

SALEM NEWS

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GOOD MORNING!
TODAY'S FORECAST



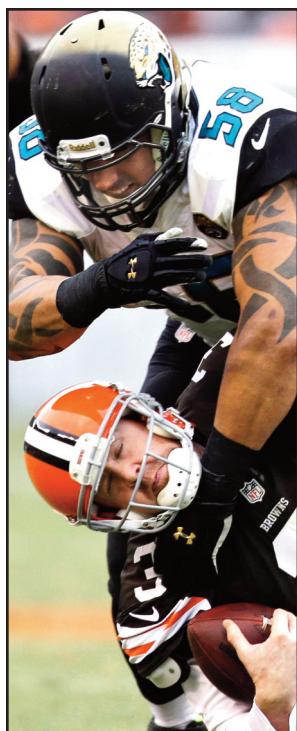
High 42 / Low 32



Decorate with the ones you love this Christmas!

Dec. 2
23 shopping days to Christmas

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BURTZLAND.COM
Great Guns for the Good Guys
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ALLIANCE, OHIO 44601
PHONE 330-821-8866



► **Sports**
Season's collapse continues.

DEATHS/3A

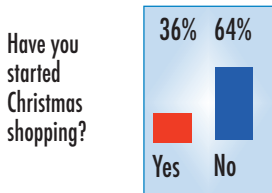
William T. Murphy
Ronald Kotsch
Elizabeth M. Lazear

LOTTERY

Rolling 5.....	11-13-14-35-37
Night Ohio Pick 3.....	9-0-1
Night Ohio Pick 4.....	4-4-2-4
Night Ohio Pick 5.....	8-9-0-5-0
Day Ohio Pick 3.....	0-6-5
Day Ohio Pick 4.....	9-7-4-5
Day Ohio Pick 5.....	9-5-7-5-3

E-POLL

Saturday's Question



Today's question

If Ohio State beats Michigan State will the Buckeyes deserve a BCS title game berth?

Vote online at:
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Barborak doesn't retreat on self-defense view

By **TOM GIAMBRONI**
Staff Writer

► **COLUMBIANA COUNTY**

LISBON — State Rep. Nick Barborak was among six Democrats who voted in favor of a House bill that eliminates the law requiring a person to first retreat before using

deadly force to protect themselves in public.

Barborak, D-Lisbon, had no reservations about voting for the bill and

its controversial provision. "I think people have a right to defend themselves and not have to run away," he said.

The bill made changes to Ohio's concealed handgun permit system, but the so-called stand your ground

provision is the one that has drawn the most attention. Under current law, citizens under threat are not required to retreat if they are in their home, on their property or in their vehicle, before using deadly force to

See **STATE REP., 2A**



Celebrating Small Business Saturday

Stores and shops around the county celebrated Small Business Saturday over the weekend. They are part of the vast network of small businesses that offer a personal shopping experience to people. Christmas Trim-A-Tree Wonderland owner Gary Rice of Salem shows Lana and John Judy of Guilford Lake how to disassemble the flocked tree they just purchased. The Homestead Pools and Spas business at the corner of Depot and the bypass in Salem has been converted into this wonderland since 1975 growing every year to the over 80 styles of 150 trees now on display. More photos on page 2A. (Salem News photo by Patti Schaeffer)

Gas drilling laws get key airing in Ohio

By **JULIE CARR SMYTH**
AP Statehouse Correspondent

COLUMBUS (AP) — A closely watched lawsuit in Ohio is asking a question that's burning in cities and towns throughout shale country: Can regulations in states eager for the jobs and tax revenues that come with gas and oil drilling trump local restrictions that communities say protect them from haphazard development?

The case was brought by Munroe Falls, an Akron suburb of 5,000. It involves a well that Beck Energy Corp. began to drill — with the state's permission — on private property in the city in 2011. In the process, the company sidestepped 11 local laws on road use, permitting and drilling, the city contends.

The legal disagreement over whether Beck's permit can pre-empt Munroe Falls' local regulations reached the Ohio Supreme Court this summer. Both pro- and anti-drilling forces are watching the case because it's further along in the courts than similar lawsuits in other states and the outcome could encourage or deter the implementation elsewhere of local laws to limit drilling.

The case has implications for the spread of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, the controversial method of injecting sand, water and chemicals to free the gas from shale rock deep underground. The case in Munroe Falls centers on a traditionally drilled well, but the centralized oil and gas regulation that's in question regulates both kinds.

See **FRACKING, 5A**

SALEM

Upcycle by Ricki greets Santa for visit

By **KEVIN HOWELL**
Staff Writer

Santa is in town. Upcycle by Ricki, located on Benton Road just west of the bypass, on Saturday welcomed Santa and his elves during Salem's Christmas open house and celebration of "Small Business Saturday."

The business offered free photos with Santa, as well as food and free gift wrapping in its Secret Santa Gift Shop.

Opened in April by Ricki M. White of Sebring, the shop shares space with 2nd Chance Bargains and offers refurbished items, promoting upcycling, the process of converting waste materials or useless products into new materials or products of better quality or for better environmental value.

"Turning the ordinary into extraordinary," as White calls it. We don't throw away anything, we recycle everything," she said.

Upcycle by Ricki offers items such as jewelry, platters, candle holders, doilies, decorations and the like. It is open from noon to 6 p.m. through Saturday and closed on Sunday. Visit the business on Facebook.

Salem's Christmas continues with Light Up Night at 7 p.m. Friday and the Salem Christmas parade at 1 p.m. Dec. 7.



Ricki M. White, owner of Upcycle by Ricki on Benton Road, welcomes Santa and his elves during Salem's "Small Business Saturday" Christmas open house. (Salem News photo by Kevin Howell)

Columbiana County Fair grandstand will be razed

By **KATIE SCHWENDEMAN**
Staff Writer

LISBON — Pay your respects to the historic grandstand at the Columbiana County Fair because on Dec. 14 it will be torn down.

The 15-member fair board unanimously decided to begin a project to

replace the aging wooden grandstands after a recent presentation by JMH Development Co.

Consultant Matthew Hughes met with the board last week and provided the results of the feasibility study the Cincinnati-based company conducted over the last few weeks.

The board hired the company to conduct the study to determine the level of community support before embarking on the costly project.

Hughes met with roughly 30 business owners, agencies and individuals in the county to see if they would be willing to support the project,

and on Wednesday he said that support was "very favorable."

It was that support that led the board to kick off the \$900,000 project with a gift of \$150,000, he said.

County commissioners have already given \$20,000 as well, and

See **GRANDSTAND, 5A**

Good morning Mary Warrington. Thank you for subscribing to the Salem News

WEATHER

THE FORECAST

AREA: Today...Chance of snow showers in the morning. Cloudy with a chance of rain showers. Highs in the lower 40s. South winds around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent. Tonight...Cloudy with a chance of rain and snow showers. Lows in the lower 30s. East winds around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent. Tuesday...Cloudy with a chance of rain and snow showers. Highs in the mid 40s. Southeast winds around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent. Tuesday night...Cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the lower 50s. Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain showers. Lows in the upper 30s. Thursday...Rain likely. Highs in the lower 50s. Chance of rain 60 percent. Thursday night...Rain likely. Lows in the upper 30s. Chance of rain 60 percent. Friday...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Highs in the mid 40s. Friday night...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Lows in the mid 20s. Saturday...Partly sunny. Cooler with highs in the upper 20s.

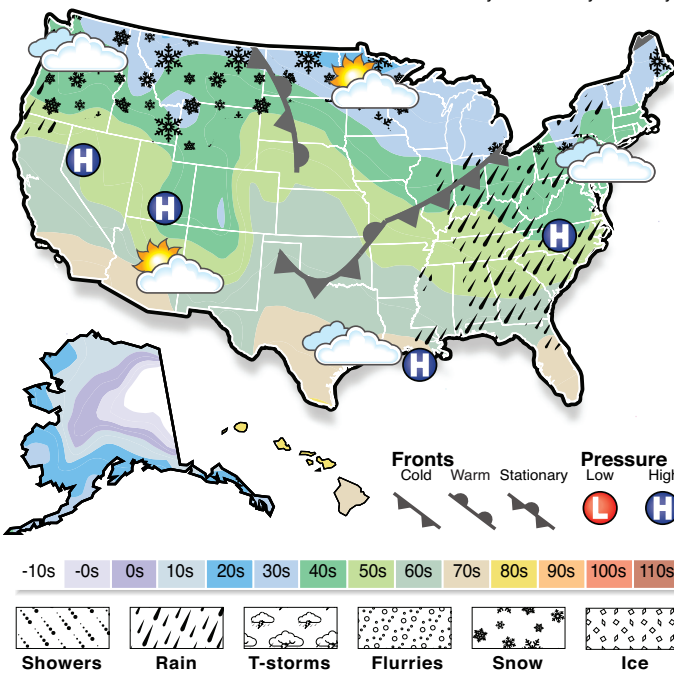
CLEVELAND: Today... Cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. South winds around 5 mph. Monday night...Cloudy with a chance of rain and snow showers. Lows in the mid 30s. East winds around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent. Tuesday...Cloudy with a chance of rain and snow showers. Highs in the mid 40s. Southeast winds around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent. Tuesday night...Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain showers. Lows in the upper 30s. Wednesday...Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the lower 50s.

Extended Forecast

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
42/32	45/35	52/38	53/37

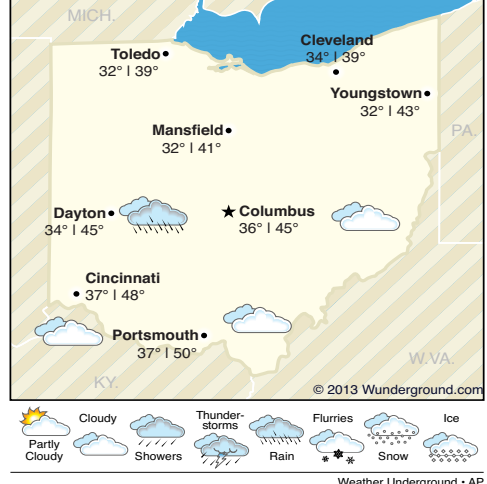
National forecast

Forecast highs for Monday, Dec. 2



Tonight/Monday

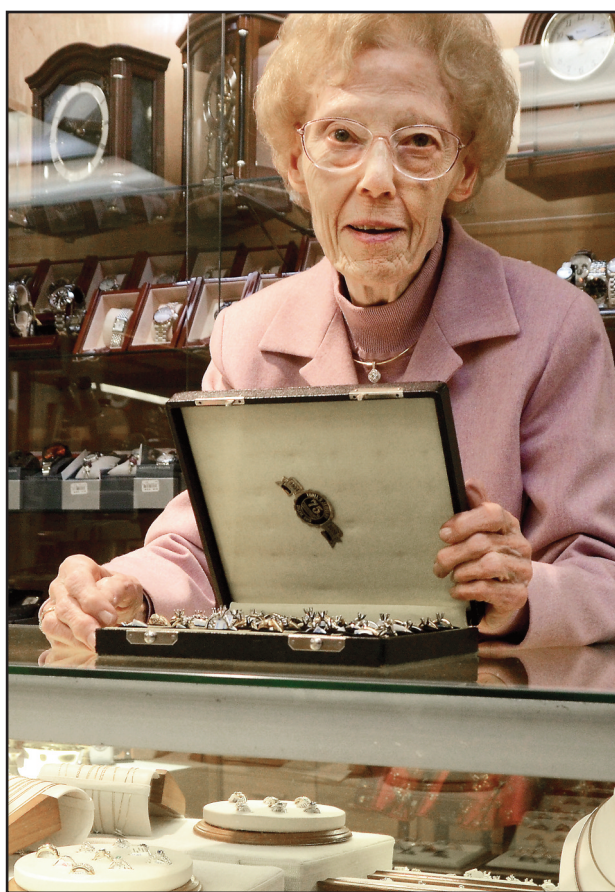
Forecast for Monday, Dec. 2



ALMANAC

On Dec. 2, 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harpers Ferry the previous October. Artist Georges-Pierre Seurat was born in Paris. In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of the French. In 1823, President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere. In 1927, Ford Motor Co. formally unveiled its second Model A automobile, the successor to its Model T. In 1939, New York Municipal Airport-LaGuardia Field (later LaGuardia Airport) went into operation as an airliner from Chicago landed at one minute past midnight. In 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time, at the University of Chicago. In 1954, the Senate voted to condemn Wisconsin Republican Joseph R. McCarthy for conduct that "tends to bring the Senate into disrepute."

Stores and shops around the county celebrated Small Business Saturday over the weekend. They are part of the vast network of small businesses that offer a personal shopping experience to people. Shown here are some of the local businesses participating in the special day. (Salem News photos by Patti Schaeffer)



Jackie Troll of Troll's Jewelry in downtown Salem shows some of the ring settings the store offers customers. Along with the usual jewelry store fare Troll's, in business since 1934, offers the popular Trollbeads and special Christmas ornaments to shoppers.



The Little Red Hen Antiques, Collectibles and Giftware owned by Laurie Fast offers a nostalgic atmosphere for shoppers. The store on West State Street in Salem is three floors of antiques and collectibles from Laurie Fast and about 12 other dealers who fill every inch of space.



Above photo, Ace Hardware in Columbiana offers a large variety of holiday lights and decorations for the shopper wanting to add something bright to their lives.

Left photo, Kiewall Florist designer Lori Dunn grabs some ornaments off of one of the trees in Bye & Bye Hardware in Lisbon. The florist is inside the hardware store, another convenience for customers.

STATE REP FROM 1A

protect themselves or their family. This is allowed under the so-called "castle doctrine" passed by the state legislature several years ago.

But in public places, citizens are required to retreat if possible when facing imminent threat before they can use deadly force to defend themselves. The stand your ground provision would eliminate that section of the law.

Barborak sees this provision as a logical extension of the castle doctrine. "Right now you are allowed to defend yourself (in public), but there is an added step — a duty to retreat first, if that's possible. What this (law) says is you don't have to retreat first if you are attacked or threatened," he said.

The bill is opposed by black legislators, youth groups and church organizations who fear this will result in George Zimmerman-Trayvon Martin-type shootings. Barborak believes those fears are overblown, just as they were when some legislators predicted an increase in shooting deaths after Ohio's concealed handgun law was passed about 10 years ago.

"That has not been the case with the concealed carry law and we have not seen that in other states that have stand your ground laws," he said.

According to the Associated Press, 22 other states have similar laws, nine of which include language saying a person can "stand your ground," including Florida, where Trayvon Martin was shot to death by George Zimmerman. Ohio's proposed law lacks such specific language, however.

Barborak said Ohioans need to learn the law. "This does not give someone the license to kill. It says if you are in danger you can defend yourself, and if you have to use deadly force, you have the right to do so," he said.

Barborak expects the bill to pass in the Ohio Senate and be signed into law by Gov. John Kasich.

Another provision in the bill would allow Ohio to automatically recognize concealed handgun permits issued by another state that recognizes Ohio's permits. Barborak said this is another reason he voted for the bill, based on comments received from county residents with permits who want to be able to carry their handguns when traveling in other states.

"People who are inclined to commit a crime don't care about the law," he said. "This allows Ohioans to exercise their rights in other states."

Banquet served today

SALEM — The Banquet in Salem will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. today at the Memorial Building, 785 E. State St. Sponsors are Salem Community Foundation and Consumers Bank. The menu offers baked chicken, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, fresh fruit and vegetables, mandarin orange cake and pumpkin squares.

Sponsors are needed. For more information call Patty Colian at 330-831-2169.



