

# Golf: Tiger and son fall short of Daly duo / B1

**MONDAY**  
 TODAY & next morning  
**HIGH 73**  
 LOW **62**  
 Mostly cloudy with a few showers.  
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# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



DECEMBER 20, 2021 Florida's Best Community Newspaper Serving Florida's Best Community \$1 VOL. 127 ISSUE 77

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Citrus County gov't offices to be closed for Christmas holidays

Citrus County government offices will be closed Dec. 24 and 27 in observance of the Christmas holiday. Normal hours of operation and services will resume Dec. 28 with the following exceptions:

■ Citrus County Animal Services will be closed to the public Dec. 24 and 25. Normal hours of operation will resume Dec. 28.

For more information, call 352-746-8400.

■ The Citrus County Library System will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and 27. Normal hours of operation will resume Dec. 28. For more information, call 352-746-9077.

■ The Citrus County Central Landfill will close at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 24 and will be closed on Dec. 25. The administrative office will be closed both days and there will be no hazardous waste drop-off. Normal hours will resume Dec. 27. For more information, call 352-527-7670.

■ Bicentennial Park Pool will be closed Dec. 24 to 27.

### CCAS cat program suspended for holidays

Citrus County Animal Services (CCAS) has suspended the community cat Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate Return (TNVR) program until Jan. 4 due to staffing issues and holiday closures.

CCAS will be closed to the public on Dec. 24 and 25. Normal hours of operation will resume Dec. 28 and the TNVR program will resume Jan. 4.

It is recommended that healthy cats found outside are left alone during the period services are suspended at the shelter. Nationally, only 2 percent of cats are picked up by their owners when they end up in shelters but are up to 13 times more likely to make it home when allowed to remain in the community. Allow these cats the best chance of finding their way home.

For more information, call the shelter at 352-746-8400.

## Year in review: Criminal cases resolved

By **BUSTER THOMPSON**  
 Chronicle Reporter

After being stalled by COVID-19, a number of Citrus County's longstanding criminal cases closed in 2021.

Here are a handful of notable defendants who saw their charges resolve this past year:

### Carlos Hallowell

Circuit Court Judge Richard "Ric" Howard sentenced 20-year-old Carlos Hallowell in September to life in prison for the July 13, 2019, premeditated murder

of Denise Hallowell. When he was 17, Hallowell fatally struck his 57-year-old adoptive mother in her head with an axe while she was napping inside their Inverness-area home.

"Although she's not with us, I know she's listening," Hallowell said at his sentencing. "Mom, I'm so very sorry. Words can't describe how I feel right now, how much I miss you, how sor-

ry I am for what I've done and everything I've done throughout my entire life with you ... I love you so much."

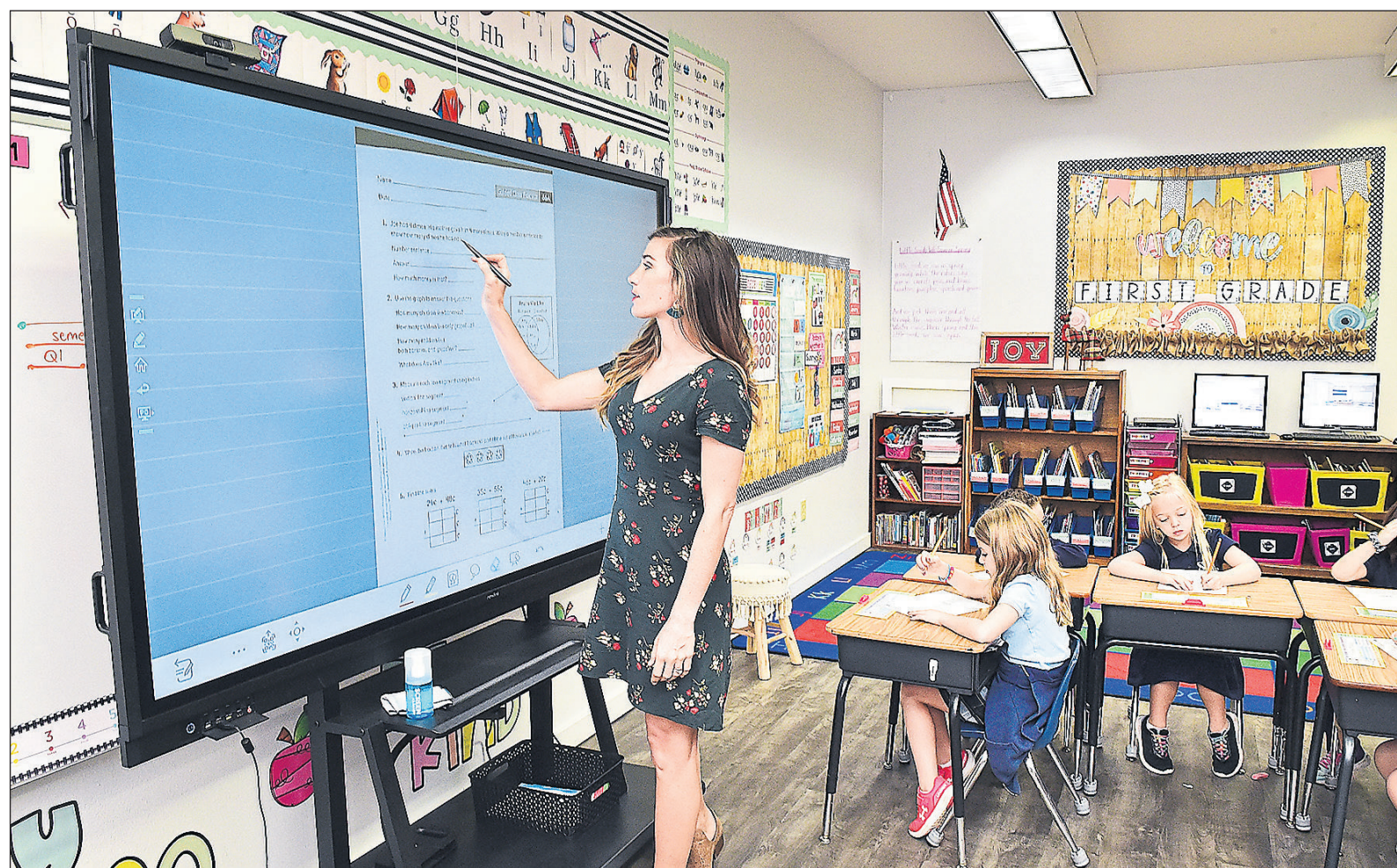
A jury convicted Hallowell of the murder after his three-day trial in July, pitting him against a prison term of between 40 years and up to life. Hallowell, who had no prior criminal history, wasn't eligible for the death penalty because he was a minor during the offense.

Denise Hallowell, a single mother, adopted Hallowell

See **CASES**, page A5



Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor  
 Citrus County Circuit Court Judge Richard "Ric" Howard holds the murder weapon Carlos Hallowell plunged into the head of his mother in July 2019, killing her. On Sept. 14, 2021, Hallowell was given a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.



Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor  
 First-grade math teacher Ami Brewer uses an interactive smart board Thursday, Dec. 16, to conduct a math lesson in her class at Seven Rivers Christian School in Lecanto. The high-tech device incorporates numerous technologies in one platform making classwork more seamless.

## Seven Rivers upgrades classroom tools

### A 'beautiful marriage' between technology and instruction

By **HANNAH SACHEWICZ**  
 Chronicle Reporter

Classrooms at Seven Rivers Christian School recently received a major technological upgrade, benefitting the approximately 500 students who attend the private school.

Part of the Governor's

Emergency Education Relief Fund, the \$2.75 billion Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) grant provided \$800,000 to Seven Rivers to address issues caused by COVID-19.

"We have been able to do so much with this money and there's still more to come," director of advancement Wendy Cash told the Chronicle. "For a nonprofit school where the budget is always tight or worse, this

miracle came out of nowhere."

In October, approximately half of the EANS grant was used to purchase 49 Newline interactive displays for every pre-k through 12th-grade class and administrative office.

"It's just like a giant smartphone," Cash said. Compatible with all devices, the displays have touch screen capabilities and are pairable with wireless styluses for interactive learning.

Therefore, teachers and students can use the display as a whiteboard while incorporating various apps and internet tools into their lessons.

On Thursday, the Chronicle joined Cash at Seven Rivers to see the new displays in action.

Ami Brewer's first-grade class was practicing their subtracting skills during an interactive math lesson. Students sat attentively with their worksheets, which

were mirrored on the display.

To do this, instructors can utilize built in camera technology, which allows them to snap photos of paper worksheets and place them on the screen. As the first-graders answered the math problems correctly, Brewer wrote them on the display.

Cash said the school's youngest students,

See **TOOLS**, page A2

## Florida only state with passing grade for anti-child trafficking

40 out of 50 states and D.C. received 'F' grade for efforts to combat illicit industry

By **BETHANY BLANKLEY**  
 The Center Square

Florida ranked first in a nationwide analysis of states' efforts to combat child sex trafficking.

According to a new report by Shared Hope International and the Institute for Justice and Advocacy, the majority of states, 40 out of 50, and the District of Columbia received failing grades for their anti-child and youth sex trafficking efforts.

Florida was the only state to receive a C grade. Ten states received D grades and 40 states received F grades. No states received A or B grades.

Following Florida, the top ten states with the best anti-trafficking initiatives are Texas, Mississippi, California, Washington, Colorado, Kentucky, Utah, Tennessee

and Louisiana.

Florida continues to rank third in the nation, behind Texas and California, for the number of calls placed to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

The report assessed states based on six categories, including criminal provisions, identification and response to victims, continuum of care, access to justice for survivors, tools for victims through states' criminal justice system, and prevention and training efforts.

Shared Hope launched its national Protected Innocence Challenge around ten years ago to raise awareness and help states create legal frameworks to address the crime of child sex trafficking. It also implemented a state report card system to assess states' progress. Initially, the majority of states received an "F" grade, "re-

flecting the reality that many states' laws failed even to recognize the crime of child sex trafficking," the report states. Since then, states have enacted trafficking laws and implemented criminal justice policies to combat child sex trafficking.

Children are being increasingly trafficked for sex and labor, often forced into various forms of labor, "including drug dealing, working in flea markets, commission-based sales jobs, driving other youth, and sex-trade related labor," the report states.

Child sex trafficking is a commercial sex act committed by force, fraud or coercion where the victim is 18. It often crosses over with labor trafficking, which is defined as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through

the use of force, fraud or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, debt bondage, or slavery.

"Forced labor may result when unscrupulous employers exploit workers who are vulnerable due to high rates of unemployment, poverty, crime, discrimination, corruption, political conflict, citizenship status or cultural acceptance of the practice," the Florida Department of Children and Families explains.

According to the Polaris Project, "Traffickers tend to prey on people who are economically or socially vulnerable like children and youth," who often live in poverty, "on the streets, or experience physical or sexual abuse, or addiction." Traffickers often "pose as a friend, offering to meals, gifts, or just a sympathetic

ear. In some cases, traffickers may use another young person to befriend and recruit their victims."

Recruitment of children and youth can occur in public places like malls or sporting events, but also increasingly online through social media sites, or false advertisements promising an appealing job opportunity that doesn't exist, the Polaris Project explains. "Although runaway and homeless youth are particularly vulnerable, there are also several examples of victims who were groomed and recruited while living at home and even attending school," it notes.

Voices for Florida, a network of organizations combating human trafficking, reports that "children are being sold for sex in every county in Florida."

In 2020, its 774 community partners provided services to over 1,093 vic-

tims. The majority were non-Latino Caucasian girls between 13 and 17 who had a history of running away. The majority had also been involved with the Florida DCF, had a history of or were currently experiencing homelessness, and didn't attend school.

In 2014, the Florida Legislature created a Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. Chaired by the state attorney general, its members are from law enforcement, prosecutors, legislators, and experts in health, education and social services. The Legislature created a Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking as part of the Council, which met for the first time in August 2019.

Florida has local task forces and coalitions to combat human trafficking in all 67 counties as part of this network.

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Matthew Beck / Chronicle Photo Editor

Each class at Seven Rivers Christian School will now be equipped with smartboards that will allow instructors like Ami Brewer the ability to seamlessly utilize various media into a lesson.

**TOOLS**

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three-year-old pre-kindergartners, use the displays for anything from “drawing and having fun” to practicing letters and numbers.

On Thursday, head of school Dana James told the Chronicle that Seven Rivers has always had the philosophy of direct instruction. Some tools, he said, “come in to replace the teacher.”

However, the new interactive displays enhance – rather than replace – traditional teaching. “It was a beautiful marriage between what technology can do and direct instruction,” James said. The displays are especially helpful amid the obstacles created by COVID-19. Sick or quarantined students can tune in from home via video chat, which is shared on the display.

Using compatible tablets, which can be mirrored on the classroom displays, James said teachers have the ability to instruct their class from home.

“We committed to open and stay open,” James said. “This helped us solve the problem.”

One of Don Gipple’s seventh-grade World History and Geography students was utilizing the remote learning feature on Thursday. Gipple demonstrated how screen sharing with



First-grade students in Ami Brewer’s Seven Rivers Christian School classroom follow a math lesson as their teacher who utilizes a smartboard to conduct lessons. Each of the school’s classrooms will now have the high-tech tool to integrate into their lessons.

**The displays are especially helpful amid the obstacles created by COVID-19. Sick or quarantined students can tune in from home via video chat, which is shared on the display.**

homebound students allows them to view the same instructional materials as brick and mortar students.

James also said the EANS grant allowed Seven Rivers to upgrade their computers, Wi-Fi and network. The funds also gave them the opportunity to equip 40 remaining classrooms with ionizers (air purifier).

Additional capabilities will be available to Seven Riv-

ers’ Newline displays in the coming months. Currently, they are awaiting the arrival of motorized stands. This accessory will convert the display into a tabletop, so students can use the screens to work on virtual science experiments, dissections, etc.

Teachers have been getting quickly accustomed to using the new technology. “We have loved them,” Cash said. If teachers can’t figure out a feature, she added, students – even the youngest ones – can help out with their intuitive understanding of technology.

For more information about Seven Rivers Christian School, visit [sevenriverscs.org](http://sevenriverscs.org).

Hannah Sachewicz can be reached at [hannah.sachewicz@chronicleonline.com](mailto:hannah.sachewicz@chronicleonline.com) or 352-564-2929.

**STATE**

From page A1

According to a study of U.S. Department of Justice human trafficking task force cases, 83 percent of sex trafficking victims

identified in the U.S. were U.S. citizens. The average age they were first trafficked and used for commercial sex was between 12 and 14.

Children can be victims of human trafficking regardless of their

citizenship, residency, or immigrant status. Those suspecting abuse or trafficking are encouraged to call the Florida abuse hotline at 800-96-ABUSE or the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888.

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# STATE & LOCAL

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

## Memorial will honor homeless

**SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE**

The Winter Solstice is the astronomical moment when the sun reaches the tropic of Capricorn. This means we have our shortest day and longest night of the year in the northern hemisphere in terms of daylight.

Regardless of what the weather is doing outside your window, the solstice marks the official start of winter.

It is on this longest night of the year, Dec. 21, that communities are encouraged to take time out of their busy days to remember those who have died while

experiencing homelessness.

The goal of Homeless Persons' Memorial Day is to strengthen our resolve to work for a world where no life is lived or lost in homelessness.

Join the Mid Florida Homeless Coalition Inc. at 10 a.m. via Facebook @MidFIHomeless

Coalition or attend the in-person memorial at 6 p.m. Dec. 21 at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1100 W. Highland Blvd. in Inverness.

Captain Chris Doborwicz of The Salvation Army of Lake and Sumter Counties will be officiating the Facebook live event and Lou

Ellen Hartley of the First Presbyterian Church of Inverness will be officiating the in-person event.

To learn how to help or to request a speaker, contact Barbara Wheeler of the Mid Florida Homeless Coalition at 352-860-2308 or mfhc.information@gmail.com.

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Gardening workshop: 'Minimizing Nuisance Pests & Plants'

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program is offering a free gardening workshop, "Minimizing Nuisance Pests & Plants," from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Citrus County Extension Service building, 3650 W. Sovereign Path in Lecanto.

Several plant and wildlife species have been introduced, both intentionally and accidentally to the Florida peninsula which cause control problems. Learn which species to be aware of and what non-harmful controls are being developed to control invasive populations.

To register, call Steven Davis at 352-527-5708 or visit [ccufflprogram.eventbrite.com](http://ccufflprogram.eventbrite.com).

#### VFW Post 4337 in Inverness to host Christmas dinner Dec. 25

VFW Post 4337 will host a Christmas dinner from 3 to 5 p.m. Dec. 25, 906 State Road 44 in Inverness.

Dinner includes ham, sweet or mashed potato, corn, roll with butter and dessert for a donation of \$8.

For more information, about the dinner, call the post bartender at 352-344-3495.

#### 3 dead, 3 injured in fiery crash along Interstate 75 in Sumter County

BUSHNELL (AP) — Three people died and three were injured early Sunday when their pickup truck hit a tree in central Florida and burst into flames.

The Florida Highway Patrol said the truck was traveling northbound on Interstate 75 in Sumter County west of The Villages when the driver failed to negotiate a curve in wet, foggy weather, went off the road and hit the tree just after 4:15 a.m.

The 22-year-old driver from Dunellon and two female passengers, ages 20 and 43 and both from Ocala, died at the scene. A 19-year-old man, an 18-year-old man and a 19-year-old woman, all from Ocala, suffered serious injuries.

No names were released.

Parts of Interstate 75 were closed for more than five hours because of the crash.

## Officials looking for truck that struck cyclist

**By BUSTER THOMPSON**  
Chronicle Reporter

A pickup truck struck a cyclist riding on a highway in Homosassa before driving away.

According to Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the white Chevy Silverado collided at around 6:49 p.m. Dec. 11 with a 48-year-old Aurora, Colorado, man riding a bike ahead of the truck in a northbound lane of U.S. 19, north of West Grover Cleveland, throwing the cyclist onto the road.

The Chevy continued to travel north on U.S. 19, leaving the crash scene. Leftover wreckage from the truck and a witness aided FHP in describing the hit-and-run vehicle.

First responders airlifted the cyclist to Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point to be treated for incapacitating injuries, according to FHP.

Those with information on the truck, its driver or the collision can call Florida Highway Patrol at 347.

Tipsters can also remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward by contacting Citrus County Crime Stoppers at 800-269-8477.

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

## Winter Haven family transforms home into popular holiday spectacle

**By SARA-MEGAN WALSH**  
The Ledger

WINTER HAVEN — Cars slow down to a crawl as they drive by the Bigda's house on Shadow Wood Trail in Winter Haven as children, and those still young-at-heart, roll down their windows to get a better look at the flashing lights.

Bill Bigda, 62, can recall how as a child he begged his parents to drive past a favorite Christmas lights display each night. Now, he and his 38-year-old son, Tony, make it an annual goal to create a scene of wonder for others and raise funds for charity.

Santa's House by the Bigda's is a synchronized holiday display that features more than 100,000 lights with dozens of popular Disney and childhood characters. Many of the displays come alive with movement, like Pokemon riding a carousel swing and classics like Donald Duck and his family pedal a bike for four.

"It's like our Christmas

card to the entire community," said Tony Bigda, the owner of the home.

The family tradition started 38 years ago in Ludlow, a small town in Western Massachusetts. Bill Bigda began hanging Christmas lights for his son's first Christmas and it quickly grew.

Bill Bigda said he saw what holiday decorations were being sold and quickly decided it would be more interesting if they moved — and could do it. His first homemade moving lawn figure was Snoopy from the comic strip Peanuts, ice skating while he lazily spins in circles. The piece is still prominently on display.

For the father-son duo it's turned into a hobby of finding interesting scrap or recycled parts on the side of the road and refashioning them into Christmas decorations. All the popular characters are hand-drawn on plywood by Tony Bigda, and then the family members including his wife, Taryne, and 9-year-old son, Logan, pitch in to

help paint them.

It's not a show without the music. All the lights are choreographed to six different soundtracks created by Tony Bigda, who makes sure they have a little bit of something for everyone. It takes at least 500 hours to set up, Tony Bigda estimated, as he incorporates custom instructions on visitor parking and information on the display.

Each year, the family begins to start putting up the lights on Oct. 1. As the LEDs can be any color, they often set them to orange, purple and black for Halloween. In November, the real setup begins with a race to finish it by the first Saturday of December.

"By the end of setup, we're usually wondering if we got in too deep," Tony Bigda said.

In 2020, the house was selected to be featured in ABC's The Great Christmas Light Fight in 2020. It wound up being the one year the Christmas lights almost never got hung. Bill

Bigda said he had a medical issue that landed him in the hospital, and the family faced the tough decision of whether to go forward with decorating or skip a year.

The Bigda's pulled through and wound up winning first place.

"We never expected it," Bill Bigda said.

His wife, Diane, added, "it was surreal."

For those who have visited the Bigda's house before, the family is continuously adding something new to the display. This year, there's a blue train engine where children can ring a bell and take a selfie, according to Bill Bigda.

Santa's House by the Bigda's can be found at 4314 Shadow Wood Trail in Winter Haven. The display runs Sunday through Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Those driving by can tune in to 87.9 FM to hear the music.

The nightly light show can be viewed through Dec. 31.

## Ft. Lauderdale Coca-Cola plant being restored

**By LISA J. HURIAASH**  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE — Long gone is a Coca-Cola bottling plant from the late 1930s that became a source of pride for Fort Lauderdale. It symbolized how the city was big and important enough to attract one, bringing with it jobs and a boost to the economy. And the plant's huge display windows let families enjoy watching the workers bottle soft drinks.

Now, Broward County is well underway with restoring this old landmark — at 644 S. Andrews Ave., situated just south of a Publix supermarket — to its former splendor in the city's

downtown. At least from the outside, it will start to resemble what it looked like more than 80 years ago with dozens of replica windows and the same color scheme of paint.

"A lot of people are excited to finally see it coming back to life," said architect Merrill Romanik. "The branding of Coca-Cola is embedded in our culture. When they introduced this bottling plant to downtown Fort Lauderdale, it had a strong impact to the community."

Rick Ferrer, the county's Historic Preservation Officer, said the plant's construction "was considered a big deal for the city because it signified economic

recovery during the Depression; only large cities got Coca-Cola plants."

The county, which owns the former plant building, began a \$3.1 million construction project in October, and it is expected to be wrapped up sometime next summer.

The inside is a shell; Broward County officials said it has not yet been decided what will be inside, although office space is most likely expected.

Romanik said the reconstruction includes a new roof with barrel tile intended to replicate the original. There are also 36 steel wrought iron windows that are being restored, she said.

The building will again become off-white, with golden yellow as the accent.

Ariadna Musarra, the county's director of the Construction Management Division, said architects are relying on blueprints from the bottling plants of its sister facility in Ocala, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, and now privately owned.

But not everything will be restored.

The bottling company's name, for example, will not be branded back on the building because it's trademarked and owned by Coca-Cola. A corporate spokesperson could not be reached for comment.

## Food bank receives \$20K from Suncoast Credit Union

**By NANCY KENNEDY**  
Chronicle Reporter

With the recent \$20,000 donation from Suncoast Credit Union, the Community Food Bank (CFB) is now able to provide equipment



REED

to help continue feeding hungry people, especially through local backpack initiatives and food programs for all school-aged children.

"Many of our local schools report at least 50 percent of their students are on either free or reduced lunch," said Barbara Sprague, CFB executive director. "The generous \$20,000 grant from Suncoast Credit Union will

help us purchase and maintain the equipment needed to ensure agencies are able to deliver services to school-aged children struggling with hunger throughout our local community."

The CFB actively works with agencies such as Citrus County Blessings, People Helping People, and the Citrus County School District to help children in need receive nourishing meals in school, over the weekend and during school breaks.

Christina Reed, executive director of Citrus County Blessings, said her agency relies heavily on warehouse space and equipment provided by the CFB.

"We could use an entire warehouse just for the food we need for our programs," Reed said. "The CFB warehouse is where our monthly

orders come in and where we bring our volunteers to build each pallet of food for our pantries. When the CFB has the proper equipment to execute these tasks, it makes our visits there much more efficient and better equips us to prep food for distribution to our sites."

Steve Ponticos, CFB board of directors president, said Suncoast Credit Union has

made numerous monetary contributions to CFB over the years, "making a significant impact in the local fight against hunger. We applaud their continued efforts to help us fulfil our mission to promote awareness, inspire involvement, and end hunger in Citrus, Hernando, and Sumter counties."

The CFB is looking for more Hunger Heroes. Visit

[feed352.org](http://feed352.org) for information on how to make a donation or volunteer your time to help end hunger and nourish hope.

Nancy Kennedy can be reached at 352-564-2927 or by email at [nkennedy@chronicleonline.com](mailto:nkennedy@chronicleonline.com).

