

THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE

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NEWS BRIEFS

Back-to-school giveaway today

Free clothing, shoes and school supplies will be available while supplies last beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, 2020 at the New Church Without Walls, 300 S. Kensington Ave., Le-canto, next to the Holiday Inn Express.

Parents or guardians need to be prepared to fill out a registration form with a proof of Citrus County residency (i.e. driver's license or current utility bill) and a birth certificate for each child.

Children must be present to receive a filled backpack. Face masks and social distancing are required.

Clerk Services soft opening set

Angela Vick, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, is pleased to announce the soft opening of the Clerk Services on Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, at the West Citrus Government Center (WCGC) at 1540 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River.

Some services might not be immediately available at the Clerk's WCGC location.

All court related services such as injunctions for protection, customer service for opening court cases, payment of court fines and fees, and traffic payments will remain at the Courthouse located in Inverness at 110 N. Apopka Ave.

Look for updates on the Clerk's website at www.citrusclerk.org and on social media accounts (Facebook/Instagram @CitrusCountyClerk, Twitter @CitrusFLClerk)

No virus tests on Election Day

Due to Primary Election Day and the expected traffic at the Citrus Springs Community Center polling place, there will be no COVID-19 testing at the Citrus Springs Community Center on Tuesday, Aug. 18. Testing at the Citrus Springs site is available on Monday, Aug. 17 and will resume on Wednesday, Aug. 19.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. Please bring a photo ID and plan to stay in your vehicle the entire time. For information about DOH-Citrus, visit www.CitrusCountyHealth.org or follow us on Twitter at @FLHealthCitrus.

INSIDE CITRUS COUNTY VIRUS UPDATE

View the latest data on COVID-19 in Citrus County. **Page A16**

DeSantis' order resumes evictions

Tenants can argue that COVID-19 impacted payments

BUSTER THOMPSON
I STAFF WRITER

A statewide pause on processing foreclosures and certain evictions was lifted but residents can still argue to a judge for a break if COVID-19 impacted their payment to lenders or landlords.

Soon before his original order from early-April postponing the

removal of nonpaying tenants and mortgage payers was due to expire, Gov. Ron DeSantis issued an updated directive on July 29, 2020, for courts to move forward with the hearings on a limited basis.

"It's pretty much business as usual," Citrus County Clerk of Courts Angela Vick told the Chronicle Editorial Board on

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020. "We expect we're going to have a pretty good uptick in those particular case sets because they were suspended for so long."

However, under the new order, judges can temporarily halt an eviction or foreclosure from finalizing if the renter or mortgagor can show the novel coronavirus caused their nonpayment due to

either unemployment, a decrease in wages or other income loss.

"Citizens still need to know they can approach the court for relief ... they still have that opportunity," Vick said. "It's a difficult time for everyone and I don't want people to be alarmed."

See **ORDER/Page A7**



Gov. Ron DeSantis

Builders rush to fill home demand



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

So far in 2020 — from January through July — there have been 515 single-family, new-home permits issued. New-home construction is increasing locally and nationally during the coronavirus outbreak.

New-home construction on the rise

MICHAEL D. BATES
I STAFF WRITER

Joe Scurlock, partner with Beverly Hills-based Chris Underwood Construction, said the market for new homes is red-hot and the company is planning to ramp up construction to meet demand.

Blame it on the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to a shortage of existing homes.

"What we're finding is that a lot of the people are not listing their homes," Scurlock said. "They're afraid of COVID so people are really interested in buying brand new homes that

have not been lived in."

Before the pandemic, Underwood Construction was clearing ground and starting to get ready to build maybe one home per week.

Since COVID, the company is up to two homes started a week and that could be increased to three or four, Scurlock said.

"There is such a shortage of (existing-home) inventory in Citrus County that real estate agents are calling me," he said. "They're like, 'What do you have coming? We have a buyer and there's no inventory.'"

Scurlock said his company is

See **RUSH/Page A12**

REAL ESTATE MARKET HOT DESPITE PANDEMIC

MICHAEL D. BATES
I STAFF WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic has not cooled off the home-selling market by any means.

In fact, homes nationwide are selling like hotcakes and Citrus County is no exception.

Sellers are reporting offers being accepted almost as soon as they are listed. The lowest interest rates in 50 years might have something to do with it.

Florida Realtors has released its June numbers and here are

the highlights for Citrus:

■ Closed single-family home sales increased from 301 last year to 327 (an 8.6% rise).

■ The median sales price in June was \$173,000 unchanged from a year ago. The median is the midpoint; half the homes sold for more, half for less.

■ New pending home sales for June were 406, up 26.1% from last year's 322. Analysts consider pending sales to be a decent indicator of potential future closed sales.

See **MARKET/Page A10**

Driver fleeing deputies crashes into Dairy Queen

JEFF BRYAN I STAFF WRITER

It wasn't a Blizzard that tore through the Inverness Dairy Queen in the early mornings hours of Saturday, Aug. 15, 2020, according to a Citrus County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman.

Around 2 a.m. Saturday, a Citrus County deputy attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a Toyota SUV in the area of Dearborn and U.S. 41 when the vehicle began to flee, Brittney Carman told the Chronicle.

Shortly after fleeing, the vehicle ended up crashing into the east side wall of Dairy Queen in Inverness. The driver of the vehicle, 26-year-old Harley Jenkins of Inverness

attempted to run on foot after crashing.

Jenkins was eventually subdued and arrested without further incident, Carman said. Jenkins was arrested and charged with fleeing/eluding and resisting without violence.

Florida Highway Patrol

See **CRASH/Page A6**

According to the CCSO, 26-year-old Harley Jenkins crashed his Toyota SUV into the side of the building at around 2 a.m. Saturday while attempting to elude deputies.

JEFF BRYAN/Chronicle



Harley Jenkins



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WEEK IN REVIEW

PHOTO OF THE WEEK OUT WITH THE OLD



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Work continues on a new Circle K gas station and store Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020, near the intersection of North Rock Crusher Road and State Road 44 in Crystal River. Circle K plans to tear down the existing Kangaroo Express-BP gas station at the corner and erect a larger gas station and convenience store. The chain plans to expand the existing space to the west and northwest of the existing BP station, opening it up so customers can better park and maneuver.

GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK

Attention moviegoers: The Regal Cinemas in the Crystal River Mall and Inverness are scheduled to reopen Sept. 3 — with enhanced safety protocols. Regal Cinemas nationwide have been closed for about five months following the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition to social distancing and both staff and customers required to wear masks, upon reopening, customers can expect spaces between seats to separate patrons, contactless payment options and innovative sanitizing methods, including an electrostatic “fogger” that sanitizes every auditorium and seat after each movie. Tickets are available to purchase starting Thursday, Aug. 27.

HOT TOPIC OF THE WEEK

“No sprawl for West Cardinal Interchange” created some buzz this week with readers chiming in on the Chronicle Facebook page:

Susan Bahringer (to commissioners): “If you want to make changes in a positive manner, truly engage the neighborhood within a three-mile radius of the interchange. Otherwise you are jamming this down (people’s) throats as you always do. ... You always wait until the absolute last minute to shovel down the throats of those you want to vote for you and your personal projects. Then vote in closed door meetings. What is the point in even asking this community?”

Sally Spencer Van Osdell: “Why does our BOCC wait so late to make a plan? And please, no gas stations!”

Laura McKee: “Maybe this doesn’t apply here, but just wondering whatever happened to Master Plans where a county mapped out where residential and their densities, agricultural, commercial, industrial, etc. could go? If the interchange is in the middle of a residential (area), for instance, why can’t the land around it stay that way? How fair is it to landowners who bought in a neighborhood zoned for single family homes to wake up one day and find the zoning around them changed to allow commercial or light industrial?”

THE MOST POPULAR STORIES FROM THE WEEK THAT WAS

Eight-year-old boy facing bone marrow transplant

At 8 years old, Graycen Husek loves Star Wars, Cub Scouts, sleepovers with his friends, his dog, Ares,



camping and fishing, roly poly bugs and jumping on his trampoline.

He wants to join the Navy when he grows up.

He dislikes bullies, football and spaghetti — and PNH, Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobin, the rare, life-threatening blood disease that has invaded his body, causing his bone marrow to fail.

If all goes according to plans, Graycen will be admitted to UF Shands Children’s Hospital on Aug. 30, 2020, to begin treatment that will include a bone marrow transplant.

He will spend 30 days in the hospital itself and 100 days in isolation in Gainesville for further treatment and observation, with one of his parents, Jonathan and Renee Husek, with him at all times.

“Prayers, we need a lot of prayers,” said Renee Husek, Graycen’s mom. “We need prayers for healing, hope, strength and wisdom.”

Mystery gas smell baffles residents, officials

Those anywhere in the vicinity of Crystal River — from roughly Rock Crusher Road to U.S. 19 — may have gotten a whiff of something that smelled like an unpleasant odor of gas Friday morning Aug. 7, 2020.

The Chronicle received numerous phone calls from residents who wanted to know where the smell was coming from. Tom Fletcher, battalion chief for Citrus County Fire Rescue, said he also got calls and so he decided to check it out — and couldn’t find the source of the smell anywhere.

Bottom line: it remains a mystery.



Homosassa gets a new Hitchcock’s Market

First it was Sweetbay. Then it was Save-A-Lot. For a short time, it was an IGA before it became an independent grocer called Suncoast Marketplace.

Today, a new grocer has taken over the 15,500-square-foot spot inside Homosassa Square off U.S. 19 by Yulee Drive: Hitchcock’s Markets.

Located next to Ollie’s Bargain Outlet, the new store had a soft opening Aug. 1, 2020.

The family-run chain has about 11 stores in rural areas throughout Florida. The closest ones are in Alachua and Levy counties, including Williston, and recently opened a store in St. Petersburg.

On its website, Hitchcock’s — founded in 1945 — prides itself as having “clean, well-stocked, quality products and service-driven food stores just like the city folks (have).”

Commissioners: No sprawl for Cardinal interchange

Donna Avery told county commissioners that her home sits on a hill within a stone’s throw of the new



Suncoast Parkway interchange coming to West Cardinal Street where she would be able

to look down at what she calls the unsightly commercial buildings sure to go up once that road is completed in 2022.

“It’s going to be horrible,” Avery told commissioners. “You can’t build a wall high enough (to block the view).”

Commissioners were pretty much in agreement that, if they had their way, an interchange would never have been built off Cardinal. But seeing as how they had no choice in the matter, they have to make the best of it and make sure the off-ramp doesn’t turn into ugly strip malls, gas stations and sprawl.

They agreed that development at Cardinal must accommodate a diversity of residential and commercial growth, but not be overly restrictive.

Commissioner Jeff Kinard, addressing directly Avery’s concern, said, “We don’t want you looking at ugly development — ugly buildings — there.”

Candidate Davis recovering from COVID-19

For months, Holly Davis, District 5 county commission candidate, followed



CDC coronavirus guidelines, social distancing, wearing a face mask —

except for one time. That’s all it took for her to contract COVID-19 and become ill and bedridden for three weeks.

“There was no mistaking this illness,” she said. “This was not like any flu I’ve ever had.”

On Saturday, July 25, Davis and a supporter were in the Inverness area putting up campaign signs — without masks.

The supporter called her the next day to say he had a fever and was going to get tested. Davis said she immediately went into isolation.

Davis, 53, said she felt fine for a few days but then she developed a fever and trouble breathing.

“My lungs were on fire and I just lay there and cried, I was so scared,” she said.

“I rolled the dice. I decided it was an acceptable reason for me. It was really boneheaded.”

— HOLLY DAVIS, DISTRICT 5 COUNTY COMMISSION CANDIDATE, ABOUT NOT WEARING A FACE MASK AND CONTRACTING COVID-19

— compiled by Nancy Kennedy

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Where to find candidates on primary night

MIKE WRIGHT
Staff writer

Ever wonder what election night is like for candidates who are hoping their message reached the voters?

It's this: Celebrating, commiserating, analyzing precinct results, speculating on precincts still to report. Spending the evening quietly at home with a spouse or children. Partying late into the night at restaurants or in homes.

The Chronicle asked candidates to let us know if they'll be awaiting results in a public space, such as a restaurant, where voters could join them in the election night festivities.

Many said they would be home. Some — and we'll save them the embarrassment of saying who — said they would be at the supervisor of elections office in downtown Inverness. Except ... the elections office is now at the West Citrus Center at Meadowcrest. The old elections

office in Inverness is dark and empty.

Here's where to find other candidates primary night:

■ Scott Adams, Tom Corkery, Paul Reinhardt, and likely others, will be at Coach's Pub & Eatery, or Stumpknockers on the Square, both in downtown Inverness starting around 7 p.m., when the polls close.

■ Patrick Crippen will be at Rocco's Cafe, on State Road 44 across from the American Legion near Crystal River, starting at 6:30 p.m.

■ Angel Starr Lewis will be at the Elegant Pelican, a restaurant she owns in Crystal River, starting at 6:30 p.m.

■ Ruthie Davis Schlabach will be at Schlabach Security & Sound on C.R. 486 in Lecanto.

■ Jimmie T. Smith and Maureen "Mo" Baird said they'll be at Blue Gill's Bait Shop and Eatery

Campaign TRAIL

on S.R. 200 in Hernando.

■ Holly Davis said she is organizing a block party starting at 6:30 p.m. in her Citrus Hills neighborhood, 1180 E. Triple Crown Loop.

And here is a partial listing of candidate websites or Facebook pages. If you don't see a particular candidate, he or she didn't provide information to the Chronicle. Also, some candidates provide biographical information on the supervisor of elections website: www.votecitrus.com:

■ Patrick Crippen, Republican for sheriff: www.patrickcrippenforsheriff.org.

■ Mel Eakley, Republican for sheriff: www.eakleyforsheriff.com.

■ Mike Klyap Jr., Republican for sheriff: www.klyapforsheriff.com.

■ Mike Prendergast, Republican incumbent for sheriff: www.sheriffprendergast2020.com.

■ Holly Davis, Republican for county commission District 5, www.hollydavisforcitrus.com.

■ Jimmie T. Smith, Republican incumbent for county commission District 5: www.votejimmiet.com.

