

WEDNESDAY

TODAY & next morning  
**HIGH** 74  
**LOW** 54

Cloudy, windy, with showers and storms.

PAGE A4

# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

www.chronicleonline.com



DECEMBER 16, 2020 Florida's Best Community Newspaper Serving Florida's Best Community 50¢ VOL. 126 ISSUE 69

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Citrus COVID-19 update

According to the Florida Department of Health, 76 positive cases were reported in Citrus County since the latest update. Seven new hospitalizations were reported; four new deaths were reported.

To date in the county, 5,646 people have tested positive (including 33 non-residents), 465 have been hospitalized and 223 have died.

### Chronicle spreads holiday cheer

Join the Citrus County Chronicle as it brings you three beloved Christmas stories — virtually. Readings will be at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18; Monday, Dec. 21; and Wednesday, Dec. 23.

This is a free event and is open to everyone. Each night we will read a different book and stream it on the Chronicle Facebook page.

As a special treat, you can pick up a free copy of each book and follow along with the reading. The books are available at: Grand Living at Citrus Hills, Suncoast Dermatology & Skin Surgery Center and Suncoast Credit Union in Crystal River and Inverness.

### Input for 2021 Legislative Session sought

The Citrus County Legislative Delegation is modifying the process for receiving public input for the 2021 Legislative Session.

As millions of Floridians have made adjustments to normal events and activities, we too are making changes in response to the challenges that COVID-19 has presented. All testimony, concerns, legislative input and budget requests will be received by delegation members via email.

Please submit written correspondence to [adele.hembree@myflorida.house.gov](mailto:adele.hembree@myflorida.house.gov) and [harrison.patty@flsenate.gov](mailto:harrison.patty@flsenate.gov) by Monday, Dec. 21, 2020. Additionally, members of the community may fill out budget request forms for the House of Representatives (<https://tinyurl.com/y3bh3qbb>) and the Senate (<https://tinyurl.com/yxca9map>).

Keep in mind, the financial outlook for the state has been negatively impacted due to the pandemic.

### Nominate Citrus' top organization

The Citrus County Chronicle is seeking nominees for its inaugural nonprofit, "Organization of the Year." Nominations should be based on how it made a difference throughout the year within the community.

Email nominations to [jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com](mailto:jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com); or, mail to Jeff Bryan, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 by Wednesday, Dec. 23.

— From staff reports

# County, United Way OK deal

## CARES Act money will be distributed in phases, with detailed accounting

JEFF BRYAN  
Managing editor

Relief will be coming soon for those individuals and families negatively affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic, as the Citrus County Board of

County Commissioners and United Way CEO Meghan Pitzer ironed out their differences Tuesday, Dec. 15, in a contract paving the way for the nonprofit organization to distribute CARES Act funds.

Instead of receiving \$450,000 in one lump sum, with a six-month clock to disperse the monies or return the remaining monies, the county, with a push from Commissioner Jeff Kinnard, and Pitzer agreed to dole out the

funds in draws, with the deadline for the first \$150,000 to be doled out by Aug. 31, 2021, with a detailed accounting of where the funds went and what they were used for.

"This money is for United Way to get out to

people," Kinnard told his colleagues. "If the bottom is going to fall out, it could be in June, August, September or November; we don't know when it'll happen."

See DEAL/Page A2

## Puppy power



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Gospel Island resident Gary Cox uses puppy power while riding his skateboard Tuesday morning, Dec. 15, 2020, while exercising his 7-month-old miniature pinscher Holly. He says of their daily workout routine, "She loves it. Either by bike, by board or running she goes about three-miles into the neighborhood."

# Local virus cases down slightly

BUSTER THOMPSON  
Staff writer

Health officials are seeing a slight downturn in local COVID-19 transmissions and hospitalizations, but urged people not to get complacent.

"We're seeing a little bit of a downturn," Florida Department of Health (FDOH) in Citrus County Administrator Ernesto "Tito" Rubio told Crystal River City Council Monday, Dec. 14, 2020.

Rubio said the county's positivity rate for the novel coronavirus was at around 9%, down from 10-11%, but the desired benchmark is at or below 5%.

As of Monday, according to the FDOH, Citrus County recorded a total 5,570 cases of the infectious respiratory disease. It's an increase of 400 cases over the last week since Monday, Dec. 7, at an average 57 cases a day.

Since Dec. 7, another 21 people were hospitalized with COVID-19, totaling 465 hospitalizations, and another 39 people died, bringing the death count up to 223.

COVID-19 data on the FDOH dashboard is subject to change as epidemiological investigations reveal new information about a case.

Rubio said staffing at county hospitals in November was stretched caring for a total 60 COVID-19 patients at a time, compared to the 30 in August and September, but COVID-19 hospitalizations are decreasing.

"We have survived that ... I don't think anyone went without care," he said, referring to the coordination between local hospitals and Nature Coast EMS to transport patients to other medical facilities. "I think we're well ahead and conscious of what's going on."

See VIRUS/Page A2

# Vaccination ramps up; second shot coming soon

MATTHEW PERRONE,  
LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AND DAVID PORTER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hundreds more hospitals around the country began dispensing COVID-19

shots to their workers in a rapid expansion of the U.S. vaccination drive Tuesday, while a second vaccine moved to the cusp of government authorization.

A day after the rollout of Pfizer-BioNTech's coronavirus shots, the Food and Drug

Administration said its preliminary analysis confirmed the effectiveness and safety of the vaccine developed by Moderna and the National Institutes of Health. A panel of outside experts is expected to recommend the formula on Thursday, with the FDA's green

light coming soon thereafter.

The Moderna vaccine uses the same technology as Pfizer-BioNTech's and showed similarly strong protection against COVID-19 but is easier to handle because

See VACCINE/Page A5

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# DEAL

Continued from Page A1

The concerns of the initial contract came to light Friday, Dec. 11, after County Administrator Randy Oliver sent it to Pitzer and Kinnard prior to the start of his vacation, but some of the details and language caused concerns for the United Way Board of Directors, Pitzer explained. A back-and-forth exchange of emails came to a halt early Friday evening, leaving Kinnard and Pitzer with more question than answers.

"Folks are struggling to make it day by day, week by week," Kinnard said. "I understand issues with the contract, but none are insurmountable. Let's walk through it, come to an agreement, and pass the contract."

Chairman Scott Carnahan took umbrage with Oliver "being thrown under the bus."

"I am not throwing Randy under bus at all," Kinnard said, offering an apology to his colleagues. "We were in a crunched time frame ... we decided as a board, and I know these things take time, we didn't get an email until 5 (Friday). Take it the board and I won't be around. But, by the way, we have 24 hours to turn this thing around."

But the commission, County Attorney Denise Lyn and Pitzer all took a deep breath inside the commission chambers and sorted out the details of the contract as the commissioners unanimously passed the deal.

One pressing concern for commissioners is "what if" something goes awry with the accounting of funds. Pitzer told the commissioners the United Way would need to secure an insurance policy if that situation did arise and she was working to secure it.

"I think you're going to do great things," Carnahan told Pitzer, noting as the chairman who would sign the deal, "that's great concern for myself," if

something went amiss.

Pitzer told the Chronicle afterward she hoped to have the policy secured soon as well as the Executive Board of the United Way of Citrus County's approval of the contract with the county. Once both are completed, Pitzer said they can begin offering aid as quickly as possible.

"I'm incredibly thankful to get this done in a timely fashion," she said, "so we are able to help the people of this community who are struggling so badly right now."

"I'm very thankful to Commissioner Kinnard for putting this proposal and working diligently to draft something that works for everyone to do what's best for our neighbors in need."

Kinnard was thrilled he and his fellow board members were able to get a deal approved.

"This is great, great teamwork today," he said after the meeting. "It's a little bit exhausting to go through the minutiae of the details of it, but this is a different time right now. The board is anxious to get this money out as quickly as possible; the United Way is ready to handle it as quickly as possible. Naturally, we have to protect the county and make sure it goes exactly to where it needs to go. It's a great, great team effort. I'm very, very proud of our effort today."

Now, the county is working to strike a deal with the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce to provide aid for businesses throughout the county impacted by COVID-19, with early shutdowns, limited capacities and a reduction in business as more people have changed their daily habits, from shopping to dining.

Both the county and chamber exchanged proposals Monday, Carnahan told the board.

"Whether it's legal or not legal, we're waiting for an answer," he said.

*Contact Managing Editor Jeff Bryan at 352-564-2909 or jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com.*

# Local BRIEF

## Nominate Citrus' top citizen

The Citrus County Chronicle is seeking nominees for 2020 Citizen of the Year. Winners in the past have been

honored for everything from philanthropy to volunteerism, civil rights work to service to country, and environmental efforts to governmental initiatives.

While all nominations are

considered, preference is usually given to community contributions that are above and beyond the role one plays in their day-to-day job.

Email nominations to jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com;

or, mail to Jeff Bryan, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 by Thursday, Dec. 17 or submit a nomination online at <https://tinyurl.com/y5fqz77a>.

— From staff reports

## VIRUS

Continued from Page A1

Rubio said the FDOH is also launching a "Mask Up Citrus" campaign.

According to the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) on Tuesday, Citrus County had 48 people in hospital with a primary diagnosis of COVID-19.

There was also 24% of hospital beds available in the county, according to AHCA, and 13% of local adult intensive care units were open.

Rubio said Florida began rolling out its 179,000 COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer out to five hospitals, health departments in Broward and Pinellas counties and to two pharmacies to administer to those in long-term care facilities.

It's unknown when vaccines will be available for Citrus County's general public, Rubio said, but the FDOH is ready to oversee a mass-inoculation program.

"I would stand in line and get it," Rubio said about getting the vaccine, touting its safety.

Almost every infected inmate at the Citrus County Detention Facility has been medically cleared to be released from quarantine.

Of the 145 positive cases at the CoreCivic-managed jail in Lecanto, 141 were deemed recovered, County Administrator Randy Oliver said Monday.

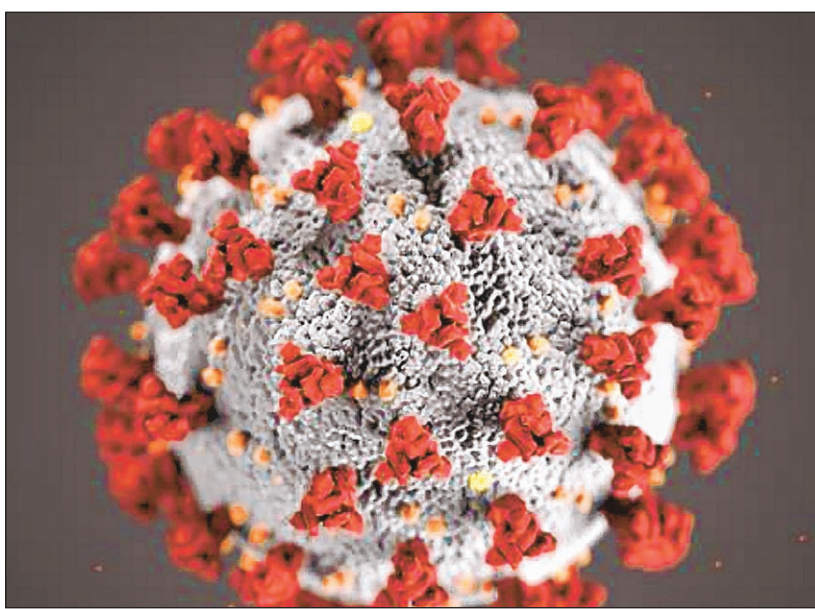
Out of the inmate cases, Oliver said, 103 are county defendants; 34 are U.S. Marshal Service custody; and eight are serving sentences from the U.S. Virgin Islands. No inmate deaths have been reported.

There were 137 inmates cases documented Dec. 7.

CoreCivic spokesman Ryan Gustin said Monday four housing pods out of the jail's 30 remain on quarantine, a decrease of five since Dec. 7.

Visitation resumed over the past week, Gustin said.

Gustin said no CoreCivic employees contracted the virus since Dec. 7. Since the pandemic's onset, a dozen jail workers became infected and all have since been



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

medically cleared, Gustin said.

Those with questions about someone in the jail's custody can contact CoreCivic's Operations Concern Center by either calling 877-834-1550 or emailing [Operations@CoreCivic.com](mailto:Operations@CoreCivic.com).

For information about CoreCivic's response to COVID-19, visit [corecivic.com/covid-19-response](https://corecivic.com/covid-19-response).

According to the FDOH on Monday, 208 cases were reported for inmates housed at correctional centers in the county, and for staff who live locally but could also work at an outside facility. It's an increase of three since Dec. 7.

As of Tuesday, since the 2020-21 academic year began Aug. 20, there have been 240 COVID-19 cases on Citrus County School District campuses, up 32 since Dec. 7. Of those cases, 159 were students and 81 were school staff.

Long-term care facilities in the county have documented a total 971 cases, up 58 since Dec. 7, according to the FDOH.

Here are the number of COVID-19 cases ranked by Citrus County's 15 zip codes that were reported on Dec. 14:

34452 (Inverness, Floral City, Inverness Highlands North and Inverness Highlands South): 734, an increase of 37 since Dec. 7.

34461 (Black Diamond, Citrus Hills, Homosassa Springs, Lecanto, Pine Ridge and Sugarmill Woods):

660, up 48.

34429 (Crystal River, Ozello, Homosassa Springs, Lecanto and Black Diamond): 546, up 35.

34446 (Homosassa, Homosassa Springs, Lecanto and Sugarmill Woods): 538, up 44

34465 (Beverly Hills, Black Diamond, Citrus Springs, Lecanto and Pine Ridge): 537, up 32.

34442 (Citrus Hills, Citrus Springs, Hernando, Lecanto and Pine Ridge): 488, up 53.

34453 (Inverness, Citrus Hills, Hernando, Inverness Highlands North and Lecanto): 400, up 23.

34428 (Crystal River, Red Level and Inglis): 353, up 29.

34434 (Dunnellon, Citrus Springs, Hernando and Pine Ridge): 326, up 27.

34450 (Inverness and Inverness Highlands South): 248, up 17.

34448 (Homosassa, Homosassa Springs, Sugarmill Woods, Lecanto and Crystal River): 256, up 32.

34433 (Dunnellon, Citrus Springs and Pine Ridge): 215, up 13.

34436 (Floral City): 171, up 3.

34445 (Holder, Citrus Springs, Hernando and Pine Ridge): eight, up one.

34449 (Inglis and Yankeetown): Less than five, no change.

Contact Chronicle reporter Buster Thompson at 352-564-2916, [bthompson@chronicleonline.com](mailto:bthompson@chronicleonline.com) or visit [tinyurl.com/yxn2ahso](https://tinyurl.com/yxn2ahso) to see more of his stories.



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## Around the COUNTY

### Nominate top stories of year

The Citrus County Chronicle is seeking nominations for Citrus County's top local stories of 2020. Stories should be about people, organizations, businesses, issues or events in Citrus County.

Multiple nominations are accepted.

Email nominations to jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com; or, mail to Jeff Bryan, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd. 34429 by Dec. 17, 2020.

A ballot will be generated from those nominations and readers will have an opportunity to vote on their top 10 picks.

### Help save the Crystal River

Save Crystal River is hosting a holiday raffle that offers you the opportunity to take home a Power Pole and/or a Browning BL-22 rifle for a suggested donation of \$20. Limited to only 500 tickets per raffle.

Tickets for both raffles are available online through SaveCrystalRiver.com.

Winners will be drawn at noon Saturday, Dec. 19, via Facebook Live on the Save Crystal River Facebook page.

The winner for the Browning BL-22 rifle will be drawn on Mallard's Guns Facebook page.

Winners will be contacted directly after the raffle.

### Bayfront Health accepts new toys

As you begin to shop for Christmas, consider making a donation of a new, unwrapped toy at either of the following Bayfront Health locations:

■ Bayfront Health ER  
Citrus Hills, 907 W. Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando, FL 34442.

■ Bayfront Health Urgent Care, 2703 Forest Road, Spring Hill, FL 34606.

— From staff reports

### Correction

Due to an editor's error, Dara Kam's name was misspelled in the story, "Senate president tests positive for COVID-19," on Page A1 of the Tuesday, Dec. 15, edition of the Chronicle.

The Chronicle apologizes for the error.

Readers can alert the Citrus County Chronicle to any errors in news articles by emailing newsdesk@chronicleonline.com or by calling 352-563-5660.

# Manatee Fest set for January

## CR Council puts COVID contingency dates in place

**BUSTER THOMPSON**  
Staff writer

Crystal River City Council members gave the OK to have the annual Manatee Festival as planned in their downtown, but backup plans are in place if COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations surge.

With a quarantined Mayor Joe Meek phoning into council's Monday, Dec. 14, 2020, meeting, hosted by Vice Mayor Robert Holmes, city officials voted 5-0 to approve the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce's permit for the event on Jan. 16 and 17.

However, depending on virus transmission rates and hospital cases, the chamber has until Dec. 31 to either continue as scheduled or postpone until March 27 and 28.

Chamber CEO and President Josh Wooten said his staff, the city's and Citrus County Sheriff's Office deputies will coordinate as one — like they did with the reverse Christmas parade

— to host a safe and fun event to help local businesses trying to stay open amid the pandemic.

Wooten said the 2021 Manatee Festival will have 40% fewer vendors and attendees, and sanitization stations will be abundant. Advertising will also be published locally, he added.

"I know there's risks involved with everything," he said. "We want to give this community something. ... We will do the responsible thing if you give us this opportunity."

Council voted after Ernesto "Tito" Rubio, administrator of the Florida Department of Health in Citrus County, said the county's COVID-19 positivity rate decreased and hospitalizations are stabilizing.

Rubio also said Florida began distributing Pfizer's vaccine for the novel coronavirus, but it could be some time before immunity impacts Citrus County.

Also on Monday, council voted 5-0 in favor of a

resolution to reserve charging an assessment on county properties being hooked up to Crystal River's sewer system.

These assessments will help pay for costs of the city's septic-to-sewer programs, Indian Waters and Southern Sewer, in communities outside city limits to the northwest and south, respectively.

It might not be until November 2021 when the non-ad valorem fees are added to the tax collections of the 600 parcels involved, City Manager Ken Frink said, noting the resolution acts as a notification to the county, property appraiser and affected lot owners.

Non-ad valorem assessments are special service charges that are not based on property values.

Council voted 5-0 to OK an interlocal agreement with the Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA), which will help the city, county and property owners workshop assessments to be finalized when construction bids come through.

Ground is expected to break on the first phase of Indian Waters either in the

late summer or early fall as permitting continues for the remaining project sections, Frink said.

Frink said the FGUA will also search for more grants, which, if approved, will help offset how much property owners are charged for city sewer.

Outside funding is paying for between 75% and 90% of the endeavor, Frink said.