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DEATHS

Elizabeth M. Lazear

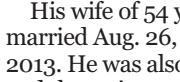
COLUMBIANA— Elizabeth M. Lazear, 89, died at 7:16 a.m. Sunday at the home of her daughter. Funeral arrangements are pending at the Warrick-Kummer-Rettig Funeral Home in Columbiana. 12/2/13

Ronald Kotsch

LISBON— Ronald Kotsch, 71, died at 1:40 p.m. Saturday from the house that he and his family built on Riffle Road. Born Feb. 7, 1942, in Mahoning County he lived all of his life in the area and had worked as a certified welder. He is survived and will be dearly remembered by his wife of 50 years, Marilyn (Williams) Kotsch, whom he married May 21, 1963; son, David “Skip” Kotsch of Elkton; daughters, Lisa Bussard of Lisbon and Laura Kotsch of Rogers; and three grandsons. Following his wishes, no calling hours or funeral services will be observed at this time. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are in the care of the Eells-Leggett-Stauffer Funeral Home. Friends may view Ronald’s memorial webpage and send condolences to the family at www.eells-leggett-stauffer.com. 12/2/13

William T. Murphy

SALEM— William T. Murphy, 76, died at 9:50 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, 2013, at Salem Community Hospital following a long battle with cancer. Bill was born Feb. 11, 1937, in New Alexandria, Pa., son of the late Clarence and Wilma (Quick) Murphy. Bill was an U.S. Air Force veteran. He was employed as a van worker at General Motors of Lordstown, retiring in 1992. Bill was a member of the Salem Realife Church and the Tri-State Miniature Horse Club. He also loved to work with his hands and paint country scenes. His wife of 54 years, Donna L. (Kuhns) Murphy, whom he married Aug. 26, 1959, preceded him in death on June 28, 2013. He was also preceded by one brother, James Murphy, and three sisters, Mildred Stough, Mary Gamble and Margaret Correll. Survivors include two daughters, Mary Ann (Jerry) Halberstadt of Jackson Center, Ohio, and Karen Murphy of Sebring; and three sons, Dennis (Teresa) Murphy of Westerville, Gregg (Diane) Murphy of Beloit and Billy (Ginny) Murphy of Madison, Fla. Two sisters, Jean Newell and Lois Waldren, and three brothers, Ronald, Donald and Bobby Murphy, also survive, along with 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Salem Realife Church, with Pastor Jason Vickery officiating. Calling hours will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Stark Memorial Funeral Home in Salem. Burial will be in Highland Memorial Park in Beloit. Military honors will be provided by the Salem Honor Guard at the cemetery. Arrangements were handled by Stark Memorial. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salem Realife Church, 12824 Salem-Warren Road, Salem OH 44460. Bill’s obituary can be viewed and condolences sent online at www.starkmemorial.com. 12/2/13 (Paid obituary)



Paul Walker, ‘Fast & Furious’ star, dies in fiery L.A. car crash

By **DAISY NGUYEN**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A fiery car crash north of Los Angeles has killed 40-year-old Paul Walker, the star of the “Fast & Furious” movie series, and one other person in the vehicle. Deputies found a Porsche Carrera GT engulfed in flames when they responded to a report of a collision Saturday afternoon in the community of Valencia, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department said. Two people who were found in the car were pronounced dead at the scene. Walker’s publicist Ame Van Iden confirmed the actor’s death. A statement on Walker’s Facebook page said he was a passenger in a friend’s car, and that Walker was in the area to attend a charity event for his organization Reach Out Worldwide. The Sheriff’s Department said that speed was a factor in the crash. The Santa Clarita Valley Signal reported that the Porsche crashed into a light pole and tree and burst into flames. The fundraiser, to benefit victims of Typhoon Haiyan, took place at a nearby racecar shop. Attendees rushed to put out the flames with fire extinguishers to no avail. “All of us at Universal are heartbroken,” Universal Pictures, which has released the “Fast & Furious” franchise, said in a statement. “Paul was truly one of the most beloved and respected members of our studio family for 14 years, and this loss is devastating to us, to everyone involved with the ‘Fast and Furious’ films, and to countless fans.” His “Fast & Furious” co-star Vin Diesel posted a photograph of him and Walker arm-in-arm on Instagram with the message: “Brother I will miss you very much. I am absolutely speechless.” Walker rode the “Fast & Furious” franchise to stardom, starring in all but one of the six action blockbusters, beginning with the first film in 2001. The blond-haired, blue-eyed Los Angeles-native brought California surfer good-looks and an easy, warm charm to the popular street-racing series. The son of a fashion model and a sewer contractor, Walker grew up in a working class, Mormon household in Glendale, Calif. The oldest of five siblings, Walker’s mother began taking him to auditions as a toddler. He was a child model beginning at the age of 2. Walker has said the early induction to show business wasn’t to start him on a career path, but as a way to help provide for the family. After a string of TV roles as a child in the ‘80s, including small roles on “Who’s the Boss” and “Charles in Charge,” Walker made his feature film debut in the 1998 comedy “Meet the Deedles.” Supporting roles in the films “Pleasantville,” “Varsity Blues” and “Flags of Our Fathers” followed. His performance in the 2000 thriller “The Skulls” caught the eye of producer Neal H. Moritz, who cast him in “The Fast and the Furious” as undercover police officer Brian O’Conner. Adapted from a Vibe magazine article about underground street races, the film became an unexpected hit. In the sequel, “2 Fast 2 Furious,” Walker moved to center stage with Diesel temporarily dropping out. Walker, a self-described “gearhead,” kept his character’s sports car from the film. Walker starred in other films, including the crime thriller “Running Scared,” the Antarctic adventure “Eight Below” and the heist film “Takers.” Though his stardom didn’t make as much of an impact outside the “Fast & Furious” series, Walker continually drew praise from his co-stars and directors as a kind-hearted and eager collaborator.



PAUL WALKER

POLICE

SALEM

— Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Columbia Street at 6:44 p.m. Saturday and found a verbal dispute regarding living arrangements. — Officers responded to a report of several teenagers trying to break into the press box at Reilly Stadium at 9:48 p.m. Saturday. They spoke with the individuals who said they had been throwing snowballs in the bleachers but denied trying to break into anything. The officers found no signs of tampering at the press box. — Police responded to a report of possible shots fired in the 300 block of Washington Avenue at 10:22 p.m. Saturday, but were unable find any signs of shots fired. — A patrolling officer at 10:55 p.m. Saturday observed two vehicles parked in the south parking lot of Centennial Park, one of which had two occupants in the back seat. The individuals were advised of their error and sent on their way. — Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 600 block of East Euclid Street at 1:33 a.m. Sunday and found a resident who said her live-in boyfriend would not return her keys. She requested information about evicting him. — Steven J. McVay, 32, no address listed, was cited for driving under suspension and fictitious plates following a traffic stop in the 900 block of East State Street at 6:57 a.m. Sunday. — Police responded to a report of a possible water line break in the 300 block of Rea Drive at 8:09 a.m. Sunday and determined it to be big enough to contact the utilities department. —Matthew P. Pittman, 24, 434 W. State St., Salem, was cited for driving under suspension and expired plates following a traffic stop in the 1100 block of East State Street at 10:28 a.m. Sunday. — Police responded to a possible domestic dispute in the 1100 block of East Third Street at 10:57 a.m. Sunday and found a couple who said they were in the process of moving and had had an argument, but that no violence occurred. They were advised to keep the noise down. — Police responded to a possible domestic dispute in the 200 block of Rose Avenue at 1:15 p.m. Sunday and found a verbal dispute regarding family situations, but no violence.

NATION and WORLD

Officials: Worst tech issues over for health care website, 800K can shop daily

WASHINGTON (AP) — The worst of the online glitches, crashes and delays may be over for the problem-plagued government health care website, the Department of Health and Human Services said Sunday. But that doesn’t mean HealthCare.gov is ready for a clean bill of health. Officials acknowledged more work remains on the website that included hundreds of software bugs, inadequate equipment and inefficient management for its national debut two months ago. Federal workers and private contractors have undertaken an intense reworking of the system, but the White House’s chief troubleshooter cautioned some users could still encounter trouble. “The bottom line — HealthCare.gov on Dec. 1 is night and day from where it was on Oct. 1,” Jeff Zients told reporters. More than 50,000 people can log on to the website at one time and more than 800,000 people will be able to shop for insurance coverage each day, the government estimated in a report released Sunday. If true, it’s a dramatic improvement from the system’s first weeks, when frustrated buyers watched their computer screen freeze, the website crash and error messages multiply.

Thai protest leader says he met with Thai PM after violence, will push for new gov’t

BANGKOK (AP) — The leader of Thailand’s anti-government protests said unexpectedly that he had met the prime minister Sunday after daylong clashes between his supporters and police but defiantly told her he would accept nothing less than having her elected government step down to be replaced by an appointed council. Suthep Thaugsuban said the meeting with Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was held under the auspices of the military, which says it is neutral in the conflict. His account of defiance drew lusty cheers from his supporters. Police throughout the day fought off mobs of rock-throwing protesters who tried to battle their way into the government’s heavily-fortified headquarters and other offices. Mobs also besieged several television stations, demanding they broadcast the protesters’ views and not the government’s. Several of the capital’s biggest shopping malls closed in the heart of the city due to the unrest. With skirmishes around Yingluck’s office at Government House continuing as darkness fell, the government advised Bangkok residents to stay indoors overnight for their safety. The protests have renewed fears of prolonged instability in one of Southeast Asia’s biggest economies. Sunday marked the first time police have used force since demonstrations began in earnest a week ago — a risky strategy that many fear could trigger more bloodshed.

Ukrainians stage largest anti-gov’t rally since Orange Revolution; dozens injured

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — A protest by about 300,000 Ukrainians angered by their government’s decision to freeze integration with the West turned violent Sunday, when a group of demonstrators besieged the president’s office and police drove them back with truncheons, tear gas and flash grenades. Dozens of people were injured. The mass rally in central Kiev defied a government ban on protests on Independence Square, in the biggest show of anger over President Viktor Yanukovych’s refusal to sign a political and economic agreement with the European Union. The protesters also were infuriated by the violent dispersal of a small, opposition rally two nights before. While opposition leaders called for a nationwide strike and prolonged peaceful street protests to demand that the government resign, several thousand people broke away and marched to Yanukovych’s nearby office. A few hundred of them, wearing masks, threw rocks and other objects at police and attempted to break through the police lines with a front loader. After several hours of clashes, riot police used force to push them back.

Police fire tear gas at ousted president’s supporters; draft constitution approved

CAIRO (AP) — Police fired tear gas to drive hundreds of supporters of Egypt’s ousted Islamist president from Cairo’s famed Tahrir Square on Sunday, as a panel tasked with amending the constitution adopted during his time in office agreed on changes to the text. The 50-member panel revising the Islamist-tilted charter adopted under former President Mohammed Morsi managed to resolve its differences after two days of clause-by-clause voting on the final draft. The text gives women and Christians “suitable representation” but says a future law must decide the details. It also calls for elections, either parliamentary or presidential, within 90 days after the draft constitution is adopted. The other election should be held up to six months later. The new charter would require future presidents to declare their financial assets annually, and allows lawmakers to vote out an elected president and call for early elections if they have a two-thirds majority. Members agreed that a contentious proposed article allowing military tribunals for civilians would be scaled back, allowing them only in case of direct attack on military personnel or assets.

HSCC rigatoni dinner scheduled

SALEM— The Humane Society of Columbiana County (HSCC) will hold its third annual Rigatoni for Rescue from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at The Steel Trolley Diner, 140 E. Lincoln Way in Lisbon. The regular “unaltered” rigatoni dinner price is \$8 for adults and includes meatballs, or the “neutered” portion for \$7. Both options come with a side salad and garlic bread. A “pups” portion (kids 10 and under) is available for \$5. Call ahead and carry-out orders are available by calling the Steel Trolley at 330-424-3663 or HSCC at 330-332-8622. The Steel Trolley Diner will also be collecting shelter supplies for HSCC throughout the month of December. Customers who donate supplies will receive raffle tickets to win a Steel Trolley Diner gift certificate. Supplies on the wish list include paper towel, trash bags, clay kitty litter, pet food for sensitive stomachs, latex gloves, laundry detergent, Odo-Ban and fuel cards. HSCC has impacted the lives of over 600 pets over the past 12 months by addressing calls of concern from the citizens of Columbiana County. HSCC operates solely by donation and receives no funding from any taxpayer or governmental entity.

Police identify victims in fatal buggy crash

PITTSBURGH (AP) — State police say a mother and her daughter died in a fatal collision between a truck and a horse-drawn Amish buggy in northwestern Pennsylvania. Authorities say 34-year-old Mary Byler, of New Wilmington, and her 11-year-old daughter, whose name was withheld, died in the crash Saturday. Byler’s husband, 35-year-old William Byler, was seriously injured and flown to St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown, Ohio. Emergency dispatchers say the incident happened late Saturday afternoon, about 60 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. The truck was driven by 36-year-old Matthew Coulter, of Pulaski. His condition wasn’t available. Both victims were pronounced dead at the scene by Mercer County Coroner Brad McGonigle. He says they died of blunt force trauma. State Police are investigating.

Ohio offers help during Medicare open enrollment

COLUMBUS (AP) — State officials are reminding Ohioans that they have until Dec. 7 to find Medicare coverage or switch plans under the government’s program for seniors and the disabled. The open-enrollment period gives beneficiaries a chance to review their health and prescription drug coverage. Any changes they make to their Medicare coverage will take effect Jan. 1. The state’s insurance director Mary Taylor says benefits and costs in plans can change from one year to the next, and consumers should check how those factors impact coverage. The department’s Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program offers help to Medicare recipients on any changes. The program takes calls on weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-800-686-1578. The insurance department says the program has helped consumers save \$5.1 million so far this fall.

SHERIFF’S OFFICE

—A deputy was called to a home at 37691 state Route 39, Salineville, at 1:15 p.m. Saturday, but the couple said it was just an argument. —A deputy at 2 p.m. Saturday went to the parking lot across from United Local for a vehicle that was parked on private property. The owner, Taylor Willard, said the repo man was going to pick up the vehicle. She said it broke down and she removed the plates and radio from it. —A Taylor Road, Negley, resident reported at 2:10 p.m. Saturday his ex-girlfriend has been stalking him, calling his relatives and talking to the girls he is talking to. —A deputy at 9:30 p.m. Saturday assisted KLG Ambulance at Threshold Services in Center Township where a female cut her wrist with a pen. The staff did not want the female taken to the hospital but the deputy said if she was going to harm herself she would have to be taken to the hospital. She was.

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Carol (Bilsky) McFarland 78
Services at a later date

Harry O. Rhoads Jr 88
Services: 1 PM today
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OPINION

4A

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Beth Volosin, Publisher/Advertising Director
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OUR SIDE

Tips can help you stay safe this season

No matter what standard you use, let's agree that the holiday shopping season is officially under way, and that means shoppers must practice common sense and have an awareness of their surroundings as they visit area merchants.

Remember that while it is supposed to be the happiest time of the year, thieves can change that in an instant. They prey on the easy targets. We hope you will keep some simple tips in mind that can help you avoid falling into that group.

One of the most basic safe holiday shopping tips is to avoid carrying large sums of cash. If you do have to carry cash, distribute the amount among several different pockets. Flashing a wad of bills is just asking for trouble.

Keep receipts separate from bags of gifts. Receipts can sometimes contain account information that can be used in identity theft.

Shop in a group. There is always safety in numbers. Also, try to leave the mall or store with a group of people, especially when it is dark.

Shop at malls or stores that you are familiar with and avoid dark hallways or corners.

Bring along a cell phone and make sure it is turned on.

Thieves also target vehicles loaded with holiday gifts.

Clear out all that junk in the trunk to make more room for gifts. Keep all doors locked in the vehicle. Thieves make it a practice to walk through parking lots checking door handles. Don't store valuable gifts in the back-seat in plain view. It is only a temptation. Have vehicle keys in hand and ready to use. Many vehicle keychains have a panic button that will sound the car horn and flash the lights.

Don't laden yourself with an armful of packages. Ask for help from a store worker or even a security guard when walking to a vehicle in the lot. Park in well-lit areas as close to the store as possible.

If you are doing any of your holiday shopping on the Internet, make sure the sites you visit are secure for credit card purchases.

The holiday season is about sharing gifts. Don't give a thief an easy gift. Be safe and smart while shopping.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be as brief as possible and address one topic. The editor retains the right to refuse any letter for print. The editor retains the right to edit any letters for libelous or inaccurate statements. Anonymous letters and submissions will not be published. A phone number must be included for confirmation. Phone numbers are not published. Submissions should be clearly addressed as a letter to the editor and can be sent to: J.D. Creer, Editor, Salem News, P.O. Box 268, Salem, OH 44460. Emails to: jd-creer@salemnews.net or to: salemnews@salemnews.net. Also visit our Virtual Newsroom via salemnews.net.

Wisconsin's action governor won't be intimidated by opponents



GEORGE WILL

In 2011, tens of thousands of government employees and others, enraged by Gov. Scott Walker's determination to break the ruinously expensive and paralyzing grip that government workers' unions had on Wisconsin, took over the capitol building in Madison. With chanting, screaming and singing supplemented by bullhorns, bagpipes and drum circles, their cacophony shook the building that the squalor of their occupation made malodorous. They spat on Republican legislators and urinated on Walker's office door. They shouted, "This is what democracy looks like!"

When they and Democratic legislators failed to prevent passage of Act 10, they tried to defeat — with a scurrilous smear campaign that backfired — an elected state Supreme Court justice. They hoped that changing the court's composition would get Walker's reforms overturned. When this failed, they tried to capture the state Senate by recalling six Republican senators. When

this failed, they tried to recall Walker. On the night that failed — he won with a larger margin than he had received when elected 19 months earlier — he resisted the temptation to proclaim, "This is what democracy looks like!"

Walker recounts these events in "Unintimidated: A Governor's Story and a Nation's Challenge." Most books by incumbent politicians are not worth the paper they never should have been written on. If, however, enough voters read Walker's nonfiction thriller, it will make him a — perhaps the — leading candidate for his party's 2016 presidential nomination.

Act 10 required government workers to contribute 5.8 percent of their salaries to their pensions (hitherto, most paid nothing) and to pay 12.6 percent of their health care premiums (up from 6 percent but still just half of what the average federal worker pays). Both percentages are well below the private-sector average. By limiting collective bargaining to base wages, Act 10 freed school districts to hire and fire teachers based on merit, and to save many millions of dollars by buying teachers' health insurance in the competitive market rather than from an entity run by the teachers' union. Restricting collective bargaining to wages ended the sort of absurd rules for overtime

compensation that made a bus driver Madison's highest paid public employee.

Act 10's dynamite, however, was the provision ending the state's compulsory collection of union dues — sometimes as high as \$1,400 per year — that fund union contributions to Democrats. Barack Obama and his national labor allies made Wisconsin a battleground because they knew that when Indiana made paying union dues optional, 90 percent of state employees quit paying, and similar measures produced similar results in Washington, Colorado and Utah.

Walker has long experience in the furnace of resistance to the looting of public funds by the public's employees. He was elected chief executive of heavily Democratic Milwaukee County after his predecessor collaborated with other officials in rewriting pension rules in a way that, if he had been re-elected instead of resigning, would have given him a lump-sum payment of \$2.3 million and \$136,000 a year for life.