■ Mark Hammer, Republican for county commission District 3: www.hammerforcitrus.com.

■ Edwin Roberts, Republican for county commission District 3: robertsnc2004@aol.com.

■ Luis Marin, Republican for county commission District 3: www.marin4commission.com.

■ Ruthie Davis Schlabach, Republican for county commission District 3: www.ruthieforcitrus.com.

■ Paul John Reinhardt, Republican for superintendent of schools: Facebook/Dr. Paul John Reinhardt, M.D., for Citrus County Superintendent of Schools.

■ Scott Adams, Republican for supervisor of elections: email

adams4soe@gmail.com.

■ Maureen Baird, Republican for supervisor of elections: www.electmobaird.com.

■ Ginger Bryant, nonpartisan incumbent for school board District 2: Facebook/Ginger Bryant Campaign.

■ Mark Garlock, nonpartisan for school board District 2: www.garlock4schools.com.

■ Danielle Damato Doty, nonpartisan for school board District 2: www.VoteDoty.com

■ George Angelidis, nonpartisan incumbent for circuit court judge: www.keepjudgeangelidis.com.

■ Cregg Dalton, Republican for property appraiser: www.votedalton.com.

■ Rob Tessmer, Republican for property appraiser: www.tessmerforappraiser.com.

■ Tim Reynard, Republican for property appraiser: www.Reynard2020.com.

■ David Gregory, Republican for property appraiser: votedavidgregory.com.

Trump Club urges support for member candidates

MIKE WRIGHT
Staff writer

A Citrus County organization that broke from the Republican Party in its support of President Donald Trump is asking voters to approve a slate of candidates who are all affiliated with the group.

In an email to group members obtained by the Chronicle, the Citrus County President Donald Trump Club Inc. issued

endorsements for all the local partisan races. It did not offer an endorsement for either school board or circuit court judge.

In one race, county commission District 3, the group supported three candidates who it says are Trump Club members.

All candidates in the partisan races on the Tuesday, Aug. 18, primary ballot are Republican, though all voters regardless of political affiliation may cast

ballots for county commission, superintendent of schools and supervisor of elections because there are only Republicans in the races and the winners are elected.

The group's endorsements:

■ Sheriff — incumbent Mike Prendergast.

■ County Commission District 3 — Tom Corkery, Mark Hammer and Luis Marin.

■ County Commission District 5 — incumbent Jimmie

T. Smith.

■ Superintendent of Schools — Paul Reinhardt.

■ Supervisor of Elections — Scott Adams.

■ Property Appraiser — Tim Reynard.

The Trump Club incorporated in 2017, state Division of Corporations records show.

One of its directors is George Gasparini, chairman of the Citrus County Republican Executive Committee.

In 2019, the group barred some Republican officials, including county commissioners and the Republican state committeewoman, from attending a Trump rally at Adams' ranch in Floral City.

A month after the Trump rally, the group formally ended its charter with the Republican Party of Florida.

Contact Chronicle reporter Mike Wright at 352-563-3228 or mwright@chronicleonline.com.

Around the COUNTY

CMH to present behavioral health webinar series

Citrus Memorial Hospital is offering a series of free online health seminars focused on mental health. The presentations will be made by Laura Sturdevant, LCSW, Outpatient Program Coordinator at Behavioral Health Transitions; the series will be conducted using the Cisco Webex Meetings app which is available on all app stores.

■ Understanding Resources, noon Thursday, Aug. 20: This discussion will focus on the continuum of psychiatric care in Citrus County and how Citrus Memorial Hospital's services

fit in. How and where to access mental health treatment will be reviewed. An introduction to mindfulness as a coping skill will take place and be practiced.

■ Trauma and Resiliency, noon Thursday, Aug. 27: This discussion will focus on the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study and how trauma can affect long term health and wellbeing. The impact of COVID-19 restrictions has led to a decline in mental wellbeing as well as increase the prevalence of grieving. Examples of when to seek support to cope with trauma as well as continued pandemic stressors will be reviewed and guests will be given an opportunity to practice skills in

the session.

■ Mindfulness, noon Thursday, Sept. 3: The topic of this discussion is the concept of Mindfulness and the science that supports the use of it for mental wellbeing and more.

■ The Mind/Body Connection and Overall Wellness: noon Thursday, Sept. 10: This discussion will focus on the multiple ways in which the mind influences the body and vice versa.

Attendees can choose to view the course online via Cisco WebEx Meetings or dial in through a WebEx phone line at 415-655-0003. Visit CitrusMH.com to learn more about how to join these interactive courses.

Lane closure planned on State Road 44 in Inverness

Starting on Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, the left lane on westbound State Road 44, west of North U.S. 41 intersection, will close for contractors to replace sewer structures.

This rehabilitation project is expected to complete within two days. Drivers are urged to drive with caution and to expect delays in this vicinity.

For questions or concerns about this lane closure, contact the City of Inverness' Public Works Department at 352-726-2321.

— From staff reports

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Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthdays — Pay attention to detail. Focus on what's important to you, and don't be distracted by the actions of others. Look for positive ways to use your energy, intelligence and skills. Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Take a moment to consider how best to get ahead. A plan of attack should include a well-thought-out plan and an energetic display of enthusiasm. Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Reach out to people who put a smile on your face. A conversation will encourage you to make changes that ease stress and simplify your lifestyle. Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Spend more time doing and less time arguing. If someone pressures you or puts demands on you, walk away. Your words matter, so choose them wisely. Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — A unique environment will encourage you to make a positive change. Reach out to people who share your beliefs. Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Live and learn. Use common sense when sharing information. Home improvements are favored, as long as you don't let someone talk you into doing something you cannot afford. Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — An opportunity will lead to a positive change that affects your home environment and a special relationship. Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Let the past inform your life as you move forward. Remember the high points, and use the negatives you endured to help you make better decisions. Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — A positive change is heading your way. Prepare for what's to come. Don't let the past hold you back. Aries (March 21-April 19) — When in doubt, sit tight and wait to see what transpires. Don't let outside pressure or your emotions force a decision you aren't ready to make. Taurus (April 20-May 20) — A window of opportunity is heading in your direction. Hone your skills, gather information and be prepared to take advantage of whatever comes your way. Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Focus on home and family. A good idea can be put into play if you take the initiative and do the work yourself. Cancer (June 21-July 22) — A change will boost your morale. Doing something kind will benefit you.

NATION & WORLD

Japan marks 75th anniversary of World War II

TOKYO — Japan on Saturday marked the 75th anniversary of its surrender in World War II, with Emperor Naruhito expressing "deep remorse" over his country's wartime actions at a somber annual ceremony curtailed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Naruhito pledged to reflect on the war's events and expressed hope that the tragedy would never be repeated. There was no word of apology from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who gave thanks for the sacrifices of the Japanese war dead but had nothing to say about the suffering of Japan's neighbors.

"Reflecting on our past and bearing in mind the feelings of deep remorse, I earnestly hope that the ravages of war will never be repeated," Naruhito said in a short speech at the event in Tokyo marking the 75th anniversary of Japan's surrender on Aug. 15, 1945. Amid virus fears and worries about the fading memories of the fast-aging war generation, about 500 participants, reduced from 6,200 last year, mourned the dead with a minute of silence. Masks were required, and there was no singing of the "Kimigayo" national anthem.

Texas testing drops as schools reopen, prepare for football

AUSTIN, Texas — Anyone can get a coronavirus test at the CentroMed clinic in San Antonio, but on a recent day, the drive-thru was empty. Finally two masked people in a maroon SUV pulled straight on through with no wait.



Associated Press

Employees release doves, wishing for the world's peace and paying respects to the war dead at Yasukuni Shrine Saturday, Aug. 15, 2020, in Tokyo. Japan marked the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

With hundreds of deaths reported each day, students returning to class and football teams charging ahead with plans to play, Texas leaders who grappled with testing shortages for much of the pandemic are now facing the opposite problem: not enough takers.

"We're not having enough people step forward," Republican Gov. Greg Abbott said.

The number of coronavirus tests being done each day in Texas has dropped by the thousands in August, mirroring nationwide trends that has seen daily testing averages in the U.S. fall nearly 9% since the end of July, according to The COVID Tracking Project. The problem is dwindling demand: Testing centers like CentroMed are no longer inundated by long lines that stretch for blocks, or closing hours early because tests run out.

The dropoff comes as the U.S. has surpassed 5 million confirmed coronavirus cases and is closing in on 170,000 deaths.

Police move in after fights break out during protest

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. — After several hours of mostly peaceful demonstrations Saturday in an Atlanta suburb that's home to a giant Confederate memorial, large numbers of police moved in to disperse the crowds when fights broke out.

Several dozen right-wing demonstrators, some waving the Confederate battle flag and many wearing military gear, gathered in downtown Stone Mountain where they faced off against a few hundred counter-protesters, many of whom wore shirts or carried signs expressing support for the Black Lives Matter movement. People in both groups carried rifles.

For several hours, there was little visible police presence and things were largely peaceful, aside from some shoving and pushing and spirited arguments.

—From wire reports

Today in HISTORY

Today is Sunday, Aug. 16, the 229th day of 2020. There are 137 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight: On August 16, 1987, 156 people were killed when Northwest Airlines Flight 255 crashed while trying to take off from Detroit; the sole survivor was 4-year-old Cecelia Cichan.

On this date: In 1777, American forces won the Battle of Bennington in what was considered a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

In 1812, Detroit fell to British and Indian forces in the War of 1812.

In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued Proclamation 86, which prohibited the states of the Union from engaging in commercial trade with states that were in rebellion — i.e., the Confederacy.

In 1948, baseball legend Babe Ruth died in New York at age 53.

In 1962, The Beatles fired their original drummer, Pete Best, replacing him with Ringo Starr.

In 1977, Elvis Presley died at his Graceland estate in Memphis, Tennessee, at age 42.

In 2018, Aretha Franklin, the undisputed "Queen of Soul," died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 76.

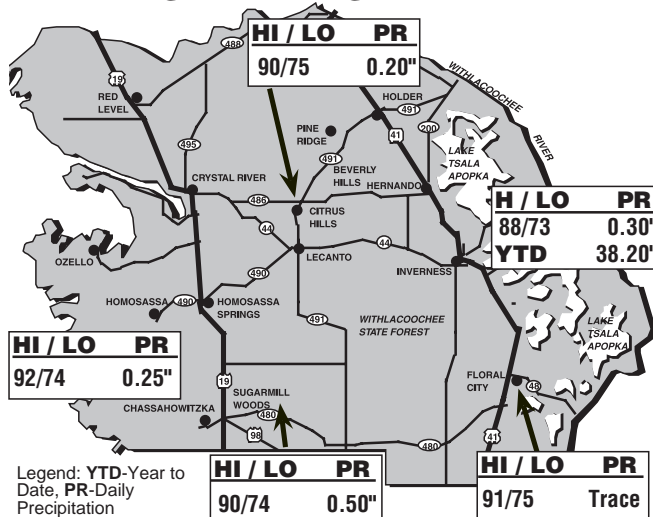
Ten years ago: China eclipsed Japan as the world's second biggest economy after three decades of blistering growth.

Five years ago: Trigana Air Service Flight 257, an Indonesian ATR 42-300, crashed during a domestic flight; all 54 people on board were killed.

One year ago: New York City's chief medical examiner ruled that the death of jailed financier Jeffrey Epstein was a suicide, confirming that Epstein hanged himself in his jail cell as he faced sex trafficking charges.

Today's Birthdays: Former TV host Kathie Lee Gifford is 67. Rhythm-and-blues singer J.T. Taylor is 67. Movie director James Cameron is 66. Singer Madonna is 62. Actor Steve Carell is 58.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



THREE DAY OUTLOOK

Exclusive daily forecast by: TODAY & TOMORROW MORNING High: 91° Low: 73° Scattered showers and storms will start early at the coast and move inland. MONDAY & TUESDAY MORNING High: 90° Low: 73° Scattered showers and storms will start early at the coast and move inland. TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MORNING High: 90° Low: 72° Scattered showers and storms will start early at the coast and move inland.

ALMANAC

TEMPERATURE Yesterday 90/74 Record* 99/66 Normal 92/71 Mean temp. 82 Departure from mean 1 PRECIPITATION Yesterday 0.00" Total for the month 0.09" Total for the year 11.15" Normal for the year 34.91" UV INDEX: 10 0-2 minimal, 3-4 low, 5-6 moderate, 7-9 high, 10+ very high BAROMETRIC PRESSURE 29.95

SOLAR TABLES

Table with columns for DATE, DAY, MINOR (MORNING), MAJOR (MORNING), MINOR (AFTERNOON), MAJOR (AFTERNOON). Rows for 08/16 SUNDAY and 08/17 MONDAY.

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK

SUNSET TONIGHT 8:07 pm SUNRISE TOMORROW 6:59 am MOONRISE TODAY 4:10 am MOONSET TODAY 6:34 pm

BURN CONDITIONS

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

WATERING RULES

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

Table showing watering schedules by day of the week and temperature ranges (0-1, 2-3, 4-5).

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

TIDES

Table showing tide times for Sunday at different locations: Chassahowitzka, Crystal River, Withlacoochee, and Homosassa.

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

Table listing temperatures for various Florida cities including Daytona Bch., Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Gainesville, Homestead, Jacksonville, Key West, Lakeland, Melbourne, Miami, Ocala, Orlando, Pensacola, Sarasota, Tallahassee, Tampa, Vero Beach, and W. Palm Bch.

MARINE OUTLOOK

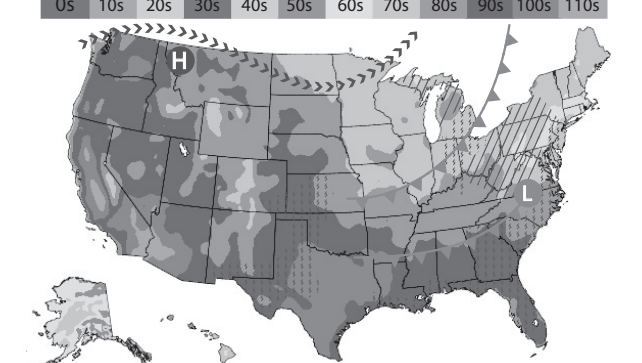
Today: West winds around 10 knots. Seas 2 feet. Bay and inland waters a light chop. Scattered thunderstorms in the morning, then isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Tonight: West winds around 10 knots. Gulf water temperature 89° Taken at Aripeka

LAKE LEVELS

Table showing lake levels for Withlacoochee at Holder, Tsala Apopka-Hernando, Tsala Apopka-Inverness, and Tsala Apopka-Floral City.

