



The Daily Commercial

LEESBURG, FLORIDA

Friday, March 28, 2014

www.dailycommercial.com

LAKE COUNTY JURY: Landlord found guilty of second-degree murder, **A3**

PROPOSAL: Sheriff considering taking over Animal Services, **A3**

Brakes put on red-light camera repeal

JIM TURNER
The News Service of Florida

Red-light cameras won't be turned off in Florida this year.

Without enough votes lined up, Senate Transportation Chairman Jeff Brandes put the brakes on a bill (SB 144) that focused on repealing the state's red-light camera law. Instead, he proposed changes to increase regulations on the use of the devices.

But Brandes' Transportation Committee on Wednesday didn't act on the proposed changes, deciding to postpone a vote on his rewritten bill.

"That shows you the pow-

er of this (red light camera) industry," said Brandes who maintained his opposition to the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act of 2010, the state's red-light camera law, after the postponement.

"What you're seeing is municipalities that have become addicted to the funds, and in many of these cities it's not about safety," Brandes added. "It's become a backdoor tax increase."

While moving away from a repeal, Brandes proposed chang-



BRANDES

es that would allow new cameras at intersections but only if their use is justified through traffic engineering studies — a requirement that is included in a House bill. Also, money generated from red-light camera tickets would have to be used for traffic safety improvements, and jurisdictions wouldn't be able to use the cameras if they fail to provide annual camera-enforcement reports to the state.

In early February, Brandes and Rep. Frank Artiles, R-Miami, held a press conference in the Capitol

SEE REPEAL | **A2**



BRETT LE BLANC / DAILY COMMERCIAL

Greg Homan, owner of the Citrus Tower in Clermont, wants to sell the iconic tourist attraction to the city for \$2.5 million.

CLERMONT

Citrus Tower owner wants to sell to city

ROXANNE BROWN | Staff Writer
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Picture the 226-foot-tall Florida Citrus Tower in Clermont turned into a giant Muslim Mosque, where an Islamic call to worship would be broadcast from its speakers across the countryside.

It's hard to imagine, but not for longtime resident Greg Homan, who wants to sell the iconic tourist attrac-

tion to the city for \$2.5 million. Although he's considered putting the tower on the market officially, the thought of



HOMAN

unknown private buyers makes him nervous.

"I've always said all along that Clermont, or the Chamber (of Commerce), or something along

those lines, should be the next owners of the tower," Homan said,

SEE TOWER | **A2**



AP FILE PHOTO

This photo shows a package of K2, a concoction of dried herbs sprayed with chemicals.

TAVARES

Commissioners moving to ban synthetic marijuana countywide

LIVI STANFORD | Staff Writer
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Lake County commissioners are moving forward with plans to ban the sale of synthetic marijuana countywide.

Commissioners this week agreed to advertise an ordinance banning the drug, which health experts and the Lake County Sheriff's Office say has an adverse effect on children.

Commonly marketed as potpourri, incense or bath salts, and packaged in colorful cellophane wrappers with brand names like Mr. Happy, synthetic marijuana is frequently sold in convenience stores and smoke shops. Health experts say the substances can cause

"The chemicals we are discussing today pose a big danger to our residents. They are poisons that are being marketed to our kids. As the father of three young kids, it scares me. I think this will give the sheriff's department a tool to help tackle this issue."

Commissioner Sean Parks

psychotic episodes in those that smoke them.

Bath salts, meanwhile, are often sold as over-the-counter products used for bathing, but can be swallowed, snorted, smoked or injected to obtain a euphoric effect.

Commissioner Sean Parks

pushed for the ordinance after hearing about a child who went into cardiac arrest from taking the drug.

"The chemicals we are discussing today pose a big danger to our residents," he said. "They are poisons that are being marketed to our kids. As the father of three young kids, it scares me. I think this will give the sheriff's department a tool to help tackle this issue."

The drugs are sold as "incense," with exotic names like K2, Black Mamba and Spice. Other brands names appear to target children, like Scooby Snacks, Mad Hatter and Joker.

The products are made from crushed leaves or garden trash

SEE SYNTHETIC | **A2**

IMF to help Ukraine with up to \$18B bailout

PETER LEONARD
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — The world rushed to help Ukraine on Thursday, with the International Monetary Fund pledging up to \$18 billion in loans, the U.N. condemning the vote that drove Crimea into Russian hands and the U.S. Congress approving even harsher sanctions against Russia.

Yet even with such intensive help to prop up Ukraine's teetering economy, the prime minister warned of painful times ahead from the necessary economic reforms — and home energy prices were certain to rise quickly.

Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, one of the

SEE UKRAINE | **A2**



PAVEL GOLOVKIN / AP

Members of the Crimean self defense forces gather for their morning briefing prior to patrolling Simferopol, Crimea, Thursday.

WEEKEND'S TOP 3

AMPHICARS SPLASH-IN SET FOR MOUNT DORA

1 An Amphicars Splash-in is planned from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in Mount Dora. Cars will be seen driving around town until these amphibious vehicles hit the boat ramp at Gilbert Park.



25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

2 Habitat for Humanity of Lake-Sumter is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a concert in Eustis' Ferran Park from 6 to 10 p.m. today with DarkWolf, Boggy Creek and Pistol Holler. The concert is free.

ANTIQU & CLASSIC BOAT SHOW

3 The Sunnyland Antique & Classic Boat Show will see 250-plus boats on display in the water and on land from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Sunday at Wooton Park in Tavares. Cost is \$5.

50¢



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No. 87
5 sections

TODAY'S WEATHER
Detailed forecast
on page A8.



78°/66°
Couple of thunderstorms

State & Region

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Area Briefs

LEESBURG

Police and firefighters go head-to-head

Police and firefighters will join forces in a friendly competition to see who can recruit the most blood donors for their Battle of the Badges — from 2 to 8 p.m., today in a lot at the intersection of Canal Street and Magnolia Street in Leesburg.

Donors must be 16 and bring a photo ID.

EUSTIS

Fifth Annual Barto Prize awarded Saturday

Renowned classical pianist Tzimon Barto will announce the winner and perform the winning piece at the Fifth Annual Barto Prize Concert at Bay Street Players historic State Theatre, at 109 N. Bay St., at 7:30 p.m., on Saturday.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$20 for students and may be purchased online at www.baystreetplayers.tix.com or by phone at 352-357-7777. The box office is open weekdays from 1 to 6 p.m., and two hours before each performance.

For information, call the Bay Street Players box office at 352-357-7777.

EUSTIS

Habitat for Humanity hosts 25th anniversary party

The community is invited to celebrate with the many volunteers and supporters of the group at a 25th year anniversary celebration from 6 to 10 p.m., Friday at Ferran Park in downtown Eustis.

Guests will enjoy a variety of food vendors, activities, three great bands including, Dark Wolf, Boggy Creek and Pistol Holler, and 93.7 K Country will be on the grounds from 7 to 9 p.m.

For information about the free event, call Habitat for Humanity at 352-483-0434.

LAKE COUNTY

Annual Lake County pageant celebrates 25 years

Applications are available for the 25th annual Miss Lake County Fair Pageant to be held April 6 at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

With eight age divisions, girls from infants to age 18 are eligible and can register on or before April 5.

Applications are available at www.lakecofair.com or by calling 352-326-4217.

EUSTIS

Artisans sought for Lake County Fair competition

Lake County artists are invited to enter the annual art show at the Lake County Fair taking place April 3-12, at the fairgrounds, located at the intersection of State Road 44 and County Road 452, in Eustis.

Entry forms and rules are available at www.lakecofair.com or via email to, lakecofair@aol.com, or by call Shirley Sojourner for information at, 352-394-7338.

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... and we'll share it with our readers. Some of our best story ideas and photos come from our readers. So don't hesitate to share your youth activities, awards, accomplishments, festivals, charity events and other things that make our communities special. And don't overlook those family milestones — birthdays, engagements, marriages, business promotions and military news.

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

TAVARES

Landlord found guilty of murder

MILLARD K. IVES | Staff Writer
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A Lake County jury found a landlord guilty in the 2012 shooting death of a tenant on Thursday afternoon.

It took the jury more than three hours to come back with a second-degree murder verdict

against Pablo Infante, 47, who admitted he killed Jeffrey Allen Henrickson Sr. as the victim held his 18-month granddaughter. Infante had claimed the shooting was in self-defense.

Infante had been charged with first-degree murder and was facing mandatory life in prison if

convicted on the charge. The jury's downgrade to second-degree murder means a judge can sentence him to between 25 years and life.

Standing outside the Lake County courtroom Thursday afternoon, Assistant Public Defender Morris Carranza said the jury must not have be-

lieved the shooting was premeditated.

"Let's say it was a favorable outcome," Carranza said of the verdict.

A sentencing date has not been set.

The shooting occurred in front of the home Infante rented to the victim on Discovery Road in

SEE MURDER | A4



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA

Crews begin the first phase of the Tremain Street Greenway project by installing driveway aprons on the east side of the street and milling asphalt.

MOUNT DORA

Tremain Street to be converted into trail

Staff Report

Beginning Tuesday, Tremain Street from Fifth Avenue to Lincoln Avenue in Mount Dora will be converted from a two-way road to a one-way road in preparation of the Tremain Street Greenway.

The Tremain Street Greenway project involves the conversion of a 12 foot-wide one-way northbound residential street into a 10 foot-wide multi-use trail, Kelda Senior, the city's public information officer, said in a press release. The trail will be constructed on the west side of the road (current southbound lane), while the east side of the road will remain open for northbound vehicular traffic.

During this transition, Tremain Street will be divided with traffic barrels providing the new one-way road on the east side of the existing road and the construction zone for the future multi-use trail on the west side of the existing road.

Road signs and additional barricades will be installed to provide direction and delineation for the new one-way road. Properties on the west

side of Tremain Street will continue to be provided access to the new northbound one-way road across the construction zone throughout the remainder of the project.

Cross street access will also be maintained throughout the duration of the project, except for limited closures which may occur due to construction activity within the vicinity of the cross street.

Those traveling near this section of Tremain Street beginning in April are encouraged to use caution and following traffic signs during this transition period, Senior said.

Gus Gianikas, the city's assistant director of Planning and Development, anticipates the project will take about four months. It is being done in conjunction with stormwater improvements to Seventh Avenue and is being largely funded through \$600,000 in grant money.

For more information about the Tremain Street Greenway project, contact the city's Planning and Development department at 352-735-7113, or go to www.cityofmountdora.com.

Sheriff may take over Animal Services

LIVI STANFORD | Staff Writer
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Commissioner Leslie Campione and Lake County Sheriff Gary Borders have had preliminary talks about having the Sheriff's Office take over the county's troubled Animal Services department.

Campione said this week that she would bring the idea to the full County Commission at its next meeting and make a request to put a proposal together.

"There would have to be performance criteria or specific goals set out that would have to be accomplished," she said of the sheriff taking over the Animal Services. "The euthanization rate and adoption rate continue to be number one concerns of mine."

Borders said in an email statement: "We are willing to work with the county, but we have not been formally approached to take over animal control."

Commissioner Sean Parks said he is also open to the idea.

The proposal comes days after the head of the Animal Services division announced her resignation, citing a tight budget and public pressure over the department's euthanization rate.

Cyndi Nason was the second director of Animal Services to resign within the past year.

Nason and Marjorie Boyd both resigned amid pressure from animal activists who criticized the shelter for what they claimed were too many euthanizations.

"It should be noted that our euthanization rate is way down and yet a small number of people pretty much badgered her out

SEE SHERIFF | A4

MOUNT DORA

New greenhouse may save money

AUSTIN FULLER | Staff Writer
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Mount Dora's Public Works and Utilities department is hoping to construct a greenhouse in the next six months that will dry sewage and save the city money, John Peters, the department's interim director said.

Building the greenhouse will save the city money that is normally spent on paying someone to dispose of the sewage, Peters said.

The city currently pays approximately \$250,000 to \$275,000 a year for the sewage to be disposed, Peters said.

"A couple years ago, we were paying \$600,000 a year to dispose of this stuff and, in the end, we're (going to) be paying nothing," he said. "In fact, the hope is that we can sell it."

The sewage will be dried and pasteurized in the greenhouse and then can be used and potentially sold as fertilizer, Peters said.

The department plans to construct a 4,600 square-foot tray-based greenhouse, as opposed to a traditional 6,900 square-foot greenhouse, according to Peters and city documents.

The traditional green-

house would cost approximately \$920,000 and the tray-based greenhouse will cost \$893,103.75, according to city documents.

The hope for the smaller, tray-based greenhouse is that it will be able to dry the sewage faster, Peters said.

"Just the sheer volume of air that we have to heat up is much less," Peters said.

He added that this leads to a quicker drying process, saying a traditional greenhouse takes approximately 20 to 21 days, and he thinks the tray-based greenhouse could dry the solids in seven days. His hope is that the city can

get it down to three days.

He said the sewage is dried in the tray, which is like a large, black wagon with wheels that can handle heat.

"That's part of the reason I came to work here: we want to be innovative," Peters said.

The greenhouse is set to be built at the city's waste water plant two, which is near the intersection of State Road 46 and Highway 441, Peters said.

The greenhouse will also feature a "SolarOrganite" mobile pasteurization chamber from Leesburg's Eco Sciences, LLC that

SEE SEWAGE | A4

IN MEMORY

OBITUARIES

Betty Hunt

Betty Hunt, aged 95, passed away on March 17, 2014. She is survived by her daughter Brenda Brown and two sons, Bill and Peter Hunt as well as 10 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Mary Catherine Osteen

Mary Catherine Osteen, 86, of Clermont, Florida, died Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at Clermont, Florida. She was born September 20, 1927 in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Mrs. Osteen worked in retail as a clerk. She is survived by her husband, James C. Osteen of Clermont; grandsons, Steven M. (Karen) Osteen

of Groveland, and Jerry Lee Osteen of Ocala; great grandchildren, Amanda Rene Osteen, Sandra Nichole Osteen, John Micheal Osteen, and Rosebud Catherine Osteen; and her sister, Genevieve Beard of Buda, TX. Visitation will be held at Green Pond Baptist Church, Polk City, FL on Friday, March 28, 2014 from 10:00 — 11:00 am. Services will follow at 11:00 am, Pastor Tommy Whitten will preside. Interment will follow at Green Pond Cemetery, Polk City, FL. Online condolences may be left at www.beyersfuneralhome.com. Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Leesburg, FL.

SHERIFF

FROM PAGE A3

of a job," Commissioner Jimmy Conner said of Nason's resignation.

Parks said he was concerned about the treatment shelter employees, such as Nason, receive from the public.

"We need to support our staff better on this issue," he said.

Brenda Weber, president of Misfit Animal Rescue, said she has a great relationship with shelter employees, stating many call her pleading with her to save animals' lives before they are put to sleep.

fore they are put to sleep.

But the public criticism is only a partial reason for the resignations, county officials said, pointing to funding issues that kept the county from hiring a field supervisor and rescue coordinator to help take the pressure off of the director.

County commissioners agreed in a meeting on March 11 to delay funding those positions until Oct. 1.

Campione, who proposed funding the rescue coordinator position in making a mid-year budget adjustment, said when the board decided not to fund the position immediately, it was the final straw for Nason.

Before Nason assumed the position last May, two critical internal audits in April 2013 cited at least 45 areas for improvement at the shelter. Some of the primary recommendations involved better record keeping and better care of animals.

Since then, the shelter has put in a new computer software system, which keeps better track of animals and is addressing lighting issues in the facility.

But without a rescue coordinator position in place, euthanization numbers could creep back up, according to Linda Coletta, a concerned citizen and president of Hound Haven, a rescue organization.

SEWAGE

FROM PAGE A3

will pasteurize the sewage, Eco Sciences President Gary Hammond said. The pasteurization process is more eco-friendly

than traditional pasteurization that relies on electricity or other energy sources, since the Eco Sciences' process relies on solar energy, he said.

He added Eco Sciences has already filed some of the paperwork with the Florida De-

partment of Agriculture and Consumer Services to register the fertilizer. Hammond said possibilities for the fertilizer other than selling it would be to use it in areas like parks or give it to citizens, but that decision is up to the city.

MURDER

FROM PAGE A3

Sunset Groves, outside of Tavares.

According to testimony in the trial that started Tuesday, there had been an ongoing dispute between the two men over accusations that Infante had taken sexual advantage of one of Henrickson's relatives after a night of drinking.

Assistant Public Defender Wanda Greene said Henrickson started tormenting his landlord with names such as "queer," "pedophile" and "child rapist."

Infante started an injunction for protection against Henrickson on Oct. 23, 2012 but never completed it.

On Oct. 24, after Henrickson arrived home with his ex-wife and grandchild, the two

men began to argue. Prosecutors say Infante walked into his home, grabbed a .22-caliber rifle and chased Henrickson around the vehicle while firing several shots.

As he held his grandchild, Henrickson was struck in the back and chest as he tried to hand off the child to his ex-wife.

The defense argued that Infante shot him because he believed Henrickson was going into his vehicle for a gun and that the victim kicked at him.

Infante, who took the stand Wednesday, said he initially didn't claim self-defense when talking to detectives because it would have

made him look weak to admit he was afraid of Henrickson. He said he had slept in a closet out of fear.