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HOROSCOPES

By EUGENIA LAST

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

Formulate ideas and implement change. Don't wait for others to do things for you or take charge of your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Recognize what you are up against and make changes that will help you navigate your way to success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Share memories and dreams with your loved ones, and you'll find common ground that will encourage better relationships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Say what's on your mind, and deal with unfinished business. A responsible attitude and quick pace will show others that you mean business.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Handle situations uniquely, and you'll make an impression on someone influential. Enforcing positive change will show your ability to take charge and live up to your promises.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You'll meet with opposition if you are insistent on doing everything your way. A little compromise will go a long way when dealing with someone who can influence the outcome.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Spend more time nurturing relationships and taking care of your work responsibilities, and you will feel confident moving forward. Romance is encouraged.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't let your emotions spur you to make a financial move. Iron out any foreseeable problems before you jump into a joint venture.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Address issues that concern others. Offer suggestions to encourage people to take care of their responsibilities, leaving you more time to address more pressing problems.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Stop overthinking things and start enjoying what life has to offer. Reach out to people who lift your spirits and put a smile on your face.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Trust what's tried and true. Someone will mislead you if given a chance. Concentrate on personal growth, physical improvement and altering your lifestyle to better suit your needs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) An emotional matter will escalate if you cannot compromise or come to terms with what others want to do. Take care of responsibilities on your own to avoid interference and inconvenience.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Gather information and pursue what you want to do. Touch base with people who make you think, and offer them helpful suggestions. Limit your indulgence.

ENTERTAINMENT

Spidey nets 3rd best opening of all time with \$253 million weekend

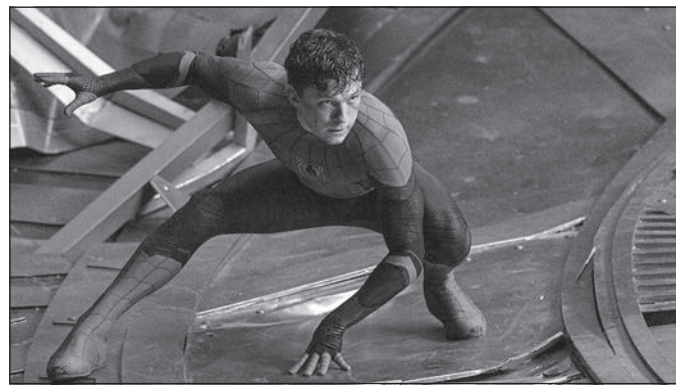
By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Never underestimate your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man, even with a mutating virus afoot. Despite rising concerns over the omicron variant, "Spider-Man: No Way Home" not only shattered pandemic-era box office records; it became the third best opening of all time behind "Avengers: Endgame" (\$357.1 million) and "Avengers: Infinity War" (\$257.7 million).

The Sony and Marvel blockbuster grossed a stunning \$253 million in ticket sales from 4,325 North American locations, according to studio estimates on Sunday, also setting a record for the month of December. The web-slinger's success couldn't have come sooner for a movie business that has had a rollercoaster 2021 and could be headed for a difficult start to 2022 as the omicron variant of the coronavirus forces more and more event cancellations.

"This weekend's historic 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' results, from all over the world and in the face of many challenges, reaffirm the unmatched cultural impact that exclusive theatrical films can have when they are made and marketed with vision and resolve," said Tom Rothman, Sony Pictures Chairman and CEO, in a statement. "All of us at Sony Pictures are deeply grateful to the fabulous talent, both in front of and behind the camera, that produced such a landmark film."

In its five days playing in



Tom Holland in Columbia Pictures' "Spider-Man: No Way Home."

theaters internationally, it's amassed \$334.2 million in ticket sales, bringing its global total to \$587.2 million against a \$200 million production budget. The film has yet to open in markets like Thailand and Japan, and there is no release date set for China.

As the third standalone Spider-Man film in the Tom Holland era, "No Way Home" was always going to be an "event film" for fans. After several delays over the year Sony planted its launch in the pre-Christmas frame and as of late last week had anticipated a pandemic-best opening in the \$130 to \$150 million range. But it quickly became clear that "Spider-Man" was going to fly much higher. The film netted an incredible \$121.5 million in its first day - bumping "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" out of the No. 2 position.

Directed by Jon Watts, "No Way Home" picks up with Holland's Peter Parker grappling with the world finding out about his superhero identity, and features Zendaya,

Marisa Tomei and Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange. The promise of spoiler reveals only added to the feverish hype that led to lines and sell-out showings across the country.

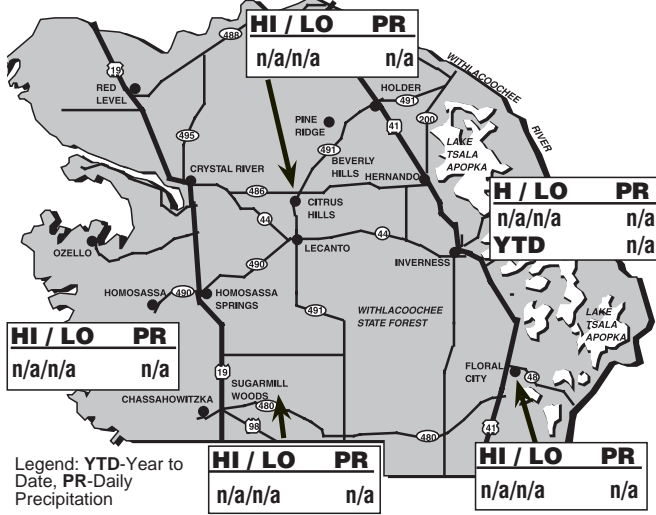
"For the target audience, this is absolute must-see, required viewing," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "There is no way fans were going to opt out because of omicron."

Many moviegoers also shelled out top dollar to see the film on the biggest screens possible. According to IMAX, an estimated \$36.2 million of the global total is from their large format screens.

"Spider-Man: No Way Home" is an exclamation point on the comeback we've seen at the box office in 2021," said Rich Gelfond, CEO of IMAX. And it's not just fans who

have been giving the film good marks: Reviews have been overwhelmingly positive as well. It has a 94 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



Legend: YTD-Year to Date, PR-Daily Precipitation. Today: Northeast winds 10 to 15 knots increasing to around 20 knots late in the evening, then becoming east 10 to 15 knots after midnight then becoming southeast around 20 knots toward morning. Seas 2 to 3 feet.

THREE DAY OUTLOOK Exclusive daily forecast by: Bay Street Weather. Today & Tomorrow Morning High: 73° Low: 62° Mostly cloudy with a few showers, especially by evening.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MORNING High: 71° Low: 49° Cloudy, windy, scattered showers and storms.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING High: 63° Low: 41° Mostly sunny and cooler.

ALMANAC Data from Crystal River Airport. TEMPERATURE: Yesterday 80/66, Record\* 88/23, Normal 72/44. DEW POINT: Yesterday at 3 p.m. 70°. HUMIDITY: Yesterday at 3 p.m. 93%. POLLEN COUNT\*\* Predominant: Trees. AIR QUALITY: Yesterday observed Good PM2.5.

SOLAR TABLES Provided by ezfshn.com. DATE DAY MINOR MAJOR MINOR MAJOR (MORNING) (AFTERNOON). 12/20 MONDAY 7:17 1:18 5:36 1:44. 12/21 TUESDAY 7:18 2:09 5:36 2:34.

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK SUNSET TONIGHT 5:36 pm SUNRISE TOMORROW 7:18 am MOONRISE TODAY 6:53 pm MOONSET TODAY 8:36 am.

BURN CONDITIONS Today's Fire Danger Index is: MODERATE. There is no burn ban. For more information call Florida Division of Forestry at (352) 797-4140.

WATERING RULES For established lawns and landscapes, irrigation may occur during only one (1) of the specified time periods, 12:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., or 4:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m., on the allowable watering days below.

TIDES \*From mouths of rivers \*\*At King's Bay MONDAY \*\*\*At Mason's Creek. City High Low. Chassahowitzka\* 6:24 a.m. 0.7 ft 7:00 p.m. 0.2 ft 2:39 p.m. 0.0 ft 11:23 p.m. 0.1 ft.

Questions, concerns or reporting violations, please call: City of Inverness at 352-726-2321, City of Crystal River at 352-795-4216, Ext. 313; unincorporated Citrus County at 352-527-7669.

KEY TO CONDITIONS: c=cloudy; fg=fog; hz=haze; mc=mostly cloudy; pc=partly cloudy; ra=rain; rs=rain; snow; ss=sunny; sh=showers; sm=smoke; ss=snow; ss=snow showers; t-thunderstorms.

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

Table with 3 columns: City, H, L, F'cast. Rows include 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: Northeast winds 10 to 15 knots increasing to around 20 knots late in the evening, then becoming east 10 to 15 knots after midnight then becoming southeast around 20 knots toward morning. Seas 2 to 3 feet.

LAKE LEVELS Location Withlacoochee at Holder, Tsala Apopka-Hernando, Tsala Apopka-Inverness, Tsala Apopka-Floral City. SUN, SAT, Full.

THE NATION Forecast for 3:00 P.M. Monday. Map of the United States showing weather patterns.

FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. Monday. Table with 4 columns: City, SUN, MON, SUN, MON. Rows include Albany, Albuquerque, Asheville, Atlanta, etc.

YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL HIGH & LOW HIGH 90, Sebastian, Fla. LOW -12, Gunnison, Colo.

WORLD CITIES Table with 3 columns: CITY, H/L/SUN, M/L/SUN. Rows include Lisbon, London, Madrid, Acapulco, etc.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Monday, Dec. 20, the 354th day of 2021. There are 11 days left in the year.

Highlight in history: On Dec. 20, 1987, more than 4,300 people were killed when the Dona Paz (DOHN'-yuh pahz), a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

On this date: In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States.

In 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

Ten years ago: Lori Berenson, an American paroled after 15 years behind bars in Peru for aiding leftist guerrillas, arrived at Newark Liberty International Airport for her first visit home since her arrest in 1995.

(After a 17-day visit, Berenson returned to Peru to serve out the rest of her parole; she was expelled from Peru on Dec. 2, 2015 and returned to the U.S.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama designated the bulk of U.S.-owned waters in the Arctic Ocean and certain areas in the Atlantic Ocean as indefinitely off limits to future oil and gas leasing.

One year ago: Several European Union nations banned flights from the U.K. and others were considering such action, all in hopes of blocking a new strain of coronavirus sweeping across southern England from establishing a strong foothold on the continent.

Today's Birthdays: Rock musician Peter Criss is 76. Former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue is 75. Producer Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") is 75. Rock musician Alan Parsons is 73. Actor Jenny Agutter is 69. Country singer Kris Tyler is 57. Rock singer Chris Robinson is 55. Actor Nicole deBoer is 51. Movie director Todd Phillips is 51. Singer David Cook ("American Idol") is 39. Actor Jonah Hill is 38.

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.

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Contact us about circulation/delivery issues: 352-563-5655 Questions: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Friday

Who's in charge: Trina Murphy Publisher, 563-3232 Jeff Bryan Editor, 564-2930 Tom Feeney Production Director, 563-3275

Report a news tip: News stories... Jeff Bryan, 564-2930 or Brian LaPeter, 564-2909 Sports stories... Matt Pfiffner, 564-2989

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**CASES**

From page A1

from Guatemala when he was 4.

Prosecutors with the State Attorney's Office claimed Hollowell's festering anger for Denise Hollowell boiled over into him planning and acting out his deadly strike.

Hollowell also went on to hide evidence in a nearby lake, prosecutors noted, and lied to Citrus County Sheriff's Office detectives throughout their investigations.

Fighting for a lesser conviction of manslaughter, Hollowell's defense team argued Denise Hollowell's strict parenting pushed her son to the brink.

In deciding Hollowell's fate, Howard had to consider the nature of his crime, its impacts to the victim's family and how Hollowell's mentality contributed to it.

Howard found Hollowell excelled under his adoptive mother's nurturing environment, but began to throw his future away in his preteen years with drugs and alcohol.

Denise Hollowell, Howard ruled, was killed for trying to correct her son's failing behavior.

"Ms. Hollowell didn't deserve to die," the judge said, and did "as any mother naturally would" by wanting the best for Hollowell's future.

Howard also took note of one of Hollowell's psychological evaluations, which diagnosed Hollowell with anti-social personality disorder and 16 of the 20 criteria for psychopathy.

"There is no rehabilitation for a psychopath," the judge said before sentencing Hollowell to life.

Hollowell is eligible for a sentence review 25 years into his punishment, and he is also appealing his punishment.

**Michael Ball**

Michael Ball, 64, was ordered in September to spend his life behind bars for the fatal March 25, 2020, shooting of his Beverly Hills neighbor, Tyler Dorbert.

In order to announce the sentence, Howard had to have bailiffs take Ball out of the courtroom because of his disruptive behavior and obscenity-riddled rants claiming he shot Dorbert out of self-defense.

"You realize how serious this is, Mr. Ball?" Howard told Ball. "You took a man's life, sir. ... You're acting like a spoiled brat."



Buster Thompson / Chronicle reporter

A light from a nearby TV reflects off of Michael Kenneth Ball as a bailiff escorts the Beverly Hills man into court in June 2021 to start his "stand your ground" hearing for the March 2020 fatal shooting of his 32-year-old neighbor, Tyler Dorbert.

Ball responded before he was escorted away. "You guys are giving me life for protecting myself."

Jurors in August found Ball guilty as charged for Dorbert's second-degree murder involving a firearm.

Ball was also convicted of carrying a concealed Colt 1911 pistol — the weapon he shot Dorbert with, killing the 32-year-old in front of his home catty-corner to Ball's at South Monroe Street and Plaza Street.

Dorbert was unarmed and had his hands raised in a questioning gesture when Ball opened fire.

Dorbert's fiancée and his neighbors tried to treat the gunshot wound to his chest while Ball berated them. His shouts could be heard in 911 calls prosecutors played for the jury.

Deputies arrested Ball for unlawfully holstering the firearm. Ball was released from custody after posting bail, but was arrested a month later after prosecutors filed his murder charge.

Ball filed a motion for Howard to dismiss his case, arguing his gunfire was a justified under what's known as Florida's stand-your-ground law. Ball claimed Dorbert lunged at him, and he wanted to wound Dorbert by shooting his shoulder.

Howard rejected Ball's argument, pushing the case to trial.

In his trial defense, Ball tried to show he's been

in fear of Dorbert since April 2018, when Dorbert purportedly struck Ball in his head. Trial testimony showed Ball didn't cooperate with the deputy who responded to the incident, and no arrests were made.

Howard said Ball had deadly intentions in mind during his last encounter with Dorbert.

"You were hunting for that guy that morning," the judge told Ball at his sentencing.

**John Campbell**

John William Campbell was spared a return to death row for the Aug. 10, 2010, premeditated murder of his 68-year-old father, John Henry "Jack" Campbell.

After hearing a weeklong presentation from attorneys debating over Campbell's upbringing and mentality, Howard resented the Inverness 48-year-old in June to life in prison.

Campbell's life sentence will be consecutive to the 95-year prison term he's been serving for a string of robberies in Inverness he committed up to his father's murder, and for leading police the next day on a chase that ended with him crashing into a patrol car, injuring a deputy.

Campbell's alternative to life in prison was Howard's original punishment for him from March 2013: death by lethal injection.

While Campbell's conviction of murder from his January 2013 trial still stands, he was guaranteed a new sentence after U.S. and Florida supreme courts ruled it unlawful because his 12 jurors weren't unan-

imous (8-4) in recommending death for Campbell.

Campbell waived his right for another jury to decide his fate, leaving the choice up to Howard.

Howard found the mitigating factors of Campbell's crime outweighed its aggravating circumstances.

Siding with the defense, Howard said Campbell "was doomed in womb" from exposure to his mother's alcoholism, and was the subject of further abuses from his parents in his childhood.

"Neither the Florida Supreme Court, nor the Legislature want close death penalty cases," he said. "They want cases with overwhelming evidence of aggravation. They want no reasonable person to have any doubt about the horrible nature of the crime. ... They want 12-0. That is not this case."

**Teens acquitted of Sandra Ryder's fatal shooting**

At the end of a bench trial in September, teenagers Zoey Andersen, Jason Simms Jr. and Joseph Finn were acquitted of Sandra Ryder's shooting death.

Howard did find the teens guilty of possessing a firearm as a minor, and ordered them at a November sentencing to serve juvenile probation for the misdemeanor charge.

On Nov. 21, 2018, 58-year-old Ryder was fatally shot outside her house

off of West Wayward Wind Loop in Homosassa. At the time, Ryder was helping her husband of 39 years, John Ryder, with chores.

Witnesses pointed authorities to a source of gunfire, where deputies later found spent ammunition in a wood line between Andersen's home off of West Country Club Drive and a field bordering Ryder's home to the south.

Investigators were also able to match the ammo casings with the 12-gauge shotgun and .30-caliber rifle the teens admitted to shooting.

In April 2019, the sheriff's office arrested Andersen, then 13, Finn and Simms, both 14. Prosecutors later charged the teens with manslaughter and shooting firearms as juveniles.

During the teens' shared trial, their lawyers argued nothing connected their young clients to Ryder's death.

Defense attorneys directed Howard's attention to discrepancies in witness testimonies, a nonexistent line of sight, and investigators discounting exculpatory evidence.

John Ryder didn't see the bullet strike his wife. Deputies and the Medical Examiner's Office were also unable to recover a firearm projectile from either shooting scene or Ryder's body.

While Howard said there was reasonable doubt to not convict the teens of Ryder's manslaughter, the judge still blamed them for her death.

"One of three of you killed that woman, and yet there's nobody individually criminally responsible," he said during the teens' sentencing. "You don't know who did it, and that's a burden you'll have to carry for the rest of your lives."

**Jason Pounders Sr.**

In exchange for a 20-year prison sentence, Jason Pounders Sr.

pleaded no contest in September to fatally shooting his 20-year-old nephew, Michael James Salas, July 4, 2020, with an unlawful firearm he wasn't allowed to have as a felon.

"He was like my son," the Hernando 42-year-old said at his hearing. "I'm sorry for everything that happened; I love my family, and I loved that boy."

Pounders was cleaning a short-barreled, 12-gauge Ithaca shotgun during an Independence Day party when the gun discharged, striking Salas.

After his arrest in August 2020, Pounders was charged with third-degree murder involving a firearm, possessing a short-barreled shotgun and possessing a firearm as a convicted felon.

Pounders was due to stand trial in September, and was facing a 25-to-life prison term. Prosecutors agreed to amend Pounders' charge so they could offer him a 20-year sentence.

Court records show Pounders filed a motion for Howard to correct his sentence.

**Justice Gurrola**

Howard in November sentenced 22-year-old Justice Gurrola to 30 years in prison for the Sept. 9, 2019, attempted second-degree murder of the 18-year-old Tyler Miller with a firearm.

Gurrola, of The Villages, shot and injured Miller while driving by Miller's Inverness home. Miller was outside at the time, figuring out why a vehicle was revving its engine right off his front yard.

When Miller confronted him, Gurrola peeled away but continued driving in front of Miller's home until he fired two rounds at Miller before driving away. A round went through Miller's right leg and struck his left knee.

Prosecutors argued for Howard to sentence Gurrola to the maximum punishment of life in prison because Gurrola had no business being at Miller's house, let alone harming its resident.

"I don't think Justice was trying to kill me," Miller testified at Gurrola's sentencing. "I think he was trying to scare me, and he ended up hitting me by accident. I could be wrong."

Contact Chronicle reporter Buster Thompson at 352-564-2916, bthompson@chronicleonline.com or visit tinyurl.com/yxn2ahso to see more of his stories.

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# OPINION

► *“If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things.”*

Albert Einstein

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

## 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

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

### EDITORIAL

# Partnership will make a splash

Living and growing up on the sunny shores of Florida really is a wonderful gift. Not every child gets to grow up in a paradise lined with beaches and palm trees where most only get to vacation. On any given day opportunities to boat, fish, or swim at the beach or springs is a walk down the street or a short drive in any direction for the children of Citrus County.

With that blessing comes enormous responsibility. The great state of Florida is surrounded by and riddled with bodies of water; whether it be a pool, lake, river, spring, ocean, or bay water is a huge part of the Florida lifestyle. Yet every year in Florida we lose countless children to drowning. Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in young children. It truly is a silent killer and happens in only seconds.

A lapse in caregiver supervision, not a lack of supervision places children at risk for drowning death. Teaching young children, the ability to rollback and float unassisted, keeping

**THE ISSUE:**  
*A partnership for safety.*

**OUR OPINION:**  
*Great first step.*

their face out of the water can be the difference between life and death. The YMCA and Citrus Memorial Hospital have created a partnership for children 6 months up to a year old to learn these lifesaving skills buying them the precious seconds they need.

While this is a relatively new idea here, it seems like an obvious one we should have come up with long ago with the large amount of access to water locally. While there is no replacement for caregiver supervision of our children these rescue swimming classes will save countless lives and buy the seconds a child needs to live. While it is not known how much funding this new program will have, it is a program that needs to continue for our children. This program is a great start to reduce drowning fatalities in our area. A next step is to be able to provide swim lessons at no charge to children of every age.

### The comics clarity was great

I’m calling Sound Off in reference to the Comics section on Monday (Dec. 13, Page B6). I didn’t see any different comics, but I must say it seems like the clarity was unbelievable. So if that’s what you’re talking about, that’s a great change. I love that. The clarity was great, unless it just happens to be my eyes today.

### Money to burn

In regards of your message from Dec. 14 (the Page A9 Sound Off, “Are you timing the signal?”): I am trying to save you money from sitting at red lights. But you must have money to burn, so could you drive me to certain places?

### Frustrating traffic signals

When the person wrote in that the traffic lights at (U.S.) 19 and Grover Cleveland are not properly timed, they are absolutely correct. In today’s Sound Off, Dec. 14 (Page A9, “Are you timing the signal?”), someone makes fun of it and asks how they did it. When you drive one-half mile and have

to stop at three stoplights, they are not timed properly. The traffic backs up past the post office. You should be able to drive that one-half mile by stopping at only one red light. So there’s your answer.

### Wear a mask to be pro-life

To the people of Citrus County: Don’t claim to be pro-life if you cannot even put a piece of cloth over your mouth to save your neighbors.

### Fix the right roads

Well, the voters of Citrus County kept these tax-hungry commissioners in office. Personally, I never voted for any one of them that did win, unfortunately. And I’m one of those persons, I don’t want the roads fixed. But what I would want is to stop the Suncoast Parkway and for the state to expend their funds on (U.S.) 41, our road through Citrus County, then (State Road) 200 to Ocala. Let’s get it done and stop. That’s where the priority should be for Citrus County residents by the state. Get (U.S.) 41 finally done and get (S.R.) 200 all the way up to Ocala.



# Remembering Kyle with a smile

Elves know no borders. They can appear anywhere at any-time, usually when a dire need presents itself.

Case in point: My husband and I were heading toward Interstate 75, on our way to an appointment at Shands in Gainesville. I had clocked our trip at about one-and-a-half hours, throwing in an extra half hour for traffic.

Suddenly, a mere 15 miles along, my CRV made a dinging sound,

not to be confused with an angel getting its wings. After which, my dashboard chimed in with, not one, but three exclamation points, and a message which read, “Tire pressure low.” Visions of the two of us being stranded along the Interstate, with nary a sugarplum to munch on, danced in my head. “Do we have a tire gauge,” my husband inquired. “How about a gas station on either side of State Road 200 that has a tire

pressure pump?”

My anxiety responded. I proceeded to try two name brand gas stations without success. Then a nondescript station appeared. “Come hither,” it beckoned. And lo and behold, almost hidden from view, what should be found, but an air pressure machine, requiring eight quarters to sound.

In this world of plastic convenience, the first miracle was that I had singles that the store clerk was able to convert into change. But with my Dupuytren’s Contracture limiting my own dexterity with the task “at hand”—along with other health concerns, we stood helplessly until the second miracle occurred, with Kyle’s descent from his trucker cab. He must have sensed my distress, immediately asking how he could help.

Next thing, the machine was activated as it was fed the requisite number of coins, catapulting Kyle into elf-mode action. Systematically he went from tire to tire, first checking the car label on the driver’s side to see what pressure amount was

recommended. As it turned out, none of the tires were “three exclamation points” low. Still Kyle brought each tire up to speed with his swift, sure movements.