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

THE NATION



FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. Sunday

Table providing weather forecasts for various cities across the United States, including Albany, Albuquerque, Asheville, Atlanta, and many others.

YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL HIGH & LOW

HIGH 125, Furnace Creek, Calif. LOW 26, Bondurant, Wyo.

WORLD CITIES

Table showing weather for major world cities like Lisbon, London, Madrid, Mexico City, Montreal, Moscow, Paris, Rio, Rome, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, and Warsaw.

ALERT CITRUS SIGNUP

- To register for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office's Alert Citrus weather program, visit www.sheriffcitrus.org and click on the links to register. Create a profile, list how you want to be contacted in case of a weather emergency (text, mobile phone, home phone, email), then include the address(es) you want alerts for. Those without computer access may call 352-249-2705.

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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Questions: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday Main switchboard phone numbers: Citrus County — 352-563-6363 Citrus Springs, Dunnellon and Marion County residents, call toll-free at 888-852-2340.

Who's in charge: Gerry Mulligan Publisher, 563-3222 Trina Murphy Operations/Advertising director, 563-3232 Mike Arnold Managing editor, 564-2930 Tom Feeney Production manager, 563-3275 Hillary Hammerle Customer Service Leader, 564-2903 Theresa Holland Circulation Sales/Classified Leader, 564-2912 John Murphy Online manager, 563-3255 Melanie Stevens Business manager, 564-2953

Report a news tip: Opinion page questions: Mike Arnold, 564-2930 News stories: Mike Arnold, 564-2930 Sports stories: Mike Piffner, 564-2989 Sound Off: 563-0579

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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT INVERNESS, FL SECOND CLASS PERMIT #114280

These Members of Our Local Law Enforcement Family Support Mike Prendergast



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Mat Baird	Bobby Lambert
Chris Ball	Aidan Marshall
Thomas Beagan	Evan Marshall
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Dave Gater	Mike Story
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TJ Indorato	Elena Vitt
Mike Kelly	Roscoe Watts
Dan Keszthelyi	Mike Williams
Jeff Kopp	

Obituaries



Louis 'Pete' Kabat, 89

BEVERLY HILLS

Louis ("Pete") Richard Kabat Born September 6, 1930 died August 9, 2020



Louis 'Pete' Kabat

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Alice (Middleton) Kabat and six children, Karen Kabat, Peter Kabat, Linda Edmunds, Susan Kabat (David Barry), Cindy Sturm (Michael Sturm) and Michael Kabat (Susan) and four grandchildren, Heather Edmunds, Christopher Edmunds, Julia Kabat and Michael W Kabat.

Born in Binghamton, New York, he attended Cornell University. Upon graduation, he served in the Korean War earning medals during his service. On return to the States, he married and began working for GLF/Agway. He went on to have a forty plus year career at Agway, serving in various management capacities. Over the years, he participated in many of his children's activities and community events. After living in various locations in New York and Pennsylvania, he retired to Beverly Hills, Florida with his wife.

In retirement, he and Alice traveled extensively from China to South America and throughout the United States. They experienced many great adventures around the world. He was an officer in the VFW post 10087 in Beverly Hills for many years. He attended St. Benedict Catholic Church in Homosassa Springs, Florida.

A visitation will be held on Monday, August 17, 2020 from 9:30 am — 12:30pm at Fero Funeral Home, 5955 N. Lecanto Hwy., Beverly Hills, FL 34465 with interment to immediately follow at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL 33513.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Robert 'Bob' Ewell, 61

BEVERLY HILLS

5/30/1959 - 8/7/2020

Robert (Bob) Paul Ewell, of Beverly Hills, FL, born and raised in Abington, MA, the son of the late Irving and Judith (Peline) Ewell, passed away peacefully in Brooksville, FL.



Robert 'Bob' Ewell

He is survived by his family — John (Bonnie) (Lillian, Sean, Joe, Jessica) Joan, Roy (Denise), his aunt Patricia as well as his friend Vickie and many cousins and friends. He graduated Abington HS class of 1977, and Fitchburg State College in 1981.

Despite many challenges in his life, Bob lived his life as an individual with his love of hunting, sharp shooting, travel, and the outdoors. He forged great friendships and had a strong presence in many lives. His travels around the country with his dog Sandy, explorations of National Parks, meanderings and adventures have brightened the lives of those that knew him. His impact on all our lives will stay with us.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home With Crematory • Burial • Shipping • Cremation Veterans Cremation Society Veterans & Family Memorial Care

Florida records another 200 virus deaths

BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida officials reported an additional 204 deaths from the coronavirus Saturday, pushing the state's reported COVID-19 death toll to nearly 9,500. Since the start of the pandemic five months ago, nearly 570,000 Floridians have become infected.

Meanwhile, one of the state's highest-profile law enforcement officers — Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri — has tested positive for the coronavirus.

Gualtieri's office on Saturday said the sheriff's infection was mild. He had no fever or respiratory issues. He learned he was positive for the virus on Friday. Gualtieri, whose jurisdiction includes areas near St. Petersburg, chairs the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission. The commission drew up policy recommendations after a gunman opened fire in the school in 2018, killing 17 people.

On Saturday, state health officials announced more than 6,300 new cases of COVID-19, out of the more than 96,000 test results reported to the state on Friday. That's an infection rate of 7.7%.

The number of cases has been steadily on the decline since peaking a month ago, when the number of new cases was nearly double what they are now.

Still, health officials have urged residents to remain on

guard against the virus by wearing masks, practicing good hygiene and keeping a safe distance from others.

On Saturday, Gov. Ron DeSantis took to social media to urge Floridians who have already been infected — and recovered — from COVID-19 to donate blood to increase the stock of convalescent plasma.

In a video posted on Twitter and Facebook, the governor's office featured the story of a Florida woman who officials said recovered from COVID-19 after receiving plasma from her son-in-law.

The plasma contains antibodies that could help bolster the immune systems of those infected by the virus.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says further investigation is needed to see if the treatment is safe and effective. While there is still no approved treatment for the virus, the FDA said "there is some information" that suggests plasma containing COVID-19 antibodies might help some patients recover.

The daily reports from state officials provide a snapshot of the virus, but there is sometimes a lag time in which deaths and new cases are reported to state officials.

Over the past week, the state posted an average of 6,150 new cases per day.

Over the same period, Florida averaged 177 new deaths — with only Texas eclipsing that number.



A pair of beachgoers wear masks to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus, Tuesday, on Miami Beach, Florida's famed South Beach.

As of Friday, Texas had a daily average of 212 deaths over the previous seven days.

Florida health officials said 5,700 people were hospitalized

across the state as of midday Saturday because of the coronavirus. About a fifth of those hospitalized were in Miami-Dade County — the state's hardest hit.

Tropical Storm Josephine closer to land, Kyle moving away

Associated Press

MIAMI — Tropical Storm Kyle moved away from the mid-Atlantic coast of the United States Saturday afternoon as Tropical Storm Josephine continued its crawl north of islands in the Caribbean.

Threats to land appeared to be minimal from both storms, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center's 5 p.m. advisories. Kyle was centered 715 miles southwest of Cape Race, Newfoundland, Canada, while Josephine was 160 miles

northeast of the northern Leeward Islands.

Josephine had maximum sustained winds of 45 mph, forecasters said, and was tracking west-northwest at 17 mph, while Kyle was churning east-northeast at 22 mph. Kyle's maximum sustained winds were clocked at 50 mph.

No coastal watches or warnings were in effect for either storm. Josephine was forecast to bring 1 to 3 inches of rain to parts of the northern Leeward Islands, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

It's been an active Atlantic hurricane season and forecasters predict several more named storms are on the way.

So far this year, Cristobal, Danielle, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine and Kyle have set records for being the earliest named Atlantic storms of their respective place in the alphabet. Only Hanna and Isaias this year have developed into hurricanes.

Before Kyle, the earliest "K-named" storm was Katrina, which formed Aug. 24, 2005, according to Colorado State

University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

Isaias killed two people in the Caribbean earlier this month.

Several others across multiple U.S. states were then killed when the storm made landfall in North Carolina and moved through the East Coast, leading to floods, tornadoes, fires, and widespread power outages.

Last month, Hurricane Hanna slammed the Texas Gulf Coast with high winds and rains that flooded streets and knocked out power across the region.

Community EVENTS

Canceled events

■ The Friends of the Citrus County Library System annual Fall Mega Book Sale scheduled for October 2020 has been canceled. Proceeds from these semi-annual fundraisers benefit Central Ridge, Coastal Region, Floral City and Lakes Region libraries and the Citrus County Library System. The group plans to host several smaller pop-up book sales throughout the fall season. For more information call 352-513-4935, email friendsocfls@gmail.com or visit foccls.org.

■ The November 2020 Kings Bay Rotary Club Charitable Foundation's annual Stone Crab Jam Music Festival will not be held this year due to COVID-19 and the safety of sponsors, attendees, vendors, volunteers and communities. The club will continue to support the charitable and nonprofit organizations it supports annually with proceeds from the Jam. The club is planning the 13th annual Stone Crab Jam Music Festival for Nov. 6, 2021. For updates, check StoneCrabJam.com and Facebook/StoneCrab Jam.

■ Jim Anderson, President of the Nature Coast Friends of Blues Inc. announces the nonprofit organization has canceled its planned celebration for the 25th annual Blues n' BBQ on Nov. 7, 2020.

■ The seventh annual Black Diamond Invitational Car Show, hosted by the Central Citrus Rotary, will not be happening on the fairways of the Highlands Course in November 2020. Car enthusiasts look forward to November 2021 when the event is, hopefully, able to return to Black Diamond Ranch.

■ The annual Floral City Heritage Days celebration and Candles 'N' Carols event with holiday season horse-drawn wagon rides has been canceled. This event, reminiscent of days gone by, has been held on the first Saturday of December and the preceding Friday night for the past 27 years. The Floral City Heritage Council plans to host the event in 2021.

■ Due to continuing concerns for the health and safety of NCCB musicians and audiences, the Nature Coast Community Band is delaying the start of the 2020-21 season. The Oct. 26

and 27 Veterans Appreciation Concerts and the Nov. 11 Veterans Memorial Service Concerts are canceled. Conductor Craig Lilly is hopeful that rehearsals can resume in time for the Dec. 14 and 15 Holiday Concerts. For more information, visit www.naturecoastcommunityband.com.

■ Plaza Car Cruise-ins, sponsored by Plaza Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Ram, and the Citrus MOPARS Car Club, have been canceled for the remainder of 2020 in caution of COVID-19. For information, call 352-726-1238

■ The 2020 "Swing for a Cure" Golf Tournament, the signature fundraising event for the Citrus Aid Cancer Foundation, has been canceled in precaution of COVID-19. Even though the tournament will not take place this year, the needs of local cancer patients have not gone away. Consider making a monetary or gift card donation (gas, grocery, etc.) to Citrus Aid Cancer Foundation this year. For information, visit www.citrusaid.org or like the Citrus Aid Cancer Foundation Facebook page for updates.

Rescheduled events

■ The following Citrus County Parks and Recreation shows have been rescheduled. Those who already purchased tickets for shows can still attend on the rescheduled date. Season pass holders can also attend with their 2019/20 passes. All original tickets or season passes purchased must be presented upon entry. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the band will go on at 7 p.m. for all concerts. The Citrus Springs Community Center is at 1570 W. Citrus Springs Blvd. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 352-527-7540.

■ The tribute to the famous folk/rock duo Simon and Garfunkel, featuring Todd and Greg Pitts of The Boxers, has been rescheduled to Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, at Citrus Springs Community Center.

The Never Stop Believin' concert, "A Tribute to Journey," has been moved from Aug. 28, 2020, to Friday, June 18, 2021.

■ The Johnny Cash tribute concert, "Johnny Cash Now," featuring Gray Sartin, is rescheduled for Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021.

■ The Chronicle has scheduled its annual Fall Home & Outdoor Show for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Florida National Guard Armory Crystal River. The free event features vendors, exhibits, classes and demonstrations, prizes and more. For more information and vendor opportunities call 352-563-6363.

■ A popular yearly event, the Chronicle's Diva Night at Plantation on Crystal River, is scheduled for 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8. This ultimate girls' night out features an evening of fashion, jewelry, cocktails and music all for a good cause. Diva Night is disco-themed and will feature "Life is a DRAG" — a live Drag Queen show.

Have you canceled or rescheduled a community event? Send the information to community@chronicleonline.com to appear in this listing.

CRASH

Continued from Page A1

troopers arrived on scene to conduct the crash investigation, Carman said. Following their

investigation, Jenkins was also charged with driving while license suspended or revoked, leaving the scene of an accident and DUI with property damage. Jenkins was transported to the Citrus

County Detention Facility. According to Carman, his total bond was set at \$10,000.

According to the owners of the business, they said the fast food eatery will be closed for three to four days.

OBITUARIES ■ Obituaries must be verified with the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements. ■ The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.

To Place Your "In Memory" ad, Contact Lori Driver 564-2931 or email: LDriver@chronicleonline.com

Brown Funeral Home & Crematory Lecanto, Florida Two Generations serving you with compassionate, personalized service. Igrayne Brown Dias Funeral Director 352-795-0111 Richard T. Brown Funeral Director/Owner www.brownfuneralhome.com

Closing time for placing ad is 4 business days prior to run date. There are advanced deadlines for holidays.

Ledger Dentistry "We Cater to Cowards" (352) 628-3443 Quality Dentistry. Without The Sales Tactics. It's all about hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, loving what we do. - The Ledgers - BEST OF THE BEST WINNER 2020

ORDER

Continued from Page A1

DeSantis reminded tenants and borrowers in his July order "all payments, including tolled payments, are due when an individual is no longer adversely affected by the COVID-19 emergency."