**Also during city council's meeting on Monday:**

Council voted 5-0 to have city staff complete negotiations with the licensed paddlecraft vendors on how they can operate out of the city's Kings Bay Park, and begin the process of implementing a \$5 fee for their customers to launch.

Hunter Springs Kayak owner Dave Perry thanked Councilwoman Cindi Guy and city staff for working with him and other vendors, but said his lawyer is working with City Attorney Robert Batsel Jr. on if the launch fee would be per vessel or customer.

Perry also wanted vendors to have access to Kings Bay Park at all times, since it's an extension of their business, and wanted assurance city launch fees

would be reinvested into park improvements.

Batsel told council it would have to change city code to modify park hours, and he'll continue negotiating with Perry's attorney.

Councilman Ken Brown said he and neighbors of Hunter Springs Park have noticed less traffic since paddlecraft businesses were required to launch from Kings Bay Park.

■■■■  
Sitting as members of the city's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board, council voted 5-0 to have Capital City Bank refinance the CRA's \$3.5 million loan from 2016 to help pay for the Riverwalk and Town Square.

Capital City Bank offered a fixed interest rate of 2.57% over the loan's 15-year term of \$3.89 million, compared to the CRA's current interest rate from Iberia Bank of 4.2% over its loan's 10-year term of \$3.91 million.

This loan refinancing will drop the CRA's annual payments down from \$372,811 to \$258,439, according to city staff, which was assisted by Councilman Pat Fitzpatrick in the process.

## Court Digest: Child-sex, attempted-murder cases poised to resolve

**BUSTER THOMPSON**  
Staff writer

Charles Wigglesworth, the Citrus County Sheriff's Office deputy who was fired over allegations of a young child's sexual abuse, is expected to take an offer for a prison sentence sparing his life for the capital-felony offense.

Charles Vaughn, lawyer for the Homosassa 31-year-old, told Circuit Court Judge Richard "Ric" Howard at his client's hearing Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020, to schedule a change-of-plea hearing.

Vaughn said he and Assistant State Attorney Debra Munchel negotiated a plea agreement for Wigglesworth, who also told Howard he had a desire to end his case short of a trial.

Vaughn did not disclose the terms of the agreement, but said it would keep Wigglesworth from serving mandatory life sentences for his two charges of sexual battery of a child younger than 12 years old in connection to a girl's alleged abuse from March 2020 and September 2016.

Wigglesworth also faces three counts of sexual molestation, which is a charge punishable to a prison term of up to life.

Howard set Wigglesworth's next court date for Feb. 9, but told Vaughn to contact his judicial assistant if he can schedule an earlier hearing.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement agents arrested Wigglesworth in early April after sheriff's office authorities asked the agency in late March to investigate Wigglesworth, who was hired as a deputy in July 2018.

**Also in court on Tuesday:**

Justice Gurrola's attempted-murder case from September 2019 is set to go before jurors the week of March 15, Howard ordered.

Gurrola's final pretrial hearing is March 1.

Jack Maro asked the judge to set his 21-year-old client's kidnaping case from November 2019 first

because a jury's acquittal could release Gurrola, who's from The Villages, from custody.

Howard told Maro, who said he's ready to take either case to trial, there's plenty of time to file motions for case preparation.

Gurrola is accused of injuring then-18-year-old Tyler Miller during a drive-by shooting outside Miller's Inverness home, and faces a charge of attempted murder involving a discharged firearm and injury.

Miller, now 20, told Howard on Tuesday he wants compensation for the "emotional distress" Gurrola caused him.

While released on bond, Gurrola was arrested on domestic violence allegations he strangled a woman who was seven months pregnant, and held her against her will inside an

Inverness home.

Gurrola was charged with kidnapping and aggravated battery of a pregnant woman. He's been in the county jail without bond since.

Maro told Howard he and Gurrola agreed not to depose the woman because they already anticipate what she will testify at trial.

Assistant State Attorney Bryan Caughey told Howard the woman was served to show for a deposition but didn't appear.

However, Caughey said, the woman's statements in Gurrola's jail phone calls to her say she's willing to cooperate and pursue charges.

Howard asked if Gurrola was illegally contacting the woman as part of his pre-trial conditions, to which Maro said there was no such violation.

■■■■  
Damaron Javon Hamilton, 27, of Fort Lauderdale, said he wants juries to hear his two felony cases accusing him of local armed robberies from June and July 2018.

Brian Trehy, Hamilton's attorney, asked Howard to schedule another hearing so he can have time to negotiate a plea offer for his client's two cases from Citrus County and a similar case out of Gainesville.

Trehy said if those offers fall through, he can argue Hamilton's motions to suppress evidence against him.

Caughey said Hamilton faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison if convicted of any of his three felony cases because he qualifies as a prison re-leasee reoffender.

Howard set Feb. 9 as Hamilton's next court date.

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**CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE BEST OF THE BEST WINNER 2020**

Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthdays — Make health and well-being your priorities this year. It's time to let go of old habits and people who lead you astray. Look to the future with hope, enthusiasm and the desire to be and do your very best.
Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Be careful when dealing with joint ventures or shared expenses. Keeping things equal will help you avoid tension and get things done on time.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Keep busy and keep the peace. Channel your energy into something concrete. You must work hard to be reasonable.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Keep an open mind and listen to what others say, but don't let anyone meddle in your affairs. Work hard to uphold your beliefs.
Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — Look at your objective and map out a realistic, affordable plan. Don't let a last-minute change lead to uncertainty.
Aries (March 21-April 19) — What you want to do and what you are supposed to do will be in conflict. Stop stressing out and start working hard. Get your responsibilities out of the way early.
Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Invest more time, effort and money in learning, honing your skills and making your dreams come true. Embrace change.
Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Talk matters through to get good results. A partnership looks promising, but it will require honesty from the start.
Cancer (June 21-July 22) — A financial change will take you by surprise. Be wary of anyone asking personal questions or wanting access to sensitive information.
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — You will thrive in settings that require physical endurance and competition. Be honest with yourself regarding what you can do, and plan your strategy to fit your ability.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Refuse to let personal problems drag you down. Your success will depend on how much you are willing to put in to reach your goal. Embrace new possibilities.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Listen to your heart, fulfill your dreams and let go of what is no longer working for you. Problems at home will leave you feeling torn with how to get your way.
Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Stop laboring over what's holding you back, put your ducks in a row and make a move. More initiative may be required.

ENTERTAINMENT



This combination photo shows The Associated Press' Breakthrough Entertainers of 2020, from left, Sarah Cooper, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Anya Taylor-Joy, Finneas O'Connell and Daisy Edgar Jones.

The AP names its Breakthrough Entertainers of 2020

Making a breakthrough in pop culture during any year is hard. Doing it during a global pandemic is an entirely different thing. This year's five Associated Press' Breakthrough Entertainers of the Year managed to create buzz and art against a year like no other. They brightened a 2020 that badly needed light. They are Anya Taylor-Joy, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Daisy Edgar-Jones, Sarah Cooper and Finneas. These performers broke through into the mainstream and made a mark on entertainment this year, despite lockdowns — and, in the case of Edgar-Jones, perhaps because of them, sending people desperate for connection to her series "Normal People." The AP's fourth annual list spotlights how fast fame can come: It took a mere four months from when Cooper started posting videos of herself on TikTok lip-synching President Donald Trump to filming her own hourlong Netflix special alongside Helen Mirren. Abdul-Mateen's career may have started later than most, but

he was all over 2020, in the films "All Day and a Night" and Aaron Sorkin's "The Trial of the Chicago 7." His year was highlighted with the Emmy for Supporting Actor in a Limited Series or Movie for his acclaimed performance as Dr. Manhattan in HBO's lauded series "Watchmen." And while Billie Eilish is a sensation, it's time her brother, Finneas, is also celebrated. She won five honors at the Grammy Awards earlier this year, including album of the year for "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" But since Finneas produced, co-wrote and engineered that album, he walked away with six Grammys, one more than his sister. In a year when many people's output slackened, Anya Taylor-Joy seemed to find another gear: She played a meddling British brat in "Emma," a Russian mutant with teleportation powers in the latest "X-Men" film, and an American orphan who turns out to be a chess phenom who can checkmate grown men by the time she's 8 in "The Queen's Gambit." Taylor-Joy said when she was a kid she dreamed of flying off to imaginary lands. "Now as an adult, I'm like, 'I live in Narnia.' Like, this is amazing." In a year

like 2020, it was appropriate that millions escaped with her. Artists to perform at 'Rockin' Eve' NEW YORK — Jennifer Lopez will help bring in the New Year with a headlining performance in New York's Time Square for "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2021" on ABC. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the event will be closed to the public. Other performers include Cyndi Lauper, Billy Porter and Jimmie Allen. Lauper and Porter collaborated on the Broadway musical "Kinky Boots" and they will join forces for a special performance during the TV special, which will air on ABC at 8 p.m. Eastern. "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2021" will run until 2 a.m. on Jan. 1. Seacrest is returning to host the event for a 16th year, and he will be joined by Porter and Lucy Hale in New York. Ciara will host from Los Angeles. — From wire reports

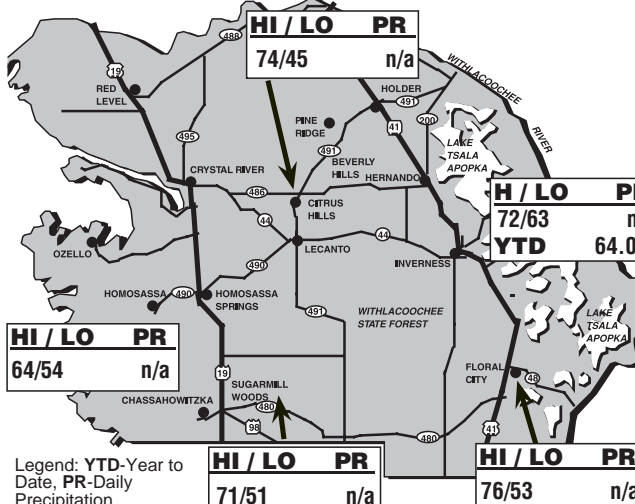


Jennifer Lopez

Today in HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 16, the 351st day of 2020. There are 15 days left in the year. Today's Highlight: On Dec. 16, 2000, President-elect George W. Bush selected Colin Powell to become the first African-American secretary of state. On this date: In 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes. In 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg (the Allies were eventually able to turn the Germans back). Ten years ago: Interviewer Larry King, joined by a parade of former guests, concluded his CNN talk show after 25 years. Five years ago: The first attempt to find a Baltimore police officer criminally responsible for Freddie Gray's death from a broken neck in a police van ended with a hung jury and a mistrial in the case of William Porter. One year ago: "The Rise of Skywalker," the conclusion of the third trilogy in the "Star Wars" movie franchise, was given a standing ovation at its world premiere in Hollywood. Today's Birthdays: Civil rights attorney and co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Morris Dees is 84. Actor Joyce Bulifant is 83. Actor Liv Ullmann is 82. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 79. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 74. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 71. Actor Xander Berkeley is 65. Actor Alison LaPlaca is 61. Actor Sam Robards is 59. Actor Jon Tenney is 59. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 57. Actor Miranda Otto is 53. Actor Daniel Cosgrove is 50. Actor Jonathan Scarfe is 45. Actor Krysten Ritter is 39. Actor Zoe Lister-Jones is 38. Actor Theo James is 36. Actor Amanda Setton is 35. Actor Hallee Hirsh is 33. Actor Anna Popplewell is 32.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



THREE DAY OUTLOOK: TODAY & TOMORROW MORNING, THURSDAY & FRIDAY MORNING, FRIDAY & SATURDAY MORNING. Includes high/low temperatures and weather conditions.

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

Table with columns: City, H, L, F'cast. Lists temperatures for cities like Daytona Bch., Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Gainesville, Homestead, Jacksonville, Key West, Lakeland, Melbourne, Miami, Ocala, Orlando, Pensacola, Sarasota, Tallahassee, Tampa, Vero Beach, W. Palm Bch.

MARINE OUTLOOK

Today: Southeast winds 5 to 10 knots then becoming south around 15 knots in the late morning and afternoon. Seas 2 to 3 feet. Bay and inland waters a moderate chop. A chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon.

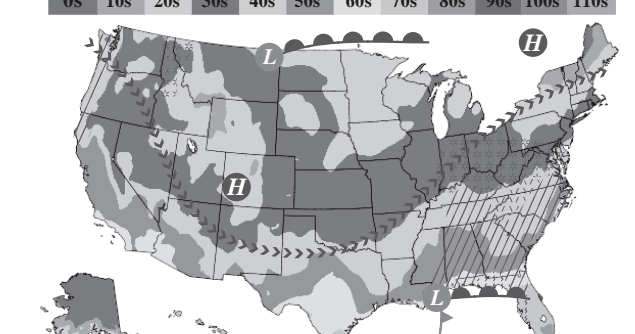
Gulf water temperature 66° Taken at Crystal River

LAKE LEVELS

Table with columns: Location, TUE, MON, Full. Lists lake levels for Withlacoochee at Holder, Tsala Apopka-Hernando, Tsala Apopka-Inverness, Tsala Apopka-Floral City.

Levels reported in feet above sea level. Flood stage for lakes are based on 2.33-year flood, the mean-annual flood which has a 43-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any one year.

THE NATION



FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. Wednesday

Table with columns: City, H, L, Pcp., H, L, Fcst. Lists weather forecasts for cities from Albuquerque to Washington.

WORLD CITIES

Table with columns: City, H/L/SPY, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Mexico City, Montreal, Moscow, Paris, Rio, Rome, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, Warsaw. Lists weather for various international cities.

ALMANAC: TEMPERATURE, DEW POINT, HUMIDITY, POLLEN COUNT, AIR QUALITY, SOLAR TABLES, CELESTIAL OUTLOOK, BURN CONDITIONS, WATERING RULES, TIDES. Includes various weather and utility information.

ALERT CITRUS SIGNUP

- To register for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office's Alert Citrus weather program, visit www.sheriffcitrus.org and click on the links to register. Create a profile, list how you want to be contacted in case of a weather emergency (text, mobile phone, home phone, email), then include the address(es) you want alerts for. You can choose what types of emergencies you want to hear about, and set a quiet period for no contact. Those without computer access may call 352-249-2705.

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*For the* **RECORD**

**Citrus County Sheriff's Office**

**Domestic battery arrest**

■ **Billy Roach**, 39, of Homosassa, at 1:37 p.m. Dec. 9 on a felony charge of domestic battery by strangulation and a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery.

**Other arrests**

■ **Christopher Leonard**, 34, of Inverness, at 9:20 a.m. Dec. 9 on felony charges of burglary and grand theft. His bond was set at \$7,000.

■ **Melinda Ward**, 34, of Inverness, at 3:05 p.m. Dec. 9 on felony charges of burglary and grand theft.

■ **Anthony Belcastro Jr.**, 31, of South Arabian Avenue, Floral City, at 10:34 a.m. Dec. 9 on an active warrant for felony violation of probation stemming from an original charge of felony battery.

■ **Andrew Cannon**, 31, of South Doug Point, Inverness, at 3:20 p.m. Dec. 9 on felony charges of possession with

intent to sell a controlled substance and unlawful use of a two-way communication device. His bond was set at \$4,000.

**Burglaries, thefts and vandalism**

Here are the reported burglaries, thefts and vandalism released Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020, by the Citrus County Sheriff's Office:

■ Criminal mischief, 7:37 a.m. Dec. 15, 4200 block of South Rainbow Drive, Inverness.

■ Vehicle burglary, 3:51 a.m. Dec. 15, 3400 block of East Deer Run Lane, Hernando.

■ Residential burglary, 2:32 a.m. Dec. 15, 20 block of Chinaberry Circle, Homosassa.

■ Theft, 3:48 p.m. Dec. 14, 3400 block of East Fishermans Lane, Hernando.

■ Vehicle burglary, 3:59 p.m. Dec. 14, 1100 block of North Brookhaven Terrace, Inverness.

■ Vehicle burglary, 2:39 p.m. Dec. 14, 9600 West

Pimpnel Lane, Crystal River.

■ Theft, 1:45 p.m. Dec. 14, 900 block of North Hollywood Circle, Crystal River.

■ Commercial burglary, 12:48 p.m. Dec. 14, 2900 block of North Florida Avenue, Hernando.

■ Vehicle burglary, 12:30 p.m. Dec. 14, 5100 block of West State Street, Homosassa.

■ Retail theft, 10:43 a.m. Dec. 14, 2400 block of East Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

■ Theft, 10:20 a.m. Dec. 14, 8900 block of South Florida Avenue, Floral City.

Those with information about these offenses could be eligible for a cash reward by contacting Citrus County Crime Stoppers at 888-269-8477. Tipsters remain anonymous.

Tips can also be reported to the sheriff's office by calling the agency's non-emergency line, 352-249-2790.

**VACCINE**

Continued from Page A1

it does not need to be kept in the deep freeze at minus 94 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 70 Celsius).

Another weapon against the outbreak can't come soon enough: The number of dead in the U.S. passed a staggering 300,000 on Monday, according to Johns Hopkins University, with about 2,400 people now dying per day on average.

The devastating toll is only expected to grow in the coming weeks, fueled by travel over Christmas and New Year's, family gatherings and lax adherence to mask-wearing and other precautions.

Packed in dry ice, shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine began arriving Tuesday at more than 400 additional hospitals and other distribution sites.

The first 3 million shots are being strictly rationed to front-line health

workers and nursing home patients, with hundreds of millions more shots needed over the coming months to protect most Americans.

The rollout provided a measure of encouragement to exhausted doctors, nurses and other hospital staffers around the country.

Maritza Beniquez has had a front-row seat to the devastation the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought on communities of color in New Jersey, so she jumped at the chance to take the vaccine that is being hailed as a turning point in the long and grueling battle against the virus.

The 56-year-old emergency room nurse at Newark's University Hospital became the first person in New Jersey to receive the vaccine on Tuesday. All recipients will get a second shot a few weeks later.

"I'm happy that in another month and a half I won't have to be afraid to go into a room anymore. I won't have to be afraid to perform chest

compressions or be present when they're intubating a patient," Beniquez said. "I don't want to be afraid anymore, and I don't want to have that risk of taking it home to my own family and my own friends."

Widespread acceptance of the vaccine is critical to eventually protecting enough of the U.S. population to defeat the outbreak. But just half of Americans say they want to get vaccinated, while about a quarter don't and the rest are unsure, according to a recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Health Research.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a childhood polio survivor, urged elected officials to "step up" and get vaccinated.

"We really need to get the country vaccinated," he said. "It's the right thing to do for yourself, for your family and for the country."

The federal government is planning hundreds more shipments through the weekend.

