

Above, Elsa Keirn has a quiet chat with Santa at the Berth III shelter on the dock after the lighting of the Community Christmas tree recently. Staff photo by Hall Anderson

LOCAL APPEARANCE

Right, children watch as Santa rides in on a fire truck for the lighting of the community Christmas tree on the downtown wooden dock on Nov. 28. After the tree lighting, children marched to the Berth III covered shelter for a visit with Santa and hot chocolate.

Staff photo by Hall Anderson



Big, busy day for UPS

NEW YORK (AP) — For UPS, it's beginning to look a lot like a normal Christmas.

Wednesday was forecast to be the busiest day of the year for the world's largest package delivery company. It expects to deliver a record 24 million shipments worldwide in 24 hours. That is 9 percent higher than last year and 2007 — the year before the recession took hold. It's 60 per-

cent higher than a normal day.

The glowing forecast for holiday shipping continues a trend of higher revenue and shipping volume for UPS during the first nine months of the year. U.S daily package volume improved by almost 2 percent, while international volume rose more than 17 percent.

In the U.S., after two lackluster holiday seasons, consumers are shopping and shipping again. Much of it is online, where they're spending more than ever before. As of Friday, shoppers have spent \$27.46 billion online since Nov. 1, up 12 percent from last year, according to research firm comScore Inc. Online holiday sales rose just 5 percent between 2008 and 2009.

Retail experts predict holiday spending will increase by two to four percent over last year.

UPS' smaller rival, FedEx, had its busiest day last week, when the company predicted it would pick up a record 16 million shipments on Dec. 13. That's up 13 percent from last year and double that of a normal day.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Google buys building that houses 2K employees

NEW YORK (AP) — Google has bought a New York office building where
more than 2,000 of its employees work. The Internet search leader confirmed
the purchase Wednesday, three weeks after The New York Times reported
Google Inc. would pay \$1.8 billion for a 15-story building that spans an entire
city block. Google Inc. didn't disclose how much it paid for the office. The company moved into the former Port Authority building in 2006. It has become the second largest concentration of Google employees, ranking behind the company's Mountain View headquarters.

Croc attack -

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the overturned boat shaking for about

20 seconds as the crocodile pulled Co-

etzee from the tight-fitting cockpit.

They then got off the river, composed

themselves, and continued down-

Coetzee's body has never been

Appearing first on NBC's "Today"

show, Stookesberry and Korbulic said

had been raining for two days, so hard they didn't try to cook a meal. They had just finished more than 30 miles of whitewater. And they faced 200 miles of flat water, winding through rolling elephant grass-covered hills, before their final takeout.

They were in the middle of a stretch about 100 feet wide, paddling so close their blades would touch if they got out of synch. Coetzee was in the center, Stookesberry a little in front on the left, and Korbulic a little behind on the right.

"I glanced over to measure that we were not paddling towards or away from each other. And just in my periphery I saw the crocodile come out of the water, and he got onto Hendri's left side — just the left shoulder with its mouth," Korbulic said.

Talking to villagers later, they figured the crocodile was at least 15 feet long and weighed up to 2 tons.

Stookesberry and Korbulic watched

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they will never again paddle the Lukuga, out of respect for Coetzee.

found, and he is presumed dead.

stream to a village.

"His goal was never to gain that notoriety, Korbulic told the AP. He was just really loving how he was living his life — and the adventure it was taking him on."

Ship to Shore

-Continued from page B-1 working with Newport on an agree-

A spokesman for Gov.-elect Lincoln Chafee says Chafee believes Newport is the natural site for the America's Cup but it would be important to weigh the costs of hosting the competition against the required infrastructure improvements.



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Tanner Thomas

"Oceanside is kind of the mecca of name but they sure as heck are going freeriding," Thomas said. "All those guys go and ride there. So when you go and ride in Oceanside, the talent is just bar none to anywhere. .. They're doing tricks that nobody else really sees." He said that every one of the riders

mosphere had a good effect on on Sept. 9-11. Thomas's own riding. "When you ride around that, you re-

alize it's a such a doable thing," he said. "I started landing back flips constantly when I started riding with those guys.