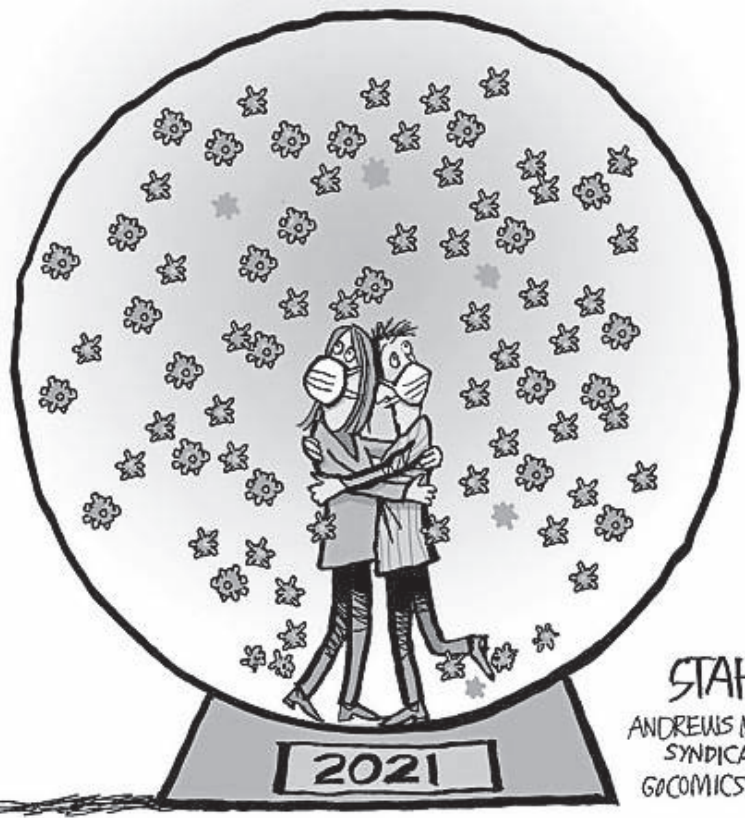
I dug in my purse for a five, ideally suited for the occasion. Kyle graciously accepted the tip, while instructing me to start up my car to confirm the warning had disappeared, which it hadn’t of course. We had to drive another 60 miles before I could call the car dealer to find out how to erase the dashboard message. But once again, another elf successfully talked me through it.

Elves are everywhere in Citrus County, and throughout the roads I’ve recently traveled. How they appear when needed most, I’ll never know. But this much, I’ve decided — I will never go anywhere again without eight quarters and a few fives to spare!

Lynne Farrell Abrams has a bachelor’s degree in communication. She has been a writer and editor, an adult education writing instructor, and a substance abuse counselor. A resident of Citrus County for over ten years, Lynne is now happily retired.



not to be confused with an angel getting its wings. After which, my dashboard chimed in with, not one, but three exclamation points, and a message which read, “Tire pressure low.” Visions of the two of us being stranded along the Interstate, with nary a sugarplum to munch on, danced in my head. “Do we have a tire gauge,” my husband inquired. “How about a gas station on either side of State Road 200 that has a tire



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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Inverness streets department does ‘excellent job’

So often, people want to fault the Inverness government and public servants.

We just were given a wonderful gift. When I called the number on my water bill to report major potholes at the corner of Pine Avenue and Hill Street. I politely was transferred to the street department. The gentleman I spoke with said it couldn’t be done until next year.

About three days later, they were fixed.

What an answer to my prayers. We all were concerned about severe damage to our cars!

Great, excellent job! Lord bless and keep you.

Chet Dunbar  
Inverness

#### Water rate increase not justified

Thanks for the Chronicle’s Dec. 13 article, “County to mull utility rate increase.” In this article, the county commissioners will be discussing raising residential water and wastewater rates. Residents should be outraged.

First of all, the county always uses an overly low ballpark example — just like they did with the one cent gas tax — of a water bill which is not realistic. They are claiming it would only cost the average resident an additional \$2.10 based on 10,000 gallons. In fact, it would probably cost five times that if you have two people in your household and a lawn to irrigate.

Additionally, the reason they state for this increase is to fund future infrastructure projects. But, wait just a moment here, that’s what impact fees are for. They suspended impact fees in 2015, and then kept them artificially low ever since in order to spur more growth. But, now they

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want existing residents to pay the difference.

Let’s just use impact fees the way they were intended, to pay for new roads, water and stormwater infrastructure without putting the burden back on your existing residents just to pacify a few builders and bottling companies that are paying nothing in this county.

We don’t want this issue to be put on the backs of every water user in the county. The commissioners should use the tools they were given and use impact fees to appropriately fund our needs.

Harry Booth  
Pine Ridge

#### Conservative women becoming politically active

There’s a welcome breath of fresh air settling in over America, and it’s being created by the emergence of strong, outspoken, conservative women into the world of politics. Whether it’s on Capitol Hill, at town hall meetings or before their local school boards, these modern day women have become a force to be reckoned with.

On Capitol Hill these women had great success flipping seats

from blue to red in the 2020 elections, and were a huge part of the Republican stunning 15-seat flip to three for the Democrats in the House. In fact, 11 of the 15 seats that the Republicans flipped were won by conservative women. This is hardly insignificant, yet was ignored by the media.

Education policies have also gained the attention of these modern day women. Last year when local governments introduced virtual learning K-12, their eyes were opened to the failures of some local school districts and they took action by going before the school boards and defending their children’s right to a proper education. The left made a critical mistake for this allowed time for all to gain knowledge into what was being taught. Education has become today’s hot button issue that resonates specifically with parents, and I’m afraid that it will remain with us for a long time.

We here in Florida are extremely lucky for our Gov. Ron DeSantis, and our Citrus County School Board are both doing stellar jobs protecting the students. We are indeed fortunate for this leaves the new modern day women here in Florida open to run for federal, state, local offices, and be heard at town hall meetings.

We now have women who were never politically active coming forward and making their voices heard. There’s now a new group of women standing before us — for these conservative women have now morphed into mama grizzlies. Let there be no doubt that just as surely as a female bear will protect her cubs from harm, the newly morphed mama grizzly will do likewise protecting her children. The left has taken notice and has acknowledged that it has a new obstacle in its path, and to date remains at a loss on how to confront these mama grizzlies.

Bill Claustre  
Inverness

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# Restaurants anxious as omicron, high food costs take toll

By **DEE-ANN DURBIN, MAE ANDERSON and SYLVIA HUI**  
Associated Press

DETROIT — While restaurants in the U.S. and United Kingdom are open without restrictions and often bustling, they are entering their second winter of the coronavirus pandemic anxious about what's ahead: They're squeezed by labor shortages and skyrocketing food costs and the omicron variant is looming.

"I'm extremely worried. I've never felt like we were out of the woods," said Caroline Glover, chef and owner of the restaurant Annette in the Denver suburb of Aurora.

Many businesses said hundreds of festive corporate lunch bookings vanished almost overnight as infections began to soar and Johnson announced tighter restrictions, including mandatory mask-wearing in most indoor spaces, though restaurants are open as usual.

Glover in Colorado worries about renewed restrictions if infections climb. For now, business has returned, with her dining room back to full capacity — up from a cap of 50 percent last year — and four greenhouses outside booked far in advance.

Similarly, diners have returned and business is

strong for Amy Brandwein, who owns the Italian restaurant Centolina and a small cafe, Piccolina, in Washington. After her restaurants survived lockdowns with takeout and grocery offerings, "I could safely say we're back to 2019 levels," she said.

But staffing remains a challenge. In a recent survey of 3,000 U.S. restaurant operators, 77 percent said they didn't have enough workers to meet demand, according to the National Restaurant Association, an industry trade group.

Many restaurant workers started new careers or went back to school. Jada Sartor of Grand Rapids, Michigan, saw her wages rise from \$10 per hour to \$16 per hour this year as restaurants grew more desperate for workers, but she recently quit her serving job because she couldn't find affordable child care.

"The cost of living is just so high you can't afford to really live," she said.

Kristin Jonna, owner of restaurant and wine bar Vinology in Ann Arbor, Michigan, said she raised wages nearly 40 percent to attract and retain her staff of 35. It was a change that needed to happen in the service industry, she said. But she can't hike menu prices enough to

compensate. "Everyone knows that beef is more expensive, but high-end, highly skilled labor is expensive, too," Jonna said. "That is the very tricky part of our business right now."

U.S. sales at restaurants and bars hit an estimated \$73.7 billion in November, up 37 percent from the same month last year, according to preliminary data from the U.S. Census Bureau. But that was partly due to higher menu prices as restaurants try to account for inflation.

Diners know restaurants are struggling, and many say they have resumed eating out to help their favorite local spots. Liz Cooper of Needham, Massachusetts, said she's comfortable dining indoors with her family of five, all of whom are vaccinated except for her 4-year-old daughter.

"If you like a restaurant and a small business you should get out there and support them," Cooper said. "They might have to close, and then you'll be heartbroken that you can't get your favorite chicken parm or cannoli."

Steve Geffen, who owns four Chicago-area restaurants, including Once Upon a Grill, said he removed 30 percent of the tables from his restaurants to ensure customers felt comfortable dining

inside. So far, it's working.

"They don't mind waiting longer, knowing they're not sitting on top of everybody else," he said.

But Jeanne Busch in Forest Park, Illinois, is sticking with occasional takeout.

"I am definitely not comfortable maskless indoors in

a crowd," Busch said. "As we head into winter and omicron continues its rampage, we expect mostly to be eating at home."

# Troops find religious exemption for vaccines unattainable

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 12,000 military service members refusing the COVID-19 vaccine are seeking religious exemptions, and so far they are having zero success.

That total lack of approvals is creating new tensions within the military, even as the vast majority of the armed forces have gotten vaccinated.

The services, urgently trying to keep the coronavirus pandemic in check by getting troops vaccinated, are now besieged with exemption requests they are unlikely to approve. Meanwhile, troops claiming religious reasons for avoiding the shots are perplexed be-

cause exemptions are theoretically available, yet seem impossible to obtain.

Caught in the middle are chaplains, who must balance the desire to offer compassionate care and guidance to personnel with the need to explain a complicated process that may well be futile. They also must assess requests from those who may be using religion as an excuse to avoid a vaccine that, while credited with preventing needless deaths, has become politically charged.

According to the services, at least 30,000 service members are not yet vaccinated, but several thousand of those have gotten temporary or permanent medical or administrative exemptions approved. Of the remaining — which is likely 20,000 or

more — thousands are working their way through the exemptions process, such as for religious reasons, or have flatly refused. That's about 1.5 percent of the roughly 1.3 million active duty troops.

Obtaining a religious exemption is rooted in a process that predates the pandemic. In addition to discussions with chaplains to determine whether they have a "sincerely held belief," troops must meet with commanders and medical personnel. The final decision is made higher up the chain of command and is also based on whether the person's vaccine exemption will pose a risk to mission accomplishment, unit cohesion, the health and safety of the force, and military readiness.

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# NATION & WORLD

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

## Fauci: Omicron is 'just raging around the world'

By **JOSH BOAK**  
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — The COVID-19 omicron variant is “just raging around the world,” the White House’s top medical adviser said Sunday as President Joe Biden prepares to issue “a stark warning of what the winter will look like” for unvaccinated Americans.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the country’s leading infectious disease expert, told NBC’s “Meet the Press” that “the real problem” for the U.S. hospital system is that “we have so many people in this country who are eligible to be vaccinated who have not yet been vaccinated.”

The prospect of a winter chilled by a wave of coronavirus infections is a severe reversal from the optimism projected by Biden some 10 months ago, when he suggested at a CNN town hall that the country would essentially be back to normal by this Christmas. Biden has been careful not to overpromise, yet confidence in the country has been battered by an unrelenting wave of COVID-19 mutations and variations that have left many Americans emotionally exhausted,



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington on Dec. 1.

Susan Walsh / AP

dispirited and worried about infections.

Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, tried to defend the president’s earlier promise in a separate interview Sunday on CNN’s “State of the Union.”

“The idea about hoping and having an aspiration to be independent of the virus after a period of time is understandable and reasonable,” Fauci said. “But the one thing that we know from, now, almost two years’ experience with this virus is that it is really very unpredictable.”

With the threat that rising

infections could worsen the supply chain challenges facing the United States and fuel inflation, Gov. Jared Polis, D-Colo., said Biden should stop talking about vaccination as two shots and a booster and instead call it “three doses” that are needed to maximize protection.

The administration is expecting a series of breakthrough infections with the surge of holiday travelers. Fauci said most people who have been vaccinated and gotten a booster should be fine if they take precautions such as wearing masks in crowded settings including airports.

## Omicron may sideline two leading drugs against COVID-19

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As strained U.S. hospitals brace for a new surge of COVID-19 cases caused by the fast-spreading omicron variant, doctors are warning of yet another challenge: the two standard drugs they’ve used to fight infections are unlikely to work against the new strain.

For more than a year antibody drugs from Regeneron and Eli Lilly have been the go-to treatments for early COVID-19, thanks to their ability to head off severe disease and keep patients out of the hospital.

But both drugmakers recently warned that laboratory testing suggests their therapies will be much less potent against omicron, which contains dozens of mutations that make it harder for antibodies to attack the virus. And while the companies say they can quickly develop new omicron-targeting antibodies, those aren’t expected to launch for at least several

months.

A third antibody from British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline appears to be the best positioned to fight omicron. But Glaxo’s drug is not widely available in the U.S., accounting for a small portion of the millions of doses purchased and distributed by the federal government. U.S. health officials are now rationing scarce drug supplies to states.

“I think there’s going to be a shortage,” said Dr. Jonathan Li, director of the Harvard/Brigham Virology Specialty Laboratory. “We’re down to one FDA-authorized monoclonal antibody” with omicron because of the reduced effectiveness of Regeneron and Lilly’s drugs.

The delta variant still accounts for more than 95 percent of estimated U.S. cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But agency leaders say omicron is spreading faster than any past variant and will become the dominant strain nationwide within weeks.

Delivered by injection or infusion, antibodies are laboratory-made versions of human proteins that help the immune system fight off viruses and other infections.

Glaxo’s drug, developed with Vir Biotechnology, was specifically formulated to bind to a part of the virus that is less likely to mutate, according to the companies. Early studies of laboratory-simulated omicron by the drugmakers and outside researchers show promising results.

Supply of the drug is “extremely limited, and additional doses of the product will not be available until the week of January 3rd,” the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said in an statement posted online.

After pausing distribution last month to conserve supply, HHS is now shipping 55,000 doses of the drug, called sotrovimab, to state health departments, with the doses arriving as early as Tuesday. An additional 300,000 are expected in January.

## Manchin not backing Dems’ \$2T bill, potentially dooming it

By **ALAN FRAM**  
and **HOPE YEN**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin said Sunday he cannot back his party’s signature \$2 trillion social and environment bill, dealing a potentially fatal blow to President Joe Biden’s leading domestic initiative heading into an election year when Democrats’ narrow hold on Congress was already in peril.

Manchin told “Fox News Sunday” that after five-and-a-half months of negotiations among Democrats in which he was his party’s chief obstacle to passage, “I cannot vote to continue with this piece of legislation. I just can’t. I’ve tried everything humanly possible. I can’t get there.”

Manchin’s choice of words seemed to crack the door open to continued talks with Biden and top congressional Democrats over re-

shaping the legislation. But the West Virginia senator all but said the bill would die unless it met his demands for a smaller, less sweeping package — something that would be hard for many Democrats in the narrowly divided Congress to accept.

The bill would provide hundreds of billions of dollars to help millions of families with children by extending a more generous child tax credit, creating free preschool and bolstering child care aid. There is more than \$500 billion for tax breaks and spending aimed at curbing carbon emissions, which experts consider the largest federal expenditure ever to combat climate change.

Other provisions would limit prescription drug price increases, create hearing benefits for Medicare recipients and bolster aid for the elderly, housing and job training. Nearly all of it would be paid for with

higher taxes on the wealthy and large corporations.

In an unusually hardball response to a lawmaker whose vote is crucial in the 50-50 Senate, White House press secretary Jen Psaki called Manchin’s announcement “a sudden and inexplicable reversal in his position” and “a breach of his commitments” to Biden and congressional Democrats. She pointedly said that Manchin, whose state is among the nation’s poorest, “will have to explain” why many families will have to cope with higher health and child care costs the bill is intended to address.

The legislation’s collapse would deepen bitter ideological divisions between progressive and moderate Democrats. That would imperil the party’s ability to get behind any substantial legislation before the November congressional elections, when their control of Congress seems in doubt.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Vienna commemorates pandemic victims with a ‘sea of lights’

VIENNA (AP) — Tens of thousands of Vienna residents turned out Sunday night to participate in a “sea of lights” commemoration for the more than 13,000 Austrians who have died in the coronavirus pandemic.

The event, supported by dozens of civil society organizations, drew more than 30,000 people, according to Austrian media.

They organized a chain of more than 13,000 candles stretching around Vienna’s central ring road, one for each person who died in Austria, and observed a moment of silence.

The commemoration was also intended to show solidarity with health care workers following several weeks of anti-coronavirus demonstrations in the Austrian capital. On Saturday, tens of thousands again turned out to protest the government’s pandemic-related restrictions, as well as a planned national vaccine mandate.

“We are simply people from civil society who want to send a signal,” organizer Daniel Landau told the Austrian newspaper Kurier.

### Typhoon deaths in Philippines top 140; mayors plead for food

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The death toll in the strongest typhoon to batter the Philippines this year has reached at least 146, and the governor of an island province especially hard-hit by Typhoon Rai said there may be even greater devastation that has yet to be reported.

Gov. Arthur Yap of Bohol province in the central Philippines said 72 people died there, 10 others were missing and 13 injured, and suggested the fatalities may still considerably increase because only 33 of 48 mayors were able to report back to him due to downed communications. Officials were trying to confirm a sizable number of deaths caused by landslides and extensive flooding elsewhere.

### UK health boss: COVID-19 rules could tighten by Christmas

LONDON (AP) — Britain’s health secretary has refused to rule out imposing tougher COVID-19 restrictions before Christmas amid the rapid rise of infections and continuing uncertainty about the omicron variant.

Health Secretary Sajid



Michael Gruber / AP

People hold torches and light their phones Sunday in memory of those who have died in Austria of coronavirus. Tens of thousands of Vienna residents turned out Sunday night to participate in a “sea of lights” commemorating the more than 13,000 Austrians who have died in the coronavirus pandemic.

Javid said Sunday that the government was assessing the fast-moving situation and urged the public to be cautious as scientists examine the data. Much is still unknown about the highly transmissible new variant, even as hospitals brace for a surge in infections, he told the BBC.

“There are no guarantees in this pandemic, I don’t think,” Javid replied when asked about the potential for new restrictions. “At this point we just have to keep everything under review.”

Prime Minister Boris Johnson last week reinstated rules requiring face masks in shops and ordered people to show proof of vaccination or a negative coronavirus test before entering nightclubs and other crowded venues. He has championed a program that relies on vaccines, an operation that delivered 830,000 booster shots on Saturday alone.

Vaccination sites are being asked to operate 12 hours a day, seven days a week with shopping centers, cathedrals and soccer stadiums into mass vaccination centers. Some sites are working 24 hours a day to make it easier for people who work shifts.

But the government’s scientific advisers believe it won’t be enough and have recommended more far-reaching restrictions to prevent U.K. hospitals from being overwhelmed, according to leaked minutes from a meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies seen by the BBC.

### Leftist millennial wins election as Chile’s next president

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — A leftist millennial who rose to prominence during anti-government protests was elected Chile’s next president Sunday after a bruising campaign against a free-market firebrand likened to Donald Trump.

With almost 99 percent of polling stations reporting, Gabriel Boric won 56 percent of the votes, compared to 44 percent for his

opponent, lawmaker José Antonio Kast.

In a model of civility that broke from the polarizing rhetoric of the campaign, Kast immediately recognized defeat, tweeting a photo of himself on the phone with his opponent congratulating him on his “grand triumph.” Meanwhile outgoing President Sebastian Pinera — a conservative billionaire — held a video conference with Boric to offer his government’s full support during the three month transition.

“I am going to be the president of all Chileans,” Boric said in the brief televised appearance with Pinera.

Boric’s victory is likely to be felt throughout Latin America, where ideological divisions have been on the rise amid the coronavirus pandemic, which reversed a decade of economic gains, exposed longstanding deficiencies in health care and deepened inequality.

### Thousands in Brussels protest renewed COVID-19 restrictions

BRUSSELS (AP) — Thousands of peaceful protesters demonstrated in Brussels on Sunday for a third time against reinforced COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the Belgian government to counter a spike in infections as the omicron variant sweeps across Europe.

The marchers — some with placards reading “free zone,” “I’ve had my fair dose” and “enough is enough” — came to protest the government’s strong advice to get vaccinated. They also included Belgian health care workers who will have a three-month window in which to get vaccinated against the virus beginning Jan. 1 or risk losing their jobs.

A strong police presence and widespread preventive controls were deployed for the march, given how previous protests had descended into violence. But only 13 arrests were made for “rebellion and possession of prohibited articles,” according to police spokesperson Ilse Van de Keere.

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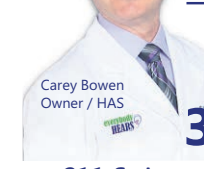
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# Texans end 3-game skid with win at Jags

Jacksonville falls in debut under its new coach

By MARK LONG  
AP Pro Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Tremon Smith is planning to do something nice for his blockers. He doesn't know what. He doesn't know when. He just knows he needs 10 of whatever he decides to buy in the next few weeks.

Smith returned a kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown, ending the longest drought in the NFL, and the undermanned Houston Texans beat woeful Jacksonville 30-16 on Sunday to end a three-game skid and extend their dominance in the series.

Smith somehow escaped five defenders near the 30-yard line — Jaguars safety Rayshawn Jenkins broke his right ankle trying to make the tackle — before coasting the rest of the way. It was Houston's first kickoff return for a score since Oct. 4, 2009, and it helped Smith end haunting memories of getting tackled at the 3-yard line

as a rookie with Kansas City in 2018.

"Everybody still brings it up," he said. "I think it's done for right now. I think they can leave it in the past."

Texans rookie quarterback Davis Mills won for the first time in eight starts. He connected with Brandin Cooks twice for touchdowns, once early and again late. The second one was a 43-yarder that sealed yet another Houston victory against Jacksonville.

"That was the dagger," Mills said.

The Texans (3-11) won their eighth straight against the Jaguars (2-12) and swept the AFC South series for the ninth time in the last 11 years. Houston won despite playing without seven starters, including five defenders.

The Jags, playing their first game since firing coach Urban Meyer, dropped their sixth

See JAGS, page B5



Phelan M. Ebenhack / AP

Jacksonville Jaguars running back James Robinson, right, is tackled by Houston Texans middle linebacker Neville Hewitt, left, and cornerback Desmond King (25) during the first half of Sunday's game, in Jacksonville.

# Saints stun Buccaneers



Mark LoMoglio

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) fumbles the football after getting hit by New Orleans Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan (94) and cornerback P.J. Williams (26) during the second half of Sunday night's game, in Tampa. The Saints defeated the Bucs 9-0.

# Tiger & his son make 11 straight birdies

Fall short of Daly duo in PNC Championship

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tiger Woods might not be ready for tour-level golf. He can still deliver quite a show.

In a remarkable return from a car crash 10 months ago that badly damaged his right leg, Woods and 12-year-old son Charlie set a tournament record with 11 straight birdies and pushed John Daly and his college son all the way to the finish Sunday in the PNC Championship.

Daly and John Daly II, a freshman at Arkansas, shot 57 in the scramble format and won by two shots. It might have been the widest Woods ever smiled after a runner-up finish.

"The fact that I'm able to have this opportunity this year — even a couple weeks ago we didn't really know whether or not I would be doing this," Woods said. "But here we are. And we had just best time ever."

The birdie streak began on the seventh hole when Woods hit a half-wedge into a foot. Charlie holed a 10-footer on the next hole, stooping to pick up the marker before the ball was even in the cup, another moment where the confident son looked a lot like his father.

It was like that over the final two hours, Woods often hitting the key irons and Charlie making the putts. They briefly had the lead after a birdie on the 14th and the margin was thin the rest of the way until the very end.

Daly, playing two groups behind, birdied the 16th hole to regain the lead. He and his son stayed in front when Team Woods chipped too strong on the par-5 closing hole and each of them missed 8-foot birdie putts. They shot 57 with only four pars, two of them on par 5s.

"We thought we'd have to birdie every hole on the back nine, and it turned out to be that way," Woods said. "But man, what a blast it was. We just had a blast all day."

Daly and son two-putted for birdie on the 18th and set the record that mattered. They finished at 27-under par, breaking by one the mark set by Davis Love III

See PNC, page B5

# NBA postpones 5 more games due to virus

Hawks' Young, Lakers' Vogel enter protocols

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Basketball Writer

The NBA on Sunday postponed a total of five games involving nine teams in response to rising coronavirus numbers, raising the number of contests that have been pushed back this season to seven.

Called off were three Sunday games: Cleveland at Atlanta, Denver at Brooklyn and New Orleans at Philadelphia. Also shelved were Orlando's game at Toronto on Monday and Washington's game at Brooklyn on Tuesday.

The postponements came on the same day that Atlanta announced star guard Trae Young entered the league's health and safety protocols and the Los Angeles Lakers said coach Frank Vogel also was added to the list.

Leaguewide, through Sunday evening, there were at least 75 players from 20 teams who have either been ruled out to play — or in the case of the postponed games, would have been ruled out — because they are in the protocols. That number has soared in recent days, with the NBA just one of many sports leagues worldwide dealing with a rapidly worsening issue.

"This isn't going to go away today, tomorrow or the next day," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said Sunday. "This is going to be here for a while."

