

MONDAY
TODAY & next morning
HIGH 80
LOW 59
 Becoming mostly sunny, slightly less humid.
 PAGE A4

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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DECEMBER 13, 2021

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\$1

VOL. 127 ISSUE 69

NEWS BRIEFS

FHP: Beverly Hills woman dies after walking in front of oncoming vehicle

A Beverly Hills woman died after she walked in front of a vehicle traveling on a highway north of Crystal River.

According to Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the 36-year-old walked into southbound lanes of U.S. 19 at around 4:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, north of North Champion Point, and into the path of an oncoming SUV, which fatally struck the pedestrian.

The 68-year-old Crystal River woman driving the SUV, and her passenger, a 79-year-old Crystal River man, suffered minor injuries during the collision, according to FHP.

Nominate Citrus' top citizen

The Citrus County Chronicle is seeking nominees for 2021 Citizen of the Year. Winners in the past have been honored for everything from philanthropy to volunteerism, civil rights work to service to country, and environmental efforts to governmental initiatives.

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

Email nominations, in 200 words or less, to Editor Jeff Bryan at jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com; or, mail to Jeff Bryan, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 by Dec. 15. Nominations received after Dec. 15 will not be considered.

Nominate Citrus' top nonprofit

The Citrus County Chronicle is seeking nominees for 2021 Nonprofit Organization of the Year.

While all nominations are considered, preference is usually given to contributions that are above and beyond the role one organization plays in its day-to-day community efforts.

Email nominations, in 200 words or less, to Editor Jeff Bryan at jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com; or, mail to Jeff Bryan, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 by Dec. 15. Nominations received after Dec. 15 will not be considered.

From staff reports

ONLINE POLL

Your choice?

Gov. Ron DeSantis late last week proposed a \$99.7 billion budget, which includes funds for teacher raises, environment projects and Medicare payment rates. What are your thoughts?

A. The \$600 million for teacher raises is too much.

B. The governor needs to allocate more than \$980 million for statewide environmental.

C. It'll cost more than \$226.5 million to address staffing issues for health- and human-services providers.

To vote, visit www.chronicleonline.com. Scroll down the home page and look for the poll box in the right-hand column.

Results will appear next Monday. Find last week's online poll results./Page A3

County to mull utility rate increase

By MICHAEL D. BATES
 Staff writer

County commissioners will meet at a workshop Tuesday to discuss a consultant's study calling for a modest increase in utility rates to accommodate future growth.

Maitland, Florida-based

Raftelis Financial Consultants determined the county's existing water and wastewater rates will not be sufficient through 2026 because of a projected decline in net revenue due to inflation and the need to fund infrastructure projects.

For homeowners who use

an 10,000 gallons of water a month, the average bill would increase from \$27.09 per month to \$28.44, with possible increases to come.

Wastewater monthly rates would go up from an average \$66.99 to \$69.

Increasing operating expenses, capital costs related to system upgrades and expansions and additional

debt service costs rate adjustments are proposed for fiscal years 2023 through 2026.

The county commission workshop is at 9 a.m. Dec. 14 at the Citrus County Courthouse, 110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness.

To view the study and proposed-existing rates, visit

<https://bit.ly/3y8plxo>

The commission's regular meeting begins at 1 p.m. Here are highlights:

■ Commissioner Ruthie Schlabach will broach the idea of having another public hearing time once a month at 6 p.m. to

See **UTILITY**, page A5



With the assistance of a "boat" and her mother, Leighton Sayer kicks her legs in the direction of a rubber duck that floats in the Citrus Memorial Health System YMCA pool in Lecanto. The child's mother, Dana, assists her as the two participate in the Y's parent and child swim lesson class.

A partnership for safety

YMCA, CMH to offer free swim lessons for moms and babies

By FRED HIERS
 Chronicle Reporter

We've all read something like this before and cringed.

"A 3-year-old child was pronounced dead after he was found unresponsive in the family's swimming pool when he got out of the home undetected."

It's the kind of headline that's appeared in almost every Florida newspaper and in almost every Florida county at one time or another. Only a few facts change with each drowning: sometimes it's a toddler, a boy, a girl, a child maybe five or 10. But the consequences to the victim and their grieving families are always the same.

In 2021, there were 93

child drownings in Florida and 65 percent of those were children three years old and younger. Most were in family pools.

Child drownings are avoidable with proper safety precautions to keep a child out of the pool, said YMCA's senior membership director in Citrus County, Garrett Adkins. But the best and last line of defense is teaching a baby or toddler swimming basics such as floating on their back, kicking and arm movements, and getting to the edge of the pool or steps to wait for help.

The YMCA recently created a partnership with Citrus Memorial Hospital to allow any baby born at the hospital to receive lessons teaching the infant to float on its back and make elemental motions with its arms and legs and to try keep its face out of the water.

The program will focus on 6-month-olds to babies a year old, but will still accept children a little older under the partnership with CMH.

It's about buying a baby time in case they fall in the water, Adkins said. That's because it only takes seconds for a baby to drown so buying seconds is important, he said.

The statistics are frightening.

More children in the United States ages 1 year to 4 years old die from drowning than any other cause of death except birth defects, according to the Centers for Disease and Prevention.

For children ages 1 year to 14 years, drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death only after motor vehicle crashes, according to the CDC.

David Reed, Citrus County

See **SWIMMING**, page A6



YMCA swim instructor Carlie Pearcey works with 18-month-old Leighton Sayer Friday morning, Dec. 10, at the Y's pool in Lecanto.

CR Council to address Hunter Springs Park management, roadway realignment

By BUSTER THOMPSON
 Chronicle Reporter

Hunter Springs Park management and relocating Kings Bay Drive are just a couple of topics Crystal River City Council plans to address at its next regular meeting before the holidays.

City Council members call to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13, at Crystal River City Hall, 123 NW U.S. 19.

For more information on council's agenda and to watch the meeting online,

visit crystalriverfl.org/meetings.

During the meeting, City Manager Ken Frink would like council to mull over the future management model of Hunter Springs Park to find a solution for the overcrowding occurring at the 3.5-acre park during the summer and weekends.

Frink will present council with several options.

Frink is also going to introduce a process to restart efforts to relocate sections of Kings Bay Drive to ac-



cess into the Port Hotel and Marina along with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Office.

According to the city, a council from 2001 voted to OK realigning portions of Paradise Point Road and Kings Bay Drive but the project stalled due to a lack of funding.

Frink will ask council on Monday to approve a motion allowing him to apply for a Federal Land Access

Program Grant, which could fund the project in its entirety.

Also on city council's agenda for Monday:

■ Council will nominate and elect its next vice mayor for a one-year term;

■ Council members will announce their new committee assignments for 2022;

■ A discussion hosted by Councilman Ken Brown about including former council members in invitations to city ribbon-cutting events.

Contact Chronicle reporter Buster Thompson at 352-564-2916, bthompson@chronicleonline.com or visit tinyurl.com/xyzn2ahs0 to see more of his stories.





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STATE & LOCAL

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

NEWS BRIEFS

Sierra Club to have virtual meetup

Join the Sierra Club Adventure Coast's virtual meet up from 7 to 8 p.m. Dec. 15 via Zoom.

The guest speaker is Rocky Milburn, who will discuss current issues and programs in Sierra Club Tampa Bay. Milburn is chair of the club's executive committee and of Inspiring Connection Outdoors (ICO), which teaches outdoor skills to over 100 inner city kids on monthly outings.

Among other committees and organizations, Milburn is a member of the Sierra Club's National Youth Leader Advisory Council, a youth leader in Boy Scouts of America and a certified National Sierra Club Local Outings and First Aid/CPR instructor and trainer.

Milburn was a roseate spoonbill technician for the National Audubon Society, Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries in Tampa Bay and biologist extension agent with the University of Tennessee. He is currently employed by PRIDE Enterprises in Brandon, Florida.

To join, visit tinyurl.com/ycksnf2. For more information, visit sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast, email sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com or call 352-277-3330.

League of Women Voters to meet

The League of Women Voters of Citrus County will meet via Zoom at 7 p.m. Dec. 14. Florence Phillips, lifelong volunteer and founder of the English Language Learners In-Home Program will be the speaker.

Phillips was a Department of Army Civilian with the U.S. Eighth Army for three years teaching English in Japan and Korea. As a Peace Corps and AmeriCorps volunteer for 11 years, she taught business and English language in East Africa, West Indies and Central America.

After moving to Nevada in 1999, she recognized challenges in adult literacy and began tutoring women. Soon, she recruited others. Thus, her in-home program was born and in 2019 expanded around the world using Zoom. Phillips was 89 years old at the time.

Her program focuses on helping low-income families become more literate, allowing them to be more active members of their community while reducing financial instability.

Register by Dec. 12 at lwvcitrus.org. For more information, call 1-614-563-4282 or email lwcc2013@gmail.com.

From staff reports

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

QUESTION: Christmas is less than three weeks away, what will your spending habits be like?

A. Due to the economy, spending less than past years. (398 votes)

B. Due to supply issues, chose a vacation over presents. (26 votes)

C. Despite the economy and supply issues, it's full speed ahead for Christmas. (195 votes)

D. Everyone was going to get coal, but re-gifting last year's fruitcake. (104 votes)

Total votes: 723.

For this week's online poll question, see **Page A1**.

Have a very happy, 'Country Christmas'

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Just around the corner is the Citrus Springs Civic Association's annual parade, this year's theme being "A Country Christmas."

The festivities will start at 2 p.m. Dec. 19, beginning at the Citrus Springs Fountain on the corner of North Citrus Springs Boulevard and U.S. 41, and ending at Wesley Jones Park.

The Civic Association announced the Grand Marshall of this year's parade, World War II veteran and Citrus County resident Les Cowen. He will be accompanied by his wife, Patricia Cowen.

Thirty organizations will



Special to the Chronicle
This year's parade, presented by the Citrus Springs Civic Association, will don the theme "A Country Christmas."

participate in the parade, including the Citrus Springs Middle School and Crystal

River High School marching bands, Christian Motorcycle Club of Citrus County, VFW, Department's Smoke House, Citrus

ROTC, Nature Coast Young Marines, Jeepers, Beverly Hills Irish American Social Club, DeSantis Train, North Oak Baptist Church, St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Church, Hope Lutheran Church, Military vehicle presentation, Scouts and more.

This is a varied presentation of local organizations with plenty of seating for attendees along the parade route. Although the parade will end at Wesley Jones Park, this is where the family-oriented fun begins.

This event will end at approximately 4:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. In the event of rain, the parade will be cancelled.

County Sheriff's FOCUS Car, DeSantis Train, Jeeps, motorcycles and Santa.

The presentation of the four prize winners of the "Country Christmas" float contest will be awarded at the park, along with the Citrus Springs Civic Association house decorating contest.

This event will end at approximately 4:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. In the event of rain, the parade will be cancelled.

For more information, visit citrussprings.org/event/2021-christmas-parade, email citrusspringsca@yahoo.com or call 352-897-5009.

Inverness fire dept. looks to replace aging equipment

Department will apply for an \$80K grant for radios

By FRED HIERS
Chronicle Reporter

The Inverness city fire department is hoping to replace its vehicle and personnel mobile radio system before the aging system can no longer be properly maintained.

City Fire Chief Steve Marfongella successfully obtained state grants earlier this fall for safety and vehicle equipment so Tuesday he asked city council members for permission to again try his luck and apply for a federal grant to replace his department's equipment.

Marfongella told the council the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) fiscal 2021

grant application period is open for fire departments needing more equipment.

Marfongella asked for and received permission from the council to apply for an \$80,000 grant for Motorola Solutions radio equipment. Under the grant application the city's financial commitment would be \$4,000.

The council encouraged him to apply.

"It's good you keep seeking and receiving these grants," Councilwoman Linda Bega told Marfongella.

Councilman Cabot McBride told Marfongella that getting the needed equipment would be "a big deal" and that communication between emergency workers was of utmost importance.

Councilwoman Jacquie Hepfer said that getting \$80,000 in exchange for a \$4,000 "is just good business" for the city.

■ Also in city business, Mayor Bob Plaisted awarded Cooter Kudos to the Citrus County Special Olympics Softball Team for getting second place during the statewide games.

Also receiving a mayor's Cooter Kudos was the Festival of the Arts Committee for its recent work on the successful arts festival in Inverness.

Plaisted also awarded the School of Dance Arts a Cooter Kudos for its dance participation and contribution at the arts festival.

Fred Hiers is a reporter at the Citrus Chronicle. E-mail him at fred.hiers@chronicleonline.com



MARFONGELLA



Boyzell Hosey / Tampa Bay Times / AP
For eight years, Bruce and Pat Harting have been setting up an elaborate, animated Christmas Village at 3 Daughters Brewing, owned by their son, Nov. 1 in St. Petersburg.

Family's Christmas display finds home at their brewery

By SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN
Tampa Bay Times

ST. PETERSBURG — It started with two tiny houses, one with ghostly figures of Christmas past and present dancing inside.

Next came more houses, and stores and trees and trains and teeny skiers and carolers. Eventually an entire Christmas village, fully lit and animated, took over the garage of Bruce and Pat Harting's waterfront St. Petersburg home. Neighbors would pause on their nightly walks, transfixed by the wondrous sight.

Then eight years ago, the mini metropolis moved to a brewery started by the Hartings' son Mike and his wife, Leigh. As 3 Daughters Brewing has grown in renown, so has the size of Mike's parents' Christmas display.

"You've got the North Pole up here," Bruce Harting says, pointing to an

animated Santa's Mailbox, "and people shopping down here." In all there are six trains, 341 houses and other pieces (89 of which are animated) and more than 380 people.

Each year in October, the Hartings start assembling the display, which now covers several long sheets of plywood and runs along two sides of the brewery in the Warehouse Arts District. It takes until mid-November to finish what has become a popular draw, especially with harried parents who can enjoy a brew or two while their offspring ooh and ahh over the chugging trains, revolving carousels and rising hot air balloons.

Bruce Harting's favorite piece remains the Scrooge house with ghosts that his mother gave him in 1986. It was made by Department 56, a Minnesota company known for its ceramic buildings and other holi-

day decorations. As Department 56 items became increasingly expensive, Harting turned to Lemax products, which are sold at Michaels, and whatever he can get from eBay and other sources. A retired Army lieutenant colonel, he finances the display with what he makes as referee for local soccer teams.