"He (Henrickson) was capable of killing someone like Pablo Infante and Mr. Infante knew that in his heart and his mind," Carranza said.

No gun was ever found in Henrickson's vehicle and he later died at the hospital. Assistant State Attorney Hugh Bass, who co-prosecuted the case, said Infante had tried to take the law into his own hands and there was a trail of live and spent rounds at the murder scene that indicates Infante was chasing the victim.

"The jury had a tough decision to make," Bass said shortly after leaving the courtroom.

Lake County Sheriff's deputies who arrived on the scene testified Infante told them, "I shot him," and the victim "kept (messing) with him" and "I didn't mean for it to go this far. I just got upset." Deputies say the defendant didn't say anything about self-defense.

Carranza told the jury Thursday during closing arguments that Infante had just moved from Cuba to America in 1995 and didn't know at first that self-defense could be used in this country as justification for killing someone.

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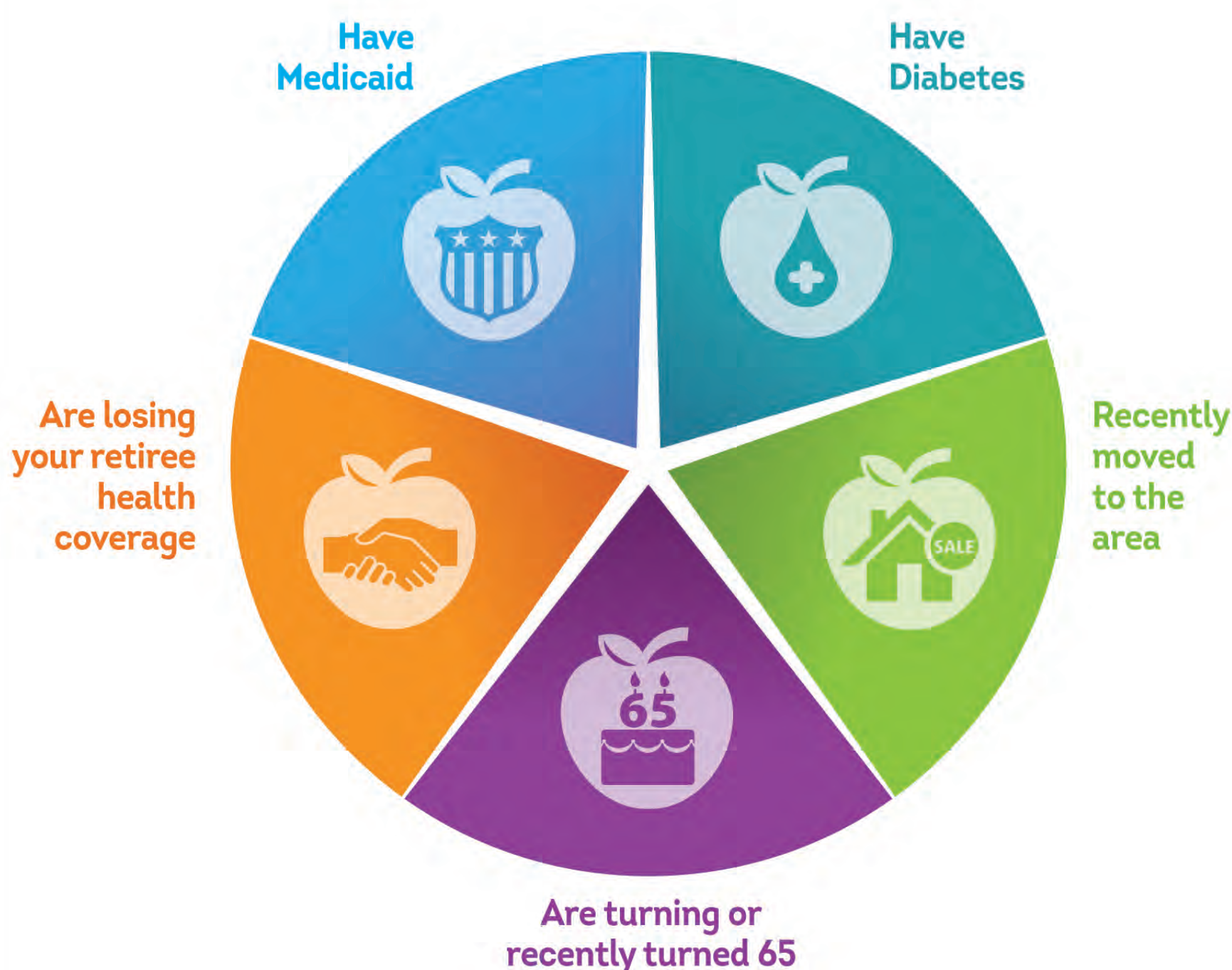
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SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

Public gets unsearched bags of old U.S. Gov't issued coins Free

U.S. residents rush to claim Unsearched Vault Bags loaded with nearly 100 year old coins issued by the U.S. Gov't, but only those callers who beat the 48 hour order deadline to cover just the \$29 shipping, handling and vault processing fee are getting the Unsearched Vault Bags free

NATIONWIDE

Public Release begins 8:30am today

It's like finding buried treasure.

That's because for the next 48 hours Unsearched Vault Bags loaded with nearly 100 year old coins issued by the U.S. Gov't are actually being handed over to U.S. residents for free.

"There's no telling what you'll find in these Unsearched Vault Bags until you sort through all the coins. That's because after the Vault Bags were loaded with over 100 valuable Wheat Coins issued by the U.S. Gov't the dates were never searched and the Vault Bags were sealed for good. That's why residents are claiming all the Vault Bags they can get their hands on before they're all gone," said Timothy J. Shissler, Director of Vault Operations for the private World Reserve.

And here's the best part. Since U.S. residents are getting the Unsearched Vault Bags free they cover just \$29 for shipping, handling and vault processing per bag which is a real steal since each bag is loaded with over 100 U.S. Gov't issued coins and just one scarce coin alone, like those shown below could be worth hundreds of dollars in collector value.

The only thing residents need to do is call the Toll Free Hotline at 1-866-205-7852 beginning precisely at 8:30am this morning. Everyone who does is getting the Vault Bags for free.

And remember, these currently circulated coins date clear back to



VALUABLE: U.S. residents are scrambling to get their hands on these Unsearched Vault Bags because just one scarce coin alone, like those shown below, could be worth hundreds of dollars in collector value. And here's the best part, since each Vault Bag is loaded with over 100 U.S. Gov't issued coins there's no telling what you'll find until you sort through all the coins.

the early 1900s. And after they were locked away in the highly secure vaults of the World Reserve the dates were never searched and the Vault Bags were sealed for good.

Coin values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees, but any of the scarce U.S. Gov't issued coins shown below, regardless of their value, that you're lucky enough to find inside the Vault Bag shipment you receive are yours to keep.

"We know the phones will be ringing off the hook because we're allowing residents to claim up to 20 Unsearched Vault Bags of money. It's important to note, that since this announcement is being so widely advertised dealers and collectors are sure to be grabbing up all the valuable coins they can get their hands on. So if lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered," said Shissler. ■

► **Who Gets the Vault Bags Free:** Only those U.S. residents who call the Toll Free Hotline before the 48-hour order deadline ends at:

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CLERMONT

Public forum requested for Wellness Way plan

ROXANNE BROWN
and LIVI STANFORD
news@dailyccommercial.com

On Tuesday night, Clermont City Council members expressed interest in holding a public forum about the Wellness Way Sector Plan near Clermont to give city officials and the public a chance to weigh in on plans for the 16,000-acre project.

City Manager Darren Gray said he had spoken to Lake County Commissioner Sean Parks, one of the key movers behind the Wellness Way effort, to relay "concerns the council had about public input and the amount of time, that we don't want to be rushed or pushed."

He noted that a consultant working on the plan — a mix of homes and businesses that will transform that corner of the county — has proposed some changes.

"You know when we first heard that, about three or four months ago, by a consultant that came here, we were all not in favor of it the way it was presented."

Gray said the consultant wanted to make that presentation to the county commissioners and to the council at the same time.

After Gray's appeal, the council considered having a regular city council meeting following the presentation, then scheduling a public forum between

the county and the city, but that idea was dismissed quickly.

"You know, this is the future of the city and to try to cut and not have any public input is wrong," Councilman Ray Goodgame said.

Council members ultimately agreed to have Gray set up a joint meeting with the county directly following the presentation by the consultant. The meeting with the county could occur on April 22 at the community center rather than the council chambers and would be the night's city council meeting, with the sector plan as the only item on the agenda.

"I don't care what the county commissioners say, the ones that want to stay can stay," Goodgame said. "If they don't want to stay past 6 o'clock then fine, but I think we ought to start at 7 o'clock and have public input and discuss the sector plan with the public, give them our ideas, because they'll probably be a little different than what the county wants to do."

Goodgame even said he wouldn't mind foregoing a city meeting on that night to have the joint meeting instead.

Goodgame, however, expressed reservations about whether the county was really interested in the city's opinions about the project, or those of

Clermont residents.

"I don't think the county wants to hear what we have to say," he said.

Councilman Rick Van Wagner agreed with Goodgame and said it's exactly why the joint meeting and public forum is a must.

However, county officials said it is premature to say Clermont's concerns have not been heard because the plan has not been finalized.

There have been several public meetings on Wellness Way, county officials also said, where public comment has been allowed.

"The concerns that were raised by the city of Clermont and residents several months ago were all heard by our staff," Commissioner Leslie Campione said. "I don't think anyone is withholding information. The final product is going to be presented to both boards on April 22."

Campione added, "There were a series of public meetings so we could get input from property owners, stakeholders, and everyone that cared enough to attend those meetings had an opportunity to have their concerns heard. There has been an ample opportunity for concerns and issues to be raised."

There will be a public hearing on the plan before it is adopted.

Speed limit bill racing through Senate

JIM TURNER
News Service of Florida

A measure that could raise the speed limits by 5 mph on Florida roads zipped through its final Senate stop on Thursday, despite bumping up against Appropriations Committee Chairman Joe W.

With a 15-4 vote, the panel approved the

measure (SB 392) that directs the state Department of Transportation to determine the safe minimum and maximum speed limits on all divided highways that have at least four lanes.

Supporters of the bill say many drivers are already going faster than the current top rate of 70 mph. But critics, in-

cluding Negrón, say increasing speeds could lead to more accidents.

Negrón, R-Stuart, contends that government-imposed speed limits have helped decrease highway injuries and fatalities because studies show that drivers have a greater likelihood of crashing at higher speeds.

"I think that once you start getting into the 80s and 90s that the opportunity for serious injury and death go up significantly," said Negrón, who noted that many motorists already drive nine to 10 mph above the posted limit.

The bill could eventually allow state transportation officials to increase speed limits on Florida's "limited access highways" to 75 mph and raise the maximum posted limits on divided four-lane highways in sparsely populated rural areas from 65 mph to 70 mph. The transportation department could hike speeds to 60 mph on other roads they deem safe. And the department would also have the authority to set minimum speeds on certain highways.

"What's important is that people travel at the same speeds," Sen. Jeff Clemens, a Lake Worth Democrat and co-sponsor of the bill, said after the meeting. "If you have people who are able to travel at a much higher speed, traveling with people who are traveling at a much lower speed, that's what's actually creating a much more dangerous situation on our highways."

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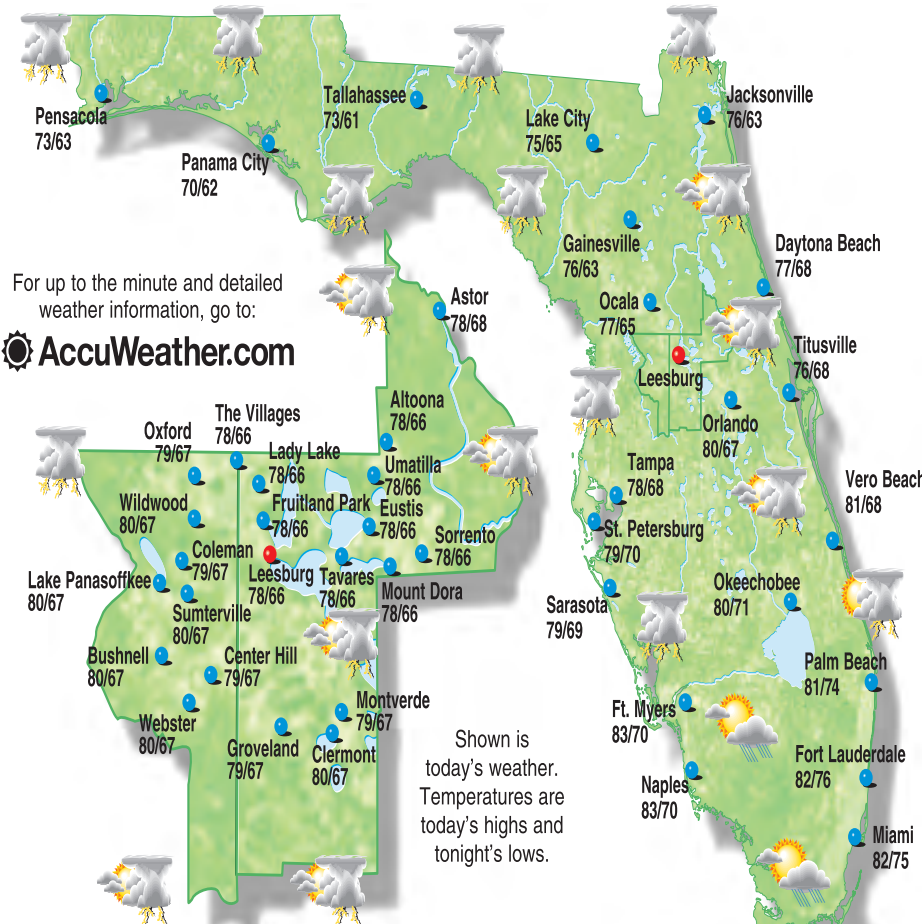
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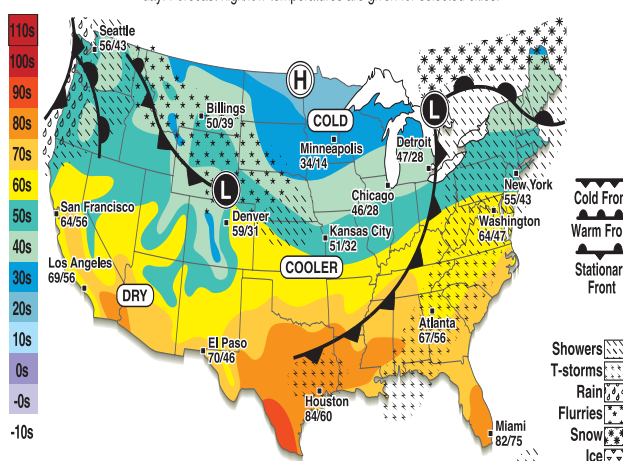
TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Couple of thunderstorms	Mostly cloudy and humid with a thunderstorm	Pleasant with sunshine and patchy clouds	Partly sunny	Partly sunny and pleasant
HIGH 78° LOW 66°	HIGH 81° LOW 65°	HIGH 81° LOW 58°	HIGH 77° LOW 58°	HIGH 81° LOW 60°



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2014

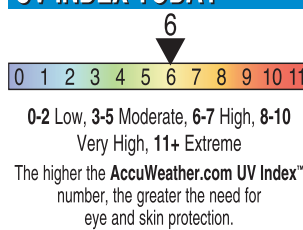
NATIONAL WEATHER FOR MARCH 28, 2014

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.



Yesterday's National High/Low: (for the 48 contiguous states)
 High 83° in Abilene, TX Low -16° in Saranac Lake, NY

UV INDEX TODAY



SOLUNAR TABLE

The solunar period schedule allows planning days so you will be fishing in good territory or hunting in good cover during those times. Major periods begin at the times shown and last for 1.5 to 2 hours. The minor periods are shorter.

Major Minor Major Minor

Today 10:24 a.m. 4:11 a.m. 10:51 p.m. 4:38 p.m.
 Sat. 11:12 a.m. 4:59 a.m. 11:38 p.m. 5:25 p.m.

THE SUN AND MOON

	Today	Saturday	New	First	Full	Last
Sunrise	7:22 a.m.	7:21 a.m.				
Sunset	7:43 p.m.	7:44 p.m.	Mar 30	Apr 7	Apr 15	Apr 22
Moonrise	5:42 a.m.	6:24 a.m.				
Moonsset	5:48 p.m.	6:52 p.m.				