U.S. officials are expecting a wave of breakthrough infections among the vaccinated given the surge of holiday travelers and gatherings expected in the coming days. The NBA has said 97 percent of players are fully vaccinated and somewhere around 60 percent had received boosters as of last week. It was not clear how many of the current positive cases involve those who are ineligible for a booster shot or those who have chosen not to receive one.

Kidd said that his team discussed concerns about COVID-related issues before his team played the Lakers — a team with multiple players in protocols — last week.

"We didn't have any COVID issues up to that point, until after they left," Kidd said. "Spoke too soon. And now we have COVID issues. We've got to just listen to the league and try to do the best that we can. It's not just us; you see games are being canceled."

Also not clear is how many of the



Bruce Kluckhohn / AP

Los Angeles Lakers head coach Frank Vogel questions a referee in Friday's game with the Minnesota Timberwolves, in Minneapolis.

NBA cases involve asymptomatic players. The NFL has revised its protocols so that only unvaccinated players and those experiencing possible symptoms of COVID-19 will be tested. The NHL has six teams shut down through Christmas because of outbreaks, and numerous college games at all levels have been canceled in recent days.

"It is what it is. Just trying to stay safe as possible and that's all you can do," Lakers guard Russell Westbrook said of the NBA's rising numbers. Westbrook was briefly in the protocols late last week, before returning at least three negative coronavirus tests and being cleared to return to play without missing a game.

The league and the National Basketball Players Association have been discussing a plan in which teams in desperate need of players would be able to sign reinforcements to 10-day contracts but without those deals impacting salary cap and luxury tax figures.

That deal has not yet been finalized, though talks are continuing.

The Cavaliers had five players enter the protocols on Sunday, the team said. All five — center Jarrett Allen, forwards Lamar Stevens and Dylan Windler and guards Denzel Valentine and RJ Nembhard — tested positive for COVID-19, according to a person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team did not release that specific detail.

They joined Isaac Okoro and Evan Mobley, who entered the protocols previously.

Vogel wasn't on the bench when his Lakers played Sunday at Chicago. David Fizdale will coach in Vogel's place, the Lakers said. The Bulls returned to the court after having two games postponed last week.

A number of assistant coaches and referees are also in the protocols, along with the 75 players. Among the players added Sunday was Golden State's Andrew Wiggins, who was reluctantly vacci-

nated before the season to play home games in San Francisco.

In Phoenix on Sunday, officials Zach Zarba and Eric Dalen were both scheduled to work the Suns game against Charlotte but were later put into the protocols. Bill Kennedy was brought in to work the game as part of a two-man crew with Brent Barnaky.

Chicago still doesn't have all of its players back yet, either. Among those listed as out Sunday and still in protocols is Olympic gold medalist Zach LaVine.

"We've got to be able to manage and control frustration, anger, disappointment," Bulls coach Billy Donovan said. "That's not going to serve anything well. It's just not. The league is making decisions. We've got to follow protocol and keep each other safe."

Brooklyn has a league-high 10 players, plus some staff, in the protocols.

"It's just crazy," Nets forward Blake Griffin said.

Brooklyn's list of players in protocols includes Kevin Durant, James Harden and — even though he's still not yet able to play — Kyrie Irving, who has sat out all season for not complying with New York City's vaccine mandate. The team reversed course Friday and said Irving would be welcomed back "for games and practices in which he is eligible to participate," knowing he'd still miss two games at the Knicks and trips to Toronto and Golden State.

The Nets had eight available players for Saturday night's game against Orlando. The Magic had nine, including four players — Al-eem Ford, Hassani Gravett, B.J. Johnson and Admiral Schofield — who were signed late last week to hardship contracts because of virus issues and injuries decimating Orlando's roster.

Magic coach Jamahl Mosley had all four on the court together in two separate stretches of Orlando's win.

# NBA-leading Suns rout Hornets 137-106 in Booker's return

By **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

PHOENIX — Devin Booker had 16 points in his return to Phoenix's lineup and the NBA-leading Suns set a season-scoring high in a 137-106 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Sunday night.

After missing seven games because of a hamstring injury, Booker played 26 minutes, and sat out the fourth quarter with Phoenix well ahead. The Suns improved to 24-5, moving a half-game ahead of Golden State.

Phoenix had nine players score in double figures. Javale McGee had 19 points in 16 minutes off the bench, and Mikal Bridges also scored 16 points. Deandre Ayton had 15 points and 15 rebounds. Landry Shamet also scored 15 points, Jae Crowder and Chris Paul had 14 each, Cam Johnson 12

and Cameron Payne 11.

Phoenix was 20 of 41 on 3-pointers and shot 56.8 percent overall.

Miles Bridges had 26 points for Charlotte, and former Sun Kelly Oubre Jr. had 16. LaMelo Ball had nine points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, but was 2 of 12 from the field and 1 of 6 from behind the arc.

**Bulls 115, Lakers 110**

CHICAGO — DeMar DeRozan scored 38 points after missing two weeks in the NBA's health and safety protocols, leading Chicago past Los Angeles.

Nikola Vucevic had 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Lonzo Ball added 19 points. Chicago played for the first time since Dec. 11 after two games were postponed.

LeBron James had 31 points for Los Angeles. Although the Lakers haven't had any games postponed, they currently have six players — Kent Bazemore, Avery Bradley, Talen Horton-Tucker, Dwight Howard, Malik Monk and Austin Reaves

— and coach Frank Vogel in the health and safety protocols. Assistant David Fizdale directed the team against the Bulls.

**Timberwolves 111, Mavericks 105**

MINNEAPOLIS — Karl-Anthony Towns scored 24 points, D'Angelo Russell added 22 and Minnesota beat Dallas in a matchup between short-handed teams dealing with recent COVID-19 issues.

Dallas, already without star guard Luka Doncic, placed two players in the health and safety protocols the past two days. Minnesota added Josh Okogie to the protocols and Anthony Edwards and Taurean Prince each missed their second game while in the protocols.

The Mavericks then lost forward Kristaps Porzingis in the third quarter with right foot soreness. Porzingis finished with 13 points and three rebounds.

Tim Hardaway Jr. had 28 points for Dallas.

**Trail Blazers 105, Grizzlies 100**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Damian Lillard scored 32 points, Norman

Powell added 28 and Portland beat Memphis to snap the Grizzlies' five-game winning streak.

Dillon Brooks scored a career-high 37 points for Memphis. The Grizzlies lost for the second time in their last 12 games.

Powell scored 20 in the second half to give the Trail Blazers their second straight victory after they snapped a seven-game losing streak with a home victory over Charlotte on Friday night.

Portland took the lead, 94-91, on a four-point play by Lillard with 4:02 left and reclaimed the advantage, 97-95, on a 3-pointer by Powell three minutes later. The Grizzlies had a chance to tie at 103 with 5.3 seconds to go, but Desmond Bane's 3-pointer rimmed out.

**Pistons 100, Heat 90**

DETROIT — Saddiq Bey scored 26 points and Detroit beat Miami to snap their losing streak at a franchise record-tying 14 games.

Hamidou Diallo had 15 points and seven rebounds for Detroit. The Pistons improved to 5-24, winning for the first time since Nov. 17 against Indiana.

Max Strus led short-handed

Miami with 24 points.

**Kings 121, Spurs 114**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Buddy Hield scored 18 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter and made seven 3-pointers to help Sacramento beat San Antonio.

Tyrese Haliburton added 27

points and matched his career high with 11 assists, and Damian Jones scored a career-high 23 points. The Kings won for the second time in six games.

Dejounte Murray had 25 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for San Antonio.



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Rick Scuteri / AP

Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker (1) is pressured by Charlotte Hornets guard LaMelo Ball during the second half of Sunday's game, in Phoenix.

## 2021 Holiday Appeal

WOW! This year has flown by like none before. Whether we were busy fighting Corona Virus or making sure our kids had the best Club experience possible; it's hard to believe the end of 2021 is upon us. The good news is that the Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus County have weathered each storm with grace and hopefully made our youth, parents, and community feel less stress knowing that their child is safe and well taken care of inside our blue doors.

This year has been tough, but helping kids shouldn't be. When you support the Boys & Girls Club of Citrus County, you turn everyday moments into great futures for kids who need us most.

- \$10 can give a kid an hour with a mentor.
- \$35 can feed 10 kids a nutritious snack they can count on.
- \$50 can provide books, supplies and learning activities to help seven children improve their reading skills and stay on track in school.

Now through Dec. 31, your donation to the Boys & Girls Club of Citrus County will ensure kids and families can continue accessing food, everyday necessities, learning support and positive adult influences who will help them overcome the toughest times in the year ahead. Together, let's give kids the moments they need now to make great futures possible.

Will you join us and invest in a child this giving season and help keep the Club affordable so no child who seeks our help is ever turned away. Please go to [www.bgccitrus.org](http://www.bgccitrus.org) and make a one time or monthly donation, become a 2022 Corporate Sponsor, by mail at 2021 S Suncoast Blvd. Homosassa Fl. 34448, or by texting BGCCITRUS to number 41444.

Travis Anderson  
Chief Executive Officer

# Dolphins extend winning streak to 6, rally past Jets

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI GARDENS — Duke Johnson grew up in the shadow of Hard Rock Stadium, went to high school a couple miles away and played his college football on the Miami Dolphins' field.

He'd waited a long time for a day like Sunday.

Johnson rushed for 107 yards and had a career-best two touchdowns, DeVante Parker caught an 11-yard touchdown pass from Tua Tagovailoa with 3:37 left and the Dolphins extended their winning streak to six games by topping the New York Jets 31-24 on Sunday.

"It means a lot," Johnson said. "Growing up in the area, just being able to play football and play well here, it meant a lot but it meant even more because we got the win. That helps."

Johnson — basically the go-to back for Miami as a last resort because of virus-related issues throughout the week — helped the Dolphins (7-7) rally from an early 10-0 deficit. It was the first 100-yard game from a Miami rusher this season.

His output wasn't the only surprise. Defensive lineman Christian Wilkins caught a touchdown pass early in the fourth quarter for Miami, juggling the ball before controlling it and then letting loose with a wild celebration. The 6-foot-4, 310-pound defensive lineman leaped into the stands, then did "the worm" in the end zone as teammates danced around him.

"That was awesome," said Tagovailoa, who ran over the Jets' Michael Carter II on a second-half rumble on a day filled with surprising plays by Miami. "That was cool, cool to see him score."

Brandin Echols had a 20-yard interception return for a touchdown midway through the fourth for the Jets (3-11). Zach Wilson and Braxton Berrios rushed for scores for New York; Wilson completed 13 of 23 passes for 170 yards for the Jets.

New York had a halftime lead for the first time all season, yet couldn't finish things off.

"We could never get anything rolling in the second half when it comes to sustaining drives," Jets coach Robert Saleh said.

Tagovailoa completed 16 of 27 passes for 196 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions for Miami.

The Dolphins became the second team in NFL history to get to 7-7 after starting a season 1-7. The other team on that list — the Jets, in 1974. The season was only 14 weeks back then, so that's where the Jets' turnaround ended and did so without a playoff berth.

Playoff talk is still a long way from real in Miami this season, but the Dolphins at least remain alive with games left to play



Wilfredo Lee / AP

Miami Dolphins defensive end Christian Wilkins (94) scores a touchdown as New York Jets linebacker Del'Shawn Phillips (43) missed the tackle during the second half of Sunday's game, in Miami Gardens.

against New Orleans, Tennessee and New England.

"It's the game we thought it was going to be," Dolphins coach Brian Flores said. "A 60-minute battle."

Berrios — back in the stadium where he, like Johnson, played his college football for Miami — opened the scoring by pinballing his way into the end zone from 2 yards out. Tagovailoa was picked off on the next Miami drive, which the Jets turned into a field goal and a 10-0 lead.

Johnson scored from a yard out to get the Dolphins on the scoreboard, only to have it answered by Wilson doing the same to restore the Jets' 10-point edge.

But Johnson tied it early in the third to cap an eight-play, 76-yard drive, and Wilkins gave Miami a 24-17 lead just 33 seconds into the fourth quarter. Tagovailoa's pick-6 throw cost Miami the lead, but then his pass to Parker ended up as the eventual winner.

"The O-line did a great job today up front with creating those opportunities for Duke to find a hole and hit it and find ways to bounce the ball and have Duke be himself," Tagovailoa said. "That's how he was his entire career and I'm glad we were able to witness that today."

Jets safety Elijah Riley was taken off the field on a backboard after injuring his neck during the third quarter. Riley's head was stabilized before he was removed from the field on a cart. Thankfully, it all ended up being precautionary: Saleh said Riley would return to New York with the Jets on Sunday night.

"That was tough," Jets cornerback Bryce Hall said of seeing Riley injured. "He's a warrior."

## Packers 31, Ravens 30

BALTIMORE — Aaron Rodgers threw

three touchdown passes — tying Brett Favre on Green Bay's career list — and the Packers became the first team this season to clinch a division title, wrapping up the NFC North with a win over Baltimore.

The Ravens missed another big 2-point conversion in the final minute.

With Lamar Jackson out with a sprained ankle, Tyler Huntley nearly led Baltimore (8-6) all the way back from a 31-17 deficit. His 8-yard touchdown run with 42 seconds left pulled the Ravens within one, but Huntley's 2-point conversion pass was incomplete.

It was the third consecutive loss for Baltimore, which also fell to Pittsburgh two weekends ago on a missed 2-point conversion in the final seconds. The Ravens fell into a first-place tie in the AFC North with Cincinnati.

Ravaged this season by injuries — especially in the secondary — Baltimore faced a difficult task trying to stop Rodgers and the Green Bay receivers. The Ravens mounted enough time-consuming drive of their own to keep the game close, but the Packers had the ball first after a 14-14 halftime tie and took advantage.

Baltimore appeared to have Green Bay (11-3) stopped on a third-down incompleteness, but minimal contact by Kevon Seymour was enough for a pass interference flag. Rodgers found Aaron Jones for a 9-yard touchdown on the next play.

## Bengals 15, Broncos 10

DENVER — Khalid Kareem snatched the ball from backup quarterback Drew Lock on second-and-goal early in the fourth quarter to help the Bengals stay in the thick of the logjammed AFC playoff race.

The Bengals (8-6) won despite star rookie receiver Ja'Marr Chase being held to a single catch for 3 yards and Tee Higgins managing only 23 yards on two catches.

The Broncos (7-7) saw their postseason hopes whittled with their fourth home loss of the season.

Lock was in for Teddy Bridgewater, who was taken to the hospital in the third quarter for further evaluation of a head injury after he was carted off the field following a scary collision that also sent Bengals linebacker Joe Bachie from the game with a leg injury. Bridgewater had movement in his

extremities and coach Vic Fangio said he'd be held overnight for observation but was expected to be OK.

## Steelers 19, Titans 13

PITTSBURGH — Ben Roethlisberger ran for his first touchdown in three years and Chris Boswell kicked four field goals to keep their playoff hopes alive.

The Steelers (7-6-1) forced the Titans (9-5) into four turnovers and needed every one of them to win for the second time in three games. The Titans let a winnable game slip away, trimming their lead over Indianapolis in the AFC South to one game.

Despite the miscues, Tennessee drove deep into Pittsburgh territory in the final moments, but wide receiver Nick Westbrook-Ikhine was tackled inches short of the first down at the Steelers 11 with 27 seconds to go.

Pittsburgh remained in the mix in the muddled AFC North despite managing just 168 yards of total offense. Roethlisberger threw for 148 yards to move past Philip Rivers into fifth on the NFL's career yards passing list, but it was his legs — and Pittsburgh's resilient defense — that provided the difference.

## Cowboys 21, Giants 6

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence forced a fumble and made two other big plays that led to 15 points and the NFL-East leading Cowboys inched closer to a playoff berth.

Dak Prescott threw for a touchdown, Ezekiel Elliott scored on a 13-yard run and the defense forced four turnovers, including Trevon Diggs' NFL-leading 10th interception. The Cowboys (10-4) won their third straight. Greg Zuerlein added three field goals.

Graham Gano kicked field goals of 35 and 42 yards as the Giants (4-10) lost their third straight game with backup Mike Glennon starting for the injured Daniel Jones (neck).

## Lions 30, Cardinals 12

DETROIT — Kyler Murray's shaky performance against the team with the worst record in the NFL led to Arizona's first road loss of the season.

The Cardinals (10-4) started the day tied for the NFL's best record, but were coming off a loss to the Rams. The Lions (2-11-1) were mired at the bottom of the league standings before the first snap.

## NFL

### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

#### East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	5	0	.643	367	227
Buffalo	8	6	0	.571	394	243
Miami	7	7	0	.500	285	312
e-N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	.214	250	428

#### South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	9	5	0	.643	337	309
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	398	300
e-Houston	3	11	0	.214	207	372
e-Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	196	370

#### North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	334	315
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	369	303
Cleveland	7	6	0	.538	278	289
Pittsburgh	7	6	1	.536	291	335

#### West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	10	4	0	.714	385	296
L.A. Chargers	8	6	0	.571	379	370
Denver	7	7	0	.500	285	243
Las Vegas	6	7	0	.462	283	360

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

#### East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	10	4	0	.714	401	293
Phila.	6	7	0	.462	337	291
Washington	6	7	0	.462	266	324
N.Y. Giants	4	10	0	.286	238	331

#### South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	10	3	0	.769	410	297
New Orleans	6	7	0	.462	304	285
Atlanta	6	8	0	.429	258	384
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	271	313

#### North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	11	3	0	.786	359	302
Minnesota	6	7	0	.462	344	333
Chicago	4	9	0	.308	231	332
e-Detroit	2	11	1	.179	243	366

#### West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	10	4	0	.714	378	284
L.A. Rams	9	4	0	.692	366	293
San Francisco	8	6	0	.571	360	314
Seattle	5	8	0	.385	272	262

e-Eliminated from playoffs

### Thursday's Games

Kansas City 34, L.A. Chargers 28, OT

### Saturday's Games

Indianapolis 27, New England 17

### Sunday's Games

Buffalo 31, Carolina 14

Dallas 21, N.Y. Giants 6

Detroit 30, Arizona 12

Houston 30, Jacksonville 16

Miami 31, N.Y. Jets 24

Pittsburgh 19, Tennessee 13

Cincinnati 15, Denver 10

San Francisco 31, Atlanta 13

Green Bay 31, Baltimore 30

New Orleans at Tampa Bay

### Monday's Games

Las Vegas at Cleveland, 5 p.m.

Minnesota at Chicago, 8:15 p.m.

### Tuesday's Games

Seattle at L.A. Rams, 7 p.m.

Washington at Phila., 7 p.m.

### CINCINNATI 15, DENVER 10

Cincinnati 3 3 9 0 — 15

Denver 0 3 7 0 — 10

#### First Quarter

Cin—FG McPherson 53, 6:34.

#### Second Quarter

Den—FG McManus 54, 10:44.

Cin—FG McPherson 58, :00.

#### Third Quarter

Cin—FG McPherson 26, 6:21.

Den—T.Patrick 25 pass from Lock (McMa-

### SAN FRANCISCO 31, ATLANTA 13

Atlanta 3 7 3 0 — 13

San Francisco 3 14 14 0 — 31

#### First Quarter

Atl—FG Koo 48, 7:12.

SF—FG Goolack 30, 1:21.

#### Second Quarter

SF—Jusczyk 6 run (Gould kick), 9:14.

Atl—Gage 20 pass from Ryan (Koo kick), 4:00.

SF—Samuel 10 run (Gould kick), :33.

#### Third Quarter

SF—Je.Wilson 5 run (Gould kick), 11:11.

Atl—FG Koo 22, 6:28.

SF—Jennings 4 pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick), 1:17.

A—71,650.

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Cincinnati, Mixon 17-58, Perine 4-30, Burrow 5-25, Denver, J.Williams 15-72, Gordon 15-53, Bridgewater 3-10, Lock 1(-minus) 2.

Passing—Cincinnati, Burrow 15-22-0-157.

Denver, Bridgewater 12-22-0-98, Lock 6-12-0-88.

Receiving—Cincinnati, Boyd 5-96, Uzomah 3-18, Higgins 2-23, Perine 2-13, Chazem 1-5-7, J.Williams 4-9, Okwuegbunam 3-58, T.Patrick 3-42, Sutton 2-12, Gordon 1-8.

Missed Field Goals—Denver, McManus 1-1.

#### GREEN BAY 31, BALTIMORE 30

Green Bay 0 14 7 10 — 31

Baltimore 7 7 3 13 — 30

#### First Quarter

Bal—Andrews 8 pass from Huntley (Tucker kick), 2:33.

#### Second Quarter

GB—Dillon 2 run (Crosby kick), 12:50.

Bal—Andrews 9 pass from Huntley (Tucker kick), 7:07.

GB—Adams 3 pass from Aa.Rodgers (Crosby kick), 1:09.

#### Third Quarter

GB—Jones 9 pass from Aa.Rodgers (Crosby kick), 7:40.

Bal—FG Tucker 38, 3:20.

#### Fourth Quarter

GB—Valdes-Scantling 11 pass from Aa.Rodgers (Crosby kick), 12:54.

GB—FG Crosby 29, 9:26.

Bal—Huntley 3 run (Tucker kick), 4:47.

Bal—Huntley 8 run (pass failed), :42.

A—70,815.

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

First downs 26

Total Net Yards 346

Rushes-yards 25-96

Passing 250

Punt Returns 0-0

Kickoff Returns 5-76

Interceptions Ret. 0-0

Comp-Att-Int 23-31-0

Sacked-Yards Lost 3-18

Punts 3-48.667

Fumbles-Lost 0-0

Penalties-Yards 8-76

Time of Possession 31:10

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Green Bay, Jones 13-58, Dillon 7-22, Aa.Rodgers 4-11, Lazard 1-5, Baltimore, Huntley 13-73, Murray 7-48, Freeman 6-22.

Passing—Green Bay, Aa.Rodgers 23-31-0-268, Baltimore, Huntley 28-40-0-215.

Receiving—Green Bay, Adams 6-44, Valdes-Scantling 5-98, Lewis 3-40, Deguara 3-16, Lazard 2-23, Jones 2-12, T.Davis 1-22, Dillon 1-13, Baltimore, Andrews 10-136, Brown 10-43, Duvernay 3-13, Proche 1-8, Bateman 1-5, Wallace 1-5, Murray 1-3, Freeman 1-2.

Missed Field Goals—None.

### BUFFALO 31, CAROLINA 14

Carolina 0 8 0 6 — 14

Buffalo 0 17 7 7 — 31

#### Second Quarter

Bu—Singletary 16 run (Bass kick), 14:13.

Bu—Diggs 11 pass

# Sports returned, but not way we remembered

2021 Year in review

By **EDDIE PELLIS**  
AP National Writer

The fans came back, and even if their money was no good at arenas and stadiums, their credit cards and payment apps certainly were.

Though the sports we watch brought with them a façade of “back to normal” as the pandemic-altered 2021 came to a close, a new reality took root this year: Every game, every practice, every season is a positive test or outbreak away from being postponed or compromised or canceled.

Nobody can take any of this for granted anymore.

That’s one of the many ways the COVID-19 pandemic carved away at the “old normal” in 2021, a year in which sports came back from the total shutdown the coronavirus triggered in 2020 – but not quite in the way we remembered.

Take March Madness. After being scrubbed in 2020, the college hoops extravaganza returned. But even the term “March Madness” lost a bit of its fun-loving insouciance when, thanks to a video posted on social media by Oregon’s Sedona Prince, the inequities between the men’s tournament, which used the moniker, and the women’s, which did not, were spelled out in stark terms.

COVID-19 forced the NCAA to hold the entirety of both tournaments in one city – the men in Indianapolis, the women in San Antonio – and the ability of the players, and the media, to compare the events side by side, apples to apples, forced the NCAA to confront the ugly reality that, Title IX be damned, it does not treat the women as equals to the men.

That led to a gender-equity study that called for a number of changes – in how the NCAA budgets for the tournaments and, yes, in what it calls them. The “March Madness” brand now belongs to the women, too.

In another change with roots in the pandemic, the days of elite athletes being judged solely on the titles they win, the points they score or the medals they bring home appear numbered – if not gone for good.

The face of that movement was gymnast Simone Biles, who, like so many other Olympians, extended her training an additional 12 months, while also enduring a year more of scrutiny and pressure in the leadup to the delayed Tokyo Games.

Overwhelmed by it all, Biles stepped away in the middle of the gold-medal team competition, and in doing so, changed the conversation for the rest of the Olympics, and the rest of sports.

“We also have to focus on ourselves, because at the end of the day we’re human, too,” Biles said shortly after her withdrawal.

The words shouldn’t have needed saying, but they did. Combined with similar expressions from tennis champion Naomi Osaka, they slapped an exclamation point on a long-under-the-radar discussion about athletes and mental health.

Not every change or gain or loss in the 2021 return to sports had to do with COVID-19.

Tiger Woods was in a scary one-car accident in February that could’ve spelled the end of his competitive playing days. His leg reconstructed after the crash, Woods, who turns 46 on New Year’s Eve, conceded his days of being a week-to-week contender – or a contender at all – in top-level golf could be over.