Christmas buffs are eager to help. Dave Zitnik, who has a model train store in Pinellas Park, comes every Friday to lend a hand with the trains. This year, for the first time, there will be two trains running on the same track. Another volunteer made a mini replica of the massive brew house. And a friend from St. Louis contributed a little team of Clydesdales hauling a wagon full of beer barrels.

"It had Budweiser on the side," Harting said, "but that doesn't work so I painted it and put 3 Daughters on it."

FHP: Running of red light causes collision

By BUSTER THOMPSON
Chronicle Reporter

Hyundai Santa Fe heading south on U.S. 19.

A motorist ran a red light at the junction of two highways in southwest Citrus County, causing their car to collide with a passing SUV.

According to Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the 8:29 p.m. crash from Thursday, Dec. 9, occurred at the intersection of South Suncoast Boulevard and West Ponce De Leon Boulevard, or U.S. 19 and U.S. 98, south of Homosassa.

Prior to the two-vehicle collision, a white Subaru's driver, who suffered non-incapacitating injuries but wasn't transported to hospital, told the investigating trooper she was stopped at the intersection for several signal cycles but her light never turned green.

She said she believed the intersection was clear of traffic, and proceeded to turn under a red light. FHP cited her with failing to obey a traffic signal.

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

Florida Democrats aim to rebound as GOP voting numbers grow

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE
Associated Press

cisions are made by 1 percent or less."

With the 2022 election approaching, Democrats are confronting a host of disadvantages as they work to rebuild campaign networks and try to reignite excitement in their party. There is a growing worry that big donors and the national wing of the party may consider Florida to be GOP territory after years of bruising losses.

"In the current state of American politics, and especially in a state with as many major television markets and population centers, you're going to need more help," said state Rep. Evan Jenne, a Democrat. "It's not as if Floridians can't be swayed one way or the other. We need more coordination with the national party."

The Democratic Governors Association has bristled at assertions that it has ceded Florida to Republicans. A spokesperson said the group is building its general election infrastructure, with investments in media and messaging.



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HOROSCOPES

By EUGENIA LAST

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

Get your house in order and enjoy your surroundings. A positive attitude will help you excel this year and encourage you to make the most of what you already have. Getting back to the basics will help you discover the meaning of life, love and happiness. Explore the possibilities and what matters to you most.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Disregard rumors and gossip. Be a part of the solution, tell the truth and offer positive suggestions. Don't limit what you can accomplish. Stretch your mind and speak up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Resentment will mount if you disapprove of what a friend, relative or loved one is doing. Offer thoughtful input and be willing to compromise if it will help keep the peace.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Touch base with people who inspire you. Getting back to the basics will help you budget wisely for upcoming festivities. A kind gesture will be worth more than a gift.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Pay attention to detail, and get things done correctly and on time. Refuse to let what others do or say slow you down or lead you astray. Be true to yourself and your beliefs.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Downplay your emotions, and you'll avoid giving someone the upper hand. The less personal information you share, the easier it will be for you to advance. Focus on what you do best.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't let a change of plans ruin your day. Keep busy, and you will accomplish what you set out to do. A project you spearhead will pay off. Avoid joint ventures.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You'll have plenty of energy, so be sure to use it wisely. Focus on how much you can accomplish. Say little and do a lot. Trust in yourself and your abilities. Your achievements will count for much.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) It's OK to change your mind or head in a different direction. Take care of matters that will improve your life. Don't let your emotions or an outsider mess with the big things in your life.

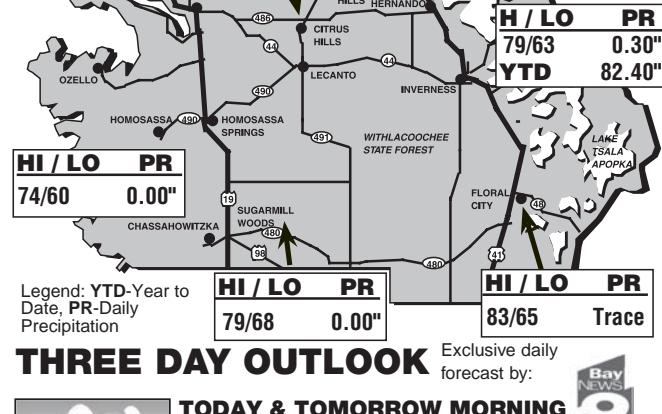
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Participate in events that have something to offer. What you learn will broaden your outlook and help you venture down a new and exciting path. Take a unique approach to life and what you do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Someone will disappoint you. Don't trust what others say, and don't follow someone for the wrong reason. Take care of your needs, health and finances.

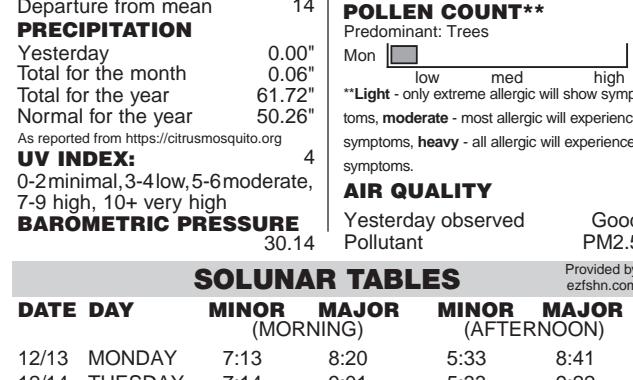
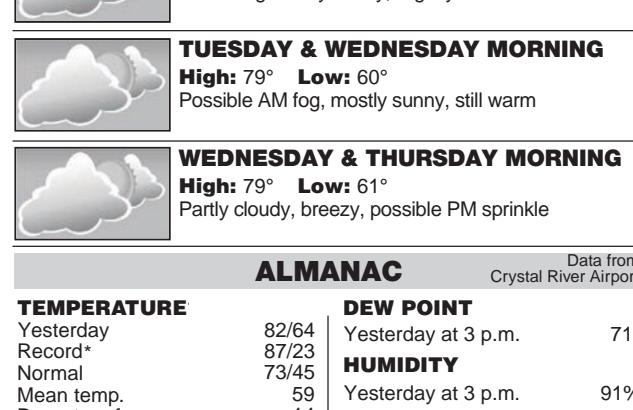
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Say what's on your mind, but be diplomatic when doing so. Don't make unnecessary changes that will upset your budget. Put a limit on spending. Focus on long-term plans, not on shortcuts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Control your emotions when dealing with peers and superiors. You can question what's going on and offer suggestions, but don't make demands. Simplicity and moderation will serve you well.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



THREE DAY OUTLOOK



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. For more information on wildfire conditions, please visit the Division of Forestry's Web site: www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-OFFices/Florida-Forest-Service/Wildland-Fire

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:

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TIDES

*From mouths of rivers **At King's Bay ***At Mason's Creek

MONDAY

High 0.4 ft 1:25 p.m. 0.3 ft 8:42 a.m.
Low 0.2 ft 8:39 p.m. 0.1 ft

0.6 ft 6:40 p.m. 0.7 ft

0.6 ft 4:33 p.m. 1.1 ft

0.2 ft 7:09 p.m. 0.5 ft

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Spielberg 'West Side Story' debuts weakly with \$10.5 million opening

By JAKE COYLE

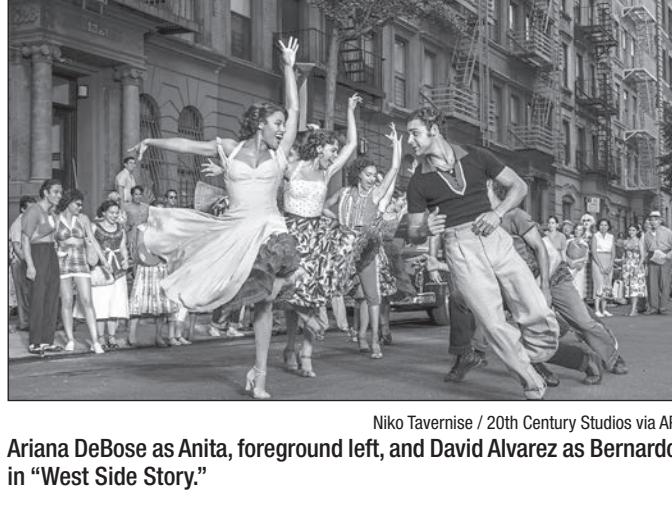
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK — Despite critical acclaim and two years-worth of anticipation, Steven Spielberg's lavish "West Side Story" revival made little noise at the box office, debuting with \$10.5 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday — a worrisome result for a movie industry struggling to recapture its finger-snapping rhythm.

A dazzling widescreen adaptation and Spielberg's first musical, "West Side Story" was one of the year's most eagerly awaited titles. With a script by Tony Kushner and Rita Moreno returning to her breakthrough film 60 years later, the \$100-million "West Side Story" epitomizes a grand-scale prestige film that Hollywood infrequently produces anymore. It hit theaters on a wave of glowing reviews and expectations that it could play a starring role in March's Academy Awards.

But "West Side Story" faced a challenging marketplace for both adult-driven releases and musicals. Audiences have steadily returned to multiplexes in the second year of the pandemic, but older moviegoers, who made up the bulk of ticket-buyers for Spielberg's latest, have been among the slowest to return.

Musicals, too, have struggled to catch on in theaters. Lin-Manuel Miranda's "In the Heights" launched with \$11 million in June but the Warner Bros. release simultaneously



Niko Tavernise / 20th Century Studios via AP

Ariana DeBose as Anita, foreground left, and David Alvarez as Bernardo in "West Side Story."

streamed on HBO Max. The critically panned "Dear Evan Hanson," from Universal, debuted with \$7.4 million in September.

But this was Spielberg. If anyone could reignite moviegoing, the thinking went, it was him. Surely, one of the movies' dazzling craftsmen, a director synonymous with box office, could spark a fuller revival in theaters. "West Side Story," too, is among the most beloved musicals. The 1961 film, directed by Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise, made \$43.7 million (or about \$400 million adjusted for inflation) and won 10 Oscars, including best picture.

"West Side Story" can still be expected to play well through the lucrative holiday corridor, during which younger-skewing films like "Spider-Man: No Way Home" and "Sing 2" will likely be the top draws. Film executives are hoping the spreading omicron variant of

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Monday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2021. There are 18 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 13, 2000, Republican George W. Bush claimed the presidency a day after the U.S. Supreme Court shut down further recounts of disputed ballots in Florida; Democrat Al Gore conceded, delivering a call for national unity.

On this date:

In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

In 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit.

Ten years ago:

Early sound recordings by Alexander Graham Bell that were packed away at the Smithsonian Institution for more than a century were played publicly for the first time using new technology that read the sound with light and a 3D camera. (In one recording, a man recites part of Hamlet's Soliloquy; on another, a voice recites the numbers 1 through 6.)

Five years ago:

President-elect Donald Trump announced his choice of ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson to be secretary of state.

One year ago:

The first vials of the Pfizer vaccine against COVID-19 began making their way to distribution sites across the United States.

Today's Birthdays:

Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 96. Singer Ted Nugent is 73. Actor Wendie Malick is 71. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 71. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 68. Country singer John Anderson is 67. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 54. Actor Kimeo Balmilero (TV: "Hawaii Five-0") is 42. Actor Chelsea Hertford is 40. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 40. Actor Michael Socha is 34. Singer Taylor Swift is 32. Actor Maisy Stella is 18.

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SWIMMING

From page A1

YMCAs executive director, said that while coming home from a Naples Rotary Club meeting he thought about duplicating some of that organization's programs, but through the YMCA. However, he wanted the services to have a greater impact and came up with exposing infants to water safety.

When a child drowns and it could have been avoided if the child had been a better swimmer, "we take that personal," Reed said.

The YMCA has a heated and covered pool.

The partnership with CMH involves giving new parents



Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

Dana Sayer works with her daughter Leighton, 18 months, Friday morning at the Citrus Memorial Health Foundation YMCA in Lecanto. The two are participating in the parent and child swim lesson class that teaches young children basic swim skills should they fall into water.

a voucher inviting the parents to bring their baby for eight swim sessions over a

four-week period.

The free program does not

involve babies in the water

without a parent.

"This is a parent/child swim lesson," Adkins said. "We don't just throw them in."

It's about buying the baby time if they fall in water and an adult realizes soon later what's happened.

"Buying them 60 seconds could mean the difference between life and death," Adkins said.

The swim classes will also allow the baby's first experience with water and swimming to be positive and relaxing.

"We want them to respect the water but not fear it," Reed said.

CMH delivers about 500 babies annually. That number

will increase now that Brave-

ra Seven Rivers hospital will

no longer deliver babies.

The partnership with CMH will also have its benefits.

"We're only stronger as a community when we have partnerships and CMH is a great partner," Reed said.

CMH spokeswoman Katie Myers said the program was one more way to make children safer so CMH wanted to be part of it.

"We want all babies to have a strong, healthy start.

We also want parents to have access to resources they need to provide the safest possible environment for their little ones. At Citrus Memorial Hospital, we have long focused on child-birth education classes...," Myers told the Chronicle.

"Drowning remains one of the leading causes of death for children four and under. By partnering with the YMCA we can ensure more infants have access to swim lessons and families can learn water safety basics early on," she said. "We're encouraging all families who deliver with us to participate in this free program as we work together to reduce the risk of accidental childhood drowning."

Adkins said that once a child makes it to water "(swim lessons are) the number one way we can protect children ... and it's a lifelong skill once you acquire it."

Fred Hiers is a reporter at the Citrus Chronicle. E-mail him at fred.hiers@chronicleonline.com

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Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

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DEC 13

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Will new bacon law begin? California grocers seek delay

By SCOTT MCFETRIDGE

Associated Press

ELLIOTT, Iowa — A coalition of California restaurants and grocery stores has filed a lawsuit to block implementation of a new farm animal welfare law, adding to uncertainty about whether bacon and other fresh pork products will be much more expensive or in short supply in the state when the new rules take effect on New Year's Day.

