

Business



DOLLARS AND SENSE

How secure is your new tablet?

Did you or anyone in your family get a tablet computer over the holidays? Was it an inexpensive one, perhaps purchased on Black Friday?

If so, beware. You need to check your device for security vulnerabilities. A number of these tablets were sent out with problems that can cause you big headaches ... especially if you've given it to a child who intends to sign up at sites online.

Bluebox (bluebox.com), whose business it is to secure mobile data, issued a report on 14 Android tablets being promoted over the big sales weekend. Eleven cost less than \$50. Of the 14, only two were deemed "secure," while the rest had varying levels and combinations of pre-installed vulnerability, security misconfigurations and even a backdoor. One was so bad that the company's scanning program had never come across an arrangement quite like it.

To see the names and models of the tablets, go to the Bluebox site and look for "Santa or the Grinch: Android Tablet Analysis for the 2014 Holiday Season." The bugs found were FakeID, Futex, Masterkey and Heartbleed.

Among Bluebox's suggested steps to secure your mobile device for iOS: get the latest software and check for updates; enable the security features, such as passcode, SIM card, restrictions and auto-lock; prompt to join Wi-Fi networks; and turn off Wi-Fi (and your hotspot) when you're not using it. For the full list of suggestions, go to bluebox.com/ios-user-security-guide.

For Android 4x or 5x, Bluebox has security steps for versions 4.0 (Ice Cream Sandwich) up to 5 (Lollipop). While the iOS guide has 15 steps, there are 21 steps to securing an Android device.

Tablets aren't the only devices at risk right now. Days after the Bluebox report on tablets, another security company, Palo Alto Networks (www.paloaltonetworks.com), found a serious problem on 24 models of mobile phones, including a vulnerability that had been modified "to make it much more difficult for antivirus programs to detect the backdoor."

And that very same day, Akamai Technologies, Inc. (www.akamai.com) disclosed a new cybersecurity threat that targets iOS and Android devices, and can include tricking users into downloading malicious apps, which can lead to denial of service attacks and much, much more.

Nervous yet? Take steps to safeguard your devices. Keep your software up to date, stay away from free Wi-Fi, turn off automatic steps, be careful what apps you download ... and keep an eye on children using these devices.

—King Features
Syndicate Inc.

Tree grows in Social Circle

New child care academy to teach health and values

By **MEAGAN HURLEY**
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Unsatisfied by your current childcare provider? Are you looking for a less conventional daycare option? If so, Lemon Tree Academy in Social Circle might just be for you.

The brand new childcare facility was founded on the premise of promoting child health, education and positive moral values, steering away from the less-involved mainstream babysitting trend.

"We want to bring a different dynamic to the community," said Paul Lemon, co-founder of the Lemon Tree Academy, Social Circle's newest childcare destination.

"One of the things I'm working on is the Big Brother program to give kids direction and show them people to look up to. Children just need guidance. You see the people on TV. They need better role models than that," he said.

Lemon's wife, Nina, is a major driving force in the academy's core values. With a doctorate in early childhood education, Lemon said his wife brings years of experience in the pediatric field to the new daycare.

"My wife, Nina, will be very involved and will act as co-director," said Lemon.

Lemon said the main focuses of the facility will be cleanliness, healthy eating and moral values. Children will be

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— **Paul Lemon, co-founder,
Lemon Tree Academy**



A sign in front of the new Lemon Tree Academy, which will open for classes Jan. 19. Photo by MEAGAN HURLEY

taught how to wash their hands correctly to prevent illness like the common cold and how to combat obesity, diabetes and ADHD through a healthy diet. Lemon Tree will encourage positive morals by focusing on eight essential core values: respect, obedience, politeness, responsibility, humility, good manners, friendliness and honesty.

The childcare facility will provide services for children ranging in age from 0-5 years old and will offer classes for kids ages 1-5. To reserve your child's spot at the Lemon Tree Academy, visit www.thelemontreeacademy.com/join-our-wait-list/ and submit the online form.