After a jumbled year in horse racing, the calendar returned to normal in 2021, but the sport did not. Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit’s victory was tainted by a drug scandal, then in December, the horse died during a training run – a tragic series of events that underscored the drug (and other) problems long embedded in that sport.

Elsewhere in the world of legalized sports gambling, the big-time American leagues all completely did away with the long-held charade that their games were being consumed simply for the fun of it.

As sports betting continued to grow and become legal in more states, it mushroomed into a \$150 billion business, by conservative estimates. Leagues such as the NFL, which for decades pretended gambling had no place in its game, went all-in and actively embraced some of the biggest sportsbooks as big-money sponsors.

That gave fans another way to engage in the games they love, while giving the leagues a new source of revenue and a new way to capture eyeballs. All good, it seems, especially given that the leagues, at least on the surface, have set aside the old worries about game-fixing, corruption and integrity that, for decades, made them reluctant to



AP  
ABOVE: Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson signs autographs for fans before an Aug. 28 game against the Los Angeles Chargers, in Seattle. BELOW: Simone Biles, of the United States, stand on the mat during the warm up prior to the artistic gymnastics balance beam final at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Aug. 3 in Tokyo, Japan.



AP  
ABOVE: Players get set for the opening tipoff at the start of a men’s Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament semifinal game between Baylor and Houston, April 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. BELOW: Fans walk through security at the Wells Fargo Center before an NHL hockey game between the Philadelphia Flyers and the Washington Capitals, March 7 in Philadelphia.

accept full-blown wagering.

And while legalized wagering is changing the experience of watching a game, COVID-19 is changing the experience of going to one.

The typical security check fans encounter upon entering most arenas now includes a request for proof of vaccine and/or a negative PCR test. Masks are required in some venues. Cash transactions and paper tickets are becoming things of the past. Contactless payments are in.

All this, of course, is assuming the game is even going on. The slow trickle of positive tests and team outbreaks that lightly but

consistently disrupted the sports calendar through the spring and summer turned into a more steady stream as Christmas approached and the omicron variant of the virus spread.

Practices were canceled. Games were called off. Teams and leagues tried clamping down with more stringent vaccine and testing rules.

All was being done in hopes of keeping things moving along – keeping the fans happy, the players healthy, the revenue flowing and keeping on with “business as usual.” But if nothing else, what the return to sports taught us all in 2021 is that no such thing exists anymore.



**NHL**

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Tampa Bay	29	19	6	4	42	94	77
Toronto	30	20	8	2	42	98	76
Florida	29	18	7	4	40	104	87
Detroit	31	15	13	3	33	88	104
Boston	26	14	10	2	30	71	69
Buffalo	30	10	15	5	25	82	104
Ottawa	28	9	17	2	20	79	101
Montreal	31	7	21	3	17	67	109

WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Minnesota	29	19	8	2	40	108	85
Nashville	30	19	10	1	39	89	79
St. Louis	31	17	9	5	39	106	85
Colorado	27	17	8	2	36	115	91
Winnipeg	30	14	11	5	33	90	87
Dallas	28	14	12	2	30	75	81
Chicago	30	11	15	4	26	72	97
Arizona	29	6	21	2	14	56	109

Pacific Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	31	20	11	0	40	111	94
Anaheim	32	17	9	6	40	103	89
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87	62
Edmonton	29	18	11	0	36	101	90
Los Angeles	30	14	11	5	33	80	79
San Jose	30	15	14	1	31	78	85
Vancouver	31	14	15	2	30	81	90
Seattle	30	10	17	3	23	84	108

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

**Saturday's Games**  
 Carolina 5, Los Angeles 1  
 Philadelphia 4, Ottawa 3, OT  
 Detroit 5, New Jersey 2  
 Dallas 4, Chicago 3, OT  
 Edmonton 5, Seattle 3  
 Florida at Minnesota, ppd  
 Boston at Montreal, ppd  
 Toronto at Vancouver, ppd  
 Tampa Bay at Colorado, ppd  
 Columbus at Calgary, ppd

**Sunday's Games**  
 Vegas 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, SO  
 Winnipeg 4, St. Louis 2  
 Pittsburgh 3, New Jersey 2  
 Los Angeles 3, Washington 2  
 Boston at Ottawa, ppd  
 Nashville at Carolina, ppd  
 Toronto at Seattle, ppd  
 Arizona at Vancouver, ppd

**Monday's Games**  
 Columbus at Buffalo, 7 p.m.  
 Montreal at N.Y. Islanders, ppd  
 Colorado at Detroit, ppd  
 Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
 Anaheim at Edmonton, ppd

**Tuesday's Games**  
 Carolina at Boston, ppd  
 New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.  
 St. Louis at Ottawa, ppd  
 Washington at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
 Winnipeg at Nashville, ppd  
 Florida at Chicago, ppd  
 Anaheim at Calgary, ppd  
 Arizona at Seattle, 10 p.m.  
 Tampa Bay at Vegas, 10 p.m.  
 Vancouver at San Jose, ppd

**Wednesday's Games**  
 Colorado at Buffalo, ppd  
 Montreal at N.Y. Rangers, ppd  
 Winnipeg at Dallas, ppd  
 Edmonton at Los Angeles, ppd

**NBA**

EASTERN CONFERENCE				GB
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct		
Brooklyn	21	9	.700	—
Boston	15	15	.500	6
Phila.	15	15	.500	6
Toronto	14	15	.483	6½
New York	13	17	.433	8

Southeast Division				GB
W	L	Pct		
Miami	18	13	.581	—
Washington	16	15	.516	2
Charlotte	16	16	.500	2½
Atlanta	14	15	.483	3
Orlando	6	25	.194	12

Central Division				GB
W	L	Pct		
Chicago	18	10	.643	—
Cleveland	19	12	.613	½
Milwaukee	19	13	.594	1
Indiana	13	18	.419	6½
Detroit	5	24	.172	13½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				GB
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct		
Memphis	19	12	.613	—
Dallas	14	15	.483	4
San Antonio	11	18	.379	7
Houston	10	20	.333	8½
New Orleans	10	21	.323	9

Northwest Division				GB
W	L	Pct		
Utah	20	9	.690	—
Denver	15	14	.517	5
Minnesota	15	15	.500	5½
Portland	13	18	.419	8
Oklahoma City	9	19	.321	10½

Pacific Division				GB
W	L	Pct		
Phoenix	24	5	.828	—
Golden State	24	6	.800	½
L.A. Clippers	16	14	.533	8½
L.A. Lakers	16	15	.516	9
Sacramento	13	18	.419	12

**Saturday's Games**  
 Houston 116, Detroit 107  
 Boston 114, New York 107  
 Toronto 119, Golden State 100  
 Orlando 100, Brooklyn 93  
 Oklahoma City 104, L.A. Clippers 103  
 Cleveland 119, Milwaukee 90  
 Washington 109, Utah 103

**Sunday's Games**  
 Sacramento 121, San Antonio 114  
 Detroit 100, Miami 90  
 Portland 105, Memphis 100  
 Phoenix 137, Charlotte 106  
 Chicago 115, L.A. Lakers 110  
 Minnesota 111, Dallas 105  
 New Orleans at Phila., ppd  
 Cleveland at Atlanta, ppd  
 Denver at Brooklyn, ppd

**Monday's Games**  
 Orlando at Toronto, ppd  
 Phila. at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
 Houston at Chicago, 8 p.m.  
 Oklahoma City at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
 Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.  
 Sacramento at Golden State, 10 p.m.  
 San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

**Tuesday's Games**  
 Detroit at New York, 7:30 p.m.  
 Indiana at Miami, 7:30 p.m.  
 Washington at Brooklyn, ppd  
 Portland at New Orleans, 8 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
 Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

**Wednesday's Games**  
 Cleveland at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
 Orlando at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
 Denver at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.  
 Houston at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.  
 Toronto at Chicago, 8 p.m.  
 L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

**Friday, Dec. 17**  
**Bahamas Bowl**  
 Nassau, Bahamas  
 Middle Tennessee 31, Toledo 24

**Cure Bowl**  
 Orlando, Fla.  
 Coastal Carolina 47, N. Illinois 41

**Saturday, Dec. 18**  
**Boca Raton Bowl**  
 Boca Raton, Fla.  
 W. Kentucky 59, Appalachian St. 38

**Celebration Bowl**  
 Atlanta  
 SC State 31, Jackson St. 10

**New Mexico Bowl**  
 Albuquerque  
 Fresno St. 31, UTEP 24

**Independence Bowl**  
 Shreveport, La.  
 UAB 31, No. 12 BYU 28

**LendingTree Bowl**  
 Mobile, Ala.  
 Liberty 56, E. Michigan 20

**LA Bowl**  
 Inglewood, Calif.  
 Utah St. 24, Oregon St. 13

**New Orleans Bowl**  
 New Orleans  
 No. 16 Louisiana-Lafayette 36, Marshall 21

**Monday, Dec. 20**  
**Myrtle Beach Bowl**  
 Conway, S.C.  
 Old Dominion (6-6) vs. Tulsa (6-6), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Tuesday, Dec. 21**  
**Famous Idaho Potato Bowl**

**FLORIDA LOTTERY**

**Sunday's winning numbers**

**Cash4Life**  
 07-32-34-42-51, Cash Ball: 3

**Mega Millions jackpot**  
 \$171 million

**Pick 2 Evening**  
 3-5, Fireball: 5

**Pick 2 Midday**  
 3-7, Fireball: 4

**Pick 3 Evening**  
 5-5-0, Fireball: 5

**Pick 3 Midday**  
 0-8-3, Fireball: 4

**Pick 4 Evening**  
 6-5-5-5, Fireball: 5

**Pick 4 Midday**  
 8-4-6-8, Fireball: 4

**Pick 5 Evening**  
 8-5-9-4-1, Fireball: 5

**Pick 5 Midday**  
 4-6-8-9-9, Fireball: 4

**ON THE AIRWAVES**

**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

**6:30 p.m. (FS1)** Creighton at DePaul  
**7 p.m. (BTN)** Incarnate Word at Purdue  
**7 p.m. (SUN)** Stetson at Miami  
**8 p.m. (ACCN)** Western Michigan at Notre Dame  
**8:30 p.m. (FS1)** St. John's at Seton Hall

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

**2:30 p.m. (ESPN)** Myrtle Beach Bowl: Old Dominion vs Tulsa  
**NFL**  
**5 p.m. (NFL)** Las Vegas Raiders at Cleveland Browns  
**8 p.m. (ABC, ESPN)** Minnesota Vikings at Chicago Bears

**HOCKEY**

**8 p.m. (NBCSPT)** Women: USA vs. Canada  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER**  
**9:30 a.m. (SEC)** SEC Championship: Arkansas vs Tennessee (Taped)

**PREP CALENDAR**

**TODAY'S PREP SPORTS**

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**5:30 p.m.** Lecanto vs. Umatilla at Weeki Wachee Invite

**Boise, Idaho**  
 Kent State (7-6) vs. Wyoming (6-6), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Frisco Bowl**  
 Frisco, Texas  
 No. 24 UTSA (12-1) vs. San Diego St. (11-2), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Wednesday, Dec. 22**  
**Armed Forces Bowl**  
 Fort Worth, Texas  
 Missouri (6-6) vs. Army (8-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

**Thursday, Dec. 23**  
**Frisco Football Classic**  
 Frisco, Texas  
 Miami (Ohio) (7-5) vs. North Texas (6-6), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Gasparilla Bowl**  
 Tampa, Fla.  
 UCF (8-4) vs. Florida (6-6), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

**Friday, Dec. 24**  
**Hawaii Bowl**  
 Honolulu  
 Memphis (6-6) vs. Hawaii (6-7), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

**Saturday, Dec. 25**  
**Camellia Bowl**  
 Montgomery, Ala.  
 Ball St. (6-6) vs. Georgia St. (7-5), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Monday, Dec. 27**  
**Quick Lane Bowl**  
 Detroit  
 Nevada (8-4) vs. W. Michigan (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

**Military Bowl**  
 Annapolis, Md.  
 Boston College (6-6) vs. East Carolina (7-5), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Washington St. (7-5) vs. Miami (7-5), Noon (CBS)**

**Arizona Bowl**  
 Tucson, Ariz.  
 Cent. Michigan (8-4) vs. Boise St. (7-5), 2 p.m. (Barstool Sports)

**Saturday, Jan. 1**  
**Outback Bowl**  
 Tampa, Fla.  
 No. 22 Arkansas (8-4) vs. Penn St. (7-5), Noon (ESPN2)

**Citrus Bowl**  
 Orlando, Fla.  
 No. 17 Iowa (10-3) vs. No. 25 Kentucky (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)

**Fiesta Bowl**  
 Glendale, Ariz.  
 No. 5 Notre Dame (11-1) vs. No. 9 Oklahoma St. (11-2), 1 p.m. (ESPN)

**Rose Bowl**  
 Pasadena, Calif.  
 No. 7 Ohio St. (10-2) vs. No. 10 Utah (10-3), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

**Sugar Bowl**  
 New Orleans  
 No. 6 Baylor (11-2) vs. No. 8 Mississippi (10-2), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Tuesday, Jan. 4**  
**Texas Bowl**  
 Houston  
 LSU (6-6) vs. Kansas St. (7-5), 9 p.m. (ESPN)

**Monday, Jan. 8**  
**College Football Championship**  
 Indianapolis  
 Semifinal winners, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

**TRANSACTIONS**

**BASKETBALL**  
**DENVER NUGGETS** — Signed G Davon Reed to a 10-day contract.  
**PHILADELPHIA 76ERS** — Signed G Myles Powell to a two-way contract.

**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
**BUFFALO BILLS** — Placed OL Jon Feliciano on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**LOS ANGELES RAMS** — Reinstated CB Jalen Ramsey and DB Grant Haley from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Designated RB Jake Funk to return from injured reserve. Promoted DB Kareem Orr and DB Damarious Randall to the active roster.  
**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** — Reinstated WR Quez Watkins and RB Jason Huntley from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed OL London Dickerson on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** — Placed DB D.J. Reed, OT Brandon Shell, RB Travis Homer, DE Kerry Hyder, OL Pier-Olivier Lestage and CB Mike Jackson on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM** — Reinstated WR Cam Sims and DE Daniel Wise from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

**HOCKEY**  
**National Hockey League**  
**NHL** — Suspended Chicago F Brett Connolly four games without pay for interference against Dallas F Tanner Kero in the first period of Saturday's game.  
**ARIZONA COYOTES** — Recalled C Blake Speers and RW Jan Jenik from Tucson (AHL).  
**CAROLINA HURRICANES** — Reassigned RW Josh Leivo, LW C.J. Smith and C Andrew Poturalski to Chicago (AHL).  
**CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS** — Reassigned LW Josiah Slavin and D Ian Mitchell to Rockford (AHL).  
**COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS** — Reassigned D Jake Christiansen to Cleveland (AHL).  
**DETROIT RED WINGS** — Reassigned D Dan Renuit to Grand Rapids (AHL).  
**EDMONTON OILERS** — Recalled C Cooper Marody from Bakersfield (AHL).  
**LOS ANGELES KINGS** Reassigned G Jacob Ingham to Manchester (ECHL). Recalled G Garrett Sparks from Ontario (AHL).  
**MONTREAL CANADIENS** — Recalled Lws Lukas Vejdemo and Rafael Harvey-Pinard and RW Alex Belzile from Laval (AHL).  
**NEW JERSEY DEVILS** Recalled F Chase De Leo from Utica (AHL).  
**TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS** — Signed LW Ty Voit to a three-year, entry level contract.  
**WASHINGTON CAPITALS** — Recalled F Joe Snively from Hershey (AHL). Added RW T.J. Oshie to the COVID-19 protocol list.  
**WINNIPEG JETS** — Recalled C Kritian Reichel and LW C.J. Suess from Manitoba (AHL).

**NO. 21 Houston (11-2) vs. Auburn (6-6), Noon (ESPN)**

**SERVPRO First Responder Bowl**  
 Dallas  
 Air Force (9-3) vs. Louisville (6-6), 3:15 p.m. (ESPN)

**Liberty Bowl**  
 Memphis, Tenn.  
 Mississippi St. (7-5) vs. Texas Tech (6-6), 6:45 p.m. (ESPN)

**Holiday Bowl**  
 San Diego  
 UCLA (8-4) vs. No. 18 NC State (9-3), 8 p.m. (FOX)

**Guaranteed Rate Bowl**  
 Phoenix  
 Minnesota (8-4) vs. West Virginia (6-6), 10:15 p.m. (ESPN)

**Wednesday, Dec. 29**  
**Fenway Bowl**  
 Boston  
 Virginia (6-6) vs. SMU (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

**Pinstripe Bowl**  
 New York  
 Virginia Tech (6-6) vs. Maryland (6-6), 2:15 p.m. (ESPN)

**Cheez-It Bowl**  
 Orlando, Fla.  
 No. 19 Clemson (9-3) vs. Iowa St. (7-5), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN)

**Alamo Bowl**  
 San Antonio  
 No. 14 Oklahoma (10-2) vs. No. 15 Oregon (10-3), 9:15 a.m. (ESPN)

**Thursday, Dec. 30**  
**Duke's Mayo Bowl**  
 Charlotte, N.C.  
 South Carolina (6-6) vs. North Carolina (6-6), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)

**Music City Bowl**  
 Nashville  
 Purdue (8-4) vs. Tennessee (7-5), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

**Peach Bowl**  
 Atlanta  
 No. 11 Michigan St. (10-2) vs. No. 13 Pittsburgh (11-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

**Las Vegas Bowl**  
 Las Vegas  
 Wisconsin (8-4) vs. Arizona St. (8-4), 10:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Friday, Dec. 31**  
**College Football Playoff Semifinal Orange Bowl**  
 Miami Gardens, Fla.  
 No. 2 Michigan (12-1) vs. No. 3 Georgia (12-1), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**College Football Playoff Semifinal Cotton Bowl Classic**  
 Arlington, Texas  
 No. 1 Alabama (12-1) vs. No. 4 Cincinnati (13-0), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Gator Bowl**  
 Jacksonville, Fla.  
 No. 20 Wake Forest (10-3) vs. No. 23 Texas A&M (8-4), 10 a.m. (ESPN)

**Sun Bowl**  
 El Paso, Texas

**GOLF**

**PNC Championship**  
 Sunday  
**At Ritz-Carlton Golf Course, Orlando, Fla.**  
**Purse: \$1,085,000; Yardage: 7,106; Par: 72**

**Final Round**

Team Daly, \$200,000	60-57—117	-27
Team Woods, \$80,000	62-57—119	-25
Team Thomas, \$53,625	60-60—120	-24
Team Cink, \$53,625	59-61—120	-24
Team Lehman, \$48,500	62-61—123	-21
Team Singh, \$48,500	61-62—123	-21
Team Kuchar, \$47,000	62-62—124	-20
Team O'Meara, \$45,500	63-62—125	-19
Team Stenson, \$45,500	62-63—125	-19
Team Beem, \$44,250	65-61—126	-18
Team Player, \$44,250	62-64—126	-18
Team Korda, \$43,500	63-64—127	-17
Team Duval, \$42,750	65-63—128	-16
Team B. Watson, \$42,750	63-65—128	-16
Team Harrington, \$42,000	67-62—129	-15
Team T. Watson, \$40,812.50	65-65—130	-14
Team Furyk, \$40,812.50	65-65—130	-14
Team Price, \$40,812.50	65-65—130	-14
Team Faldo, \$40,812.50	62-68—130	-14
Team Trevino, \$40,000	64-67—131	-13



Scott Audette / AP

Tiger Woods hugs son Charlie Woods on the 18th green after the second round of the PNC Championship golf tournament, Sunday in Orlando.

**PNC**

From page B1

and his son three years ago.

“Yesterday, it was all him. I putted so bad,” Daly said. “I finally hit some decent shots. He played unbelievable. I played a little better today. I made him happy.”

The most famous encounter between Woods and Daly was in 2005 at Harding Park in a World Golf Championship, which ended in a playoff when Daly three-putted from 15 feet.

Woods was charging again – Tiger and Charlie – except Team Daly didn’t flinch. Daly hit 7-iron into the wind to short range on the 16th for birdie, and he coaxed in a 4-foot par putt on the 17th to stay ahead.

The most popular offseason event that pairs major champions and a family member suddenly felt tense on a warm Florida afternoon, all because of Woods and everything that led to him playing again.

Woods suffered multiple injuries to his right leg on Feb. 23 when his SUV traveling about 85 mph crashed through a median and down a hill in the Los Angeles suburbs.

# Golden Knights edge Islanders in SO in Lehner's return

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Shea Theodore scored twice and added another in the shootout, former Islander Robin Lehner made 29 saves and the Vegas Golden Knights beat New York 4-3 on Sunday for their fifth straight victory.

Theodore scored on the Golden Knights' first shootout attempt after his second goal of the game tied it with 48 seconds remaining in regulation. Nicholas Roy also scored for Vegas in the shootout as the Golden Knights won for the eighth time in nine games.

"It was fun game to play today. It was nice to get the win," said Lehner, who helped the Islanders reach the playoffs in 2018-19, his lone season with the team. "It was a hard-fought game. It was fun to win in the shootout."

An emotional Lehner, whose public acknowledgment of his struggles with depression and mental illness endeared him to the Islanders fan base, said his return and subsequent victory on Sunday extended well beyond hockey.

"There are so many factors to Long Island the people here," he said. "They gave me back the love for hockey and me and my family the love for life again. It was emotional seeing everyone."

Theodore scored his second goal of the game with Lehner pulled for an extra skater. He shot from the top of the high slot just inside the blueline. Jonathan Marchessault also scored in regulation for Vegas.

"We stuck with it, we're a resilient team, Marches-



Vegas Golden Knights' Nicolas Roy (10) scores the winning penalty shot past New York Islanders' goalie Ilya Sorokin during Sunday's game, in Elmont, N.Y.

sault said. "We won't quit in any game. We're trying to stay in the fight always."

The tying goal came after Jean-Gabriel Pageau put the Islanders ahead 3-2 with 2:20 left in the third. Kieffer Bellows and Brock Nelson also scored for New York, and Ilya Sorokin made 31 saves.

"I thought in the third period we were really good. We needed a clear or a block right at the end and we didn't get it," Islanders coach Barry Trotz said.

The Golden Knights completed a three-game sweep of New York-area teams, having defeated the Devils on Thursday and the Rangers on Friday. Vegas also beat Boston to start the trip.

"I don't think anyone ever predicts you can sweep a four-game road trip. Golden Knights coach Pete De-

Boer said. "Our game is starting to trend in a good direction."

Witnessing the outpouring for Lehner at UBS Arena impressed Marchessault.

"I couldn't believe it how he's so appreciated here," Marchessault said. "I was really happy to be part of that and to see that."

During a short video tribute early in the first period, Lehner pointed to a tattoo in the shape of Long Island on his neck and gave the cheering crowd a thumbs up while standing near the Golden Knights bench.

"It's been a long time. I've been anxious to get back," he said. "I wanted to show my appreciation and give back a little bit of what they gave to me."

Lehner even shaved his beard before the game, adhering to the rules put forth

by his former general manager, Lou Lamoriello.

"I did it for him, no one else," Lehner said. "He's one of the best GMs in the league. I respect him more than most. What a man he is, same with Trotz."

## Jets 4, Blues 2

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Line-mates Nikolaj Ehlers, Mark Scheifele and Paul Stastny accounted for all the goals and the Winnipeg Jets beat the St. Louis Blues to give interim head coach Dave Lowry his first victory.

Stastny scored twice and added an assist, Ehlers had a goal and three assists, and Scheifele had a goal and assist to help the Jets end a three-game winless streak and improve to 14-11-5.

"It was a big game," Stastny said. "It was a big win for us. It was something we needed big time, confidence-wise for the morale and everything. It's nice that Dave got his first win as well." Connor Hellebuyck made 26

saves for Winnipeg, the only Canadian team playing Sunday because of COVID-19 postponements for Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver.

It was the second game behind the bench for Lowry. He took over for the rest of the season after Paul Maurice resigned Friday.

Vladimir Tarasenko and Niko Mikkola scored for St. Louis, and Jordan Binnington stopped 30 shots. The Blues had a seven-game points streak end.

"It wasn't our best defensive effort," Blues forward Ryan O'Reilly said. "We kind of got caught on our heels a little bit too much tonight. Give them credit, they came super aggressive."

The game was the last for a while for Winnipeg and St. Louis, after the NHL announced Sunday that teams can't cross the border to play starting Monday through the beginning of the holiday break because of rising COVID-19 cases. Games will be postponed and rescheduled.

Winnipeg's Tuesday game in Nashville had already been postponed, but now a Dallas contest the next day follows suit. St. Louis now won't be playing in Ottawa on Tuesday or Toronto on Thursday.

"You could see it coming kind of," Scheifele said. "We weren't really sure, so obviously we know now and waiting to see what all transpires. We'll keep rolling with the punches."