The lawsuit is the latest step in a tumultuous three-year process of enacting rules overwhelmingly approved by voters but that remain in question even as the law is set to begin. Since voters approved Proposition 12 by a 2-to-1 ratio in November 2018, state officials have missed deadlines for releasing specific regulations covering the humane treatment of animals that provide meat for the California market.

Most hog producers haven't made changes to comply with the law. And now a coalition of business owners is seeking more than a two-year delay.

"We're saying this is not go-



Charlie Neiburgall / AP

A hog walks in a pasture on the Ron Mardeser farm Dec. 2 near Elliott, Iowa. A coalition of California restaurants and grocery stores has filed a lawsuit to block implementation of a farm animal welfare law, adding to uncertainty about whether bacon and other fresh pork products will be prohibitively expensive or available at all in the state when the new rules take effect on New Year's Day. Mardeser already meets the California standards for the hogs he sells to specialty meat company Niman Ranch, which supported passage of Proposition 12 and requires all of its roughly 650 hog farmers to give breeding pigs far more room than mandated by the law.

ing to work," said Nate Rose, a spokesman for the California Grocers Association.

While groups are working to delay the measure, the state has eased the transi-

tion to the new system. It has allowed pork processed under the old rules and held in cold storage to be sold in California in 2022, which could prevent shortages for

weeks or even months.

As Josh Balk, who leads farm animal protection efforts at the Humane Society of the United States, put it, California residents

need not fear "pork industry claims of the apocalypse."

Put simply, the law requires that breeding pigs, egg-laying chickens and veal calves be given enough space to stand and turn around. For pigs, that means they no longer can be kept in narrow "gestation crates" and must have 24 square feet of usable space.

Producers of eggs and veal appear able to meet the new law, but hog farmers argued the changes would be too expensive and couldn't be carried out until the state approved final regulations for the new standards.

An estimate from North Carolina State University found the new standard would cost about 15% more per animal for a farm with 1,000 breeding pigs.

The National Pork Producers Council has challenged California's right to impose standards on businesses in other states, but so far those efforts have failed.

California is the nation's largest market for pork, and producers in major hog states like Iowa provide more than 80% of the roughly 255 million pounds that California's

restaurants and groceries use each month, according to Rabobank, a global food and agriculture financial services company.

Without that supply, it's unclear if a state that consumes about 13% of the nation's pork supply will have all the meat it demands. The North American Meat Institute, an industry group, said packers and processors "will do their best to serve the California market."

"What will happen in California? I don't know," said Michael Formica, the general counsel for the National Pork Producers Council. "One thing we know is there will be finite supplies to sell there."

Adding to the uncertainty is the lawsuit filed last month in Sacramento County by the California Grocers Association, California Restaurant Association, California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, California Retailers Association

and Kruse & Sons, a meat processor. The suit seeks a 28-month delay until final regulations for enforcement of the rules are officially adopted.

FOOD PROGRAMS

■ Food and non-food items will be available from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 18 at North Oak Church, 9324 N. Elkcum Blvd in Citrus Springs. Ministries are open to anyone who has a need for no charge. Enter from North Citrus Springs Boulevard and a supply of paper products, detergents, personal items and more will be brought to your car. Then follow the driveway and food items will be brought to the vehicle. Items vary based on availability while supplies last. For more information, visit northoakbc.org.

■ Citrus County Family Resource Center - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (holiday hours vary), 3660 N. Carl G. Rose Highway, Hernando. For information, call 352-344-1001.

■ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Citrus Springs serves those in need with free boxes of food from its food pantry. For our Thanksgiving distribution we will be giving out Ham gift cards as well as additional holiday season food items. Please call 352-465-6613 on Tuesday, Dec. 14, to sign up. Food distribution is the following Saturday morning (Dec. 18) beginning at 9 a.m.

■ Daystar Life Center - 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), 6751 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Crystal River. 352-795-8668. Food for dogs and cats may also be available. Other assistance available. A community service resource.

■ First Baptist Church of Homosassa Life Care Center - 9 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays for bread distribution at 10540 W. Yulee Drive, Homosassa. Homosassa residents may receive a bag of canned and dry goods once a month. Call 352-628-3858. We Care Mobile Pantry is at the church on the first Thursday of every month from 9-11 a.m.

■ A food pantry is provided by St. Timothy Lutheran Church and Life Tree Church from 9:30 a.m. to noon every Tuesday at Life Tree Church at 1501 SE U.S. 19, Crystal River. Call 352-403-1498.

■ St. Anne's Episcopal Church - 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. first and third Mondays and second and fourth Wednesdays of every month in the church's side parking lot, 9870 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River. Registration

and ID is required. Call 352-795-2176.

■ Citrus United Basket (CUB) - 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1201 Parkside Ave., Inverness, to assist Citrus County residents facing temporary hardship. Call 352-344-2242 or go online to citrusunitedbasket.org.

■ First Baptist Church of Crystal River - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 5 to 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month, 700 N. Citrus Ave. Call 352-795-3367.

■ The First Lutheran Church of Inverness Food Pantry is open to all from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For information, call 352-726-1637.

■ St. Margaret's Episcopal Church hosts a food pantry from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 114 N. Osceola Ave. in downtown Inverness. The food pantry offers canned, dried and frozen foods to anyone in need in Citrus County. For information, call 352-726-3153.

■ The Citrus County Veterans Coalition's food pantry, for veterans and their families, operates from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and the first and third Thursdays (excluding holidays) at 1801 N. Paul Drive in Inverness, just west of U.S. 41, on Independence Highway. The pantry offers a variety of dry, canned and frozen goods (cereals, rice, canned vegetables, soups and meats) for veterans in need. For food assistance, call 352-400-8952 or ask a volunteer during food pantry hours.

■ Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church - 10 to 11 a.m. the third Tuesday monthly, 6 Roosevelt Blvd. Call 352-746-2144.

■ St. Margaret's Episcopal Church - 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call 352-726-3153.

■ Suncoast Baptist Church - food pantry open for bread distribution from 7 to 9 a.m. Wednesdays, and the second Wednesday monthly is distribution of bread and vegetables from 7 to 9 a.m. at 5310 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa Springs. Open to Homosassa residents only. For information, call 352-621-3008 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday or Wednesday and ask for Clara.

■ Homosassa First United Methodist Church Bread of Life Pantry - 8 to 11 a.m.

Thursdays in fellowship hall. Bag of groceries with bread, meat and produce available for Homosassa residents once a month. Call 352-628-4083.

■ Serving our Savior (SOS) - 8 to 10 a.m. Thursdays at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 439 E. Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando. This is a drive-thru food pantry. Clients are allowed to come every other week. SOS is an equal opportunity provider. Email sos4food@gmail.com.

■ Calvary Church - 10 a.m. to noon Thursdays, 2728 E. Harley St., Inverness. Photo ID and proof of Citrus County residency are required. Visitors can receive food once per month. Calvary Church is an equal opportunity provider.

■ Calvary Chapel of Inverness - Free bagged groceries available from noon to 2 p.m. Thursdays at 960 S. U.S. 41. 352-726-1480. Calvary Church is an equal opportunity provider.

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■ The North Oak Food Pantry and Beyond the Bread ministries will be open early in the months of November and December. Both will be available from 10 a.m. to Noon, or while supplies last, on Nov. 20 and Dec. 18, 9324 N. Elkcam Blvd. in Citrus Springs.

Food and non-food items are available free of charge to those in need. For more information, visit northoakbc.org or call 352-489-1688.

■ The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Thomas the Apostle Church Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The church is located on U.S. 19, approximately 1/2 mile south of the Cardinal Street intersection. The pantry provides bagged canned goods, nonperishable food items and food staples for people facing temporary hardship and living within parish boundaries. To be eligible, clients must present

a photo ID. Call 352-628-3366. Emergency help with utility shut-offs, prescriptions and other emergency services are provided. Volunteers are available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

■ Rivers of Life Restoration Ministry Inc. operates the Seven Loaves Food and Clothing Pantry at Helping Hands Thrifty Treasures, 9699 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River. The free-to-all Food Pantry is now open from noon to 3 p.m. every Tuesday. Call 863-666-4129 for information.

■ Our Lady of Fatima - offers Helping Hands from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday thru Friday, at 604 U.S. 41, Inverness. Food assistance is given every two months; utilities every four months; and clothing and prescriptions every three months for those who qualify. For information, call 352-726-1707.

■ Calvary Chapel of Inverness - Free bagged groceries available from noon to 2 p.m. Thursdays at 960 S. U.S. 41. 352-726-1480. Calvary Church is an equal opportunity provider.

■ The Floral City United Methodist Church has resumed their free community breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. every Tuesday at Hilton Hall, 8478 E. Marvin St. For more information or to volunteer, call 352-344-1771.

■ God's Kitchen at Inverness First United Methodist Church will distribute free hot meals from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays, 1140 E. Turner Camp Road. Drive up only. Delivery is available for those who can't drive. For more information, call 352-726-2522, extension 0.

■ Peace Lutheran Church offers a free community meal from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. the third Monday monthly. This is not a fundraiser and there is no charge. Come be our guest(s). We care and you are important to us. All ages are welcome. Peace Lutheran Church ("The Church on the Hill") is at 7201 U.S. 41 S. in Dunnellon (at the corner of U.S. 41 and State Road 40). Call the church at 352-489-5881.

■ The Salvation Army offers free hot meals from 4 to

5 p.m. Tuesdays in the thrift store parking lot at Daystar Life Center, 6751 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Crystal River, and from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays at the Homosassa Lions Club, 3705 S. Indiana Terrace, Homosassa.

■ Free hot meals are available Monday through Friday for clients ages 60-plus at the following community centers. Call to reserve your first meal as a visitor: Central Citrus Community Center at 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court in Lecanto (352-527-5993); West Citrus Community Center at 8940 W. Veterans Drive in Homosassa (352-795-3831); East Citrus Community Center at 9907 E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway in Inverness (352-344-9666); and at the historic Hernando School on the corner of Florida Avenue and Parsons Point Road.

■ Calvary Chapel of Inverness hosts a soup kitchen from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Thursday, at 960 S. U.S. 41. All are welcome. The meal includes soup, bread and dessert. Call 352-726-1480.

■ Our Father's Table - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the second, third, fourth and fifth Saturdays monthly at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, one mile west of the Plantation Inn on West Fort Island Trail. Call 352-795-2176.

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■ American Legion Post 155 and We Care Food Pantry mobile food pantry - 9 to 11 a.m. the second Tuesday monthly, at 6585 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway in Crystal River. Call 352-795-6526.

■ El-Shaddai food ministries "brown bag of food" distribution is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays at Crystal River Church of God, 2180 W. 12th Ave. Although food is distributed once a week, families are only eligible for food once a month. Call 352-628-9087 or 352-302-9925.

■ Hernando Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1880 N. Trucks Ave., Hernando, provides food distribution for needy families from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. the second Tuesday monthly. Call 352-212-5159.

■ Christ Christian Bible Ministry distributes food at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at 619 NE Second St., Crystal River. Preparations are being made to provide a hot meal once a week. Call 352-513-8065.

■ We Care Food Pantry hosts distributions twice a month in Homosassa at the Catholic Charities Outreach Center. We Care also operates three mobile pantries. Once a month the mobile pantry goes to Chassahowitzka Fire Station, First Baptist Church in Old Homosassa and First Baptist Church in Ozello. Hours are 9-11 a.m. For information or to sign up, call the office at 352-503-2079.

Sarah Gatling is features editor of the Citrus County Chronicle. Email her at sgatling@chronicleonline.com.

GIVEAWAYS

■ St. Anne's Mobile Ministry (SAMM) Service from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday in the St. Anne's Episcopal Church's side parking lot, 9870 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River. Call 352-795-2176.

■ First Presbyterian Church of Inverness, 206 Washington Ave., along with VFW Post 4337, will once again be working with We Care Food Pantry to distribute free food

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OPINION

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



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You may differ with my choice, but not my right to choose."

— David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

Gerard "Gerry" Mulligan publisher emeritus

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You may differ with my choice, but not my right to choose."

— David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

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ADA COMPLIANCE

Man wants equal access to the beach

The area's name says it all: Nature Coast. That includes lush forests, a variety of wildlife and the Gulf of Mexico.

Most people take it for granted the easy access they have to these amenities that grace the county.

But it's not so easy for mobility-limited people like Bruce Titus.

Titus, a 24-year-old who grew up in Citrus County, was paralyzed from the chest down in 2016 after a car struck him from behind as he rode his bicycle down Citrus Avenue in Crystal River. That left him wheelchair bound.

Although Titus is keenly adept at getting around in his wheelchair and doesn't let the chair stop him from living his life to the fullest, the beach is still a challenge. And he loves the beach.

Titus is proactive and has a solution to the problem of rolling his chair through loose beach sand to get to the water. Beach-access mats allow a wheelchair to roll smoothly to the waterside without getting stuck in the sand. They are in use in a lot of other areas and beach resorts. And the cost of purchasing a mat is minimal — \$1,500-\$2,000 is what Titus estimates a Mobi-mat beach access mat would cost for use at Fort Island Gulf Beach.

The installation of an ADA-compliant beach access

mat would enable people with mobility limitations to access the water and tables. Titus has a great idea and he took it to the county. Parks & Recreation said the idea wasn't feasible at this time because of staffing and budgetary constraints.

Commissioner Ruthie Schlabach likes the idea, calling it "brilliant," and said she would like to pursue it and make it happen. The one caveat, she said, is even if a community group raises money to buy and install the mat,

there is staff and storage issues. She said the mat can't be kept out overnight because it would get stolen.

Those issues seem easy to remedy: There is already a bathhouse at the beach and staff has to maintain it and unlock the bathrooms every morning and lock them at night. Cost is comparatively minimal. Might there be storage space in the bathhouse? Might an affordable storage shed be purchased? All questions the county can consider when Titus presents his idea to commissioners.

Titus has sparked interest in one commissioner. Hopefully he can do the same with the others. His idea will benefit a lot of residents who have mobility problems and should be seriously considered by the county commissioners.

Titus has sparked interest in one commissioner. Hopefully he can do the same with the others. His idea will benefit a lot of residents who have mobility problems and should be seriously considered by the county commissioners.