TIDES

Homosassa		Day		High	Feet	Low	Feet
Today	3:38 am 1.2	11:55 am 0.0	Sat.	4:35 am 1.3	12:09 am 0.0	5:07 pm 1.2	12:36 pm 0.0
Daytona Beach		Day		High <td>Feet <td>Low <td>Feet</td> </td></td>	Feet <td>Low <td>Feet</td> </td>	Low <td>Feet</td>	Feet
Today	6:43 am 4.6	12:19 am -0.5	Sat.	7:37 am 4.6	1:17 am -0.7	7:58 pm 4.8	1:42 pm -0.9

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi Lo W	Saturday Hi Lo W	City	Today Hi Lo W	Saturday Hi Lo W	City	Today Hi Lo W	Saturday Hi Lo W	City	Today Hi Lo W	Saturday Hi Lo W
Albany	50 34 r	45 33 r	Cheyenne	53 30 pc	61 37 s	Great Falls	46 35 c	54 29 c	Norfolk, VA	68 55 sh	69 47 r
Albuquerque	63 40 s	67 45 s	Chicago	46 28 pc	42 28 pc	Greensboro, NC	66 53 sh	69 43 t	San Francisco	64 56 c	60 50 r
Anchorage	36 22 s	40 24 s	Cincinnati	62 37 c	45 28 r	Hartford	53 37 sh	49 36 r	San Juan, PR	87 73 s	87 72 pc
Asheville	59 47 t	68 36 t	Cleveland	50 29 sh	39 24 sn	Honolulu	84 71 pc	82 69 sh	Santa Fe	58 30 s	63 38 s
Atlanta	67 56 t	72 44 t	Columbia, SC	75 56 sh	80 48 t	Houston	84 60 t	80 50 pc	St. Ste. Marie	33 8 sn	30 14 s
Atlantic City	59 44 sh	51 40 r	Concord, NH	47 32 sh	48 32 r	Indianapolis	53 35 c	45 31 c	Seattle	56 43 r	57 42 sh
Baltimore	61 48 sh	57 39 r	Dallas	83 47 s	76 49 s	Jackson, MS	80 56 c	71 44 pc	Shreveport	81 53 t	74 46 s
Billings	50 39 c	64 36 pc	Dayton	56 32 c	41 26 sn	Kansas City	51 32 sh	60 41 s	Spokane	50 38 sh	54 36 sh
Birmingham	75 58 t	71 41 t	Denver	59 31 pc	69 40 s	Las Vegas	73 60 s	80 61 pc	Syracuse	53 31 r	45 25 r
Bismarck	39 19 sf	60 30 pc	Des Moines	47 26 c	54 39 s	Little Rock	69 49 t	69 44 s	Topeka	54 30 sh	64 41 s
Boise	56 47 sh	54 39 r	Detroit	47 28 pc	41 25 c	Louisville	65 43 sh	53 34 r	Tucson	74 51 s	82 57 s
Boston	53 40 sh	47 37 r	Duluth	27 4 pc	33 25 pc	Memphis	72 52 t	63 44 pc	Tulsa	66 38 t	69 43 s
Buffalo	50 28 sh	38 24 r	El Paso	70 46 s	77 56 s	Milwaukee	40 25 pc	39 28 pc	Washington, DC	64 47 sh	57 42 r
Burlington, VT	46 29 r	40 24 pc	Fargo	28 14 pc	45 30 pc	Minneapolis	34 14 c	43 35 s	Wilmington, DE	59 41 sh	53 38 r
Charleston, SC	76 60 sh	78 54 t	Fairbanks	30 -1 s	30 -1 s	Nashville	72 51 r	62 38 t			
Charleston, WV	67 45 sh	55 32 r	Flagstaff	54 24 s	60 38 s	New Orleans	79 64 t	77 56 pc			
Charlotte, NC	66 53 sh	75 43 t	Grand Rapids	43 22 sh	41 23 pc	New York City	55 43 sh	51 40 r			

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

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NCAA: Pitino gets Louisville ready for UK / **B3**



BRETT LE BLANC / DAILY COMMERCIAL

Brendon Ehlers hits the ball out of a bunker during Thursday's opening round at the National Golf Association's Lake County Classic at Harbor Hills Country Club in Lady Lake.

LADY LAKE

Lake County Classic begins at Harbor Hills

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

Harbor Hills Country Club was the center of the golf universe on Thursday for area fans.

The opening round of the National Golf Association's Lake County Classic got under way on the nearly 7,000-yard layout, offering 110 players vying for a total purse of more than \$100,000 a challenging tract.

Sixty-nine players finished the first round at par or better, with

LAKE COUNTY CLASSIC

Randall Hutchinson	65
Scott Strohmeier	66
Justin Lower	66
Trent Whitekiller	67
Paul Ferrier	67
Mac McLaughlin	67
Phillip Mollica	67
J.C. Horne	67
James White Jr.	67
David Skinns	67
Daniel Obremski	67

Randall Hutchinson firing a 7-under-par 65 to take a one-shot lead over Scott Strohmeier and Justin Lower. Eight golfers — Trent

Whitekiller, Paul Ferrier, Mac McLaughlin, Phillip Mollica, J.C. Horne, James White Jr., David Skinns and

SEE NGA | **B2**

Panthers blast McArthur at FLHSI

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

SANFORD — Finishing strong.

The idea of players ending a game with as much — or more — intensity than they started the game with, is what every coach drives his players to achieve.

The Eustis baseball team likely made coach David Lee happy with its effort in Thursday's Florida League High School Invitational tournament game against Hollywood McArthur

at Sanford Seminole High School.

Michael Koenig hit a walk off two-run homer and Wesley Moulden tossed a one hitter to lead the Panthers to a 10-0 win. The game was stopped after five innings, due to the 10-run mercy rule.

Eustis battered the Mustangs for 10 hits against two pitchers. The Panthers got two hits apiece from Jeremy Migliori and Dylan Oaks before Lee began to empty

SEE EHS | **B2**



MARK HUMPHREY / AP

Stanford guard Chasson Randle (5) vies for a loose ball as Stanford forward Josh Huestis (24) looks on during the first half Thursday's NCAA tournament regional semifinal game in Memphis, Tenn.

LHS gets clipped in extra innings

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

SANFORD — Lake County's entrants in the Florida League High School Invitational baseball tournament are proving to be formidable foes.

In seven tournament games through Thursday afternoon involving Leesburg, Eustis and Montverde Academy, six have

gone at least seven innings with the largest margin of victory being four runs or less.

On three occasions, area teams have battled to a one-run decision.

That was the case in Thursday's morning session when Leesburg got solid pitching from Ryan Halstead and Jason

SEE LHS | **B2**

Dayton tops Stanford in Sweet 16

DAVID BRANDT
Associated Press

Editor's Note: Thursday's regional semifinal game between Florida and UCLA was not completed in time for this edition.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Jordan Sibert scored 18 points, Kendall Pollard added a season-high 12 and Dayton rolled past Stanford 82-72 on Thursday to make the

NCAA tournament's Elite Eight for the first time since 1984.

No. 11 Dayton (26-10) continued its underdog run and this one wasn't particularly close. The 6-foot-4 Sibert was spectacular, slashing to the basket and draining 3-pointers, to help the Flyers lead for almost the entire night.

Dayton showed its depth early, using 12 players in the first half

to slowly wear Stanford down.

No. 10 Stanford (23-13) had the superior post play, but it wasn't enough. Chasson Randle led the Cardinal with 21 points, but shot 5 of 21 from the field. Dwight Powell added 17 and Stefan Nastic — who fouled out with more than five minutes left — had 15.

Dayton plays the winner of UCLA-Florida on

Saturday.

Sibert finished 7 of 12 from the field, including 4 of 9 from 3-point range. He had plenty of help. Devin Oliver scored 12 points and Matt Kavanaugh added 10.

Dayton made just about everything it threw at the basket early. Scoochie Smith's corner 3-pointer put the Flyers ahead 15-13 early.



BRETT LE BLANC / DAILY COMMERCIAL

Lake-Sumter State College sophomore Mellissa Webb (11) pitches the ball during the first game of Thursday's doubleheader against Seminole State College at the LSSC softball complex in Leesburg.

LEESBURG

LSSC splits with Seminole State

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

The best softball season in recent memory at Lake-Sumter State College continued on Wednesday against Seminole State College at the LSSC softball complex.

LSSC got a gritty pitching performance from Mellissa Webb in the opener and the Lakehawks scored three runs in the sixth to pick up a 3-2 win against the Raiders,

which lifted LSSC's record temporarily to 21-21 on the season and 6-5 in the Mid-Florida Conference.

Seminole State rebounded in the nightcap behind a six-run first inning to earn a doubleheader split with a 12-1 win in five innings. In the nightcap, the Raiders pounded out 15 hits and the Lakehawks committed five errors.

In the opener, Webb came out of the gate quickly. She didn't

give up a hit until Taylor Duggan bunted her way on with one out in the third.

Seminole State got to Webb in the fourth for two runs on four hits.

After the shaky frame, Webb settled down and did not allow a hit over the final three innings. For the game, she gave up five hits while striking out two and made 100 pitches.

LSSC trailed until the sixth, when the

SEE LSSC | **B2**

SCOREBOARD

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GOLF PGA TOUR Valero Texas Open Thursday At TPC San Antonio, Oaks Course San Antonio

NGA FROM PAGE B1

Daniel Obremski finished two shots off the pace. Dominic Bozzelli, winner of the opening two full-field events of season, is in an eight-way tie at 4-under 68.

hole. The ninth hole was one of three holes that were lengthened for the tournament, according to Tom Leimberger, director of golf at Harbor Hills. Leimberger said the first, second and ninth holes were made longer to push the total length of the course closer to 7,000 yards, which he said was more appropriate for professionals.

course as it was, most of them would be driving and then chipping to the green. I'm happy with the way things turned out. "After the tournament is over, our low-handicap players will probably be able to play off those tees."

within a shot of the lead when he recorded an eagle on the par 5 18th hole and could've had a share of the lead except for a bogey on the par-3 fifth hole. Lower blistered the front nine in 31 with five birdies, but managed only two birdies and a bogey on the back nine. His bogey at No. 12 kept him from grabbing a share of the opening-round lead.

TV2DAY

AUTO RACING Noon FS1 — NASCAR, Sprint Cup, practice for STP 500, at Martinsville, Va. 3 p.m. FS1 — NASCAR, Truck Series, final practice for KROGER 250, at Martinsville, Va.

EHS FROM PAGE B1

his bench. The game was scoreless until the third inning, when Eustis scored four runs on

four hits. The Panthers plated two more runs in the fourth inning before closing out Hollywood McArthur with four runs in the fifth. Koenig and Jack Kirkpatrick scored two runs apiece for the Panthers.

The game was Moulden's second pitching effort in the FLHSI. In the 2012 tourney, he beat Montverde Academy 7-2, allowing three hits in 5 1/3 innings. In two games, the senior southpaw is 2-0

with a 0.68 ERA and 10 strikeouts in 10 1/3 innings. He has allowed four hits Eustis improved to 9-6 on the season with the win and picked up its first in three games in the FLHSI.

LHS FROM PAGE B1

Baita, but the Yellow Jackets dropped a 2-1 contest in nine innings against Weston Cypress Bay at Sanford Seminole High School.

The Lightning managed only five hits against Halstead and Baita. Weston Cypress Bay took an early lead with a run in the first against Halstead when Naterera scored on a double by Thomas Quintero. Halstead stranded Quintero at third when he struck out Diego Maceda to end the inning.

Fritts. Quintero gave up three hits and Leesburg's lone run in four innings and Fritts surrendered four hits in five innings of work. Leesburg scored its lone run in the third inning when Baita crossed the plate on an error by Naterera, the Lightning second baseman. Baita reached base on a single and reached third on a single by Tucker Smith prior to Naterera's fielding miscue.

Fritts, who made 57 pitches, picked up the win. Smith (2-for-4) was the only Yellow Jackets with multiple hits. Baita, Garrett Vathroder, Halstead, Kyle Branna, and Turner Long had Leesburg's hits — all singles. Danny Cepeda went 2-for-4 for Weston Cypress Bay. He was the Lightning's only player with multiple hits.

LSSC FROM PAGE B1

Lakehawks found their swing. Michelle Breen opened the inning with a double and Kayla Fuller was walked. Zoe Hart then hammered a double, scoring Breen. Taylor Douglass followed with the third double of the inning, scoring Fuller and Hart with the tying and game-winning runs.

ball to left. The Lakehawks totaled five hits against Seminole starter Stephanie Adkins. She walked four and struck out three. LSSC travels to Ocala at 1 p.m. on Saturday for a doubleheader against the College of Central Florida.

David Wood (2-3) started and picked up the win. He went six innings and allowed five hits and three runs — one earned. He struck out 10 without walking a batter. Tyler Reker got the loss for FSC-Jacksonville. LSSC has 10 hits, including three by Tanner Elsbernd. Taylor Saris added two hits. Elsbernd and Saris also scored two runs apiece. Five Lakehawks pitched to combine for the win. Walker Shell-er wrapped with an in-

ning of work and allowed two runs on one hit. Dylan Jones, Anthony Mazzurco and Steve McClellan also pitched for LSSC. LSSC benefitted from five errors by FSC-Jacksonville. The Lakehawks also struggled in the field and committed four errors. The Lakehawks improved to 15-14 overall and 2-10 in the Mid-Florida Conference with the win. LSSC plays the College of Central Florida at 3 p.m. today in Ocala.

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SPORTS EDITOR FRANK JOLLEY 352-365-8268 FAX 352-365-1951 EMAIL sports@dailycommercial.com Schools or coaches can report game results after 6 p.m. by calling 352-365-8268, or 352-365-8279. Amateur Listings (college scholarships, meeting announcements, schedule changes, outdoors notices) can be faxed to 352-365-1951, or emailed to sports@dailycommercial.com

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Kentucky, Louisville rekindle Bluegrass rivalry

EDDIE PELLIS
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — John Calipari sent Andrew and Aaron Harrison and three other freshmen to sit behind the microphones and answer questions about Kentucky's upcoming Sweet 16 matchup against Bluegrass State rival Louisville.

Rick Pitino sent up seniors Russ Smith and Luke Hancock.

That, as much as the 70 miles that separates the schools, is the gulf between the neighbors who play today in one of the most important meetings in their long, colorful and not-so-friendly rivalry.

Eighth-seeded Kentucky plays the one-and-done game and won a title that way in 2012. Fourth-seeded Louisville goes for a more long-term approach and took home its own championship trophy last season.

"There's so many arguments," Pitino said. "I think the best of all worlds, me personally, I would like to see exactly what football has."

Whether they stay a minimum of three years (football), one year (basketball) or something else, the issue of how athletes fit into a college campus was thrust into the spotlight by this week's



DAVID J. PHILLIP / AP

Louisville head coach Rick Pitino talks to his players during Thursday's practice for the NCAA Midwest Regional semifinals in Indianapolis. Louisville plays Kentucky today.

National Labor Relations Board decision that defined football players at Northwestern as employees.

Neither coach would bite when asked how they felt about the ruling. "Has nothing to do with this game, so I leave it alone," Calipari said.

But both are well aware of the business side of their game that fosters the tenuous relationships between players, coaches and schools. The one-and-done rule has been key in Calipari's re-emergence as a Final Four

coach over the last six years, and has weighed on the minds of other coaches, like Pitino, who don't land the NBA-ready kids as frequently but often find themselves competing against them.

"I think we're all playing the hand we're dealt," Calipari said. "Kids are going on to the league from us and performing, and I'm proud of that. Would I like to have had them for four years? Yes. But I also like what's happened for them and their families."

Calipari, whose 2012

title team came behind one-and-doner Anthony Davis, now of the Pelicans, saw the negatives of having to rebuild every year play out in stark detail this season. A starting lineup with five freshmen struggled with expectations, sharing, listening and handling criticism.

Now comes the payoff. Calipari has figured out how to get the most from the Wildcats (26-10) and, as a result, they are clicking. Aaron Harrison has scored 18 and 19 points in the last two games. His brother had 20 in Kentucky's

78-76 upset over Wichita State. Yet another freshman, James Young, made a 3-point shot that gave Kentucky the lead in that game with less than 2 minutes to go.

"They had to hear how bad they were as players, how selfish they were, they're not together, this isn't a team," Calipari said. "Instead of separating, they stuck together. They kept believing in the staff and wanted answers, 'How do we get this right?' and they accepted answers."

Not that managing a more experienced roster, with seven players coming off a national title, has been all smooth sailing for Pitino and the Cardinals (31-5).

Pitino dismissed Chane Behanan in December for violating school rules. The focal point of last year's title run, Kevin Ware, took a medical redshirt for more recovery on the right leg he snapped gruesomely during last year's regional final, also in Indianapolis.

"I know everyone wants to talk about experience," Hancock said when asked about the differences between what a senior knows and what a freshman knows come this time of year. "But they've got six, sev-

en, eight, nine, 10 guys that are going to play real hard. We have the same. It's not going to be too big an advantage either way."

Since 1983, the teams have met in the regular season every year.

This season's game was a 73-66 Kentucky victory that served as only a brief respite for the Wildcats, who sank from top-ranked team at the beginning of the season to out of the poll by March 10.

The Cardinals were hardly a finished product at the time, either. Like Kentucky, they've saved their best basket ball for March. They won their conference tournament games by an average of 33, then figured ways to grind out ugly wins against Manhattan and St. Louis.

Pitino said he's been in the state for 20 years — first as coach of Kentucky — "and the game, to me, has really only had difficult consequences for the loser twice."

No. 1 was the 2012 Final Four meeting, won by Kentucky. No. 2 will be today's game.

"People grieve for a year after the game. People celebrate for a year after the game," Calipari said. "I've tried to not make it bigger than it is. But it doesn't work."

COLLEGE SPORTS

Landmark union ruling comes at bad time for NCAA

TIM DAHLBERG
Associated Press

They're battling in courtrooms, and could one day meet over a bargaining table. About the only things the two sides in the debate over big-time college athletics agree on is that things are changing.