To fight the recall — during which opponents disrupted Walker's appearance at a Special Olympics event, and squeezed Super Glue into the locks of a school he was to visit — Walker raised more than \$30 million, assembling a nationwide network of conservative donors that could come in handy if he is re-elected next year. Having

become the first U.S. governor to survive a recall election, he is today serene as America's first governor to be, in effect, elected twice to a first term. When he seeks a second term, his probable opponent will be a wealthy opponent who says her only promise is to not make promises. This is her attempt to cope with an awkward fact: She will either infuriate her party's liberal base or alarm a majority of voters by promising either to preserve or repeal Act 10.

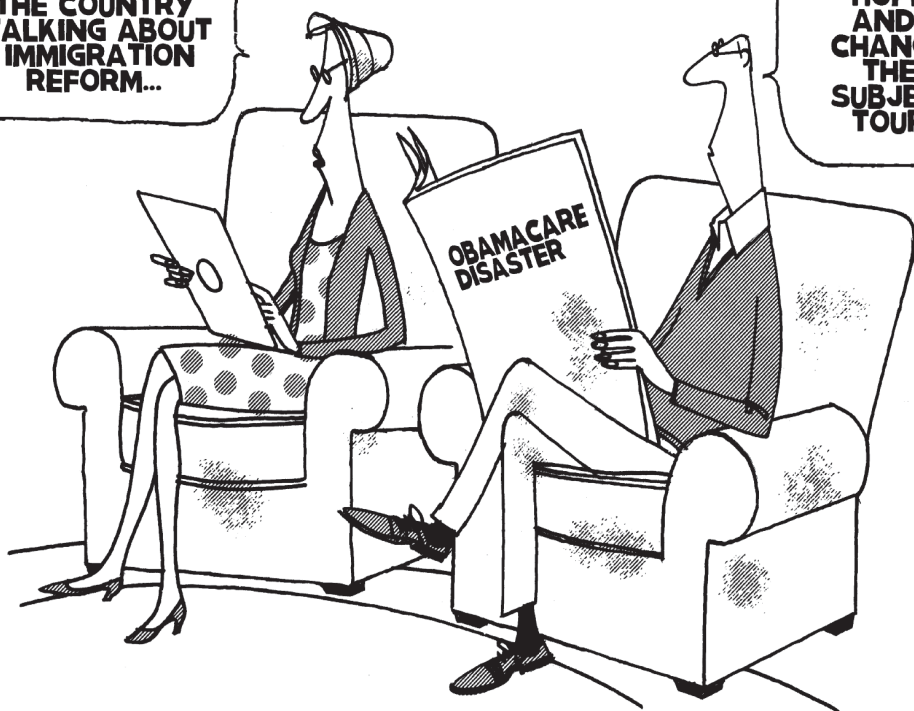
Walker is politely scathing — a neat trick — of Mitt Romney's campaign, especially of Romney's statement that "I'm not concerned about the very poor" because "we have a very ample safety net." The imperative, Walker says, is to "help them escape the safety net."

"Outside the Washington beltway," he says pointedly, "big-government liberals are on the ropes." No incumbent Republican governor has lost a general election since 2007. Since 2008, the number of Republican governors has increased from 21 to 30, just four short of the party's all-time high reached in the 1920s. He thinks Republican governors are in tune with the nation. If re-elected, he probably will test that theory.

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

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THE PRESIDENT IS TRAVELING THE COUNTRY TALKING ABOUT IMMIGRATION REFORM...



Let's bury a need for the N-word



LEONARD PITTS

Six years after the NAACP staged its symbolic burial, that word has proven rumors of its demise greatly exaggerated.

In just the last few weeks we've had the following: Richie Incognito, a white player for the Miami Dolphins, tags a black teammate, Jonathan Martin, with that epithet and black players defend the white guy because he's an "honorary" brother; Matt Barnes of the Los Angeles Clippers tweets the word in criticizing his teammates and says people who have a problem with that should "get

used to it"; Trent Williams, a black player for Washington's professional football team (speaking of racial slurs) is accused of using the word against Roy Ellison, a black referee, a charge Williams denies.

Then it gets worse. The mushrooming controversies prompt two African-American NBA analysts, Charles Barkley and Michael Wilbon, to defend their usage of the N-word. And it's not just the jockocracy, either. Last week in The New York Times, celebrated social critic Ta-Nehisi Coates, who is African-American, made the old "context" argument; i.e., it's OK if we say it, but it's not OK if you say it. In defending the N-word as an "in-word" Coates noted how some women will jokingly call other women by a misogynistic term or some gay people will laughingly use a homophobic slur in talking with or about one another.

Some of us would say that's not such a good look, either. Some of us think there is cause for dismay when women, gay people or any put-upon people adopt the terminology of their oppressors as self-definition.

But the larger point is this: so what? Like it or not, the N-word is not like the words used to denigrate women and gay people or, for that matter, Italian, Irish or Jewish people, simply because the experiences

those peoples endured in this country do not compare with those of African-Americans.

The N-word is unique. It was present at the act of mass kidnap that created "black America," it drove the ship to get here, signed the contracts at flesh auctions on Southern ports as mother was torn from child, love from love and self from self. It had a front-row center seat for the acts of blood, rape, castration, exclusion and psychological destruction by which the created people were kept down and in their place. The whole weight of our history dictates that word cannot be used except as an expression of contempt for African-Americans. The only difference when a Matt Barnes or Ta-Nehisi Coates uses it is that the contempt is black on black.

"Context?" That argument grows more threadbare every time it's made. It may also be growing less effective in cowering white people of good will. As reporter Richard Prince recently noted in his online "Journalisms" column, a number of white journalists have refused to be silenced on this. That includes Mike Wise of the Washington Post, who wrote a brave piece confronting those who would deny him the right to be concerned because of his race.

"That doesn't work for me," he said. "I deserve a seat at this table. This is about the world my 3-year-old is going to live in." Indeed, it is about the world all our children will inherit. African-Americans are not walled off from that world, cannot commit this sin of self-denigration in our little corner of existence and command everyone else to ignore it or pretend it doesn't matter.

Our stubborn insistence otherwise speaks volumes. As does the fact that some so determinedly defend the indefensible. How can we require others to respect us when this word suggests we don't respect ourselves?

So burying the N-word, well-intentioned as it was, turns out to have been fruitless. Something in some of us seems to need this word. And to agree with it.

Let us find a way to bury that instead.

OTHER VOICES

Nov. 26

The Tampa (Fla.) Tribune on Iran agreement merits skepticism:

Americans have grown accustomed to regarding Iran as an intransigent foe, one that seemed intent on developing nuclear weapons, a quest that infuriated the nearby Israelis and Saudi Arabians and defied Western nations demanding it cease its dangerous ambitions.

Well, late Saturday night the Iranians finally told the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia and China that it would suspend its nuclear ambitions in exchange for a temporary relaxation of the economic sanctions that have crippled its economy.

But this hardly means the Iranians are our friends, and congressional leaders have good cause to be skeptical of the agreement, which by no means eliminates Iran's ability to become a nuclear power.

As The Wall Street Journal reports, the deal calls for Tehran to limit nuclear efforts in exchange for loosening of Western sanctions worth more than \$6 billion to Iran, though many sanctions will remain in place until a broader agreement is reached.

Although Iranian leaders consistently denied they were seeking to develop nuclear weaponry, their agreement Saturday to stop doing so would appear to be a tacit concession that the United States and its allies were right all along.

Two of America's strongest allies, Israel and Saudi Arabia, were dismayed by the agreement.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described Saturday's agreement as "an historic mistake."

Because Israel especially enjoys so much support from both parties on Capitol Hill, President Obama can expect to be sharply criticized for his role in reaching this agreement with Iran.

The "interim" agreement looks to have gaping holes, allowing Iran to continue low-level uranium enrichment that Israeli authorities believe could be used to mask secret efforts to develop weapons-grade fuel.

Americans have no reason to believe Iran, which until recently has demonstrated only contempt for the "Great Satan," will be more diligent about its promises.

FRACKING FROM 1A

In the rich shale oil states of New York, where fracking is not yet legal and many communities have instituted pre-emptive bans, and Pennsylvania, where fracking is widespread, similar cases have been decided in favor of shared regulation, with municipalities overseeing such things as land use and aesthetics and the state overseeing safety and construction. The lawsuit cites Texas, California, Oklahoma and Colorado as states that use a shared system.

"If this goes the way that I hope and pray it would go, it would restore some home rule to municipalities that has been taken away by the state," said Munroe Falls Mayor Frank Larson. "It would uphold our right to be able to zone certain areas and exclude certain uses and to allow those uses in other areas."

The 2004 state law under which Beck's state permit was issued consolidated oil and gas production operations under the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The company said in court filings that the idea was "to end the confusion, inefficiency and delays under the earlier patchwork of local ordinances, and to ensure that Ohio's oil and gas resources are developed on a uniform statewide basis."

Munroe Falls and its allies in the suit — including cities, villages, environmental groups and a host of local businesses — argue the law empowered the state to regulate drilling methods but gave it no authority to protect the interests of local communities. That "constitutional prerogative," cities argue, has lain with Ohio's local governments for nearly a century.

"ODNR is the permitting authority. We understand that," Larson said. "But we do have ordinances that regulate the excavation, the right of ways and that, and that's what this is all about."

Beck, joined by the American Petroleum Institute, the Ohio Oil and Gas Associa-

tion, and several major business groups, says the law "gave sole exclusive regulatory authority" to the state — which means local zoning laws wouldn't apply. To obtain its state permit, Beck complied with 29 separate permit conditions addressing fencing, parking, noise, erosion, drainage, landscaping and site restoration, the company notes.

"The city wants to use its zoning ordinance and drilling ordinances to impose onerous and time-consuming requirements and effectively prevent all drilling," Beck said.

The industry notes in court filings that before regulation was centralized, enforcement of drilling regulations differed among municipalities that lacked the expertise or the geologists necessary to meaningfully oversee the process.

The state argues it issues drilling permits under the 9-year-old law in the same way it issues permits to sell alcohol, use a boat, operate a trailer park or work as a private investigator.

Defaulting to local laws gives municipalities "effective veto power over decisions made at the state level," they say.

So far, Ohio's lower courts have been divided. The trial court sided with Munroe Falls, saying the new state law didn't give Beck the ability to "flout" local regulations.

"Ohio created a uniform system for the permitting of oil and gas wells throughout the state. It did not authorize drilling companies, permit-in-hand, to ignore any and all local regulation," that decision said.

Ohio's 9th District Court of Appeals disagreed, saying Munroe Falls' drilling regulations directly conflicted in places with state regulations — a circumstance in which the law says state law trumps local law.

"In our view, the city's requirement for a permit directly conflicts with the statute, as it could prohibit what the state has permitted," the appellate court said.

Justices have not yet set oral arguments.

GRANDSTAND FROM 1A

fair board president Sharen Cope said previously the board would not move forward unless money is available for financing.

In a press release announcing the decision, she said, "This has been a long time coming. I am so proud of our board for agreeing to move forward. The community's fondness for the fair and the early willingness of the community to support this project made all the difference in our decision."

According to Hughes, the board was in a position to put the money toward the project after selling a small piece of fair land for mineral rights.

"This very conservative, very careful, very fiscally responsible fair board has decided to go forward. This is the biggest thing that has happened to the fair since the beginning of time," he said of the project.

Robin Houlette, who serves on the grandstand committee, said in the release, "It makes perfect sense for us to have some skin in the game in improving the fairgrounds."

Steve Knizat, Scott Stear, John Wolf and Owen Unkefer also serve on the committee that is led by Paul Lease.

Hughes, who has raised funds and worked with nonprofits for more than 25 years, said it is clear the

county fair is "universally loved" and it wasn't hard finding support.

He also said there are already three companies interested in constructing the new stands, and a bid should be awarded to one of those by the end of this week. The plan is to have a new custom-made grandstand in place before next year's fair in late July.

The current grandstand seats 1,700, is not handicap accessible and dates back to at least the mid 1940's. The board wants to replace it for safety reasons.

The grandstand was renovated after a fire in the early 1900s and has experienced water damage over the years.

"We never wanted to have a smear campaign on our own bleachers, but you'll see they want the fair to be fun and safe ... These are on their last leg," he said.

The new grandstand will be similar to the current one in that it will have a roof, but it will seat 2,400 people instead of 1,700 and will not be made of wood, which Cope has said is a safety hazard.

Other items under review for improvement, depending on fundraising, are the restroom facilities, general grounds care around the grandstands and hopefully an endowment fund that will seek estate gifts, according to the release.

For more information on the 2014 fair or the grandstand project contact Tresa Unkefer at 330-424-5531. kschwendeman@mojoneews.com



Cars from a Metro-North passenger train are scattered after the train derailed in the Bronx borough of New York, Sunday. The Fire Department of New York said there were "multiple injuries" in the train derailment, and 130 firefighters responded to the scene. Metropolitan Transportation Authority police said the train derailed near the Spuyten Duyvil station. (AP Photo)

NYC train derailment kills 4, hurts more than 60

DEEPTI HAJELA and VERENA DOBNIK

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A New York City commuter train rounding a riverside curve derailed Sunday, killing four people and injuring more than 60 in a crash that threw some riders from toppling cars and swiftly raised questions about whether excessive speed, mechanical problems or human error could have played a role.

Some of the roughly 150 passengers on the early morning Metro-North train from Poughkeepsie to Manhattan were jolted from sleep around 7:20 a.m. to screams and the frightening sensation of their compartment rolling over on a bend in the Bronx where the Hudson and Harlem rivers meet. When the motion stopped, all seven cars and the locomotive had lurched off the rails, and the lead car was only inches from the water. It was the latest accident in a troubled year for the nation's second-biggest commuter railroad, which had never experienced passenger death in an accident in its 31-year history.

Joel Zaritsky was dozing as he traveled to a dental convention aboard the train. He woke up to feel his car overturning several times.

"Then I saw the gravel coming at me, and I heard people screaming," he told The Associated Press, holding his bloody right hand. "There was smoke everywhere and debris. People were thrown to the other side of the train."

In their efforts to find passengers, rescuers shattered windows, searched nearby woods and waters and used pneumatic jacks and air bags to peer under wreckage. Crews planned to bring in cranes during the night to right the overturned cars on the slight chance anyone might still be underneath, National Transportation Safety Board member Earl Weener said.

The agency was just beginning its search into what caused the derailment, and Weener said investigators had not yet spoken to the train conductor, who was among the injured.

Meanwhile, thousands of people braced for a complicated Monday morning commute, with shuttle buses ferrying passengers to another line.

Investigators were due to examine factors ranging from the track condition to the crew's performance. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the track did not appear to be faulty, leaving speed as a possible culprit for the crash. The speed limit on the curve is 30 mph, compared with 70 mph in the area approaching it, Weener said.

Authorities did not yet know how fast the train was traveling but had found a data recorder, he said.

One passenger, Frank Tatulli, told WABC-TV that the train appeared to be going "a lot faster" than usual as it approached the sharp curve near the Spuyten Duyvil station.

Nearby residents awoke to a building-shaking boom. Angel Gonzalez was in bed in his high-rise apartment overlooking the rail curve when he heard the roar.

"I thought it was a plane that crashed," he said.

Mike Gallo heard the same noise as he was walking his dog. He looked down at the tracks, saw injured people climbing out of the train and "knew it was a tragedy right away."

Within minutes, dozens of emergency crews arrived and carried passengers away on stretchers, some wearing neck braces. Others, bloodied and scratched, held ice packs to their heads.

The MTA identified the victims Sunday as Donna L. Smith, 54, of Newburgh; James G. Lovell, 58, of Cold Spring; James M. Ferrari, 59, of Montrose; and Ahn Kisook, 35, of Queens.

Three of the dead were found outside the train, and one was found inside, authorities said. Autopsies were scheduled for Monday, said the New York City medical examiner's office.

Eleven of the injured were believed to be critically wounded and another six seriously hurt, according to the

Fire Department. After visiting an area hospital Sunday evening, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg told reporters that the 11 who originally were critical no longer appear to have life-threatening injuries.

To Cuomo, the scene "looked like a toy train set that was mangled by some super-powerful force," the governor said in a phone interview with CNN.

As deadly as the derailment was, the toll could have been far greater had it happened on a weekday, or had the lead car plunged into the water instead of nearing it. The train was about half-full at the time of the crash, rail officials said.

"On a workday, fully occupied, it would have been a tremendous disaster," New York City Fire Commissioner Salvatore Joseph Cassano told reporters at the scene. The affected line, called the Hudson line, carries about 18,000 people on an average weekday morning.

For decades, the NTSB has been urging railroads to install technology that can stop derailling caused by excessive speed, along with other problems.

A rail-safety law passed by Congress in 2008 gave commuter and freight railroads until the end of 2015 to install the systems, known as positive train control. Aimed at preventing human error — the cause of about 40 percent of train accidents — it can also prevent trains from colliding, entering tracks undergoing maintenance or going the wrong way because of a switching mistake.

But the systems are expensive and complicated. Railroads are trying to push back the installation deadline another five to seven years.

Metro-North is in the process of installing the technology. It now has what's called an "automatic train control" signal system, which automatically applies the brakes if an engineer fails to respond to an alert that indicates the speed is excessive.

Such systems can slow trains in some circumstances but not bring them to a halt, said Grady Cothen, a former Federal Railroad Administration safety official.

Sunday's accident came six months after an eastbound train derailed in Bridgeport, Conn., and was struck by a westbound train. The crash injured 73 passengers, two engineers and a conductor. In July, a freight train full of garbage derailed on the same Metro-North line near the site of Sunday's wreckage.