THE ISSUE:

A wheelchair-bound man wants beach-access mats installed.

OUR OPINION:

County should find a way to make this happen.

Elf alerts abound

Elf alert. I kid you not. Two time of year, usually at opportune moments like this when while others hit the stores, I was headed to my storage unit to retrieve Rudolph, our one lone lawn ornament. He had served Santa and us dutifully over the years. I needed to bring him home to await having our place pressure washed mid-week. Then his encore presence would be duly staked on our front lawn.

My dilemma became how to get him down from the high perch upon which he was placed eleven months ago. Then, as if by a wizard's wand, a light bulb turned on, or was it Rudolph's nose shining brightly through my foggy brain, and my answer came. Stop at the Storage office and ask for help.

As I drove up, a Happy Thanksgiving sign and darkened interior greeted me. Not today, I thought, while I tentatively tapped on the glass door. To my amazement, out emerged an elf, pointed ears, green cap and all. He smiled, a big, elfish smile. Sensing my surprise, he explained how elves do typically mingle with humans this

time of year, usually at opportune moments like this when

they might sight a lady in distress, such as myself. He introduced himself as "Sunny" at my service. When I explained my plight, how to get Rudolph off his pedestal, Sunny confirmed my unit number, dove into his elf golf cart, and said, "Meet you there in a jiffy." And just as quickly, we opened the security gate, only to encounter a roadblock. Two

muscular men had parked their truck, blocking my only access route. They stood there nonchalantly, appearing to want me to squeeze by. Sunny gave them one flash of his "less than sunny" looks, causing them to jump in their truck and retreat to parts unknown.

From there, I opened my unit while Sunny insisted upon lifting the heavy metal door, then reaching upward and carefully placing Rudolph down on the ground. In retrospect, I would have never been able to do this by myself. As for those two men? They sure weren't Santa's helpers.

Before I could express my gratitude for Rudolph being securely arranged in my back seat, Sunny had driven away,

perhaps on another errand of mercy. I thought this was the end of my elf encounters, but no. Another pointed ears, green capped elf followed me all around the grocery store, lifting anything remotely heavy, then unloading it at the cashier's checkout. I was waiting for him to pull out an American Express card. But no luck there. He did get my car loaded up, then sped away, much like Sunny had.

My storybook ending has Rudolph on our lawn, with glittering lights shining brightly, a beacon of hope and good cheer to passersby in the coming weeks. Meantime, whether through elfin magic or random human acts of kindness, we can all find opportunities to help one another — reaching that upper shelf, or lifting that heavy object for someone too frail to manage.

Would we all pay it forward during this holiday season, what a wonderful world it would be!

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.



YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

■ **District 1** (Crystal River, Ozello, Citronelle, Red Level): Jeff Kinnard, jeff.kinnard@citrusbocc.com;

■ **District 2** (Homosassa, Sugarmill Woods): Ron Kitchen Jr., ronald.kitchen@citrusbocc.com;

■ **District 3** (Beverly Hills, Pine Ridge, Citrus Springs): Ruthie Davis Schlabach, ruthie.schlabach@citrusbocc.com;

■ **District 4** (Floral City, part of Inverness): Scott Carnahan, scott.carnahan@citrusbocc.com;

■ **District 5** (part of Inverness, Hernando, Arrowhead): Holly L. Davis, holly.davis@citrusbocc.com.

Server should show respect

(Re the Monday, Dec. 6, Page A6 Sound Off): I'm responding to the "Sign of the times," where the person said the waitress stood up in front of the entire restaurant and was complaining about their job and all this. I would have just stood up and said, "If you don't like your job, why don't you just leave and go somewhere else if you don't need this job and quit complaining about it?" Or the owner should have addressed the person and said, "Look, you don't need to speak like this in front of my customers." I'd like to know what restaurant that is so I don't go to it.

State could buy Pirate's Cove

Here is a plan to purchase Pirates Cove: It is called "The Return the Favor by the State of Florida Plan." With the purchase by Citrus County of the Homosassa Springs Attraction some years past, it was carried as an asset on the books of the county until the state of Florida could establish Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park. The great state of Florida could return the years past favor by Citrus County with the

purchase of Pirates Cove for the benefit of the citizens of Citrus County and the state of Florida. After the next elected BOCC, the state could give Citrus County the option to purchase to connect to the current Ozello park.

Trash coming from trash haulers

Recently passed by the dump the other day, as I am now, and all the trash is coming from the trash haulers. As they are leaving the dump, papers are flying out all over the place. I'm behind three of them right now and they're dumping their stuff all over the road. It's just blowing all over the place.

Gas cheaper in Ocala

I was in Ocala today doing some shopping and got gas for \$2.86 a gallon. Citrus County is 42 to 50 cents higher in price.

Lights timed improperly

The city of Inverness and Liberty Park are beautiful attractions, especially at night when it's lit. Unfortunately, city maintenance doesn't seem to have the

timer for the lights to come on at an appropriate time. Here it is, 6:30, 6:45 and the city and Liberty Park is dark. Somebody in maintenance needs to set the timer for maybe 6 o'clock and have the lights come on and show this attractive town and what it has to offer.

Don't blame the restaurant

A person says that they should impose a litter tax against all restaurants that provide a drive-thru (in Tuesday, Dec. 7's Page A11 Sound Off, "Impose a litter tax"). It's not their fault that the papers are all over. It's these people that are throwing out their trash. It's thrown out of their pickup trucks and cars.

Don't blame the restaurants.

It's not their fault; it's the people's fault.

Driver deserves due justice, ticket

I'm coming down the road by the school doing 20 mph. ... This gray car passes the stop sign coming out of the school going higher than 20 mph and I was behind this person at the light. They made a left onto (State Road) 44 and he

takes off, weaving in and out of traffic. Of course there's no sheriff's deputy patrolling. I hope there's due justice and they get their ticket eventually. It's called a stop sign; that means stop. Don't shoot out in front of me. It means stop and proceed with caution.

Commission should stop spending willy-nilly

Citrus County taxpayers should expect better from their board of commissioners. They should want oversight, not control from them. Nature Coast EMS came to the board stating they were underfunded, and, with little research or discussion, the board fired them. Could they have been facing bankruptcy because of their underfunding? Because now our commissioners have taken over the EMS and the cost is skyrocketing, with the fire department wanting bigger and better. Unfortunately, unincorporated communities in this county are paying as much or more than Inverness or Crystal River, with no representation or input. It's time that our commissioners stop spending money willy-nilly.

Editor's Note: Nature Coast EMS also had a rate structure for transporting patients. It's a concept widely used across the nation.



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Margaret Lee Runbeck, 1905-1956

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NATION & WORLD

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



In this aerial photo, a collapsed factory and surrounding areas are seen Sunday in Mayfield, Ky. Tornadoes and severe weather caused catastrophic damage across multiple states Friday, killing several people overnight.

'I've got towns that are gone'

States assess massive scale of devastation from storms

By BRUCE SCHREINER and DYLAN LOVAN
Associated Press

MAYFIELD, Ky. — Workers on the night shift at Mayfield Consumer Products were in the middle of the holiday rush, cranking out candles, when a tornado closed in on the factory and the word went out: "Duck and cover."

Autumn Kirks pulled down her safety goggles and took shelter, tossing aside wax and fragrance buckets to make room. She glanced away from her boyfriend, Lannis Ward, and when she looked back, he was gone.

On Sunday, he was among those feared dead in the rubble of the factory and elsewhere across the state.

Gov. Andy Beshear initially warned Sunday that the state's overall death toll from the outbreak of twisters Friday night in Mayfield and other communities could exceed 100. But later in the day, the candle company said that while eight were confirmed dead and eight remained missing, more than 90 others had been located.

"Many of the employees were gathered in the tornado shelter and after the storm was over they left the plant and went to their homes," said Bob Ferguson, a spokesman for the company. "With the power out and no landline they were hard to reach initially. We're hoping to find more of those eight unaccounted as we try their home residences."

The update raised hope that the toll from the twister outbreak wouldn't be as high as first feared, and the governor said it would be "pretty wonderful" if original estimates were wrong.

Kentucky was the worst-hit state by far in an unusual mid-December swarm of twisters across the Midwest and the South that leveled entire communities and left at least 14 people dead in four other states.

Forty people who were inside the candle factory were pulled out soon after the twister struck, authorities said. The number of people who had been in the factory was initially put at 110. Rescuers had to crawl over the dead to get to the living at a disaster scene that smelled like scented candles.

But by the time churchgoers gathered Sunday morning to pray for the lost, more than 24 hours had elapsed since anyone had been found alive in the wreckage. Instead, crews recovered pieces of peoples' lives — a backpack, a pair of shoes and a cellphone with 27 missed messages were among the items.



Arthur Byrn, left; Carole Dowdy, center; and Carla McDonald console each other after an outdoor service was held at First Christian Church Sunday in Mayfield, Ky.



A dog sits in a cage next to a sleeping man inside a shelter Sunday in Wingo, Ky., after residents were displaced by a tornado that caused severe damage in the area.

Layers of steel and cars 15 feet deep were on top of what used to be the factory roof, the governor said.

"We're going to grieve together, we're going to dig out and clean up together, and we will rebuild and move forward together. We're going to get through this," Beshear said.

"We're going to get through this together, because that is what we do."

Kirks said she and her boyfriend were about 10 feet apart in a hallway when someone said to take cover. Suddenly, she saw sky and lightning where a wall had been, and Ward had vanished.

"I remember taking my eyes off of him for a second, and then he was gone," she said.

Later, she got the terrible news — that Ward had been killed in the storm.

Kirks was at a ministry center where people gathered to seek information about the missing.

"It was indescribable," Pastor Joel Cauley said of the disaster scene. "It was almost like you were in a twilight zone. You could smell the aroma of candles, and you could hear the cries of people for help. Candle smells and all the sirens is not something I ever expected to experience at the same time."

The outbreak also killed at least six people in Illinois, where an Amazon distribution center in Edwardsville was hit; four in Tennessee; two in Arkansas, where a nursing home was destroyed and the governor said work-

About 300 National Guard members went house to house, checking on people and helping to remove debris. Cadaver dogs searched for victims.

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ers shielded residents with their own bodies; and two in Missouri.

Debris from destroyed buildings and shredded trees covered the ground in Mayfield, a city of about 10,000 in western Kentucky. Twisted sheet metal, downed power lines and wrecked vehicles lined the streets. Windows were blown out and roofs torn off the buildings that were still standing.

In the shadows of their crumpled church sanctuaries, two congregations in Mayfield came together on Sunday to pray for those who were lost. Members of First Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church met in a parking lot surrounded by rubble, piles of broken bricks and metal.

"Our little town will never be the same, but we're resilient," Laura McClelland said. "We'll get there, but it's going to take a long time."

Gang-related kidnappings and shootings have prevented aid groups from visiting parts of the capital, Port-au-Prince, and beyond where they had previously distributed food, water and other basic goods.

A severe shortage of fuel also has kept agencies from operating at full capacity.

"It's just getting worse in every way possible," said Margaret Lubin, Haiti director for CORE, a U.S. nonprofit organization.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Rain, snow fall as California braces for brunt of storm

The Western U.S. is bracing for the brunt of a major winter storm expected to hit Monday, bringing travel headaches, the threat of localized flooding and some relief in an abnormally warm fall.

Light rain and snow fell in Northern California on Sunday, giving residents a taste of what's to come. The multiday storm could drop more than 8 feet of snow on the highest peaks and drench other parts of California as it pushes south and east before moving out midweek.

"This is a pretty widespread event," said National Weather Service meteorologist Anna Wanless in Sacramento. "Most of California, if not all, will see some sort of rain and snow."

The precipitation will bring at least temporary relief to the broader region that's been gripped by drought caused by climate change. The latest U.S. drought monitor shows parts of Montana, Oregon, California, Nevada and Utah in exceptional drought, which is the worst category.

Most reservoirs that deliver water to states, cities, tribes, farmers and utilities rely on melted snow in the springtime.

Spanish island volcano eruption hits local record of 85 days

MADRID (AP) — A volcanic eruption in Spain's Canary Islands shows no sign of ending after 85 days, becoming the island of La Palma's longest eruption on record Sunday.

The eruption has surged and ebbed since it first began spewing lava on Sept. 19. It has since destroyed almost 3,000 local buildings and forced several thousand people to abandon their homes.

Few relief workers are willing to speak on the record about the cuts — perhaps worried about drawing attention following the October kidnapping of 17 people from Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries — 12 of whom remain held hostage.

But several confirmed, without giving details, that they had sent some staff out of the country and have been forced to temporarily cut back aid operations.

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G Gary ★★★★★

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J Janice ★★★★★

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50017615

Changing of the guard possible in county

As CR rebuilds, Panthers look to pounce

By CHRIS BERNHARDT JR.
Staff writer

When Lecanto defeated Crystal River on Dec. 3, the Panthers handed the Pirates their first county loss in six seasons.

That outcome exhibited the potential power shift on the local girls basketball scene. Crystal River has had a tremendous run over the past five seasons, with two district titles, five regional appearances and two trips to the Elite Eight.

But the team's top five scorers have all graduated from a crew that ended up 19-4 and went to the regional finals. Guards Iiyana Edwards, a sophomore, and Jaylin DeVaughn, a junior, are the returnees who saw significant playing time in 2020-21.

The Pirates will try to once



Photo by Matt Pfiffner
Four players from Crystal River and Lecanto chase after a loose ball during a game Dec. 3 in Lecanto. From left, Angelina Jenkins of Crystal River, Abigail Harris of Lecanto, Iiyana Edwards of the Pirates and the Panthers' Aleiza Rome. Crystal River has dominated the county for several years, but Lecanto won Dec. 3 and is looking to take over the top spot in Citrus County.

again advance out of their district, 4A-9 which also features Central, Hernando, Nature Coast, South

Sumter and Weeki Wachee.

Eight team, we are in a rebuilding mode," Crystal River head coach Charles Bryant said. "This team

is young and inexperienced, but what they lack in experience they make up for with hard work and they are very coachable.