## Penguins 3, Devils 2

NEWARK, N.J. — Danton Heinen, Teddy Blueger and Mike Matheson scored in the Pittsburgh Penguins' seventh straight win, beating the New Jersey Devils.

Tristan Jarry made 17 saves for Pittsburgh, and Dominik Simon, Chad Ruhwedel, Marcus Pettersson and Jason Zucker each had assists as the team improved to 12-2-1 in its past 15 games. The Penguins have allowed just 10 goals in their past seven games.

Forwards Janne Kuokkanen and Nathan Bastian scored for New Jersey, and Jon Gillies stopped 19 shots in his first start for the Devils since being acquired from the St. Louis Blues on Wednesday. New Jersey lost its sixth straight and fell for the 12th time in its past 13 games.

The Penguins' penalty kill, which has allowed an NHL-low six power-play goals, stymied four of New Jersey's five power-play chances.

Pittsburgh's first goal came at 9:19 of the first period on a power-play when Blueger intercepted Jack Hughes' errant pass, warded off Devils defenseman Dougie Hamilton and beat Gillies between the pads. It was Blueger's seventh goal of the season, and Pittsburgh's first short-handed tally.

It also was New Jersey's NHL-high sixth short-handed goal allowed. New Jersey ranks tied for last in the NHL in power-play efficiency, scoring just 11 power-play goals on 88 this season (12.5 percent).

Heinen boosted Pittsburgh's lead at 1:03 in the second when he took a cross-ice feed from Pettersson and ripped a snap shot past Gillies' stick. Matheson added insurance with his third of the season at 9:31 of the third.

Jarry is tied for second-most games played (24) among NHL goalies this season and picked up his 15th win, which is tied for third-most in the league. He sealed Sunday's win with a last-second save on Devils forward Andreas Johansson.

## Kings 3, Capitals 2

WASHINGTON — Adrian Kempe scored the tiebreaking goal midway through the third period to give the Los Angeles Kings a win over the undermanned Washington Capitals.

Washington was missing forwards Nicklas Backstrom, Evgeny Kuznetsov, T.J. Oshie and Michael Sgarbossa, all on the COVID-19 list. Oshie was placed on the list earlier Sunday, and Sgarbossa was a late scratch.

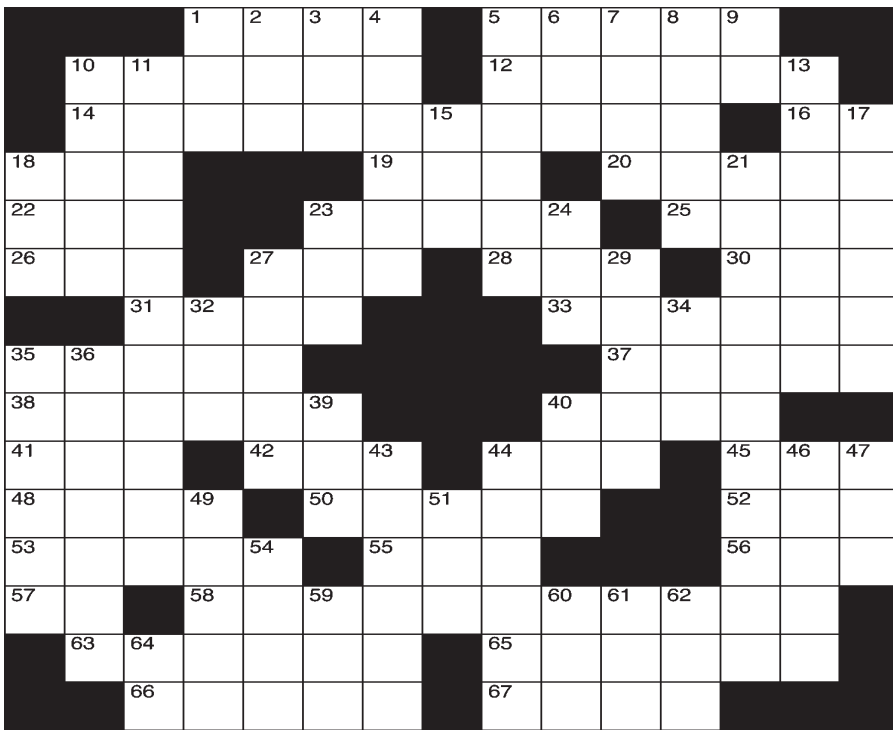
Garret Sparks, recalled from the minors before the game, stopped 33 shots for his first NHL win since March 20, 2019.

Blake Lizotte scored short-handed and Christian Wolanin also had a goal for the Kings, who trailed by two late in the second period.

Connor McMichael and Justin Schultz each had a goal for Washington.

# Puzzles Galore!

## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

- Chinese Muslim group
- Alternative name
- Resounds
- Supporter
- Furnishes anew
- Beloved
- Hollywood alien
- Supervises flying
- Ballplayer's tool
- Coarse edible red seaweed
- Former CIA
- Basketball player
- Travel necessities
- Honey producer
- Military analysis (abbr.)
- Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- Mental sharpness and inventiveness
- Popular Easter meal
- Man (Spanish)
- de la
- Counterweights

### CLUES DOWN

- Made a harsh, grating noise
- Monetary unit
- Commercials
- Cool!
- Partner to cheese
- Expression of creative skill
- Unit of angle
- Transported
- N. American people of Kansas
- Computer game character Max
- Moved swiftly
- Everyone has one
- Tin
- A mole is one
- Nocturnal
- hoofed animals
- Oppositional to
- Monetary units
- Not on time

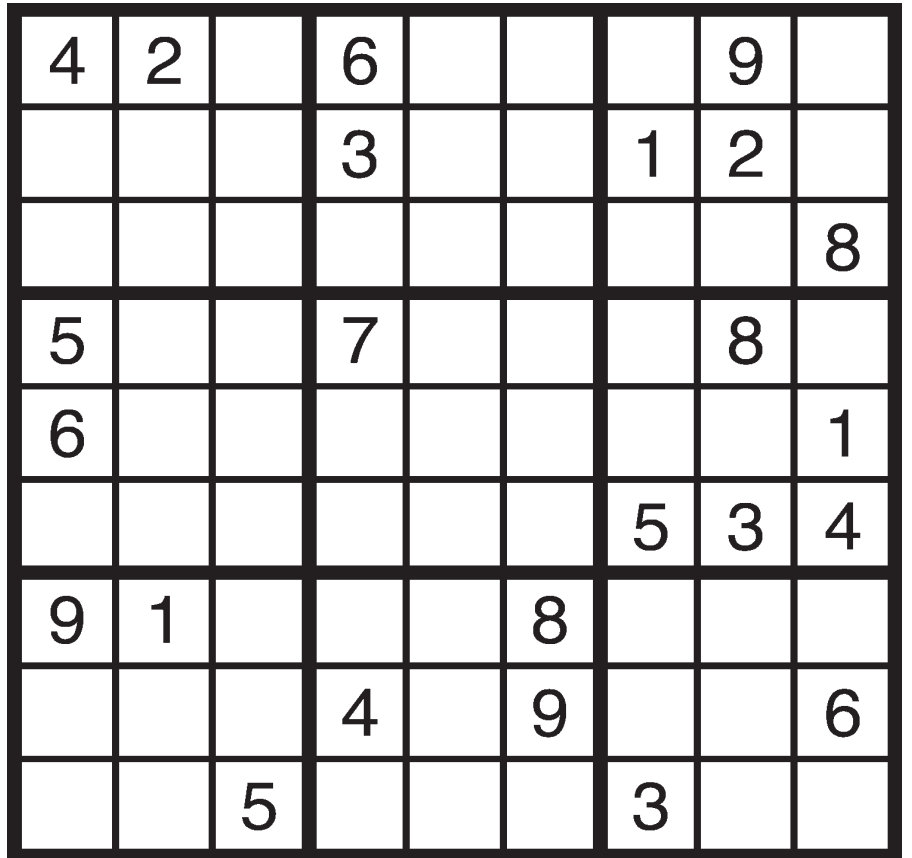
### CLUES DOWN

- Hogshead (abbr.)
- Misery resulting from affliction
- Defunction
- European group
- Line on a map
- Becomes less intense
- Back muscle
- Frosted
- Ethiopian town
- Midway between south and east
- Wipe from the record
- In a continuous way
- Breathe
- Cleaning device
- Male organ
- Tab on a key ring
- Criminals
- Taxi
- Cheer of encouragement
- Wartime American escort carrier
- Polish river
- Current unit
- Life form
- Painful contractions
- Glowing
- Press against lightly
- Melancholic
- Something you can be under
- Of the mind
- E. Indian cereal grass
- Couple
- Sharpshoot
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Blyton, children's author
- Human gene
- Data mining
- Examines animals
- Mineral
- Cools your home

## SUDOKU

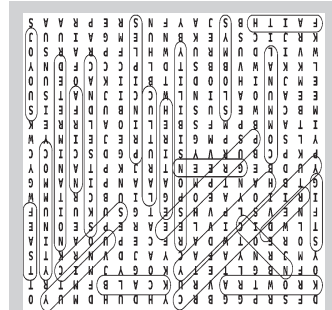
### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



Level: Intermediate

**Here's How It Works:** Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



Answers to "Puzzles Galore!"

## WORD SEARCH (Kwanzaa)

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| AFRICAN       | FEAST          |
| ARTWORK       | GIFTS          |
| BLACK         | GREEN          |
| CANDLESTICKS  | HERITAGE       |
| COMMUNAL      | HOLIDAY        |
| COMMUNITY     | JOYOUS         |
| CORN          | PRINCIPLES     |
| CREATIVITY    | PURPOSE        |
| CROPS         | RED            |
| CULTURAL      | RESPONSIBILITY |
| DETERMINATION | SYMBOLS        |
| FAITH         | UNITY          |

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

MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 20, 2021													C: Comcast, Citrus S: Spectrum DI: Comcast, Dunnellon & Inglis			
	C	S	D/I	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
<b>2</b>	(WESH) NBC	19	19	News	NBC News	Ent. Tonight	Hollywood	Annie Live! The beloved musical is performed live. (In Stereo) (DVS)						News	J. Fallon	
<b>3</b>	(WEDU) PBS	3	3	World News America	BBC News	PBS NewsHour (N) (In Stereo)		Antiques Roadshow "Naughty or Nice" 'G'		Christmas at Belmont (N) (In Stereo) 'G' (DVS)				20 Years of Christmas With the Tabernacle Choir Christmas performances. (N) (In Stereo) 'G' (DVS)		
<b>5</b>	(WUFT) PBS	5	5	DW News	BBC News	PBS NewsHour (N) (DVS)		Sounds of the Season		Christmas at Belmont 'G'				Change Your Brain, Heal Your Mind With Daniel		
<b>8</b>	(WFLA) NBC	8	8	8	News	NBC Nightly News - Holt	NewsChannel 8	Ent. Tonight		Annie Live! The beloved musical is performed live. (In Stereo) (DVS)				NewsChannel 8	Tonight Show 8	
<b>9</b>	(WFTV) ABC	20	7	20	News at 6pm	ABC World News	Jeopardy! 'G' (DVS)	Wheel of Fortune 'G'		NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Chicago Bears. (N) (In Stereo Live) (DVS)				Eyewitness News at 11pm (N) (In Stereo) (DVS)		
<b>10</b>	(WTSP) CBS	10	10	10	10 Tampa Bay	CBS Evening News	Wheel of Fortune 'G'	Jeopardy! 'G' (DVS)		One Last Time-With Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga	NCIS The NCIS team searches for Gibbs. '14'	NCIS: Hawaii! "The Tourist" '14' (DVS)		10 Tampa Bay	Late Show-Colbert	
<b>13</b>	(WTVT) FOX	13	13		FOX13 6:00 News (N)	FOX13 6:30 News (N)	Access Hollywood 'PG'	TMZ (N) 'PG' (DVS)		The Secrets of Christmas: Revealed Santa's Christmas operation. (N) (In Stereo) '14, D.L. (DVS)				FOX13 11:00 News (N) (In Stereo) (DVS)		
<b>20</b>	(WCJB) ABC			11	TV20 News	World News	Ent. Tonight	Inside Ed.		NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Chicago Bears. (N) (In Stereo Live) (DVS)				WCJB TV20 News at 11		
<b>22</b>	(WCLF) NBC	2	2	2	Christian	Bridges	Jewish	Great Awakening with	Love/Child	Miracles	Andrew	Freedom	Christ	Keith Moore	The Great A	
<b>23</b>	(WKYC) FAM	16	16	16	Vegas Unveiled		Daily Flash	Citrus	Sully's Biz Brew	Small Town	L. McKenzie	Neighbor..	Madison	Citrus Court	Citrus	
<b>23</b>	(WFTS) ABC	11	11		News	World News	Inside Ed.	The List (N)		NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Chicago Bears. (N) (In Stereo Live) (DVS)				ABC Action News		
<b>62</b>	(WMOR) NBC	12	12		Sheldon	Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Last Man	Creek	Creek	Big Bang	Sheldon	
<b>63</b>	(WTTA) MNT	6	6	6	Extra 'PG'	Ent. Tonight	Family Feud	Family Feud	NewsChannel 8	Noticias	Seinfeld	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU		
<b>40</b>	(WACX) TBN	21	21		S.Channel	The 700 Club (DVS)	Lovelsrael		Love/Child	Kenneth Cox Ministries	Living Room	SuperChannel Presents	Faith Build.	Prince		
<b>43</b>	(WTOG) CW	4	4	4	Mike & Molly '14'	Mike & Molly '14'	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men		Dynasty Fallout from Blake's gala settles. 'PG'	Dynasty Dominique proceeds with her plans. '14'	CW44 News (N) (DVS)	CW44 News (N) (DVS)	Dateline A father's fight for justice. (DVS)		
<b>50</b>	(WVEA) UNI	15	15	15	Noticias	Noticiero	¿Qué le pasa a		La Rosa de Guadalupe	Vencer el pasado (N)	La desamada (N) '14'	Noticias	Noticiero	Noticiero		
<b>61</b>	(WOGX) FOX			13	Fox 51 at 6	Fox 51	Big Bang	Big Bang		The Secrets of Christmas: Revealed (N) '14, D.L. (DVS)				Fox 51 News	Dateline (In Stereo) (DVS)	
<b>65</b>	(WXPX) ION			17	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'		NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	
<b>(A&amp;E)</b>		54	48	54	*** "Escape Plan" (2013) Sylvester Stallone. 'R'				*** "Olympus Has Fallen" (2013) Gerard Butler. 'R' (DVS)					*** "Den of Thieves" (2018) 'R'		
<b>(ACCN)</b>				99	Women's College Basketball Virginia at NC State.				College Basketball Western Michigan at Notre Dame.			All Access	All Access	College Football		
<b>(AMC)</b>		55	64	55	*** "Four Christmases" (2008) Vince Vaughn. (DVS)				*** "Scrooged" (1988) Bill Murray. 'PG-13' (DVS)					*** "Fred Claus" (2007) Vince Vaughn. 'PG' (DVS)		
<b>(ANI)</b>		52	35	52	Homestead Rescue 'PG'	Homestead Rescue 'PG'			Homestead Rescue "Bone Dry in Big Sky" 'PG'					Homestead Rescue "Marsh Madness" 'PG'		
<b>(BET)</b>		96	71	96	*** "Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection" (2012) Tyler Perry. 'PG-13'				*** "Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns" (2008) Tyler Perry. 'PG-13' (DVS)							
<b>(BIGTEN)</b>		742	809		Purdue Basketball	College Basketball Incarnate	Word at Purdue. (N)		Purdue Basketball			Passion & Perseverance	Wisconsin			
<b>(BRAVO)</b>		254	51	254	Below Deck '14' (DVS)	Below Deck '14' (DVS)			Below Deck (N) '14' (DVS)					*** "The Green Mile" (1999) Tom Hanks. 'R'		
<b>(BSFL)</b>		35	39	35	Basketball	In Magic	Pregame	NBA Basketball	Orlando Magic at Toronto Raptors. (N) (Live)			Postgame	In Magic	Under	Sports Stars	
<b>(CC)</b>		27	61	27	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
<b>(CMT)</b>		98	45	98	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	
<b>(CNN)</b>		40	29	40	Situation Room With Wolf	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)			Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	CNN Tonight (N) (DVS)				Don Lemon Tonight (N)	Anderson Cooper 360	
<b>(ESPN)</b>		33	27	33	Monday Night Countdown (N) (Live) (DVS)				NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Chicago Bears. (N) (Live)					Postgame	SportsC.	
<b>(ESPN2)</b>		37	28	34	SportsCenter (DVS)	SportsCenter (N) (DVS)			SEC Storied 'G'	NBA G League Showcase (N) (Live)				E60		
<b>(FBN)</b>		106	149	106	The Evening Edit (N)	Kennedy (N) (DVS)			How America Works (N)	American	American	How America Works	American	American	American	
<b>(FLIX)</b>		118	170		Glengarry *** "Croupier" (1998) Clive Owen.				*** "Carlito's Way" (1993) Al Pacino. (In Stereo) 'R' (DVS)					*** "Carlito's Way: Rise to Power" (DVS)		
<b>(FNC)</b>		44	37	44	Special Report	FOX News Primetime (N)			Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity (N) (Live) (DVS)				The Ingraham Angle (N)	Gutfeld! (N) (DVS)	
<b>(FOOD)</b>		26	56	26	Holiday Baking	Holiday Baking			Holiday Baking Championship (Season Finale) (N) 'G'					Christmas Cookie	Christmas Cookie	
<b>(FREEFORM)</b>		29	52	29	Rudolph	*** "The Santa Clause" (1994) Tim Allen. 'PG'			*** "The Santa Clause 2" (2002, Children's) Tim Allen. 'G' (DVS)					The 700 Club (DVS)		
<b>(FST)</b>		732	112	732	Unscripted	College Basketball Creighton at DePaul. (N) (DVS)			College Basketball St. John's at Seton Hall. (N) (DVS)					The 2021 World Series		
<b>(FX)</b>		30	60	30	*** "A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas" (2011)				*** "Office Christmas Party" (2016) Jason Bateman.					*** "Office Christmas Party" (2016) Jason Bateman.		
<b>(GOLF)</b>		727	67	727	2021 U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship Final Round. (DVS)				2021 U.S. Open Golf Championship Final Round. (DVS)							
<b>(HALL)</b>		59	68	39	*** "Open by Christmas" (2021) Alison Sweeney. 'NR'				*** "Sister Swap: Christmas in the City" (2021) 'NR'					*** "Sugar Plum Twist" (2021) Jamie Gray Hyder. 'NR'		
<b>(HBO)</b>		302	201	302	Succession 'MA' (DVS)	*** "The Little Things" (2021) Alison Sweeney. 'NR'			Landscapers (N) 'MA'					*** "Reopening Night" (2021) 'NR' (DVS)	Landscapers	
<b>(HBO2)</b>		303	202	303	*** "In the Heights" (2021) Anthony Ramos.				Landscapers 'MA' (DVS)					*** "Rocky II" (1979)		
<b>(HGTV)</b>		23	57	23	Love It or List It 'PG'	Love It or List It 'PG'			Love It or List It 'PG'	Tough Love With Hilary	Call the Closer (N)			Love It or List It 'PG'		
<b>(HIST)</b>		51	54	51	Ancient Aliens 'PG'	Ancient Aliens 'PG'			Ancient Aliens: Declassified "Sacred Origins" The Book of Enoch and the Bible. (N) (In Stereo) 'PG'							
<b>(LIFE)</b>		24	38	24	*** "My Favorite Christmas Melody" (2021) Ma. 'NR'				*** "Candy Cane Candidate" (2021) Jacky Lai. 'NR' (DVS)					*** "Merry Little Christmas Baby" (2021) Kelly Rowland.		
<b>(LMN)</b>		119	50	119	*** "Strike Her Dead" (2021) Cece Kelly. 'NR' (DVS)				*** "Lethal Love Triangle" (2021) Savvy Shay. 'NR' (DVS)					*** "Psycho Intern" (2021) Emmanuelle Vaugier. 'NR'		
<b>(MSNBC)</b>		42	41	42	The Beat With Ari Melber	The ReidOut (N) (DVS)			All In With Chris Hayes	Rachel Maddow Show	The Last Word			The 11th Hour (N) (DVS)		
<b>(NBCSN)</b>		448	26	730	Super High Roller Bowl	High Stakes Duel 'G'			U.S. Olympic Trials Women's Hockey: USA vs. Canada. (N) (DVS)					Super High Roller Bowl	Super High	
<b>(NGED)</b>		109	65	109	Life Below Zero (N) 'PG'	Life Below Zero (N) 'PG'			Life Below Zero (N) 'PG'	Life Below Zero: New	Life Below Zero: New			Called to the Wild (DVS)		
<b>(NICK)</b>		28	36	28	Loud House	Loud House			Star Trek	Loud House	Friends 'PG'	Friends '14'	Friends 'PG'	Friends 'PG'		
<b>(NWSNTN)</b>		18	18	18	The Donlon Report (N)	On Balance			Dan Abrams Live (N)	NewsNation Prime (N)	Banfield (N) (DVS)			On Balance		
<b>(OWN)</b>		125	24	103	Dr. Phil '14' (DVS)	Deadline: Crime			Deadline: Crime	Deadline: Crime	Deadline: Crime	Deadline: Crime	Deadline: Crime	Deadline: Crime		
<b>(OXY)</b>		123	44	123	Family Massacre 'PG'	Family Massacre 'PG'			Family Massacre (DVS)	Killer Siblings '14' (DVS)	Killer Siblings '14' (DVS)	Killer Siblings '14' (DVS)	Killer Siblings '14' (DVS)	Killer Siblings '14' (DVS)		
<b>(PARMT)</b>		37	43	37	*** "Twilight-Dawn"	*** "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2" (2012) Kristen Stewart. (DVS)			*** "Twilight" (2008) Kristen Stewart. 'PG-13'					College Football Louisville at Ole Miss. (Taped)		
<b>(SEC)</b>		745	72		College Football	College Football Georgia at Clemson. (Taped)			Dexter: New Blood 'MA'	Billions 'MA' (DVS)	Billions 'MA' (DVS)	Billions 'MA' (DVS)	Yellowjackets 'MA' (DVS)			
<b>(SHOW)</b>		340	241	340	Dexter: New Blood 'MA' (DVS)	Gators	College Basketball Stetson at Miami. (N) (Live)		Focused	College Basketball UCF at Florida State.						
<b>(SUN)</b>		36	31	36	Under											
<b>(SYFY)</b>		31	59	31	*** "Point Break" 'R'	*** "Twister" (1996, Action) Helen Hunt. 'PG-13' (DVS)			*** "Salt" (2010, Action) Angelina Jolie. 'PG-13'					Point Break		
<b>(TBS)</b>		49	23	49	Burgers	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	
<b>(TCM)</b>		169	53	169	*** "Lady on a Train" (1945) Deanna Durbin. 'NR'				*** "We're No Angels" (1955) Humphrey Bogart.					*** "Fitzwilly" (1967) Dick Van Dyke. 'NR' (DVS)		
<b>(TDC)</b>		53	34	53	Street Outlaws	Street Outlaws			Street Outlaws (N) (In Stereo) '14' (DVS)							
<b>(TLC)</b>		50	46	50	Sister Wives 'PG'	The Family Chantel '14'			The Family Chantel '14'	90 Day Fiancé (N) 'PG'	1000-Lb. Sisters (N) '14'	The Family Chantel '14'				
<b>(TMC)</b>		350	261	350	*** "The Last Black Man in San Francisco" (2019) 'R'				*** "Dark Waters" (2019) Mark Ruffalo. (DVS)					*** "Milk" (2008) Sean Penn. 'R' (DVS)		
<b>(TNT)</b>		48	33	48	*** "Wonder Woman" (2017)	*** "The Wizard of Oz" (1939) Judy Garland.			*** "The Wizard of Oz" (1939) Judy Garland. 'G' (DVS)					The Intern		
<b>(TOON)</b>		38	58	38	*** "LEGO Batman" (2015) Voices of Sandra Bullock.				King of Hill	King of Hill	Burgers	Burgers	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad		
<b>(TRAV)</b>		9	106	9	Mysteries of the Unknown 'PG' (DVS)				Mysteries of the Unknown (N) 'PG' (DVS)					UFO Witness (N) '14'	UFO Witness '14' (DVS)	
<b>(truTV)</b>		25	55	25	Jokes	Jokes			Jokes	Jokes	Jokes	Jokes	Jokes	*** "The Replacements" (2000) Keanu Reeves.		
<b>(TVL)</b>		32	49	32	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith			Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King		
<b>(USA)</b>		47	32	47	Chicago P.D. '14'	Chicago P.D. '14'			WWE Monday Night RAW (N) (In Stereo Live) 'PG, V (DVS)					That's My Jam 'PG'		
<b>(WE)</b>		117	69	117	Criminal Minds '14'	Criminal Minds '14'			Criminal Minds '14'	Criminal Minds '14'	Criminal Minds '14'	Criminal Minds '14'	Criminal Minds '14'	Criminal Minds '14'	Criminal Minds '14'	

# Mourning during the holidays

**DEAR ANNIE:** I recently lost my son, and Thanksgiving without him was very painful. I am writing to offer suggestions for how people might act, or what they should say, when interacting with one who is grieving the loss of a loved one.