"Safety is clearly a problem on this stretch of track," state Sen. Jeff Klein, who represents the nearby area, said Sunday.

Earlier this month, Metro-North's chief engineer, Robert Puciloski, told members of the NTSB investigating the Bridgeport derailment and that the railroad is "behind in several areas," including a five-year schedule of cyclical maintenance that had not been conducted in the area of the Bridgeport derailment since 2005.

The NTSB issued an urgent recommendation that Metro-North use "redundant protection," such as a procedure known as "shunting," in which crews attach a device to the rail in a work zone alerting the dispatcher to inform approaching trains to stop.

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HOROSCOPE

By HOLIDAY MATHIS
12/02/13

New Moon on Monday

The symbol for Sagittarius is a centaur (half man, half horse) drawing his bow and arrow to shoot at an unknown target. The new moon in Sagittarius urges you to fill in the blank as to what that target should be. Sagittarius lunar energy favors aims that will allow you to experience more of the world. This is truly the beginning of your next adventure.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Flawed creatures that we are, we sometimes fall into bad habits like laziness, procrastination and an attitude of entitlement. You combat human weakness by taking responsibility when others won't.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

It's important to see all of the different talents and purposes in the world as valuable, and none more valuable than the other. Everyone is equal, but that doesn't mean they are the same.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You'll choose your friendships carefully. Your choices aren't based on status or utility, but on who a person is. You have a better time with people who are in line with your standards for character.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You've made it through the trial-and-error process and are now at the sweetest part of a project. Everything will come together easily because you've already done the work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You may have to fight your natural inclinations in order to be an adult about today's offerings. Part of growing up (which you can do at any age) is not reacting immaturely to things that are unsettling or just plain icky.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

People are nice to you for various reasons, some having to do with you and others having nothing at all to do with you. You prefer to earn niceties, but you should take them any way they come.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Your successes and failures are not based solely on your own actions. There are many other variables at work. Be firm with yourself, but have compassion, too. It's not all in your control.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You are still a part of the material world, but the majority of people who ever existed are not. You may feel the urge to call on them for spiritual help, and they just may answer your call.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Wanting one thing, you become embroiled in the acquisition of the opposite thing. How does this happen? It's an opposition at work. You need this problem the way police need crimes and preachers need sinners.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You have fear to thank for all of the foolish risks you didn't take. As you consider throwing yourself into a dicey situation, acknowledge the fear welling up in your belly. It has kept you safe all these years, so it can't be all bad.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You have a gift for connecting with people regardless of interferences and complications. You have mixed feelings, but you'll express them in a way that helps others understand with crystal clarity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Actively combat negativity by preparing an armament against it. Fill your head with inspiring thoughts before noon, or worry will get too much real estate in your mind.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 2).

You'll have many admirers this year, and one will be particularly affectionate. A new friend encourages your desire to improve and learn, and by January a transformation will be complete. February brings the end of a cycle of training. Financial reward comes in March. May tests your conviction. Aquarius and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 20, 8, 27 and 11.

PUPPY PROFILE:

If you know when your pet was born, check out his or her sun sign and the personality that goes with it.

SAGITTARIUS: You can spot the Sagittarius dog in traffic: nose out the window, ears flapping in the wind and a big smile across his doggy snout. This dog is an explorer of the world and is happiest on the go. This pup loves to meet new people and smell new smells. The perfect environment is one he hasn't seen before. Fearlessness is a Sagittarian trademark. This pup is the first to jump into the swimming pool or head toward that intimidating Great Dane and say hello.

Guided by Jupiter, the planet of good fortune, the Sagittarius dog is a lucky charm. Owners of Sagittarius dogs credit them for social introductions and other fortunate happenings. These dogs lead their humans into interesting situations they wouldn't otherwise have known about. Even when they are misbehaving, something good usually comes of it.

Sagittarius dogs have a strong need to be free. They love to run off the leash and can't resist escaping the fence when they get the chance. Tags and microchip registration are musts for this puppy!

More checkout space



Heloise

Dear Readers: Here is this week's SOUND OFF, about courtesy while standing in line at the grocery store:

"If you are in line, please don't leave your cart and stand next to me while I am swiping my credit card. I have resorted to leaving my cart between us to protect my privacy.

"Please don't pile your items so close to mine on the conveyor belt. I don't want to pay for your stuff. (Heloise here:

This is what the dividers are for.)

"Please don't pile all your items on the counter before I'm done with my transaction. — **A Reader, Sugar Land, Texas**"

This can be a little annoying, but most folks don't mean to bug you. Comments, readers? — **Heloise**

FAST FACTS

Dear Readers: Here are other uses for contact-lens cases:

- Use for small amounts of creams or lotions.
- Store earrings in one for travel.
- If it can be done safely, use as a pillbox.
- Put lip gloss in one.
- Keep extra buttons or small pins in one.

— **Heloise**

ITCH RELIEF

Dear Heloise: I got into some plants that have made me itch terribly. Is there anything I can do to help relieve the itch? — **Jason in Texas**

Jason, help is on the way! Pour about 1/2 cup to a cup of baking soda in a warm bath and soak for a while to help relieve that itch. If you have spots that are really irritated, mix baking soda with a little water to make a paste, apply, then cover with a damp cloth and try to relax for five to 10 minutes. Baking soda is fantastic for so many things, from health to home.

Want to know some money-saving hints using baking soda? Just order my baking-soda pamphlet. Please send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Have a minor kitchen burn? Mix 3 parts baking soda to 1 part water. Dab on the burn and cover with a cool, damp cloth. — **Heloise**

GIVE-A-TREE

Dear Heloise: For people who have everything but deserve something special for an anniversary, a birthday, as a thanks, etc., I send Give-a-Tree cards from the Arbor Day Foundation. The cards are beautiful, and in the person's honor a tree is planted in a national forest. — **Marian R., Rapid City, S.D.**

How lovely, and a great hint for Mother Earth! What a bargain, as the cards are only \$5.95, so you could send several. The foundation has many to pick from, and other gifts, too. It does custom printing for free — what a deal! Visit the website www.arborday.org or call 888-448-7337. — **Heloise**

Group can help with loss of child

DEAR ABBY: My little girl was born with a heart defect. She made it through the first heart surgery, but passed away a week later right in front of me while the doctors and nurses tried to save her.

As the date of her death gets closer, I am becoming more and more depressed. How can I remember her and share my memories in a good way when all I want to do is stay in bed and cry? — **HEARTBROKEN MOMMY IN NORTH CAROLINA**

DEAR MOMMY: I am so sorry for your loss. A way to remember your little girl and share those memories would be to contact a group called The Compassionate Friends. It's a national self-help support organization for families grieving the death of a child and was started to help families cope with the loss of children of any age and from any cause.

It sponsors a worldwide candle lighting on the second Sunday of December each year. The event is held at 7 p.m. local time and lasts for one hour. Services are also held throughout the day in hundreds of locations in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., as well as in other countries around the world. You can post a memorial message for your daughter in the online memorial book.

To locate a service near you and learn more about the work this organization does and what it offers, visit www.compassionatefriends.org, or call toll-free 877-969-0010. This is a valuable resource for anyone who has lost a child.

DEAR ABBY: I recently went on a business trip that required me to share meals with my co-workers. I became the target of criticism from them over my eating habits because I like to eat my dessert first. It doesn't keep me from eating the rest of the meal; I just do it in a different order than most people.

When the subject came up, I tried to explain that because I wasn't allowed to do it as a child, I swore that when I was an adult, I'd eat my food in any order I wanted. But lately, it has failed to diffuse the tension.

I don't think I'm being rude. I do this only at restaurants where it's possible to order dessert at the same time as the meal. I'd never do it when I'm a guest in someone's home.

Do you think I'm being rude? Should I eat in a more conventional way to avoid flak from people I'm dining with? — **SWEET TOOTH IN COLORADO**

DEAR SWEET TOOTH: I'm not your mother, so I'll refrain from lecturing you about the empty calories you consume, which reduce your appetite for the healthy food you "should" be eating at mealtime. And yes, I do think what you're doing is rude because it is obviously making your eating companions uncomfortable, or you wouldn't be getting flak along with your dessert.

DEAR ABBY: After 31 years of marriage, my wife and I have split up. We love each other, but after the kids moved out we realized we have little in common.

What is an appropriate Christmas gift for an ex-wife? We are on friendly terms and will probably spend the holidays together with our children. I don't want to give a gift that will offend or encourage her. — **FREE MAN IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR FREE MAN: How about a gift card from her favorite store, or a lovely scarf or colorful shawl, or if she has a hobby, something to do with it? None of them would send the wrong message.

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

MONDAY											DEC. 2	
	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
(2) (KDKA)	News		CBS	Treas	Mother	Broke	Mike	Mom '14'	Hostages (N) '14'	News	Late Sh.	
(3) (WKYC)	News	News	News	Ent	The Voice (N) '14'	(Live) 'PG' '66			(.01) The Blacklist	News	Jay Leno	
(4) (WTAE)	News	ABC	Inside	Ent	Charlie Brown		CMA Country Christmas (N) '14'			News	Kimmel	
(5) (WEWS)	News	ABC	The List	Let's Ask	Charlie Brown		CMA Country Christmas (N) '14'			News	Kimmel	
(8) (WUW)	Fox 8 News at 6PM		News	Big Bang	Almost Human '14'		Sleepy Hollow '14'		News	Arsenio Hall		
(9) (WTOV)	News 9	News	Jeopardy	Wheel	The Voice (N) '14'	(Live) 'PG' '66			(.01) The Blacklist	News	Jay Leno	
(11) (WPXI)	News	News	Jeopardy	Wheel	The Voice (N) '14'	(Live) 'PG' '66			(.01) The Blacklist	News	Jay Leno	
(17) (WDLI)	Praise the Lord 'Y'		Lucado	Potters	Behind	Living	Franklin	Duplantis	Praise the Lord (N) (Live) 'Y' '66			
(19) (WOIO)	News	CBS	Wheel	Jeopardy	Mother	Broke	Mike	Mom '14'	Hostages (N) '14'	News	Late Sh.	
(21) (WFMY)	News	News	Inside	FamFeud	The Voice (N) '14'	(Live) 'PG' '66			(.01) The Blacklist	News	Jay Leno	
(22) (WCWB)	Mod Fam	Middle	Mod Fam	Middle	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	Commun	Commun	
(23) (WVPX)	Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'	Criminal Minds '14'		
(27) (WKBN)	First	CBS	Wheel	Jeopardy	Mother	Broke	Mike	Mom '14'	Hostages (N) '14'	First	Late Sh.	
(33) (WYTV)	News	ABC	Ent	Insider	Charlie Brown		CMA Country Christmas (N) '14'			News	Kimmel	
(43) (WUAB)	Insider	Inside	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		News	Sports	Extra (N)	Access
(49) (WEAD)	Sesame	Start Up	PBS NewsHour (N)		Celtic Woman: Home			Tenors: Lead With-Heart		Newsline	Business	
(53) (WPGH)	Big Bang	Two Men	Big Bang	Two Men	Almost Human '14'		Sleepy Hollow '14'		Channel 11 News	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	
(55) (WBXN)	Rules	Commun	Middle	Middle	"It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas"				Friends	Friends	Commun	
(67) (WOAC)	Health	History	Health	CBN	TCT	Manna	Benny	Life	J Hagee	Yr Bible	Wom	Youngren
(A&E)	The First 48 '14'	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.
(AMC)	(5:30) 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?'								Movie: *** 'Twister' (1996) Helen Hunt. '66			Movie: 'Erin Brockovich' '66
(AP)	Finding Bigfoot		Infested! 'PG'		Monsters Inside Me		Monsters Inside Me		Raised Wild 'PG'		Monsters Inside Me	
(BET)	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Hus		Movie: ** 'Deliver Us From Eva' (2003) '66					Chocolate Sundaes: Live		
(BRAV)	Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Vanderpump Rules		Real Housewives	Happens	Real	
(CNBC)	Mad Money (N)		The Kudlow Report		60 Minutes on		American Greed		Car	Car	Mad Money	
(CNN)	Situation	Crossfire	E. B. OutFront		Anderson Cooper		Piers Morgan Live		AC 360 Later (N)		E. B. OutFront	
(CSPN)	(2:30) U.S. House of Representatives (N) (Live)						First Ladies: Influence & Image (N) (Live)				Capitol Hill Hearings	
(DISC)	Fast N' Loud '14'		Fast N' Loud '14'		Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud '14'		(.01) Street Outlaws		(.01) Fast N' Loud	
(DISN)	Good	Jessie	ANT	Austin	Liv-Mad.		'Good Luck Charlie'		Good	ANT	Jessie	Good
(EJ)	Total Divas '14'		El News (N)		Kardashian		Kardashian				Chelsea	El News
(ESPN)	SportCtr		Monday Night Countdown (N) (Live) '66			(.25) NFL Football New Orleans Saints at Seattle Seahawks.					SportCtr	
(ESPN2)	Around	Pardon	College Basketball Florida at Connecticut.		College Basketball: Big-12/SEC Challenge						SportCtr	Ober.
(FAM)	Winnie	Mickey	Jack Frost 'G'		Movie: *** 'The Santa Clause' (1994)						'Santa Clause 3: Escape Clause'	
(FNC)	Special Report		Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File (N)		Hannity (N)		The O'Reilly Factor	
(FOOD)	Diners	Diners	Guy's Games		Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
(FSOH)	Jackets	Cavaliers	College Football Notre Dame at Stanford.	(Taped)					Cavaliers	Jackets	World Poker Tour	
(GAC)	More Music Videos		Coun. Awards		Christmas Crazy 'G'		Christmas Crazier		Christmas Extreme		Year-Christmas	
(HBO)	'The Lucky One'		Movie: *** 'The Descendants' '14'		Battle	(.45) Movie: *** 'The Five-Year Engagement' '14'						
(HGTV)	Love It or List It 'G'		Love It or List It 'G'		Love It or List It 'G'		Love It or List It 'G'		Hunters	Hunt Intl	Love It or List It	
(I)	Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'	
(LIFE)	Movie: 'On Strike for Christmas' 'PG'				'The Twelve Trees of Christmas' (2013)				Movie: *** 'Call Me Claus' (2001) 'PG'			
(MAX)	Movie: 'This Means War' '14'	(.45) Movie: ** 'The Man in the Iron Mask' (1998)									Movie: *** 'Assault on Precinct 13'	
(MSNBC)	PoliticsNation (N)		Hardball Matthews		All In With Chris		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All In With Chris	
(MTV)	Snooki	Snooki	Snooki	Snooki	True Life '14'		Generation Cryo '14'		Generation Cryo (N)		Generation Cryo '14'	
(NICK)	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sam & Awesome		Full H'se		Full H'se		Full H'se		Full H'se	
(OVC)	(5:00) Great Gifts 'G'		Canon Cameras 'G'		Dooney & Bourke		Jane & Rick's Gift Favorites 'G'				Canon Cameras 'G'	
(SHOW)	(5:15) 'The Words'		'Time of Death 'MA'		Homeland '14'		Masters of Sex 'MA'		Homeland '14'		Masters of Sex 'MA'	
(SYFY)	'Rise of Zombie'		Movie: 'Zombie Apocalypse' (2011) '14'		Movie: 'Zombie Night' (2013, Horror) '14'						'Wrong Turn 4'	
(TBN)	Praise the Lord 'Y'		Lucado	Potters	Behind	Living	Franklin	Duplantis	Praise the Lord (N) (Live) 'Y' '66			
(TCM)	(5:45) Movie: 'Death of a Scoundrel'				Movie: *** 'The Hudsucker Proxy'				Movie: *** 'Gladiator' (2000) '66			
(TLC)	Cake	Cake	Cake Boss 'PG'		Bigger & Batter		Bakery Boss 'PG'		Best Fu	Best Fu	(.01) Bakery Boss	
(TNN)	'Star Wars V: The Empire'	(.20) Movie: *** 'Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi' (1983)							Academy		Movie: 'Godzilla'	
(TNT)	Castle 'PG' '66		Castle 'PG' '66		Major Crimes '14'		Major Crimes '14'		(.01) Rizzoli & Isles		(.01) Major Crimes	
(TOON)	Carte	Total	Adven	Regular	Steven	MAD 'PG'	Regular	Adven	Fam. Guy	Rick	Fam. Guy	Cleve
(TRAV)	Bizarre Foods		Food	Food	Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods	
(TRUTV)	Full Throttle Saloon		Full Throttle Saloon		Full Throttle Saloon		Full Throttle Saloon		Full Throttle Saloon		Full Throttle Saloon	
(TVLAND)	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King
(USA)	NCIS 'PG' '66		NCIS '14' '66		WWE Monday Night RAW (N) (Live) 'PG' '66						(.05) White Collar	
(WGN)	Funny Home Videos		Funny Home Videos		Funny Home Videos		Funny Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		Mother	Rules
(WTBS)	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan (N) '14'	

Mitigating heart risks with statin drugs</

Lisbon Christmas Parade

Folks from The Clip Joint won second place for the Best Overall parade theme float as they recreated a scene around the tree from an old-fashioned Christmas. The Lisbon Christmas Parade was held Saturday. (Salem News photos by Patti Schaeffer)



Santa arrived in Lisbon for the annual Christmas parade aboard a Pontiac G6 convertible sleigh waving to all his fans along the parade route. Following the parade Santa meet with all of the kids for pictures and to hear their wishes.