DeSantis' first order from April 2, 2020, soon after the pandemic began to grip Florida, did not keep evictions and foreclosures from being filed in court.

Eviction filings alleging nonpayment were kept from moving through the court, stopping the clock on when summonses and cases would need to be issued or heard by law.



Angela Vick
Citrus County Clerk of Courts.

"They could still file those evictions but followup actions did not take place," Vick told a Chronicle reporter Thursday, Aug. 13, 2020.

There are exceptions to DeSantis' order, Vick said, such as evictions and foreclosures pertaining to commercial properties and lease violations.

Vick said the clock resumed ticking on residential removals for nonpayment when the governor signed his revised order in July.

"Those hearings will start back again," she said. "Landlords and tenants are now being noticed for hearings."

Citrus County Judge Bruce Carney, who presides over evictions in county court, said cases not alleging nonpayment of rent were still being heard in court after DeSantis issued his April order.

"Evictions is a difficult area of the law," Carney said, "and this just makes it even more difficult."

Carney said the broad language in the governor's original edict caused hesitancy at first for landlords to pursue evictions when it still allowed them to remove a tenant for other reasons besides nonpayment.

For example: a tenant continued to live as a holdover in a rented property after their lease expired, or they had someone living with them without the landlord's knowledge.

"There's all kind of evictions," Carney said. "Every case fits differently depending on what the plaintiff and tenant are asking for."

Once landlords understood DeSantis' order from April applied to just nonpaying renters, some were able to seek their tenant's removal.

"They eroded the holding-pattern," Carney said.

Once DeSantis signed his decree in July, protections just applied to tenants who can prove the virus impacted

their payments.

Carney noted some eviction cases involving nonpayment have still resolved since April because the landlord and tenant were able to come to an agreement outside of court.

"You can't say all cases with nonpayment of rent were stopped," the judge said.

COVID-19 has put a temporary end to in-person court appearances for non-essential hearings, including evictions.

Carney listens to case arguments virtually over Zoom, which offers both internet and phone access to court hearings for summoned tenants.

He's yet to come across someone who's had problems being heard.

"Someone either has a phone or has a friend with a phone," Carney said.

Vick said she's thankful for the judges' partnership with her clerks when it came to moving into a virtual courtroom.

"This has been somewhat challenging for everyone," she said, "and the level of cooperation between the judiciary and clerks office has been very impressive and very much appreciated."

An average number of evictions filed within a typical month with Vick's clerks is around 29.

There was an average of 40 evictions filed in January and February 2020, according to the clerk's office.

In March, when President Donald Trump ordered a suspension on foreclosures and evictions for federally-insured and enterprise-backed mortgages, the number of filed evictions dropped to 16.

After DeSantis' April order was issued, seven evictions were filed by the month's end; nine were filed in May, 10 in June and 13 in July.

There have already been 13 evictions filed so far in August, after DeSantis' second order came through.

In January, February and March, respectively, Citrus County Sheriff's Office deputies served 37, 25 and 13 writs of possession to tenants stating their eviction became final, according to the agency.

No writs were issued from April to June, and two were served in July.

Since August began, deputies have served 3 evictions writs and have 19 left to issue from the courts, according to the sheriff's office.

"The trend," Vick said, "is already showing it's going to be climbing back up."

To contact the Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, which offers legal aid for low-income litigants in civil cases, including evictions, call 800-405-1417.

The organization also has an office in Inverness, which can be reached by calling 352-726-8512.

Contact Chronicle reporter Buster Thompson at 352-564-2916 or bthompson@chronicleonline.com.

"I will bring the perspective of being the only candidate in the race who has taught through these challenging times, to the school board."

MARK GARLOCK

Citrus County Chronicle, July 27, 2020

MARK GARLOCK

- 25 Year Local Educator
- Businessman
- Coach and Choir Director

MARK KNOWS STUDENTS

Paid by Mark Garlock, nonpartisan, for Citrus County School Board District 2

THE MEL EAKLEY COMPACT WITH CITRUS

A Plan for a Safer Citrus County

EAKLEY FOR SHERIFF

www.EakleyforSheriff.com

Paid by Mel Eakley, Republican for Citrus County Sheriff.

RETURN EXCELLENCE TO CITRUS COUNTY!

Technology Vision - Technology in Law Enforcement is about efficiency, accuracy, and a reduction in duplicity. Ridding an agency of information silos and placing it at the fingertips of the members is a key to success.

Stratified Policing - Intelligence-Led Policing. Proactive responses to areas of crime trends, patterns focusing on ongoing criminal activity and their associates ensure those arrested are not one-off criminals but those who are preying on our citizens, neighborhoods, and communities.

Quality Of Life - Quality of Life focused policing is more than just attempting to arrest your way out of issues like drugs, homelessness, and mental health. My plan will improve our quality of life.

Community Engagement - My leadership will focus on building trust and transparency. My approach is focused on being proactive and preventative. You have my commitment to bring about this change of culture in the organization.

Employee Focused - Law enforcement employment is a public service calling from clerks to cops. The foundation of a servant leadership style is centered on employee development, recognition, and compensation.

000VULF Paid by Mel Eakley, Republican for Citrus County Sheriff.

Voter Information
Información para el Votante

PRIMARY Sample Ballot
Boleta de Muestra de la PRIMARIA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020
POLLS OPEN FROM 7am to 7pm
EL MARTES 18 DE AGOSTO DE 2020, LOS CENTROS DE VOTACIÓN ABRIRÁN DE 7 a. m. a 7 p. m.

Requirement for Voters / Requisito para Los Votantes
You must show a valid photo and signature ID when voting early or at the polls.

Acceptable Forms of Photo and Signature ID: (Must be valid)
Florida Driver's License / Licencia de Conducir de Florida
Florida ID (Issued by DHSMV) / Identificación de Florida

- US Passport / Pasaporte de los Estados Unidos
Military ID / Identificación Militar
Student ID / Identificación de Estudiante
Debit or Credit Card with Photo / Tarjeta de Débito o Crédito con Fotografía

Has Your Signature Changed Since You First Registered? / ¿Cambió Su Firma Desde la Primera Vez que se Inscribió?
Signatures on mail ballots are checked against your most recent signature on file.

Los Tipos de Identificación con Foto y Firma que se pueden aceptar son: (Debe estar vigente)
Florida Driver's License / Licencia de Conducir de Florida
Florida ID (Issued by DHSMV) / Identificación de Florida

Prepare Now for the Primary Election / Prepárese Ahora para la Elección Primaria
ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: / HÁGASE LAS SIGUIENTES PREGUNTAS:
Is the address and name on my voter information card correct?

- Do I have the appropriate photo ID with signature to bring when voting? / ¿Tengo una identificación con foto adecuada para llevar a la votación?
Do I know enough about the candidates to make an informed decision? / ¿Sé lo suficiente sobre los candidatos para tomar una decisión informada?

Early Voting Dates and Locations
Fechas y Lugares de la Votación Adelantada
Friday, August 7th - Saturday August 15th (Including Sunday)
Hours: 10am to 6pm / Horario del viernes 7 de agosto al sábado 15 de agosto (Incluido el domingo): de 10 a. m. a 6 p. m.

Early Voting Locations / Lugares de Votación Adelantada
Central Ridge Library - 425 W. Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills
Crystal River Elections Office / Oficina Electoral de Crystal River - 1500 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River

Call Now for Your Mail Ballot / Llame Ahora para Pedir su Boleta por Correo
(352) 564-7120 or apply online at www.voteitrus.com
The last day to request a mail ballot for the Primary Election is August 8, 2020, by 5pm.

Fill out this sample ballot and use it as a guide for Early Voting or at the Polls on Election Day!

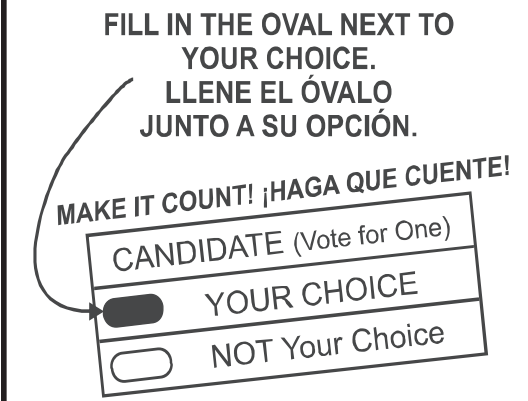
¡Llene esta boleta de muestra y úsela como guía para la Votación Adelantada o en los Centros de Votación el Día de las Elecciones!

Scan this code to visit our website!
Escanee este código y visite nuestro sitio web!



CRYSTAL RIVER
1500 N. Meadowcrest Blvd.
Crystal River, FL 34429
(352) 564-7120

MARK YOUR BALLOT CORRECTLY! MARQUE CORRECTAMENTE SU BOLETA!



Completed vote by mail ballots can be dropped off at any Early Voting site during the Early Voting period.
MAIL BALLOTS MAY NOT BE DROPPED OFF AT THE POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY.



OFFICIAL Sample Ballot - Primary Election
Boleta de Muestra OFICIAL: Elección Primaria

Polls Open: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 from 7am to 7pm
Los Centros de Votación Abren: el martes 18 de agosto de 2020, de 7 a. m. a 7 p. m.

This is your official Sample Ballot for the August 18, 2020, Primary Election. This information is being provided in advance of the election to give you the opportunity to study the candidates.

Please urge your family and friends to vote on August 18, 2020. If you have questions about the election process or need further information, please visit our website at www.voteitrus.com

Official Primary Election Ballot, August 18, 2020
Democratic Party, Citrus County, Florida
Boleta Oficial de Elecciones Primarias, 18 de agosto de 2020
Partido Demócrata, Condado de Citrus, Florida

SAMPLE BALLOT / PAPELETA DE MUESTRA

- To vote, fill in the oval completely next to your choice. Use a black ballpoint pen.
Para votar, llene completamente el óvalo al lado de su selección. Use un bolígrafo de tinta negra.

Table with 3 columns: Superintendent of Schools Universal Primary Contest, County Commissioner District 3, and Circuit Judge Fifth Judicial Circuit, Group 22.

SAMPLE BALLOT PAPELETA DE MUESTRA

Official Primary Election Ballot, August 18, 2020
Nonpartisan, Citrus County, Florida
Boleta Oficial de Elecciones Primarias, 18 de agosto de 2020
Apartidista, Condado de Citrus, Florida

SAMPLE BALLOT / PAPELETA DE MUESTRA

- To vote, fill in the oval completely next to your choice. Use a black ballpoint pen.
Para votar, llene completamente el óvalo al lado de su selección. Use un bolígrafo de tinta negra.

Table with 3 columns: Superintendent of Schools Universal Primary Contest, County Commissioner District 3, and School Board Member District 2.

SAMPLE BALLOT PAPELETA DE MUESTRA

What is a Universal Primary Election?

A Universal Primary Election means a contest in a primary election in which all candidates have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election.

There are four partisan races in this primary election that have only Republican candidates - County Commission Districts 3 and 5, Superintendent of Schools and Supervisor of Elections - so all eligible voters regardless of party affiliation may vote in these races.

¿Qué es una elección primaria universal?

Una elección primaria universal consiste en una contienda dentro de una elección primaria en la cual todos los candidatos tienen la misma afiliación partidista y el ganador no encontrará oposición en la elección general.

Existen cuatro campañas partidistas en esta elección primaria en las que solo hay candidatos republicanos —Distritos 3 y 5 de la comisión del condado, director escolar y supervisor electoral—, por lo que todos los votantes elegibles, independientemente de su afiliación partidista, podrán votar en estas campañas.

2020 Election Preparation in the Time of COVID-19

As we look toward the August 18th Primary Election and November 3rd General Presidential election during this COVID-19 pandemic, we want to assure voters that at this time we are planning to conduct the elections as we have in the past.

- What we the elections office is doing:
1.) Provide clean area voting locations/Check-in/Voting Booths.
2.) Ensure no extra items are brought into the polling room that would compromise room sanitation.

- What you the VOTER should do:
1.) Before arriving to vote ensure your address is current and you are ready to vote and know where your polling place is located.
2.) Before arriving study your sample ballot, mark it and bring it with you to use as a guide when voting.

Preparativos de la elección 2020 en tiempos de COVID-19

Conforme nos acercamos a la elección primaria del 18 de agosto y a la elección presidencial general del 3 de noviembre, las cuales tendrán lugar durante la pandemia de COVID-19, queremos asegurar a los votantes que en estos momentos tenemos planeado llevar a cabo las elecciones tal como lo hemos hecho en el pasado.

- Lo que estamos haciendo en la oficina electoral:
1.) ofrecer espacios limpios para los lugares de votación, registro y casillas de votación
2.) asegurarnos de que no ingresen a la sala de votación artículos adicionales que puedan comprometer las condiciones sanitarias de la sala

- Lo que usted, el VOTANTE, debe hacer:
1.) Antes de ir a votar, asegúrese de que su domicilio registrado sea el actual, de estar listo para votar y de conocer la ubicación del centro de votación

POLLING LOCATIONS / LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN
On Election Day, you must vote at the polling place assigned to you by the Supervisor of Elections Office.

Table listing 108 polling locations across Citrus County, including Red Level Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Crystal River, and Pine Ridge Community Building.

POLLS OPEN 7 am to 7 pm • LOS CENTROS DE VOTACIÓN ABREN DE 7 a. m. a 7 p. m.

300's 300 Citrus County Builders Association
400's 400 First Baptist Church of Inverness
400's 400 First Baptist Church of Inverness
404 Too Far @ Point O' Woods

The ultimate voting machine... YOU

MARKET

Continued from Page A1

■ The median time to close on a contract was 44 days, down from 60 days last year.

Perhaps the most glaring indicator of the state of today's real estate industry is the lack of inventory.

For June, Citrus County had 637 active home listings — down 41.8% from last year when there were 1,095 homes.

Citrus County had a 2.3-month supply of inventory, down from a four-month supply (42.5%) from last year, indicating a true sellers' market.