Schools bringing in hundreds of millions in television contracts. Coaches making kind of salaries that the late UCLA legend John Wooden wouldn't recognize. Athletes insisting on rights, if not outright cash.

And now a union for football players at Northwestern that would previously have been unthinkable in college sports.

A ruling that the Northwestern football team can bargain with the school as employees represented by a union may not by itself change the way amateur sports operate. But it figures to put more pressure on the NCAA and the major conferences to give something back to the players to justify the billions of dollars the players bring in — and never see.

"While improvements need to be made,

NCAA

we do not need to completely throw away a system that has helped literally millions of students over the past decade alone attend college," The NCAA said in a statement.

There's huge money at stake — nearly \$18 billion alone just in television rights for the NCAA basketball tournament and bowl games. Already fighting a flurry of antitrust lawsuits challenging its control of college athletics, the NCAA can't afford too many more defeats.

"This is a colossal victory for student athletes coming on the heels of their recent victories," said Marc Edelman, an associate professor of law at City University of New York who specializes in sports and antitrust law. "It seems not only the tide of public sentiment but also the tide of legal rulings has finally turned in the direction of college ath-

letes and against the NCAA."

For the NCAA, the timing of a National Labor Relations Board opinion allowing a union at Northwestern couldn't have been worse. In the middle of a tournament that earns schools close to \$1 billion a year, it is being taken to task not only for not paying players, but for not ensuring their health and future welfare.

Add in revelations like Florida coach Billy Donovan's new \$3.7 million-a-year contract and the \$18,000 bonus that Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith got for one of the school's wrestlers winning an NCAA title, and some are frustrated with the NCAA's contention that everything it does is done for the benefit of athletes who play for the glory of their school.

"Fifty years ago the NCAA invented the

term student-athlete to try and make sure this day never came," said former UCLA line-backer Ramogi Huma, the designated president of Northwestern's would-be football players' union. "Northwestern players who stood up for their rights took a giant step for justice. It's going to set a precedent for college players across the nation to do the same."

The players currently at Northwestern may have already graduated by the time the team gets a chance to bargain — if it ever does.

According to federal law, Northwestern football players have 30 days from Wednesday's decision to vote on whether to authorize on whether to formally authorize the College Athletes Players Association, or CAPA, to represent them. But Northwestern is expected to appeal the landmark ruling to the National Labor Relations Board by an April 9 deadline, potentially stalling the union vote. The NCAA is also likely to continue to fight the description of college athletes as employees.

It was that love of the sport that drew outgoing Wildcats quar-

terback Kain Colter — as well as a scholarship worth up to about \$75,000 annually. But Colter, backed by lawyers with the United Steelworkers union, began the union push after growing disenchanted with the time demands placed on him in football that forced him to drop his plans to go to medical school.

Colter also worried about the long-term health risks of football long after players have left school. Players have said they want more research into concussions and other traumatic injuries and insurance and guarantees that they will be covered for medical issues later in life. They also want money for continuing education and for schools to offer four-year scholarship deals instead of year-to-year pacts.

One day that could mean money, over and above the \$2,000 extra annual stipend that NCAA president Mark Emmert proposed but failed to get implemented over the objections of small-budget schools. There's plenty to go around, with a \$10.6 billion contract for television rights

to the NCAA basketball tournament and a recent \$7.2 billion deal for football bowl games.

The NLRB ruling described how the life of a Northwestern football player is far more regimented than that of a typical student, down to requirements about what they can eat and whether they can live off campus or purchase a car. At times, players put 50 or 60 hours a week into football, the ruling said, qualifying them to be treated as employees of the university and eligible for a union.

By itself, the ruling could be little more than an irritant to private universities and the NCAA. But combined with the antitrust lawsuits — one filed just last week by a prominent attorney called the organization an "unlawful cartel" — they present a clear challenge to the unique way college sports operates.

The model of coaches and administrators making millions while the athletes providing the labor are paid in room and board and books is one that could be difficult to defend in court.



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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

High-tech replay room opening for business

RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — After deciding close calls on the field since 1876, baseball opens a high-tech control room this weekend where the fates of batters, pitchers, runners and fielders will be decided by umpires up to 2,600 miles away in the building where the Oreo cookie was invented.

Starting with the Los Angeles Dodgers' game at the San Diego Padres on Sunday night, the U.S. opener of the 2014 season, players, managers and fans will turn their attention to the ROC — the Replay Operations Center.

In a dimly lit room of just under 1,000 square feet in the Chelsea Market in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, umpires and technicians will make the decisions that could decide games and championships.

More than \$10 million has been spent wiring the 30 big league ballparks with Fiberlink cable that will transmit the images from at least 12 cameras at every site, and Major League Baseball says it will take just 400 milliseconds for each image to arrive at the command center.

All in an effort to prevent the type of botched calls that cost Detroit's Armando Galarraga a perfect game in 2010.

"I'm happy for the managers," said Joe Torre, an MLB executive vice president overseeing the new system. "Maybe it will keep them from having one or two more sleepless nights if they are able to grab one and overturn it."

Inside the sliding glass doors at the of-



RICHARD DREW / AP

Chris Marinak sits in front of a bank of television screens during a preview of Major League Baseball's Replay Operations Center on Wednesday in New York. Less than a week before most teams open, MLB is working on the unveiling of its new instant replay system, which it hopes will vastly reduce incorrect calls by umpires.

ices of Major League Baseball Advanced Media, the room has its own power supply in case of a blackout — with batteries as a second auxiliary — and a stand-alone heating, ventilation and air conditioning system that keeps the temperature at 72 degrees. Cell phones don't have reception.

There are dozens of televisions, more than enough to make it resemble NASA's Mission Control. Outside the room, next to a modernist black sofa, is a 55-inch NEC screen, with another just inside the entrance. Walk in, and there's 65-inch Pentus TV to your left.

On each side are three stations, each to be staffed with a technician on the left and a major league umpire on the right. Three more "floater" stations stretch across the back wall.

Every station has

four 46-inch screens — three Planars for each pod, with a higher-quality Sony directly in front of each umpire's seat. The umps will wear headsets and can push a button to speak with their colleagues at any stadium.

Fifteen Asus computer monitors are scattered about, four on a wavy table in the center where supervisors will monitor the review umpires and up to 15 simultaneous games (there would only be the maximum if weather delays the action in the eastern half of North America).

The nine circular overhead lights are kept low, the walls are gray and the carpeting is dark — all so that the televised images will stand out more for the umpires. There is a sink and a microwave — the food court on the first floor is filled with dozens of options.

"I'll see more games

than the Fan Cave," quipped Justin Klemm, a former minor league umpire and big league fill-in who was hired last month as MLB's director of instant replay.

Baseball ignored replay even as it was first used by the NFL in 1986, the NHL in 1991, the NBA in 2002 and the Little League World Series in 2008.

MLB took a tentative step toward replay in August 2008, when it first used video to decide boundary calls such as home runs at the top of fences or near foul poles.

Torre long opposed video review but changed his mind in October 2012, when umpire Jeff Nelson missed a call on Robinson Cano's two-out tag of Omar Infante at second base in the AL championship series, calling the runner safe. Detroit went on to win Game 2 and sweep the New York Yankees.

"That's when I realized that we certainly can't ignore the technology and the fact that this seemed to be what the people want or think they want," Torre said.

Eight umpires will be assigned to the replay room each week, with generally six on duty for a full schedule and each monitoring two games at a time.

When an umpire has a decision to make, screens for their other game will go dark. If an ump has simultaneous challenges in both games, one will "cascade" to the next pod over.

Baseball established a "clear and convincing" standard for overturning calls. The replay decision will be either the call is confirmed, stands (if there is no conclusive evidence) or is overturned.

Managers get one challenge per game, and if that challenge is successful, they receive a second. If a manager is out of challenges, from the seventh inning on an umpire can call for a replay on his own. In addition, home runs and plate collisions are subject to unlimited review at the discretion of the crew chief.

Baseball hopes it will take no more than an average of 3 minutes for the decision. The average length of a nine-inning game was a record 2:59 last year, according to STATS. Torre said pace-of-game rules will be enforced more strictly.

"In order to make this thing work and not have it make the games longer is the fact that we have to start really disciplining and paying attention to the repeat violators," he said.

Open for replay chal-

enges are force plays, tags plays, fair-foul in the outfield, hit batters, retouching, passing runners, ground-rule doubles, fan interference and home runs (at the umpires' discretion).

Among the excluded decisions are ball-strike calls, check swings, foul tips making contact with the bat, balks, interference and obstruction calls, the neighborhood play at second on double plays, running out of the basepath or runner's lane, tagging up and catches in the infield.

MLB says that among incorrect calls last year were 156 force plays, 60 tags on steals and 76 other tags — totaling 86 percent of all missed decisions.

Torre said he expects more dropped balls during pivots at second base will be called safe rather than force-outs, and that MLB will monitor phone traffic between team replay personnel and dugouts to ensure the video isn't used for sign stealing.

About 75 umpires came to New York for training, and MLB sat down with all managers during spring training and will have a conference call with them this week.

Umpiring's new era has arrived.

"I could tell you, one, I'm glad we didn't have replay," Torre said, an apparent reference to Richie Garcia calling a 2-2 pitch to Tino Martinez a ball in the 1998 World Series opener. Martinez hit a grand slam on the next pitch, and the Yankees swept San Diego.

"I'm wearing that ring right now," Torre said.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Manziel wows elder Bush, others at pro day

KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Johnny Manziel's NFL pro day had a former president,

lots of swag, a Drake soundtrack and even some football, too.

The 2012 Heisman Trophy winner threw for 75 officials from 30 teams on the Texas A&M

campus Thursday.

He also had some special guests, as former President George H.W. Bush and wife Barbara — and her two dogs — rolled into the facility on golf carts about 10 minutes into the workout.

The always flashy Manziel was true to his over-the-top Johnny Football persona, trotting into the facility with his receivers as a tune by his buddy Drake blasted through the building. He wore camouflage shorts, a black Nike jersey with his white No. 2 and caused a stir by wearing shoulder pads and a helmet.

Manziel didn't understand why it was a big deal.

"You play the game in shoulder pads on Sundays," he said. "Why not come out and do it? ... For me it was a no-brainer."

Manziel threw about 65 passes to six receivers, including A&M teammate Mike Evans, who like Manziel is expected to be a first round pick in the May draft. Only two passes weren't caught and Evans grabbed a third long

pass out of bounds.

"I felt like it was good," Manziel said. "(I) was obviously going for perfection. So had a couple balls hit the ground. One was on me. One was a little bit high. I could've got it down for him a little bit."

Quarterback guru George Whitfield ran the workout. Manziel has worked with Whitfield throughout his career and has spent a big chunk of the last 2½ months working with him in California. Whitfield raved about his competitiveness.

"This wasn't just merely a set of routes that he was just going to go through and throw," Whitfield said. "It just feels like ... life is riding on every pass with him."

Eight NFL general managers and eight head coaches were among the group, including Texans general manager Rick Smith and coach Bill O'Brien. Houston has the top overall pick in the draft. Smith and O'Brien liked what they saw from Manziel, but both cautioned that this is just one step in a long pro-

cess.

"He made the throws that you look for and that you wanted to see so it was good," Smith said. "It's just a part of it and it was impressive."

Manziel, who started at A&M for two seasons, planned to meet with several teams on Thursday afternoon after the workout.

Several coaches were impressed that Manziel called all the NFL officials onto the field at the end of his workout to personally thank them for coming.

"College Station's a little bit of a tricky spot to get to," he said. "For me to call those guys up, just wanted to speak on my behalf as well as the six guys behind me and thank them for coming out."

Tampa Bay coach Lovie Smith, who grew up in Big Sandy, Texas, enjoyed seeing Bush at the event.

"That's a first, a workout with an ex-president," Smith said. "But they do things a little differently in Texas, which is a good thing, me being a Texan."

Bush sat in his golf cart

during the event and posed for pictures with dozens of people afterward. But Secret Service agents shooed away reporters looking to talk to the 41st president.

Manziel said he didn't notice when Bush came in.

"No," he said. "I was trying to go 65 for 65."

Several more Drake songs played after his introductory one and he looked loose during the workout, at times bobbing his head, covered in the matte black helmet, to the beats. There was a brief hitch in the playlist, though. When he began the workout the explicit and expletive-laden versions of the songs were played. When the 89-year-old Bush entered the building, the soundtrack quickly switched to an edited version of the same songs.

He worked under center, making throws of all distances, on the run and in the pocket. Whitfield added some challenges to the workout, waving a broom and chasing him with it on several throws.

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EVAN VUCCI / AP

Nida Degesys, National President of the American Medical Student Association, is shown at her office in Sterling, Va.

Rising college costs add to \$1T student loan debt

CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

Every month that Gregory Zbylut pays \$1,300 toward his law school loans is another month of not qualifying for a decent mortgage.

Every payment toward their student loans is \$900 Dr. Nida Degesys and her husband aren't putting in their retirement savings account.

They believe they'll eventually climb from debt and begin using their earnings to build assets rather than fill holes. But, like the roughly 37 million others in the U.S. saddled with \$1 trillion in student debt, they may never catch up with wealthy peers who began life after college free from the burden.

The disparity, experts say, is contributing to the widening of the gap between rich and everyone else in the country.

"If you graduate with a B.A. or doctorate and you get the same job at the same place, you make the same amount of money," said William Elliott III, director of the Assets and Education Initiative at the University of Kansas. "But that money will actually mean less to you in the sense of accumulating assets in the long term."

Graduates who can immediately begin building equity in housing or stocks and bonds get more time to see their investments grow, while indebted graduates spend years paying principal and interest on loans. The standard student loan repayment schedule is 10 years but can be much longer.

The median 2009 net worth for a household without outstanding student debt was \$117,700, nearly three times the \$42,800 worth in a household with outstanding student debt, according to a report co-written by Elliott last November.

About 40 percent of households led by someone 35 or younger have student loan debt, a 2012 Pew Research

SOME OF THE PROPOSALS FOR TACKLING STUDENT DEBT

President Barack Obama and lawmakers in Congress are debating how to address the issue of rising student loan debt, something experts say is contributing to the widening between the rich and everyone else. Some of the proposals:

■ Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., has called for "student investment plans." Private investment firms would cover tuition costs that could be repaid later as a fixed percentage of a graduate's income for a set number of years, regardless of whether that amount covers the total debt. Rubio said that he still owed more than \$100,000 in student loans when he became a senator in 2011. His office said he repaid his student loans in December 2012 with proceeds from his autobiography.

■ Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-Fla., introduced the Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act, which would remove educational loans from the list of debts that can't be discharged in bankruptcy.

■ Obama has proposed extending the "pay-as-you-earn" repayment plan to all student borrowers. The program limits student loan payments based on income but is currently only available to borrowers who took out loans after October 2007.

■ The Student Right to Know Before You Go Act of 2013, with Republican and Democratic sponsors, require colleges to report data to offer students cost-benefit analyses comparing how much they can expect to earn in a particular field with how much they will owe after earning a degree in a given subject.

Center analysis of government data found.

Allen Aston is one of the lucky ones, having landed a full academic and financial-need scholarship at Ohio State University. The 22-year-old software engineer from Columbus estimates it let him avoid about \$100,000 in debt.

Without loans to repay, Aston is already contributing 6 percent of his salary to a retirement fund that is matched in part by his employer and doesn't have the same financial concerns his friends do.

"I'm making the same money as them, but they have student loans they're paying back that I don't. So, it definitely seems noticeable," he said.

At the other end of the spectrum is Zbylut, an accountant-turned-attorney in Glendale, Calif. He's been chipping away at nearly \$160,000 in student debt since graduating in 2005 from law school at Loyola University in Chicago. Now 48, the tax attorney estimates he could have \$150,000 to \$200,000 in a 401(k) had the money he's paid toward loans gone there.

"I'm sitting here in traffic. I've got a Mercedes behind me and

an Audi in front of me and I'm thinking, 'What did they do that I didn't do?'" Zbylut said by cellphone from his Chevrolet. He's been turned down twice for the type of mortgage he needs to buy a home big enough for himself, the fiancée he would have married already if not for his debts and her 10-year-old son.

"I have more education and more degrees than my father, as does she than her parents, and yet our parents are better off than we are. What's wrong with this picture?" he said.

Student debt is the only kind of household debt that rose through the Great Recession and now totals more than either credit card or auto loan debt, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Both the number of borrowers and amount borrowed ballooned by 70 percent from 2004 to 2012.

Of the nearly 20 million Americans who attend college each year, about 12 million borrow, according to the Almanac of Higher Education. Estimates show that the average four-year graduate accumulates \$26,000 to \$29,000 in loans, and some leave college with six figures worth of debt.

LEESBURG

Cuban restaurant negotiating for Lake Square Mall location

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

The owners of Pichy's Cuban 2 Go are in negotiations for an approximately 6,000 square-foot space for a Cuban fine-dining restaurant at the Lake Square Mall, according to one of the restaurant's owners.

William Arias, who co-owns Pichy's with his wife and daughter-in-law, said he hopes the restaurant will be able to open this June.