Tabitha Ketchum of Lisbon wanted to spread the Christmas spirit so her mom made costumes for her and her friends. Putting together a float for the small group, Tabitha as the Grinch, Chloe Loveland as Cindy Lou Who and Brady Chamberlain as Max the Dog, they passed out stuffed animals to crowd along the parade route and garnered the first place award for Best Overall parade theme in Lisbon 2013 Christmas parade. The group plans on visiting some nursing homes and classrooms in the future.



Three-year-old Elizabeth Falk of Lisbon is wide-eyed with wonder as she spies Santa Claus coming down the parade route.

Crown Theater presenting 'It's a Wonderful Life'

COLUMBIANA — Crown Theater Productions is ending the season by presenting "It's A Wonderful Life." The traditional holiday classic will open Dec. 6 at Main Street Theater at 5 N. Main St., Columbiana. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.brownpapertickets.com. Adults are \$13 and children under 10 are \$10. "It's A Wonderful Life" will run Dec. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15. Friday and Saturdays performances are 8 p.m. Sunday performances are 2 p.m. 2014 season tickets are now available. The five planned performances are: "Annie," "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "Music Man," "Diary of Anne Frank," and "Miracle on 34th Street." Ticket also includes a dessert at each show. For information, call 330-482-9915.

Got news?
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Calendar THIS WEEK . . .

MON/2 BUTLER TOWNSHIP
Board of Trustees, 7 p.m., Administration Building.

CANFIELD
Canfield Area AARP #3104, lunch, 1 p.m., Ala Carte; reservations, 330-533-3528.

COLUMBIANA
TOPS 720, Presbyterian Church, weigh-ins-9-9:35 a.m.; 330-482-5946.

"Minute-It-To-Win-It" program, 2-4 p.m., Columbiana Public Library, for teens in grades six-12. To register call 330-482-5509.

Fairfield/Waterford Class of 1959, monthly dinner, 5:30 p.m., Adrian's in Calcutta.

EAST PALESTINE
East Palestine Board of Education meeting, 6 p.m., East Palestine Elementary School media center.

GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
Board of Trustees, work session, 7 p.m., Administration Building.

LISBON
Al-Anon meeting, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Fleming House, 7300 Rose Drive.

Alateen meeting, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Fleming House, 7300 Rose Drive.

SALEM
Food distribution, 9-11:30 a.m., Salem Community Pantry, 794 E. Third St.

R-Weigh weight groups, 1:45 and 6:15 p.m., First Friends Church. Weigh-ins 1-1:30 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.; 330-332-1078.

Emotions Anonymous meeting, 2-3 p.m., Holy Trinity Church; 330-337-3089.

TOPS 1380, 6:15 p.m., Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 251 S. Broadway Ave.; 330-584-7952.

Compassionate Friends meeting, 7 p.m., First Friends Church, 1028 Jennings Ave.

Banquet in Salem, 5-7 p.m., Memorial Building; baked chicken, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, fresh fruit and vegetables, mandarin orange cake, pumpkin squares.

TUE/3 HANOVERTON
United Athletic Booster Club meeting, 6 p.m., United High School library.

LEETONIA
Leetonia High School Class of 1951, breakfast, 9 a.m., Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

LISBON
McKinley Elementary School, Santa's Secret Workshop, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., closed for lunch from noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.; mckinleyp1314@gmail.com or 330-424-9869.

Overeaters Anonymous, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Fleming House behind McDonald's; 330-337-0940.

SALEM
Rotary Club, lunch, 11:45 a.m., Salem Community Center.

Food distribution, 5-7:30 p.m., Salem Community Pantry, 794 E. Third St.

Salem Lions Club, 6 p.m., Memorial Building (second floor).

United Quilt Guild, Christmas party, 6:15 p.m., Leetonia Library; bring filled Christmas stockings for United Local students.

Committee of the Whole of city council, meeting, 6 p.m., city hall council chambers, report on CIC, indoor shooting ranges discussion.

City Council, meeting, 7 p.m., city hall council chambers.

Salem Jubilee Chorus practice. Male and female singers wanted, 7-8:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 244 S. Broadway Ave.; 330-337-6682.

Salem Hunting Club, indoor black powder muzzle loader shoot 7 p.m.

Deadline to purchase "12 Days of Christmas" raffle tickets, Consumers National Bank, Salem News, Salem Computer Center, Giant Eagle and Salem Area Chamber of Commerce office.

WED/4 HANOVERTON
United High School Class of 1963, lunch, noon, Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

LEETONIA
Leetonia High School Class of 1949, lunch, noon, Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

Informational program titled "Brain Health: Can You Prevent Alzheimer's?", 1 p.m., Leetonia Community Public Library; register at 330-427-6635.

Village Council, 7 p.m., Village Hall.

LISBON
McKinley Elementary School, Santa's Secret Workshop, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.; mckinleyp1314@gmail.com or 330-424-9869.

SALEM
Salem High School Class of 1951, breakfast, 9 a.m., Skyline Diner.

Saxon Retirees meeting, snacks at 11:30 a.m., lunch and meeting to follow.

Marketplace Exchange program, noon to 4 p.m., Salem Public Library's Quaker Room. Registration not required; 330-332-0042. TOPS 777, weigh-ins 5:30-6:15 p.m., meeting 6:20 p.m., Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 251 S. Broadway Ave.; 330-332-1280.

SEBRING
Al-Anon meetings, Pine Lake Christian Church, 636 Pine Lake Road. Beginner's meeting, 6:30 p.m.; regular meeting, 7 p.m.

WASHINGTONVILLE
"Soup to go," \$6 per quart, drive-thru pick-up open 3-5 p.m., Robbins United Methodist Church, 100 High St.; 330-427-2035.

THU/5 ALLIANCE
American Red Cross blood drive, 12:30-6 p.m., conference room 1-A, Alliance Community Hospital, 200 E. State St.; appointments, www.redcross-blood.org. 330-596-7822 or 330-596-7821.

COLUMBIANA
Program by Marilyn McKinley of the Holborn Herb Society, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Columbiana Public Library. Registration required in person or 330-482-5509.

DAMASCUS
TOPS Chapter 1329, 9:30 a.m., Damascus United Methodist Church; 330-537-3796.

EAST PALESTINE
East Palestine High School Class of 1962, lunch meeting, 11:30 a.m., Harry's in Darlington, Pa.

EAST LIVERPOOL
Friends of Beaver Creek State Park's Pioneer Village meeting, 6 p.m., Trading Post, 12013 Echo Dell Road. Plans for Christmas in the Park planned Sunday, Dec. 8 will be finalized. Volunteers welcome. 330-227-3939

SALEM
TOPS 1598, 9:50 a.m., First United Methodist Church. Weigh-ins, 8:45-9:30 a.m.; 330-332-1127. Handicap accessible.

Overeaters Anonymous, 6 p.m., Faith Chapel, 511 E. Pershing St.; 330-853-9311.

Salem High School Class of 1972, holiday dinner, 6 p.m., BB Rooners.

Salem Area Amateur Radio Association meeting, 6:30 p.m., Salem Public Library.

Salem Bird Study Club, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 436 E. Second St.; use rear entrance.

FRI/6 SALEM
Holiday bazaar and lunch, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Memorial Building, 785 E. State St.; 330-332-5512.

Christmas boutique, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 244 S. Broadway Ave.; 330-337-9531.

Food distribution, 9-11:30 a.m., Salem Community Pantry, 794 E. Third St.

Santa's Workshop, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., "In Christ's Hands Workshop" at the Salem First Church of the Nazarene, 1431 N. Ellsworth Ave.

Addiction recovery, open meeting, 7 p.m., Faith Chapel, 511 E. Pershing St.; 330-332-8573.

"Light Up Night," 7 p.m., front lawn, Salem Area Chamber of Commerce; Quakertown Trolley's Christmas light tours follow; 330-337-3473.

SAT/7 HANOVERTON
United High School Class of 1967, breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Avalon Restaurant; 330-222-1739 or 330-424-1259

SALEM
All-you-can eat breakfast, 7-11 a.m., Salem Hunting Club on U.S. Route 62; \$5 per person.

Holiday bazaar, lunch, Chinese auction and 50/50 raffle, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Memorial Building, 785 E. State St.; 330-332-5512.

Salem High School Class of 1972, monthly breakfast, 9 a.m., Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

Christmas boutique, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 244 S. Broadway Ave.; 330-337-9531.

Salem Storybook Museum's Holiday Food Basket Raffle tickets, available at Giant Eagle, 9 a.m.; \$5.

Salem High School Class of 1963, breakfast, 9:30 a.m., BB Rooners.

Salem High School Class of 1949, breakfast, 9:30 a.m., Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

Santa's Workshop, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., "In Christ's Hands Workshop" at the Salem First Church of the Nazarene, 1431 N. Ellsworth Ave.

Salem High School Class of 1973, breakfast, 10 a.m., Skyline Diner.

Candyland game, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Salem Public Library.

Salem Christmas parade, 1 p.m., line-up at Salem High School, march down North Lincoln Avenue to East State Street, turn and proceed through downtown. Parade applications mailed to previous participants; new entries call 330-337-3473.

Salem Storybook Museum's "Trim-a-Tree" holiday party, Kent State City Center, 230 N. Lincoln Ave., 2-3:30 p.m., free admission. Reservations required, 330-337-7121 or 330-332-4723.

WINONA
Hazel Circle of the Winona United Methodist Church's cookie walk and craft sale, 9 a.m.-noon, 32114 Winona Road; cookies \$4 per dozen.

SUN/8 COLUMBIANA
Seasons of Hope, a support group for the bereaved, meeting at 3 p.m., St. Jude Church, 180 Seventh St.; 330-402-5450 or 330-482-2351.

EAST LIVERPOOL
Christmas in the Pioneer Village, noon-6 p.m., Beaver Creek State Park, 2013 Echo Dell Road; free admission.

SALEM
Concealed carry class, Salem Hunting Club. Pre-registration required, 330-332-9847; www.salemhuntingclub.com.

MON/9 COLUMBIANA
TOPS 720, Presbyterian Church, weigh-ins-9-9:35 a.m.; 330-482-5946.

Community Christian Women, Christmas program, Nazarene Church, lunch, 12:30 p.m. Reservations, 330-482-2155, 330-482-2153, 330-482-2776; bring staple items for the Way Station.

GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
Board of Trustees, 7 p.m., Administration Building.

LEETONIA
Christmas tree lighting, 5:45 p.m., Wick Park; followed by Polar Express, 6 p.m., Leetonia library.

LISBON
Al-Anon meeting, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Fleming House, 7300 Rose Drive.

Alateen meeting, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Fleming House, 7300 Rose Drive.

SALEM
Food distribution, 9-11:30 a.m., Salem Community Pantry, 794 E. Third St.

R-Weigh weight groups, 1:45 and 6:15 p.m., First Friends Church. Weigh-ins 1-1:30 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.; 330-332-1078.

Emotions Anonymous meeting, 2-3 p.m., Holy Trinity Church; 330-337-3089.

TOPS 1380, 6:15 p.m., Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 251 S. Broadway Ave.; 330-584-7952.

TUE/10 LISBON
Overeaters Anonymous, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Fleming House behind McDonald's; 330-337-0940.

Community meeting for the new Beaver Local school, 6:30 p.m., high school auditorium, 13187 state Route 7.

SALEM
Retired Salem Community Hospital employees, lunch, 11 a.m., Das Dutch Haus.

Rotary Club, lunch, 11:45 a.m., Salem Community Center.

Food distribution, 5-7:30 p.m., Salem Community Pantry, 794 E. Third St.

Family Storytime, 6:30 p.m., Quaker Room, Salem Public Library; no registration required.

Salem Jubilee Chorus practice. Male and female singers wanted, 7-8:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 244 S. Broadway Ave.; 330-337-6682.

WED/11 COLUMBIANA
Bake sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Whispering Pines Village, 937 E. Park Ave. Craft sale, 2-3:30 p.m.; 330-482-9400.

SALEM
Toddler Time, for children ages 18-36 months, 11 a.m., Quaker Room, Salem Public Library; no registration required.

Salem High School Class of 1956, monthly luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

Men of the Salem High School Class of 1960, lunch, noon, Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

TOPS 777, weigh-ins 5:30-6:15 p.m., meeting 6:20 p.m., Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 251 S. Broadway Ave.; 330-332-1280.

SALEM TOWNSHIP
Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., 3034 Lisbon Road.

SEBRING
Al-Anon meetings, Pine Lake Christian Church, 636 Pine Lake Road. Beginner's meeting, 6:30 p.m.; regular meeting, 7 p.m.

THU/12 COLUMBIANA
Standing Together meeting for single moms, 6:30 p.m., Way Station. Growing Together group, 6:15-8 p.m., Upper Room Fellowship; 330-482-5072.

DAMASCUS
TOPS Chapter 1329, 9:30 a.m., Damascus United Methodist Church; 330-537-3796.

NEW WATERFORD
Council, 7 p.m., community building.

NORTH LIMA
Drive-thru chicken dinners, 3:30-6 p.m., or until sold out, Calvary United Methodist Church, 12062 South Ave. Extension, \$6. Reservations, 330-549-2588.

SALEM
Kaiser/National retirees and past employees, breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

Salem Community Hospital Auxiliary, Christmas brunch, 9:30 a.m., Salem Community Center.

TOPS 1598, 9:50 a.m., First United Methodist Church. Weigh-ins, 8:45-9:30 a.m.; 330-332-1127. Handicap accessible.

Overeaters Anonymous, 6 p.m., Faith Chapel, 511 E. Pershing St.; 330-853-9311.

Salem Hunting Club, Pistol League, 6 p.m.



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Give the Gift of Knowledge

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

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

Rating: BRONZE

Solution to 11/30/13

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

PREP ACTION

Girls and boys basketball schedules. 2B

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SN SPORTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013 ★ SALEM NEWS

▶ NFL

Browns bottom out vs. Jaguars

CLEVELAND (AP) — His eyes filled with tears, Joe Haden's voice cracked as his emotions alternated between disgust and disbelief.

Of all the losses, this one hit Haden hardest.

Cleveland's hopeful season is shattered.

Haden was beaten by Jacksonville wide receiver Cecil Shorts for a 20-yard TD pass from Chad Henne with 40 seconds left as the rejuvenated Jaguars rallied for a 32-28 win on Sunday over the Browns, who dropped their third straight, sixth in seven games and seen their playoff hopes disappear.

Afterward, Haden struggled to stay composed.

"I don't know, man," Haden said, trying to figure what has happened to a promising season. "I don't know. We can't stand losing, it hurts."

The Browns (4-8) had taken a 28-25 lead with 3:55 left on Brandon Weeden's stunning 95-yard touchdown pass to Josh Gordon, who caught 10 passes for 261 yards and became the first player in NFL history to record 200 receiving yards in consecutive games. But Cleveland's defense couldn't stop Henne, who

"I go out there and put my heart out there every time. Every time. And we end up coming up short."

**JOE HADEN
BROWNS CORNERBACK**

drove the Jaguars (3-9) for the go-ahead score.

Haden, who has had a Pro Bowl-caliber season, took responsibility for the TD.

"It was my fault," Haden said. "He ran a good route, a good play. Don't take anything from our D, we're out there every time grinding, fighting. This hurts. Every time we start losing, we're tired of it and there's nothing we can say."

Three weeks ago, the Browns seemed on the verge of finally turning the corner. At 4-5, they were in the playoff chase. But losses to Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and now Jacksonville, has not only dropped them from contention, but the

Browns are staring at another likely double-digit loss season.

"I'm very disappointed," said safety T.J. Ward. "We've got to learn how to finish."

The beleaguered Weeden, back in the starting lineup because Jason Campbell has a concussion, suffered a head injury after a mixed performance. He threw three touchdown passes, two interceptions and had to kick a ball snapped high over his head out of the end zone for a safety.

After passing for 370 yards, Weeden complained of feeling poorly and was diagnosed with a concussion, team spokesman Zak Gilbert said. Because of his injury, per league rules, Weeden was kept from speaking to reporters. With Campbell also not yet cleared to play, the Browns may be forced to start recently signed Alex Tanney next week at New England.

Down 21-20 and with their offense doing nothing, the Jaguars took the lead when Browns center Alex Mack snapped the ball over Weeden's head into the end zone and the QB alertly

See **BROWNS, 2B**



Jacksonville Jaguars' Cecil Shorts makes the game-winning touchdown catch against Cleveland Browns cornerback Joe Haden late in Sunday's game. Shorts played quarterback at Collinwood High School in Cleveland and was the leading receiver on Mount Union's 2008 NCAA Division III national championship team. (AP photo)

▶ COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Meyer won't suspend players

COLUMBUS (AP) — Ohio State coach Urban Meyer says the players ejected from the Michigan game for fighting will not be suspended for the Big Ten championship game.

Running back Dontre Wilson and offensive lineman Marcus Hall were kicked out of Saturday's game when a skirmish broke out after a kickoff return in the second quarter.

Meyer said Sunday that he will meet with athletic director Gene Smith and speak with Big Ten officials about the fight.

A Big Ten spokesman said Saturday that the league would have to review video of the play before deciding if any players would be punished further.