Months' supply refers to the number of months it would take for the current inventory of homes on the market to sell given the current sales pace.

For example, Citrus County's supply in June was 2.3-months, meaning at the current sales pace it would take just 2.3 months for housing inventory to be depleted. One year ago, the month supply was at 4 months, so it would have taken longer for the housing inventory to be depleted.

The benchmark for a balanced market — favoring neither seller or buyer — is typically 5.5 months; anything higher than that is traditionally called a buyer's market. Anything lower favors the sellers.

Low inventory leads to sellers' market

Jeanne Pickrel, president of the Realtors Association of Citrus County, said record-low interest rates are helping drive sales and they're not projected to go up much higher.

Of course, the question looms: what if the pandemic worsens and the economy continues to tank and more people lose jobs?

"So if this COVID doesn't get under control, this could all change," said

Pickrel, a sales associate with Century 21 JW Morton Real Estate. "But right now, it really looks good."

Pickrel said most people are not afraid to enter a home and view it. But for those who are hesitant, they can view the property virtually, she said.

The whole buying and selling process has changed and, thanks to technology, it works, she said.

"We don't see homes the way that we used to," Pickrel said.

Lack of existing home inventory was a problem before the pandemic and it has gotten worse since.

"The problem is, people don't know where they want to go and that's preventing them from listing their home," she said. "Inventory is tightening up so people are having a tough time finding something."

Some worry that if they put their home on the market, "they won't find another one to move into," Pickrel said.

"It's sort of scary," she added.

The 2007-09 recession hit the housing industry hard and builders had pretty much stopped constructing new homes. The supply has built up somewhat since then but not yet enough to satisfy demand.

"We were slow on coming back," Pickrel said. "We lost tradespeople. It's been hard to build up new inventory."

Builders are scrambling to fill that demand.

"The houses that get on the market, if they're priced right, they go," Pickrel said. "(It's) a statewide growth. We need listings but we're in good shape. (The market) is healthy."

Record low interest rates

At the end of July 16, the average 30-year mortgage rate dropped below 3%, the lowest recorded since Freddie Mac started tracking average mortgage rates in 1971.

However any uptick in buyer demand over

all-time-low mortgage rates will meet a shrinking inventory of for-sale homes.

Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist, says the drop below 3% "has led to increased homebuyer demand," and that the "low rates have been capitalized into asset prices in support of the financial markets."

But Khater also says the "countervailing force for the economy has been the rise in new virus cases which has caused the economic recovery to stagnate, and this economic pause puts many temporary layoffs at risk of ossifying into permanent job losses."

'Surprising and remarkable'

Every region of the nation experienced growth in month-over-month pending home sales in June, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

"It is quite surprising and remarkable that, in the midst of a global pandemic, contract activity for home purchases is higher compared to one year ago," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist. "Consumers are taking advantage of record-low mortgage rates resulting from the Federal Reserve's maximum liquidity monetary policy."

A changing market

Florida's housing market in June showed positive signs of recovery despite the continuing coronavirus pandemic, with more new pending sales, more pending inventory and higher median sales prices compared to a year ago, according to Florida Realtors.

Single-family existing homes sales increased year-over-year, up by 1.3% — the first increase since March and a significant change compared to April and May, according to Florida Realtors chief economist Dr. Brad O'Connor.

Florida Realtors President Barry Grooms said



Associated Press


This Monday, April 27, 2020, file photo shows a sale pending sign on a home in Mount Lebanon, Pa. The coronavirus pandemic helped shape the housing market by influencing everything from the direction of mortgage rates to the inventory of homes on the market to the types of homes in demand and the desired locations.

many buyers and sellers "understandably hit the pause button in recent months due to the coronavirus, but record-low interest rates now are helping to fuel

pent-up demand. "As families have been navigating the challenges of working remotely, on-line classes and other daily activities all together under the same roof, many

buyers are considering new must-haves when it comes to their homes," Grooms said.

Contact Chronicle reporter Michael D. Bates at 352-563-5660 or mbates@



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Vote on August 18, 2020

The Citrus County Education Association has a proud history of fighting to improve public schools for students, parents, and staff throughout the county and ask that you vote on August 18th, 2020.



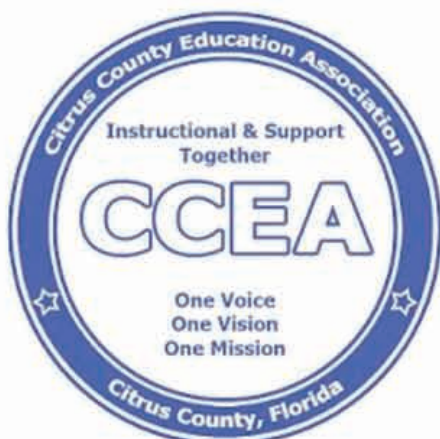
For more information about elections please visit the Citrus County Supervisor of Elections website: votecitrus.com

Citrus County Education Association
proudly endorses
the following candidates:

Sam Himmel, Superintendent of Schools

Danielle Damato Doty, School Board District 2

Mo Baird, Supervisor of Elections



Paid electioneering communication paid for by
Citrus County Education Association Advocacy Fund,
2801 SW College Rd, Ste. 14, Ocala, FL 34474

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EAKLEY FOR SHERIFF

www.EakleyforSheriff.com

Paid by Mel Eakley, Republican for Citrus County Sheriff.



WE THE PEOPLE....

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE endorses Mel Eakley for Sheriff

Eakley started at an entry level position in the.... Sheriff's Office and retired running major operations and criminal investigation units for the agency.... While Eakley is not as smooth a politician as Prendergast, he does have the administrative and leadership experience to lead the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. We like his approach to "community policing" as a strategy for building community support and fighting crime.... we urge voters to endorse a change. In our view, Mel Eakley is best suited for the job.

Mel is the most qualified of all the candidates with his 25-year career in law enforcement. He served in almost every department and rank of a sheriff's office. His knowledge in everything from patrol deputies to school resource officers and up to administration is vast.

Patricia Oatsvall
Homosassa Springs

He's a tough guy, has a very strong work ethic and demands the same from his team. He would be the perfect person to put Citrus County back on the map as a strong, safe, wonderful place to live. He's an effective, proven leader, just what is needed here in Citrus County.

Diane Schwarz
Crystal River

Being part of the Citrus County community and a local business owner for nearly 40 years, I know we're ready for a change in leadership. Mel Eakley treats every person he meets with respect and he understands the concept of servant leadership. Being a leader is more than putting on a badge and commanding respect.

David Lambo
Hernando

I have had the opportunity to meet with Mel on two occasions and I am convinced he is the superior candidate to be our next sheriff. Mel has worked his way up in civilian law enforcement from patrolman to Major, and just about every position in between. He was entrusted by his superiors to negotiate contracts and agreements, oversee large budgets, and lead hundreds of men and women. He understands that relationships are built on trust and credibility.

Jim Fowler
Citrus County Commission (retired)

Mel is a Homosassa resident. He's got a solid law enforcement background working in many positions that would provide a good foundation for the position.... Mel will be a great sheriff who will gain support of his deputies, and get the department moving in the right direction.

Steve Perry
Homosassa

What impressed me the most about Mel... was his ability to communicate with people and to answer their questions, with passion and confidence. Mel was very friendly with everyone and answered all the questions with confidence, compassion, and integrity.... as a retired police officer from New Hampshire who has been residing in Crystal River for approximately 10 years.... I would also encourage the voters of Citrus County and all retired police officers living here to strongly consider Mel Eakley.

Richard Gilman
Crystal River

Mel led multiple bureaus and divisions, including the Communications Section, Vehicle Maintenance, Information Technology, Human Resources, Finance, Emergency Management, Vice and Narcotics, Criminal Investigations and Operations.... As your sheriff, Mel Eakley will lead the agency forward, acting with integrity and professionalism, and drawing from his experience, he will return the Citrus County Sheriff's Office to excellence.

Frank Laton

The next decade will require a true law enforcement professional who understands what modern policing means. Mel thinks outside of the box. He is the only candidate to talk about protecting our AG industry which is huge to my family and friends. Mel will be a workhorse instead of a show horse. He will repair relationships with nonprofits, the school system, BOCC neighborhoods.

Leon McClellan
Mayor Oak Grove (Lecanto)

Please accept this as an endorsement for Mel Eakley, candidate for Citrus County Sheriff. I retired after 26-plus years of service at the Citrus County Sheriff's Office under the command of three different sheriffs, and I can assure the citizens of this county that Mel Eakley has the most well-rounded qualifications of all the candidates.... Let's not make a mistake by keeping the wrong sheriff in office, or by electing another unqualified candidate.

Bonnie S. White
Citrus County Sheriff's Office (retired)

It is important that our community families, businesses, and deputies stay safe in these unprecedented times. This is why I am supporting Mel Eakley for sheriff. Mel has the experience, know-how, and wants to lead our sheriff's department with knowledge, integrity, honesty, transparency and love for our community.

Jessica Barnes
Dunnellon

I am definitely concerned for the direction of our county and it's future if we don't elect a good Sheriff.... Phil respected Mel professionally and personally, and they have a lot of the same vision for our community. In addition to his 25 years of civilian law enforcement experience, Mel is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He is respected, innovative, approachable, cooperative, kind, and considerate. Mel is a family man, and he's real!

April Royal

Mel has observed a few areas of need in Citrus County that have been neglected in the past, and that impact the community in a variety of ways: addiction and mental health issues. He has experience and success with programs and initiatives that would bring positive solutions to these needs, through his career as a law enforcement officer. Mel is committed to joining forces with local medical providers and community church partners to create, support, and assist with providing programs which would benefit these underserved residents of Citrus County.... I believe Mel is a proven leader and is what we need going forward. Connecting to people is a strength of Mel's, and we need this more than ever before. Vote for a visionary leader, and proven law enforcement official. Please join me, and dozens of my fellow retired friends and colleagues in supporting Mel Eakley for Sheriff.

James Martone
Citrus County Sheriff's Office (retired)

It's rare that a community gets an opportunity to elect someone so perfectly aligned with the job in which they are seeking.

Josh Wooten
Former Citrus County Commissioner

Mel knows what it was like to work the streets, before he worked his way to some of the top administrative commands in the department. Along the way, he led hundreds of men and women in the department, and managed.... Mel understands that the number of arrests a Sheriff makes does not necessarily equate to the quality of the arrests. Mel recognizes that to clean up the drugs, he must target the source — the drug lord network — not the drug user who could better serve society through rehabilitation and mental health services than being an arrest statistic. To clean up the drug problem, you need to go to the top of the supply chain; otherwise, you are conducting an exercise in futility.... I urge you to join me and many others who recognize the stellar qualifications of this committed public servant.... Vote Mel Eakley for Citrus County Sheriff.

Tom Gotterud
NYPD (retired)
Crystal River

I hear all the candidates say "do your homework" to the voters. I say, yes please do! Don't equate time served with being qualified to negotiate contracts, budgets, and manage hundreds of people. Mel has worked all facets of law enforcement while wearing his uniform. Patrol officer, SRO, major crimes unit, narcotics detective, operational logistics, and more. He has the vision, the leadership skills, and qualifications to be our next sheriff. Vote Mel Eakley in the primary on Aug. 18.

Jeanne Green
Crystal River

Many people in Citrus County have reached out to me asking who am I supporting in the 2020 Citrus County Sheriff election, and why? My answer is plain and simple. I served this county as a deputy/major crimes detective for 29 years. I have worked under two sheriffs who have made me proud to serve and always put the community's safety first, while building relationships with the city, and county government agencies.... Mel Eakley is the only candidate that brings to the table the experience, community care, and values that we need in Citrus County.

Gary Atchison
Citrus County Sheriff's Office (retired)
Inverness

I am convinced that Maj. Eakley is the most qualified candidate. I am especially impressed with his views on community policing, code enforcement, and community engagement. He has an impressive background starting out as a road patrolman, and rising to the rank of major. He has served with distinction in every capacity in a Florida sheriff's office. Citrus County has a great opportunity to elect a true law enforcement professional as their sheriff. I urge everyone to look at the records of those running and I'm sure, you too, will consider Maj. Mel Eakley for the next sheriff of Citrus County.

Tom Ryan
Local Business Owner
Beverly Hills

Maj. Eakley has leadership skills with a clear path of development for personnel, and a clear appreciation for skills and training, including education, mentoring program, master deputy/detective programs.... I found Maj. Eakley to have the leadership skills I deem necessary to move law enforcement in this county to a higher level. With Maj. Eakley as sheriff, I can honestly say that if I were 25 years younger, I would apply to work for him. I found him articulate in his planning, experienced, and likable. He has a caring concern for the county he lives in. Maj. Eakley has my endorsement for sheriff of Citrus County.

Paula Anspach
Retired Law Enforcement Officer

I am supporting Mel Eakley for sheriff. I am asking that you do your research on all of the candidates. Do they have the proper experience to run the entire sheriff's office properly? I am a firm believer the best leaders are those who have actually held the same positions during their career as the people that they will lead. Mel is the most qualified candidate we have running for Citrus County Sheriff.... Most importantly, all of our candidates can talk the talk, but only one will be able to walk the walk, and that is Mel Eakley.

Barb Fletcher
Homosassa

I had the opportunity to hear Mel Eakley speak recently, and I was blown away. His experience is extensive and certainly makes him qualified to be sheriff of Citrus County, but his vision really does take us back along the path that we were on during previous administrations. That kind of thinking truly resonated with me!

Dr. Mike Bennett

I was impressed and thankful that Mel Eakley reached out to myself and staff to hear the specific needs of our school district.

Sandra (Sam) Himmel
Superintendent Citrus County School District

Mel Eakley is by far the most qualified for this position. His career started in the patrol division. From there he moved on to detective, including undercover narcotics. Mel then worked in the major crimes unit. He worked his way up the ladder including sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and major overseeing over all uniformed operations. He understands the administrative end of law enforcement as well.