"Edwards and DeVaughn have been phenomenal with their leadership and are almost extra coaches on the court, talking their teammates up, boosting their confidence and helping them get up to speed with all that we like to do.

"The key for us this year is to improve as the season progresses and be a team that nobody wants to face when the district tournament comes around. We may not be the favorite or one of the favorites to win the district this year as we have been the last six years, but this team has the talent to make a run and compete for a district championship."

Lecanto went 18-6 a season ago and made it to the Sweet 16 under Hall of Fame head coach Ron Allan, now in his 24th season at the helm.

See HOOPS, page B4

Bucs blow big lead, win on big play

Brady's 700th TD pass lifts Tampa Bay over Bills in OT

By FRED GOODALL
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A change of uniforms hasn't affected Tom Brady's mastery of the Buffalo Bills.

The 44-year-old quarterback beat his former AFC East rivals for the 10th straight time Sunday, becoming the NFL's all-time completions leader and throwing his 700th touchdown pass for the winning score in Tampa Bay's 33-27 overtime victory. The Buccaneers are on the brink of their first division title in 14 years.

In his first game against the Bills since moving to Tampa Bay in 2020, Brady threw for 363 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions. He also scored on a quarterback sneak set up by the 7,143rd completion of an unmatched 22-year career that includes seven Super Bowl titles.

The Bucs (10-3) won it on Breshad Perriman's 58-yard catch-and-run with 5:31 left in OT — the 700th TD pass of Brady's career, including playoffs.

"It was pretty cool. I'd rather it not come down to that, but in the end they all count the same," Brady said. "We've got to learn from it and move on. Next week we're playing for a division championship and that's pretty exciting."

Despite blowing a 21-point halftime lead, the reigning Super Bowl champs won their fourth straight game to retain a four-game lead over New Orleans and Atlanta in the NFC South, which Tampa Bay hasn't won since 2007.

"We did a three-and-out in overtime, and when you give No. 12 on the other side that opportunity, you



Mark LoMoglio / AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Breshad Perriman (16) outruns Buffalo Bills linebacker Tremaine Edmunds (49) on a 55-yard touchdown reception during overtime of Sunday's game, in Tampa.

know, he has a chance to win the game at any time," Bills center Mitch Morse said.

"It's heartbreaking," Buffalo running back Devin Singletary added. "It's the only way I can put it."

Brady, who ruled Buffalo and won 17 AFC East titles during a two-decade stint with the New England Patriots, improved to 33-3 against the Bills. He broke Drew Brees' record for most

completions in a career late in the second quarter and finished 31 of 46 with no interceptions.

Josh Allen shrugged off a slow start to throw for 308 yards and two touchdowns for Buffalo. He also rushed for 109 yards and a TD, becoming the fourth player in league history to throw for over 300 yards and also rush for 100-plus in the same game.

Allen also left Raymond James Stadium with his left foot in a walking boot. He will undergo tests on Monday, coach Sean McDermott said.

"Finished the game. I don't think it's going to be a big deal," Allen said. "It's

pretty sore. It's football."

Since starting 4-1, the Bills (7-6) had hardly resembled the team that won its first division title since 1995 and enjoyed its deepest playoff run in 27 years before losing to Kansas City in the AFC championship game last January.

They are 3-5 over their last eight games and have lost two in a row for the first time this year, jeopardizing their playoffs hopes with four weeks remaining in the regular season.

The Bucs, who have won four straight on the heels on

a two-game skid, exposed the Bills offensively and defensively before Allen and the league's No. 1 ranked defense got back on track after halftime.

Buffalo's red-zone issues contributed to falling behind, with the offense settling for a field goal on a drive inside Tampa Bay's 5 with the Bills trailing 10-0 in the second quarter.

A tendency to be overly reliant on Allen was a hindrance, too, with the absence early of a rushing attack that actually involved running backs. Buffalo ran

just four times for 43 yards in the opening half, with Allen logging all the carries. The first rushing attempt by a running back came early in the third quarter, when Matt Breida took the snap on a fake punt and lost 3 yards on fourth-and-2 from the Bills 45.

Singletary's first carry went for 29 yards on Buffalo's next possession, launching a long drive Allen finished with an 18-yard TD run, making it 24-10. Turns out, the Bills quarterback

See BUCS, page B4

Scott's late shot puts Maryland over No. 20 Florida 70-68



By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Donta Scott scored on a leaning shot in the post with 16.8 seconds left, No. 20 Florida missed its final-play 3-pointer, and Maryland beat the Gators 70-68 on Sunday night in the Basketball Hall of Fame Invitational.

Eric Ayala and Fatts Russell each scored 19 points for the Terps (6-4), who shot 49 percent and hit 8 of 13 3-pointers to snap a three-game skid. It also marked Maryland's first win in two tries under interim coach Danny Manning, who took over Dec. 3 after the school announced Mark Turgeon had stepped down in what it described as a mutual decision.

Maryland led by as many as seven with 6 1/2 minutes left before a tense finish, with Florida's Tyree Appleby going for the win on a

stepback 3-point attempt over a contesting Xavier Green. But the shot was long, with the ball hitting the back iron as the horn sounded.

"I loved the resiliency of our guys," Manning said. "I thought there were times when things aren't going our way. ... But our guys found a way to stay together and they fought, and that gave us a chance."

Appleby scored 15 points on five 3-pointers, including one against Russell with 1:14 left that pushed the Gators (7-3) to a 66-65 lead.

Florida also got a tying layup from Anthony Duruji with 43.5 seconds left, setting up Scott's tough shot against Myreon Jones in the post for the win.

Florida shot just 38 percent but scored 20 points off 15 Maryland turnovers. The Gators also got 15 points from Phlandrous Fleming Jr.

"We weren't sharp enough defensively to guard a high-level backcourt like that the way they were playing," Gators coach Mike White said of Ayala and Russell. "They were incredibly efficient."

... Our pressure overall did a good job on those guys collectively but I thought those guards handled it."

BIG PICTURE

Florida: The Gators had a jarring start to the week, losing at home to previously winless Texas Southern by 15. They rebounded with an easy home win Wednesday against North Florida, though Florida was likely headed out of Monday's new AP Top 25 poll before this close loss.

UP NEXT

Florida: The Gators face South Florida on Saturday in the Orange Bowl Classic in Sunrise, Fla.

Maryland's Fatts Russell (4) has the ball knocked away by Florida's Elijah Kennedy (10) during the first half of Sunday's game, in New York.



WEEK 14

Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	4	0	.692	350	200	
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	363	229	
Miami	6	7	0	.462	254	288	
N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	.231	226	397	

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	9	4	0	.692	324	290
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	371	283
Houston	2	11	0	.154	177	356
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154	180	340

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	304	284
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	354	293
Cleveland	7	6	0	.538	278	289
Pittsburgh	6	6	1	.500	272	322

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	9	4	0	.692	351	268
L.A. Chargers	8	5	0	.535	351	336
Denver	7	6	0	.538	275	228
Las Vegas	6	7	0	.462	283	360

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	9	4	0	.692	380	287	
Philadelphia	6	7	0	.462	337	291	
Washington	6	7	0	.462	266	324	
N.Y. Giants	4	9	0	.308	232	310	

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	10	3	0	.769	410	297
Atlanta	6	7	0	.467	245	353
New Orleans	6	7	0	.462	304	285
Carolina	5	8	0	.385	257	282

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	283	242
Minnesota	6	7	0	.462	344	333
Chicago	4	8	0	.333	201	287
Detroit	1	11	1	.115	213	354

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	10	2	0	.833	343	224
L.A. Rams	8	4	0	.667	336	270
San Francisco	7	6	0	.538	329	301
Seattle	5	8	0	.385	272	262

Scores and upcoming schedule

Thursday's Game

Minnesota 36, Pittsburgh 28

Sunday's Games

Atlanta 29, Carolina 21	7:30
Cleveland 24, Baltimore 22	7:30
Dallas 27, Washington 20	7:30
Kansas City 48, Las Vegas 9	7:30
New Orleans 30, N.Y. Jets 9	7:30
Seattle 33, Houston 13	7:30
Tennessee 20, Jacksonville 0	7:30
Carolina 21, Atlanta 20-19	7:30
RECEIVING_Jacksonville, M.Jones 6-70, Treadwell 4-68, Shennault 4-34, O'Shaughnessy 4-21, Austin 3-17, Ogundina 2-5, Hilliard 6-13, Woodside 3-(minus 3).	7:30
PASSING_Jacksonville, Lawrence 24-40-4-22, Tannehill 20-31-0-191.	7:30
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RECEIVING_Jacksonville, M.Jones 6-70, Treadwell 4-68, Shennault 4-34, O'Shaughnessy 4-21, Austin 3-17, Ogundina 2-5, Hilliard 6-13, Woodside 3-(minus 3).	7:30
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PASSING_Jacksonville, Lawrence 24-40-4-22, Tannehill 20-31-0-191.	7:30
RECEIVING_Jacksonville, M.Jones 6-70	

HOCKEY**NHL standings****EASTERN CONFERENCE****Atlantic Division**

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Florida	27	18	5	4	40	101.76
Toronto	29	19	8	2	40	93.75
Tampa Bay	27	17	6	4	38	89.74
Boston	24	14	8	2	30	69.62
Detroit	28	13	12	3	29	78.96
Buffalo	27	8	15	4	20	73.97
Ottawa	25	8	16	1	17	67.93
Montreal	29	6	20	3	15	62.102

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Washington	28	17	5	6	40	97.71
Carolina	26	19	6	1	39	84.56
N.Y. Rangers	27	18	6	3	39	79.68
Pittsburgh	27	14	8	5	33	80.70
Columbus	26	14	11	1	29	86.86
New Jersey	26	10	11	5	25	74.86
Philadelphia	26	10	12	4	24	65.88
N.Y. Islanders	23	7	11	5	19	50.70

WESTERN CONFERENCE**Central Division**

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Minnesota	27	19	7	1	39	105.78
Nashville	28	17	10	1	35	81.75
St. Louis	28	15	8	5	35	96.79
Colorado	25	16	7	2	34	110.84
Winnipeg	27	13	9	5	31	82.76
Dallas	25	13	10	2	28	69.70
Chicago	27	10	15	2	22	62.86
Arizona	27	5	20	2	12	48.101

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Anaheim	30	16	9	5	37	94.82
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87.62
Edmonton	26	16	10	0	32	90.80
San Jose	25	15	12	1	31	75.77
Vegas	26	15	11	0	30	91.84
Los Angeles	26	12	10	4	28	70.68
Vancouver	28	11	15	2	24	70.84
Seattle	27	9	15	3	21	77.98

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

Ottawa 4, Tampa Bay 0

Pittsburgh 1, Anaheim 0

St. Louis 4, Montreal 1

Toronto 5, Chicago 4

Washington 3, Buffalo 2, SO

N.Y. Islanders 4, New Jersey 2

Philadelphia 5, Arizona 3

Columbus 5, Seattle 4, OT

Carolina 3, Edmonton 1

Boston 4, Calgary 2

San Jose 2, Dallas 1

Los Angeles 2, Minnesota 1

Sunday's Games

Nashville 1, N.Y. Rangers 0

Anaheim 3, St. Louis 2, OT

Colorado 3, Florida 2

Minnesota at Vegas, late

Carolina at Vancouver, late

Today's Game

Calgary at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Los Angeles at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

Montreal at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

New Jersey at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

Ottawa at Florida, 7 p.m.

Vegas at Boston, 7 p.m.

N.Y. Islanders at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

Buffalo at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.

Calgary at Nashville, 8 p.m.

Carolina at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

St. Louis at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, 9 p.m.

Toronto at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

Columbus at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Seattle at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Washington at Chicago, 8 p.m.

N.Y. Rangers at Arizona, 9 p.m.

Seattle at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

BASKETBALL**NBA standings****EASTERN CONFERENCE****Atlantic Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	19	8	.704	—
Philadelphia	15	12	.556	4
Boston	13	14	.481	6
Toronto	12	14	.462	6½
New York	12	15	.444	7

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	16	11	.593	—
Washington	15	12	.556	1
Charlotte	15	13	.536	1½
Atlanta	13	13	.500	2½
Orlando	5	22	.185	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	18	10	.643	—
Chicago	17	10	.630	½
Cleveland	16	12	.571	2
Indiana	12	16	.429	6
Detroit	4	22	.154	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	16	11	.593	—
Dallas	13	13	.500	2½
San Antonio	10	16	.385	5½
Houston	8	18	.308	7½
New Orleans	8	21	.276	9

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	19	7	.731	—
Denver	13	13	.500	6
Portland	11	15	.423	8
Minnesota	11	15	.423	8
Oklahoma City				

Miami gets past Fordham

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Charlie Moore scored 18 points and Miami made six free throws in the closing minute to edge Fordham 72-66 at the Barclays Center on Sunday.

Isaiah Wong added 17 points and Kameron McGusty 15 for the Hurricanes (8-3), who chose to play at the home of the New York Nets because the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament will be there in March.

McGusty had a critical three-point play with 1:46 to go after Fordham's Kam'ron Cunningham hit a pair of 3-pointers to cut a 10-point Miami lead to 63-59.

It was 66-61 heading into the final minute but McGusty, Jordan Miller and Moore were clutch at the line, where the 'Canes finished 15 of 19, 10 of 11 in the second half.

Chuba Ohams led the Rams (7-5) with 15 points, Antonio Daye added 13 and Darius Quisenberry 12.

South Carolina 66, Florida State 65

ROCK HILL, S.C. — James Reese V and Devin Carter combined for 23 second-half points and South Carolina overcame a 16-point deficit to edge Florida State 66-65.

Carter's bucket with three minutes left gave the Gamecocks (7-2) the lead for good and they held on when Malik Osborne missed a wide-open 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Carter finished with 16 points and a team-high seven rebounds. Reese added 13 points with three 3-pointers and Wildens Leveque had 10 points. The Gamecocks were without second-leading scorer Jermaine Cousinard (12.1), who was dealing with an ankle injury. He has missed two of the Gamecocks' last three games with injuries.

Osborne led the Seminoles (5-4), who lost their third straight, with 15 points with three 3-pointers plus nine rebounds. Caleb Mills added 13 points.