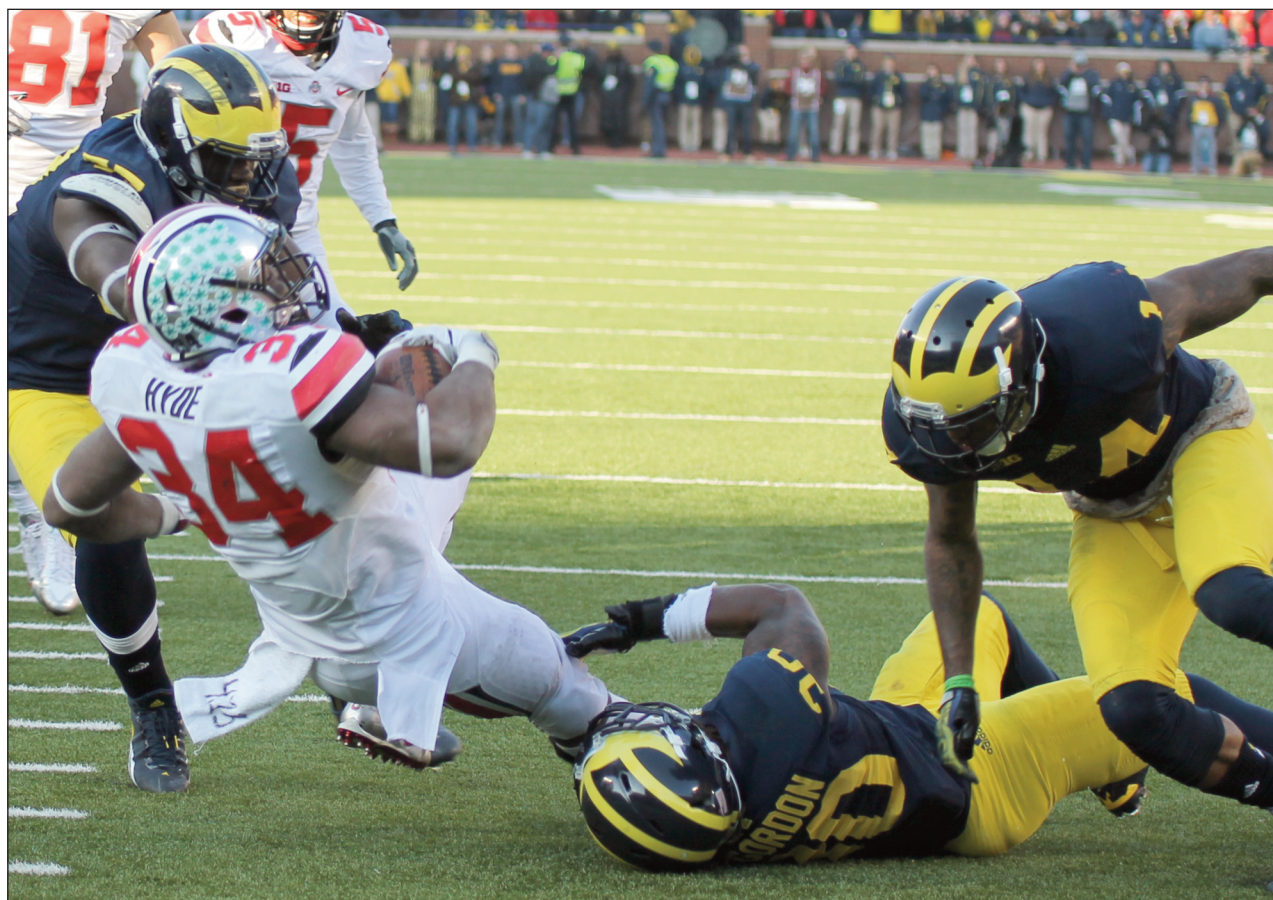
After Hall was ejected, he made an obscene gesture toward Michigan fans while heading to the locker room.

The second-ranked Buckeyes face No. 10 Michigan State this Saturday in Indianapolis.

Florida State and Ohio State are in position to play for the BCS national championship, though Auburn and Missouri are close enough behind in the BCS standings to put pressure on the Buckeyes.

The Seminoles grabbed the top spot in the BCS standings released Sunday after Alabama relinquished it for the first time this season.

The Crimson Tide's wild 34-28 loss at Auburn dropped Alabama to fourth. Ohio State is second and Auburn is third. Missouri is fifth. Auburn and Missouri play in the Southeastern Conference championship game Saturday in Atlanta. The winner should get a boost in the standings, but it might not be enough to catch the unbeaten Buckeyes.



Ohio State running back Carlos Hyde tries to get to the end zone as Michigan defensive back Thomas Gordon trips him up during the Buckeyes' 42-17 win Saturday. (Salem News/Gary Leininger).

Stakes are high for Buckeyes

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Stakes will be high for No. 2 Ohio State and No. 10 Michigan State in the Big Ten championship game — though there might be some cool consolation prizes for the loser.

The Buckeyes (12-0, 8-0 Big Ten) need a win to keep their national title hopes alive and it would help if it was an impressive victory to fend off a one-loss SEC champion in the BCS standings. Even with a loss, the Buckeyes are well-positioned to receive an at-large BCS bid.

But it is all about the Big Ten this week for the Buckeyes.

Coach Urban Meyer said Sunday during a teleconference with reporters that he planned to spend no more than a few seconds talking with his team

See **BUCKEYES, 2B**



Michigan running back Fitzgerald Toussaint, who starred at Liberty High School, scores a TD against Ohio State's Christian Bryant on Saturday. (Salem News/Gary Leininger).

▶ PREP BASKETBALL

W. Branch downs Gilmour

From Staff Reports

NORTH CANTON — The West Branch girls are making a statement early in the season.

West Branch posted its second straight win against a sweet 16 team that won more than 20 games last season as the Warriors topped Gilmour Academy, 44-30, at the Hoops Fest at Walsh University on Saturday night.

The Warriors, coming off a win over Canfield, improves to 3-0.

West Branch outscored Gilmour 15-6 in the second quarter and 15-7 in the third quarter to open up a 38-18 lead before giving the starters a rest.

Melinda Trimmer led the charge with 13 points. Taryn Hahn and Erica Johnson were solid inside with Hahn scoring 10 points and Johnson grabbing seven rebounds.

Gilmour played without senior Kelsey Dugger, a first-team Division III All-Ohio last season, who has committed to NCAA Division II nationally-ranked Gannon University. Dugger missed her sophomore season due to a knee injury and apparently re-injured it during a scrimmage.

Emily Kelley topped the Lancers with 14 points.

GILMOUR: 5- 6- 7-12-30
W. BRANCH: 8-15-15- 6-44
GILMOUR ACADEMY SCORING: Emily Kelley 6-0-14, Marisa Finazzo 1-0-2, Grace Mullen 2-0-6, Sydney Dietrich 0-0-0, Kelly Harrington 0-0-0, Jess Janota 3-2-8. **TOTALS:** 12, 2-3: 30.
WEST BRANCH SCORING: Melinda Trimmer 4-4-13, Emily Menegay 1-0-2, Kaylee Manning 0-0-0, Pavin Heath 3-0-6, Mariah Herbert 1-0-2, Amanda Linhart 0-1-1, Allie Garrett 0-0-0, Paige Walsh 0-0-0, Taryn Hahn 4-1-10, Erica Johnson 2-0-4, Lauren Marig 0-0-0, Lea Bock 3-0-6. **TOTALS:** 18, 6-11: 44.

Page 2
SNSPORTS

WHAT2WATCH

Noon (STO) College football: Wittenberg at Mount Union, NCAA Division III playoffs (taped).
7 p.m. (ESPN2) College basketball: Florida at UConn.
7 p.m. (STO) College hockey: Michigan at Ohio State.
8 p.m. (NBCSN) NHL: Flyers at Wild.
8:25 p.m. (ESPN) NFL: Saints at Seahawks.
9 p.m. (ESPN2) College basketball: Vanderbilt at Texas.

2DAYSEVENTS

Monday, Dec. 2
Girls
Beaver Local at Wellsville
Columbiana at Crestview
East Liverpool at United
Hubbard at Canfield
Lisbon at Leetonia
South Range at Western Reserve
Southern Local at Heartland
Christian
Springfield at Lowellville

Tuesday, Dec. 3
Boys
South Range at Salem
Canfield at Lake
Carrollton at East Liverpool
Columbiana at Sebring
Heartland Christian at Rootstown
Lisbon at Leetonia
Ravenna Southeast at West Branch
Springfield at Lowellville
Girls
American Spirit at Neighborhood
Oak Glen at Weir

Wednesday, Dec. 4
Girls
Salem at Cardinal Mooney
Heartland Christian at Youngstown Christian

Thursday, Dec. 5
Girls
Beaver Local at Steubenville
Canfield at Austintown Fitch
Crestview at Lisbon
Jackson-Milton at Springfield
Leetonia at Columbiana
Lowellville at Western Reserve
McDonald at Wellsville
Mineral Ridge at United
Sebring at Southern Local
South Range vs. East Palestine

2DAYS DATE

December 2
1907 — Tommy Burns defends his world heavyweight title by knocking out Gunner Moir in the 10th round at London.
1944 — Ohio State quarterback Leslie Horvath wins the Heisman Trophy.
1947 — Notre Dame quarterback Johnny Lujack wins the Heisman Trophy.
1958 — Army back Pete Dawkins is named the Heisman Trophy winner.
1977 — Veterinarian Mark Gerard is indicted in a horse-switching scandal. Cinzano, a purportedly dead 4-year-old champion colt, won a race on Sept. 23 at Belmont Park, under the name of Lebon, a 57-1 long shot.
1993 — The Houston Rockets tie the NBA record for the best start to a season, improving to 15-0 with a 94-85 victory over the New York Knicks. The Rockets matched the start of the 1948-49 Washington Capitols.
1995 — Notre Dame advances to the NCAA women's soccer championship by becoming the first team to beat 13-time champion North Carolina in the national semifinals. The lone score comes when Tar Heels forward Cindy Parlow accidentally heads a ball into her own net.
2002 — Oakland's Tim Brown and Jerry Rice take turns rewriting the NFL record book in a 26-20 win over the New York Jets. Brown becomes the third player with 1,000 receptions and the third with 14,000 yards receiving. Rich Gannon ties an NFL record with his ninth 300-yard passing game of the season. On the very next play after Brown's 1,000th catch, Rice scores on a 26-yard catch, giving Oakland a 13-10 lead. It's Rice's record 192nd TD catch and puts him over 1,000 yards receiving for a record 14th season.

► HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Western Reserve teammates Parker Clegg (54), Brian Sunderman (25) and Josh Vuletich (34) walk off Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville as Glouster Trimble players celebrate their 14-10 win in a Division VII state semifinal Saturday. (Salem News/Wayne Maris)

FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

STATE FINALS
(Home team listed first)
Thursday, Dec. 5
at Massillon Paul Brown Stadium

Division III
No. 1 Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary (14-0) vs. No. 14 Trotwood-Madison (11-2), 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 6
Division VI
at Canton Fawcett Stadium
No. 1 Kirtland (14-0) vs. No. 10 Haviland Wayne Trace (13-1), 11 a.m.

Division IV
at Massillon Paul Brown Stadium
Youngstown Cardinal Mooney (10-4) vs. No. 5 Clarksville Clinton-Massie (13-1), 3 p.m.

Division II
at Canton Fawcett Stadium
No. 5 Cleveland Glenville (13-1) vs. No. 2 Loveland (14-0), 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 7
Division V
at Massillon Paul Brown Stadium
No. 4 Columbus Bishop Hartley (13-1) vs. No. 6 Coldwater (12-2), 11 a.m.

Division I
at Canton Fawcett Stadium
No. 6 Mentor (13-1) vs. No. 5 Cincinnati Moeller (13-1), 3 p.m.

Division VII
at Massillon Paul Brown Stadium
No. 3 Glouster Trimble (14-0) vs. No. 1 Maria Stein Marion Local (14-0), 7 p.m.



End of the road for Blue Devils

Western Reserve's Nick Tobin tackles Glouster Trimble's Justice Jenkins as Tim Coler (15) also comes in to help out Saturday in a Division VII state semifinal. (Salem News/Wayne Maris)

BUCKEYES FROM 1B

about the BCS.
"Our focus is on this game and that's it," Meyer said. "It'd be a disservice to our players if I went and worried about it. We have to move the ball against a great defense, and that's my focus."
The Spartans (11-1, 8-0) need a victory to guarantee a desperately coveted spot in the Rose Bowl, where they haven't played since 1988. But if they lose, and Ohio State plays for the national title, the Spartans could go to the Rose Bowl anyway.
"I don't know," said Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio when asked about the possibility of losing the Big Ten and playing in the Rose Bowl, "I'm not thinking about losing."
"We're going to look at the things we can control."
The Leaders Division-champion Buckeyes, coming off a 42-41 victory against Michigan, have one of the top offenses in the country, averaging 48.2 points a game to rank third in the country and 530.5 yards to trail just five

games last year, but its season ended after the regular season because of NCAA sanctions stemming from the tattoo scandal that rocked the program and led to ex-coach Jim Tressel's exit.
The Spartans have won eight games in a row since losing 17-14 at Notre Dame to earn their second berth in the Big Ten title game in three years. They blew their last opportunity to end the school's Rose Bowl drought.
In the inaugural conference championship game two years ago, Michigan State's Isaiah Lewis ran into Wisconsin punter Brad Nortman to negate a return to the Badgers 3 and give them a first down with 1:37 left in a 42-39 setback.
Lewis, now a senior, said he's happy that happened during his career.
"You don't even understand, the last time I was in Indianapolis, I was heart-broken," Lewis said Saturday after the Spartans beat Minnesota 14-3. "I was embarrassed to lose that game. The way that I left

that game — the play that happened — it just left a bad taste in my mouth."
"I'm just ready to go back."
When the Buckeyes go to the Big Ten title game for the first time, they might not be at full strength.
Ohio State right guard Marcus Hall and kick returner Dontre Wilson were ejected from Saturday's game at Michigan Stadium for throwing punches during a skirmish following a kickoff. Hall made an obscene gesture toward the crowd as he walked off the field.
Meyer said he would not be suspending the players.

booted it out of bounds. "It's 100 percent my fault," Mack said. "I'm going to think about it a lot."
The Jaguars went up 25-22 on Josh Scobee's 25-yard field goal with 4:14 left, but the Browns responded with Weeden's throw to Gordon, who caught the ball at Cleveland's 22, broke a tackle and outran two defenders to the end zone.
It was up to Cleveland's defense to protect the lead, but the Browns' best unit all season couldn't get the job done.
"That's on the entire defense," linebacker D'Qwell Jackson said, taking some of the heat off Haden.
"That's not on one man and it would be a crime to put it on one man. It's 11 guys out there each and every snap. That play was on our entire defense."
Jackson believes the Browns are close. There's plenty of talent, but the team hasn't figured out how to win.
"I wish I had a magic wand," he said. "You can look back and say what-if or what we could have done differently. We feel like we're right there. That's why guys are disappointed. We're not finishing games. That's the frustrating part."
The Browns began giving it away in the second quarter, when three turnovers in the final 2:35 allowed the Jaguars to score 13 points and take a 20-14 lead.
"It was a huge momentum swing going into the half," Browns coach Rob Chudzinski said. "We can't have that. They were able to get 13 points in a short amount of time and it really changed the complexion of the game. Those critical mistakes are killing us."

► BASKETBALL

OSU meets UConn

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Kevin McGuff is slowly starting to rebuild Ohio State back into a women's basketball power. It's going to be awhile before the first-year coach gets there.
Raven Ferguson scored all 14 of her points in the second half of the Buckeyes' 70-49 loss to No. 1 Connecticut in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Challenge on Sunday.
"We have a long way to go," McGuff said. "But we're starting to forge an identity. We're light years from where we want to be. Today was a great opportunity to measure ourselves against the best."
Ohio State junior guard Amy Scullion, a 2010 graduate of Salem High School, started and played 20 minutes. She was 0-of-4 from the field with three rebounds and one assist.
"They're so good you have to give up something," McGuff said. "We just got beat by the best team in the country. There's no moral victories, but we don't come into the game focused on the score. We focused on how hard we want to play and do the things that make us a good team. For the most part we did that."

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NFL standings

National Football League AMERICAN CONFERENCE East W L T Pct PF PA ... New England 9 3 0 .750 322 261 ... Buffalo 4 8 0 .333 267 307

NATIONAL CONFERENCE East W L T Pct PF PA ... Dallas 7 5 0 .583 329 303 ... Philadelphia 7 5 0 .583 300 281

Thursday's Games Detroit 40, Green Bay 10 ... Sunday's Games Minnesota 23, Chicago 20, OT ... Philadelphia 24, Arizona 21

Thursday, Dec. 5 Houston at Jacksonville, 8:25 p.m. ... Sunday, Dec. 8 Miami at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. ... Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 5 Houston at Jacksonville, 8:25 p.m. ... Sunday, Dec. 8 Miami at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. ... Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.

Bengals-Chargers

Cincinnati 0 7 7 3-17 ... Cincinnati 0 7 7 3-17

Cin—Green-Ellis 4 run (Nugent kick), 14:56. SD—Green 30 pass from Rivers (Novak kick), 11:11.

Second Quarter Cin—Green 21 pass from Dalton (Nugent kick), 4:42. ... Fourth Quarter Cin—FG Nugent 46, 9:16. ... A—61,536.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS RUSHING—Cincinnati, Green-Ellis 20-92, Bernard 14-57, Dalton 3-9, Hawkins 1-6, San Diego, Mathews 14-61, Woodhead 7-22, Rivers 1-4, R.Brown 1-3, McClain 1-1.