Ordinarily, I would have texted "Sam" in advance to tell him where we would be celebrating Thanksgiving, and I would have said to put on clean clothes, shower and not be late. I couldn't help but feel a profound, overwhelming sadness and an unbearable pain as I prepared to have my first Thanksgiving without my son.

Chances are, if you are reading this column, you probably know someone who is struggling with the loss of a child or grandchild, and it is very painful trying to get through the holiday season.

Although it's only been a mere seven months since I buried my son, I have learned that the art of using the right words helps to soothe the pain.

So, what do you say to someone who is mourning during the holidays? If your friends' loss is recent, wishing them "happy holidays" – or happy anything from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day – might come across as if you don't realize (or care about) the permanence of their grief. On the other hand, saying nothing at all speaks a louder message of indifference than shouted words.

Like the scent of candles, grief remains in the air of the holidays even amid the beauty and joy of the season. Saying something is better than saying nothing. Here are ways to tell your friends you're thinking of them and are aware of their grief during the holidays:

- "I'm thinking of you. I know this is your first Thanksgiving without Sam."
- "I'm keeping you and your family in my thoughts this first Hanukkah after Sam's death. I realize you're still adjusting to Sam's absence."
- "Will you join us for Hanukkah, Christmas, New Year's, etc.? We realize you might not want to sit alone."
- "I know the holidays will be hard on you and your family without Sam here with you."
- "May I come visit with you during this holiday?"
- "I'd love to hear stories about Sam."

Well-thought-out words can soothe wounded hearts. Notice I said "soothe" and not "heal"? You can't "fix" anyone's grief, but you can offer consoling support that doesn't deepen the pain. When talking about the holidays with the newly bereaved, be thoughtful and deliberate in your choice of words:

- Plan to commemorate instead of celebrate.
- Invite grieving friends to a gathering rather than a party.
- Acknowledge awareness of your friends' ongoing grief rather than assuming they should feel a certain way.

Avoid "at least" statements, which diminish the importance and impact of mourners' losses. Please keep me and my family in your thoughts and prayers as we enter our first holiday season without Sam. God Bless All. – From a Grieving Father

**DEAR GRIEVING FATHER:** I am so sorry for your loss, and I want to thank you for putting together these beautiful and thoughtful suggestions for other people who have friends who have experienced losses and are in mourning.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

## BRIDGE

By PHILLIP ALDER

Geoffrey Chaucer, the great English poet who died in 1400, believed that the worst fortune that could befall a man was losing his wealth and remembering exactly what caused the disaster.

If you log into Bridge Base Online,

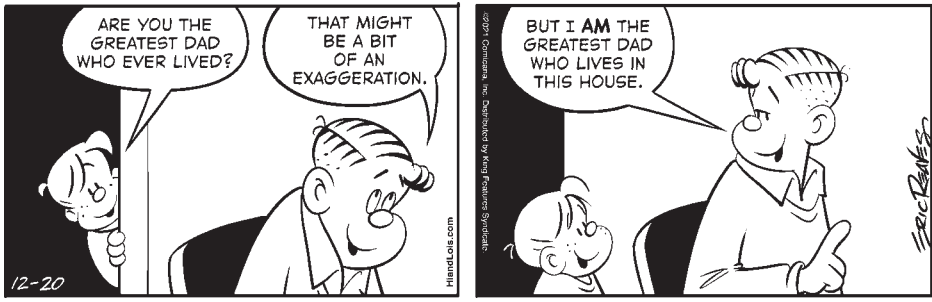
**BETLE BAILEY**



**BLONDIE**



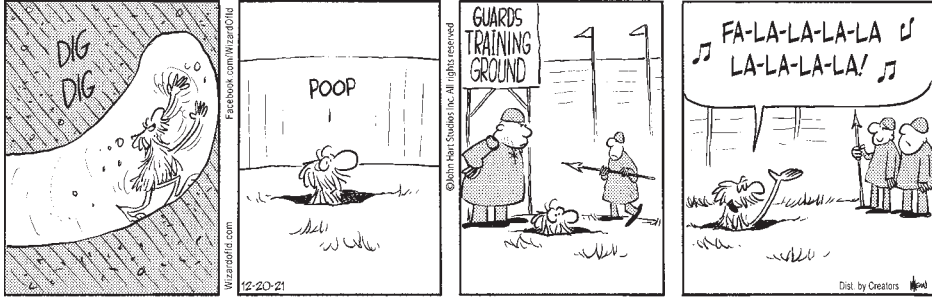
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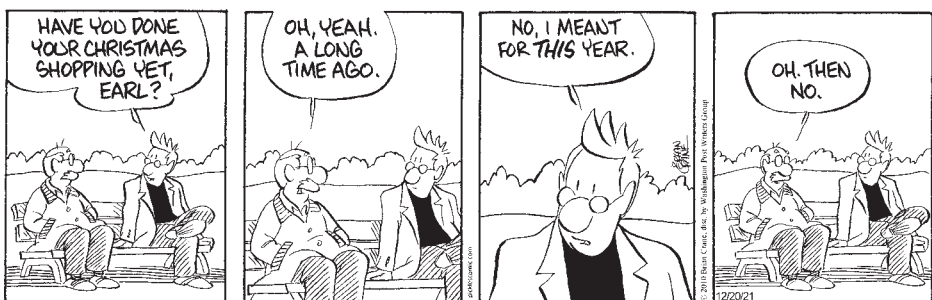
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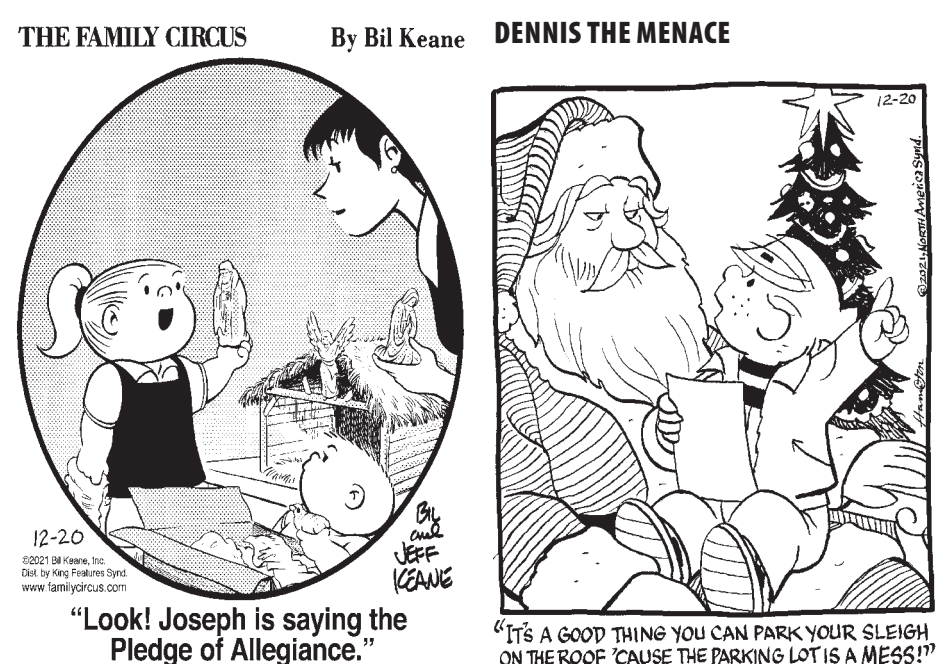
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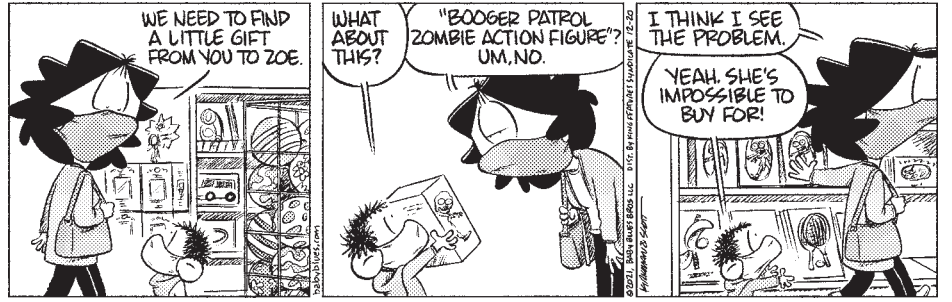
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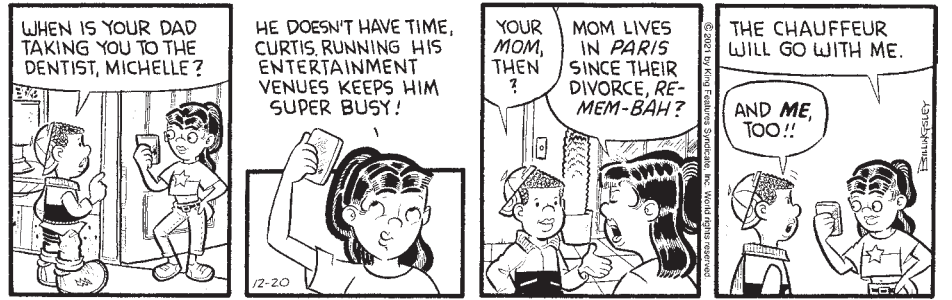
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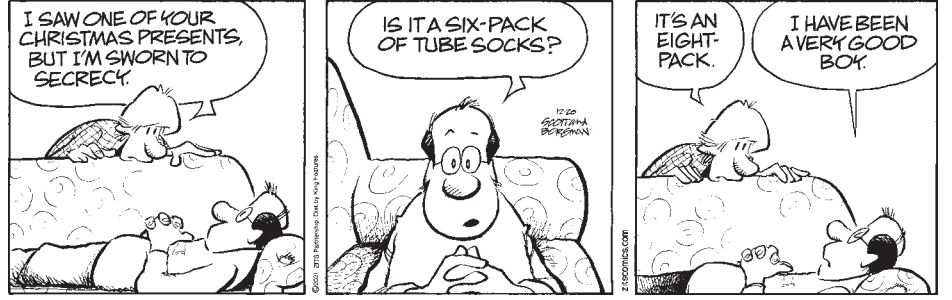
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**CURTIS**



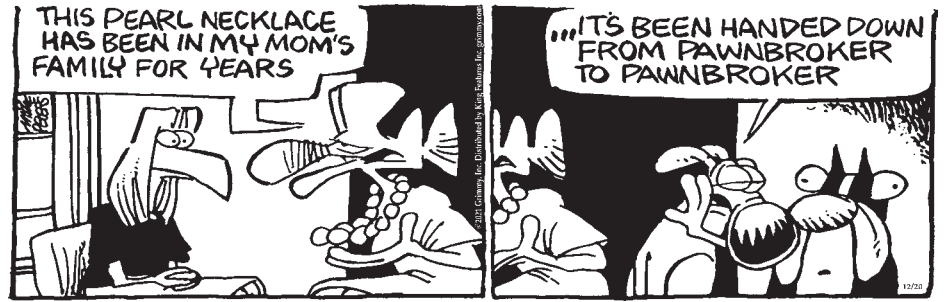
**ZITS**



**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE**



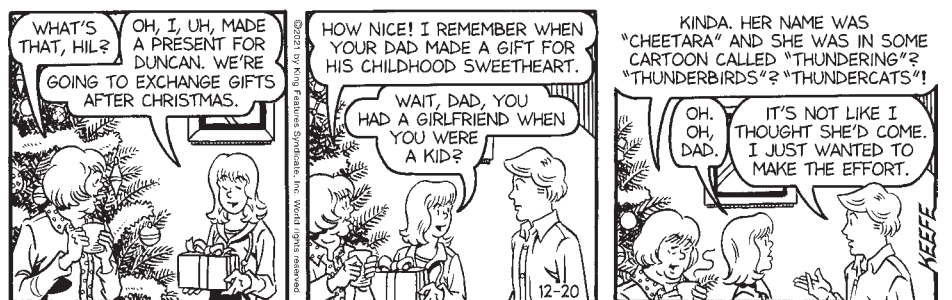
**MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM**



**MUTTS**



**SALLY FORTH**



**HOROSCOPE**

By EUGENIA LAST

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 20**

Formulate ideas and implement change. Don't wait for others to do things for you or take charge of your life. Look for what moves you and focus on using your skills masterfully. Put your energy where it counts, and follow your heart wherever it takes you. You can satisfy your needs and make a difference.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** Recognize what you are up against and make changes that will help you navigate your way to success. Select your allies and tactics wisely, and nothing will stand in your way.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Share memories and dreams with your loved ones, and you'll find common ground that will encourage better relationships. Put in extra time if it will help. Romance is favored.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** Say what's on your mind, and deal with unfinished business. A responsible attitude and quick pace will show others that you

mean business. An unexpected gesture will stir up emotions.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** Handle situations uniquely, and you'll make an impression on someone influential. Enforcing positive change will show your ability to take charge and live up to your promises.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** You'll meet with opposition if you are insistent on doing everything your way. A little compromise will go a long way when dealing with someone who can influence the outcome.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Spend more time nurturing relationships and taking care of your work responsibilities, and you will feel confident moving forward. Romance is encouraged.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** Don't let your emotions spur you to make a financial move. Iron out any foreseeable problems before you jump into a joint venture. A sincere attitude and an open mind will be necessary.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Address issues that concern others. Offer sugges-

tions to encourage people to take care of their responsibilities, leaving you more time to address more pressing problems. Romance is on the rise.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Stop overthinking things and start enjoying what life has to offer. Reach out to people who lift your spirits and put a smile on your face. Don't waste your energy worrying.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Trust what's tried and true. Someone will mislead you if given a chance. Concentrate on personal growth, physical improvement and altering your lifestyle to better suit your needs.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** An emotional matter will escalate if you cannot compromise or come to terms with what others want to do. Take care of responsibilities on your own to avoid interference and inconvenience.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** Gather information and pursue what you want to do. Touch base with people who make you think, and offer them helpful suggestions. Limit your spending, drinking and indulgence.

**TODAY'S MOVIES**

**Citrus Cinemas 6 Inverness; 844-462-7342 Code 187**  
**Monday, Dec. 20**

**"Spider-man: No Way Home" PG13:** 10:30, 11, 11:30 a.m., noon, 2:30, 3, 3:30, 4, 6, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 9:30, 10, 10:30, 10:45 p.m.  
**"Encanto" PG:** 11:25 a.m., 3:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m.  
**"Ghostbusters: Afterlife" PG13:** 11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:45, 9:45 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Dec. 21**  
**"King's Man" R:** 11:45 a.m., 3:45, 7:30, 10:45 p.m.  
**"Spider-man: No Way Home" PG13:** 10:30, 11, 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 3, 3:30, 4, 6, 6:30, 7, 9:30, 10, 10:30 p.m.  
**"Encanto" PG:** 11:25 a.m., 3:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m.  
**"Ghostbusters: Afterlife" PG13:** 11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:45, 9:45 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Dec. 22**

**"Sing 2" PG:** 1, 4, 7:15, 9:55 p.m.  
**"King's Man" R:** 11:15 a.m., 3:15, 6:16, 10:15 p.m.  
**"The Matrix Resurrections" R:** 10:45 a.m., 2:45, 6:45, 9:45 p.m.  
**"Spider-man: No Way Home" PG13:** 11, 11:30 a.m., noon, 2:30, 3, 3:30, 6, 6:30, 7, 9:30, 10, 10:30 p.m.  
**Valerie Theatre, Inverness; 352-341-7850**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 22**  
**"Elf" (2003) PG:** 3 p.m.  
**Monday, Dec. 27**  
**"Downton Abbey" (2019) PG:** 3 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Dec. 29**  
**"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000) PG:** 3 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 31**  
**"The Polar Express" (2004) G:** 3 p.m.

Times provided by Regal Cinemas and are subject to change; call ahead.



# Final ranking of year puts Masters field at 83 and counting

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The top 50 from the final world ranking of the year was set on Sunday, adding 10 players to the field for the Masters in April. The list included Matthew Wolff, Mackenzie Hughes of Canada and Ryan Palmer, who are exclusive members of the PGA Tour. The final ranking, along with other criteria, puts the field at 83 players. The list also includes Tiger Woods, who is recovering from severe injuries to his right leg

from a Feb. 23 car crash. He has not determined whether he will be able to walk and compete at Augusta National on April 8-11. Woods played the PNC Championship this week with his 12-year-old son, though he was riding a cart and has said he remains a long way off before he can play at the tour level. Augusta National prefers to keep the field for the Masters at under 100 players, a target it has met every year dating to 1966 and would appear to be on pace to continue. Players still can qualify by win-

ning a PGA Tour event that offers full FedEx Cup points, or by getting into the top 50 in the world on March 27, a full week before the tournament. There also is a spot reserved for next month's Latin American Amateur Championship.

## Mystics win WNBA draft lottery for 1st time

The Washington Mystics have won the WNBA draft lottery for the first time in franchise history. Washington had the third best chance — 17.8% to get the top pick — and with

star guard Natasha Cloud in attendance, the Mystics bucked the odds on Sunday. "This is a huge moment for us," Mystics coach and general manager Mike Thibault said. "I remember 10 years ago sitting and watching Sheila Johnson's face when I was still not with the team, when the team had the best odds, and she was sitting there so sad when they got the fourth pick. ... So this is a changer for us." The Indiana Fever, who had a 44.2% chance to earn the top pick, will draft second. Atlanta will pick third and Dallas fourth. "Although we did not get the first pick, we have two first-round picks and with this deep draft class, I am confident we will secure very talented players who will

be great additions to our team," said Tami-ka Catchings, the Fever's vice president of basketball operations and general manager. Washington had the first pick in the 1999 draft, but there was no lottery back then. Chamique Holdstock was the Mystics' pick. "We've been studying very carefully eight to 10 players and I don't know who we'll pick," Thibault said. "We're open to anything right now. I think the biggest thing is that you have to pick the best player." NaLyssa Smith of Baylor could go No. 1. A few minutes after her fifth-ranked team lost to Michigan, Smith said she'd be thrilled to go to Washington.

## BOWLING SCORES

**SPORTSMEN'S BOWL**  
**His and Hers Men**  
Scratch Game, 223, Wayne Hill  
Scratch Series, 578, Wayne Hill  
Handicap Game, 264, Wayne Hill  
Handicap Series, 701, Wayne Hill  
**Women**  
Scratch Game, 194, Cathy Roof  
Scratch Series, 489, Suzanne Hooper  
Handicap Game, 259, Suzanne Hooper  
Handicap Series, 690, Suzanne Hooper  
**Tuesday Afternoon Mixed Men**  
Scratch Game, 211, Robert Fisher  
Scratch Series, 565, Robert Fisher  
Handicap Game, 246, Rich Murdock  
Handicap Series, 685, Rich Murdock  
**Women**  
Scratch Game, 194, Suzanne Hooper  
Scratch Series, 498, Suzanne Hooper  
Handicap Game, 250, Rose Cooley  
Handicap Series, 673, Rose Cooley  
**Firstnighters**  
Scratch Game, 279, Chris Carr  
Scratch Series, 766, Tim Lawrence  
Handicap Game, 322, Tommy Demonic  
Handicap Series, 834, James Stephens  
**Wednesday Mixed Men**  
Scratch Game, 244, Jeremy Taylor  
Scratch Series, 604, Jeremy Taylor  
Handicap Game, 272, Jeremy Taylor  
Handicap Series, 698, Roger Jones  
**Women**  
Scratch Game, 189, Kem Hammontree  
Scratch Series, 451, Edith Regan  
Handicap Game, 270, Kem Hammontree  
Handicap Series, 657, Pat Avery  
**Hits and Misses Men**  
Scratch Series, 638, Gary Strausbaugh  
Scratch Game, 219, Gary Strausbaugh  
Handicap Game, 249, Marv Chapman  
Handicap Series, 713, Gary Strausbaugh

**Women**  
Scratch Game, 198, Kathy Pollari  
Scratch Series, 532, Kathy Pollari  
Handicap Game, 261, Jeannie Honour  
Handicap Series, 703, Suzanne Hooper  
**Pinbusters**  
Scratch Game, 187, Kristen Miller  
Scratch Series, 493, Kristen Miller  
Handicap Game, 244, Kendra Healey  
Handicap Series, 658, Kristen Miller  
**MANATEE LANES**  
**MIDWEEK MIXERS**  
WOMEN'S HIGH GAME 180 & OVER -Kathy Pollari 194, Sherry Bishop 193, Lisa Stewart 181/192  
WOMEN'S HIGH SERIES 500 & OVER -Lisa Stewart 531, Kathy Pollari 505  
MEN'S HIGH GAME 200 & OVER -Greg Barlow 207/249, Chad Virgin 235, Chuck Ahn 226, Eric Anderson 216, Ralph Mejia & Ron Friedland 209, Don Werner 204, Ken Sutton 203, George Livermore 202  
MEN'S HIGH SERIES 525 & OVER -Greg Barlow 609, Chuck Ahn 590, Ken Sutton 578, Eric Anderson 570, Charles Beatty 561, Chad Virgin 556, Bill Searies 536  
TOTAL PINS OVER AVERAGE -Kathy Pollari - 74 & Ken Sutton - 62  
**TUESDAY ODD BALLS**  
Men's High Game Hdcp, 284, Josh Wentzell  
Men's High Series Hdcp, 742, Rich Hickey  
Men's High Game Scratch, 267, Mike Harrison  
Men's High Series Scratch, 682, Matt Widener  
Women's High Game Hdcp, 254, Carol Cote  
Women's High Series Hdcp, 689, Gayle Gattion  
Women's High Game Scratch, 181, Danyelle Lee  
Women's High Series Scratch, 509, Patty Brennan  
**WEDNESDAY MATCH PLAY**  
Men's High Game Hdcp, 282, Bubba Beasley  
Men's High Series Hdcp, 833, Sam Bass

**THURSDAY POWDER PUFFS**  
Women's High Game Hdcp, 241, Jane Terrell  
Women's High Series Hdcp, 672, Di McKinney  
Women's High Game Scratch, 180, Evelyn Chambers  
Women's High Series Scratch, 490, Bev Hoey  
**THURSDAY FLORIDA POWER MIXERS**  
Men's High Game Hdcp, 302, John Walker  
Men's High Series Hdcp, 766, Bob Bennett  
Men's High Game Scratch, 278, Cody Mullis  
Men's High Series Scratch, 696, Matt Ivkovic  
Women's High Game Hdcp, 267, Kim Mullis  
Women's High Series Hdcp, 734, Tracy Roland  
Women's High Game Scratch, 190, Hannah Roof  
Women's High Series Scratch, 513, Danyelle Lee  
**CITRUS HILLS MIXERS**  
Men's High Game Hdcp, 246, Frank Kosidiak  
Men's High Series Hdcp, 680, Walter Cross  
Men's High Game Scratch, 197, Bob Chaffer  
Men's High Series Scratch, 606, Sonny Arashiro  
Women's High Game Hdcp, 235, Suzanne Chaffer  
Women's High Series Hdcp, 665, Cher Mason  
Women's High Game Scratch, 198, Nancy Krebs  
Women's High Series Scratch, 543, Susan Keene  
**FRIDAY FUN BUNCH**  
Men's High Game Hdcp, 275, John Beatty  
Men's High Series Hdcp, 753, Steven Mallory  
Men's High Game Scratch, 256, Rich Koller  
Men's High Series Scratch, 686, Thomas Soto  
Women's High Game Hdcp, 264, Jacquie Boley  
Women's High Series Hdcp, 719, Karen

Norby  
Women's High Game Scratch, 214, Vicky Post  
Women's High Series Scratch, 583, Joyce Johnson  
**TUESDAY YOUTH**  
Boy's High Game Hdcp, 249, Jase Kjeidgard  
Boy's High Series Hdcp, 673, Keegan Balletto  
Boy's High Game Scratch, 244, Payton Beville  
Boy's High Series Scratch, 691, Cody Underwood  
Girl's High Game Hdcp, 221, Cayndce Balletto  
Girl's High Series Hdcp, 647, Jemma Durante-Snyder  
Girl's High Game Scratch, 127, Alyssa Kline  
Girl's High Series Scratch, 430, Alayna Lee  
**PARKVIEW LANES**  
HOLIDAYS CLOSING SCHEDULE: Parkview Lanes will be closed Friday and Saturday, Dec. 24 and 25, in recognition of Christmas, and will also be closed Friday, Dec. 31 and Saturday, Jan. 1, to celebrate the New Year. LEAGUE SCORES FOR THE WEEK ENDING Dec. 5:  
**PARKVIEW SENIORS**  
Handicap: Don Moore 260,755; Cesare Nicoletti 250; Kenny Piispanen 727; Nellie Kintner 283,782; Joyce Cusimano 270,714. Scratch: Cesare Nicoletti 202,570; Roy Fuller 194; Bill Johnson 540; Glenda Johnston 198,480; Nellie Kintner 184,485.  
**MONDAY NIGHT SPECIAL**  
Handicap: Tony Hyatt 314; James Tutewohl 286,806; Charlie Caruso 768; Dorine Fugere 293,707; Debbie Aguilar 269; Donna Emery 709. Scratch: Tony Hyatt 296,701; Terry Rummier II 268,724; Doreen Fugere 258,602; Anne Fish 208,532; Debbie Aguilar 208.  
**PRESERVE PINBUSTERS**  
Handicap: Gary Strausbaugh 286,745; Ken Sprague 276,758; Brenda Snider 264;

