

Smile, it's the second best thing you can do with your lips.
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Rotary Club members and SANTA CLAUS bring Christmas cheer to students at Washington Elementary
WASHINGTON — A group of Rotary Club members and Santa Claus brought Christmas cheer to students at Washington Elementary School on Tuesday. The group, which included Santa Claus, Mrs. Paul Stone, and several other members, visited the school to bring gifts and cheer to the children. The students were excited to see Santa Claus and receive their gifts. The Rotary Club members also spent time with the children, talking to them and wishing them a happy holiday season.

Parks dept. making progress at Leece Park
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WASHINGTON — The Parks Department is making progress at Leece Park. The department has been working on improving the park's facilities and landscaping. The project includes installing new benches, picnic tables, and playground equipment. The department also plans to plant more trees and shrubs to enhance the park's appearance. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Only a few pounds of pecans remain
WASHINGTON — Only a few pounds of pecans remain in the city's supply. The city has been harvesting pecans for several years, but the supply is running low. The city is looking for ways to increase its pecan production and ensure a steady supply for the future. The city is also looking for ways to promote pecan products and increase demand.

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Vote's in the mail?
If Swain County has had a mail ballot, it was before my time, clerk says
SWAIN COUNTY — A Swain County clerk says that the county has never had a mail ballot. The clerk, who has worked for the county for many years, says that the county has always used traditional voting methods. He says that the idea of mail ballots is a relatively new concept and that the county has not yet adopted it.

Police find no link to 2011 shooting
WASHINGTON — Police have found no link between a recent shooting and a similar incident from 2011. The police are still investigating the case and are looking for more information. The police are also looking for witnesses who saw anything suspicious around the time of the shooting.

A Christmas Present For Me, as a Christian Pastor
WASHINGTON — A Christian pastor has received a Christmas present from a woman. The pastor, who is a member of a local church, received the present from a woman who is a member of the church. The present was a beautiful Christmas stocking and was a very thoughtful gift. The pastor was very grateful for the gift and was happy to receive it.

Bipartisan budget agreement nears final passage



Sen. Roger Lerner (left) and Rep. Bill Fisher (right) meet with House Speaker, Rep. Charles Stenholm (center) in the Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2013. The meeting was held to discuss the budget agreement.

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan budget agreement nears final passage in the U.S. House of Representatives. The agreement, which was reached after several days of negotiations, will provide for a balanced budget for the next fiscal year. The agreement includes provisions for spending cuts and revenue increases. The House is expected to vote on the agreement later this week. The agreement is a significant step towards resolving the budget deficit and ensuring the stability of the federal government.

'Dear Santa' letters due by noon Friday

WASHINGTON — The deadline for "Dear Santa" letters is noon on Friday. The letters are to be sent to the Santa Claus office at the U.S. Capitol. The letters are a tradition that allows children to write to Santa Claus and tell him what they want for Christmas. The letters are read aloud to the children in the Capitol on Friday morning. The deadline is strict, and letters received after noon will not be read.

Hutchinson Tyson Foods plant cited by OSHA

WASHINGTON — OSHA has cited a Tyson Foods plant for safety violations. The citation was issued after an inspection of the plant in Hutchinson, Kansas. The violations included inadequate safety training for employees and failure to maintain safety equipment. OSHA is working with the plant to correct the violations and ensure the safety of the workers. The citation is a warning that the plant must take steps to improve its safety practices.

N.D. to let man in same-sex marriage wed woman, too

WASHINGTON — North Dakota is set to allow a man in a same-sex marriage to marry a woman. The state's new marriage law, which was passed in 2013, defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman. However, the law also allows for a man who is already married to another man to marry a woman. This provision is intended to allow for a transition to a traditional marriage. The law is expected to take effect in the near future.