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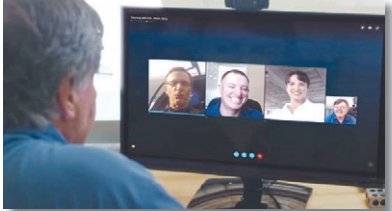


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Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Finding help should be. Tobacco Free Florida offers free tools and services to help you get started.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, quitting is more important than ever!

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Tuesday, December 15, 2020 | 10:00am-12:00pm

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 | 1:00pm-3:00pm

Friday, December 18, 2020 | 12:00pm-2:00pm

Monday, December 21, 2020 | 6:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday, December 22, 2020 | 1:00pm-3:00pm

Wednesday, December 23, 2020 | 10:00am-12:00pm

Monday, December 28, 2020 | 1:00pm-3:00pm

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SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

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■ **RESIDENTS IN 3 STATES CASH IN:** The phone lines will be ringing off the hook. That's because for the next 48 hours, packages containing actual Gold Vault Bricks still loaded with four 5-ounce Jumbo State Bars layered in valuable 24 Karat Gold minted by the Federated Mint are being shipped to residents in 3 states. These are the only Gold Vault Bricks known to exist and everyone wants them. That's because they're still loaded with Jumbo Gold Bars bearing the name of The First Bank of the United States of America and the state they were once destined for. And here's the best part. If you live in one of the 3 states listed in today's publication you cover only the minimum gold fee set for state residents of just \$49 per ounce. That's a real steal because residents living outside of the designated 3 states must pay \$124 per ounce if any remain.

# Residents snap up Gold Bars issued in 3 States

*Heavy Gold Vault Bricks loaded with valuable Jumbo State Bars layered in 24 Karat Gold are up for grabs as thousands stand to miss the deadline to claim the gold bars; now residents in 3 states can claim the Gold Vault Bricks for themselves and keep all the valuable bars found inside just by covering the minimum gold fee set for state residents within the next 48 hours*

"It's like a modern day gold rush," said Mary Ellen Withrow, emeritus 40th Treasurer of the United States of America.

That's because actual Gold Vault Bricks™ still loaded with four 5-ounce Jumbo State Bars layered in valuable 24 Karat Gold bearing the name of the First Bank of the United States of America™ and the state they were once destined for are up for grabs as thousands of U.S. residents stand to miss the deadline to claim the gold. Now any resident of those states can claim the Gold Vault Bricks for themselves and keep all the valuable gold found inside. That's four massive bars weighing a full 20 ounces of high demand bullion copper layered in valuable 24 Karat Gold in all.

And here's the best part. If you live in one of the 3 states listed in today's publication you cover only the minimum gold fee set for state residents of just \$49 per ounce which totals \$980 for the full 20 ounces locked away inside these gold vault bricks. That's a real steal because residents living outside of the designated 3 states must pay \$124 per ounce which totals \$2,480 if any remain.

"As special counsel to Federated Mint I earn my pay delivering breaking news. And today's announcement confirming the release of Gold Vault Bricks to the general public is as big as it gets. Believe me, I know how valuable these Gold Vault Bricks are to resellers, collectors, dealers and anyone else who gets their hands on them," Withrow said.

"So my advice is this, anyone who gets an opportunity to get their hands on one of these Gold Vault Bricks better jump at the chance before they're all gone," Withrow said.

"These Gold Vault Bricks loaded with massive 5-ounce Jumbo State Bars layered in valuable 24 Karat Gold make the most impressive gifts for Christmas, birthdays, graduations, weddings, and any other occasion, especially for that hard-to-buy-for person," Withrow said.

According to Ms. Withrow, since thousands of U.S. residents stand to miss the deadline to claim the gold, today and tomorrow are intended as a "special 48 hour release" for the benefit of persons living in; FL, AL and GA. This gives residents of those states a fair chance to claim the Gold Vault Bricks and all the valuable gold loaded inside for themselves.

But, Ms. Withrow added, "The Gold Vault Bricks are only available as inventory permits during the special 48 hour release and once they're gone, they're gone." The emeritus Treasurer added, "Remember this, these Gold Vault Bricks contain a full 20 ounces of high demand bullion copper layered in valuable 24 Karat Gold and we have no power to stop dealers, resellers, collectors and the like from buying up all the Gold Vault Bricks they can get their hands on and reselling them for a big profit," Withrow said.

Anyone who fails to obtain them during this special 48 hour release may be forced to buy them later in the secondary market from a dealer, reseller or collector at a hefty premium.

"We already know the phones will be ringing off the hook. That's why hundreds of agents are standing by to answer the phones beginning at 8:30am this morning. We're going to do our best, but with just 48 hours to answer all the calls it won't be easy. So make sure to tell everyone to keep calling if all lines are busy. We'll do our best to answer them all," Withrow said.

"That's why Federated Mint set up the State Distribution Hotlines in order to make sure residents in the 3 designated states listed in today's newspaper publication can get them now," Withrow said.

The only thing readers of today's newspaper publication need to do is make sure they live in one of the 3 states listed in today's newspaper and call the State Distribution Hotlines before the special 48 hour release ends midnight tomorrow. ■

► **Who gets the Jumbo Gold Bars:** Listed below in bold are the states that get the gold. If you live in one of these states immediately call the State Distribution Hotline at: **1-800-749-6917 GB1703**

<b>Alabama</b>	CO	HI	KY	MD	MT	NJ	OK	SD	VT
AK	CT	IA	KS	MI	NC	NM	OR	TN	WA
AR	DE	ID	LA	MN	ND	NV	PA	TX	WI
AZ	<b>Florida</b>	IL	MA	MO	NE	NY	RI	UT	WV
CA	<b>Georgia</b>	IN	ME	MS	NH	OH	SC	VA	WY

**NEVER BEFORE SEEN:** THESE FIRST BANK OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA JUMBO GOLD BARS ARE THE ONLY ONES KNOWN TO EXIST

**VALUABLE:** THESE ARE THE FOUR 5-OUNCE JUMBO GOLD BARS SEALED AWAY IN EACH GOLD VAULT BRICK BEARING THE STATE DESTINATION



► **How much are the Gold Vault Bricks worth:** The answer is, it's impossible to say. But, it would be foolish for anyone to try and determine the value of these Gold Vault Bricks based on today's price of gold. Here's why. Gold, silver and all precious metal values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees. But what we do know is that these are the only Gold Vault Bricks still loaded with four 5-ounce Jumbo State Bars known to exist. In fact, the value of the pure 24 Karat Gold layered content is just a bonus for anyone lucky enough to get one of these Gold Vault Bricks because there's no telling how much the actual collector value could be worth. That makes the minimum gold fee set for state residents of just \$49 per ounce which totals \$980 for the full 20 ounces locked away inside these Gold Vault Bricks a real steal since residents living outside of the designated 3 states must pay \$124 per ounce, which totals \$2,480, if any remain.

► **Why the vault fee is so low:** Since thousands of U.S. residents stand to miss the deadline to claim the gold, Federated Mint has re-allocated Gold Vault Bricks to be sent out in the next 48 hours. That means the gold is up for grabs and now residents in 3 states can claim the Gold Vault Bricks for themselves and keep all the valuable bars found inside. These are the only Gold Vault Bricks known to exist and everyone wants them. That's because they're still loaded with four 5-ounce Jumbo State Bars layered in valuable 24 Karat Gold bearing the name of The First Bank of the United States of America and the state they were once destined for. That's four massive bars weighing a full 20 ounces of 24 Karat Gold and valuable bullion copper in all. And here's the best part. If you live in one of the 3 states listed in today's publication you cover only the minimum gold fee set for state residents of just \$49 per ounce. That's a real steal because residents living outside of the designated 3 states must pay \$124 per ounce if any remain.



■ **FIRST LOOK INSIDE THE GOLD VAULT BRICKS:** Pictured above are the Gold Vault Bricks containing the only Jumbo State Gold Bars known to exist bearing the name of the First Bank of the United States of America and the state they were once destined for. State residents are rushing to get them because the Gold Vault Bricks are still loaded with four 5-ounce Jumbo State Bars layered in valuable 24 Karat Gold. Everyone lucky enough to get them better hold on to them because there's no telling just how much they could be worth.





► *"Every champion was once a contender that didn't give up."*  
 Gabby Douglas

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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Founded by Albert M. Williamson

*"You may differ with my choice, but not my right to choose."*  
 — David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

The opinions expressed in Chronicle editorials are the opinions of the newspaper's editorial board.

DECADES OF DEDICATION

# Nonprofit fills hearts, and stockings, with love

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a chilling effect on everyone, from the boardroom to the barroom, but it hasn't dented the spirit and passion of Ginger West and the staff and volunteers at the Family Resource Center.

Determined to make sure no child goes without, especially during the Christmas season, West, executive director of the Hernando nonprofit, and her staff work tirelessly all year, culminating in making sure no child wakes up Christmas day without gifts to open.

The pandemic and a move to a new location has been challenging, but FRC workers continue to toil from morning until late at night.

A lot of small businesses have suffered severe hardship during the pandemic, and a lot of people, already struggling to make ends meet, have lost their jobs. Families across the county are struggling to feed their kids, and it's hard to come across the basics, let alone provide Christmas gifts. This is where the Family Resource Center becomes an invaluable asset, providing everything from blankets and clothes to toys.

West, who was the Chronicle Citizen of the Year in 1990, started the FRC almost

40 years ago with her husband and another couple. It started with parenting classes for people who wanted to be better parents and quickly morphed into providing for children at Christmas. That the nonprofit has been serving the county for decades is a testament to the caring and hard work of an army of volunteers.

West is a humble but forceful advocate for helping Citrus County citizens, but shuns the limelight, preferring to highlight the work of her staff and volunteers.

The center offers year-round services, but Christmastime is especially busy, with holiday music wafting through the air amid a frenzy of gift wrapping. The FRC helps around 2,000 children at Christmas. "We'd like it to be zero," West said. "That's not going to happen."

Without help from the FRC, many families would have nothing for their children at Christmas, and staffers and volunteers refuse to let that happen. Remember, it's never too late to sponsor a child and make a difference.

And the day after Christmas, when everyone else is still enjoying holiday cheer, the Family Resource Center begins the process again.

**THE ISSUE:**

The Family Resource Center.

**OUR OPINION:**

The nonprofit is a tireless servant for the needy.

**SPONSOR A CHILD**

- The Family Resource Center stills needs sponsors for children. The FRC is at 3660 N. Carl G. Rose Highway, Hernando. The phone number is 352-344-1001.

**United Way needs your help**

- The United Way of Citrus County needs your help this Christmas season. The Chronicle is asking that residents consider contributing \$36 (or whatever you can afford) to the annual campaign. Checks can be sent to: Gerry Mulligan, Citrus County Chronicle, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429. They can also be dropped off at the Chronicle office in Inverness or Crystal River. Thanks for being part of the solution to our community's problems.

Gerry Mulligan, publisher



**Send Christmas cards to veterans**

When filling out your Christmas cards this year, take one and send it to this address: Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, 8901 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20813. Cards will go to the Wounded Warrior Unit or to the Fisher Houses. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these wonderful, special people who have sacrificed so much would get. Thanks for your consideration.

CALL 563-0579

## Boys & Girls Clubs need your help

Hello friends of the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Without a doubt, this has been one of the most challenging years we've all faced. As the coronavirus continues to alter our country's educational system, financial institutions, and family traditions this holiday season, we encourage all to pause and be thankful for blessings in the face of adversity. Coronavirus has bent but not broken the spirit of our country, and through community support, we will continue to strengthen.

As we continue to work towards positively impacting the youth of Citrus County, your help is needed more than ever. Due to closures and cancellations of fundraising events in 2020, Boys & Girls Clubs have been strained financially but have remained steadfast in our mission of ensuring every child has a place to belong. Would you be willing to make a year-end gift today or become a 2021 corporate sponsor and safeguard the future success of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus County and the youths we serve? Will you join us in making a financial investment that

creates opportunities for children to explore, to grow and to realize their full potentials?

Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus County is here to help parents navigate this time of uncertainty and provide a stable resource for so many working families. Your investment is tax deductible and stays right here in Citrus County.

In a testimonial from a Club parent, she stated "In the past two years my daughter has been a member of the BGC, she has gained confidence, self-esteem, and learned life skills that include respect, responsibility, and accountability. My family recently moved to another area but we made sure that my daughter was still zoned to attend the Boys & Girls Clubs because we value her involvement in the program and understand the importance the program has had on her: I cannot express my appreciation for what the Boys & Girls Clubs do every day for not only my child but all children in Citrus County."

Fifty-six percent of children who attend the clubs come from single parent households, and 82% of the clubs' children are classified under

free/reduced lunch qualifications. Boys & Girls Clubs issued roughly \$90,000 in financial scholarship for morning program tuition this year and offered free after school, holiday, and summer programs for 100% of youth.

Will you join us and invest in a child's future this giving season? You understand the importance of keeping the club affordable so no child who seeks our help is ever turned away. You are the someone a child is counting on in 2021. To give by phone, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 352-621-9225. You can donate via text by messaging BGCCITRUS to number 41444 or to learn more about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus County, go to [www.bgccitrus.org](http://www.bgccitrus.org).

Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus County is a 501(c)(3) charity, any amount you donate before Dec. 31 may be deductible for 2020 income tax purposes. Also, under the CARES Act, individuals who do not itemize will be allowed to deduct from taxable income up to \$300 in cash donations for 2020. Consult with your tax advisor for more information.

Travis Anderson is the chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus County.



Travis Anderson  
**GUEST COLUMN**

LETTERS to the Editor

**Roadside trash so prevalent**

We all pay taxes for care of state and county roads regardless of what jurisdiction the roads are in. I was dismayed to see litter strewn on both sides of U.S. 19 south of U.S. 98 and Miss Maggie Drive in Chassahowitzka. Litter just west of the new McDonalds on Miss Maggie Drive is piling up. I do my best picking up garbage when I see it, but there must be someone responsible and being paid to pick this garbage up.

In Manatee County, the sheriff's office brings their inmates who pick up trash along the roads. All one needs to do, is call and ask. Here, I tried four agencies, Environmental Service in Citrus County, the front desk of the county, the state road department and then directed to landfill litter. We look like losers here in Citrus County with roadside trash so prevalent. If someone knows the answer to who is responsible for the state and the county roads to have trash picked up, please let me know. God bless and Merry Christmas to everyone.

Joanne Lindsay  
 Palmetto

**Believe in good business practices**

I enjoy reading your Commentary page every Sunday in the Chronicle, and your article, "Businesses must earn customer loyalty," prompted me to write this letter to you. While many owners and their employees do wear masks, and also require their customers to wear them, others do not. I agree this is a necessity during these difficult times and look forward to the day when we can shed this practice and put it all behind us.

It is difficult wearing the mask for a long period of time, and I hesitate going someplace if I have to wear the mask for more than a few minutes. I keep my shopping to a minimum, and one day I even decided not to go to church because I didn't feel like wearing my mask for such a long period of time.

It is important that owners abide by this recommendation in wearing a mask as well as train their employees to do so. I would also like to take this opportunity to mention something else that should be considered in training employees.

While it should not be taken literally, the term "no problem" has become the common reply to a "thank you" when

**OPINIONS INVITED**

- **Viewpoints** depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- **All letters** must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email. Names and hometowns will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.
- **We reserve** the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.
- **Letters** must be no longer than 400 words, and writers will be limited to four letters per month.
- **SEND LETTERS TO: The Editor**, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; or email to [letters@chronicleonline.com](mailto:letters@chronicleonline.com).

the appropriate term should be "you're welcome" or even "it's my pleasure (to serve you)."

I am writing this letter because a good friend of mine had initially brought this to my attention. He is irked whenever anyone uses "no problem" as a reply to his "thank you." He may ask them if it was, or could have been, a problem to serve him in the first place. He is so delighted when someone replies "it's a pleasure to serve you."

Now you may think that he is a lunatic for wanting to change the world! I have explained to him that it has become colloquially accepted to say "no problem." However, he is standing by his belief, and rightfully so:

About 50 years ago, my friend founded his own business with very little knowledge of how to go about it. He learned by trial and error, and the business thrived with over 50 employees. During Clinton's administration he won the Businessman of the Year award in his state and went to Washington, D.C. He believed in good business practices!

Gerry, thanks for taking the time to read this letter.

Linda D. Ross

**An election like no other**

In a few days I will reach the ripe old age of 87. That means that I have lived through a rather large number of elections. The first one that I can honestly say I had any familiarity with was Franklin Roosevelt's victory over Wendell Willkie. However, it was quite a few years later before I could actually vote.

What I really want to say is that in all those years, I have never seen a loosing incumbent act as unprofessional as

the current one. I'm seriously concerned about the man's mental health. He seems unable to accept the truth. I'm wondering what damage he may cause in his remaining days in office.

Bob Clayton  
 Hernando

**Those days will not be forgotten**

After reading in the Dec. 14 newspaper a letter from a Holocaust survivor regarding the opening of the Orlando exhibit and how disappointed he was, and then reading an article in Nation and World section of the same paper, regarding the honoring of the Holocaust victims in Berlin for Hanukkah, I feel it is important for those survivors to know this.

Those of us who were youngsters during World War II living in the United States have no doubts that the Holocaust took place. We watched news reels at the movies, saw pictures and read articles in the newspapers and saw many terrifying pictures. We read stories from those returning from Europe about the horrendous sights they saw personally.

Since those days, we have read many books regarding those years and my heart goes out to those who feel that those days will be forgotten. No, Sir. They will not be forgotten by us, nor our children.

Sylvia U. McKean  
 Inverness

**Education needs more funding**

Pre-school, first, second and third grades are the most important in a child's life. More dollars have to come from somewhere.

One-parent families don't have the time for working, loving and disciplining a child. It's just not working. We have to fire the politicians who don't understand the problem, even if the money has to come from the top end of the school system.

The start of a child's life has to be pre-K and built upon understanding the system by the fourth grade.

The pre-K through the third grade will be the toughest and has to have more dollars for the educators who can guide and understand the child's problems.

This can direct the child to a more successful life and keep them out of trouble.

Jim Price  
 Crystal River



Associated Press

Mayor Pete Buttigieg listens during a lunch meeting with Rev. Al Sharpton in New York. President-elect Joe Biden is expected to pick former South Bend, Indiana, mayor Pete Buttigieg to head the transportation department.

## Biden to pick Buttigieg as transportation chief

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Joe Biden is expected to pick his former rival Pete Buttigieg as secretary of transportation, according to three people familiar with the plans.

The decision leaves the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, poised to become the first openly gay person confirmed by the Senate to a Cabinet post. At 38, Buttigieg would also add a youthful dynamic to an incoming administration that is so far dominated in large part by leaders with decades of Washington experience.