The facility's open house/grand opening will take place on Jan. 17, with classes beginning on Jan. 19. For more information, contact Paul Lemon at 770-464-0768.

Kemp offers alert to corporations

Office received complaints on Ga. Council for Corporations

Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp is alerting corporations today that his office has received recent complaints about solicitations sent from a firm called "Georgia Council for Corporations." The firm offers to complete corporate meeting minutes on behalf of Georgia corporations for a fee of \$125. Georgia corporations are not required by law to file corporate minutes with the Secretary of State's Corporations Division.

Secretary Kemp said, "Georgia's corporations should be cautious regarding any suspicious solicitation, and practice their due diligence to prevent corporate fraud and identity theft."

Although the solicitation from the Georgia Council for Corporations contains language from various Georgia Code sections and a disclaimer stating

"Georgia Council for Corporations is not a government agency and does not have or contract with any government agency to provide this service. This does not fulfill the Georgia annual report filing requirement," some corporate officers have been understandably confused by the official-looking documents. It is important to remember that any official statement or request from the Secretary of State will clearly indicate its origin by displaying the State Seal and the name of Secretary of State Brian Kemp.

If corporate customers have any questions, please call the Corporations Division Call Center at 404-656-2817.

Brian Kemp has been Secretary of State since January 2010. Among the office's wide-ranging responsibilities, the Secretary of State is charged with conducting secure, accessible and fair elections, the registration of corporations, and the regulation of securities and professional license holders.

Intimate knowledge



The Walton County Chamber of Commerce recently had a ribbon cutting ceremony for J. Stone Intimates, located at 129 N. Midland Ave., Monroe. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business Briefs

Shane's Rib Shack coming to Monroe

Just before 2014 came to an end, officials with Shane's Rib Shack formally announced the opening of its newest location in Monroe, which will be the company's 42nd store in Georgia.

"Shane's Rib Shack is thrilled to be part of the Monroe community," said Amy Bouchard, who handles marketing and brand public relations for Shane's Rib Shack. "We are excited to be bringing our slow hickory smoked barbecue to the area. Opening a location in Monroe was a no-brainer. It is an ideal location for us as Monroe has deep family roots and strong heritage, both of which are a big part of the Shane's brand."

"We are eager to become more engaged with the local schools and community."

Shane's officials estimate the store will bring 30 jobs to the community when it opens up on Jan. 26, at which time there will also be a Green Egg smoker giveaway. The store will be located at 1978 W. Spring St., Monroe.

Gray Orthodontics opens in Monroe

Gray Orthodontics of Snellville recently acquired a new practice in Monroe, bringing the same excellence and family atmosphere of their practice. Their locations in Snellville and Winder will remain open.

Due to the retirement of Dr. John West from his practice, the office will assume the practice name Gray Orthodontics and will be teamed with Dr. Mark A Gray and his staff. Snellville, Winder and the surrounding communities entrust Dr. Gray and his staff with their orthodontic treatment.

Gray is a graduate of the Medical University of South Carolina and has completed a residency in orthodontics at the Medical College of Georgia. He has been practicing orthodontics for 11 years and is board-certified by the American Board of Orthodontics.

Gray and his staff are committed to this community and look forward to sharing the changes with their current and future patients. For more information call 770-267-7712.

Wilson Parker adds Fall Creek

Wilson Parker Homes announced the addition of the Fall Creek development in Loganville as its newest.

Priced from the \$180s, Wilson Parker has included a huge community pool, enough lighted tennis courts with parking along with paved sidewalks and street lamps to ensure a safe walk home. The new owner is offering several spacious floor plans to choose from, an unmatched home buyer warranty, buyback program and design flexibility. There will also be the Wilson Parker "No Payment for Three Months" home buyer incentive program now through March of next year. Through Wilson Parker Homes' preferred lender, they'll pick up the tab on your new home for three whole months. For more information about Fall Creek call 770.978.9941 or visit www.wilsonparkerhomes.com.