From the California coast, Thomas headed inland to compete in the DJSA JET Effect 2010 races at the Salt Springs Reservoir in California's northern Sierra Nevada Range.

Thomas took third place in the novice stock ski class, and participated in a freestyle exhibition.

"I met a lot of cool people there. Saw a lot of friends I'd seen from previous trips, and just got a better feel for the sport," said Thomas, adding that there's an advantage in being from Ketchikan, Alaska.

"When you introduce yourself as Tanner Thomas, Ketchikan, Alaska, they really don't remember your

to remember you're from Alaska," he said. "You're going to stand out." It was his riding that stood out in the next competition.

After returning to Pismo Beach, Thomas drove north to Pacific City, was personable, and the positive at- Ore., for the 2010 Blowsion Surf Slam

He was met there by his parents, grandparents, and Ketchikan friend and fellow rider Colin Ayers.

Competing in progressively smaller surf, Thomas took third place in the amateur freeriding division before signing up to compete in the pro-am motosurf event, a race around a square, buoy-marked course in the breaking surf.

Thomas hadn't raced a moto-surf event before, so he didn't have high expectations when he lined up in the shorebreak with about 12 other riders, waiting for the start flag to drop as waves with 6- to 7-foot faces marched

toward the beach. The flag dropped. Thomas hit the throttle and pointed his ski straight out from shore.

"I was like a rag doll hanging on to the back of this thing," he said. Rounding the course, Thomas

turned back toward shore and began powering over the backs of the incom-

"Jumping over some of these waves." it was about a 7-foot drop and landing flat boom - just about crushed myself," Thomas said.

When the spray had cleared, Thomas had placed first in the first of two motos (heats). In the second heat, Thomas wound

up lapping all but two riders while placing first again. "It was big for me," Thomas said. "It was my first first place in any big

event like that." A video of the awards ceremony shows a beaming Thomas stepping up to the first place spot on the podium

to accept his trophy. "That was really cool; good icing on the cake for my whole trip," he said. But it wasn't over yet. Thomas then headed north to Washington state, where he spent time riding in Lake Goodwin near Marysville, Wash., and in Seattle's Lake Washington before re-

turning to Ketchikan in late September. He then traveled back south to Arizona's Lake Havasu City to watch the 2010 IJSBA QuakySense World Finals with Zack Bright in early October.

"It was a really neat experience to wrap it all up," Thomas said.

Looking back, Thomas remains impressed by the comradery among the participants in the watercraft sports

"That's a really cool thing about jet skiing, you can meet really cool people from all over the world," Thomas said, noting later how people help each other out when mechanical problems crop up during events. "Pretty much everybody in the

beach is one big family," he said. "Even though it's an event and a competition, but they all do their damnedest to get you up and running. ... That's not like a lot of sports." At present, Thomas is looking forward to a winter of work and snow

machining in the Ketchikan area and planning toward next year's competitive watercraft season. He has some decisions to regarding

his competitive future, including whether he wants to move up into pro

" I'm kind of ... torn what i'm supposed to do there," he said. "But I'm sure that, with some guidance from some other sponsors and other people, I'll figure it out for next summer."

Carnival profit Continued from page B-1

in the previous year. Annual revenue rose 8 percent to

\$14.47 billion from \$13.46 billion.

Carnival, which operates Princess Cruises, Holland America Line and Carnival Cruise Lines, predicts 2011 earnings in a range of \$2.90 to \$3.10

The company said its cumulative advance bookings for next year are at higher prices, with slightly lower occupancies than a year earlier. Bookings for both North American and European brands are improving, according to Arison.

"We are optimistic these positive

trends are an indicator of a strong wave season, our heaviest booking period which begins in early January," he said.

Carnival expects its first-quarter earnings between 15 and 19 cents per share.

Analysts anticipate 2011 net income

of \$2.92 per share and first-quarter earnings of 24 cents per share. Carnival operates 98 ships, with 10

new vessels set to be delivered between March 2011 and May 2014.

Daily News staff contributed to this





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