While Pichy's Cuban 2 Go is a lunch sandwich-oriented restaurant, the new restaurant, called Cuba Pichy's Cuisine, will be a fine-dining Cuban-style restaurant, Arias said.

The new restaurant will feature traditional Cuban dishes, Cuban-style seafood and new menu creations, according to Arias.

The restaurant will be near the mall's main entrance and the current J.C. Penney's store, in the spot that formerly housed Garfield's restaurant.

Arias' Pichy's location in Eustis opened in January 2013 and the existing Leesburg location opened in October 2011. Arias said they previously had a fine dining Cuban restaurant in Orlando from 1996 to 2001.

The sale of the Lake Square Mall to Kohan Retail Investment Group closed on March 17 for \$13.28 million, Mike Kohan previously told the *Daily Commercial*.

"It's a great location. The mall is suffering somewhat, but we believe that with ... new blood, (a) new owner coming in, that they are going to do their best to bring it back to the days of yesterday when, it was a much livelier place to shop," Arias said.

The new mall restaurant will do

"If you ever need a place to go on a rainy day, there's no better place than going to an indoor mall, and catching a restaurant before a movie. What could be better?"

Robert Sargent,

Public information officer for the city of Leesburg

lunch and dinner, and he is still debating a breakfast service, said Arias, who will look to hire approximately 15 employees.

Robert Sargent, public information officer for the city of Leesburg, said after Garfield's closed, the mall location temporarily was a drinking establishment called Rumors. He said it is a great location for a restaurant because of the movie theater in the mall.

"You have a very popular movie theater there. You have movies, you have shopping, so it's a great venue to go to and having a restaurant added to it makes it even better," Sargent said. "If you ever need a place to go on a rainy day, there's no better place than going to an indoor mall, and catching a restaurant before a movie. What could be better?"

He added the mall is at a turning point.

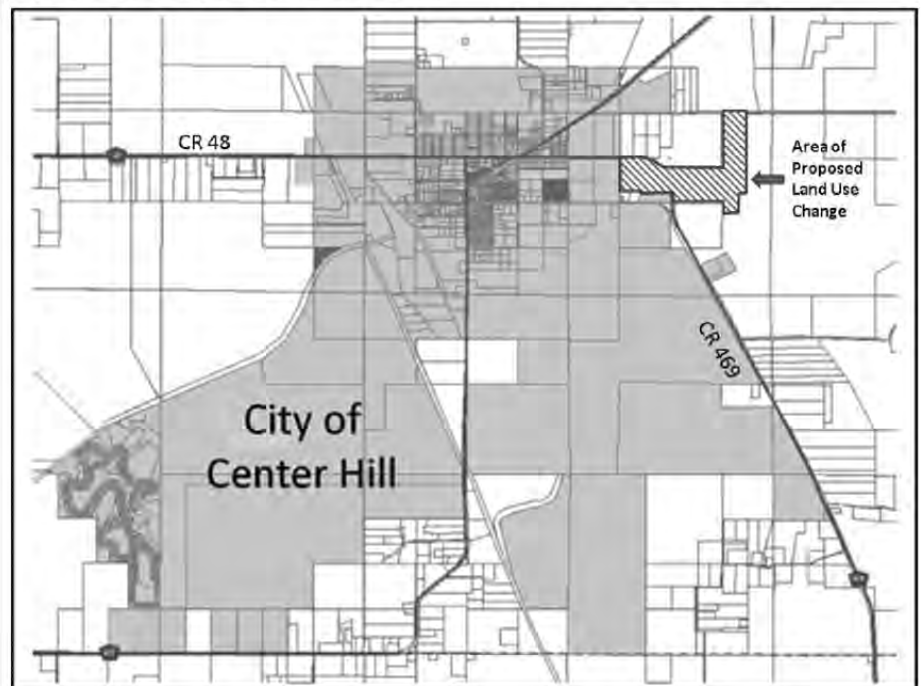
"As their spaces (become) available, it becomes important that the mall sees new tenants come in. So, they're kind of at a turning point right now," Sargent said.

Sandi Moore, the executive director of the Leesburg Area Chamber of Commerce, said she was happy that a local business was expanding, and that it also will help the mall.

"It's a great thing for the mall," she said. "It's a great thing to have another restaurant in our area that is a nicer restaurant."

CITY OF CENTER HILL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Center Hill will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 8, 2014**, starting at 6:00 p.m., at the Center Hill Community Center, 74 S Virginia Ave., Center Hill, Florida to consider an amendment of the Future Land Use Map of the City of Center Hill Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendment would change approximately 95 acres of land within the City from the Agricultural designation to Mixed Use. The amendment is proposed for transmittal to the Florida Division of Community Planning as an amendment to the Center Hill Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.



The proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment may be inspected at City Hall between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. weekdays.

All interested citizens are welcome to attend and be heard with respect to the proposed application.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made by the City Council on this matter, they will need a record of the proceedings, and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) any person with a disability requiring reasonable accommodations in order to participate in this public hearing shall call the City Clerk at (352) 793-4431 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time.

Diane Lamb
City Clerk

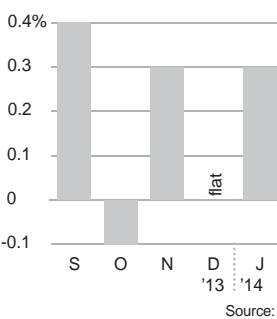
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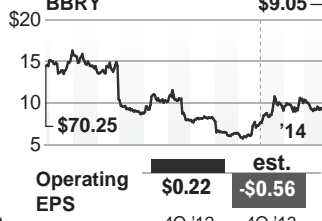
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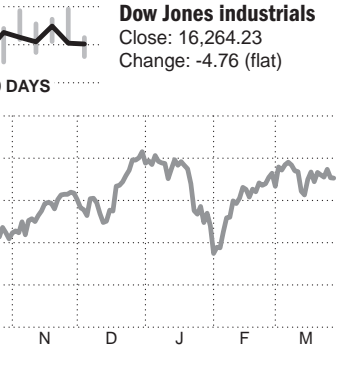
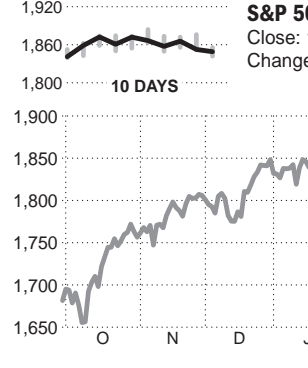
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Price-earnings ratio: lost money based on trailing 12 month results. Dividend: none

Eye on consumers

The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment survey index for March is due out today. The index was 81.6 in February, up slightly from the previous month...



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Table listing various stocks with columns for Name, Ticker, 52-Wk Range, Close, Change, %Chg, YTD, and Div. Includes AT&T Inc, Advance Auto Parts, Amer Express, etc.

Stocks Recap

Summary table of stock market performance including NYSE, NASD, DOW, S&P 500, and Russell 2000.

New York Stock Exchange

Large table of stock market data including various stock names, prices, and changes. Includes sections for A-B-C, D-E-F, G-H-I, M-N-O, P-Q-R, S-T-U, and V-W-X-Y-Z.

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Nasdaq National Market

Table of stock market data including columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like AMAC, AMC, ASML, etc.

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Mutual Funds

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Mutual Fund Footnotes: B = Fee covering market costs is paid from fund assets; D = Deferred sales charge; or redemption fee; f = front load (sales charges); m = Multiple fees are charged, usually a marketing fee and either a sales or redemption fee; NA = Not available; p = prior day's net asset value; s = fund split shares during the week; x = fund paid a distribution during the week. Source: Morningstar and the Associated Press.

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Stretching every penny in today's economy

My parents had four young children to care for during the Depression. From them I learned that there are many ways to economize without neglecting the essentials for keeping a family housed and healthy.

Just before the Depression hit my parents built a house on a lot Granddad gave them. The man who held the mortgage let them stay there until things got better by paying the interest on the loan. Daddy raised chickens and rabbits and picked wild berries, nuts and greens wherever he could find them. He kept us supplied with meat and eggs and the delicious water from the cress he found in the woods below town.

Mom raised a vegetable garden and fruit trees in our backyard. We had fresh fruit and vegetables in the summer and home-canned tomatoes, green beans, cherries, black berries and peaches in the winter.

We had other exotic foods to eat like dandelion greens, horseradish, sassafras root for tea and black walnuts. Mom made the best salad with dandelion greens you have ever tasted. She washed them real well and tossed them with chopped

onions, hard-boiled eggs and bacon bits and make a salad dressing of vinegar and bacon drippings.

When the corn was ripe in the farmer's fields, they would sell it from door to door for 25 cents a dozen. It was fresh from the field and delicious.

Today folks who are having a difficult time feeding their families have several alternatives that we didn't have. We didn't have food banks or food stamps, but most folks don't grow fruits and vegetables in their backyard. I understand that the rules about chickens have been modified so folks in town can raise them in their backyard for eggs.

Every time I go to the grocery store I am shocked at the prices. It wasn't that long ago that I bought a gallon of milk for a dollar. Today it is four times that much and one small box of oatmeal is over \$2. It must make it hard to feed a family on a limited budget.

I have never been any good at gardening like my mother was, and I am afraid of chickens. (Have you ever been chased by a mean rooster?) I have learned to use some of that same kind of initiative that my parents used.

Our first baby was born while my husband was going to school under the GI Bill. Our subsistence check was \$124 a month. (Don't hold me to that amount. That was a long time ago.) I worked in an office as long as I could and then used the \$40 my boss gave me as a bonus to buy the things I needed for the baby. I stretched every nickel of that \$40.

I bought a secondhand crib after shopping around to get the best one I could. I made bumpers for the crib, crib sheets, crib pads, nighties and even receiving blankets and diapers. I bought an unpainted three-drawer chest, a diaper pail and a plastic bathtub that I kept under the crib. (If you don't sew or knit you may have a wonderful relative who does.)

We moved into public housing along with many of my husband's fellow students.

The rent for our apartment was just \$24 a month, adjusted for our meager income. When Ralph began working part time as a draftsman, we had to pay a little more according to our income.

Public housing in those days did not have the accoutrements that it has to-



NINA
GILFERT
FROM THE
PORCH STEPS

day. We lived in Lomita, a little town just west of Los Angeles, Calif., so the buildings were earthquake proof. Everything was concrete: the steps, the porch, the floors. The floors were made of painted concrete and the walls were all buff-colored rough plaster. The only interiors doors were on the bedroom and bathroom. The kitchen cabinets had no doors on them and neither did the broom closet. The lower cabinets were fitted with doors to keep out little crawling children.

In those days (1951-57) you could buy a yard of cotton fabric for less than 50 cents, so I made curtains for the kitchen cabinets and the closets. Do you remember those awful plastic drapes? That is what I used on the living room and bedroom. I made curtains for the kitchen.

We furnished our little concrete love nest with the money we were able to save from my pension and Ralph's mustering-out pay.

First we bought a good bed and the rest of the furniture didn't matter. The apartment was fitted with a tiny gas refrigerator and range, but we had to buy a washing machine with a baby on the way.

It took a lot of work to keep that apartment looking nice but we were quite comfortable in it. We found a store where we could get rib steaks for 69 cents a pound and a farmer's market where we bought our fresh fruit and vegetables. We ate a lot of beans and macaroni and cheese.

The best advice I can give to a young woman today who is expecting her first child on a shoestring budget is that she should invest in at least two dozen cloth diapers. Oh yes, I've checked — Walmart has them. I would also buy a pail with a lid and a box of Borax to soak the diapers. Thrift stores are a good place to look for baby items and inexpensive household items like towels, dishes, flat wear, pots and pans.

Babies don't need a lot of fancy furniture to be healthy and happy. What they need most are two loving parents to cuddle them and care for them.

Nina Gilfert can be reached at nmgilfert@yahoo.com.

SLABY NEW OPERATIONS MANAGER AT BAY STREET



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Margo Slaby was hired as the new operations manager at the Bay Street Players Theater in Eustis in February. She has a B.S. in business management and Internet marketing from Rasmussen College, where she graduated in June 2013. Prior to joining Bay Street Players, Slaby was executive editor of the Bunk Room Magazine, catering to education issues, ideas and advancements.

TODAY

TRIANGLE BOAT CLUB 'LAST FRIDAY SOCIAL' ITALIAN NIGHT: At 5:30 p.m. at the club in Tavares. Pre-registration a must at 352-533-8398. Cost is \$10.

ICEHOUSE THEATRE OPENS 'OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS': At the theatre, 1100 N. Unser St., in Mount Dora. Call the box office at 352-383-4616 for tickets and show times.

SUNNYLAND ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC BOAT SHOW: At Wooton Park in Tavares, with specialty boats, racing and more. Admission is \$5 per person per day through Sunday. Go to www.acbs-sunnyland.org for details.

SATURDAY

THE VILLAGES OUTDOOR EXPO 2014: Saturday at 9 a.m., and Sunday at 10

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

a.m., with over 50 clubs and vendors, at La Hacienda Recreation Center and Lake Mira Mar. Go to www.districtgov.org for details.

LEARN IPAD BASICS AT THE LEESBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY: From 2 to 4 p.m., covering basic iPad operations, at the library, 100 E. Main St., Leesburg. Call 352-728-9790 or email librarian@leesburgflorida.gov for information.

MAX'S PET CONNECTION ADOPTION EVENT: From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., every Saturday at the PetSmart, 534 N. U.S. Highway 27/441 in Lady Lake. Call 352-669-2855 for details.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE: Every Saturday at 9 a.m., Waterman Hospital, 1000 Waterman Way in Tavares. Call

352-360-0960 or email Intergroup@embarqmail.com.

STARLIGHT BALLROOM AND DANCE CENTER 2014 SPRING SHOWCASE WITH JOHNNY THUNDER BENEFIT FOR LEESBURG CENTER FOR THE ARTS: At 7 p.m., advance tickets \$60, limited seating. Call 352-326-3833.

PET PHOTO SHOOT FUNDRAISER FOR HENRIETTA: Lake County Animal Services is hosting a fundraiser for Henrietta — a mother dog found and rescued while labor — and her pups today at South Lake Animal League office, 4648 Baptist Island Rd. in Groveland. For a \$10 donation, pet owners get a mini photo session with their animals. Call 352-429-6334 or go to www.slal.org to sign up.

SECO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., SECO headquarters in Sumterville, U.S. Highway 301. Go to www.secoenergy.com for details.

SUNDAY

EUSTIS ELKS LODGE NO. 1578 BREAKFAST: From 8:30 to 11 a.m., every Sunday, 2540 Dora Ave., in Tavares. Cost is \$6. Call 352-343-5000 for details.

MONDAY

'OPENING DOORS' CONFERENCE HOSTED BY MID-FLORIDA HOMELESS COALITION: From 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wildwood Community Center, 6500 Powell Rd. in Wildwood. Cost is \$25. Pre-registration required at 352-860-2308 at www.midflorida-homeless.org.

LAKE COUNTY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB: Novice games on Mondays at 9:15 a.m.; non-life masters on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9:15 a.m.; open games Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, at 1:15 p.m., 510 W. Key St., in Eustis. Call Elaine Swanson at 352-483-0592.

TUESDAY

LEESBURG HERITAGE SOCIETY MEETING: At 3:30 p.m., Leesburg Public Library, 100 E. Main St. Call 352-787-5969.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE: Every Tuesday, St. Timothy's Church, 1351 Paige Pl., The Villages. Call 352-360-0960 or email Intergroup@embarqmail.com.

TRIANGLE NEWCOMERS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS DUE TODAY: Registration begins at 11 a.m. on April 8, at Lake Receptions, 4425 N. Highway 19A in Mount Dora. Call Lil Henderson at 352-365-6154. Cost is \$15.

WEDNESDAY

TRIANGLE BOAT CLUB MEMBER MEETING AND SOCIAL: Potluck at 5:30 p.m. at the club in Tavares. Call 352-533-8398.

THURSDAY

LEESBURG SPRING FISH FRY: From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., all you can eat, at the Mote-Morris House, Magnolia St., downtown Leesburg. Cost is \$30; \$15 for age 13 and younger. Go to www.leesburgpartnership.com for details.

APRIL 4

PUBLIC INVITED TO POETRY WEEK RECEPTION WITH VIVIAN SHIPLEY: From 5 to 7 p.m., One Flight Up Cafe in Mount Dora. Poetry Week runs from April 3-6, and includes Poetry Under the Oaks at the W.T. Bland Public Library. For information, call Susan Jaillet at 352-383-6391.

MOUNT DORA ART LEAGUE HOSTS ANNUAL SPRING ART SHOW: Today through Sunday, at Donnelly Park in downtown Mount Dora. Included in the show are students from Mount Dora Middle and High School. Hours are from 4 to 6 p.m. April 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on April 5 and noon to 4 p.m. on April 6. Admission is free.

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MERCURY

Before 'The Sandpiper' came Eustis High's 'Panther'

My search for information about the editor of an early Lake County magazine yielded some more nuggets over the weekend.

Last week I mentioned what little I knew about Antoinette Mullikin, editor of *The Sandpiper*, first published July 1, 1928. According to her college annual, Mullikin graduated from the Florida State College for Women in 1922 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. The yearbook also mentioned to which organizations Mullikin belonged.