NFL today

NEW ORLEANS (9-2) at SEATTLE (10-1) 8:40 p.m. Monday, ESPN ... RECORD VS. SPREAD — New Orleans 6-4-1, Seattle 7-4 ... LAST MEETING — Seahawks beat Saints 41-36, Jan. 8, 2011

AP PRO32 RANKING — Saints No. 2, Seahawks No. 1 ... SAINTS OFFENSE — OVERALL (3), RUSH (23), PASS (2) ... SEAHAWKS OFFENSE — OVERALL (12), RUSH (3), PASS (24)

Browns-Jaguars

Jacksonville 7 13 0 12-32 ... Cleveland 7 7 7 7-28

Cle—McGahee 1 run (Cundiff kick), 10:51. Jax—Harbor 18 pass from Henne (Scobee kick), 7:04. ... Second Quarter Cle—Gordon 21 pass from Weeden (Cundiff kick), 12:03.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS RUSHING—Jacksonville, Jones-Drew 23-77, Todman 5-31, Sanders 1-4, Cleveland, McGahee 14-57, Ogbonnaya 7-20, Whittaker 7-15, Weeden 2-5.

Broncos-Chiefs

Denver 0 14 14 7-35 ... Kansas City 7 14 0 7-28

KC—Hemingway 17 pass from A.Smith (Succop kick), 2:41. ... Second Quarter Den—Decker 41 pass from Manning (Prater kick), 14:53.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS RUSHING—Denver, Ball 13-117, Moreno 15-18, Manning 3-(minus 3), Kansas City, Charles 19-93, A.Smith 4-46, Davis 1-20, McCluster 1-0.

Thursday, Dec. 5 Houston at Jacksonville, 8:25 p.m. ... Sunday, Dec. 8 Miami at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. ... Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.

Giants-Redskins

N.Y. Giants 0 14 0 10-24 ... Washington 7 7 3 0-17

Was—Morris 1 run (Forbath kick), 7:54. ... Second Quarter Was—Paulsen 19 pass from Griffin III (Forbath kick), 11:45.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS RUSHING—N.Y. Giants, Hillis 6-45, A.Brown 14-35, Manning 3-0, Washington, Griffin III 12-88, Morris 11-26, Moss 1-10, A.Robinson 1-9, Helu Jr. 4-6, Royster 2-0.

On this date

December 2 1944 — Ohio State quarterback Leslie Horvath wins the Heisman Trophy. 1947 — Notre Dame quarterback Johnny Lujack wins the Heisman Trophy.

College football poll

AP Top 25 The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 30, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

Record Pts Pv 1. Florida St. (58).....12-0 1,498 2 2. Ohio State.....12-0 1,418 3 3. Auburn (2).....11-1 1,387 4 4. Alabama.....11-1 1,294 1

Ohio St.-UConn

No. 1 UCONN 70, OHIO ST. 49 OHIO ST. (6-3) Ellerbe 4-12 0-10, Moore 3-10 3-4 9, Craft 2-4 0-2-5, Alston 4-14 3-4 11, Amy Scullion 0-4 0-0 0, Kynard 0-3 0-0 0, Blair 0-0 0-0 0, Ferguson 6-14 2-2 14, Adams 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 19-62 8-12 49.

Golf today

MCILROY TAKES AUSTRALIAN OPEN SYDNEY (AP) — Rory McIlroy birdied the 18th hole to beat Adam Scott at the Australian Open on Sunday, winning for the first time in 2013 and denying Scott the Triple Crown of Australian golf.

Transactions

BASKETBALL NBA Development League RIO GRANDE VALLEY VIPERS — Acquired C Tim Ohlbrecht. Released G Mike Black.

FOOTBALL National Football League KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Placed DB Sanders Commings on injured reserve. Promoted LB Josh Martin from the practice squad.

HOCKEY National Hockey League DALLAS STARS — Placed D Stephane Robidas on injured reserve. Recalled D Jamie Oleskiak from Texas (AHL).

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NBA standings

National Basketball Association EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division W L Pct GB ... Toronto 6 10 .375 1/2 ... New York 3 13 .188 3

Southwest Division W L Pct GB ... San Antonio 14 3 .824 — Houston 13 5 .722 1 1/2 ... Memphis 8 8 .500 5 1/2

Northwest Division W L Pct GB ... Portland 14 3 .824 — Oklahoma City 12 3 .800 1 Denver 10 6 .625 3 1/2 ... Utah 3 15 .167 11 1/2

Pacific Division W L Pct GB ... L.A. Clippers 12 6 .667 — Golden State 10 8 .556 2 Phoenix 9 8 .529 2 1/2 ... Sacramento 4 11 .267 6 1/2

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Saturday's Games Washington 108, Atlanta 101 ... Sunday's Games Denver 112, Toronto 98 ... Philadelphia 100, Golden State 115, Sacramento 113

Monday's Games Orlando at Washington, 7 p.m. ... Tuesday's Games Orlando at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. ... Philadelphia 100, Golden State 115, Sacramento 113

Wednesday's Games Orlando at Washington, 7 p.m. ... Thursday's Games Orlando at Washington, 7 p.m. ... Philadelphia 100, Golden State 115, Sacramento 113

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A roundup of sports in the region and across the nation



Send your sports briefs to snsports@salemnews.net

Mount Union hosts Wesley ALLIANCE — The top-ranked Mount Union football team will host 14th-ranked Wesley (Del.) in an NCAA Division III quarterfinal on Saturday.

It will be the third meeting between the teams. The two previous meetings have been in national semifinal contests in Alliance with Mount Union winning 24-7 in 2009 and 28-21 in 2011.

The Purple Raiders are 12-0 on the season and have the nation's longest winning streak at 27 games. Wesley, an independent from Dover, Del., is 10-2. The Wolverines are making their 10th playoff appearance overall — all since 2000.

Tickets are \$8 for adults.

Wolfe will be all right KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Two games in three weeks have taken their toll on the Denver Broncos and Kansas City Chiefs.

Both of the AFC West contenders were already missing several key players, including Beaver Local graduate Derek Wolfe, due to injuries before the Broncos' 35-28 victory on Sunday.

Several more players went down during the course of the game, including Denver wide receiver Trindon Holliday and Chiefs left tackle Brandon Albert. Holliday hurt his shoulder in the first half, shortly after Demaryius Thomas was went down with a shoulder injury. Thomas eventually returned and finished the game.

Albert went down with a sprained left knee later in the game. Chiefs coach Andy Reid said that an X-ray on the knee came back negative, but Albert will have an MRI exam on Monday.

Broncos defensive tackle Kevin Vickerson went on injured reserve this week after dislocating his right hip in last week's loss to New England, while defensive end Derek Wolfe was left behind in Denver after he was hospitalized Friday with seizure-like symptoms.

It's unknown when Wolfe will be released from the hospital or when he'll be cleared to resume football. The team said he did not suffer a stroke or a full-blown seizure.

"The Derek Wolfe story, I think our team released enough information that I'm not going to spend a lot of time talking about it, but I will tell you that we got good news," Broncos interim coach Jack Del Rio said.

"All the tests they've conducted and put him through, looks like he's going to be OK. At the end of the day, he is going to be all right and we're happy to hear about that."

NBA leaders SCORING G FG FT PTS AVG Durant, OKC.....14 112 145 392 28.0 Anthony, NYK.....15 141 99 398 26.5 James, MIA.....16 150 95 419 26.2 Love, MIN.....18 143 111 434 24.1 George, IND.....16 133 74 378 23.6 Harden, HOU.....14 98 106 330 23.6 Martin, MIN.....17 126 100 393 23.1 Aldridge, POR.....16 146 62 354 22.1 Ellis, DAL.....18 141 96 395 21.9 DeRozan, TOR.....15 118 70 328 21.9 Cousins, SAC.....14 117 68 302 21.6 Griffin, LAC.....17 147 69 366 21.5 Turner, PHL.....17 140 74 364 21.4

Manning, Tuck lead Giants over Redskins 24-17 LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Eli Manning and Robert Griffin III put on quite the show in the first half.

Then the two quarterbacks and their teams — both with not-ready-for-prime-time records — showed how they've become the bottom-feeders of the NFC East.

Yet one team had to win, and it was the New York Giants who took advantage of the latest Washington Redskins special teams error to set up the go-ahead touchdown.

Andre Brown had a pair of touchdown runs Sunday night, and Justin Tuck had four sacks — more than doubling his total from the season — as the Giants beat the Redskins 24-17 to stay on the fringes of the playoff race.

The win keeps the Giants (5-7) two games behind division leaders Dallas and Philadelphia with four to play, while the Redskins (3-9) were eliminated from the postseason for the 17th time in 21 years and finished the season 0-5 in prime time.

"After last week's loss we were probably going to have to win five in a row, and this is the first one," Manning said. "You can't win five in a row unless you win the first one. Now that we have done that we have to keep going."

Safety Will Hill sewed up the victory when he wrestled the ball from Pierre Garcon after the receiver made a catch near midfield with 1:21 remaining as the Redskins were driving for a possible tying score.

The turnover came two plays after a confusing moment in which Washington apparently thought it had a first down — the sideline down marker was at "1" — when it was actually third-and-1.

Redskins coach Mike Shanahan vented at officials over the miscue.

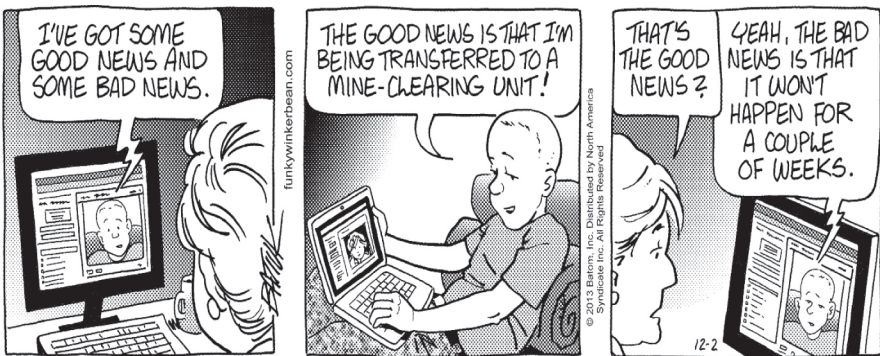
Florida St ranked No. 1 for first time since 2000 TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida State was voted the No. 1 team in the FBS Sunday for the first time since Oct. 1, 2000. The Seminoles are heavily favored against Duke in the upcoming Atlantic Coast Conference championship game and are 60 minutes from a berth in the BCS title game.

Coach Jimbo Fisher benefited from a team with the ability to ignore outside distractions and focus on the immediate task each week. The team will stick to a script that has worked for 12 games, but there tends to be a different feel in the air when a program is considered the best in the nation.

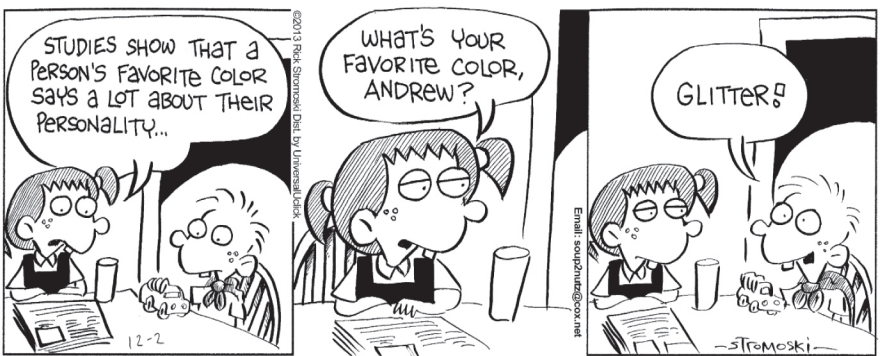
Fisher disagreed that there's a difference. "Not one bit," Fisher said Sunday afternoon.

There hasn't been a change to the status of Heisman Trophy candidate Jameis Winston, either. The redshirt quarterback is the focus of an ongoing sexual assault investigation stemming from an incident with a female student Dec. 7, 2012. The family of the accuser issued a statement through attorney Patricia Carroll, saying Winston raped the woman. Winston's lawyer Tim Jansen has suggested the sex between the two was consensual.

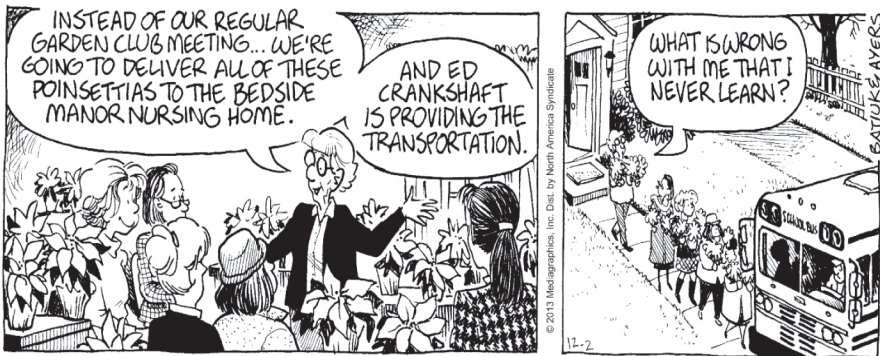
FUNKY WINKERBEAN



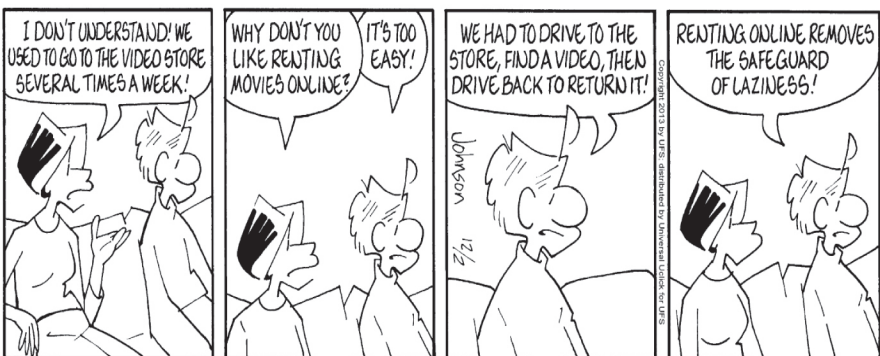
SOUP TO NUTS



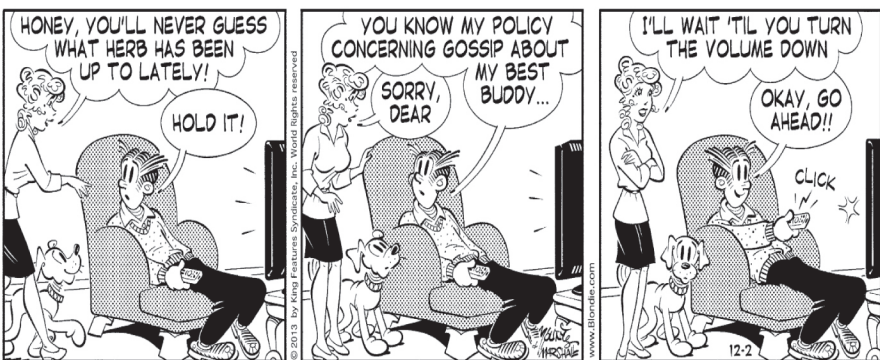
CRANKSHAFT



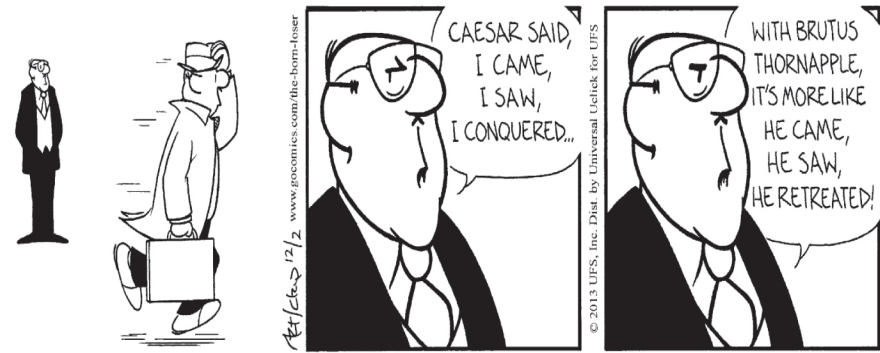
ARLO AND JANIS



BLONDIE



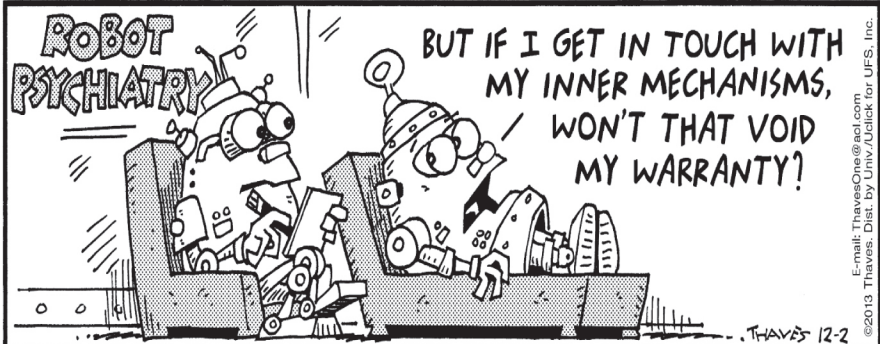
BORN LOSER



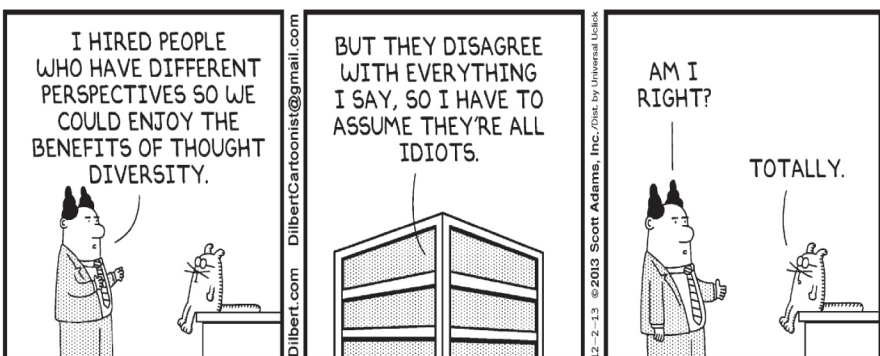
FOR BETTER OR WORSE



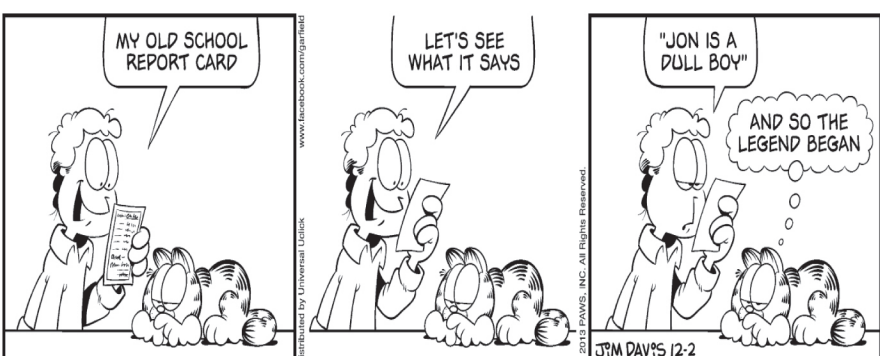
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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knuruk