Buttigieg became a leading figure in national politics when he was among those who challenged Biden for the Democratic presidential nomination this year. Initially written off as the leader of a relatively small town competing against far more established figures, Buttigieg zeroed in on a message of generational change to finish the first-in-the-nation Iowa caucuses in a virtual tie with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

His campaign stumbled, however, in appealing to Black voters who play a critical role in Democratic politics. As the primary moved into more diverse states such as South Carolina, Buttigieg faltered and quickly withdrew from the race. His backing of Biden ushered in a remarkably swift unification of the party around its ultimate nominee.

The three people confirmed Buttigieg's expected nomination to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they didn't want to publicly preempt the president-elect's announcement.

LGBTQ rights groups immediately spoke out in praise of Biden's selection of Buttigieg.

"Pete's nomination is a new milestone in a decades-long effort to ensure LGBTQ people are represented throughout our government — and its impact will reverberate well-beyond the department he will lead," said Anise Parker, president and CEO of the LGBTQ Victory Institute. "It distances our nation from a troubled legacy of barring out LGBTQ people from government positions and moves us closer to the President-elect's vision of a government that reflects America."

It's long been clear that Biden would find some role for Buttigieg in his administration. The two became close during the primary, chatting before debates and other campaign events.

Biden has said that Buttigieg reminds him of his late son, Beau, who was Delaware's attorney general before dying from brain cancer at 46 in 2015.

"To me, it's the highest compliment I can give any man or woman," Biden said in March as Buttigieg offered his endorsement. "Like Beau, he has a backbone like a ramrod."

Now Buttigieg will play a central role in shaping some of Biden's leading policy priorities.

Despite having governed a city of barely 100,000, Buttigieg was credited with transforming traffic with his Smart Streets initiative, a three-year project to convert 8 miles of multilane thoroughfares into two-way routes that enhanced South Bend's downtown. The project received awards for environmental protection.

## US regulators OK genetically modified pig for food, drugs

CANDICE CHOI  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. regulators have approved a genetically modified pig for food and medical products, making it the second such animal to get the green light for human consumption. But the company behind it says there are no imminent plans to sell it for meat.

The pig is genetically engineered to eliminate the presence of alpha-gal, a type of sugar found in many mammals. The sugar makes its way into many products — including medications, cosmetics and food — and can cause allergic reactions in some people.

The main goal of the company behind the pig, United Therapeutics Corp., is to develop medical products, such as blood thinners, that won't set off such reactions, said its spokesman Dewey Steadman. Eventually, the Silver Spring, Maryland-based firm hopes to develop a way for the pig's organs to be transplanted into people.

The pig, called GalSafe, also has commercial potential as food, but Steadman said the company doesn't know when it



Associated Press

U.S. regulators have approved a genetically modified pig for food and medical products.

might be able to secure an agreement with a meat producer to process and sell it. He noted the meat allergy the pig addresses, called alpha-gal syndrome, isn't yet considered a major issue.

"It's known, but it's not well known," Steadman said.

Health researchers don't fully understand how the

allergy develops, but it has been tied to bites from certain ticks. In 2009, there were 24 reported cases, but more recent estimates exceed 5,000 cases, according to a report by a working group for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Symptoms can include hives, itching, cramping and vomiting. Unlike other food allergies, alpha-gal reactions typically happen several hours after eating beef, pork or lamb, making it difficult to diagnose.

Jaydee Hanson, policy director for the Center for Food Safety, noted that meat from the genetically modified pigs wasn't tested in people with the allergies.

"You're offering it up as something they can eat, without knowing whether it addresses their allergy," Hanson said.

Greg Jaffe of the Center for Science in the Public Interest said the FDA's approval of the GalSafe pig announced Monday is concerning because it came without a chance for public comment.

"Nobody was given notice, and all of a sudden there's an approved animal," he said.

## Over-the-counter home test for COVID-19 gets US green light

MATTHEW PERRONE  
AP health writer

WASHINGTON — The first home test for COVID-19 that doesn't require a prescription will soon be on U.S. store shelves.

U.S. regulators Tuesday authorized the rapid coronavirus test, which can be done entirely at home. The announcement by the Food and Drug Administration represents another important — though incremental — step in efforts to expand testing options.

Regulators granted emergency use for a similar home test last month, but that one needs a doctor's prescription.

The agency's action Tuesday allows sales in places like

drugstores "where a patient can buy it, swab their nose, run the test and find out their results in as little as 20 minutes," said FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, in a statement.

Initial supplies of the over-the-counter test will be limited. Australian manufacturer Ellume said it expects to produce 3 million tests next month before ramping up production over the first half of 2021.

A company spokesperson said the test will be priced around \$30 and be available at pharmacies and for purchase online.

The kit includes a nasal swab, a chemical solution and a testing strip. The test connects digitally to a smart

phone app that displays the results and then helps interpret them. Users can also connect with a health professional via the app.

Ellume's test looks for viral proteins shed by COVID-19, which is different from the gold standard tests that look for the genetic material of the virus.

Like other tests that scan for proteins, FDA officials noted that Ellume's test can deliver a small percentage of false positive and false negative results. People who get a negative result but have coronavirus symptoms should follow up with a health professional, the agency said.

Currently the U.S. is testing nearly 2 million people daily.

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# Library recognizes 2020 outstanding volunteers

*Special to the Chronicle*

BEVERLY HILLS – The Citrus County Library System is grateful to have a community of dedicated volunteers to assist staff in a wide variety of roles. Individual branches rely on volunteers to help with so much more than shelving books. They excel at tutoring learners in the literacy initiatives, supporting activities and programs, and much more. We also have volunteers who plan and manage the book sales and continually advocate for the library through the Friends of the Library groups. These community minded individuals come from all walks of life, from high school students to retirees, and they all love the library.

With all of the changes that have come with 2020, our volunteers have been an anchor for our libraries. They have continued to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our staff. Taking additional precautions, learning new procedures, and bringing smiles to our faces, their dedication to the libraries has resulted in a contribution of 14,996 hours this year, which is equivalent to more than seven full-time employees. Each year we take the time to host a special event celebrating the accomplishments of our volunteers, but like many others, we were forced to change our plans. Instead, we turned what has been a boisterous affair in the

past, to an intimate, small gathering where branch staff, managers and library director Eric Head were able to honor our outstanding volunteers.

Each branch presented Outstanding Volunteer Awards to one individual from that location for their service. Those recognized include: Sally Baumgardner at Central Ridge, Nancy Corriveau at Coastal Region, Patricia Davies at Floral City, Perry Williams at Homosassa, and Gerry Kauth at Lakes Region. Our Adult Literacy Services team also honored Christine for her assistance with the program, as well as programming around the branch.

Additionally, the Citrus Libraries Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Cherie R. Byrnes for her 20 years of dedication towards volunteering with the Adult Literacy program. Cherie has implemented, and been involved in numerous aspects of volunteering with the library. She has been recognized at the state level by the Florida Literacy Coalition for her curriculum development, program assistance and new tutor-mentoring. Cherie has also served at the President of the Homosassa Friends of the Library. During her tenure as president, she planned and worked numerous book sales, as well as helping with various library programs, in addition to Adult



MetroCreative

The Citrus County Library System recognizes its dedicated volunteers.

Literacy. One program that has flourished under her care is the Citizenship Classes that began in 2010. Cherie is a treasured volunteer and valued member of the library's team.

Congratulations to all of our 2020 award winners and a big thank you to all of the 264 Citrus Libraries volunteers; you are amazing and we couldn't do what we do without you!

For more information on the volunteers who were recognized this year, follow the libraries on Facebook, @CitrusLibraries. We will be spotlighting volunteers through the end of the year. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer at the library, call your local branch and speak with the Customer Service Specialist.

## Education BRIEF

### Environmental scholarships available

The Riverhaven Garden Club in Homosassa has been giving scholarships for more than 20 years to area seniors interested in pursuing a career in botany, landscape design, or ecology. The scholarship alternates between Lecanto and Crystal River, since

these are the two area high schools that students in Homosassa attend.

The scholarship amount has varied, as has the number of recipients, but scholarships vary for amounts between \$500 to \$1,500 toward a recipient's college tuition.

Email elainemoore4@gmail.com or call 352-621-3004 for information.

— From staff reports

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Volunteers are needed for the No Cost Dental Clinic – call Sue Grable at 352-603-4436. Volunteers and donations for the Thrift Shop – call Edie Rosio at 352-501-9304. Send Checks to: 7655 Gulf to Lake Hwy., Suite 8, Crystal River, FL 34429.

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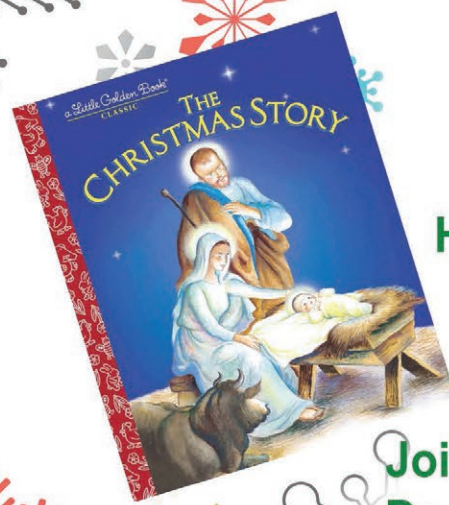
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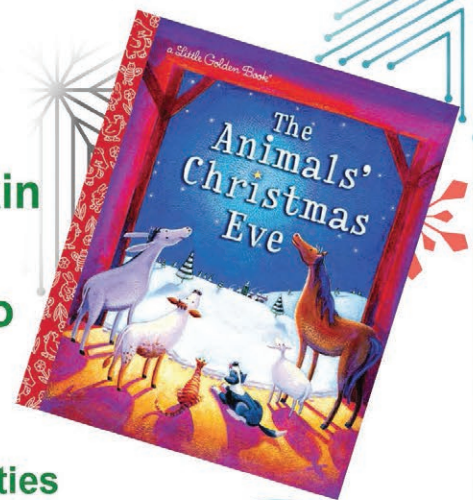
Books available at Grand Living at Citrus Hills Hwy. 486 Hernando

\*Limited Quantities

Join us for the Reading December 18 at 7:00PM

## The Animals' Christmas Eve

Books available at Suncoast Dermatology & Skin Surgery Center Hwy. 491 Lecanto



\*Limited Quantities

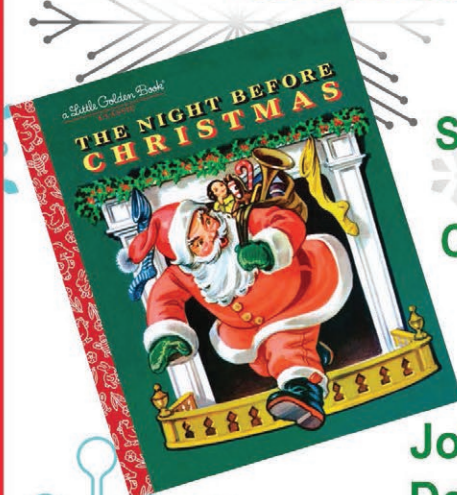
**SUNCOAST DERMATOLOGY AND SKIN SURGERY CENTER**

(Mon - Fri 8am - 4pm • Closed Noon - 1pm for lunch)

Join us for the Reading December 21 at 7:00PM

## The Night Before Christmas

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Join us for the Reading December 23 at 7:00PM

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## AT THE LIBRARY

**Dunnellon Public Library**  
352-438-2520

Donations to the Dunnellon Friends of the Library Bookstore are welcome during December. Check out the great assortment of books available and stock up. Bookstore hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Citrus Springs Memorial Library**  
352-489-2313

Citrus Springs Library is open five days a week — Monday through Friday. Requirements for patrons: masks must be worn while in the library; social distances of 6 feet must be observed. Also, do not reshelve a book if you decide not to take it. Staff will clean the book before it goes back on the shelf.

Library hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Call 352-489-2313.

### Citrus County Libraries

Visit [citruslibraries.org](http://citruslibraries.org) to get the latest information on services and programming offered at the library. Registration is currently required for all programs listed below. Please call the branch to register. Or visit [citruslibraries.org](http://citruslibraries.org) to get the latest information on services and programming offered at the library.

### All Locations

#### Dec. 24

Christmas Eve, Libraries Closed, All Day

#### Dec. 25

Christmas Day, Libraries Closed, All Day

### Central Ridge, Beverly Hills, 352-746-6622

#### Dec. 16

Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.  
Winter Wonderland Card Making Class, 10:30 a.m.  
Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.

#### Dec. 18

Diamondizers! (Diamond Painting), 1 p.m.

#### Dec. 22

Artistic Doodling, 1 p.m.  
Color Me Happy, 1 p.m.

#### Dec. 23

Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.  
Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.

### Coastal Region, Crystal River, 352-795-3716

#### Dec. 16

Game On!, 3 p.m.

#### Dec. 17

Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.  
Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.  
Christmas Classic Movie Series, 1 p.m.

#### Dec. 21

Crossword Collaboration, 10 a.m.  
Tech Talk: Streaming Music for the Holidays, 10:30 a.m.

### Floral City, 352-726-3671

#### Dec. 17

Tai Chi, 9:30 a.m.

#### Dec. 22

Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.  
Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.

### Homosassa, 352-628-5626

#### Dec. 16

Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.  
Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.  
Pre-GED Math Class, 3 p.m.  
Reel Time: Movie Showing, 1 p.m.

#### Dec. 18

Tutor Enrichment Workshop, 10 a.m.

#### Dec. 19

Children's Holiday Crafts, 11 a.m.

Children's Holiday Crafts, noon

#### Dec. 21

Merge Cube Mondays, 4:30 p.m.

#### Dec. 22

Color Me Happy, 1 p.m.  
Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.  
Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.

### Lakes Region, Inverness, 352-726-2357

#### Dec. 16

Adults Create: Tussy Mussy, 1:30 p.m.

#### Dec. 17

Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.

Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.

#### Dec. 21

Tech Talk: Alternatives to Cable, 10:15 a.m.  
Children's Holiday Crafts, 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Holiday Crafts, 11:30 a.m.  
Reel Time: Movie Showing, 1:30 p.m.

#### Dec. 22

Kids Monthly Maker: Holiday Softies, 4:30 p.m.

# Helping families in need



St. John Paul II Catholic School students recently collected food donations to benefit Daystar Food Pantry in Crystal River. Students collected close to 800 pounds of food for families in need during the holidays. From left are: Christopher Kingree, Kyle Hegarty, Les McGlothlin, Ella Cellada, Ron Kornatowski, Ana Terry, Levi Sweet and Jack King.

Special to the Chronicle

# Candidates sought for Girls, Boys State

## 2021 sessions in June

Special to the Chronicle

Girls State, which runs June 9-17, 2021, is open to young women in their junior year of high school. It is an all-expense-paid week trip to Tallahassee for an intense study of government.

College scholarship opportunities will also be available. Qualifications for a junior female interested in Girls State:

- has an interest in government;
- demonstrates leadership;
- is a resident of the state of Florida;
- is willing to salute our flag and take the oath of office on a Bible;
- has maintained an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Contact your guidance counselor for an application and additional information about Girls State.

Interested girls can also contact Elfi Baker, Girls State chairperson of the American Auxiliary Unit No. 155, at 352-564-2548 or [rbaker244@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rbaker244@tampabay.rr.com).

Visit [www.girlsstate.alafl.org](http://www.girlsstate.alafl.org) (Girls State).

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

### BOYS STATE

Boys State, June 20-26, 2021, is open to young men in their junior year of high school. It is an all-expense-paid week trip to Tallahassee for an intense study of government.

College scholarship opportunities

will also be available.

Qualifications for a junior male interested in Boys State:

- has an interest in government;
- demonstrates leadership;
- is a resident of the state of Florida;
- is willing to salute our flag and take the oath of office on a Bible;
- has maintained an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Contact your guidance counselor for an application and additional information about Boys State.

You can also contact Robert Baker, Boys State chairperson of the American Legion Post No. 155, at 352-564-2548 or [rbaker244@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rbaker244@tampabay.rr.com).

Visit [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org) (Boys State).

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

## CHALK TALK

starting Jan. 11, 2021.

Programs include: Applied Cybersecurity, Automotive Collision Technology, Automotive Service Technology, Cosmetology, Electricity, Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning/Refrigeration, Medical Administrative Specialist, Nails Specialty, Network Systems Administration, Nursing Assistant (Articulated), Practical Nursing, Professional Culinary Arts, Technology Support Services, Welding Technology.

We also offer fast track classes with short commitments of time to complete.

Contact the College at 352-726-2430 to schedule an appointment to meet with a career advisor or guidance counselor, or check us out online at [www.wtcollege.org](http://www.wtcollege.org).

### WTC offers Nursing Assistant classes

Withlacoochee Technical College (WTC) is now enrolling students for its Nursing Assistant (articulated) program. This semester, the college is offering the program two different ways:

- Full Time (7-week) Course from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning Jan. 11, 2021.
- Part-Time (19-week) Course from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning Jan. 11, 2021.

Students will learn infection control, personal hygienic care of patients, record keeping, taking vital signs, patient transfer, nutrition, medical terminology, and much more.

Program completers will be prepared to take the Florida Department of Health Certified Nursing Assistant certification exam.

Call the college at 352-726-2430 ext. 4326 for more information.

### Take Stock wants students, mentors

Take Stock in Children is a school-based

mentoring program that assists in creating a brighter future for deserving youths by providing college and vocational scholarships, volunteer mentors, tutoring and long-term support.

Take Stock is not a tutoring program; rather, it is a program that provides support and encouragement for students as they work their way through middle and high school and prepare for college.

Call Pat Lancaster, student services coordinator, at 352-422-2348 or 352-344-0855 to learn more about the program.

For more information, call Take Stock in Children of Citrus County at 352-344-0855.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTESTS

### CF has nursing scholarship available in Marion

The Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County is proud to announce that the window to apply for the 2021 Angelica G. Muns Scholarship is now open.

Students pursuing nursing degrees as well as post graduate nursing students are asked to apply. Qualified applicants must be enrolled in a certified nursing program in Marion County, maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout their duration of schooling, and continue their career in an acute health care facility for up to two years.

To apply use this link or visit [www.ocalafoundation.org/impact/#cfgrants](http://www.ocalafoundation.org/impact/#cfgrants) to learn more.

The application deadline for the scholarship is Jan. 4, 2021.

To list notes in Chalk Talk, email [community@chronicleonline.com](mailto:community@chronicleonline.com). The Chronicle reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style. Publication in the print version each week is not guaranteed.

**THE NUMBER:**

**5**

Years two-time NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo will remain with the Bucks after agreeing to a new contract.



Giannis Antetokounmpo

# SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020



It was a major success getting in 7 golf majors this year./B2

- College hoops/B2
- Golf/B2, B4
- Scoreboard/B3
- Sports briefs/B3
- Lottery, TV/B3

## UF's Johnson speaking, calling teammates

*Recovering after collapsing during game Saturday*

**MARK LONG**  
AP sports writer

GAINESVILLE — Florida forward Keyontae Johnson is speaking with family members and doctors and was even able to FaceTime his teammates Tuesday, his parents said in a statement released by the school.