Bobbie Christensen 259; Terri Furniss 718. Scratch: Jeff Koch 2456,683; Gary Strausbaugh 244; Greg Dawidowicz 676; Bobbie Christensen 1746; Joyce Swarm 163,468; Terri Furniss 448.  
**SANDY OAKS FALL**  
Handicap: Tom Jenkins 252,645; Richard Barnhill 244,697; Sheree Jenkins 264,701; Helen Kresse 248,685. Scratch: Richard Barnhill 215,610; Homer Roush 192; Jim Clark 561; Marcia Schick 178,469; Helen Kresse 173,460.  
**NFL III**  
The third season of the NFL league was won by the Giants (Glenda and Bill Johnston, and Pam Levert). They beat the Bucs (Laurie Anderson, Jeff Jankas and Ed Starling) in the semi-finals, 699-644, and then the "formerly" Redskins (Bunny and Louis Higginbotham, and Mike Gaudin) in the finals 710-698. The Redskins had gained the finals by defeating the Da Bears 675-565. The Bucs took third place by beating Da Bears (Betsy Bowman, Donna Carone and Mark Persavich) 741-654.  
**WOMEN'S TRIO**  
Handicap: Carol Roberts 253,682; Marlene Hyde 242,690. Scratch: Carol Roberts 190,493; Marcia Schick 172,474.  
**LATE STARTERS**  
Handicap: Ted Rafanan 285,735; Marty Suehovicz 276,743; Mary Ann Soloway 260; Rosemary Marcucci 244,692; Pam Murphy 695. Scratch: Tony Hyatt 253,693; 248,624; Rosemary Marcucci 177,491; Pam Murphy 161,464.  
**WEDNESDAY SCRATCH TRIO**  
Brian Carney 280; Cody Mullis 279,745; Mike Pozzi 718; Chris Carr 710; Dorine Fugere 204,543; Stephanie Flory 201; Marla Carr 529.  
**7-9-8 NOTAP**  
Handicap: George Kohutich 355,904; KE Conrad 339; Bill Johnson 878; Betty Weber 375,979; Jette Hansen 350; Marilyn Seymour 921. Scratch: Bill Johnson 300,773;

Jack Hogan 300,759; KE Conrad 300; George Kohutich 300; Marilyn Seymour 300,907; Susan Fabbre 300; Jette Hansen 300; Betty Weber 296,742.  
**GOOD TIMES**  
Handicap: Alan Murray 239; Bill Montross 236,595; Mike Bonadonna 625; Fran Montross 230,617; Laurie Anderson 219,626; Carol Hoiniski 219. Scratch: Mike Bonadonna 186,484; Alan Murray 180; David Cross 500; Janet Murray 199,523; Fran Montross 154; Laurie Anderson 422.  
**HOLDER HOTSHOTS**  
Handicap: Dusty Kelly 286,723; Tom May 280; Robbie Yoakum 738; Laurie Newkirk 264,731; Hattie Chives 258,713. Scratch: Dusty Kelly 258,639; Robbie Yoakum 243,681; Linda David 185,495; Laurie Newkirk 170; Vicki Jeffers 496.  
**T.G.I.F.**  
Handicap: Tony Hyatt 281,791; Jerry Thompson 262; John Skourm 691; Pam Levert 267,719; Kathie Weavering 259,718; Kathy Fuller 259; Piny Lane 752. Scratch: Tony Hyatt 266,746; Richard Barnhill 220; Ken Golubski 593; Pam Levert 212,554; Kathie Weavering 211,574.  
**FRIDAY NIGHT MIXED**  
Handicap: Terry Rummier II 280,782; P J Ireland 268; Tony Hyatt 747; Marla Carr 284,727; Carol Anderson 280,721. Scratch: Terry Rummier II 280,782; P J Ireland 268,729; Carol Anderson 234,583; Marla Carr 231,568.  
**PIN PALS**  
Handicap: Cody Underwood 316,843; Alex Teleford 292; Lewis Ricker 738; Destiny Snyder 233,658; Dani Ricker 228,628. Scratch: Cody Underwood 298,789; Justin Rose 214,593; Destiny Snyder 144,391; Sarah Mercier 102,252.  
**BOWLERS OF THE WEEK**  
Adults: James Tutewohl and Tony Hyatt, 131 pins over their averages, and Nellie Kintner, 122 pins over her average. Youth: Cody Underwood, 159 pins over average.



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dudley's Auction**  
"Central Florida's Largest & Most Diverse Auction Company"  
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**OPEN AIR AUCTION**  
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Fresh Citrus, Collard, Kale, Mustard Greens and Strawberries  
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**Wanted Model Trains \$ INSTANT CASH \$**  
For old Lionel & other model trains, any quantity - one piece or a house full!  
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**Sell Your**  
  
**In The Classifieds!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SALON UPDATE!**  
**Nature Coast Hair Salon,** Homosassa's local hair salon for many years, closed their doors due to severe shoulder injuries to the owner Kim and seasoned Hair technician, Brooke. Hopefully in 3-4 months both Kim and Brooke will return to what is their new home now at **Changes Hair Salon!** While recovering from the shoulder surgery, Kim, made sure that most of Nature Coast's loyal clients were taken care of for their hair color, cut and style needs at the Changes Hair Salon.

**Changes Hair Salon** owners, Sheryl and Neil ensured that they have the appropriate hair color cards and the products for Nature Coast Hair clients so there is seamless transition for all the clients.

**Changes Hair Salon** is located in the Homosassa Publix Plaza and has won the Neighborhood Favorite Award for three years in a row. Changes Hair Salon offers a clean, healthy and friendly environment along with a delicious cup of beverage with cookies!! We are open **Monday through Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm, Saturday 8:30am-3:30pm. Please call us at 352-382-HAIR(4247)** for an appointment and our friendly experienced hair experts will be happy to make your hair the best look it deserves.

★★★★★★★★★  
**BTW Changes Hair Salon is expanding,** so if you are a passionate hair stylist looking to join a fun, well paying hair salon family, (whether part time or full time), **give us a call at 352-382-HAIR(4247).**  
★★★★★★★★★

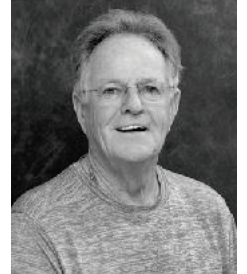
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Avg 16" stump \$25. No avg to big or too small. Ask about our Disc: Veterans, Volume, & Seniors!! Free Est. Cheapest price guaranteed. Call Rich  
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**TODAY'S NEW ADS**

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**Hello I'm**  
  
**Wayne Cormier Key One 352-422-0751**

[wayne@waynecormier.com](mailto:wayne@waynecormier.com)  
"Have a great day and God Bless"

**LOST / FOUND**

**FOUND-** Large White/Gray Male Cat found off of Forest Ridge Blvd in Beverly Hills, near Library - afraid of humans  
**CALL 352-464-1567**

**LOST KITTY (Allie)** - Medium gray fur w/ bushy tail & gold eyes - polydactyl front paws. Microchipped, sprayed & vaccinated Indoor Cat. On October 9th delivery from Browallia Court in Sugarmill Woods to Florida Ave Inverness - possible that she was accidentally taken on that truck - NOT SURE - may have escaped home in Sugarmill Woods - so looking in Sugarmill Woods and Inverness on Florida Ave - Please call with any information or sightings  
**330-416-1957**

**LOST-** My Missy is a Gray Cat w/ Tan patches and has Big Beautiful Green Eyes - lost in vicinity of Harrison Ave/ Lincoln Ave/ Forest Ridge Blvd in Beverly Hills on April 17th, 2021 - Please Call  
**352-464-1567**

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**EMPLOYMENT**

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DeSantis Appliance & A.C. Service in Wildwood is currently hiring for Installers to join our family. Established family owned and operated company offers great benefits after 90 days which include; Health insurance, (employer pays 50%) 401K, paid holidays, paid vacations and competitive wages. You must have a valid driver's license, clean back ground and verifiable experience. Please submit resume to [HR@desantisac.com](mailto:HR@desantisac.com) or apply in person 814 N. Old Wire Rd Wildwood, FL.

**Structural Steel Fabricator in Citrus County NOW HIRING P/T or FT**  
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We offer:  
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**Please send resume to [janem@capitalsteelfl.com](mailto:janem@capitalsteelfl.com)**

**EMPLOYMENT**

**CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE**  
Citrus Publishing located in Crystal River Florida is currently seeking a Full Time Lead Press Operator. Our central office is in Crystal River, FL printing newspapers that serve Citrus, Sumter, Marion and Levy Counties. Applicants must have a minimum 5 years' experience running a Goss Community/DGM 430 printing press. This is a night shift position, four days per week.

We offer an excellent benefits package including health, life, dental, eye care, 401K, paid vacations and holidays.  
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**Citrus County Chronicle Attn. Tom Feeney 1624 North Meadowcrest Blvd. Crystal River, Fla. 34429 Office 352-563-3275 or Fax # 352-563-5665**

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**Up to \$5000 Relocation & Sign on Bonus**  
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**Coleman, FL 36 hours a week (M-F) Hourly Rate: \$38.25 Minimum 1 yr experience**

**WE OFFER:**  
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Please contact our HR Dept. at **(844) 661-9120 ext. 37** or email [HR@nitelinesusa.com](mailto:HR@nitelinesusa.com)

**EXPERIENCED PAINTER**  
McKenzie Painting is Hiring!! Must wear white and have five years experience, transportation & tools, To apply call 352-400-1404

**EMPLOYMENT**

**HEALTH CARE/MEDICAL Fulltime Accounts Receivable Representative**  
Duties include billing, payment processing, and benefits verifications. 1+ years experience required including knowledge of ICD-10, HCPCS and CPT. Benefits include health insurance, 401k, uniform allowance. **Apply in person to West Coast Eye Institute, 240 N Lecanto Hwy, Lecanto FL 34461 (352) 746-2246 ext 103.**

**JOIN OUR TEAM**  
**MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST**  
Citrus County Full-Time 36 to 40 hrs Starting at \$15 to \$18 per hr depending on experience.

Paid time off and holiday pay will be available after 60 day probation period expires.  
**Requires a caring individual to work with patients on the phone, at the front desk in scheduling appointments, taking payments, and filing insurance claims in a busy chiropractic office.**  
- We prefer experience working in a medical office.  
- Computer literacy working with Windows based programs required.  
- Vaccination is Required  
**SUBMIT RESUME TO: [shhoffice@gmail.com](mailto:shhoffice@gmail.com)**

**PART TIME ASSOCIATE**  
Part time associate for funeral home, guaranteed 27 hours, lifting required, light inside and outside duties, need verifiable driving record, hourly wage well above minimum, training provided. Interview appointment required, call **352-726-8323 (ask for human resources)**

EMPLOYMENT

**Great Opportunity**

**Multi-Media Account Executive**

Citrus County Chronicle and our weekly newspapers are growing our sales force in Marion County. Our advertising sales representatives sell digital and print advertising to local and regional businesses of all sizes.

We are looking for a seasoned account executive with a proven track record of success, aggressive, and ready to hit the ground running. Bring your passion for sales and developing strategic business solutions for your clients and we will provide you with a vast array of impactful solutions to target their ideal audience and grow their business.

The successful candidate will have a strong focus on new business development and be charged with growing revenue through a consultative selling approach. You will have a vast array of digital and print products so that you can meet the advertising and marketing needs of every client.

The role has a salary component based on experience and an uncapped commission structure.

The company offers a competitive benefits package including medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k), and paid time off benefits.

Send Resume to John Murphy:  
**jmurphy@chronicleonline.com**

EMPLOYMENT

**HELP WANTED**

**Thrift Shoppe Coordinator**

**FULL TIME w/ BENEFITS**

**MUST BE:** Dependable & able to lift or move items up to 50 lbs

Will assist w/ Thrift Shoppe operations including receiving & evaluating merchandise, sales, cash management, customer service and supervision of volunteers

**JOIN OUR TEAM at Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast!**

Send resume to:  
**Administrator@friendsofcitrus.org**

PETS

**DOG CARRIER**  
 Pet Mate Ultra, large, 28"Lx15"Wx21.5"D. Taupe/black \$60 **352-613-0529**

**KITTEN**  
 8 weeks old - FREE TO GOOD HOME - (727) 470-5374

**LARGE DOG RAMP**  
 GEN7 PET RAMP - 72x16x1.5 - Foldable Retails for \$100 plus, asking \$70 or best offer **352-586-3394**

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 Two free standing, Petmaker, White, 54"(w) x 24"(h) Purchased Pier One - Brand New \$35 ea (727) 247-3025

**Small Dog Foam Steps** for your small pet to get up on furniture or bed. Never Used- Retails for \$90 asking \$40 obo **352-586-3394**

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**2 Coleman Stoves**  
 Propane or Liquid Fuel "Be Prepared" Only \$35 each **352-464-0316**

**3 Glass & Chrome Lamps** w/ Beige Pleated Lampshades \$5 each (352) 410-8262

**BODY CREAMS**  
 BEEKMAN- Goat Milk- Vanilla- Set of 2 - 8oz. NEW- Never used (352) 527-2085

**BODY SOUFFLE**  
 PHILOSOHY - 16oz Sealed \$25 ea (352) 527-2085

**Wooden Book Shelf**  
 6 ft Tall, unused \$25 (352) 527-2085

**DINNERWARE SET**  
 Brand new 74pc Dinnerware Set - serves 10+ people with Duck Pattern - Excellent Condition! Looks brand new \$75 - (352) 503-6337

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 - SIMPLY STRAIGHT- BRAND NEW - \$20 (352) 527-2085

**Christmas Decorations** including Trees and Lighted wreaths- \$50 for all or make offer for individual items. (352) 527-2085

**GAS HEATER**  
 \$60 (352) 726-3182

MERCHANDISE

**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT**  
 FLAMINGO, METAL 4" **352-513-5339**

**Christmas Ornaments**  
 SEALED -NEW- NEVER USED \$30 (352) 527-2085

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 Men's Medium w/ Large Travel Bag - Very Good Condition! \$30 Takes All (352) 464-4089

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**CONCRETE STATUES**  
 19" tall / Female Seminole, Male UF Gator \$50 ea (352) 726-3182

**Craftsman Metal Workbench**  
 54L x 21D w/ 2 drawers \$100 (352) 637-2188

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 Ten (10) Gift Lanterns \$5 each Call for Picture **352-423-4163**

**GROCERY SHOPPING CART**  
 BIG WHEELS \$15 (352) 419-5549

**Grow Lights** with Ballast & 1000 W sodium bulb with light reflector. Only \$45. (reduced) **352-464-0316**

**Hand Painted Sunflower Vase**  
 23"H x 9"W comes w/ sunflowers in vase \$25 obo **352-410-8262**

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 SZ 8.5 Like New! \$50 **352-419-4066**

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 4 Dividers- 8"x10" Velvet Lined **352-513-5339**

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 two matching lamps, bronze with beige shades, 30" high, \$50 for both. **352-613-0529**

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**LASKO Heaters**- Large, Very Nice! \$25 each - (352) 423-4163

JUST REDUCED

**Metro Mobility Electric 4 Wheel SCOOTER**-(M1 series LITE) **NEW IN BOX** - Black w/ red trim, 8 in wheels, anti-tip, easy portability, swivel padded seat. Pd over \$959- Sacrifice \$659 obo Cash Only- **SAVE \$300 (352) 410-8262 or (732) 857-5120**

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 Brand New - Top Name Brand \$30 (352) 503-6337

**MICROWAVE**  
 Excellent Condition \$25 (352) 464-4089

MERCHANDISE

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 King Size, 3-in-1 36"x16"x5" Retail \$69 Asking \$30 **352-513-5339**

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 22"x16"x3" Retail \$59 **352-513-5339**

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 Nine Beautiful Dolls, Would make very nice Christmas gifts. \$10 each (352)746-9573 **Please LM**

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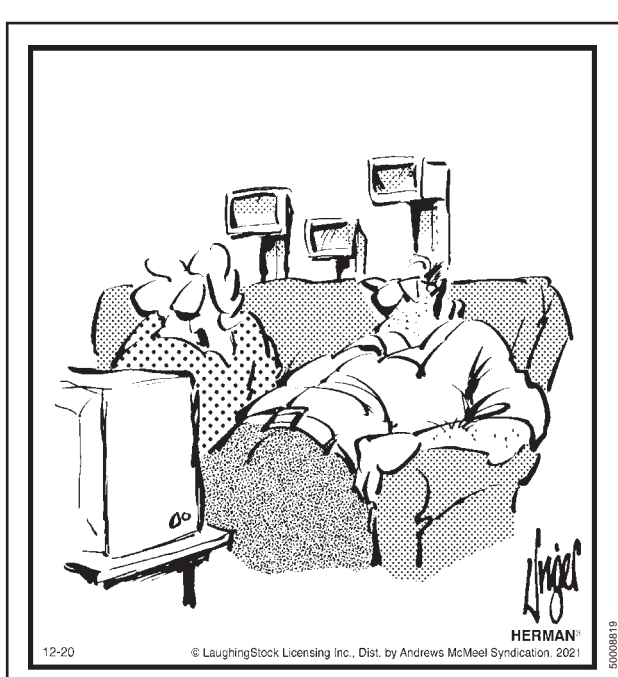
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 45" RCA Flat Screen - \$50 (352) 503-6337

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 Flat Screen, 32" Like New! \$55 (352) 464-4089

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 3ft x 6ft, 2 doors, 4 drawers, dark wood, Excellent \$85 (352) 503-6399

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 Queen Bed Complete w/ Mattress & Frame (headboard, footboard, side rails) \$100 **352-464-4089**

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 82"H x 40"W x 13"D with shelves- White washed \$100 **352-613-0529**

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 30 yrs Experience, Hourly Rates. **352-220-4638**

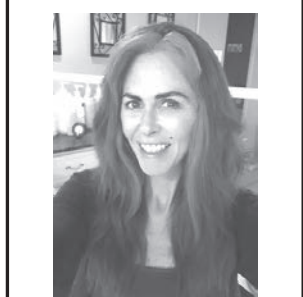


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 Same owner since 1987 **ROOF** Leaks, Repairs, Coating & Maintenance License #CC-C058189 Gary : **352-228-4500**

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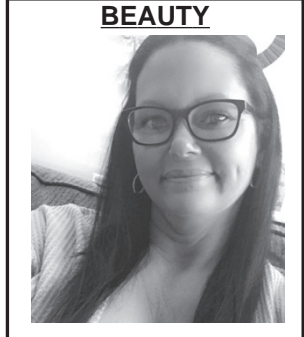


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**New location is 725 SE 9th Circle Crystal River (Behind KFC)**

Walk-ins Welcome Men's & Boy's Cuts just \$12 We cut womens hair too! **Sandy's Barbershop (352) 228-8912**

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**Stump Grinding Cheap!!!**  
 Avg 16" stump \$25. No stump to big or too small. Ask about our Disc: Veterans, Volume, & Seniors!! Free Est. Cheapest price guaranteed. Call Rich **352-586-7178 352-789-2894 CitrusStumpGrinding.com**

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**A-1 Complete Repairs** Pres. Wash, Painting (Int/Ext) 25 yrs, Ref, Lic #39765, **352-513-5746**

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 For stumps: **352-201-7323**

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HANDYMAN

**PRESSURE WASH**  
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**LAWN AND TREE SERVICES**  
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**A TREE SURGEON**  
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 Licensed / Insured **352-201-7313**  
 For stumps: **352-201-7323**

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 Getting out of hand?  
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Excellent Condition!  
\$300  
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Perfect Sleep Chair, Extra Wide, remote control, heat, massage, recline and lift, Brand New, Never slept in, black leather. Pd \$3000, Asking \$2000  
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**Rocking Chair**  
Wooden, Cushioned  
Very Good Condition! \$25  
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**TV STAND**  
Fits up to a 70 inch television  
Excellent Condition - \$35  
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adjustable legs can be used also as a shower chair, only \$35  
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**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

**Depends Briefs** - NEW- Hi quality gray LG/XL 26ct, 3 pkgs/ \$10 each  
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**JUST REDUCED**

**Metro Mobility Electric 4 Wheel SCOOTER**-(M1 series LITE) **NEW IN BOX** - Black w/ red trim, 8 in wheels, anti-tip, easy portability, swivel padded seat. Pd over \$959- Sacrifice \$659 obo Cash Only-  
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**GOLF CLUBS**  
Mens RH - DUNLOP 3-P.W., S.W., Stl., 1,3,5 graf. wds., putter & bag. \$35  
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Motivated Owner  
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Available March 2022  
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**Inverness Home**  
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Great 2/2/1 + FL Room & Fenced. Move in Ready!  
\$229,000  
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**LECANTO HOME**  
Great home w/Front Porch on private 1.30 Acres!  
3/2/2 Block & Stucco Home across from State Forest. Move-in Ready \$270K  
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(352) 400-8441  
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**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**



**Inverness Home**  
Move-In Ready! 3/2/2 on large 100'x100' lot w/Workshop Covered screened Lanai. \$174K  
Teri Paduano, Broker

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# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

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

Solution to Saturday's puzzle 12/20/21

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

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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Monday, December 20, 2021

KATHLEEN SAXE

## WORD GAME

TODAY'S WORD -- EFFLUENT

(EFFLUENT: EH-floo-ent: Flowing out; outgoing.)

Average mark 14 words  
Time limit 30 minutes

Can you find 19 or more words in EFFLUENT?  
The list will be published tomorrow.

SATURDAY'S WORD -- DIVERSITY

deist	divest	very	rite	tidies
deity	drier	vest	rive	tidy
diet	dries	vestry	rivet	tied
dire	driest	vied	side	tier
dirt	drive	virid	sire	tire
dirties	dryer	vise	site	tre
dirty	dryest	visit	stir	tried
ditsy	dyer	edit	stride	tries
ditsier	iris	rest	strive	yeti
dive	ivied	revisit	stye	
diver	ivies	ride	tide	
divert	verity	rise	tidier	

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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### ACROSS

- 1 Pop
- 4 Questionnaire answer
- 7 New England catch
- 10 Spanish "that"
- 11 A bird
- 13 Be supine
- 14 Plane's stabilizer
- 15 Not spaced-out
- 16 Reinking or Landers
- 17 Without bias
- 19 Weeper's need
- 21 Some, to Yvette
- 22 Web addr.
- 23 Talk out of
- 26 Put on a false front
- 30 Osiris' sister
- 31 Moving option
- 32 Caviar
- 33 Fr. holy woman
- 34 — — bind
- 35 Lion's pride

- 36 Red dye
- 39 Knights' combat
- 40 Yeasty brew
- 41 Collapsible bed
- 42 Civilian dress
- 45 Alaska's capital
- 48 Stillwater sch.
- 49 Rock tumbler stone
- 51 Frat letter
- 53 Poet's contraction
- 54 Symbols of peace
- 55 Plea at sea
- 56 Hwys.
- 57 Paddle cousin
- 58 Physicist Georg —

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

### DOWN

- 1 Phone trio
- 2 "Oh, sure!" (2 wds.)
- 3 Emmy winner — Delany
- 4 Cries out in pain

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	29	
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						57				58		

12-20

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## WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. TBS comic Samantha's "snow" veggies (1)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2. Light green fire-starting stone (1)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Predator's victim's stare (1)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4. Irish wit/playwright Oscar coifed (1)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

5. Mentally observing hauling around (2)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6. Seedily clothed taxi driver (2)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

7. Defensive baseball player protector (2)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ANSWERS: 1. BEES PEAS 2. MINT FLINT 3. PREYS GAZE 4. WILDE STYLED 5. NOTING TONG 6. SHABBY CABRIE 7. FIELDER SHIELDER

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Shawn Barros  
Armoire, box spring, bedding, clothing, misc household items  
Kevin Ryan  
Clothing, guitar, yukans, boxes, garden hose reel  
Justin Yuranko, Julie Sickler  
Tables, recliner, guitar, tv, instrument case  
Kaela Parchman  
Bedding, luggage, boxes, totes, misc. items  
Robert Sebekow  
Clothing, table, cabinet, filing cabinet, boxes, bags, wall decor  
Chaundra Moriarity  
Bedding, mattress, fan, heater, tools, floor cleaner, totes, chairs  
Kelley Jeffery Collins, Laura Johnson  
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