Mark Stuckie
Homosassa

It's time to vote for the best candidate for the job. The best candidate for the job, based on résumé, passion, and real-life experience is Mel Eakley. I would put my word and my community on it. Mel has been genuine, funny, and real from the first time I met him, and through our collaborations. I've learned more and more about the kind of person he is, the experience and passion he has for what he believes in. I trust him to lead us more than I can express, and I ask my fellow community members to really do their research — be a voice — and choose what's best for our community.

Melissa Olbek
Homosassa

My husband and I have had serious conversations with Mel Eakley, and were impressed by his grasp of the issues, and the experience he brings to the table. This position requires leadership and a strong background in law enforcement. There is only one clear choice on the ballot, and I would encourage you to research his background and experience and endorse Mel Eakley for sheriff of Citrus County in this year's election. Experience counts, we need change in Citrus County.

Kathy Beck
Homosassa

Mel Eakley was very much respected and had the reputation of a loyal, honest, and caring officer.... He cares very much about the community and Citrus County. Being friends with someone does not qualify them to be sheriff. Going to high school with someone does not qualify them to be sheriff. Serving in the military police does not qualify them to be sheriff. Experience qualifies you to be sheriff and Mel Eakley is the only candidate running for sheriff that has 25 solid years of experience and leadership.

Judy Biston
Homosassa

Mel Eakley is the best candidate for sheriff. His experience, integrity, and communication skills will be a huge asset to the Citrus County Sheriff's Department.

Katie Carnahan
Crystal River

I support Maj. Mel Eakley without reservation. His experience, character, and diligence outline the reasons for me. Maj. Eakley's experience, proven leadership, and vision are the main reasons that allow me to place complete trust in his abilities to provide the same high quality service in Citrus County, for which he is known for throughout his 25 years in civilian law enforcement.

Kevin Cunningham
Local Business Owner
Crystal River

For those who may not know me, I have spent much of my entire career as a law enforcement officer as a Citrus County Sheriff's officer.... I had the opportunity to meet and learn from Mel Eakley, then corporal of the Road Patrol Squad. I quickly realized that Mel Eakley was a true leader, and someone who was a true role model and mentor. His encouragement for me to continually learn and apply was persistent. Under his tutelage, I not only learned as much as possible regarding the many entities of law enforcement, but I also went on to earn my college degrees.... the best candidate for the position of Citrus County Sheriff is Mel Eakley.

Craig Fass
Sheriff's Deputy
Homosassa

The safety and concern of my community for me, my family, and my students, led me to spend time with Maj. Mel Eakley during his campaign to become the next Citrus County Sheriff.... Mel demonstrates credible knowledge with how to prepare, support and preserve a safe environment for students to learn and teachers to teach.... Eakley's lifelong law enforcement experience is what we need now and into the future. Let's restore the sense of a safe community with his leadership.

Karin Kersh
Citrus County Teacher
Inverness

As a medical professional and former Army veteran in Tampa Bay, I have encountered many law enforcement officers during the past 25 years and none were more concerned for the safety of those he served. I have lived in Citrus County for four years, and witnessed it beginning to change. Law enforcement leadership will pave the way to handle growth, and face tough issues like mental health, homelessness, and addiction. Mel has proven experience in addressing these areas, and has led a large agency to success with his ideas and strategies.... Mel is not a politician, but someone who has devoted 29 years of his life to serving others. I encourage you to review each candidate's résumé and learn who has been there and done that.

Patrick Cockill
Homosassa

I had the opportunity to have a good conversation with Major Mel Eakley and was impressed by his grasp of the issues confronting Citrus County. It was clear what his experience brings to the table. The position of Sheriff requires leadership, and a strong background in law enforcement. In my opinion, there is only one clear choice on the ballot. I encourage you to research Mel's background and experience and vote Mel Eakley for sheriff of Citrus County in this year's election.

John Thrumston
Former Citrus County Commissioner

Former Sheriff Endorses Eakley

Mel Eakley is a 25-year law enforcement veteran that has served in every facet of the Florida sheriff's office. He is a U.S. Air Force veteran, who received his police certification in 1991 at the Tampa Police Academy. Mel has proven track records of working with governmental entities, citizens, businesses, and nonprofits, and knows every aspect of the sheriff's office. He has held positions as a patrol deputy/sergeant/lieutenant, community policing/bike patrol deputy, vice and narcotics detective, School Resource Officer, Major Crimes detective/sergeant, Special Operations captain, Detective Division captain, Major Operational Logistics Bureau, Major Uniform Operations Bureau, and Major Criminal Investigative Bureau. Throughout his career, he has earned the respect of all he has worked with. He understands what it is like to work on the streets, within the communities, and values the hard work of the men and women of the CCSO.... we need a new sheriff and Mel Eakley is imminently qualified to lead us forward. A vote for Mel Eakley is a vote to return the Citrus County Sheriff's Office to excellence.

Jeff Dawsey
Citrus County Sheriff (retired)

Paid by Mel Eakley, Republican for Citrus County Sheriff.

Around the STATE

Food drive to benefit SOS Support Center on Aug. 18

The Esther Chapter of the Daughters of the King at Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church in Lecanto is asking for food donations to benefit SOS Support Center, which feeds more than 7,000 families in Citrus County each month.

They will be having a drive-thru food drop off from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church, 2540 West Norvell Bryant Highway (County Road 486), Lecanto. The food collected on Tuesday will be taken to SOS on Wednesday in time for distribution on Thursday.

Also, they will have coolers on hand to store refrigerated or even frozen items.

Officials: Florida panther struck and killed by vehicle

LABELLE — An endangered Florida panther has died after being struck by a vehicle.

It's the 14th panther death attributed to fatal collisions, out of 16 total deaths this year, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The remains of the 3-year-old female panther were found Wednesday in Hendry County on a rural road near the Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area, wildlife officials said. Florida panthers once roamed the entire Southeast, but now their habitat mostly is confined to a small region of Florida along the Gulf of Mexico. Up to 230 Florida panthers remain in the wild.

— From staff and wire reports

RUSH

Continued from Page A1

pre-selling most of their homes.

"We're selling the houses before we even list them," he said.

The pandemic has caused a rise in material costs, especially lumber. That has forced builders, including Scurlock's company, to raise prices on the homes.

"Since COVID hit, we're having issues with materials," Scurlock said. "Costs have gone up 30-40% across the board. We want to build affordable homes but it's becoming more challenging for us to be able to do that."

Scurlock said he's noticed another trend with this pandemic: some buyers want out of more urban areas to get closer to wide-open, rural spaces. He's not only seeing people moving from the Tampa area but, in some, cases, from Inverness and Crystal River. Underwood concentrates mostly on the Citrus Springs area.

"They just want to get out a little bit further," he said.

With "super low interest rates," the attraction of a new home is even greater, Scurlock said. He anticipates even more people moving to Citrus County once the Suncoast

Parkway expansion into Citrus is complete.

All-in-all, life during the pandemic is good for business — even if it's difficult keeping up with demand.

"It's a good problem to have," he said.

Single-family home permits have risen steadily each year since 2012, according to the Citrus County Building Department.

In that year, the department issued 165 permits, rising annually until 2019 when 829 permits were issued.

So far in 2020 — from January through July — there have been 515 single-family permits issued.

New-home construction is increasing nationally during the coronavirus outbreak. Sales of newly built, single-family homes rose to their highest level since the Great Recession, up 13.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 776,000 units in June, according to newly released data by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Census Bureau. The June rate is 6.9 percent higher than the June 2019 pace.

"Builders are moving to ramp up production to meet growing demand," said Chuck Fowke, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

"Along with rising builder sentiment, we are

JUST THE FACTS

Citrus County single-family permit applications:

- 2000: 1,263.
- 2001: 1,133.
- 2002: 1,184.
- 2003: 1,714.
- 2004: 2,457.
- 2005: 3,309.
- 2006: 1,625.
- 2007: 1,024.
- 2008: 337.
- 2009: 171.
- 2010: 149.
- 2011: 130.
- 2012: 165.
- 2013: 228.
- 2014: 228.
- 2015: 366.
- 2016: 379.
- 2017: 690.
- 2018: 854.
- 2019: 829.
- 2020: 515 (through July).

— Source: Citrus County Building Division

seeing increasing consumer demand in the suburbs (and) rural areas," said NAHB Chief Economist Robert Dietz.

Contact Chronicle reporter Michael D. Bates at 352-563-5660 or mbates@chronicleonline.com.

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 RUTHIE DAVIS SCHLABACH**



I have a plan and the work ethic to tackle many of these issues facing our county as your Commissioner. With hard work and determination, we can preserve Citrus County's beauty, safety, and resources while eliminating overreaching and ineffective government. We can bring the American Dream back into reality.

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- 25 years in Citrus County
- 27 years of a successful business
- Florida native

A VISION FOR CITRUS COUNTY



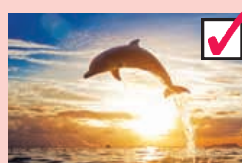
JOBS

Encourage investment and the right companies to our county. Make sure everyone knows Citrus County is a great place for businesses to invest.



ROADS

Our county must make a commitment to invest in our infrastructure. We can no longer ignore the state of our roadways.



RESOURCES

The protection of both our fresh and saltwater bodies of water and natural areas must always be a top priority for Citrus.



Ruthie **SCHLABACH** for County Commission



352-637-6003 • Email me: ruthieforcitrus@gmail.com • Find me on

www.RuthieForCitrus.com

Paid by Ruthie Schlabach, Republican for Citrus County Commission

Keep Virginia "Ginger" Bryant

I am dedicated to my family, community, church and the children of Citrus County. I offer my experience, knowledge, enthusiasm and integrity to be a board member you can trust.



Facts About Ginger:

- 🍏 25 year as Teacher at Crystal River Middle School
- 🍏 20 years as Citrus County School Board Member
- 🍏 Board of Directors member of Florida School Board Assoc.
- 🍏 Trustee on Florida School Board Insurance Trust since 2004
- 🍏 Kiwanis member for many years & our main objective is to serve Citrus County Children
- 🍏 Voted Teacher of the year by my colleagues in 1987
- 🍏 Currently serve on Advisory Council for SRMI/ Renaissance School, Crest School, Lecanto Primary, Crystal River Middle and Homosassa Elementary
- 🍏 Attended Homosassa Elementary and Crystal River Elementary
- 🍏 Graduate of Crystal River High School and Central Florida Junior College
- 🍏 Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from University of Florida
- 🍏 Real Estate Broker in State of Florida
- 🍏 Certified Board Member of Florida School Board Association
- 🍏 Member of Chamber of Commerce in Citrus County for 20 years
- 🍏 Counselor & Teacher at Florida Bible Camp for many years
- 🍏 My grandfather is a veteran of World War I & my father is a veteran of World War II
- 🍏 Grandson received scholarship to Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland and served 3 years operating nuclear submarines
- 🍏 Husband Nick Bryant, retired teacher & coach, Realtor, and Citrus County Commissioner for 12 years
- 🍏 3 Children graduates of Citrus County Schools: Nick Bryant III-owner of Nick Print near Atlanta, Alice Harrell-former Principal of Citrus Springs Elementary and current Principal of Homosassa Elementary & Beverly Tidwell-Math Teacher at Crystal River High School
- 🍏 9 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren (6 attend Citrus County Schools)

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Keep Virginia "Ginger" Bryant - A Child Advocate - as our School Board Member in District 2.

Vote on August 18th!

Paid for and approved by Ginger Bryant, Nonpartisan, for Citrus County School Board District 2



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Blazers make playoffs, oust Grizzlies in play-in

TIM REYNOLDS
AP basketball writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA — A fourth consecutive down-to-the-wire finish, a fourth consecutive win for the Portland Trail Blazers.

They needed all that just to get into the playoffs.

Damian Lillard scored 31 points, CJ McCollum had 14 of his 29 in the fourth quarter — including a pair of big jumpers over Ja Morant late — and the Blazers clinched the NBA's final playoff spot by beating the Memphis Grizzlies 126-122 on Saturday.

Portland's reward: a matchup with the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers, starting Tuesday. Jusuf Nurkic had 22 points and 21 rebounds for the winners, who got 21 points from Carmelo Anthony.

"What we've done in these two weeks is really special," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "I couldn't be more proud of a group of guys because we were up against it every game, nine straight games where our season was basically in the balance. ... They found a way."

Morant scored 35 for Memphis, which got a 22-point, 16-rebound day from Jonas Valanciunas and 20 points apiece from Dillon Brooks and Brandon Clarke.

It was the start, and the end, of the Western Conference play-in series — a wrinkle the NBA added to the restarted season because the coronavirus pandemic meant no team would play its allotted 82 games. Portland finished eighth in the West, Memphis was ninth, and the Grizzlies needed to sweep a two-game matchup to advance.

They had a chance, up eight in the final quarter, before Portland did what Portland does in the bubble — pull games out at the end. The Blazers' last four wins have come by a combined 11 points.

So they go on, and Memphis goes home — knowing

its potential is very real.

Nurkic, playing with a heavy heart because of his grandmother's death,

grabbed an offensive rebound and wound up converting a three-point play with 2:39 left to put Port-

land on top for good.

McCollum — playing with a fracture in his back — connected on a

3-pointer and another long jumper late, both times guarded by Morant, to ensure Portland kept the

lead, and Anthony's 3-pointer with 20.2 seconds left was the last big shot the Blazers needed.

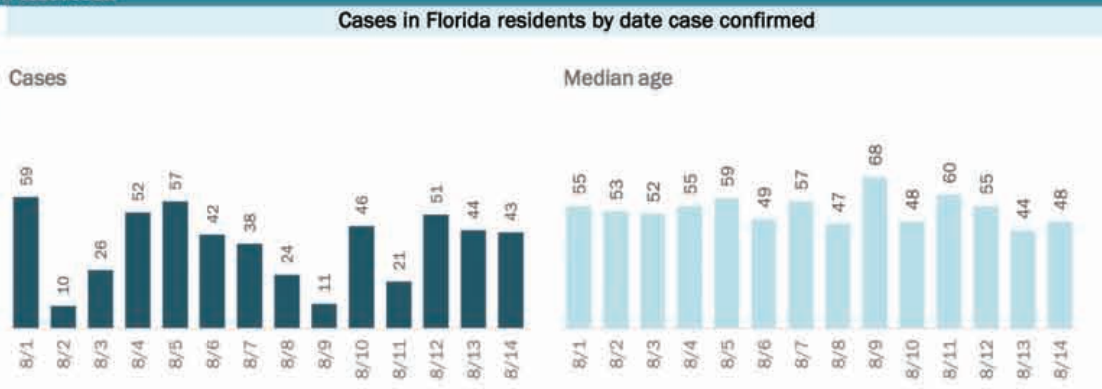
COVID-19: summary for Citrus County

Data through Aug 14, 2020 verified as of Aug 15, 2020 at 09:25 AM

Data in this report are provisional and subject to change.