Nika and Marrecus Johnson added that they "feel so much love and support from everyone."

"We're beyond grateful for the care and attention that Keyontae has received throughout these past several days," they said.

Johnson remains in stable condition at UF Health. He collapsed on the court during a game at Florida State on Saturday. He was moved to Gainesville via helicopter Monday with his mother by his side.

"We will continue to share updates about Keyontae's health and progress," his parents said. "We have seen how much people love and care for him. We hope people recognize that information that doesn't come from us or the athletic department may not be accurate.

"We are working closely with Keyontae's

doctors and the UAA to provide information to everyone who cares so deeply about Keyontae and has been praying for him."

USA Today on Monday quoted Johnson's grandfather, Larry DeJarnett, as saying the player had been in a medically induced coma.

The Southeastern Conference's preseason player of the year crumpled to the floor coming out of a timeout and received emergency medical attention. He was moved to a stretcher and carried to a waiting ambulance as teammates, coaches, staff, fans and others watched in disbelief.

ESPN declined to show video of the incident. According to witnesses, Johnson was standing and suddenly fell forward and landed on his face. His eyes were open and he had blood on his face and neck, according to photos obtained by The Gainesville Sun.

Johnson, a 6-foot-5, 230-pound junior, averaged a team-high 14 points last season to go along with 7.1 rebounds. He also led the Gators with 38 steals.

Like many of his Florida teammates, Johnson tested positive for COVID-19 during the summer. Although the cause of Johnson's collapse has not been revealed, the coronavirus can lead to myocarditis, a viral infection of the heart muscle. At its most severe, myocarditis can lead to sudden cardiac arrest and has been a documented cause of death for young, otherwise healthy athletes.



In this Nov. 29, 2019, file photo, Florida forward Keyontae Johnson looks on during a college basketball game against Marshall in Gainesville.

## Unrelenting Tide



Alabama punt returner DeVonta Smith (6) returns a punt for a touchdown against Arkansas during the first half of an NCAA college football game Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020, in Fayetteville, Ark. The top-ranked Crimson Tide enter Saturday's Southeastern Conference championship game undefeated. No. 11 Florida will look to give Alabama its first loss.

### Alabama chasing just second undefeated season under Saban

**JOHN ZENOR**  
AP sports writer

Alabama has swept through the regular season with ease, navigating a schedule with all Southeastern Conference games amid the perils of COVID-19.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide heads into Saturday night's SEC championship game against No. 11 Florida with an elusive goal still in sight: An undefeated season.

For all those dominant Nick Saban teams in Tuscaloosa, only one has finished with a perfect record, and that was 11 years ago. The Tide (10-0) has appeared all but untouchable so far, posting the fifth undefeated regular season of a Saban era that has included five national titles.

Alabama still would have to get through the Gators (8-2) and two playoff games to join that 2009 juggernaut that went 14-0.

"How you finish is the most

important thing in terms of your legacy as a team so it's not what we have done up to this point, although we're all proud and appreciate that the players have done a good job so far," Saban said Monday. "It's about how you finish. You've got to look forward, not backwards."

The Gators know how fine a margin there can be between perfection and a couple of losses. They lost 37-34 to LSU

Top 4 remains the same 'Bama, ND, Clemson, OSU in CFP position

**RALPH D. RUSSO**  
AP college football writer

Alabama, Notre Dame, Clemson and Ohio State will enter championship weekend in position to make the College Football Playoff with very little drama.

In fact, where the semifinals will be played might be more in doubt than who will play in them.

The top five teams were locked into their places Tuesday night for the fourth straight week, with the Crimson Tide (10-0) leading the way as it prepares to play Florida for the Southeastern Conference championship.

The Fighting Irish (10-0) are second and Clemson is third going into their Atlantic Coast Conference championship game.

Ohio State (5-0) is fourth going into the Big Ten title game against Northwestern, and Texas A&M is on deck at No. 5. The Aggies play at Tennessee in their last regular-season game Saturday.

If all the favorites win — that includes Clemson (9-1) in the rematch with Notre Dame — the current top four likely would be reordered a bit and placed in the semifinals.

If the Irish beat the Tigers for the second time this season, the selection committee's job becomes a little trickier.

After Texas A&M (7-1), Iowa State (8-2) is sixth heading into the Big 12 title game against No. 10 Oklahoma. No team with two losses has ever made the playoff.

Florida (8-2) dropped only one spot to seventh after losing as a big favorite to LSU. Georgia (7-2) is eighth and Cincinnati (8-0) is ninth after not playing for two weeks because of COVID-19 issues.

The unbeaten Bearcats host Tulsa, which is 23rd, in the American Athletic Conference title game.

The semifinals are scheduled to be played Jan. 1 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, and the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans.

The current COVID-19 restrictions in Florida will prohibit the Rose Bowl from having any fans in attendance, including family members of

See CFP/Page B3

See TIDE/Page B3

# Barnes leads FSU in ACC opener

*Virginia Tech beats  
No. 24 Clemson 66-60*

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Freshman guard Scottie Barnes had 16 points and six rebounds, and No. 15 Florida State pulled away midway through the second half to beat Georgia Tech 74-61 on Tuesday night.

M.J. Walker scored 14 points and Balsa Koprivica added 10 points and eight rebounds for Florida State (4-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), which had five scorers in double figures.

Michael Devoe had 21 points for Georgia Tech (2-3, 0-1), which used a 15-0 run to get back into the game in the second half. But the Seminoles never relinquished their lead.

Florida State has won 14 of the last 16 meetings in the series.

The Seminoles shot 27 of 51 (53%) from the floor and 8 for 17 (47%) from 3-point range.

The Yellow Jackets went 22 of 51 (43%) from the floor but just 5 of 20 (25%) on 3s.

## BIG PICTURE

**Florida State:** The Seminoles have gone 31-9 in their last 40 regular-season ACC games, including a 16-4 mark in 2019 en route to the league title.

**Georgia Tech:** Moses White, who was averaging 21 points and 9.8 rebounds per game, was held to five points until midway through the second half. White finished with 12 points and five rebounds.

## POLL IMPLICATIONS

Florida State just vaulted from No. 20 to No. 15 this week and could make an argument to move up even more with a win over UCF on Saturday.

## UP NEXT

**Florida State:** Will host UCF on Saturday.

**Georgia Tech:** Home against Florida A&M on Friday.

## No. 10 Tennessee 79, Appalachian State 38

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Victor Bailey had 13 points and No. 10 Tennessee (3-0) put its stifling defense on full display in a 79-38 victory over Appalachian State.

Appalachian State (4-2) was led by Michael Almonacy with nine points.

## No. 12 Wisconsin 77, Loyola of Chicago 63

MADISON, Wis. — Brad Davison and D'Mitrik Trice each scored 17 points as No. 12 Wisconsin



Associated Press

Illinois center Jermaine Hamlin (34) dunks the ball against Minnesota in the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020, in Champaign, Ill.

capitalized on its sizzling 3-point shooting to beat Loyola of Chicago 77-63.

Micah Potter had 13 points and Jonathan Davis added 12 as Wisconsin (5-1) earned its 13th straight home victory.

Cameron Krutwig scored 19 points for Loyola (3-1).

## No. 13 Illinois 92, Minnesota 65

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Kofi Cockburn scored a career-high 33 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in only 25 minutes to lead No. 13 Illinois (5-2) past Minnesota 92-65 in the Big Ten opener for both teams.

Marcus Carr had 16 points for Minnesota (6-1).

## Virginia Tech 66, No. 24 Clemson 60

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Tyrece Radford scored 15 points and Virginia Tech (5-1, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) beat No. 24 Clemson 66-60.

Al-Amir Dawes led Clemson (5-1, 0-1) with a game-high 18 points.

## Stetson 78, FAU 69

DELAND — Rob Perry had 19 points and eight rebounds as Stetson (1-4) defeated Florida Atlantic 78-69, picking up its first win of the season.

Karlis Silins had 16 points for the Owls (4-3).

# Miami depleted

STEVEN WINE  
AP sports writer

MIAMI — Even before tipoff, the injury-plagued Miami Hurricanes will have a different look for Wednesday's game against Pittsburgh.

"We're going to have to change the warmup," coach Jim Larranaga said, "because we don't have enough guys to do even two-line layups."

Seven Hurricanes are hurt, and Larranaga figures he might have six scholarship players available against the Panthers (4-1). One possible reinforcement is guard Elijah Olaniyi, who is awaiting an anticipated NCAA rule change that would grant all transfers immediate eligibility.

Olaniyi played for Stony Brook a year ago. He has been practicing with the Hurricanes (3-1), but had expected to sit out this season.

"In all likelihood he will be in uniform, he will be in the starting lineup and he will play as many minutes as he can possibly play," Larranaga said. "It's very conceivable he could play all 40 minutes."

Among those expected to miss the game are guards Chris Lykes (ankle) and Kameron McGusty (hamstring). Center Deng Gak, who has been nursing sore knees, said the Hurricanes aren't feeling sorry for themselves.

"We're good," Gak said. "It's next man up. We've got people ready to play."

Injuries were also a problem for the Hurricanes a year ago, when they sometimes had only eight scholarship players available.

Larranaga declined to blame this season's health issues on a conditioning and practice routine disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, but said some of the injuries have been weird.

"Rodney Miller dunked the ball in warmups," Larranaga said, "and strained his groin."

# A major success getting in 7 major championships

DOUG FERGUSON  
AP golf writer

HOUSTON — Already the latest a major championship had ever been played, it was only fitting the U.S. Women's Open had to go an additional day because of rain.

Equally appropriate for the conclusion of this surreal season was the winner, A Lim Kim, wearing a mask while she played. "I'm OK to get positive tests for COVID-19, but I don't want to affect other people," Kim said.

What a year.

Mike Davis, the retiring CEO of the USGA, couldn't help but think about what almost was.

Imagine the USGA leaving the wintry chill of Houston on Monday and heading straight to Los Angeles for a U.S. Open at Riviera the week before Christmas. It was one day away from happening.

And it's a reminder that piecing together a major championship schedule among seven golf organizations in the middle of a pandemic was tougher than trying to hit a mud-splattered ball with a 5-iron.

Davis could only smile and shake his head on the eve of the Women's Open when thinking back to the possibilities and the last-minute phone calls as golf was trying to reconfigure a schedule that worked for everyone.

September was probably the latest the British Open could be played because of weather and daylight in England. The PGA Championship was going from May to August. The Masters was going from April to November. Davis said the USGA thought about consecutive weeks in December to stage a U.S. Open for women and men.

He said he called Los Angeles Country Club, site of the 2023 U.S. Open, but the greens on the North course were not ready. So he called Riviera Country Club, which asked for 24 hours to consider, and called back to accept.

"We were ready to go," Davis said.

Press releases were prepared for the surprise announcement. And then the R&A concluded it could not host the British Open this year and would be forced to cancel. That freed up September, the USGA made sure the date would work with Winged Foot, and so it was.

That only one major — the oldest one — wasn't played is remarkable.

Between the men and women, golf staged seven majors in five U.S. states (two in California separated by one month, 500 miles and more than 50 degrees in temperature) and Scotland.

No tickets were sold.

The courses were not devoid of spectators because of player guests (a spouse, a parent); photographers, writers and



Associated Press

Dustin Johnson tees off on the 18th hole during the final round of the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga., in this Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020, file photo. The Masters was among seven majors for men and women this year, none selling tickets to the public.

support staff for the broadcast; and tournament and club officials. The Masters allowed Augusta National members, who only wore their green jackets if they were on a tournament committee (Peyton Manning apparently isn't on a committee yet).

Observers can only speculate whether the silence helped or hurt. Six of the seven winners had never won a major. Two of them — Sophia Popov in the Women's British Open at Royal Troon and Kim at the U.S. Women's Open — had never even played a major.

Rory McIlroy was among those who said he didn't do a good job adjusting to the lack of buzz. For those players who wondered how Tiger Woods dealt with chaos around him, he got a taste of their world with hardly anyone watching.

Everyone played in the same environment. The low score won. That didn't change.

The ANA Inspiration in the California desert moved from early spring to late summer, and when temperatures climbed toward 120 degrees, the PGA Tour wisely allowed carts for caddies all week and for players during practice.

Augusta National was stunning in autumn colors, and while it looked mostly the same on TV, spells of warm weather kept the Bermuda grass from going entirely dormant, leading to a different variety of shots. The course was so soft that players took aim at spots on the greens they never would contemplate in April.

Turns out Augusta National can't control everything. Who knew?

And yes, the climate from late fall led to some mud on golf balls at the Masters and U.S. Women's Open, which was smartly referred to by Dottie Pepper on the CBS broadcast at Augusta National as "organic matter."

Dustin Johnson managed fine. He had a clump of mud on the right side of his ball in the 10th fairway and said he aimed right of the bunker toward the bushes and trusted it would move left (it did). He had mud on the left side of his ball on No. 11. Aim a little left? "I can't start this in the water," he said. From right of the green, he saved par. Exquisite.

Through it all, golf was seamless.

Johnson was the biggest star to test

positive for the coronavirus, costing him two tournaments. Sergio Garcia and Joaquin Niemann had to withdraw from the Masters. Jin Young Ko, the No. 1 player in women's golf, played it safe by staying home in South Korea and skipping three majors. She was runner-up in the U.S. Women's Open by one shot.

It was nothing like the NBA bubble in Florida. The PGA Tour, Champions and LPGA Tour combined to play 44 domestic tournaments in 24 states. There were no stoppages, no last-minute changes like in football.

USC began this week preparing to play Washington in the Pac-12 Championship, only for Washington to cancel because of COVID-19 and be replaced by Oregon. Imagine turning up at Winged Foot for a day of practice and being told the U.S. Open instead would be played at Oakmont.

The seven majors were played in a span of 130 days, even with an extra day in Houston. The ANA Inspiration is 107 days away. No telling what 2021 will bring. But if golf can make it through this year, it should be ready for anything.

FOOTBALL

College Football Playoff Rankings

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Team, Record. Lists top 25 college football teams as of Dec 15.

2020-21 Bowls

Table listing various bowl games, dates, and participating teams for the 2020-21 season.

NFL standings

Table showing NFL standings for American and National conferences, including columns for team, wins, losses, ties, points for, and points against.

Florida LOTTERY

Here are the winning numbers selected Tuesday in the Florida Lottery:

Table of lottery winning numbers for various games like PICK 2, PICK 3, PICK 4, FANTASY 5, JACKPOT TRIPLE PLAY, MEGA MILLIONS, MEGA BALL, CASH 4 LIFE, and CASH BALL.

On the AIRWAVES

TODAY'S SPORTS COLLEGE BASKETBALL

- List of college basketball games including Richmond at Vanderbilt, Pittsburgh at Miami, TCU at Oklahoma State, etc.

NBA PRESEASON

- Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns.

SAILING

- America's Cup World Series (Taped).

BOXING

- Eimantas Stanionis vs. Janer Gonzalez.

SOCCER

- Premier League: Arsenal vs Southampton, Italian Serie A: Inter Milan vs Napoli, Premier League: Liverpool vs Tottenham Hotspur.

Note: Times and channels are subject to change at the discretion of the network. If you are unable to locate a game on the listed channel, please contact your cable provider.

Prep CALENDAR

TODAY'S PREP SPORTS WRESTLING

- Nature Coast at Crystal River.

Table of prep sports results for wrestling, categorized by South and North regions, with columns for team, wins, losses, ties, points for, and points against.

Baltimore 47, Cleveland 42

Table of NFL game results for Baltimore Ravens vs Cleveland Browns, including quarter-by-quarter scores and final statistics.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Table of individual player statistics for the Baltimore Ravens vs Cleveland Browns game.

SPORTS BRIEFS

OSU's Fields is Big Ten Offensive Player of Year

ROSEMONT, Ill. — Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields is the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year...

A Heisman Trophy finalist in 2019 when he delivered one of the most productive seasons by a Buckeyes quarterback...

The Buckeyes (5-0) are scheduled to play Northwestern (5-1) in the Big Ten championship game in Indianapolis on Saturday.

Fields, the Big Ten Quarterback of the Year, was picked first-team, all-conference by both the coaches and media. So were running backs Tyler Goodson of Iowa and Mohamed Ibrahim of Minnesota...

Also receiving first-team honors from the coaches were Ohio State receivers Chris Olave and Garrett Wilson; Buckeyes center Josh Myers...

The media picked receivers Ty Fryfogle of Indiana and David Bell of Purdue, Iowa center Tyler Linderbaum and Wisconsin tight end Jake Ferguson.

Fryfogle (Receiver of the Year), Ibrahim (Running Back of the Year), Freiermuth (Tight End of the Year) and Davis (Offensive Lineman of the Year) took individual honors.

Indiana-Purdue, Michigan-Iowa canceled

Two of the seven Big Ten Champions Week games were canceled Tuesday because of COVID-19 outbreaks...

The annual rivalry game between Indiana and Purdue set for Friday was canceled for the second time in two weeks...

Athletic directors Scott Dolson of Indiana and Mike Bobinski of Purdue acknowledged the history and tradition of playing for the Old Oaken Bucket.

"Both universities worked extremely hard in an effort to play," they said, "but at this time it just isn't possible."

The final month of the season,

including bowl games, is already being affected by the pandemic, just as the regular season was. Approximately 125 games since late August have been postponed or canceled...

Antetokounmpo agrees to extension with Bucks

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo says he's staying with the Milwaukee Bucks for at least five more seasons.

The 26-year-old Antetokounmpo had until Monday to sign the Bucks' super-max extension offer. If he turned it down, Antetokounmpo could have become a free agent after the upcoming season.

Although Antetokounmpo didn't announce the terms of his new deal, The Athletic and Stadium reported that he agreed to a five-year contract worth \$228 million.

"This is my home, this is my city," Antetokounmpo tweeted. "I'm blessed to be able to be a part of the Milwaukee Bucks for the next 5 years. Let's make these years count. The show goes on, let's get it."

Floyd Mayweather, Laila Ali, elected to Boxing HOF

CANASTOTA, N.Y. — Floyd Mayweather, who captured 11 world titles in five weight divisions and retired unbeaten, former heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko, and Laila Ali have been elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame and Museum.

The Class of 2021 announced Tuesday also includes former Olympic champion Andre Ward, Ann Wolfe, Marian Trimiar, and Dr. Margaret Goodman. Elected posthumously were: lightweight champion Davey Moore, Jackie Tonawanda, cut man Freddie Brown, manager-trainer Jackie McCoy, journalist George Kimball, and television executive Jay Larkin.

Honorees were selected by members of the Boxing Writers Association and a panel of international boxing historians.