No. 2 Baylor 57, No. 6 Villanova 36

WACO, Texas — James Akinjo had 16 points with seven rebounds and second-ranked Baylor defensively dominated No. 6 Villanova 57-36 on Sunday, a victory that's likely to put the defending national champion Bears in the top spot in the new poll.

The Bears (9-0) never trailed in their first nonconference home game ever against

a top-six opponent, this one a rematch of an NCAA Sweet 16 game last March in Indianapolis. This Big East/Big 12 Battle matchup featured the teams that won three of the last five NCAA titles.

Villanova (7-3) shot only 22 percent (12 of 54) and had several extended scoring droughts while being held to its fewest points in 689 games under coach Jay Wright, who is in his 21st season.

No. 1 Purdue 82, North Carolina State 72, OT

NEW YORK — Trevion Williams had a season-high 22 points to go with 12 rebounds and a career-best nine assists to help Purdue rally past North Carolina State in overtime in the Basketball Hall of Fame Invitational.

Jaden Ivey added 22 points for the Boilermakers (9-1), who had to rally from 13 down midway through the second half. Purdue never led in regulation, taking its first lead Sasha Stefanovic's 3-pointer 15 seconds into the extra period.

No. 16 Southern California 73, Long Beach State 62

LOS ANGELES — Isaiah Mobley had 21 points and 12 rebounds, and Southern California pulled away at the beginning of the second half on its way to beating Long Beach State.

The Trojans (10-0) continued their best start since the 2016-17 season, when they opened 14-0. Drew Peterson added 15 points and Max Agbonpolo had 11 points for USC, and Mobley had his fourth double-double in five games.

Joel Murray led Long Beach State (3-7) with 14 points. Colin Slater added 12 points and Romelle Mansel had 10 points, including three dunks in the second half, and seven rebounds.

No. 17 Iowa State 47, Jackson State 37

AMES, Iowa — T.J. Otselberger became the first Iowa State coach to win his first 10 games with the team, guiding the Cyclones past Jackson State.

Aljaz Kunc led Iowa State (10-0) with 12 points and Gabe Kalscheur added 11.

Jonas James scored 11 points for Jackson State (2-7).

HOOPS

From page B1

The Panthers did graduate two of their best players in Trinity Keegan and Cynthia Homs. Seniors Peyton Spaulding and Abcydee Rome have been top scorers for Lecanto so far, and junior Caitlyn McAbey is the leading rebounder.

"The team has to develop chemistry between new starters and role players as the season progresses," Allan said. "We will have to develop our identity on offense and defense."

Citrus is in District 5A-5 with Lecanto, as is Bellview, Lake Weir, Leesburg, Springstead and Vanguard. Richard Archambault is in his first year as head coach for the Hurricanes and must improve upon a 1-20 record last season.

Junior guard Jill Landgraf is averaging over 20 points per game to lead Citrus.

"Looking forward to seeing these girls rebuild and get better this season," Archambault said.

Seven Rivers Christian was a district runner-up and made a regional appearance last season, finishing at 12-8. Head coach Gary Dreyer, in his 10th season, has gotten big production

out of freshman Joy Sullivan and senior McKayla Smith.

"Overall, we are a young team, including six middle schoolers, but the girls have been working hard and we expect our experienced high school players to help lead our younger players navigate a varsity season," Dreyer said. "We anticipate being competitive this season, especially in the FHSAA district and the SSAC Conference."

Citrus Hurricanes

Head coach: Richard Archambault (1st year)

Key returnees: Brooke Sanders (Jr., F/C), Mariah Cobb (So., G)

Key losses: Jo Moeller, Rachel Vit

Key newcomers: Ashtyn Morris (Sr., PG), Jill Landgraf (Jr., G), Illana Johnson (Jr., F), Akira Head (Sr.)

Crystal River Pirates

Head coach: Charles Bryant (7th year)

Key returnees: Ilyana Edwards (So., G), Jaylin DeVaughn (Jr., G)

Key losses: Alyssa Jenkins, Rikelle Trenary, Hayley Herman, Jordan Martynowski, Jordan Williams

Key newcomers: Bryan Ortiz (Sr., G/F), Angelina Jenkins (Jr., C), Calea Whitelow (Fr., F/C),

DeMonica Richburgh (Jr., G), Makayla Mullenix (Fr., G/F), Alexis Herndon (So., F), Regina DeLarco (Jr., C)

Lecanto Panthers

Head coach: Ron Allan (24th year)

Key returnees: Peyton Spaulding (Sr., PG), Paige Harrison (Sr., SG), Aleiza Rome (Sr., SG), Abcydee Rome (Sr.), Sydney Spaulding (Sr., SG), Abigail Harris (Sr., SG), Caitlyn McAbey (Jr.)

Key losses: Trinity Keegan, Cynthia Homs, Evelyn Mimmagh, Grace Teitelman, Abby Cochran

Key newcomers: Skylar Mysliborski (Jr., PG), Shelly Pace (Jr.)

Seven Rivers Christian Warriors

Head coach: Gary Dreyer (10th year)

Key returnees: Makayla Smith (Sr.), Jassiah DeGraw (Sr.), Joy Sullivan (Fr.), Sarah Beth Kuntz (So.), Paige Suter (So.), Victoria Miterko (So.), Kendall Judge (8th)

Key losses: Erika Villanueva, Patience Chesnutt

Key newcomers: Nora Leonard (So.), Annalise de Beer (8th), Alice Leonard (8th)

BUCS

From page B1

was just getting started.

Allen moved his team within striking distance with TD passes of 15 yards to Dawson Knox and 4 yards to Gabriel Davis, trimming the deficit to 27-24 with just under five minutes remaining in regulation.

Buffalo got the ball back with 3:05 left and put together a 70-yard drive to

force overtime with a 25-yard field goal in the closing seconds.

INJURIES

Bills: WR Emmanuel Sanders (knee) was hurt in the first half and did not return. ... Reserve RB Taiwan Jones (knee) was hurt in the first quarter.

Buccaneers: They played without S Jordan Whitehead, inactive for the second straight week with a calf injury. ... RB Giovanni Bernard (hip) sat out the

second half. CB Jamel Dean (illness) also didn't play after halftime.

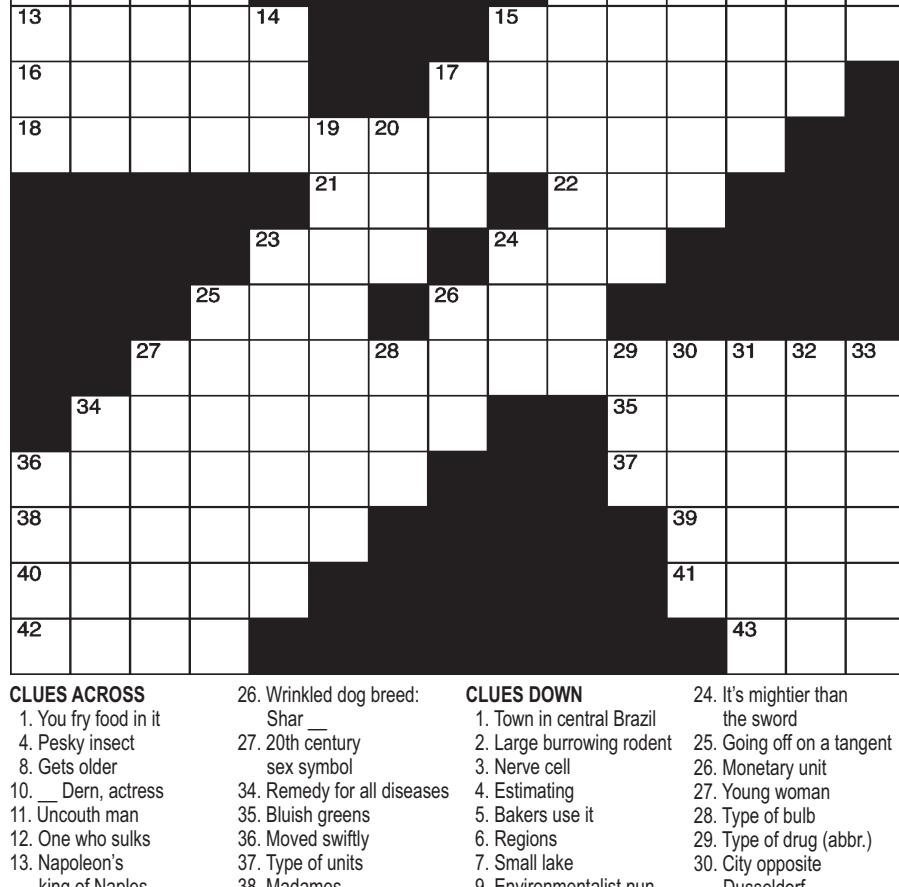
UP NEXT

Bills: host Carolina on Sunday. They'll play three of four games against opponents that currently have a losing record.

Buccaneers: Tampa Bay can clinch its first NFC South crown since 2007 when its hosts three-time defending division champ New Orleans next Sunday night.

Puzzles Galore!

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- You fry food in it
- Pesky insect
- Gets older
- Dern, actress
- Uncouth man
- One who sulks
- Napoleon's king of Naples
- One who swims underwater
- Make amends
- Expressions
- Document format
- What a beaver makes
- Limbs
- Photograph
- Golf score
- Moroccan mountain range
- Wrinkled dog breed: Shar-pei
- 20th century sex symbol
- Remedy for all diseases
- Blush greens
- Moved swiftly
- Type of units
- Madames
- Indian religious god
- Potentially hazardous asteroids
- Leak slowly through
- An association of criminals
- A way to push content (abbr.)
- They steal on the high seas

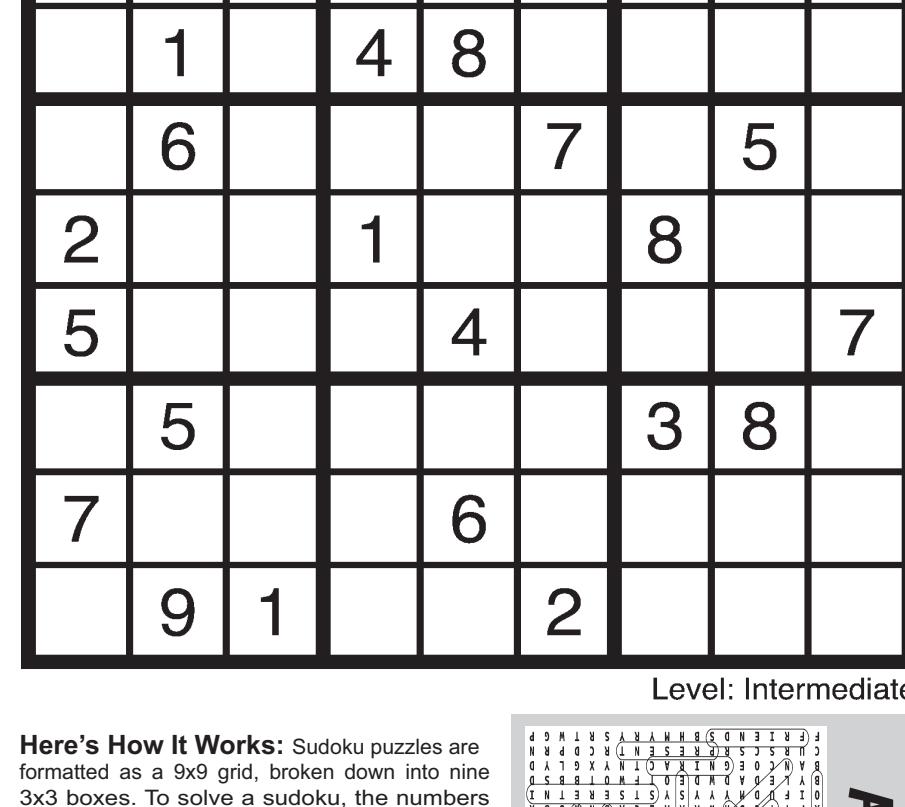
CLUES DOWN

- Town in central Brazil
- Large burrowing rodent
- Nerve cell
- Estimating
- Bakers use it
- Regions
- Small lake
- Environmentalist nun
- More kookie
- Announce officially
- Israeli city: Aviv
- Title given to friar
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Buildings
- Pouch
- They steal on the high seas
- It's mightier than the sword
- Going off on a tangent
- Monetary unit
- Young woman
- Type of bulb
- Type of drug (abbr.)
- City opposite Dusseldorf
- Animal disease
- Martini necessities
- Elude
- La: Buenos Aires capital
- Oft-enduring symbol

SUDOKU

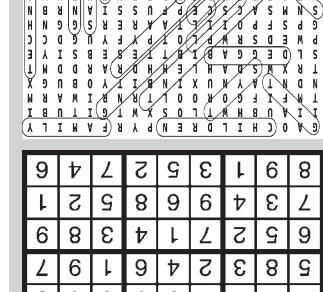
Fun By The Numbers

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

(Gifting Time)

BAGGED BOXES CARING CHILDREN CLOTHING FAMILY FRIENDS GIFT HIDDEN HOBBIES INTERESTS

LIST PURCHASE RECIPIENT SANTA SECRET TAPE TECHNOLOGY TISSUE PAPER TOYS WRAPPING



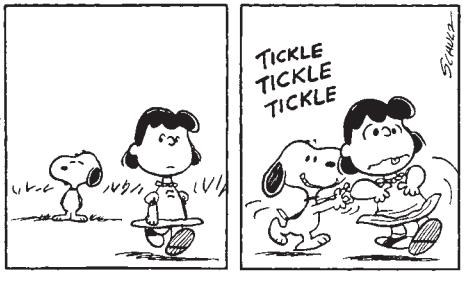
Answers to "Puzzles Galore"

