



Bad deal
Florida company loses \$3 million for Iranian currency accounts
Nation, 5A

Spiked
Columbia, Fort White volleyball squads square off
Sports, 1B



Lake City Reporter

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Celebration

Today

■ Moose Lodge Bingo is open for everyone

Bingo games are held at 3 p.m., 6:45 and 7 p.m. every Wednesday and Friday, at the Moose Lodge, 624 NE Williams. There is free iced tea and coffee, and the event is open to everyone. Food is available for purchase. Call (386) 755-3730 for more information.

Saturday

■ Wellborn fall yard sale

The Wellborn Community Association is hosting a fall community yard sale from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, at the community center. Bring your own tents and tables. The monthly blueberry pancake breakfast will be served from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. for \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Call Wendell at (386) 963-1157 or visit www.wellborn-communityassociation.com for more information.

■ Center to host Jeanie and Stephen auditions

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park will be hosting its 59th annual Jeanie and Stephen auditions at 10 a.m. Saturday. Competitors are to dress in 1854-style formal gowns will audition, singing songs composed by Stephen Foster and two songs written by American composers. The winner of the Jeanie competition will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. The two runners-up will be named "Jeanie Maids" and receive scholarships of \$750 each. Admission to the event is free with park admission of \$5 for a vehicle with up to eight passengers. The winner of the Stephen competition will receive a \$1,000 competition. Call 1-877-635-3655 for more information.

■ Coffee House at Stephen Foster

Coffee House will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park in White Springs. Jay and Linda Williams, a local singing duo, will be performing. Dessert donations are accepted.

■ State park to host 'Art in the Park'

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park hosts "Art in the Park" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the first Saturday of each month. Crafters will demonstrate pottery, fabric arts, stained glass, quilting, jewelry making and more. Workshops have a small fee with \$4 park admission and are first come, first served. Call (386) 397-1920.

■ Magic: The Gathering league play

A Magic: The Gathering league Play occurs from noon to 6 p.m. each Saturday, at American Legion Post 57 on U.S. Highway 41 South. Everyone is invited. Call (386) 365-8743 for more information.



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Robbie Hargrove feeds his daughter Carly, 1, a chocolate cupcake at the Columbia County Public Library 50th Anniversary Open House Celebration on Thursday. 'She's having fun,' Hargrove said. 'She gave Clifford a big hug and kiss. She loves it.'

County library turns 50

By ANTONIA ROBINSON
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Brandi Oliver, 5, of Lake City, is a regular at the Columbia County Public Library, but on Thursday she was especially excited about going to the main branch, said her mother Sharon. It was a celebration, after all. "My daughter wanted to come out and see Clifford (the Big Red Dog)," she said.

Clifford and much more helped commemorate the library's 50th anniversary. The library opened Oct. 1, 1959, through the efforts of the Lake City Women's Club. It grew from one main building to the West and Fort White branches.

More than 450 adults and children came to celebrate the anniversary, said Deborah Paulson, library director. The library sent fliers home with students announcing the celebration.

"That probably generated a lot of interest," Paulson said. "They're just thrilled and really happy to be here," she said.

Several activities were available for children: craft projects, pictures with Clifford or playing with Fancy Nancy. There were also demonstrations about woodworking, genealogy, watercolor painting and cake decorating and a silent auc-



JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Kayla Hardy, 5, plays patty cake with Clifford the Big Red Dog.

tion for the literacy center.

Each branch had cake and punch and memory books for patrons to write their thoughts on about the library and its history.

Brandi had fun meeting Clifford and even made a butterfly at the children's craft table, she said.

"This was a great and a nice (celebration)," Sharon Oliver said.

The celebration was not only fun, but brought the community out to see the library and its educational value, said Elaine Phillips of Lake City.

"Where else could you get all this knowledge and education?"

she said.

"For free," said her husband, Ralph.

They are Friends of the Library members and hope the library has continuous expansion in future years.

"We know how important it is for people to have access to books," she said. "We're both school teachers."

Paulson said the memory books will stay out for several more weeks to receive additional stories.

"The community really loves and supports the library very much," she said.

Local man won't face charges in shooting

Lake City man turned gun on alleged attackers in August incident.

By TROY ROBERTS
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A Lake City man will not be charged with a crime in an August shooting in which he turned a gun on a man who attempted to rob him.

A Columbia County Grand Jury convened on Thursday and returned a verdict of no true bill — meaning there was no criminal action to file charges on — for Otger Greene of Lake City, said Skip Jarvis, state attorney for the Third Judicial District. Greene was involved in a shooting in August that resulted in the death of one of his

SHOOTING continued on 3A

Commission considers financial proposals

County hears requests on skate park, Blanche office center.

By TONY BRITT
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In an economy which has soured, Columbia County officials continue to receive funding requests and opportunities for the county to purchase items at reduced rates.

During Thursday night's Columbia County Commission meeting, county officials pondered financial decisions associated with helping to construct a

local skate park, making a financial contribution to send high school band members to New York for a performance next year, as well as looking into taking the initial steps for a possible purchase of the Blanche

Motel. Lake City Skate Park president Sandra Caslow addressed the board, requesting funding for a skate park which would be located in the Southside Sports Complex. According to reports, the county has about \$40,000 for a skate park after budgeting funds for three years.

COMMISSION continued on 3A

Fair educates on job hunting

More than a dozen agencies attended event.

By ANTONIA ROBINSON
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Wendy Arnold of Dowling Park went to Lake City Mall to look around. But instead of leaving with shopping bags, she left with a better idea of how to continue her job search.

The mall was host to a job and education fair Thursday, sponsored in part by Florida Crown Employer's Service Center.

"I didn't even know it was here," Arnold said.

Arnold had been looking for a job and happened to have her resume in the car.

There were a line of people waiting for the job fair, said Ron Peacock, president/general manager

of the event's co-sponsor, Power Country 102.

"People are hurting for a job," he said.

Thirteen different agencies were represented at the fair.

At least 50 people stopped by her table to learn more information about available jobs, said Lacie Green, T-Mobile retail store manager.

FAIR continued on 3A



ANTONIA ROBINSON/Lake City Reporter

Anna Mendoza (left), Florida Crown Employers' Service Center employer service representative, talks with Denise Randolph of Wellborn during a job fair at Lake City Mall Thursday.



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