Induction day is scheduled for June 13 and also will include last year's class, which was postponed by the novel coronavirus pandemic. The Class of 2020 include: Bernard Hopkins, Juan Manuel Marquez, Shane Mosley, Christy Martin, Lucia Rijker, Barbara Buttrick, Frank Erne, Paddy Ryan, Lou DiBella, Kathy Duva, Dan Goossen, Bernard Fernandez and Thomas Hauser.

— From wire reports

TIDE

Continued from Page B1

after Cade York's 57-yard field goal with 23 seconds left, aided by a foolish penalty and followed up by a Gators miss.

No. 5 Texas A&M earlier edged Florida 41-38 on Seth Small's 26-yard kick as time expired.

Now, they're two-touchdown underdogs against the Tide and of course would like nothing more than to derail Alabama's pursuit of perfection.

"We've still got the SEC championship on the line," Florida linebacker Ventrell Miller said. "This is a great opportunity to go out and show the world how talented we are, how good of a team we are."

And, in the process, keep the 2020 Alabama team from joining the '09 group.

Past history indicates Alabama is a long way from done. But the Tide has made things look easy so far, dispatching its two best opponents No. 5 Texas A&M (52-24) and No. 10 Georgia (41-24) with ease. No team has come closer than the 63-48 shootout with Mississippi, and that amounted to a turning point for Alabama's defense.

The Tide has won its games by an average margin of 32.7 points, topping even Saban's previous most dominant teams.

Alabama has flirted with other undefeated seasons, but only been able to seal the deal that once. The Tide

posted perfect regular season records in both 2016 and 2018, only to lose to Clemson in the national title games.

Perhaps the Tide's two most dominant teams of the Saban era came in the 2009 and 2011 national championship seasons. In the first, Alabama outscored its opponents by an average of 20.4 points capped by a 37-21 win over Texas for Saban's first national title in Tuscaloosa. Tailback Mark Ingram won the Heisman Trophy and Rolando McClain claimed the Butkus Award.

The 2011 team dominated opponents by an average of 26.9 points and allowed only 8 points a game. Alabama avenged the lone blemish, a 9-6 overtime defeat to LSU in the so-called Game of the Century, with a dominating 21-0 performance in the rematch to claim the national title.

The 2009 team is widely considered the gold standard.

"I guess it goes back to how they did it, and that's just focusing on each play, playing one play at a time," Tide quarterback Mac Jones said. "Obviously we have a great team and we fought through a lot of adversity this year."

"I feel like that's definitely going to help us. I mean, none of that stuff matters in the past. We just have to focus on each day."

Cornerback Patrick Surtain II said Saban will "bring it up sometimes because obviously we're having a special season. But the job is still not finished yet."

Hancock said in a statement.

CFP

Continued from Page B1

the players.

That has become a point of discussion among the 10 FBS conference commissioners who make up the playoff management committee. Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick is also a part of the management committee.

CFP executive director Bill Hancock said the Rose Bowl remains the site of the game.

"As we move forward with our planning, we continue to hope that the Rose Bowl's appeal to government officials to allow the families of student-athletes to attend will be permitted, just as student-athlete families will be welcomed at the Sugar Bowl, the other New Years' Six games and the Championship game in Miami,"

During a conference call with reporters Tuesday night, Hancock declined to say if the game would be moved out of California if the restriction was not lifted.

"Given the realities of 2020, we always reserve the right to make decisions as late as possible," he said.

Game organizers with the Tournament of Roses continue to plan to host a semifinal.

"Under current California state guidelines, we are unable to allow for spectators of any kind at the game, however, a second appeal has been made at the state level to allow for a special exemption for player and coach guests," the Tournament of Roses said in a statement. "We continue to work with the College Football Playoff and local health officials to provide the safest possible environment at our game."





# Hometown HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

COMMUNITY NEWS ACROSS CITRUS COUNTY

www.chronicleonline.com



Ruth Levins  
**AROUND  
THE  
COMMUNITY**

## Blessings found along volunteer path

I've been thinking about how blessed that I am. As Christmas Day approaches, I recall that we were given a Blessing Bag at a meeting of the Citrus County Retired Educators. In it, when we think of a blessing we have received throughout the year, we were to place a memento of it in the bag. My bag hangs on a kitchen cabinet knob and it has gotten fuller and fuller this year.

One of my favorite writers is Ralph Waldo Emerson. Of blessings, he has written: "Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting. Welcome it in every fair face, in every fair sky, in every fair flower and thank God for it as a cup of blessing."

Along our volunteer path's journey, we can think of those who have been supportive in our times of need. I'm thinking of the Salvation Army bell ringers that rang the bells at Publix in Crystal River this week. As coordinator for the ringers from Crystal River United Methodist Church and the Crystal River Kings Bay Lions Club, they answered my call and blessings flowed.

They were Lions Jackie DeGraff, Cynthia Childs, Janice Griffin, Casey Gaylaro, Phyllis Smith, Jackie Smith, Sue Marchetti, Catherine Romanoski and Ivan Richmond. Church members were Rusty Harry, Marion and Glen Corbin, Betty Schooley, Jean Bush, Janie Hulbert, Eddie Johnson, Catherine McDonald, Lynn Ann Penfold, Helen Beachy, Ron and Jenny Bass, Jayne and Gary Stanley, Jennifer Grogan, Marta Valetti and Kim Swartz, and former Lion Ruth Samuda. The members of the church directed by Patti Williams rang twice, serenading the shoppers beautifully with lovely Christmas melodies.

Many shoppers told us of the ways the Salvation Army blessed them in years past when they were struggling to "make ends meet" in the lean years of their life. The generosity of those donating in our bright red kettle was nurtured by the kindness shown to the giver. A kindness shared spurs appreciation, and the cycle

See **AROUND**/Page C3

# A quiet park year



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle file

Robert Wilson blows on Spanish moss to start a fire that he used flint and steel to produce a spark at Fort Cooper State Park's 2019 Living History Days. The annual event hosted by the Friends of Fort Cooper to educate local fourth graders on what life was like in Florida during the 1700s and 1800s was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, along with most other annual events hosted at the park.

## Popular annual events canceled at Fort Cooper State Park

MARGO WILSON  
For the Chronicle

When the going got tough for visitors and staff at Fort Cooper State Park because of the coronavirus, the park's volunteer group, the Friends of Fort Cooper, got going.

The virus has forced the park to cancel its popular annual events — Fort Cooper Days, the Music in the Park Bluegrass Festival, Living History Days, and most recently, the Nights of Lights.

The park remains open to hikers and picnickers. For those who'd like to do a little bicycling, you can park your vehicle in Lot 2 and take a one-half-mile paved trail to connect with the 46-mile paved Withlacoochee State Trail.

The park also offers over five miles of self-guided birding trails.

Primitive camping is not allowed right now. Neither is canoeing nor kayaking.

Perhaps the most exciting thing happening at the park these days is what's going on behind the scenes.

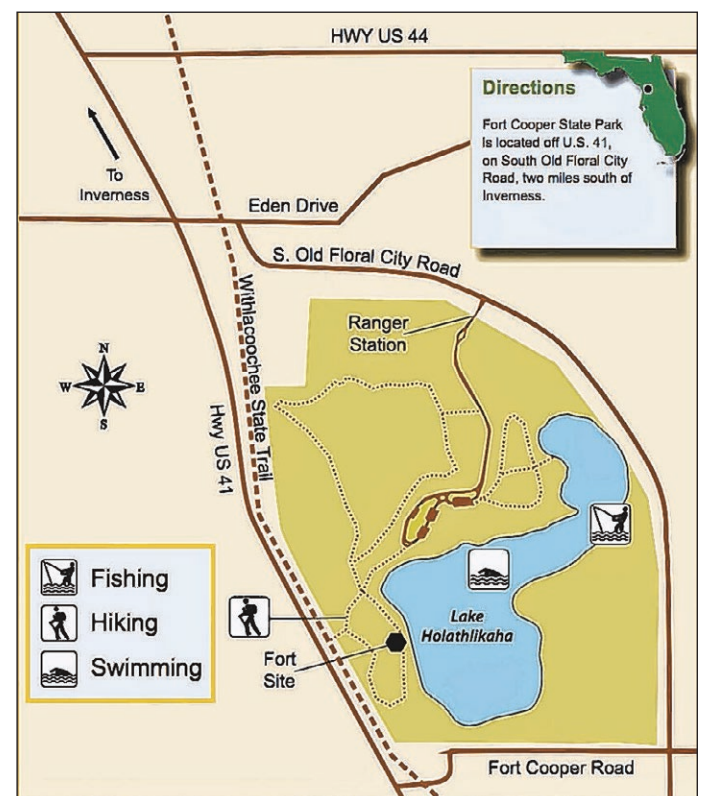
Diane Clayton, the

president of the Friends of Fort Cooper, said her group has been busy putting in two gardens with vines, trees, and plants, including some vegetation that will attract butterflies. The Inverness Native Plants Society has donated plants. The Friends also are putting in benches and lights, as well as an outdoor lending library of books, Clayton said. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Inverness has donated three boxes of books.

The Friends also are refurbishing a children's playground in the park to make it accessible for the disabled. Dredging Lake Holathlikaha for weeds may be a task that lies ahead, Clayton said.

She said the Friends usually have a work day on Tuesdays when they spruce up the park.

She is hopeful, she said, that at least by November 2021, the Friends and the park will be able to welcome schoolchildren to participate in Living History Days, at which the students can do such historically themed tasks as grinding corn or can talk to a re-enactor trapper



Fort Cooper State Park is open for visitors who would like to enjoy socially-distanced recreation. The park offers trails for biking, walking and birding and more. Primitive camping, canoeing and kayaking amenities are not available at this time.

or Seminole Indian.

And perhaps by December 2021, the Nights of Lights Festival will return, Clayton said.

She said the park won't be hosting the Bluegrass Festival in 2021 because the performers were charging more,

and portable toilets and bug spraying also had to be paid for.

Instead, the Friends and the park are exploring other options, including an art show, at which area artists

See **PARK**/Page C3

# Arbor Lakes Women knit in positive spirit

SUZY COLLIN  
Special to the Chronicle

The Arbor Lakes Women's Club (ALWC) of Hernando was at it again! After the latest community service of creating plastic mats out of plastic bags to benefit the homeless in our community, the ladies have been hard at work participating in the 2020 Hat Not Hate Campaign. October was National Bullying Prevention Month and the initiative was to knit or crochet a blue hat which was to be worn in October to elevate attention to an "Anti-Bullying/Kindness" message.

Eighty-five hats (made by Arbor Lakes women) were created and delivered to the Citrus High



Special to the Chronicle

Members of the Arbor Lakes Women's Club of Hernando knit dozens of hats for Citrus High students to wear on Kindness Day during Spirit Week. The hats were crafted as part of the 2020 Hat Not Hate Campaign.

School (CHS) administration for distribution to student Link leaders and administrators on Kindness Day during Spirit Week. Hats were made in 13 countries and 50 states using the color blue, the

color for awareness.

Belle Rodrigues and Pen Higgins led the ALWC creative ladies who were turning out hats by the dozens!

See **ARBOR**/Page C2

## Around the COMMUNITY

### Buy a calendar, support Rotary charitable causes

Like many during the pandemic, the Rotary Club of Central Citrus County was forced to cancel major fundraising events. One traditional annual event canceled was the Black Diamond Invitational Car Show, which proceeds supported several local nonprofit organizations and students of Citrus County schools through scholarships.

Due to this cancellation, the Central Citrus Rotary Club is asking the community to support the club and its endeavors through its annual calendar program.

For \$35, donors will receive a 2021 calendar with 365 daily prizes throughout the year. One thousand calendars are individually numbered, and the calendar matching the daily midday Florida Cash 3 Lotto number receives the daily prize. It is never less than \$35 and can vary from that amount to \$50 up to \$500 on New Year's Day.

With 1,000 calendars and 365 chances to win, many people can support the club.

Artwork for the 2021 calendar was done by local photographer Jessie Owens of Crystal River, one of the organizations projects will support the Friend of Crystal River Wildlife National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

If you would like to make a donation and receive a calendar, contact Vera Swade, president of Central Citrus Rotary Club, at vswade5016@aol.com or visit citrusrotary.com or its Facebook page.

### Want to help kids? Don't golf with 'School-astic' fundraiser

The Women of Sugarmill Woods Inc., a 501(c)(3) charity organization in Citrus County, will host its 25th annual "School-astic" fundraiser: a "non golf, stay-at-home tee-time" event in January and February 2021 due to COVID-19. All proceeds support the scholarship programs of the club, and 100% of the profits will be awarded as scholarships.

All donations for the School-astic Non-Golf Fundraiser can be sent to: Women of Sugarmill Woods, 100 Cypress Blvd. W., Mailbox 5, Homosassa, FL 34446. To drop off in person, place envelopes in the WSW mailbox, No. 5, near the entrance to Sugarmill Woods from U.S. 19. Make checks to: Women of Sugarmill Woods. Deadline is Feb. 28, 2021, so scholarships can be decided.

For information, contact Chairwoman Mary Kay Verkennes at mkverkennes@charter.net or 218-820-4049. Visit womenofsugarmillwoods.com.

### Schedule a no-hassle adoption this Christmas

Citrus County Animal Services and Citrus County Foundation for Animal Protection (CCFAP) are partnering this holiday season in hopes to give every adoptable pet at the shelter home for the holidays.

In honor of the holiday season, adoption

See **EVENTS**/Page C2

## Homosassa Lions install new member



RUTH LEVINS/Special to the Chronicle

The Homosassa Lions Club held an induction ceremony for new member Pam Phelps at a recent dinner meeting at their clubhouse. From left, are District 35-0 Florida Lions Governor Steve Van Varick; installing officer Sue Machetti, Lions zone chair; and Lion Pam Phelps and sponsor; Lion Joan Higbea (masks were removed for the photo).

### Abuse shelter seeking donations

■ The Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association (CASA) is in need of clear totes with matching lids, Scotch tape, journals, adult coloring books, coloring pencils and colored gel pens. The next time you're out shopping, pick up some extra supplies and drop them off at the CASA Outreach office between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, at 1100 E. Turner Camp Road, Inverness. Alternatively, drop off donations at Carol's Interiors and Floors from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 6410 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa. For information, email Angie Arnold at [angie@casaf1.org](mailto:angie@casaf1.org).

## ARBOR

Continued from Page C1

ALWC also sent a hat to the first lady, Melania Trump, who has promoted an effort against cyber-bullying. The first lady sent a letter of gratitude and a portrait to the participating women of this project, who were most appreciative of the acknowledgment.

The social worker at CHS sent a letter of gratitude to the ALWC ladies, reporting that Kindness Day was a great success at the school. Eighty-five students and administrators had the treat of wearing hats that day, which is



Special to the Chronicle

The hats were knit in the color blue to represent anti-bullying awareness.

normally against dress policy. That was surely a starting point for attention and discussion by the student Links leaders.

ALWC will be starting on a new project at the

beginning of 2021 and who knows what their next creative effort to benefit our community will be? The group is naming themselves "Yarn Over."

## EVENTS

Continued from Page C1

fees are \$20 for dogs and cats, not including county license fee for Citrus County residents.

Those who adopt from Dec. 19 through Dec. 23, Animal Services is offering, with support from CCFAP volunteers, the option to have elves deliver the pet on Christmas morning to your front door.

For information on how to reserve an "Elf Delivery," call 352-746-8400.

### Tops club to present Dementia Q&A workshop

The Tops Club at Grace Bible Church, 6382 W. Green Acres St. in Homosassa, will present a Dementia Q&A workshop from 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, 2021. The event

is free and open to the public.

The workshop, featuring Debbie Selsavage and Ed Youngblood of Coping with Dementia LCC, will explain basic information about Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, then open the floor to questions from the audience.

CDC rules will be followed; masks required. For information, call Eileen at 352-201-9175.

### Boating Safety course returns virtually

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary of Homosassa is offering a virtual boating safety course entitled from 6:45 to 9:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, through Friday, Jan. 29. Cost is \$30, payable by cash or check prior to the course date. A discount is applied for family members sharing a book. Reserve a space by calling 727-992-6177 or emailing [hal1414@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:hal1414@tampabay.rr.com).

## Shelter and rescue ADOPTABLES



George and Candy are brother and sister; they are about 5 to 6 months old. They are shy at first, and ideally should be placed together in a quiet, adult home. Come out and meet the pair, and bring them home for the holidays. George and Candy are at the Precious Paws Rescue Adoption Center.



Butterfly Kisses is a super sweet girl. She knows the sit command and will sit nicely for treats. She loves belly rubs and likes to snuggle when she gets to know you. She needs continued house training; she is not yet crate trained. Any adopter would need to be patient. CCAS ID No. 46115565. Her adoption fee has been paid via the "Shelter Me Home" program.



Mister Smee is very affectionate, likes people and is housebroken. He loves the ball most of all. He's learning two-ball fetch; he does well with the "drop it" command once he sees the other tennis ball. He is estimated to be 7 years old and weighs 61 pounds. CCAS ID No. 4612371. Mister Smee's adoption fee has been paid.

Citrus County Animal Services, 4030 S. Airport Road, Inverness, behind the fairgrounds. View adoptable pets at [citruscritters.com](http://citruscritters.com). Call 352-746-8400. For information on Precious Paws Rescue pets, call 352-726-4700.

For Hardin Haven pets, call Donna at 352-422-5525.

For Adopt a Rescued Pet, call 352-795-9550 and leave your name, number and pet's name.

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★ **St. Augustine Night of Lights** Wed., Dec. 22—\$85pp  
★ **Calypso Queen Cruise** Wed., Jan. 20—\$80pp  
★ **Marvelous Wonderettes** Thur., Feb. 4—\$99pp  
★ **St. John's Rivership "Barbara Lee"** Sun., Feb. 14—\$98pp  
★ **Calypso Breeze Cruise** Fri., Mar. 4—\$89pp  
★ **Plant City Strawberry Fest** Thur., Mar. 11—\$49pp  
★ **Kumquat Festival** Sat., Mar. 27—\$36pp  
★ **Medieval Times Dinner Theatre** Wed., Apr. 21—\$78pp  
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**Bluegrass band Kentucky Sleepy Hollow entertains folks at the 2019 Friends of Fort Cooper Bluegrass Music Festival at Fort Cooper State Park in Inverness. The event was canceled this year in caution of COVID-19.**

Chronicle file

**PARK**

Continued from Page C1

and crafts people could display their creations.

Clayton said her group always needs volunteers. If interested, you can contact her at 330-323-7733.

Meanwhile, the Florida State Parks press office recommends checking out

the park's website at: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fort-cooper-state-park, to find details about what's available in the park and what's closed.



**Carl Vonderhaar, Benjamin Vonderhaar, Adilyn Henley, Noelle Henley and Nate Vonderhaar toast marshmallows for s'mores at the 2016 Fort Cooper Night of Lights in Inverness.**

COVID safety measures are in place at the park. There are signs about social distancing and safety. External credit card readers and payment cash boxes have been installed. Staff and volunteers wear face coverings when interacting with visitors if social distancing can't be

maintained. The staff wear additional personal protective gear when sanitizing the park.