While checking out the 1924-25 Polk Directory, I learned her mother, Allie S. Mulliken, was a cashier for the Atlantic Coast Line and owned a home at 224 E. Woodward Ave. in Eustis. Her deceased husband went by M.E.

Did you notice the spelling discrepancy I found with the last name? Her name in the directory listings was spelled Mulliken, but was listed as Mrs. A.S. Mullikin under the street guide and householder's directory portion of the book.

Antoinette had her own listing, and it was also spelled differently: Mulliken, Antoinette. The college yearbook used Millikin.

Since she was editor of *The Sandpiper* and her name was listed there as Mullikin, I'm confident that is the correct spelling. I guess I learned a lesson because I've pretty much relied on the spelling found in the Polk Directory to be correct.

My search also yielded another Lake County magazine. At least *The Panther* called itself a magazine in the dedication on the cover. It also beats *The Sandpiper* as it was published June 1, 1928, a month before *The Sandpiper's* first issue.

It was dedicated to Virgin-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This postcard from the collection of Clayton Bishop shows Eustis High School, originally located on Orange Avenue.

ia Caldwell, "the able sponsor of the *Panther*, in loving appreciation of her unceasing efforts during the past year, and in token of our increasing affection and gratitude, and of the love we have in common for Eustis High School, we dedicate this magazine."

So there you have it, *The Panther* was a magazine. More on *The Panther* later.

I also learned in the Polk Directory that Antoinette Mullikin was a public school teacher and lived with her mother. My guess was she was a high school teacher because of her interest in publishing a magazine. I felt she must have taken some writing or English courses in college.

It was verified when I looked at *The Panther*, a Eustis High School publication of 1928. She was mentioned with the high school faculty, teaching English, civics and geography. She was also doing postgraduate work at Columbia University.

Alas, *The Panther* also

spelled her name Mulliken. She was the sponsor or homeroom teacher for the juniors.

So, for now, that is what I know about Antoinette Mullikin. I plan to visit the Eustis Memorial Library and the local museum to learn more. In the meantime, let's look at *The Panther*, which had elements of a high school annual.

It was a 12-page magazine printed on slick 11-by-14-inch paper and stapled together. And the edition of June 1, 1928 was Volume 1, No. 1. But it was also described as a paper in a blurb about appreciation for the *Panther* staff.

In reading this edition I tend to think *The Panther* was a one-time publication. At the end of the tribute to the staff was "Thus ends the Panther's Tale." Of the staff, all but two were seniors. An appreciation also was written for the editor-in-chief, Mary Daniels, a senior.

The associate editor was Jean Hazelton, the society

editor was Dorothy Smoak, the sports editor was Bill Curtis, a sophomore, the features editor Marjorie Richardson, Annie Jackson was the other non-senior and a reporter, the circulation manager was Bleeker Bailes and the business manager was Francis Savage.

The last two staffers received a special mention in the staff appreciation.

"We are especially grateful to Francis Savage, our invaluable business manager, without whose excellent ability this *Panther* would have been an impossibility, and to Bleeker Bailes, whose pep and enthusiasm have aided us so greatly in the circulation of our paper and whose interest has been shown in every phase of the work," praised *The Panther*.

More was written about the publication's sponsor, Miss Virginia Caldwell.

Caldwell was the Spanish teacher and served as secretary for Professor W.L. Goette, who also was in charge of vocational guid-



RICK REED
REFLECTIONS

My search also yielded another Lake County magazine. At least *The Panther* called itself a magazine in the dedication on the cover. It also beats *The Sandpiper* as it was published June 1, 1928, a month before *The Sandpiper's* first issue.

ance. She graduated from Winthrop College in 1925 and taught at Ocala High School for a couple of years before heading to Eustis.

"Eustis was indeed fortunate to secure the services of this optimistic, industrious and conscientious worker," gushed the publication. "She has such a pleasing personality, and is such a 'good sport,' that every student considers her to be a true friend."

Bailes was mentioned in several categories of the senior class, including wittiest girl, biggest flirt (girl), most popular girl, most athletic girl and peppiest girl.

For the boys it was Bill Calvin, the most diplomatic boy, the most popular boy, the cutest boy and the peppiest boy.

They didn't list the most likely to succeed, but the best students were Fitch Etheridge for the boys and Mary Daniels for the girls.

More on *The Sandpiper* next week, and I welcome information on the magazine or Antoinette Mullikin.

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

YOUNG SCIENTISTS RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM UMATILLA KIWANIS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Left to right, Melissa Guinta, science fair coordinator, and Amanda Ward, Nick Bentley, Hannah Faircloth, Bob Johnson and Randy Campbell, Umatilla High School Science Fair winners, receive Kiwanis awards of \$150 each. Umatilla Middle School Science Fair winners were awarded \$75 each from the Kiwanis Club. Coordinators for the group were Jennifer Keller and Emily Logan, and winners were Peyton Turner and Ashleigh Cropp. Bob Johnson was the Science Fair chairman for the Umatilla Kiwanis Club and presented awards to the winners.

MOUNT DORA

Rotary celebrates anniversaries

On Rotary International's anniversary, Feb. 23, Clayton Bishop, Jr. of Eustis celebrated his 57th anniversary of perfect attendance in Rotary Clubs. The Rotary Club of Lake County Golden Triangle with the chartered name, Rotary Club of Eustis, joined Rotary International 91 years ago.

Bishop became a member of the Rotary Club in 1957 and is now designated as an Active R-85 member. He has attended numerous international conferences.

For information about

the Rotary Club of Lake County Golden Triangle, go to www.LakeCountyRotary.Org. Meetings are Tuesdays at 11:45 a.m. at Lake Receptions in Mount Dora.

SUMTERVILLE

SECO honored by Arbor Day Foundation

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	Muppets Most Wanted	PG	10:40 1:20 4:10 6:45 9:20*
	The Monuments Men	PG13	11:00 1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40*
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LAKE SUMTER PLAYBOYS	Noah	PG13	10:45 2:00 5:15 8:30*
	Divergent	PG13	10:30 1:45 5:30 8:45*
	Non-Stop	PG13	10:15 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45*
	The Monuments Men	PG13	10:00 1:00 4:05 6:45 9:30*
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	Mr. Peabody & Sherman	PG	11:00 4:30 and 9:30* only
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	300: Rise of an Empire	2D R	1:30 and 7:20 only
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	Tyler Perry's The Single Moms Club	PG13	10:25 1:20 4:40 7:25 10:00*
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	Captain America: The Winter Soldier	PG13	8:00pm only *Friday and Saturday only

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Steve and Brenda Rizer have owned Blinds 4 Less since 2000. The business is still in it's original location in Lady Lake. The company focuses on strong customer service and also selling the best brand names in the industry at very competitive prices.

Comics

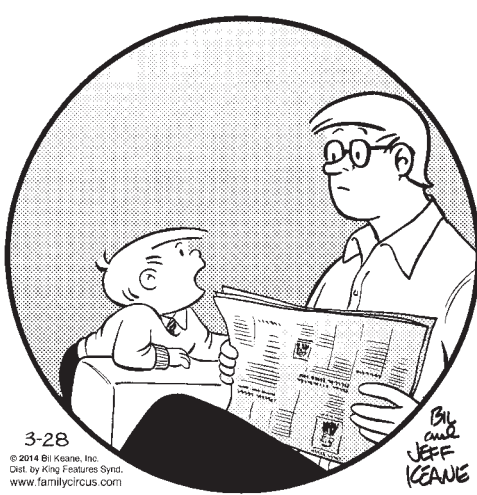
www.dailycommercial.com

DENNIS THE MENACE



"AND THEN MR. WILSON SLIPPED ON MY SKATEBOARD, AN' I TRIED TO HELP, BUT I STEPPED ON HIS FINGER...STOP ME IF I'M BORING YOU."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"Daddy, was there ever a time when people thought you were cool?"

HEATHCLIFF

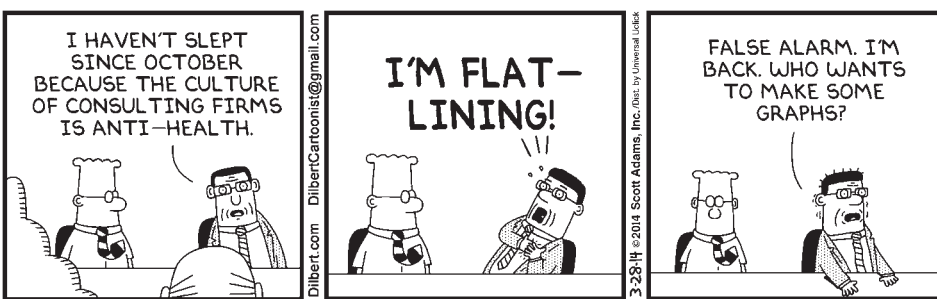


"RISE OF THE MACHINES."

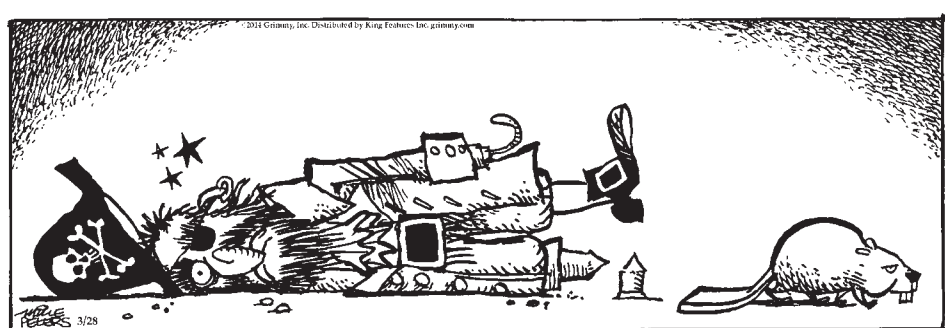
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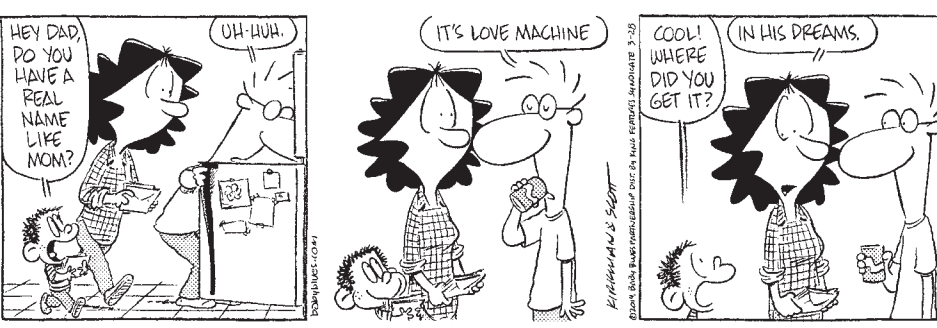
DILBERT



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



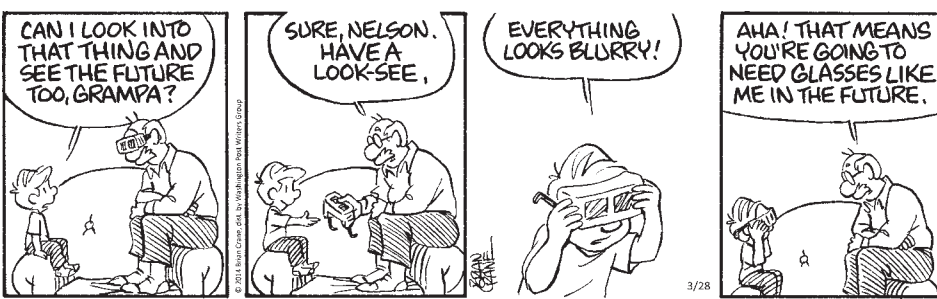
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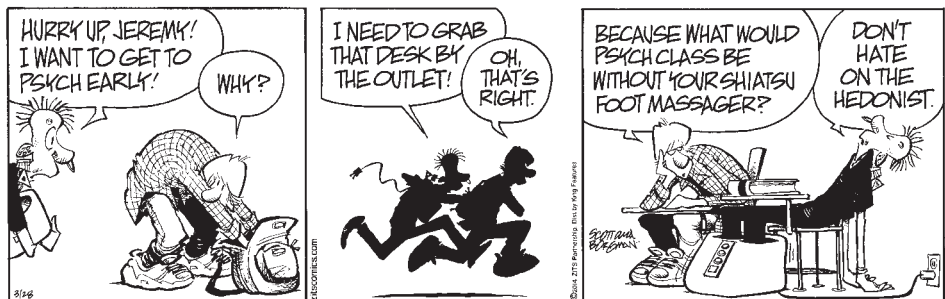
BETLE BAILEY



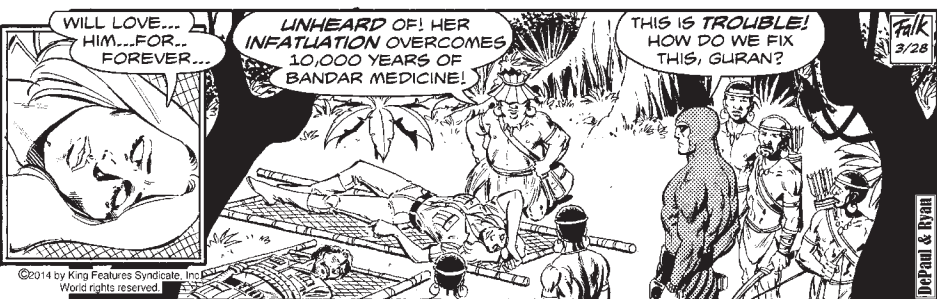
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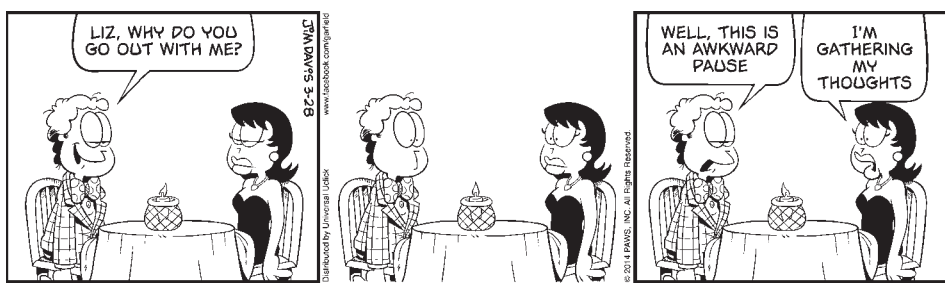
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PHANTOM



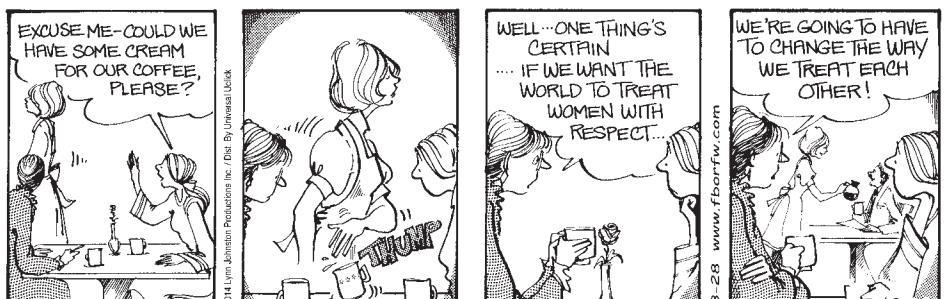
GARFIELD



BLONDIE



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



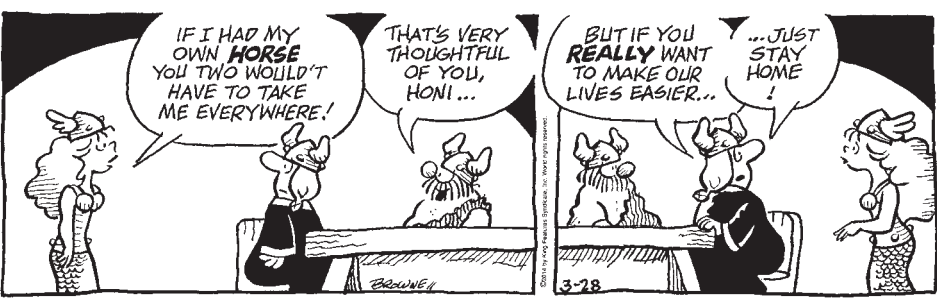
SHOE



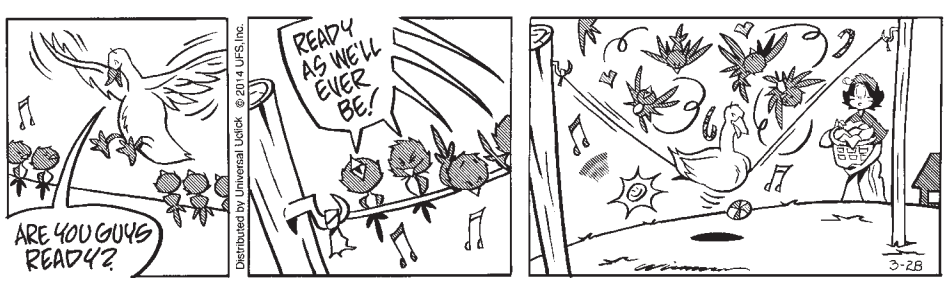
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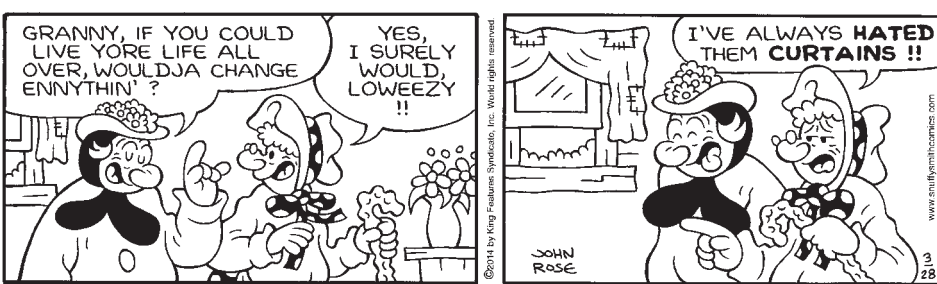
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



ROSE IS ROSE



SNUFFY SMITH



CLASSIC PEANUTS



LAKE FIREFIGHTERS PROMOTED



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured are Lt. Will Jenkins, left, and Lt. Jeff Hurst, Lake County firefighters who were promoted to lieutenants in a ceremony with family and officials from Lake County's Public Safety Department, on Feb. 18 at the Lake County Administration Building in Tavares. Lt. Hurst has been with Lake County Public Safety for 15 years. Hurst's wife, Kara, did the honors of pinning his badge. Lt. Jenkins has served nine years as a Lake County firefighter/paramedic and training officer, and surrounded by his parents, his mother pinned his new badge to his uniform. Lake County Public Safety Fire Chief John Jolliff and Assistant Fire Chief Jim Dickerson, along with numerous fire and county officials, were on hand to elevate the new lieutenants.

