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SECTION B / PAGE 8

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NOTES

Smart Horizons program helps students graduate

Smart Horizons, a division of Advanced Systems Technology Inc. in Pensacola, has partnered with an online education group to launch Smart Horizons Career Online High School.

The online program is designed to help students graduate with a high school diploma and a career certificate.

The 18-credit career online high school program offers academic courses in language arts, science, social science and mathematics, with a focus on practical, career-based instruction in each academic area.

Students will be able to transfer credits previously earned at another high school and fulfill any remaining requirements at Smart Horizons Career Online High School.

Details: Visit www.smarthorizonsonline.org.

Intel faces more antitrust charges in FTC lawsuit

The Federal Trade Commission piled on new antitrust charges against Intel Corp. on Wednesday, seeking to end what it described as a decade of illegal sales tactics that have crippled rivals and kept prices for computer chips artificially high.

The FTC's lawsuit contains the most wide-ranging allegations yet against the world's largest chip maker, which also is fighting a record \$1.45 billion antitrust fine in Europe and separate cases in South Korea and New York state.

The company denies the Intel lawsuit.



Associated Press

Holiday shoppers are finding plenty of good deals. But research firm ShopperTrak has found the predictions of shoppers spending less than last year hasn't happened.

Shoppers may be left waiting if looking for huge discounts

Associated Press

NEW YORK — If you were hoping to find massive clearance sales as you finish up your holiday shopping, prepare to be disappointed.

Major stores that had worried it would take across-the-board discounts to lure

Holiday sales and traffic

Holiday sales are running about even with a projected 1.6 percent growth forecast, ShopperTrak co-founder Bill Martin said. The

That should help fourth-quarter profits as stores find they don't have to drastically slash prices to clear out their stock.

"Stores did a better job in matching supply with demand," said BMO Capital Markets retail analyst John

Housing starts increase

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The economy is weak enough to keep inflation in check but strong enough to increase the pace of home construction and raise hopes for a sustained recovery.

That was the picture sketched Wednesday by government data showing an economy growing, however slowly.

And it was reinforced by a statement later in the day from the Federal Reserve, which pledged to hold interest rates at a record low to drive down unemployment and sustain the economic recovery.

In the Commerce Department's report on housing starts, it said construction of new homes and apartments rose 8.9 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 574,000 units. The gain represented strength in all areas of the country, though the rise was slightly lower than economists had expected.

Applications for new building permits rose 6 percent, a stronger showing than predicted.

The government is spending an unprecedented amount to prop up the housing market. The money includes about \$111 billion by