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

LASDA
GEHEH
DEEEX
FESTAY

Print your answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumbles: QUALM LEVEL TANGLE MICRON
Answer: Basketball players enjoy away games because this is allowed — TRAVELING

CROSSWORD

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PIXY	PLAN	AHA
AREA	IOTA	RAM
LARK	EYECHART	
STOKED	HELMES	
EXES	TON	
	DADDY	CAPS
GAG	URAL	ELIA
AVIV	YVES	LPS
DESI	LYRES	
	GUY	LENA
CABIN	AFRAID	
EXULTANT	MIRA	
LED	IRON	OVEN
TDS	LIDO	NESS

ACROSS
1 Leaf's rib
5 Author Rand
8 Filches
12 Wind instrument
13 — Dawn Chong
14 Environs
15 Dazzles
16 Bad puns
18 Country
20 Secluded corners
21 CPR expert
22 Sonnet kin
23 Rolex rival
26 Oath
29 Refreshing taste
30 Brewery products
31 Gallery display
33 Endeavor
34 "Typee" sequel
35 Med. plans
36 Gabbed
38 Gaggle group
39 Moving option
40 Buddy
41 Sticky
44 Fastened a parka

DOWN
1 Swear
2 Black
3 Plains state
4 Savings (2 wds.)
5 Jargon
6 Tall tale
7 Prefix meaning "recent"
8 Went paddling
9 Two-piece cookie
10 Benefit
11 Lip, slangily
17 Llama habitat
19 " — Believer"
22 Bogus butter

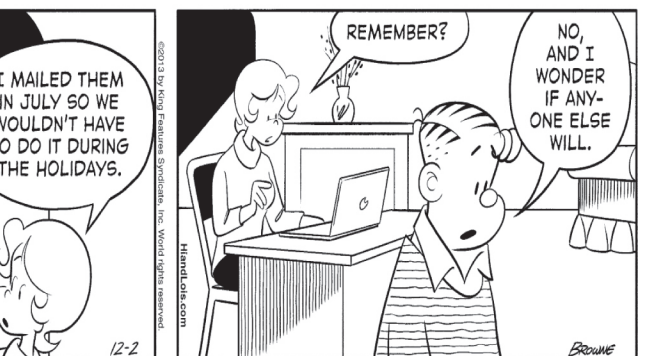
23 Homer hither Mel
24 Queen of Scots
25 "Watermark" chanteuse
26 Trudge
27 Pastime
28 Mythical archer
30 Revival shout
32 Half a dangerous fly
34 Gives the thumbs-up
35 Portion
37 Gripe
38 Hiatus

40 Water mains
41 Alum
42 Strauss of blue jeans
43 Employes
44 Sector
45 Canal of song
46 Elcar of "MacGyver"
48 AAA service
50 Fjord terr.

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

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

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Notices

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Lg white male on W State St. Thurs. 11/28, to claim call the Humane Society or Sue Davidson

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General

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Sell it!
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SALEM
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Economist challenges idea of aging farmer crisis

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Agriculture economists have long warned that farmers are getting old and staying on their land longer, delaying the turnover to a younger generation. But an Ohio State University professor argues that those fears are overstated and the United States likely will have little problem replacing aging farmers as long as business is good, as it has been for the past decade.

Others aren't so sure, saying while they agree with OSU agriculture economist Carl Zulauf's assessment that concerns about the unquestionably aging farmer population remain valid and create uncertainty about who will produce the nation's crops in the future.

"I think what he said is absolutely right," Iowa State University economics professor Mike Duffy said. "I think the conclusion he's drawing though is not necessarily the correct one."

Zulauf contends that just like in the 1970s, farm prosperity will draw more young workers into farming. And prosperous the busi-

ness is: This year, net income from U.S. farms is expected to reach a record \$131 billion. Farm wealth has also reached record levels, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with farm asset values rising 7 percent this year to a record \$3 trillion.

On average, farmers are about 15 years older than the broader U.S. workforce, Zulauf said, but noted in his October report that this age difference hasn't changed since the 1980s and that the average age of farmers is increasing at the same pace as U.S. workers generally.

USDA statistics in 2007 showed that for each farmer under 25, there were five who were 75 or older. In Iowa alone, Duffy said, landowners who were older than 75 owned 28 percent of the state's farmland in 2007, compared with 24 percent in 2002 and just 12 percent in 1982.

Duffy believes it's essential to pay attention to the transition of farms from one generation to another, saying the catch is enabling those young farmers with pro-

grams and policies that help people with few assets and little access to land to get a chance to farm.

Land prices throughout the Midwest have soared in the past decade, largely due to strong prices for corn and soybeans, with the average value in the U.S. this year rising 9.4 percent to \$2,900 per acre. Iowa's average farm real estate value increased 20 percent this year to \$8,400 an acre.

And farm implements, such as tractors, combines and grain bins, are often pricey, with a new combine costing upward of \$350,000.

"It takes a while to acquire that capital usually by saving or through inheritance," Zulauf said in an interview. "That doesn't typically happen until people have passed a fair number of years as a working adult to get to that stage."

Lindsey Lusher Shute, 34, knows that difficulty first hand. She and her husband, Benjamin Shute, 35, farm 70 acres near Clermont, N.Y.

She said the three biggest concerns for younger people looking to

farm are access to land, ability to borrow money for land and equipment and health insurance costs. Land in the Hudson Valley, where she is, costs about \$8,000 to \$10,000 an acre.

"It's incredibly difficult to farm as a newcomer in farming especially for young people coming to farming from a nonfarm background," said Shute, who grows vegetables and raise egg-laying hens.

A common occurrence is passing on the family farm to the next generation, much like Earl Hafner, 67, is doing with his 2,000-acre farm about 45 miles west of Des Moines.

Unlike typical Iowa farms, he and his son, 45-year-old Jeff Hafner, raise a little bit of everything. There's corn, soybeans, alfalfa, winter wheat, buckwheat and rye. They also sell honey from their own bees, raise pigs under contract for international food company Cargill, pasture 250 cows, keep a flock of 150 chickens, grow tilapia fish in large tanks and have organic basil, lettuce, spinach, kale and

other products in an adjacent greenhouse.

The goal is to transition ownership of the farm assets, which began in the early 1990s, to his son by the time Earl Hafner is 70. Already, Jeff Hafner owns the cows, buys all the new equipment and handles the financial books.

"We talk about it and he makes all the decisions," he said of his son, a 20-year Army veteran who served two tours in Iraq.

Hafner knows farmers whose children work in other professions and have no interest in farming.

"Those are the people that when they die the farm will probably be sold," he said. For his part, Zulauf is aware of the difficulties in transitions, but is looking to keep the problem in perspective.

"I'm not saying in any way, shape or form that this isn't an issue that we might want to talk about that's for us to decide, but I do think if you're going to have these discussion you need to have the data — and not just the data, but the data in context," he said.

Jodi Arias fades from view as case now veiled in secrecy

PHOENIX (AP) — For months, Jodi Arias was a television staple, every minute of her murder trial broadcast live while cable network commentators railed nightly about the case. The now-convicted murderer took to the spotlight in celebrity style and embraced the attention at every turn as she spent weeks on the witness stand and did a series of media interviews.

But Arias has vanished from view since her trial ended in May, and the judge has done a complete about-face. She has shut the media and public out of nearly every hearing in the case and drawn complaints from First Amendment lawyers that she has gone too far.

"The trial court has gone from transparency to blackout and bewilderment," said attorney David Bodney, who represents several media outlets, including the Arizona Republic, fighting for transparency. "There have been repeated flagrant violations of the public's constitutional right to attend proceedings."

Arias was convicted of murder in May, but the jury couldn't reach a verdict on her sentence. Prosecutors are now pursuing a second penalty phase with a new jury in an effort to get the death penalty. No date for a new trial has been set.

Arias, 33, admitted she killed her boyfriend in 2008 at his suburban Phoenix home but claimed it was self-defense. Travis Alexander suf-

fered nearly 30 knife wounds, had his throat slit and was shot in the forehead in what prosecutors argued was a jealous rage.

Judge Sherry Stephens has held hearing after hearing behind closed doors as the next steps of the case unfold almost entirely under a shroud of secrecy. Over the last several months, she has heard arguments over sequestering the new jury, moving the case out of Phoenix, Arias' desire to fire her lead attorney and allowing live television coverage of the retrial, among other issues. She has denied each request, but quietly with orders released days after the secret hearings as the case languishes without public scrutiny even as

Arias' legal tab is being picked up by taxpayers at a cost exceeding \$1.7 million. Meanwhile, in yet another element of secrecy, Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery has refused to provide a tally of how much it has cost to prosecute the case, including paying for expert witnesses throughout the five-month trial. Stephens allowed virtually unfettered access to the first trial, which was broadcast live and became to fans like a real-life soap opera as they traveled from around the country to get in the courtroom.

She now says the hearing closures are intended to protect Arias' right to an impartial jury, but Bondey says the judge has gone to

the extreme, often simply locking the courtroom doors without issuing an order as to why, in violation of the Constitution.

"The public is deprived of its First Amendment right to attend criminal proceedings," Bodney said. "The public has a right to be heard before they're just locked out." Even arguments by attorneys over media access to proceedings in the case have been closed to the media. An irony not lost on Bodney is that the intense media interest in the case has largely evolved from Arias' own actions by courting interviews and operating a Twitter account and selling her artwork from behind bars through a third party.

Old-school toys dominating many holiday lists

By ABHA BHATTARAI
The Washington Post

There are two requests Don Mahoney, otherwise known as Santa Claus, keeps getting day after day: Barbies and Legos.

"There are a whole bunch of toys out there, but the kids really know what they want," said Mahoney, who has been stationed outside his "North Pole workshop" at St. Charles Towne Center in Waldorf, Md. since early November. "The Barbie dolls and the Legos, those are really big."

In a year when one toy has yet to emerge as the must-have of the season, analysts say retailers and consumers are reverting to the basics: cars, dolls, Legos and bicycles. But that may not be enough to save what many expect to be a slow holiday shopping season.

"There are no hot toys this year; there really aren't," said Gerrick Johnson, a toy industry analyst at BMO Capital Markets.

"We don't have a Tickle Me Elmo or a Zhu Zhu Pet or a Cab-

bage Patch Kid — nothing that is approaching phenomenon status."

Instead, decades-old classics are inching their way back to the top of Christmas lists.

According to a National Retail Federation survey released Thursday, 25.8 percent of shoppers said Barbies would be their primary purchase for girls. For boys, Legos were the most popular item, with 10.6 percent of customers on board. There are hints of burgeoning demand for high-tech items. For the first time, iPads were among the most popular gifts for both girls and boys, outpacing the new Big Hugs Elmo, American Girl dolls and Furby. But overall, Hot Wheels and Disney Princesses have kept their stranglehold at the top of the rankings.

"The nostalgia surrounding some of the oldest toys will never go away," said Kathy Grannis, a spokeswoman for the National Retail Federation. "A lot of kids are still growing up on traditional toys."

That may not be good news for retailers. Sales of toys have remained flat in recent years during the choppy economic recovery. Last year, toys sales totaled \$22 billion in the United States, down from \$22.2 billion in 2008, according to data from research firm NPD Group. That trend is expected to continue this year as analysts predict another lackluster holiday shopping season. "In the 12 years I've been covering toys, we've always had something selling for a premium on eBay," Johnson said, referring to the online auction site. "This is the first time we're not seeing that."

Just 44.3 percent of shoppers said they plan to buy toys this holiday season, down from 45.1 percent last year, according to National Retail Federation data.

"The problem is that what really gets people spending on toys is not necessarily the same old, same old," Johnson said. "It's innovation, compelling new toys — and we don't have a whole lot of that

right now." Even so, retailers hope to capitalize on holiday purchases by offering exclusive items. Target has 350 store-specific toys this year, up from last year's 300.

Kmart is selling an exclusive auburn-haired holiday Barbie, and Toys R Us is pinning its hopes on an updated version of its kid-friendly tablet, Tabeo e2.

The retailer is also marketing the Ugglys, an Australian line of electronic pets known for their bad manners. "Kids love anything that's foul and funny," said Lisa Harnisch, general merchandising manager for Toys R Us, adding that the company has exclusive rights to sell the products in the United States.

Toys R Us, which relies on holiday sales for a significant portion of its annual revenue, spends months culling its yearly lineup. Preparations for the next holiday season begin the week after Christmas, when a team of buyers boards a plane to Hong Kong.

"That's where we really start to

look at what's out there," Harnisch said. "We place our big bets starting in January."

But in these uncertain economic times, analysts say, the bets haven't been big enough. Many of this year's top contenders — the Furby Boom, LeapPad Ultra, Big Hugs Elmo — are riffs on last year's big sellers. "In tough times like this, companies are less likely to try risky new projects," Johnson said. "You'll see a reliance on things they know will work: superheros and retro toys, things we've seen before." The lack of a hit children's movie this fall has also watered down the pool of options, said Douglas Gowin, the Santa Claus at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. Last year, he received a steady stream of movie-inspired requests: Spider-Man, X-Men, the Avengers. Not anymore.

"This year, there's not really anything like that," said Gowin, a Santa of 20 years. "It's more of the good old toys: bicycles, baseballs, footballs."

Consumer behavior aggressively tracked

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a big question for marketers: What kind of a buyer are you? And, as important, what are you willing to pay?

In the search for answers this shopping season, consumer behavior online and off is being tracked aggressively with help from advances in technology.

And it can happen whether buyers are on their work computers, mobile devices or just standing in the grocery aisle. The data can be connected with other personal information like income, ZIP code and when a person's car insurance expires.

Retailers say these techniques help customize shopping experiences and can lead to good deals for shoppers. Consumer advocates say aggressive tracking and profiling also opens the door to price discrimination, with companies charging someone more online or denying them entirely based on their home price or how often they visit a site.

"You can't have Christmas any more without big data and marketers," said Jeff Chester, executive director at the Center for Digital Democracy. "You know that song where Santa knows when you've been sleeping? He knows when you're awake? Believe me, that's where he's getting his information from."

Consumer tracking has long been a part of American consumerism. Retailers push shoppers to sign up for loyalty cards, register purchased items for warranty programs and note ZIP codes to feed their mailing lists. Online stores and advertising services employ browser "cookies," the tiny bits of software code that can track a person's movements across the Internet, to analyze shoppers and present them with relevant pop-up ads.

More recently, marketers have developed increasingly sophisticated ways to combine offline and online data that creates detailed profiles of shoppers. They also are perfecting location-tracking technology as a means of attracting new customers and influencing shoppers as they wander through brick-and-mortar stores.

A major push encourages shoppers to agree to be tracked in exchange for a good deal. Brick-and-mortar stores used to balk at customers who used smartphones to compare prices at rival stores, but retailers like Target are now pushing their own mobile apps and offering in-store Wi-Fi. The mobile apps entice shoppers with coupon deals or ads as they move throughout a store, while in-store Wi-Fi is another way to track a consumer's online movements.

To further lure buyers, major holiday retailers, including Macy's, Best Buy and JCPenney, have partnered with the Shopkick mobile app. If shoppers turn on the app while in their store, they can be rewarded with discounts or song downloads for trying on clothes, scanning barcodes and making purchases.

Another app, Snapette, blends American's addiction to social media sites with location technology. Aimed at women keen on fashion, consumers can see what accessories or shoes are creating a buzz in their particular neighborhood, while stores get a chance to entice nearby shoppers with ads or coupons.

Not all new technology tracking is voluntary. Stores have been experimenting with heat sensors and monitoring cellphone signals in their stores to see which aisles attract the most attention. One product called "Shopperception" uses the same motion-detection technology in the Xbox Kinect to track a customer's movement, including whether they picked up a product only to return it to the shelf. In addition to analyzing customer behavior, it can trigger nearby digital signs offering coupons and steering shoppers to certain products. The company contends that the technology is less intrusive than other tracking devices, including security cameras, because a person's image is never stored and their movements only registered as a data point. Marketers also are learning to overcome limitations with software cookies.

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