TASTE OF THE VILLAGES RAISES FUNDS FOR CLINIC



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Earnestine Henderson of Oakwood Smokehouse Grill, one of the 14 local restaurants represented at the annual Taste of The Villages, serves up barbecue to the more than 300 guests at the fundraiser on Feb. 5 at the Wildwood Community Center. The event raised more than \$30,000 to benefit the Lazarus Free Medical Clinic in Wildwood, a program of Catholic Charities of Central Florida.

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CHANDLER GRADUATES FROM TRAINING



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Air Force Airman Logan A. Chandler recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, in San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Chandler is the son of Joey Chandler of Lake Panasoffkee and Kim Carey of Bushnell. He is a 2011 graduate of South Sumter High School, in Bushnell.

AIRMAN ELSZASZ GRADUATES



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Air Force Airman Christopher J. Elszasz has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, in San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Elszasz also earned distinction as an honor graduate. He is the son of Jeffrey Elszasz of Umatilla and Tina Mincy of Eustis, and is a 2005 graduate of Umatilla High School.

LAKE COUNTY

Planned gifts will benefit Hospice

Two area women have designated portions of their estates to the Central Florida hospice agency. Cornerstone Hospice Foundation will receive \$92,000 from the estate of Jane Van Wagner Stoll of Leesburg who passed away last year.

The foundation has also received a gift of more than \$82,000 from the Delaney Family Trust, established

by Maria Delaney who lived in The Villages. Delaney designated Cornerstone Hospice in her estate plan after her husband, Norman, was cared for by the inter-disciplinary hospice team.

For information about Cornerstone Hospice go to www.cornerstonehospice.org.

GROVELAND

Animal league receives grant

The South Lake Animal League (SLAL)

has received a grant of \$500 from the Weidman Family Fund of the Community Foundation of Broward, using the grant to provide food, medical care and shelter to the animals in the Groveland center.

Serving Lake and surrounding counties since 1988, SLAL rescues and finds new homes for dogs and cats that have been abandoned and last year found homes for 700 pets.

For information about the South Lake Animal League, go to www.slal.org.

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CRAB LEGS & PRIME RIB BUFFET
AND
LA HACIENDA SUNDAY BRUNCH

Reservations Recommended
352-324-2718

SUPPORTING VETERANS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

D.J. Lynch of Wildwood was spotted recently at the Walgreens in Leesburg wearing a sandwich board advertising the Korean War and Service Veterans group that meets at 2 p.m., every fourth Wednesday of the month, at the Leesburg Senior Center, 1211 Penn St., in Leesburg.

003 Legal Notices

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

Case No.: 35-2014-CA-000070

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY; Plaintiff,

vs. JOHN B HARMON, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: JOHN B HARMON LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 1110 DEL TORO DR, LADY LAKE, FL 32159 5515 E. THUNDERBIRD RD, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85254

AND TO: All persons claiming an interest by, through, under or against the aforesaid Defendant(s).

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property:

LOT 4962, ORANGE BLOSSOM GARDENS UNIT 15, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 30, PAGES 73 THROUGH 75, PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on the attorney for the Plaintiff, Millennium Partners, whose address is 14750 NW 77th Court, Suite 303, Miami Lakes, FL 33016, and file the original with the Clerk within 30 days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated: MARCH 18, 2014

NEIL KELLY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT By: /s/DANA NOLETTE Deputy Clerk

A copy of this Notice of Action, Lis Pendens, and Complaint were sent to the above-named Defendant(s) at last known address.

Ad No.: 00430809 March 21 & 28, 2014

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2014 CP 344 Division: Circuit Court IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES A. HASTINGS, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of James A. Hastings, deceased ("Decedent"), whose date of death was January 27, 2014, is pending in the Circuit Court for Lake County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 7800, Tavares, Florida 32778. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/Katrina Thomas Stone, Esq. Attorney for Petitioner Florida Bar No. 17486 Stone & Gerken, P.A. 4850 N. Highway 19A Mount Dora, FL 32757 Telephone: (352) 357-0330

Personal Representative: /s/David Michael Hastings 1191 Edison Avenue Troy, OH 45373

AD No.00431500 March 28 & April 4, 2014

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

Case No. 35-2012-CA-004200 Division

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,

vs. DONNA TILYOU A/K/A DONNA A. TILYOU, SPRING M. W-TILYOU A/K/A SPRING WHITTENBURG, BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., COUNTRY CLUB OF MOUNT DORA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause, on March 12, 2014, in the Circuit Court of Lake County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Lake County, Florida described as:

LOT 88, BLOCK J, THE COUNTRY CLUB OF MOUNT DORA PHASE II-9, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 39, PAGE(S) 53, 54 AND 55, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

and commonly known as: 9082 ST ANDREWS WAY, MOUNT DORA, FL 32757; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, Sales are held in the lobby of the first floor of the Lake County Courthouse, 550 W. Main St., Tavares, FL, on May 6, 2014, at 11 am.

Any persons 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 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2014

NEIL KELLY Clerk of the Circuit Court By:/s/H. SIED Deputy Clerk

David J. Melvin (813) 229-0900 x1327 Kass, Shuler, P.A. P.O. Box 800 Tampa, FL 33601-0800 ForeclosureService@kasslaw.com

Ad No.: 00431461 March 28 & April 4, 2014

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003 Legal Notices

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

Case No. 35-2010-CA-000330 Division 03

MIDFIRST BANK Plaintiff,

vs. JONES, GEORGE, LILA JONES AKA LILA GLENN, ASSET ACQUISITION GROUP LLC; STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; HIDDEN LAKES ESTATES OF GROVELAND HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION, INC., AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause, on March 17, 2014, in the Circuit Court of Lake County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Lake County, Florida described as:

BEING ALL THAT CERTAIN LAND SITUATE IN LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, VIZE: LOT 90, HIDDEN LAKES ESTATES PHASE II, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 41, PAGES 24 THROUGH 26, PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA. THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON BEING COMMONLY KNOWN AS 183 CYPRESS VIEW LANE BEING THE SAME LOT OR PARCEL OF GROUND WHICH BY DEED DATED SEPTEMBER 11, 2000 AND RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY IN BOOK 1860 PAGE 1612 WAS GRANTED AND CONVEYED BY FIRST HOME BUILDERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA LLC UNTO GEORGE P. JONES AND LILA JONES, HUSBAND AND WIFE.

and commonly known as: 183 CYPRESS VIEW LANE, GROVELAND, FL 34736; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, Sales are held in the lobby of the first floor of the Lake County Courthouse, 550 W. Main St., Tavares, FL, on May 7, 2014, at 11 am.

Any persons 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 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2014

NEIL KELLY Clerk of the Circuit Court By:/s/A. Thigpen Deputy Clerk

David J. Melvin (813) 229-0900 x1327 Plaintiff's Attorney Kass, Shuler, P.A. P.O. Box 800 Tampa, FL 33601-0800 ForeclosureService@kasslaw.com

Ad No.: 00431585 March 28 & April 4, 2014

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

Case No. 35-2012-CA-003819 Division 8

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,

vs. JAMES J. HOPE, MICHELE L. HOPE, WOLF BRANCH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC., SUNTRUST BANK, AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause, on March 5, 2014, in the Circuit Court of Lake County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Lake County, Florida described as:

LOT 38, WOLF BRANCH VILLAGE, PHASE II, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 35, PAGES 20 - 22, INCLUSIVE, PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

and commonly known as: 22810 STALLION DRIVE, SORRENTO, FL 32776; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, Sales are held in the lobby of the first floor of the Lake County Courthouse, 550 W. Main St., Tavares, FL, on May 7, 2014, at 11 am.

Any persons 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 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 6 day of March, 2014

NEIL KELLY Clerk of the Circuit Court By:/s/D. MATTSON Deputy Clerk

Lindsay M. Alvarez (813) 229-0900 x Kass, Shuler, P.A. P.O. Box 800 Tampa, FL 33601-0800 ForeclosureService@kasslaw.com

Ad No.: 00431439 March 28 & April 4, 2014

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

CASE NO.: 35-2009-CA-003907 DIVISION: 7 WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, Plaintiff, vs. CHARLES A. DAPP A/K/A CHARLES DAPP, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated March 13, 2014 and entered in Case No. 35-2009-CA-003907 of the Circuit Court of the FIFTH Judicial Circuit in and for LAKE COUNTY, Florida wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, NA is the Plaintiff and CHARLES A. DAPP A/K/A CHARLES DAPP; JOANN E. DAPP A/K/A JOANN DAPP; are the Defendants, The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 550 WEST MAIN STREET, TAVARES, FLORIDA 32778 at 11:00AM, on the 29 day of April, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

THAT PART OF BLOCK 2, ALPINE TERRACE REPLAT ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGE 46, PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 2, RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 46 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID BLOCK 2, 60 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 08 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST 150 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 46 SECONDS WEST, 60 FEET THENCE RUN SOUTH 08 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST 210 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF BLOCK 2, THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE 120 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 2; THENCE RUN NORTH 08 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID BLOCK 2, 360 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

003 Legal Notices

AND:

THAT PART OF BLOCK 2, ALPINE TERRACE REPLAT, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGE 46, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING 210 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF BLOCK 2, THENCE RUN EAST 135 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 210 FEET; THENCE WEST 135 FEET; THENCE NORTH TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, LESS THE EAST 10 FEET THEREOF.

ALSO DESCRIBED AS: THE WEST 135 FEET OF THE SOUTH 210 FEET OF BLOCK 2, ALPINE TERRACE REPLAT, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGE 46, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, LESS THE EAST 10 FEET THEREOF.

A/K/A 16526 HIGHLAND AVENUE, MONTVERDE, FL 34756

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 the sale. WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court on March 14, 2014.

Neil Kelly Clerk of the Circuit Court By:/s/D.MATTSON Deputy Clerk

Ronald R Wolfe & Associates, P.L. P.O. Box 25018 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018 F09070610 WELLSLPS-SPECIFMLMC-R-fiarbman-Team 1 - F09070610

**See Americans with Disabilities Act If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator for the Courts below at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving your notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. Please contact: Nicole Berg, Phone # (352) 253-1604

Ad No.00430772 March 21 & 28, 2014

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

CASE NO.: 35-2011-CA-003359 DIVISION: 10

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff,

vs. ARTHUR L. TAYLOR, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated March 13, 2014 and entered in Case No. 35-2011-CA-003359 of the Circuit Court of the FIFTH Judicial Circuit in and for LAKE COUNTY, Florida wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., is the Plaintiff and ARTHUR L. TAYLOR; MARY TAYLOR; NORMA R. LANIER; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; STATE OF FLORIDA - DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; TENANT #1 N/A/A JENELL GRENIER; are the Defendants, The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at INSIDE THE FRONT DOOR OF THE LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 550 WEST MAIN STREET, TAVARES, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA 32778 at 11:00AM, on the 23 day of APRIL, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT 208, 209, 210 and 211, BLOCK 10, SUBDIVISION B, EUSTIS PARK, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 8, PAGE 14 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A 16046 2ND STREET, UMATILLA, FL 32784

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 the sale.

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court on MARCH 18, 2014.

Neil Kelly Clerk of the Circuit Court By:/s/A.THIGPEN Deputy Clerk

Plaintiff's Attorney Ronald R Wolfe & Associates, P.L. P.O. Box 25018 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018 F11033445 BAYVIEW-CONV B/C-jutt-Team 4 - F11033445

**See Americans with Disabilities Act If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator for the Courts at least 7 before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving your notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. Please contact: Nicole Berg, Phone # (352)253-1604

Ad No.00430839 MARCH 21 & 28, 2014

Public Notice of Intent to Issue Air Permit Florida Department of Environmental Protection Waste and Air Resource Programs Central District Office Minor Source Air Construction Permit Project No. 0694866-001-AC Quality Shavings of South Florida, LLC Facility al, Lake County, Florida

Applicant: The applicant for this project is Quality Shavings of South Florida, LLC. The applicant's authorized representative and mailing address is:

Mr. Joseph Iaderna, Owner Quality Shavings of South Florida, LLC 10191-b Lantana Road Lake Worth, Florida 33467

Facility Location: Quality Shavings of South Florida, LLC operates Quality Shavings of South Florida, LLC Facility, which is located in Lake County at 26444 County Road 33 in Groveland, Florida.

Project: This is an Air Construction Permit for the installation of an Energy Unlimited wood chip dryer, which will include a 30 MMBTU/hr. burner that will be fueled by wood waste and chips from the South Florida Shavings Company processing facility. Exhaust from the burner will be ducted to a Clean Gas Systems, Inc. cyclone dust collector device prior to exhausting to the atmosphere.

Permitting Authority: Applications for air construction permits are subject to review in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 403, Florida Statutes (F.S.) and Chapters 62-4, 62-210 and 62-212 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The proposed project is not exempt from air permitting requirements and an air permit is required to perform the proposed work. The Permitting Authority responsible for making a permit determination for this project is the Department of Environmental Protection's Waste & Air Resource Programs in the Central District Office. The Permitting Authority's physical address is: 3319 Maguire Blvd., Ste. 232, Orlando, FL 32803-3767. The Permitting Authority's mailing address is: 3319 Maguire Blvd., Ste. 232, Orlando, FL 32803-3767; the e-mail address is DEP_CD@dep.state.fl.us. The Permitting Authority's telephone number is 407/897-4100.

003 Legal Notices

Project File: A complete project file is available for public inspection during the normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except legal holidays), at the physical address indicated above for the Permitting Authority. The complete project file includes the Draft Permit, the Technical Evaluation and Preliminary Determination, the application and information submitted by the applicant (exclusive of confidential records under Section 403.111, F.S.). Interested persons may contact the Permitting Authority's project engineer for additional information at the address and phone number listed above. In addition, electronic copies of these documents are available on the following web site: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/air/emission/apds/default.asp.

Notice of Intent to Issue Air Permit: The Permitting Authority gives notice of its intent to issue an air construction permit to the applicant for the project described above. The applicant has provided reasonable assurance that operation of proposed equipment will not adversely impact air quality and that the project will comply with all appropriate provisions of Chapters 62-4, 62-204, 62-210, 62-212, 62-296 and 62-297, F.A.C. The Permitting Authority will issue a Final Permit in accordance with the conditions of the proposed Draft Permit unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or unless public comment received in accordance with this notice results in a different decision or a significant change of terms or conditions.

Comments: The Permitting Authority will accept written comments concerning the proposed Draft Permit for a period of 14 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice. Written comments must be received by the Permitting Authority by close of business (5:00 p.m.) on or before the end of the 14-day period. If written comments received result in a significant change to the Draft Permit, the Permitting Authority shall revise the Draft Permit and require, if applicable, another Public Notice. All comments filed will be made available for public inspection.

200 At Your Service

201 Insurance

205 Adult Care

245 Financial

250 Handyman

262 Lawn

268 Moving

269 Painting

275 Plumbing

281 Roofing

288 Tree Service

003 Legal Notices

disability requiring reasonable accommodations in order to participate in this Public Hearing should call the City Clerk at (352) 793-4431 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time.

Diane Lamb City Clerk Ad No.00431524 March 28, 2014

100 Announcement

104 Special Notices

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD FOR ERRORS THE FIRST DAY IT APPEARS SINCE THE DAILY COMMERCIAL WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INCORRECT ADS AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF PUBLICATION. IF YOU FIND AN ERROR CALL THE CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY AT 314-3278 OR 748-1955.