Cases: people with positive PCR or antigen test result

Total cases	1,750
Florida residents	1,745
Non-Florida residents	5
Type of case	
PCR positive	1,742
Antigen positive	3
Gender for Florida residents	
Men	817
Women	921
Unknown	7
Age for Florida residents	
Range	0 - 100
Median age	51



Race, ethnicity	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
White	1,357 78%	135 85%	35 88%
Hispanic	48 3%	3 2%	0 0%
Non-Hispanic	1,243 71%	126 79%	34 85%
Unknown ethnicity	66 4%	6 4%	1 3%
Black	107 6%	7 4%	2 5%
Hispanic	3 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Non-Hispanic	100 6%	7 4%	2 5%
Unknown ethnicity	4 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Other	127 7%	13 8%	2 5%
Hispanic	31 2%	2 1%	0 0%
Non-Hispanic	90 5%	11 7%	2 5%
Unknown ethnicity	6 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Unknown race	154 9%	4 3%	1 3%
Hispanic	8 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Non-Hispanic	5 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Unknown ethnicity	141 8%	4 3%	1 3%
Total	1,745	159	40

Outcomes for Florida residents

Citrus	
Hospitalizations	159 (9% of all cases)
Deaths	40 (2% of all cases)
New deaths	2

Statewide

Hospitalizations	33,661 (6% of all cases)
Deaths	9,345 (2% of all cases)
New deaths	204

New deaths are those identified since last report.

Cases in facility staff/residents

Citrus	
Long-term care	202 (12% of all cases)
Correctional	49 (3% of all cases)

Statewide

Long-term care	33,647 (6% of all cases)
Correctional	17,770 (3% of all cases)

Age group	All cases	New cases (8/14)	Hospitalizations	Deaths
0-4 years	16 1%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
5-14 years	61 3%	3 7%	0 0%	0 0%
15-24 years	227 13%	3 7%	1 1%	0 0%
25-34 years	217 12%	5 12%	8 5%	1 3%
35-44 years	194 11%	5 12%	10 6%	0 0%
45-54 years	266 15%	8 19%	13 8%	1 3%
55-64 years	332 19%	9 21%	24 15%	2 5%
65-74 years	217 12%	2 5%	40 25%	7 18%
75-84 years	141 8%	5 12%	37 23%	17 43%
85+ years	64 4%	1 2%	26 16%	12 30%
Unknown	10 1%	2 5%	0 0%	0 0%
Total	1,745	43	159	40

Hospitalization counts include anyone who was hospitalized at some point during their illness. It does not reflect the number of people currently hospitalized.

Other race includes any person with a race of American Indian/Alaskan native, Asian, native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or other.

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VETERANS NOTES

Veterans Notes are only for special events that are open to the public. To find out about regularly scheduled post activities that welcome the public during the week, including entertainment and menus, call the post. For information about post members-only activities, call the individual posts for a schedule. Call the individual posts regarding meeting times and dates. Contributed notices must be submitted by Wednesday afternoon before publication the following Sunday.

NEW THIS WEEK

Help plan annual Veterans Appreciation Week

The Veterans Appreciation Week Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee will conduct its monthly coordination meeting for Citrus County's 28th annual Veterans Appreciation Week at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, at American Legion Post 155, 6585 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Crystal River. All veteran service organizations are encouraged to send representatives to participate in the planning process. Individual veterans are also welcome. Attendees are asked to wear face masks. Any organization or person desiring additional information should contact Chris Gregoriou at 352-302-9777.

COMING UP

Donate school supplies to Citrus students

American Legion Auxiliary Post 155 is collecting school supplies for Crystal River Primary and Rock Crusher Elementary. If you would like to donate items for the school, you can drop them off at the American Legion Post 155, 6585 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Crystal River. Items can be dropped off on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. only.

Members will divide the supplies up between the two school and deliver them. Due to the delay in getting this project started, it will go through the end of August for collection. If you have any questions, email your questions to joyceanncentrella1957@gmail.com.

Flea market set at VFW Post 4252

Members of VFW 4252 are planning a flea market beginning at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020, at the post at 3190 N. Carl G. Rose Highway (State Road 200), Hernando.

Proceeds go to veterans and family support. Breakfast food will be available. Table rental is \$10 inside for \$5 outside (bring your own table). Table set-up begins after 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17. Call 352-726-3339 to reserve a space.

Save the date for Military Card Party

Members of VFW 4252 are hosting a Military Card Party to benefit the Veterans Villages of Fort McCoy Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020, at the post at 3190 N. Carl G. Rose Highway (State Road 200), Hernando. Details will be published in early October in the Chronicle. For more information, call the post.

GOOD TO KNOW

Annual veterans concerts canceled in 2020

Due to continuing concerns for the health and safety of NCCB musicians and audiences, the Nature Coast Community Band is delaying the start of the 2020-21 season. The Oct. 26 and 27 Veterans Appreciation Concerts and the Nov. 11 Veterans Memorial Service Concerts are canceled.

See NOTES/Page A20

A custom tribute



JUSTINE KRUMHOLTZ/Special to the Chronicle

Justin Krumholtz designs each motorcycle with a specific branch of the military in mind. Here, his Navy-inspired bike is photographed just before being disassembled to be painted. This will mark the third and final installment in his collection to honor those who have served.

Motorcycle enthusiast nears completion of Navy bike honoring vets

CHRISTINE MARINO
Staff writer

Gratitude for local veterans can be shown in many different ways.

One Citrus County resident chooses to display his thanks for those who have served by using a more unconventional method of expression.

Justin Krumholtz creates custom-designed motorcycles inspired by the branches of the military to ride and display across both county and state.

Through the combined efforts of his design and others' expertise, services and equipment, Krumholtz has successfully created a bike inspired by the Air Force, Army and most recently, the Navy.

"These bikes are decorated to honor those who have served," Krumholtz said. "I dedicate these to all those I know who have been in the Army, Navy or Air Force. I have ridden them all over and displayed them in shows as a tribute to them."

Krumholtz is adamant that his bikes are not to be entered for cash prizes or awards when formally shown.

"I don't do this for trophies or prizes," he said. "That's not what this is about. This is for those who served our country. They are not for sale and I do not make any profit off of them. It's all about the bikes, not me."

Krumholtz has displayed his creations all throughout the state, in shows and military holiday events. He expressed gratitude for all those who have helped him create the bikes over the years.

"I couldn't do this without help, though," he said.



Pictured is an Air Force tribute motorcycle, designed by Krumholtz. This was the first bike of his collection to honor veterans.

The motorcycle enthusiast expressed humble gratitude towards those who have lent their time and skill to these patriotic projects over the years. He eagerly awaits the completion of his latest project's paint job, which is being done by Patrick Busby of Trick Concepts Paint and Body, located in Inverness.

Krumholtz frequently uses and recommends Busby's services, as he has always been impressed by the quality of his work.

"He's the one who actually makes the bikes look good," Krumholtz said. "He takes his time to make sure it's done right. He's just a phenomenal painter."

Although humble about his work, creating one of these military-inspired tributes is no small task. Krumholtz expects the return of his

freshly-painted Navy tribute bike in the near future, meaning the build will have taken just over a year to complete.

Among his collection of motorcycle tributes is his first build, inspired by the United States Air Force.

Having multiple friends and family members who have served in the Air Force, this was one of his more personal designs. Putting a diligent effort into this heartfelt piece, it took Krumholtz two years to complete this motorcycle tribute.

His next build was an Army-inspired bike, which took him just under eight weeks to construct. This bike took less time to build compared to his other work, as he had already reconditioned the bike and rebuilt it before designing it.

See TRIBUTE/Page A18

VFW and Auxiliary Post 8189 support Nature Coast Young Marines

Special to the Chronicle

Recently, the VFW and Auxiliary Post 8189 each presented checks to the Nature Coast Young Marines to show appreciation for all they do for veterans and the community.

The VFW and Auxiliary regularly partner with other veteran organizations to raise money for veteran causes, the community and youth groups throughout the year.

The VFW and Auxiliary are always looking for new members.

For information, visit their websites: vfwfl.org or vfwauxflorida.org.

The Young Marines are open to all youths through the completion of high school. The only membership requirement is that the youth must be in good standing at school.

Their website states "the Young Marines strengthen the lives of America's youth by teaching the importance



Special to the Chronicle

Pictured front row, from left, are: Auxiliary Youth and Scholarship Chairman Joel Steele, Nature Coast Young Marines Gunnery Sgt. T. Cook, Nature Coast Young Marines Pay Master Mary Cook and Auxiliary President Roger Ingall. Pictured back row, from left, are: Auxiliary member Kathy Ingall, Auxiliary Secretary Renee Tennant, Auxiliary Patriotic Instructor Mariann Cornwell, Auxiliary member Linda Geno, Auxiliary Trustee Grace Moshier, Auxiliary Trustee Gail Youngs, Auxiliary Trustee Judy Franks and Auxiliary member Audrey Morris.

of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, living a healthy, drug-free community service and lifestyle."

Apply for Lt. Loran A. Wilcox Scholarship

Special to the Chronicle

Loran A. Wilcox joined the U.S. Navy when he was 17 years old and had a 10th grade education. He served his country for 27 years to include World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, retiring as a lieutenant. After he retired from the U.S. Navy, Lt. Wilcox became the first person in his family to go to college, graduating from the University of Florida with a 3.98 GPA.

Wilcox proudly watched all four of his children, all eight of his grandchildren and his oldest great-grandson graduate from college before he passed away in May 2020 at the age of 94.

Lt. Chadwick Wilcox and Caitlin Wilcox, Esq., created the Lt. Loran A. Wilcox Scholarship to honor their grandfather and to enable local students to further their career goals by helping them obtain an education.

The scholarship amount is \$1,000, and it is offered to a 2020 graduate of a Citrus County High School who will be attending an accredited two- or four-year college, business, technical or vocational school in the fall of 2020. The deadline to apply is Aug. 30.

Applicants must include a resume, essay (1-2 pages, double-spaced) answering the question: "Pick one of the events of 2020. Which comic book hero would you call on for help and why?"

Submit applications via email to Wilcox Scholarship@gmail.com. In the body of the email, include name, mailing information, phone number, name of high school, current GPA (weighted and unweighted), colleges to which you have applied and/or been accepted, anticipated field of study and whether you will be the first in your family to attend college.

■ Submit information for the Veterans page at least two weeks before the event.
■ Early submission of timely material is appreciated,

but multiple publications cannot be guaranteed.
■ Notes tend to run one week prior to the date of an event. Publication on a specific day is not guaranteed.

■ Submit material at Chronicle offices in Inverness or Crystal River; by fax at 352-563-3280; or email to community@chronicleonline.com.

25th ANNIVERSARY

The Gannons



Leo and Elizabeth Gannon of Citrus Hills Terra Vista celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on Aug. 18, 2020. The couple met at the opening ceremony of Rhode Island's Convention Center on Dec. 3, 1993, and married in 1995 at President Eisenhower's Summer Retreat in Newport, Rhode Island. Their careers soon took them to Washington, D.C., where they also owned and fully maintained Trinity Farm Quarter Horses in Dunkirk, Maryland. Herando is now their full-time residence where they found a balance for their love of the ocean, horses and numerous athletic activities.

Leo is a former Rhode Island state senator and recently retired as a legislative and public policy executive. He continues to provide government relations consulting services in Washington, D.C. Elizabeth, also retired, is a former sales and marketing executive in the legal, financial services and insurance industries.

TRIBUTE

Continued from Page A17

Once complete, the Navy-inspired motorcycle will mark his third and final installment in this touching dedication to veterans. It will be on display in Trick Concepts Paint and Body. Krumholtz anticipates the bike to be available to view during the first week of this September and hopes that his work will inspire others to show gratitude towards those who have fought for their country.



Special to the Chronicle

This Army-inspired motorcycle stands on display for all those to see. Krumholtz hopes that his work will inspire others to honor their local veterans.

"This isn't something I do for recognition," he said. "This is just something I really enjoy doing, and it's important to me to honor those who have served in this way."

D-I-Y ONLINE CALENDAR

- Local groups are welcome to add their upcoming events to the Chronicle's online community calendar. Here's how:
- Go to www.chronicleonline.com. At the very top of the screen, click on "Submit your news."
- Sign in or create an account.
- Once signed in, click on "Calendar Events" in the left-hand column, then click on "Create an event."
- Fill in all fields — those marked with a red asterisk (*) are required.
- Add photos, if desired, and include all relevant information.
- Click the "Create Event" button at the end.

45th ANNIVERSARY

Steve and Nancy Ponticos



Steve and Nancy Ponticos met in high school at Miami Norland High in 1970, while attending a Miami Dolphins football game. After both graduated from college at Florida State University, they married on July 19, 1975. Following their honeymoon they arrived to Citrus County to work in a new community just starting, called Sugar-mill Woods. They loved it then, and three children and five grandchildren later, still love it! The couple recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on July 19, 2020.

TOGETHER PAGE SUBMISSIONS

- The Chronicle runs birth announcements, engagements, weddings and significant anniversaries at no charge inside the Sunday Veterans section.
- To submit information, attach photos and email the text to community@chronicleonline.com or fill out the forms online at www.chronicleonline.com, at the bottom of the homepage under "Announcements."
- The Chronicle reserves the right to edit submissions and determine their best placement. Publication on a specific Sunday cannot be guaranteed. Publication on a color page cannot be guaranteed.
- Don't have a photo scanner at home? Bring in photos to go with Together page submissions to be scanned and immediately returned to you at the Chronicle's main office, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River

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FIGHTING AGAINST TAX INCREASES

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Proposed county budget boosts property taxes

Mike Wright Jul 21, 2020 Updated Jul 21, 2020 1 min to read

Board backs budget, tax increase

Mike Wright Jul 22, 2020 Updated 4 hrs ago 1 min to read

Would you consider a half-cent sales tax increase to further fund infrastructure? (Short answer only)

District 3

- Corkery: Stay away from it.
- Hammer: No.
- Lewis: Find another solution.
- Marin: No.
- Roberts: Yes.
- Schlabach: Yes.