Guests are expected to stay at least six feet from each other. For visitors, mask-wearing requirements follow local ordinances. There are no mask ordinances in Citrus.

Clayton said the Friends "wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and we're very saddened we can't do our Nights of Lights with Santa and Mrs. Claus."

"We hope everyone stays safe through the holidays," she said, "and we hope to be back to normal as soon as we can."

**AROUND**

Continued from Page C1

continues throughout the year. Just as the kettle gets fuller with each two hours the bells were rung, my blessing bag gets fuller each week of the year.

As Emerson wrote, we need not wait for a specific holiday to be a blessing. Let us pause throughout our day and reflect with deep appreciation of the blessings we receive: a beautiful sunrise, our connections with volunteer friends as we lend a hand to those in need of not only our time, but our abilities. Remember, praying for others is a blessing gift we can give, growing together in love and appreciation.

**Volunteers**

■ Hernando United Methodist Church, at 2125 E. Norvell Bryant Highway, is holding a Winter Clothing Drive to collect winter clothing for the needy from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, by the portico.

■ The Salvation Army needs volunteers to serve as bell ringers for their Kettle Drive throughout the county. Call 352-513-4960, ext. 5.

■ All of "Santa's Elves" are busy at Ginger West's Family Resource Center and they need wrappers for the children's Christmas gifts. Drop off gift items after 2 p.m. weekdays and after 10 a.m. Saturday or after noon Sunday at the center's new location at 3660 N. Carl G. Rose Highway in

Hernando. Call 352-344-1001.

■ Sign up individually or as a team with the Nature Coast Cancer Crusaders for their Feb. 21, 2021, Cancer Walk at Lecanto High School. Call 352-201-9047.

■ Nature Coast Ministries has opened its new, spacious Thrift Shop to benefit its free Dental Clinic in Homosassa next to Ollie's. Professional volunteers are needed in the clinic. Call Sue at 352-563-1860. To volunteer in the Thrift Shop or to drop off

needed appliances, call Edie at 352-613-3826.

■ We Care Mobile Food Pantry is looking for volunteers. Call 352-503-2079. This is a great project for your organization to sponsor by volunteering on a regular basis.

■ Citrus Springs Library is struggling to remain open and is in great need of volunteers. Call 352-489-2313. Let's help them stay open. New hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Special Notes**

■ Consider sending along a greeting card with a personal "thinking of you" note inside to a local assisted living facility or care center. Many residents feel so lonely and neglected during the holidays. It would be a blessing gift you can give lovingly.

■ There are so many pantries collecting food and gifts for the many needy throughout our county. We can all be a blessing to others in need

by volunteering, writing thank-you notes in appreciation of their untiring volunteer efforts to see that food, clothing and an understanding heart is there for them, with help needed.

*Ruth Levins participates in a variety of projects around the community. Let her know about your group's upcoming activities by writing to P.O. Box 803, Crystal River, FL 34423.*

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# The Mini Page

Issue 50, 2020

Founded by Betty Debnam

**Next Week:**  
Winter reading

## A Star in the East



### Mini Fact:

Some experts believe the magi could have seen a comet around 3 or 4 B.C.

### Stars and supernovas

A star is a giant ball of gas. It stays together because different forces are in balance.

Nuclear explosions from inside the star push out. At the same time, the mass, or weight, of the star pushes in. The two forces balance each other.

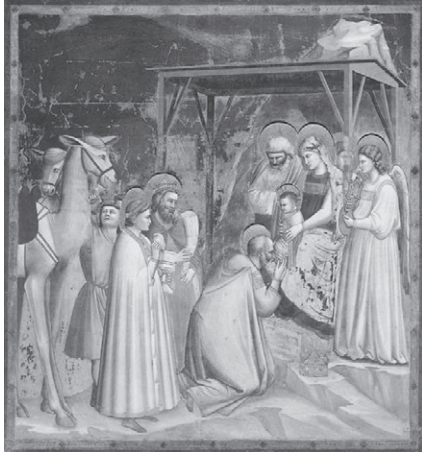
When the star grows old, it starts running out of nuclear fuel. It stops creating as many explosions.

With less force pushing out but the same gravity pulling in, the star begins to collapse.

The pressure of the collapsing star heats up the core of the star to about 100 billion degrees Fahrenheit. Finally, it becomes so hot, it blows up. The exploding burst of light can appear as a super-bright star in the sky, or supernova.

### Supernova fireworks

When a star explodes, it creates shock waves of glowing gas spreading out into space. We can still see the glowing remains of supernovas from star explosions millions of years ago. Sometimes they're so bright that people on Earth can see them with the naked eye.



This painting by Giotto di Bondone shows the Christmas star as a comet over the Christ child. Di Bondone painted it in 1303. He had seen an appearance of Halley's comet in 1301.

In the Christmas story, a group of magi (MAY-jie), or wise men, followed a bright star to find the Christ child.

Magi were early astronomers\*. They recognized the positions of all the stars. When a new star appeared in the sky, they knew it.

They also believed in astrology (uh-STRAW-luh-jee), or the idea that the positions of the stars affect people's lives. Scientists no longer believe this.

When the magi saw a new star appear in the eastern sky, they believed it was a symbol that a new leader of the Jewish people had been born.

### Astronomers' ideas

For hundreds of years, astronomers have been trying to figure out an explanation for the Christmas star. No one knows for sure what it was.

Part of the difficulty in answering this question is that no one knows exactly when the magi went on their journey.

The top scientific explanations for the star include:

- a supernova
- a comet
- several planets coming so close to each other that they seemed like one bright star.

\* An astronomer is a scientist who studies heavenly bodies, such as planets and stars.

### Comets

Comets (KOM-ihts) are balls of ice, rock and dust orbiting the sun. Scientists believe they were formed when planets and the sun were born about 4.6 billion years ago.

When a comet orbits near the sun, some of its ice melts and becomes gas. The gas and dust become the comet's tail. The gas forms a cloud surrounding the comet.

Sunlight reflects off the gas and dust, making the comet shine. Comet gases also glow on their own. If the comet comes close enough and glows brightly enough, we can see it from Earth.

### Planets

Planets travel in regular orbits around the sun. We can see some of them moving across the night skies.

The orbits of Jupiter, Saturn and Mars brought them close together in about 7 B.C. From Earth, this group of planets could have looked like one giant shining star.

There was another grouping of planets about 3 or 4 B.C., but it might not have been as visible.

However, the magi, who studied star patterns, would have known it was there. They might have believed it was a sign.

### Resources



#### On the Web:

- [spaceplace.nasa.gov/supernova/en/](https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/supernova/en/)

#### At the library:

- "50 Things To See With a Telescope — Kids" by John A. Read

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the Christmas star are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ASTROLOGY,  
ASTRONOMER, CHILD,  
CHRISTMAS, COLLAPSE,  
COMET, EARTH, EAST,  
GAS, GRAVITY, ICE,  
MAGI, MASS, NUCLEAR,  
ORBIT, PLANET, STAR,  
SUPERNOVA, SYMBOL,  
TAIL.

G T T F V T E N A L P I F E Y  
Q E C I A S T R O N O M E R G  
J B O K B Y T B C H I L D Z O  
N H L L B R M J S S A M D S L  
U T L I T Y O D T E M O C J O  
C R A A S K K T N S I G A M R  
L A P T A A V O N R E P U S T  
E E S S E L R A T S R N X K S  
A T E N Y T I V A R G G A S A  
R S A M T S I R H C O W N R Z

## Cook's Corner

### Holiday Gift Cookies

#### You'll need:

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 (4-ounce) container of applesauce

- 1 (6-ounce) package semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

#### What to do:

1. Mix and blend well all ingredients in a large bowl except for chocolate chips and pecans.
2. Gently stir in chips and pecans.
3. Place teaspoonfuls of dough 2 inches apart on an ungreased baking sheet.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 14 minutes.
4. Allow to cool. Place 10 to 12 cookies on a small decorative plate and cover with colored cellophane. Tie with a bright ribbon. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

## Mini Jokes



**Sonja:** Which is lighter, the sun or the Earth?

**Sam:** The sun! It rises every morning!

## Eco Note



Humanity's widespread use of artificial light is affecting the world's animals and plants, and researchers say it should be limited where possible. Scientists from the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom say their analysis of more than 100 studies reveals that light pollution causes changes to animal behavior and physiology, especially hormone levels and patterns of waking, sleeping and activity. They say even low levels of artificial light can have big effects.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

### For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about developments in space.

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1. A heavenly body seen in the dark sky (4-letter noun)

□ □ □ □

2. To have a bright, glowing appearance (5-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □

3. Burst due to pressure or force inside (7-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. To identify or to know from an earlier experience (9-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Ralph made a wish on a \_\_\_\_\_ very high above his head.
2. Melanie clearly saw the moon \_\_\_\_\_ on the stone path.
3. Hank's balloon can \_\_\_\_\_ if he blows too much air inside.
4. Juanita will \_\_\_\_\_ her aunt since she studied her photo.

### ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Star, Shine, Explode, Recognize.

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, etc.) and channels (WESH, WEDU, WUFT, etc.). It lists various TV programs and their corresponding channels.

# Annie offers advice

Dear Annie: I'm confused about an issue that involves my husband. We have been separated for 13 years. We try to work things out all the time, but now, suddenly, he said I cheated on him. He also said that all I do is lie to him. He said he doesn't want to listen to me when I tell him the truth. He listens to every-



DEAR ANNIE

body else. So, should I keep trying, or should I just get the divorce and move on with my life and find someone new? Please help me. — Confused

Dear Confused: The answer is pretty clear. After 13 years of what sounds like a toxic relationship, it is time to either commit to marriage counseling or to get divorced. Staying in limbo, continuing to accuse each other of cheating and fighting all the time is not healthy for anyone. Best of luck to you.

Dear Annie: Please tell the parents who were confused or concerned about cellphone use to have their teens watch (with them, if possible) the documentary "The Social Dilemma" on Netflix. It explains the power of cellphone addiction and how it is ruining lives, making teens (and adults) depressed and anxious and contributing to the rise of hate groups.

The biggest threat is the undermining of democracy. Everyone should watch it. It is an eye-opener and will surely give teens more to think about when deciding on their own to use less screen time than just "cause mom and dad say so."

— Cellphone Wary

Dear Cellphone Wary: This was a great movie — thanks for the recommendation! — though, I think some of the political messages could be considered controversial. Though there's no dispute that social media and cellphones are incredibly distracting, Cellphones have been called "the new cigarettes" because they can be addictive and harmful.

Dear Annie: I have to share a gift. When my nephew got married, his future mother-in-law sat her daughter down and had a talk with her about her future mother-in-law. Her mom told her to be "nice and respectful" to her future mother-in-law.

Her mom told her this, because she has a daughter-in-law who does not treat her well. Unfortunately, I feel this story could be familiar for many mothers of sons. It is heartbreaking that so many families experience this. We never know when a loved one could be gone in a heartbeat. So, why are we acting this way?

I guess what really needs to be said is this: Talk to each other. Tell each other what you like and don't like. Engage in a relationship. Life is work; let's make it productive and pleasant for as many as we can.

Thank you for listening; I love your column for what you write, mainly because of your openness to other viewpoints. — Mother-in-Law

Dear Mother-in-Law: Your letter highlights a very important rule; namely, the golden one. Treat others the way you would like to be treated. When we live like this, the world shines a little brighter.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

## Bridge

PHILLIP ALDER  
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

In a script for "Northern Exposure," Henry Bromel wrote, "They say dreams are the windows of the soul — take a peek, and you can see the inner workings, the nuts and bolts."

Anyone who has played at Bridge Base Online with or against the robots has probably wondered if they are allowed to see their partner's hand when they are on defense. It had

crossed my mind after being on the losing end of a couple of razzle-dazzle defenses. But not after this deal. What was the result in one no-trump after the West robot led the heart three?

My one-no-trump opening bid showed a good 11 to 14 points. I am a big fan of the weak no-trump, believing its pluses vastly outweigh the minuses.

Trick one went heart three, two, five, six! If I could have peeked, I would have led the diamond jack! But after a low diamond to the nine, queen and king, the East robot returned the club three. West took that trick and strangely led the diamond 10. I won with my ace and played the heart 10. West, misled by partner's play at trick one, put up the king. East won with the ace and led back the diamond eight. I won with my jack, cashed the diamond seven, played a heart to dummy's nine and took the heart trick, club ace and club queen. Then, at trick 12, I played a spade to the king.

Have you been keeping track? That was nine tricks! I asked partner why she had made such a cautious pass!

What is the winning defense against one no-trump? To start, any lead but the heart king, seven or three!

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: North 12-16-20, K 7 4 2, Q 9 4 2, Q 5 2, 10 6, West A J 8 3, K J 7 3, 10 9, K 9 5, East Q 6, A 5, K 8 6 3, J 8 4 3 2, South 10 9 5, 10 8 6, A J 7 4, A Q 7, Dealer: South, Vulnerable: Both, South 1NT, West Pass, North Pass, East Pass, Opening lead: ♠ 3

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Jumble puzzle grid: IFSTH, NUMDO, PSOQEP, TMVIEO, circled letters: I, U, A, I, M, I, T, S, E, R, A, I, N, T

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Print your answer here: "I U A I M I T S E R A I N T" (Answers tomorrow) Yesterday's Jumbles: FAVOR BRIBE NIMBLE SHADOW Answer: She was going to take a sign language class and decided to read about it — BEFOREHAND

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Cartoon of a farmer and a cow. Farmer: Sounds like the bulls want to be fed. Cow: I think it's the cows that are talking. They're all hungry, though. Text: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SOUNDS MADE BY THE COWS AND THE BULLS WAS A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

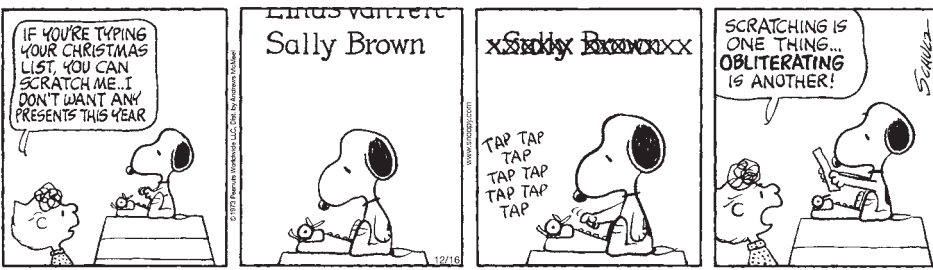
### MORE PUZZLES

Find the daily crossword puzzle inside the Chronicle's classified pages, along with Sudoku, Wordy Gurdy and a word puzzle.

### LOCAL OFFICE

The Centers: 352-628-5020  
NAMI - Citrus hotline: 844-687-6264 (toll free)