THE PUBLISHER ASSUMES NO FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERRORS OR FOR OMISSION OF COPY. LIABILITY SHALL NOT EXCEED THE COST OF THE PORTION OF SPACE OCCUPIED BY SUCH ERROR.

CANCELLATIONS

CANCELLATION FOR ADS RUNNING SATURDAY MUST BE MADE BY FRIDAY BY 2:00, CANCELLATIONS FOR SUNDAY & MONDAY MUST BE MADE FRIDAY BY 5:00

105 Positions Wanted

CNA years of exp. for the elderly. Willing to care for loved one in your home anytime. New Mini Van avail. Call 352-455-7596

200 At Your Service

201 Insurance

205 Adult Care

NOTICE Florida Statute states, "It is a misdemeanor for any person willfully, knowingly, or intentionally to operate or attempt to operate a family day care home without a license or without registering with the department, whichever is applicable". Florida Statute states, "No person shall advertise a child care facility without including within such advertisement the state or local agency license number of such facility. The statute applies to anyone with more than 1 unrelated child in their home.

245 Financial

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18 Mars

20 Work unit

21 Bra part

22 Diamond corner

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24 Young one

25 Like the piper

27 Wood strips

29 "— Not Unusual"

30 Pizza slices, often

32 Indigenous group

34 Join the crew

35 In proximity

36 Grammar topic

38 Personnel worker

39 Petruchio's town

40 Iowa city

41 Departed

DOWN

1 Homer work

2 River boats

3 Jack Higgins book

4 Kayo count

5 Lawyer's workload

6 Seoul setting

7 Jack Higgins book

8 Cuts off

10 Station worker

12 Grassy plant

17 Gym unit

19 Parched

22 One and the other

24 Touches base

25 Recipe amount

26 Venezia setting

27 Golf position

28 James Clavell novel

30 Civil rights leader

31 Worry

33 Understanding words

37 Carpentry tool

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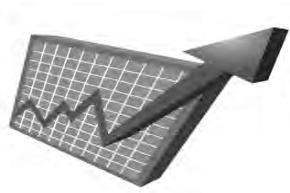
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shower and a vanity with two sinks. There are also separate walk in closets in the master. The other two bedrooms and bath are on the opposite side of the house along with the indoor laundry room. The front porch and back lanai are both screened. Beautiful view from the front of retention area which water birds frequent. The two car garage has a side entry with an extra parking pad in the driveway. Plenty of room for a pool. \$179,900. Anne Jones, Coldwell Banker Tony Hubbard Realty 352-267-5070 cell



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New composite decking is more durable

For the last 20 years, composite decking products have grown in popularity primarily because of their long-term finished appearance versus wood decking, which takes a beating in the weather. Composite decking is typically comprised of wood fibers mixed with a base polyethylene plastic or PVC base material. The material is then shaped into solid or hollow deck boards about an inch thick.

The older generation of composite deck boards had many advantages, including the look and strength; however, it was very sus-

ceptible to stains and scratches because of the wood fibers in the product. Just imagine, you had a beautiful brown composite deck installed and during your very first party someone either dragged a chair across the surface, creating a deep scratch, or worse, the night ended with a huge greasy spot on the deck because someone dropped a hamburger.

Over the last couple of years, the next generation of composite decking has been developed, which incorporates a hard shell solid cap to seal the strength of the composite substrate while offering superior

scratch and stain resistance benefits. Trex Company is one of the leading manufacturers in composite decking and their new line features shell technology, which fully wraps the composite decking. This new line of deck has a 25-year warranty against fade and stain while offering a surface that is significantly more resistant to scratches.

The new hard shell technology from Trex Company offers another huge benefit — the look of real wood. Older composite decking offered very little in a natural wood grain look, but the outer shell technology looks

like wood that has been stained or painted. The system has opened the doors to new exciting colors.

With new hidden fastening systems, an all-capped shell composite deck brings a sleekness and elegance to outside areas, which should last significantly longer. New railing and lighting systems have been developed that are much easier to install but still offer a look featured at five-star resorts. Instead of manufacturers offering a composite deck board, they have developed complete systems that enhance a backyard lifestyle.

Most composite decking still lacks the



**DON
MAGRUDER**
AROUND
THE HOUSE

strength to be used for the structural part of the deck, but the components are designed to mask the treated lumber or steel structural components. The next step in composite deck construction projects is Trex Company's new Elevations structural steel system. The steel structural system is a truer and provides a more level surface for deck boards versus structural treated lumber, which is subject to crowning and warping issues.

If installed correctly, a little soap and water is all that should be needed to keep your new hard shell composite deck looking great for years to come. These new composite decking materials continue the trend in building innovations, which are creating products that appear more realistic, last longer and require less maintenance. The challenge for homeowners is to change old building paradigms of the past, especially in remodeling.

Don Magruder is the CEO of Ro-Mac Lumber & Supply, Inc., and he is also the host of the "Around the House" Radio Show heard every Monday at noon on My790AM WLBE in Leesburg.

R.C. Stevens Construction awarded contract and continues project

WINTER GARDEN — Winter Garden-based R.C. Stevens Construction Co. has been awarded a contract with Nemours Children's Primary Care-Oviedo, where the construction company will retrofit the interior space with additional square footage. The \$600,000 project is expected to be completed in May.

R.C. Stevens is also progressing with work at a major national bev-

erage bottling facility in Elmsford, N.Y., where the company is engineering, renovating and replacing under-floor process drainage systems at the facility, a \$3 million project expected to be complete in April.

For information about R.C. Stevens Construction Company, 28 S. Main St., in Winter Garden, call 407-299-3800.

Crossman appointed to board of trustees

ORLANDO — John Crossman, president of Crossman & Company, has been appoint-

ed by Gov. Rick Scott to the Valencia College District Board of Trustees. The board is composed of citizens who serve without pay and are legally vested with decision-making power in all matters of college policy, programs, building, budget and personnel.

Crossman has served as a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Foundation Board and as the president of NAIOP Central Florida. He succeeds Jerry Buchanan and is appointed for a term that began February 28 and will end May 31, 2017.

Crossman & Company was founded in 1990 and is a regional shopping center brokerage firm that represents over 200 shopping centers.

For information, go to www.crossmanco.com or call 407-581-6223.

Oceans Luxury Realty finds big niche in property management

DAYTONA BEACH SHORES — Oceans Luxury Realty, which acquired Exit Realty of Daytona Beach Shores in December, has found a growing niche in property management.

Crystal Anderson, president and chief executive officer, said Oceans Luxury Realty has earned 15 new property management assignments since December and the firm is now generating more than \$100,000 per week in revenues.

Oceans Luxury Realty's property management division specializes in luxury vacation rentals, Anderson said.

Stephanie Weaver, as manager of the firm's property management division with leasing specialists Anthony Williams, Mark Meller and Anderson, plans to expand the division with more leasing agents.

For information, call Oceans Luxury Realty at 888-227-8397 or email oceansluxuryreality@gmail.com.

Emerson International negotiates expansion lease

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS — Zack Starkey, commercial associate at Emerson International, recently negotiated an expansion lease agreement with the tenant, Flocasts LLC, at its Sanlando Center on W. State Road 434 in Longwood.

Flocasts is an online sports media outlet and publisher covering high school, college and professional track and field athletes, coaches and fans.

Flocasts expanded its office space to 1,302 square feet at 2180 Sanlando Center.

Call 407-834-9560 for information.

Architects named for Banco do Brasil Americas

ORLANDO — Banco do Brasil Americas has named Rabits & Romano Architecture, Planning and Design as its architect of record for its first branch office in Orlando.

Banco do Brasil plans to open a 4,000-square-

foot branch at 5575 International Dr. by the end of the year. The branch will serve millions of Brazilian tourists as well as a growing Brazilian community in Central Florida.

The bank will have two international ATMs where Brazilian customers will be able to access their international accounts instantly. The design and facade of the building will showcase contemporary Brazilian architecture despite facing challenges in building with American materials and methods of construction.

Main features of the building will include: a stacked roof system, a contemporary arched facade, covered entry portico, curved screen wall and clerestory windows.

Go to www.rabitsromano.com for information.

NAI Realvest negotiates new lease for CrossFit Gym

ORLANDO — NAI Realvest recently negotiated a lease agreement for a new 6,500-square-foot CrossFit gym in Unit B of the retail/flex facility located at 511 Brookhaven Dr. near downtown Orlando.

The NAI Realvest retail team of Mitch Heidrich, Kevin O'Connor and Matthew Cichocki negotiated the lease representing the tenant CFO Partners, Inc., who will operate as CrossFit Orlando, providing accredited fitness training seminars.

The tenant outgrew its space at 5134 Adanson St. in Orlando and plans to open the new facility in March.

The landlord, Brookhaven/511, LLC, was represented in the transaction by Crossman & Company.

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PAUL RODRIGUEZ / MCT

Carlos Jijon, right, and his wife Cinthya pose for a photo with their three children: Emmanuel, 15 months, Natalie, 14, and Danica, 5. The couple recently bought this home in Buena Park, Calif.

Buying a home: 5 tips for first timers

JEFF COLLINS
The Orange County Register

With two daughters and a baby on the way, Carlos and Cinthya Jijon decided last year to buy a house for about the same monthly cost as a bigger apartment. But they couldn't find a home.

Supply was tight. And investors armed with fistfuls of cash outbid them every time.

Today, however, the

Jijons are unpacking, settling into a one-story house in Buena Park, Calif. The auto parts deliveryman and the nurse made the transition from renters to first-time homebuyers.

The market is tough for first-timers such as the Jijons.

Statistics show that number of first-time buyers is falling. A California Association of Realtors survey

showed, for example, that about half as many first-timers bought houses in 2013 as in 2009.

But the Jijons persevered, taking an eight-hour homebuying course, learning about cash assistance programs, and getting loads of practical advice. They beat the odds.

With the spring

SEE TIPS | E4

MARGARIS APPOINTED TRANSACTION SPECIALIST

Hold-Thyssen Real Estate Services, a commercial property firm based in Winter Park with offices in Tampa and Nashville, Tenn., recently appointed Theresa Margaris as transaction specialist. R. Anthony Fisher, vice president of Hold-Thyssen Real Estate Services, said Margaris earned her B.S. degree in business administration from Southern Illinois University and has more than 12 years of commercial real estate experience. Margaris will be responsible for commercial property transactions in the Tampa Bay region, Fisher said. For information, call Hold-Thyssen Real Estate Services, 407-691-0505.

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ATTENTION REALTORS!

PepTalk...
(People, Places & Events)

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age closet, dental crown molding throughout, Plantation shutters, gutters and down spouts, decorative drive and walk ways, curb it around landscaping, tailor foam insulated walls, solar board insulated roof, oak hardwood flooring, central vacuum system, oversized garage with utility sink storage and side service door, storage and insulated garage doors plus a whole house generator with buried propane tank. Priced in the 300's. 30-45 minute drive to all Orlando attractions. Stop by or call the sales office for your personal tour of this home and the facilities. PAL Realty, 25327 US Hwy 27, Suite 202, Leesburg, FL 34748 (352) 326-3626. See more pictures of #1591 on our web site www.PALREALTY.net



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the lake view from the upstairs 18x33 AWESOME BONUS ROOM that offers endless options. This room has brand new carpet and a full bath. The family room has a wood burning fireplace. Step outside and you will see the same attention to detail with the lush St Augustine grass and beautiful landscaping. There is a covered lanai and secluded patio for outdoor entertainment, as well as a private well for irrigation, and an oversized driveway for parking. The entire home has been freshly painted with cool colors. Great location, beautiful home! Call Andrea today for more information and to schedule your private showing. (407) 267-2468



The open floor plan makes entertaining effortless.

Tips for keeping walls and woodwork clean

LISA A. FLAM
Associated Press

Walls can get dirty before you know it — from a splatter of spaghetti dinner to the crayon artistry of a roaming toddler to fingers simply reaching for a light switch.

It's easy to pass by walls and woodwork every day without a second glance, but spring-cleaning season is a great time to give them the attention they deserve.

Like many house-keeping tasks, regular cleaning can help avoid bigger cleanup work later on.

"It doesn't have to be as difficult of a job as it sounds," said Amy

Panos, senior editor at Better Homes and Gardens.

"The easier you can make it on yourself, the more likely you are to do it."

DIRT AND SCUFFS

Walls tend to get dirtiest around light switches and door knobs.

"Even if a hand looks clean, it still has a little dirt and oils that over time build up and eventually make that area of the wall dirty," Panos said.

Walls also get marked up from accidental kicks or the brush of a bag near the baseboards. Parents know how toddlers' hands often find their way to walls, either with filthy

fingers or with crayons or markers.

These fingerprints and other blemishes are best tackled right away. "The sooner you can get to a mark that is noticeable, the easier it will be" to clean, said Sharon Grech, a color and design expert for Benjamin Moore.

People are wary of cleaning or washing painted surfaces because they fear the process will remove the paint. But Grech said the technology has improved over the last decade, and paints now are more stain-resistant and durable for cleaning.

Still, it's important to use the right products.

To remove everyday marks, Grech suggested using a clean cellulose sponge with a little warm water.

"Just give it a good rub," she said. "Wait for it to dry and see if it's clean."

If the dirt is still evident, repeat the process using a dab of dish detergent and wipe the area dry with a clean sponge, rag or paper towel.

"Warm water does miracles with a sponge," Grech said. "You want to avoid using regular household cleaners that have ammonia and other products in them" because they can change the sheen of the paint.

Panos likes the ease of a foam eraser pad, like Mr. Clean Magic Eraser, though be sure to test it first in an inconspicuous area to make sure it won't remove the color or finish. Mr. Clean Magic Eraser is approved by the manufacturer for use on most paints, including flat and semi-gloss paint.

"They're quite incredible," Panos said. "They take care of a lot."

Don't forget doorways and trim, often coated in easy-to-wipe paints but in light colors like white and cream that make marks especially visible. Cleaning those areas can instantly make the room seem brighter.

"It really glistens," Grech said. "It's like putting on a nice lip gloss."

DUST AND COBWEBS

While most people know to take care of an



KATE MATHIS / AP

This 2012 photo shows Better Homes & Gardens Senior Editor, Amy Panos, in Saratoga Springs, New York. Like many housekeeping tasks, regular cleaning can help avoid bigger cleanup work later on.

unsightly mark, many overlook cleaning the whole wall, Panos said. Once you have a fresh coat of paint, lightly dust the walls about every three months.

"You don't need to get a bucket and soap and sponge and completely wash down the walls," she said. "Make it easy on yourself by getting a tool with an extension pole so that you can stand on the ground and take care of the job in just a few minutes rather than having to drag out a ladder."

Clean the ceiling first, with a dust-attracting microfiber mop on the extension pole for smooth ceilings, or a slightly damp paint roller on the pole for a popcorn ceiling, she said. The walls can

be cleaned from top to bottom with the mop (dry or slightly damp), and the baseboards hand-cleaned with a microfiber cloth.

"Keeping the environment as dust-free as possible is helpful for a good interior air quality," Panos said.

Grech recommends regular cleaning where dusts collect, such as on baseboards, and on window ledges, where it can mix with moisture and turn into a mess.

While cleaning the walls won't prolong the paint job, she said, it will help keep them looking their best.

"You want to clean the areas that are getting a little bit more abused to keep it fresh," she said.



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TIPS FROM PAGE E3

homebuying season now in full swing (March through June are the year's four busiest months), here are 10 tips for first-time homebuyers:

1) Determine what you can afford. The first step is to meet with a lender, review your finances and find out how much you can afford to spend on a home and how much you have for your down payment.

Experts warn also not to shop for the most expensive home you qualify for, unless you truly can live with the payment that comes with it.

2) Take a class, read a book. One of the most common mistakes novices make, according to former loan proces-



PAUL RODRIGUEZ / MCT

With his 15-month-old son Emmanuel watching, Carlos Jijon works to move things out of the garage and into his family's recently-purchased home in Buena Park, Calif.

sor and author Carolyn Warren, is to blab to an agent that this is their first time and that they really need his or her guidance. It's like wearing a sign: "Charge me more."

3) Shop for a mortgage. Don't use whatever lender your agent recommends without doing some independent shopping. Another classic mistake: calling 10 lenders and asking for their interest rates. A lender can't be held to those quotes, so "it's just going to lead you to the smoothest-talking liar," Warren said.

It's better to look up mortgage rates online, then call three or four lenders and mortgage brokers and ask them for a written list showing their fees.

"The lowest rate is not good if you're paying too much in fees," Warren said.

4) Check for down-payment assistance. Before you shop, check to see if you qualify for one of the down-payment assistance programs.

"Don't assume your income is too high," said Karla Lopez del Rio of NeighborWorks Orange County, a housing assistance agency approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

5) Get pre-approved. Getting a lender to pre-approve a loan before you shop can make your offers more attractive, while avoiding deals falling apart because loans don't get approved during escrow.

Get all the documentation you'll need for the loan process — W2s, tax returns, pay stubs, bank account statements. Find out from your lender exactly what you'll need.

And go to AnnualCreditReport.com to get your free credit reports from all three major credit agencies. Experts recommend you contact TransUnion, Equifax or Experian and pay \$8 to \$10 to get your credit score as well. (You don't have to subscribe to their monthly monitoring or other services.)

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