50010517

MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 13, 2021

	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			
2 (WESH) NBC 19	19	19	News	NBC News	Ent. Tonight	Hollywood	The Voice "Live Finale, Part 1" (N) 'PG' 	American	American	News	J. Fallon							
3 (WEDU) PBS 3	3	3	World News America	BBC News	PBS NewsHour (N) (In Stereo) 	20 Years of Christmas With the Tabernacle Choir	Christmas performances. (N) (In Stereo) 'G' 	The Longevity Paradox With Steven Gundry, MD	Feeling better at any age. (In Stereo) 'G' 									
5 (WUFT) PBS 5	5	5	DW News	BBC News	PBS NewsHour (N) 	20 Years of Christmas With the Tabernacle Choir	'G'	Eat Your Medicine: The Pegan Diet With Mark										
8 (WFLA) NBC 8	8	8	8	News	NBC Nightly News - Holt 8	NewsChannel 8	Ent. Tonight	The Voice "Live Finale, Part 1" (N) (In Stereo Live) 'PG' 	American Auto (N) '14'	American Auto (N) '14'	NewsChannel 8	Tonight Show						
9 (WFTV) ABC 20	7	20	News at 6pm	ABC World News	Jeopardy! (N) 'G' 	Wheel of Fortune 'G'	NFL Football Los Angeles Rams at Arizona Cardinals. (N) (In Stereo Live) 											
10 (WTSP) CBS 10	10	10	10	10 Tampa Bay	CBS Evening News	Wheel of Fortune 'G'	Jeopardy! (N) 'G' 	Bob Hearts Abishola	NCIS Members of a react team are killed. '14'	NCIS: Hawaii A Japanese soldier is killed. '14'	10 Tampa Bay	Late Show- Colbert						
13 (WTVT) FOX 13	13	13	FOX13 6:00	FOX13 6:30	Access Hollywood 'PG'	TMZ (N) 'PG' 	Gordon Ramsay's Road Trip "European Vacation" Gordon Ramsay travels through Europe. (N) '14'	FOX13 10:00 News (N) (In Stereo) 	FOX13 11:00 News (N) (In Stereo) 									
20 (WCJB) ABC 11			TV20 News	World News	Ent. Tonight	Inside Ed.	NFL Football Los Angeles Rams at Arizona Cardinals. (N) (In Stereo Live) 											
22 (WCLF) IND 2	2	2	2	Christian Bridges	Jewish	Great Awakening with Love/Child	Miracles	Andrew Freedom	Christ	Keith Moore	The Great A							
24 (WYKE) FAM 16	16	16	16	Vegas Unveiled	Daily Flash	Citrus	Sully's Biz Brew	Small Town	L. McKenzie	Neighbor.. Madison	Citrus Court	Citrus						
28 (WFTS) ABC 11	11	11	News	World News	Inside Ed.	The List (N)	NFL Football Los Angeles Rams at Arizona Cardinals. (N) (In Stereo Live) 											
32 (WMOR) IND 12	12	12	Sheldon	Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Mom '14'	Last Man	Last Man	Creek	Big Bang	Sheldon						
33 (WTTA) MNT 6	6	6	Extra 'PG'	Ent. Tonight	Family Feud	Family Feud	NewsChannel 8	Noticias Seinfeld	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU								
40 (WAXX) TBN 21	21	S.Channel	The 700 Club 	LovIsrael	Love/Child	Kenneth Cox Ministries	Living Room	SuperChannel Presents	Faith Build.	Prince								
44 (WTG) CW 4	4	4	4	Mike & Molly '14'	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	All American "Prom Night"	4400 Logan struggles to adjust to Shanie. (N) 'PG'	CW44 News (N) 	CW44 News (N) 	Dateline A college senior is shot and killed. 'PG'							
50 (WVEA) UNI 15	15	15	15	Noticias	Noticiero	¿Qué le pasa a La Rosa de Guadalupe	Vencer el pasado (N)	La desalmada (N) '14'	Noticias	Noticiero								
51 (WOGX) FOX 13				Fox 51 at 6	Fox 51	Big Bang	Big Bang	Gordon Ramsay's Road Trip (N) (In Stereo) '14' 	FOX 51 News	Dateline 'PG' 								
66 (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'								
(A&E) 54	48	54	*** "John Wick: Chapter 2" (2017) 'R' 		*** "John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum" (2019) Keanu Reeves, 'R' 		*** "John Wick" 'R'											
(ACCN) 99			1990 ACC Football	ACC Night of Legends (N)	College Basketball Albany (N.Y.) at Boston College.		ACC Tradi	Three Day	ACC Night of Legends									
(AMC) 55	64	55	Rudolph	The Year Without a Santa Claus 'G'	*** "The Polar Express" (2004) 'PG' 		*** "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"											
(ANI) 52	35	52	Homestead Rescue 'PG'	Homestead Rescue 'PG'	Homestead Rescue "It Takes a Village" 'PG'		Homestead Rescue (In Stereo) 'PG'											
(BET) 96	71	96	*** "Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins" (2008) Martin Lawrence, 'PG-13'		*** "Life" (1999, Comedy-Drama) Eddie Murphy, Martin Lawrence, 'R' 		*** "John Wick" 'R'											
(BIGTEN) 742	809		Tiebreaker 'G' 	Big Ten	B1G Football in 60 	Big Ten	B1G Football in 60 	Big Ten	B1G Football in 60 	Big Ten	B1G Football in 60 	Big Ten						
(BRAVO) 254	51	254	Below Deck '14' 	Below Deck '14' 	Below Deck (N) '14' 		Below Deck (N) '14' 	Watch What	Below Deck '14' 	Housewives								
(BSFL) 35	39	35	AVP Pro	AVP Pro Beach Volleyball	Icons	NHL Hockey	Florida Panthers at Colorado Avalanche.		Panthers	Under	Sports Stars							
(CC) 27	61	27	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	Daily Show	South Park						
(CMT) 98	45	98	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	
(CNN) 40	29	40	Situation Room With Wolf	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Don Lemon Tonight (N)	Don Lemon Tonight (N)	Don Lemon Tonight (N)								
(ESPN) 33	27	33	Monday Night Countdown (N) (Live) 		NFL Football	Los Angeles Rams at Arizona Cardinals. (N) (Live) 												
(ESPN2) 37	28	34	SportsCenter (N) 		SportsCenter (N) 	2021 World Chase Tag USA (Taped)												
(FBN) 106	149	106	The Evening Edit (N)	Kennedy (N) 	How America Works (N)	American	American	How America Works (N)	American	American	American	American	American	American	American	American	American	
(FLIX) 118	170	170	** "Act of Valor" (2012) Roselyn Sanchez, 'R' 		** "Van Helsing" (2004) Hugh Jackman, 		** "The Woman in Black" (2012) 'PG-13' 											
(FNC) 44	37	44	Special Report	FOX News Primetime (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity (N) (Live) 	The Ingraham Angle (N) 	Gutfeld! (N) 										
(FOOD) 26	56	26	Holiday Baking	Holiday Baking	Holiday Baking	Holiday Baking	Holiday Baking	Christmas Cookie	Christmas Cookie									
(FREEFORM) 29	52	29	*** "Home Alone" (1990, Children's) Macaulay Culkin, 'PG' 		*** "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York" (1992) 'PG' 		*** "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York" (1992) 'PG' 											
(FS1) 732	112	732	Undisputed	PBC	PBC	Boxing From Oct. 9, 2021, 												
(FX) 30	60	30	*** "Spider-Man: Homecoming" (2017) 'PG-13'		*** "Spider-Man: Far From Home" (2019) Tom Holland, 'PG-13' 		*** "Spider-Man: Far From Home" (2019) Tom Holland, 'PG-13' 											
(GOLF) 727	67	727	Golf Central 'G' 	Tito's	PGA TOUR	PGA Tour QBE Shootout, Final Round, 												
(HALL) 59	68	39	Christmas She Wrote" (2020) Danica McKellar, 'NR'		The Christmas House" (2020) Robert Buckley, 'NR'		The Christmas House" (2020) Robert Buckley, 'NR'											
(HBO) 302	201	302	Succession 'MA' 		*** "The Bourne Supremacy" (2004) 'PG-13' 		Landscapers (N) 'MA'											
(HBO2) 303	202	303	*** "Disturbia" 		Landscapers (N) 'MA' 		Succession (N) 'MA'	*** "The Mummy" (1999) Brendan Fraser, 'PG-13' 		Anna K								

Peanuts



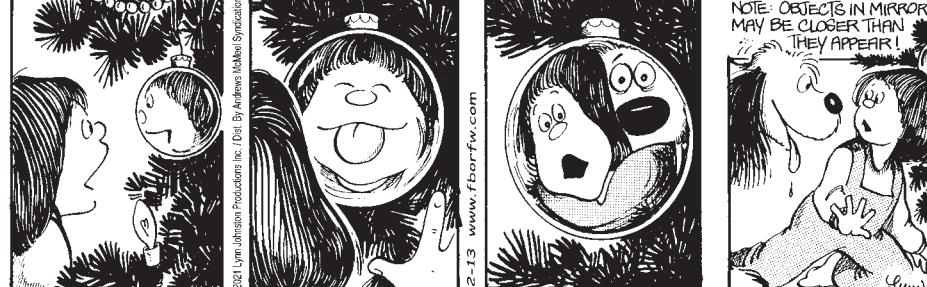
Garfield



Pickles



For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



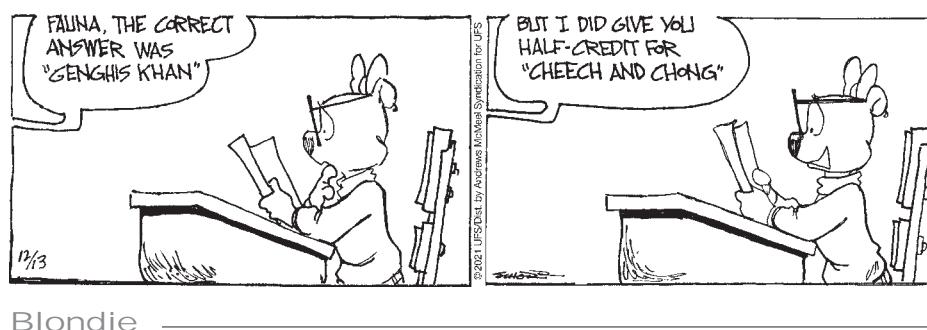
Beetle Bailey



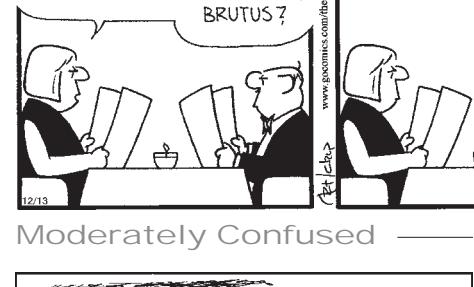
Dilbert



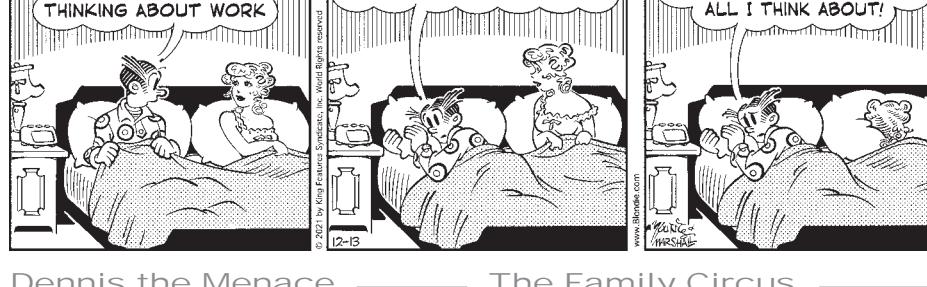
The Grizzwells



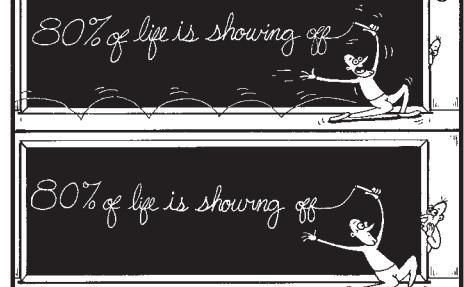
The Born Loser



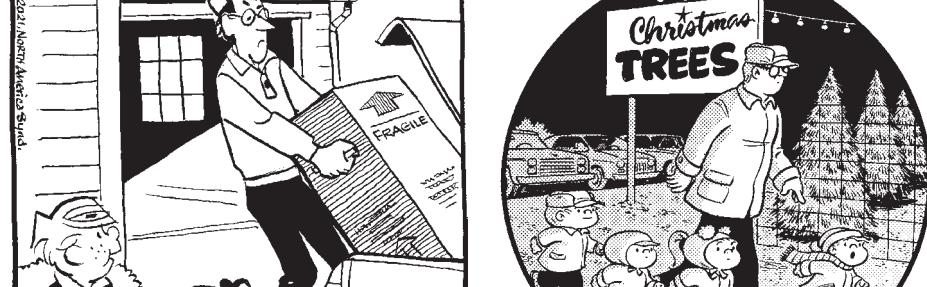
Blondie



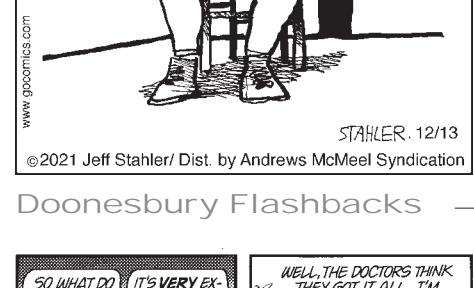
Moderately Confused



Dennis the Menace



Rubes



The Family Circus



Doonesbury Flashbacks



Betty



Big Nate



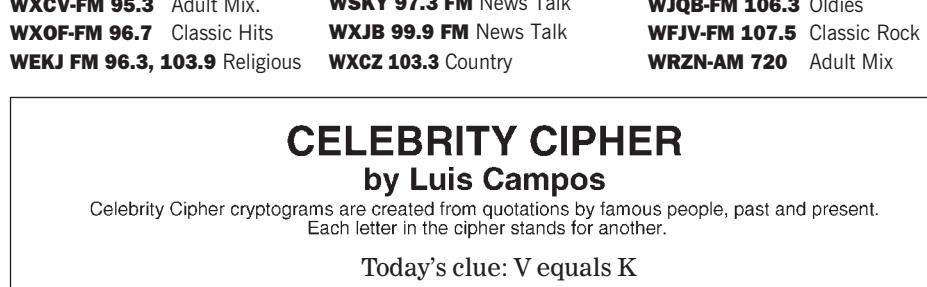
Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



Local RADIO



Today's MOVIES

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

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.

