuttings moist until I returned home because this plant, like all succulents, roots best if its cut ends are allowed to callous over in dry air before being put in soil. So it wasn't until I brought my cuttings home that I stuck them into pots of



LEE REICH / AP

The pencil cactus, the common name for *Euphorbia tirucalli*, is an easy-to-care-for and interesting-looking houseplant.

soil, watered them, and then waited each time until the soil was thoroughly dry before watering again.

GROWING THIS PENCIL

Where winter temperatures don't drop below freezing, pencil cactus can grow outdoors as high as 30 feet. There, the dense tangle of stems and a sap that virtually every animal avoids make the plant an ideal living fence.

Where winters are too cold to grow pen-

cil cactus outdoors, it makes a nice houseplant (keeping in mind the cautions about the sap). As a succulent, the plant loves light but otherwise tolerates the threats facing most houseplants: dry air and forgetful watering. If in doubt about whether or not to water this plant, don't. It won't die from under-watering. Taper off or completely avoid watering in winter. Extra perlite added to any

potting mix further ensures that the mix drains well and stays on the dry side.

Once my pencil cactus plants take root and begin to grow, I may leave them to grow freely like a jumble of branching "pencils" in their pots. Or perhaps I'll coax them with pruning and bending into a living sculpture.

No matter how I grow my new pencil cactus, I'll be careful to avoid the sap.

Planting, Harvesting and Blending Teas and Tisanes" (St. Martin's Griffin, March 2014).

She and other tea gardeners offer the following tips to get your feet wet:

GROWING

First and foremost, no sprawling English estate is required here.

Tea gardens come in many forms, and don't even need to be in the ground. Tang grows her herbs in a vertical garden hanging on a wall behind her restaurants, while other city dwellers cramped for space use pots and other containers.

All you need is dirt, water and some seeds.

Liversidge recommends easy-to-grow plants like mint, lavender or chamomile for beginners.

If you've already got

those growing, take a stab at other popular tea ingredients like coriander, lemon balm, rose hips, hibiscus and jasmine.

Keep the plants in an area that gets at least six hours of sunlight each day, rotate them often and monitor moisture per directions on the seed packet.

HARVESTING/DRYING

Each plant is unique when it comes to harvesting.

The flower tops are the most medicinal part of the rosemary plant, for example, so be sure to clip those off along with the leaves for tea, Liversidge says.

Fennel is valued for its seeds, and those must be shaken out from the flowers once they turn brown. Snip flowers like chamomile at the base of their stems, not the top, so you can use the stems, leaves and petals in your brew, according to Liversidge.

Many herbs can be used fresh, but drying them is a good way to keep your tea cupboard stocked through the winter.

Tie them up and hang them in bundles to dry, or spread them out on a flat surface in the sun. A dehydrator or an oven at a temperature of 212 degrees Fahrenheit or lower can also be used.

No matter the method, be sure to store your tea ingredients in airtight containers.

BREWING

There are a few ways to brew your homemade tea, depending on the ingredients and personal preference.

Hershey, Pa.-based writer and photographer Amy Renea prefers to "chop off big hunks" of fresh mint, lemon balm, chamomile and sometimes stevia from her tea garden and put them right in the tea kettle.

Once it's reached boiling, pull the kettle off the heat and let it sit for a few minutes before pouring into your favorite tea cup.

For the freshest tea possible, Liversidge advises pouring fresh water into your tea kettle every time. It has more oxygen, which will bring out the tea's flavor.

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