**Peanuts**



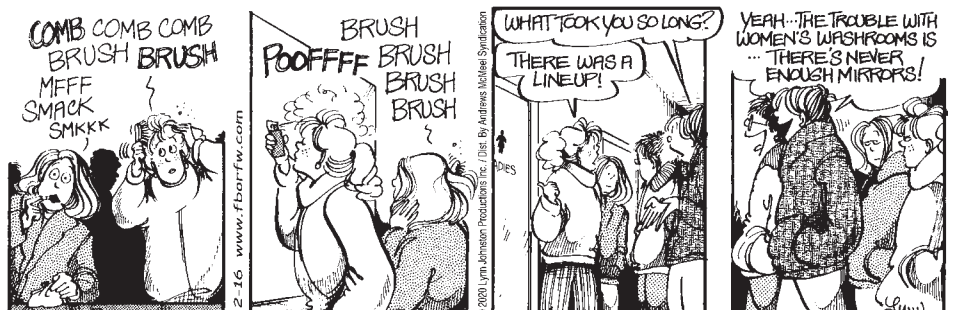
**Garfield**



**Pickles**



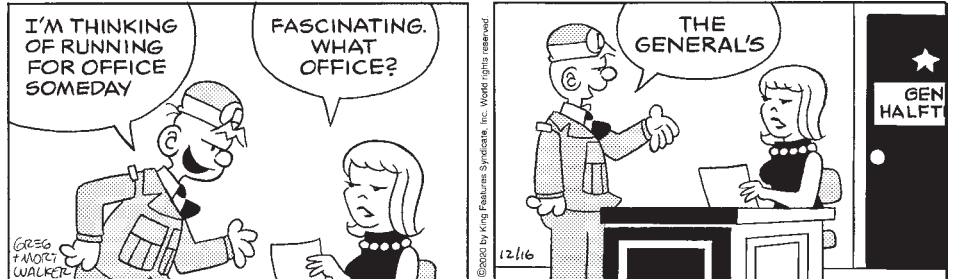
**For Better or For Worse**



**Sally Forth**



**Beetle Bailey**



**Dilbert**



**The Grizzells**



**The Born Loser**



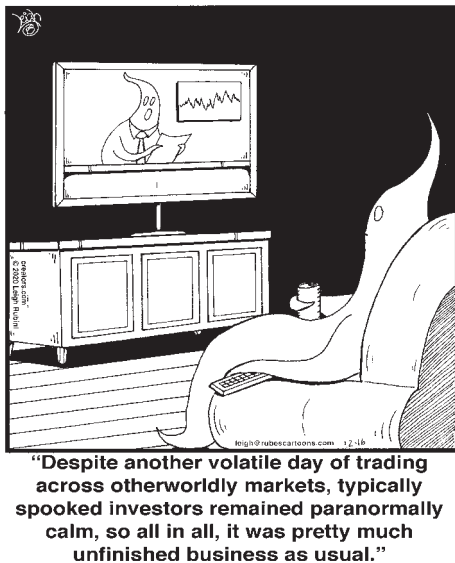
**Blondie**



**Moderately Confused**



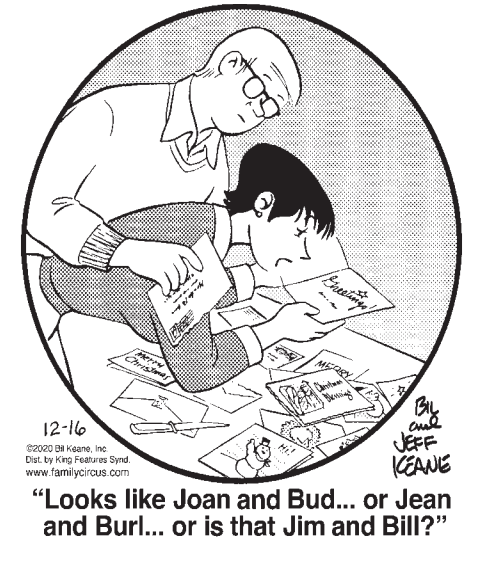
**Rubes**



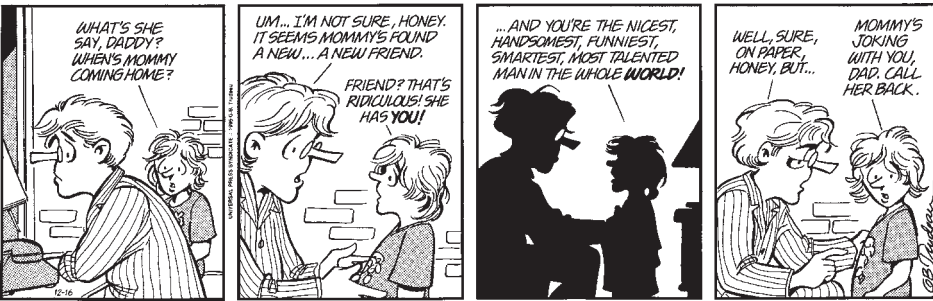
**Dennis the Menace**



**The Family Circus**



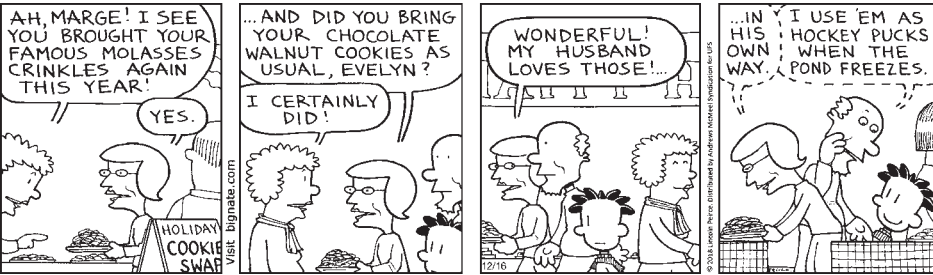
**Doonesbury Flashbacks**



**Betty**



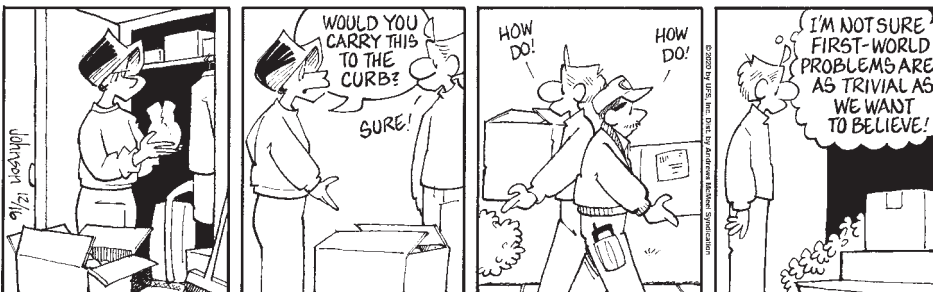
**Big Nate**



**Frank & Ernest**



**Arlo and Janis**



- WJUF-FM 90.1 National Public
- WHGN-FM 91.9 Religious
- WXCW-FM 95.3 Adult Mix.
- WXOF-FM 96.7 Classic Hits
- WEKJ-FM 96.3, 103.9 Religious

**Local RADIO**

- WSKY 97.3 FM News Talk
- WXJB 99.9 FM News Talk
- WXCZ 103.3 Country

- WXCZ-FM 104.3 Country
- WDUV 105.5 FM Hudson
- WJQB-FM 106.3 Oldies
- WFJV-FM 107.5 Classic Rock
- WRZN-AM 720 Religious

**Today's MOVIES**

**LOCAL THEATER INFORMATION**

Regal Cinema on State Road 44 in Inverness and Regal Cinema in Crystal River are closed until further notice.

**VALERIE THEATRE CULTURAL CENTER**

NOTE THAT COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE.

- "Dear Zachary: A Letter To A Son About His Father" (NR) Dec. 16, 1 p.m.
- "The Dukes — Live Performance" Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
- "Santa Claus Conquers The Martians" Dec. 8, 7 p.m.
- "A Christmas Story" (PG) Dec. 19, 3 p.m.
- "It's A Wonderful Life" (PG) Dec. 20, 3 p.m.
- "Miracle On 34th Street" (NR) Dec. 21, 1 p.m.
- "A Muppet Christmas Carol" (G) Dec. 22, 1 p.m.
- "The Star" (PG) Dec. 23, 1 p.m.

**CELEBRITY CIPHER**  
by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: S equals L

"PYA LCH KOHG KAZ HOFON KNOCU DO  
/ 'LCAEO XZ YHSP EONFOE ZY DCUO  
DO / DYNO GOZONDHXOG ZY CLMXOFO  
DP JXHCS TYCS." " MOSOH NOGGP

Previous Solution: "I'm certainly relishing the idea of living a century. Can you imagine that? What an achievement." Olivia de Havilland







**\*\*\*\*\*SCAM ALERT\*\*\*\*\***



**How to Avoid a Fake Check Scam**

**• INSIST ON CASH**

• **Don't accept a check for more than the selling price. You can bet it's a scam.**

• **Inform the Buyer that you'll wait two weeks before sending any merchandise.**

• **Never use money from a check to send gift cards, money orders, or wire money to strangers or someone you just met. Many scammers demand that you send money through money transfer services like Western Union or MoneyGram, or buy gift cards and send them the PIN numbers. Once you wire money, or give someone the gift card PINs, it is like giving someone cash. It's almost impossible to get it back.**

• **Toss offers that ask you to pay for a prize. If it's free, you shouldn't have to pay to get it.**

**Tax Deed Notices**

**Tax Deed Notices**

**Tax Deed Notices**

7358-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0278TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: VINMAS HOLDINGS LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 15-3039 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2015**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: CITRUS SPGS UNIT 14 PB 6 PG 110LOT 7 BLK 744**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: FOUAD HORKOS**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
 Dated November 18, 2020  
 ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk  
**Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.**

**Tax Deed Notices**

7359-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0322TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: GLEN COOK LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 13-2138 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: CITRUS SPRINGS UNIT 5 LOT 2 BLK459**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: ARMIN HILTI**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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**Tax Deed Notices**

7360-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0351TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: GLEN COOK LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 13-2440 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: CITRUS SPGS UNIT 7 LOT 2 BLK 797 DESC IN OR BK 760 PG 1057**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: CARLOS LUIS PLAZA ARAY AKA CARLOS LUIS PLAZA-ARAY**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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**Tax Deed Notices**

7361-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0496TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-7052 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: UNIT 6 OF HOMOSASSA PB 1 PG 48 LOTS 12 & 13 BLK 257**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: WILLIAM R BAKER**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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**Tax Deed Notices**

7364-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0502TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-1161 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: HOMOSASSA HILLS UNIT 2 PB 4 PG 128 LOTS 10 & 11 BLK 25**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: JAMES AUGUST LISIECKI, WILLIAM E LISIECKI**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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**Tax Deed Notices**

7362-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0497TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FRANCES A WENHOLD**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-7672 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: TOWNSITE OF HERNANDO PB 1 PG 16 W1/2 OF LOT 136**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: BRIAN G MCKENZIE, REGISTERED AGENT OBO MCKENZIE INVESTMENT PROPERTIES LLC, MC KENZIE INVESTMENT PROPERTIES LLC**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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**Tax Deed Notices**

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**Tax Deed Notices**

7363-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0498TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-7119 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: VILLA TER UNIT 11 OF HOMOSASSA PB 1 PG 52 LOT 7 BLK 350 DESC IN OR BK 869 PG 695 & OR BK 874 PG 52**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: LAWRENCE G MEEKER, SALLY A MEEKER**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7365-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0503TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-5068 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: GOLDEN TERRACE ESTS PB 5 PG 10 E 95 FT OF W 128.08 FT OF S 75 FT OF THE N 150 FT OF LOT 7.SUB EASE S 5FT THEREOF OR BK 2307 PG 372**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: DEBORAH SCHNEIDER**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7366-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0504TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-7542 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: LANEVIEW UNREC SUB LOT 4 DESC IN OR BK 860 PG 349**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: CHARLES W KACZYK AKA CHARLES KACZYK AKA CHARLES WILLIAM KACZYK**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7367-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0505TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-8985 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: AERO ESTATES PB 3 PG 72 LOT 6 BLK E**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: MICHAEL NOLAND STROUD**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7368-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0506TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-5067 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: GOLDEN TERRACE ESTS PB 5 PG 10 LOT 37: W 75 FT OF N 100 FT OF S 237.63 FT OF LOT 6**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: CRAIG E SMITH, JAMIE L SMITH**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7369-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0507TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-0535 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: HILTOP PB 5 PG 42 LOT 27 BLK C**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: DONALD C BISHOP**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7370-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0508TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-9313 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: RIVER LAKES MANOR UNIT 3 PB 4 PG 47 LOT 2 BLK 6**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: KAREN A SEELY**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7371-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0509TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-5393 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**

**Tax Deed Notices**

**Tax Deed Notices**

**Tax Deed Notices**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: EAST COVE UNIT 1 PB 4 PG 82 LOTS 4 & 5 BLK E LESS S 10 FT

**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: NICOLE RAYMOND**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7372-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0510TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-0020 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: TSALA APOPKA RETS PB 4 PG 145 LOT 1 BLK A TOGETHER WITH 1/192 INT IN LOT 86 BLK A**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: LAURIE WILSON**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7373-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0513TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-8566 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: SPORTSMANS RETREAT LOTS 121 & 122 PB 4 PG 34**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: ELAINA REYNOLDS**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7374-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0514TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 13-0182 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: INVERNESS HGLDS UNIT 2 LOTS 30,31, 32 & 33 BLK 43 DESCR IN O R BK 346 PG 558**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: HENRY C LAMAKE**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7383-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0533TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 13-8274 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: INVERNESS HGLDS WEST PB 5 PG 19LOT 1 BLK 339**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: DANIEL HERMAN, WALTER HERMAN**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
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7382-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0532TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 13-6757 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: INVERNESS HGLDS SOUTH PB 3 PG 51 LOTS 32 & 33 BLK 227**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: MIKE TOMASETTI**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
 Dated November 18, 2020  
 ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk  
**Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.**

7405-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0556TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FCAP AS CUSTODIAN FOR FTCFIMT LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-4676 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: ST MARTINS ESTUARY RETS UNIT 3 PB 4 PG 87 LOT 11**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: JOHN ALLEN FROMMELL, SHEILA JEAN FROMMELL**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
 Dated November 18, 2020  
 ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk  
**Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.**

7380-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0530TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: VINMAS HOLDINGS LLC**  
 The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**CERTIFICATE NO: 18-1635 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: CITRUS SPGS UNIT 3 PB 5 PG 116 LOT 4 BLK 124**  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: BEVERLY LINDO, REGISTERED AGENT, ROSE HALL INVESTMENT GROUP LP**  
 Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.  
 Dated November 18, 2020  
 ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk  
**Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.**





# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

				6		7						4	
			1	3		4							
9		2			1						8	6	
		5					1						
1	7				6		2					3	
				9				5					
	1	4											
2				8									1

Solution to Tuesday's puzzle 12/16/20

9	2	3	7	1	6	8	5	4
6	4	7	3	5	8	9	1	2
8	5	1	2	9	4	7	6	3
7	3	2	8	6	9	1	4	5
1	8	5	4	2	7	6	3	9
4	6	9	5	3	1	2	8	7
2	9	8	6	4	5	3	7	1
3	7	4	1	8	2	5	9	6
5	1	6	9	7	3	4	2	8

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk)

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### ACROSS

- Raw-fish delicacy
- Made bales
- Wheel or bottle
- Japanese theater
- Traffic no-no's (hyph.)
- Corridors
- Becomes fatigued
- Pita sandwich
- "Orinoco Flow" singer
- Not hers
- Zest
- Ukraine capital
- Cordon —
- Narcissus' flaw
- Family member
- Period
- Hit heavy seas
- Fad

### DOWN

- Wedding-dress fabric
- Loan-sharking
- Unbroken string
- Farm flappers
- 1040 agcy.
- Bristle

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

K	O	I		S	R	I		I	D	E	S
L	P	N		T	E	R	I		R	I	L
E	A	T		R	E	A	M		I	N	I
E	L	O	P	E	D			P	A	S	T
				O	W	S		I	R	E	
R	A	C	E	S		R	O	A	S	T	S
A	H	E	M		S	T	U	B		A	P
M	A	D		P	I	E	S		T	R	I
		B	E	V	I	E	S		N	U	T
			A	P	R		B	I	B		
S	H	I	N	E	R		A	C	E	T	I
H	O	O	D		A	P	S	E		O	B
E	S	T	A		S	A	I	L		G	E
S	E	A	L		H	E	Y		A	X	E

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11							12					
13							14					
15						16						
17						18			19	20	21	22
				23	24				25			
26	27	28					30	31		32		
33					34					35		
36				37			38		39			
40						41			42	43	44	45
				46	47			48				
49	50	51						52				
53								54				
55								56				

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- Boyle and Kyser
- "The King and I" name
- Make ends meet
- Put down, slangily
- Charmingly attractive
- Freebie
- Whodunit suspect
- Seine aits
- Despot who fiddled
- Like some controls
- Business abbr.
- Bronte governess
- France, long ago
- Pays for
- Movie mogul
- Cartoon mice — and Meek
- Evening-gown glitter
- Breathe out
- Toronto Blue —
- Free-for-all
- Correct a text
- Fit together
- Victorian coiffure
- The one over there
- Law (abbr.)
- Auto
- Audit ace
- Ave. crossers

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

KATHLEEN SAXE

## WORD GAME

TODAY'S WORD -- ARCHAIST

(ARCHAIST: AHR-kay-ist: One who studies antiquated words and language.)

Average mark 24 words  
Time limit 40 minutes

Can you find 36 or more words in ARCHAIST?  
The list will be published tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S WORD -- SARCOID

said	scoria	acid	raid	cord
sard	scrod	acrid	road	orca
sari	soar	adios	card	dais
scad	soda	arid	coda	disc
scar	sora	radio	coir	disco

RULES OF THE GAME: 1. Words must be of four or more letters. 2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed. 3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. 4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed. Contact Word Game creator Kathleen Saxe at [kzsaxe@gmail.com](mailto:kzsaxe@gmail.com).

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## WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

- Portable bed location (1)
- Cleverly crafted cheap pen brand (1)
- Copper-zinc alloy drink holder (1)
- May engage in a brawl (1)
- "Little Women" clan's pine types (2)
- Arrest-serving paper spate (2)
- False teeth tight grippers (2)

1. COIT SPOT 2. SLICK BIC 3. BRASS GLASS 4. MIGHT FIGHT 5. MARCHES LARCHES 6. WARRANT TORRENT 7. DENTURES CLENCHERS

ANSWERS

12-16-20

\*\*\*News Flash\*\*\*

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Tax Deed Notices

7416-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION: 2020-0569TD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FCAP AS CUSTODIAN FOR FICFIMT LLC

The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
CERTIFICATE NO: 18-9172 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018  
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: HIGHLAND RIDGE LOT 22 PB 6 PG 101 DESCR IN O R BK 421 PG 100  
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: DIANE MUNSTER, ESTATE OF THOMAS JAMES, ESTATE OF THOMAS JAMES, DECEASED, ESTATE OF THOMAS JAMES JR DECEASED, GEORGE A MUNSTER, THOMAS JAMES  
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at [www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com).  
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7410-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION: 2020-0561TD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FCAP AS CUSTODIAN FOR FICFIMT LLC

The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
CERTIFICATE NO: 18-1144 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018  
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: ISLAND #4 IN W1/2 OF SW1/4: COM AT NW COR OF SEC 7-20-17. TN S AL W LN OF SEC 7 2482.92 FT TO GOVERNMENT MEANDER COR, TN S 12 DEG 03M 30S E 1920 FT TO POB, TN AROUND ISLAND N 83 DEG E 125 FT, TN N 30 DEG E 50 FT, TN E 100 FT, TN S 12 DEG E 40 FT, TN S 80 DEG E 75 FT, TN S 75 FT, TN S 45 DEG W 100 FT, TN S 30 DEG W 75 FT, TN S 60 DEG W 75 FT, TN S 45 DEG W 75 FT, TN S 80 DEG W 135 FT, TN N 35 DEG W 85 FT, TN N 20 DEG E 100 FT, TN N 60 FT, TN N 65 DEG W 150 FT, TN N 25 FT, TN N 87 DEG 59M 20S E 178.50 FT TO POB AS DESC IN OR BK 1475 PG 106 & OR BK 1575 PG 52 & OR BK 1752 PG 1924

Tax Deed Notices

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: DEBORAH FINN, JOSEPH FINN

Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at [www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com).  
Dated November 18, 2020  
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida  
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk  
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7419-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION: 2020-0572TD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: TB INVESTMENT TRUST

The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
CERTIFICATE NO: 14-3762 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2014  
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: CITRUS SPRINGS UNIT 23 LOT 16 BLK 1670 DESCR IN O R BK 584 PG 810  
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: FREDERICK DECHRISTOPHER DECEASED, FREDNA Y DECHRISTOPHER  
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at [www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com).  
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Misc. Notices

4583-1216 WCRN

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE OF LAND

The Citrus County Planning and Development Commission (PDC) will conduct a Public Hearing on **January 21, 2021 at 9:00 AM** in the **Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida.** Please note that the PDC meeting begins at 9:00 AM. The actual time that a particular item is dis-

Misc. Notices

cussed will vary depending on how fast the PDC moves through the agenda. Interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed application.

**V-20-10 Clark Stillwell for Maurice and Christina Ryman** -This request is for a Variance from the Citrus County Land Development Code (LDC) to allow for the construction of a pool and pool deck having less than the required 50-foot minimum building setback from the Mean High Water Line and the Jurisdictional Wetland Line (35-foot with a berm or swale), pursuant to Section 3501, Surface Water Protection Standards, as specified in the LDC.

**Property is located in:** Section 25, Township 19S, Range 16E; Lot 12 of Riverhaven Village, PB 9, Pg 31, (AK 1012261), which address is 12070 W Broad Jump Ct., Homosassa, FL. A complete legal description of the property is on file with the Land Development Division.

**All citizens entering for the meeting will be screened. If you are sick, please stay home.**

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Commission with respect to any matter considered at this hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he or she may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Copies of the proposed application will be available for inspection and/or purchase between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday in the Department of Growth Management, Land Development Division, 3600 West Sovereign Path, Room 140, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

Any person requiring reasonable accommodation at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the County Administrator's Office, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 267, Lecanto, FL 34461, (352) 527-5210, at least two days before the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, dial 7-1-1, 1-800-955-8771 (TTY) or 1-800-955-8770 (v), via Florida Relay Service.

Si necesita un traductor de español por favor haga arreglos con el Condado dentro de dos días de la notificación de la publicación (352-527-5370).

Chairman  
Planning and Development Commission  
Citrus County, Florida

Published December 16, 2020