Movies in the Park

Friday, Dec. 17

"The Polar Express" (2004) G — free movie after dark at the Liberty Park lawn, 268 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness. Bring lawn chairs and blankets.

Friday, Dec. 17

"The Muppet Christmas Carol" (1992) G — 5:45 p.m. at Homosassa Area Recreation Park.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present.

Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: V equals K

"AXTBBR MDCXAXNCMDI CJMDIN ZLPX

EXZTONX RLO KLD'C VDLG GJTC CJX

AOBXN TAX, GJTC RLO ZTD TDK ZTD'C

K.L. — NCXWX EONZXPM

Previous Solution: "I am able to get up and dust myself off and keep moving forward. I'm very stubborn." — Rita Moreno

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Durant scores 51 against Pistons

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Kevin Durant scored an NBA season-high 51 points in the Brooklyn Nets' 116-104 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday.

Cade Cunningham had 26 and Frank Jackson added 25 for Detroit, which lost its 12th straight. The Pistons' last win was Nov. 17 against the Pacers.

Mavericks 103, Thunder 84

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jalen Brunson had 18 points and nine rebounds while starting in place of injured star Luka Doncic, leading Dallas over Oklahoma City.

Bucks 112, Knicks 97

NEW YORK — Khris Middleton scored 24 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo has his first triple-double of the season to lead Milwaukee over New York.

Spurs 112, Pelicans 97

SAN ANTONIO — Jakob Poeltl had 24 points and 12 rebounds, Derrick White added 24 points, and San Antonio beat New Orleans.

Verstappen wins 1st F1 title

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — The most dramatic Formula One season in years should have ended with Max Verstappen's championship-deciding pass of Lewis Hamilton on the final lap of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

The conclusion instead came nearly five hours after Verstappen became the first Dutch champion in F1 history, when the FIA denied a pair of protests lodged by Mercedes over the controversial finish of Sunday's race.

But the messy affair still isn't over: Mercedes filed for reconsideration to the International Court of Appeal, turning in the paperwork as Hamilton left Yas Marina Circuit without commenting.

"Not much really to say about that. I think it also sums up a little bit the season," Verstappen said hours earlier as the FIA heard Mercedes' two protests.

Hamilton had a record eighth championship ripped away with five laps remaining when a crash by Nicholas Latifi triggered the safety car and gave race director Michael Masi a decision. The season-ending race and championship could be decided under yellow, or, the track could be cleaned for one final lap of racing.

Hamilton had been on cruise control and dominated Sunday after surging past pole-sitter Verstappen at the start. He led 51 of the 58 laps and was minutes away from breaking a tie with Michael Schumacher for an eighth title that would strengthen his case as best in F1 history.

The decision by Masi to go green with a lap to go allowed Verstappen to pass Hamilton in turn five — Hamilton got a good look at the lead in turn nine but couldn't complete the move — in a stunning conclusion to a title fight that will go down as one of the best ever.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates on the podium after becoming F1 drivers world champion after winning the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Verstappen and Hamilton arrived in Abu Dhabi tied in the standings after 21 races across four continents, the first time since 1974 the contenders were level ahead of the finale. The rivals went wheel-to-wheel all season, crashing three times with Verstappen sent to the hospital after a collision at Silverstone.

It made for a bitter feud between Mercedes and Red Bull that intensified this high-stakes and sometimes chaotic title fight. It was compelling action every week, on-and-off track drama likened to the epic championship battles of James Hunt and Niki Lauda in 1976, and Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost in 1990.

Hamilton, winner of three straight races coming into the finale to even the fight, had this one in hand and knew it until the Latifi crash. Whatever Hamilton said over his radio when Latifi brought out the safety car was replayed only as one long bleep to cover his expletives.

Masi controversially settled to resume racing with one final lap — the only chance for Red Bull, which lobbied to go back to green. Verstappen chased Hamilton through the first four turns, made his pass in five and at last achieved his childhood dream.

Verstappen and Red Bull celebrated in a champagne soak, he received hugs from his fellow competitors — including Hamilton and Hamilton's father — and made his way to the DJ stand to jump wildly up and down to the music. The "Orange Army" of Dutch fans erupted in joy and fired off their traditional orange flares. The fans also chanted Latifi's name in appreciation as they exited the circuit.

"My goal when I was little was to become a Formula One driver and to go for wins, to be on the podium," said Verstappen. "When they play the national anthem, you want it to be yours, and when you stand here and they tell you that you are the world champion, it's something incredible and special."

Predators win fifth straight

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Rookie forward Philip Tomasino scored early in the second period and Juuse Saros made 32 saves for his second shutout of the season as the Nashville Predators beat the New York Rangers 1-0 on Sunday night.

The Predators have won five straight, including a sweep of the three New York area teams over a four-day stretch. They beat the Islanders 4-3 on Thursday night and New Jersey 3-2 on Friday night.

Saros had six saves in the first period, 10 in the second and 16 in the third to pick up his 16th career shutout.

Alexandar Georgiev had 23 saves for the Rangers, who lost for the second time in three games and just the third in the last 15.

Ducks 3, Blues 2, OT

ST. LOUIS — Troy Terry scored his second goal of the game on a penalty shot in overtime to lift Anaheim.

Scott Perunovich was called for slashing with just over a minute remaining in the extra period, giving Terry a penalty shot. He beat fifth-string goalie Jon Gillies on a backhander at 3:58 for his team-leading 17th goal of the season.

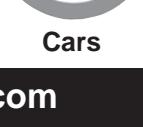
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).

TODAY'S NEW ADS

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Hello I'm



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FOUND- Large White/Gray
Male Cat found off of Forest
Ridge Blvd in Beverly Hills,
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Microchipped, spayed & vac-
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October 9th delivery from
Browallia Court in Sugarmill
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truck - NOT SURE- may have
escaped home in Sugarmill
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Florida Ave- Please call with
any information or sightings
330-416-1957

LOST ORANGE TIGER CAT

Male- 1 ear misshapen - not fer-
al just scared of people but
loved my 100 lb dog the minute
he saw him. 2 months ago we
lost our dog to illness and now
our cat goes missing. Area of
Chicken King just off rails to
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Multi-Media Account Executive

Citrus County Chronicle and our weekly newspapers are growing our salesforce 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

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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

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TRAIN SET Battery Operated, runs on tracks, works great, \$65 (352) 422-4802	COLLECTIBLES WWII Diecast Metal Airplane Collection, 24 planes w/ boxes, \$500 obo (352)341-1709	DESK Large Metal Desk w/ 4 drawers. Excellent Condition! \$25 (352) 464-4089	ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. Call 866-925-2362. Inogen	Motivated Owner Contact: Al Isnetto, Palmwood Realty. 352-597-2500 x202	
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TV Flat Screen, 32" Like New! \$55 (352) 464-4089	REFRIGERATOR 28 CF, Bisque, top freezer, Good Condition \$100 (352)527-1955	SMITTY'S APPLIANCE REPAIR 352-564-8179	TOASTER OVEN GOOD CONDITION - \$15 (352) 464-4089	VENT Over stove, inside vent, bisque, good condition \$30 (352)527-1955	OUTDOOR FURNITURE Resin Wicker, 4pc - Brown Excellent Condition! \$550 (352) 513-4492
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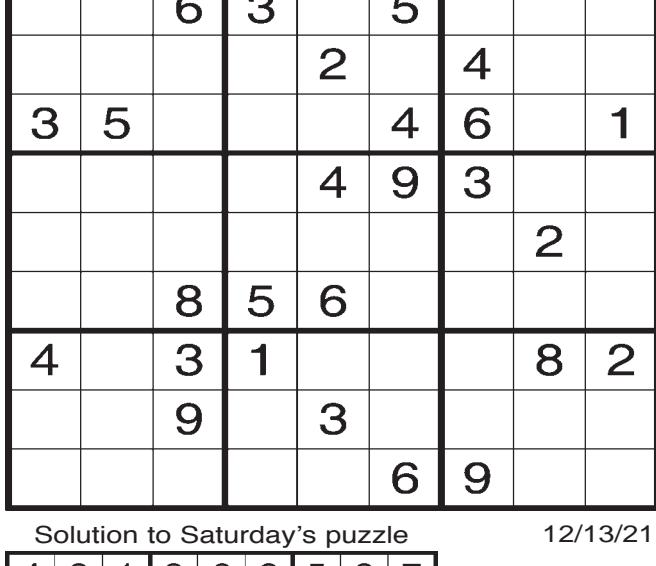
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HOME SERVICES DIRECTORY

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4



Solution to Saturday's puzzle

12/13/21

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

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

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Monday, December 13, 2021

KATHLEEN SAXE

WORD GAME

TODAY'S WORD -- COMPUTE

(COMPUTE: kum-PYOOT: To determine by mathematical means.)

Average mark 13 words
Time limit 30 minutesCan you find 18 or more words in COMPUTE?
The list will be published tomorrow.

SATURDAY'S WORD -- ROTUNDAS

radon	onus	tundra	adorn	sonar
rant	ours	turn	around	sora
road	oust	undo	arson	sort
roan	outran	unto	astound	sound
roast	tarn	darn	aunt	sour
rotund	toad	dart	auto	stand
round	torn	daunt	sand	star
roust	tour	donut	snort	strand
rout	trod	dour	snout	stud
runt	tsar	drat	soar	stun
rust	tuna	dust	soda	surd

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.

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ACROSS

1 However
4 Interest amt.
7 Large cask
10 Aspirin target
12 Frosted
14 Raw metal
15 Refinery waste
16 Staffer
17 Molecular biology topic
18 Asian city
20 Raise
22 — Paulo, Brazil
23 Kind of tent
24 Generator part
27 Made money
30 Mr. Greenspan
31 Dry toast
32 “— Man Fever”
34 Electric —
35 Japanese clog
36 VHS predecessor

37 Most venerable

39 Apprehension
40 Cereal grain
41 Social insect
42 Toon rabbit
45 Give power to
49 “— had it!”
50 Malevolent
53 Trounce
54 Damage the finish
55 “Soft Watches” painter
56 Rocket housing
57 House shader
58 Bridal notice word
59 Rev the engine

Answer to Previous Puzzle



5 201, to Claudius
6 Cable honcho — Turner
7 Hubbub (hyph.)
8 Coffee servers

DOWN

1 Freshwater catch
2 NCAA Bruins
3 Siamese, now
4 Chopin's instrument

9 “Cool!”
11 Incites (2 wds.)

13 Expose as false
19 Rower's paddle
21 Decide on

23 Galileo's hometown

24 Issa of “Insecure”

25 Tub in the fridge

26 Willowy

27 Stray dog

28 Dueler's weapon

29 Numbers to crunch

31 Take a breather

33 Bounder

35 Equipped

36 Pumpernickel and rye

38 Forest mom

39 Study

41 Contradict

42 Icy crystals

43 Classical face shape

44 Disease cause

46 Naval lockup

47 Dilly

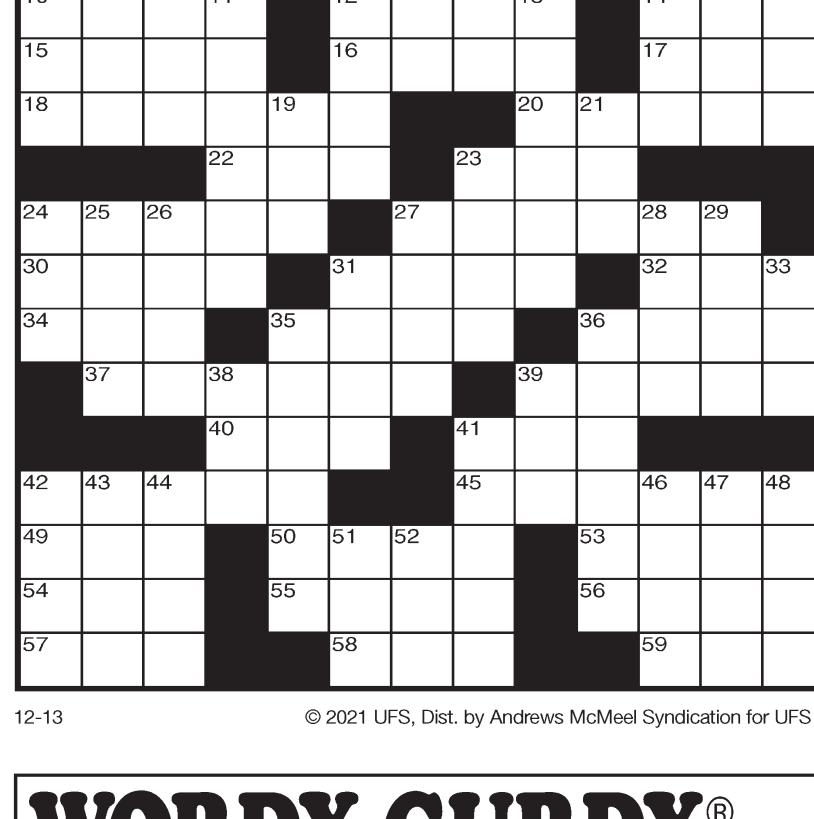
48 Poet's black

51 FedEx truck

52 Ait, on the Seine

Want more puzzles?

Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books



12-13

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WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Pack cash into a cashier's drawer (1)

2. Christmastime pack animal (1)

3. Examine a pack of playing cards (1)

4. Translucent suds in a six-pack (1)

5. Discards a pair on a backpack (1)

6. Ice pack storage place confiscator (2)

7. Pack rat's edgings for rugs (2)

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

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1. FILLED TAIL 2. YULE MULE 3. CHECK DECK 4. CLEAR BEER 5. SCRAPS STRAPS 6. FREEZER SEIZE 7. HOARDERS BORDER

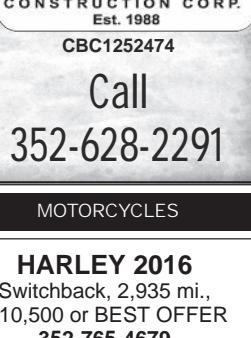
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