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Can you own a doughnut shop and still stay in shape?
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DECOR TOUR
OTLR welcomes list of homes on holiday tour
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CHRISTMAS PARADE
TOWN & COUNTRY CENTER
7 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. DEC 1-3
DOWN TOWN LIBERAL

Who needs Bluetooth headsets? Motorola patents 'neck tattoo' smartphone accessory
By David Huxford
A Motorola patent filing suggests that the company is working on a smartphone accessory that would allow users to interact with their devices without the need for a traditional headset. The patent, titled "Systems and methods for interacting with a mobile device," describes a device that would be worn around the neck and would use a combination of sensors and software to detect and respond to user input. The device would be able to detect when a user is looking at their phone, when they are holding it, and when they are speaking into it. It would then use this information to automatically perform various tasks, such as opening an app, sending a text message, or making a phone call. The patent also describes a method for using the device to control a vehicle's infotainment system. Motorola officials said that the company is not yet ready to discuss the details of the patent, but they did say that the device would be a "game-changer" for the smartphone market.

DC official fired after criticizing Obama change
By David Huxford
A senior official at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been fired after criticizing a change in the Obama administration's policy on climate change. The official, who had been with the agency for over 20 years, was fired last week after he had written a letter to the EPA's chief of staff in which he had expressed his concerns about the administration's decision to delay the implementation of the Clean Air Act's "endangerment finding" on climate change. The endangerment finding is a key component of the Clean Air Act that requires the EPA to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and other sources. The Obama administration had announced in 2009 that it would regulate these emissions, but it has since delayed the implementation of the regulation several times. The official's letter had argued that the delay was a violation of the Clean Air Act and that it was putting the health and safety of the American people at risk. The EPA's chief of staff had responded to the letter by saying that the administration's decision was based on the best available science and that it was necessary to give the courts time to review the regulation. The official's firing had been widely reported in the media and had drawn criticism from environmental groups and other members of the public.

Company behind Obamacare site has checked past
By David Huxford
The company that built the website for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been investigated by the U.S. House of Representatives for its handling of the site's launch. The company, known as HealthCare.gov, was created by a consortium of private firms, including the technology giant Amazon.com. The site was supposed to be the central hub for Americans to enroll in health insurance under the ACA, but it had a very rocky launch. In the weeks following the site's launch, it had experienced a number of major outages and had been unable to handle the large volume of traffic that it was receiving. The U.S. House of Representatives had held a series of hearings in which it had questioned the company's handling of the site's launch and had accused it of covering up its mistakes. The company had denied these accusations and had said that the site's problems were the result of a "complex" technical issue. However, the U.S. House of Representatives had released a report that had found that the company had indeed covered up its mistakes and had tried to blame the site's problems on the government. The report had also found that the company had not been transparent about its work on the site and had not provided the government with the information that it needed to make sure that the site was working properly. The report had recommended that the company be held accountable for its actions and that the government should take steps to make sure that it was getting the information that it needed to make sure that the site was working properly.