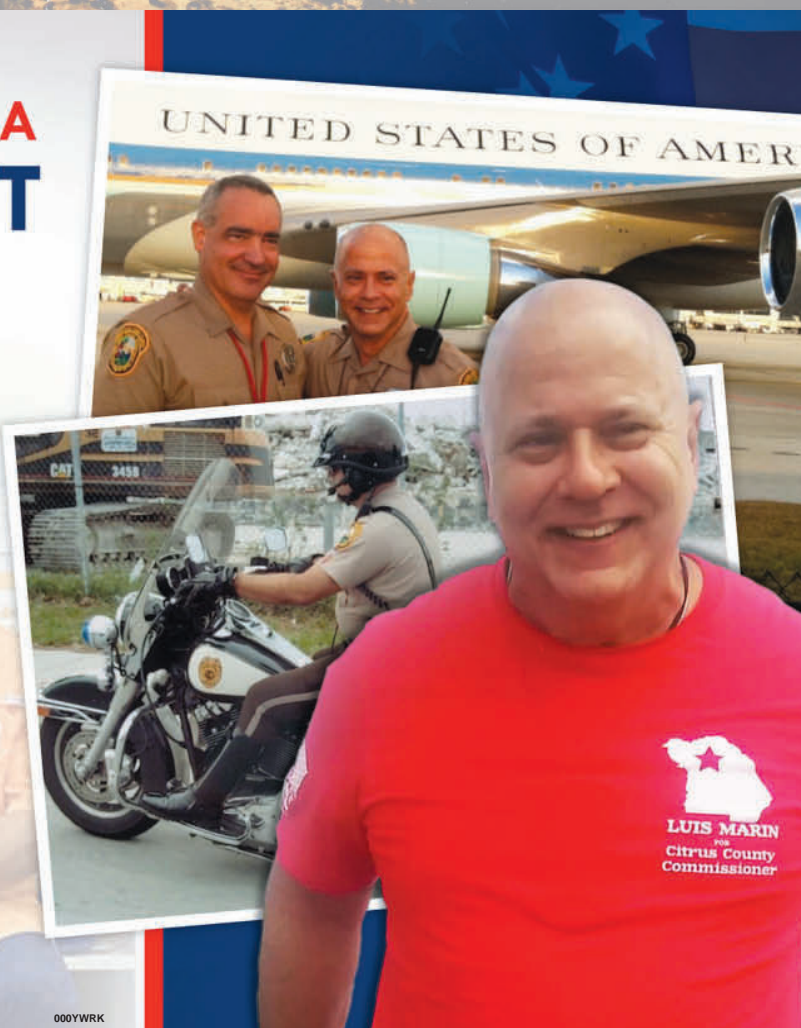
How Far Down The Road Do We Go? We Can't Afford Another Pro-Tax Commissioner

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Luis Marin will be a full-time commissioner dedicated to personally investigating county issues without conflicts of interest.

As your next commissioner, I'm committed to:

- ✓ Revitalizing the job market to create careers
- ✓ Uncompromising defense of our environment
- ✓ Improve our infrastructure starting with roads
- ✓ Listening to your concerns and advocating for your ideas



SUNDAY EVENING AUGUST 16, 2020. Table listing TV programs by channel and time slot, including titles like 'The Godfather', 'Spider-Man: Homecoming', and 'The School of Rock'.

SUNDAY EVENING AUGUST 16, 2020. Table listing TV programs by channel and time slot, including titles like 'Wicked Tuna', 'Men in Black 3', and 'The Chi'.

Annie gives advice

Dear Annie: How do you make friends when you are older? I am 60 years old, and I've never been a "joiner" or good at making friends. I do have a couple of friends who I see once in a while, but I haven't had a best friend since high school...



DEAR ANNIE

important things in life, and you are taking steps to gain good friends. Making friends is a cinch by the inch and hard by the yard. You won't develop a large circle of friends right away, but finding one person to connect with is very possible. You have to be willing to get a little uncomfortable. Think about hobbies or activities you really enjoy or have always wanted to try, and join social events groups. If you connect with someone at a social activity, don't be afraid to ask him or her to join you for coffee or a walk.

My husband travels frequently for work, so I am home alone, days on end, without a single text or call from anyone. One of my kids might text, but they have their own lives. It seems like everyone has tons of friends, and I would be happy with just one. How do I get out of this lonely pit that I'm in and develop a social circle? Or even make just one good friend? — Lonely Later in Life

Dear Lonely Later in Life: I commend you for writing this letter. Friendship is one of the most

Also, broaden your horizon. Just because someone is a lot older or younger or of a different gender doesn't mean you won't connect as friends. You might find a new friend in precisely that. If you are still really struggling, you might seek the help of a licensed therapist. Sometimes, loneliness can be a sign of depression. Once that is treated, you will be happier, and you can watch your life open up as you naturally have an easier time making friends. "Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book—featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette—is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

Today's MOVIES

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

LOCAL THEATER INFORMATION. Regal Cinemas are closed during the coronavirus outbreak. The Valerie Theatre is closed during the coronavirus outbreak. Includes details on local theater and cinema status.

Sunday PUZZLER

- ACROSS
1 Concern of dieters, for short
6 Story
10 Diner fare
14 Flooded
19 In the neighborhood of
20 Big weapon (Hyph.)
22 Greek god's blood
24 "— Doone"
25 Pillars
26 Mea —
27 — Haute
28 Rye fungus
29 Wickedness
30 Reveals
32 Extend a subscription
34 Shredded
35 Doomed (2 wds.)
39 Tightfisted one
41 Overjoyed
43 Speeder's undoing
45 Destinies
47 British boob tube
48 "Exodus" hero
51 Small detail
53 Hems and —
55 Poor grade
56 Calendar abbr.
59 Overcook
61 Snow field
62 Group of thieves
64 African desert
66 George or T.S.
68 Gainsay
70 "The — Strikes Back"
72 Saltpeter
73 Minor
75 Loamy deposit
77 Town near Minneapolis
79 For fear that
80 Poems
82 — and raves
84 A little after (Arch.)
86 Dolor
88 City in France
90 School event
91 French founder of Detroit
95 Merchandise
97 Eye part
101 Italia's capital
102 Large (Prefix)
104 Farm of a kind
106 Renter
108 Oak-to-be
110 Amber wine
112 Love god
114 Arete
115 Kind of wrench
117 Norway's capital
118 Spoken
120 Mah-jongg piece
121 Droop
122 Cut down
124 Big book

- DOWN
126 Flowed in a circular current
128 Legal matter
129 Plait
131 Precious one
133 Boredom
135 Covered with a hard layer
139 Hunter constellation
141 Weight
145 Ocean snfish
146 Goats Gruff tally
148 Of the bishop of Rome
150 Went quickly
151 Cook under a flame
153 Rousseau title
155 Giant god
157 Skirt shape (Hyph.)
158 Divert
159 Coolidge and Tushingham
160 What's in — —?
161 Yam, for one
162 Appraised
163 December 31st word
164 Merriment
165 Goes out
1 Like a superhero
2 From the beginning (2 wds.)
3 Varnish ingredient
4 Manservant
5 Wall and Fleet (Abbr.)
6 Cul-de —
7 Border on
8 Jewish folklore creature
9 Enlarge
10 Sock
11 Maple genus
12 Least little bit
13 Paper wasp
14 Pub drink
15 Deserving
16 Jargon
17 Sleeper's sound
18 Detested
21 Very light wood
23 Spun around
31 Name in Genesis
33 Ruses
36 Certain club member
37 Norse god
38 Ran
40 Supply with weapons again
42 Garter
44 Wild party
46 Pilfer
48 Cain's victim
49 Monarch
50 Kind of setter
52 Singing voice
54 Contemptuous

- 56 Of a grain
57 Salad plant
58 Sour
60 Inquisitive
63 Confidence game
65 City in Hawaii
67 Largo, presto, e.g.
69 Twelvemonth
70 Ria
71 Make ingress
74 Domain
76 Word in a forecast
78 Something valuable
81 "— Marner"
83 Antitoxins
85 Freshwater mammal

- 87 Tex-Mex snack
89 Hawaiian goose
91 Sweet drink
92 With
93 Dismal
94 Reach a summit
96 Young cod
98 First (Abbr.)
99 Low point
100 Fish with hook and line
101 LA players
103 — deck
105 Multitude
107 River in England
109 First PM of India
111 Tragic lover

- 113 Virtuous one
116 A leavening
119 Comic Jay
123 Shriveled
125 Wyatt the lawman
126 Running off to wed
127 Demand payment
129 Cook in liquid
130 Skin layer
132 Lasso
134 Surge
135 Hinder a certain way
136 Bellini opera
137 Influence
138 God
140 City in Brazil

- 142 Excuse
143 French writer
144 Pitchers
147 — vital
149 Feeble
152 Showed the way
154 Opp. of WNW
156 Born (Fr.)
157 Lunched

Sunday Puzzler answers are on Page A20.

15x15 crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points for clues.

News of RECORD

WEEK OF JULY 27 TO AUG. 2, 2020

Dissolution of marriage

- Deanna Lynn Pyzik, Beverly Hills vs. Matthew Robert Pyzik, Hernando.
- Courtney Louise Starkey, Inverness vs. Jonathan Neal Starkey, Belpre, Ohio.
- Edmund Q. Trotter, Crystal River vs. Cheri L. Trotter, Crystal River.

NOTES

Continued from Page A17

Conductor Craig Lilly is hopeful that rehearsals can resume in time for the Dec. 14 and 15 Holiday Concerts. For more information, visit www.naturecoastcommunityband.com.

CCVC expands services

In addition to existing clients at the Citrus County Veterans Coalition (CCVC), the coalition is now accepting any veteran who now be unemployed, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. A DD-214 certificate or other proof of honorable discharge must be shown to qualify for assistance. The CCVC pantry is located at 1081 N. Paul

Drive, Inverness, and is open from 9 a.m. to noon every Tuesday, and the first and third Thursdays of the month.

For further information, call 352-400-8952.

Transit available for VA appointments

Citrus County Transit provides service to veterans on a weekly basis, excluding holidays. Transportation to VA appointments for both wheelchair and ambulatory patients are available:

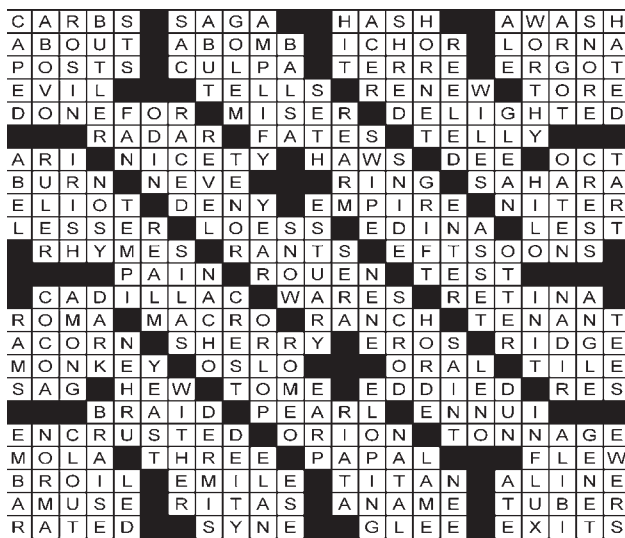
- Tuesday to Tampa.
- Wednesday to Gainesville.
- Thursday to the Villages VA.

For reservations and information, contact Janet Gramann at 352-527-7630.

See NOTES/Page A21

Sunday PUZZLER ANSWERS

Sunday Puzzler is on Page A19.



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NOTICE OF HEARING TO REIMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS BY THE TOWN OF YANKEETOWN, FLORIDA

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Yankeetown, Florida will conduct a public hearing to consider reimposing fire protection special assessments on property within the Town of Yankeetown for the provision of fire protection services within the Town (see map of Town below) for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2020.

The hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. or soon thereafter on September 14, 2020, at 6241 Harmony Lane, Yankeetown, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and/or to file written objections with the Town Clerk within 20 days of this notice. The assessment for each parcel of property will be based upon the number of Assessable Structures (buildings) on the parcel based on the Levy County Property Appraiser's records. The following table reflects the proposed fire protection assessment schedule:

Proposed Fire Protection Assessment Rates for FY2020-21

Assessed Property	Maximum Assessment Rate
Rate per Assessable Structure	\$ 88.22

Copies of the Fire Protection Assessment Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2016-03), the Initial and Final Assessment Resolutions (Resolution Nos. 2016-04 & 2016-08), the preliminary Assessment Resolution, and the preliminary Assessment Roll for the upcoming fiscal year are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's office located at Town Hall, 6241 Harmony Lane, Yankeetown, Florida. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Town Council with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, pursuant to Fla. Stat. Section 286.0105, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Clerk at (352) 447-2511, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the hearing.

The assessments will be collected by the Tax Collector on the ad valorem property tax bill which will be mailed in November 2020, as authorized by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title. Any unpaid assessments from last year, plus all late fees and penalties, will be added to your assessment bill on the property tax bill this year and failure to pay the total amount due will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at (352) 447-2511, Monday through Friday, during regular Town Hall business hours (8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.).



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Apply to VFW scholarship programs

Special to the Chronicle

The VFW is kicking off the 2020-21 school year scholarship programs. Thousands of dollars will be awarded for student's winning essays at the post level, district level, state level and national level. Awards will be presented in March of 2021. The deadline for entries is Oct. 30, 2020.

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders will participate in the Patriot's Pen essay contest. Essay length is 300-400 typewritten words. This year's theme is "What is Patriotism to Me." The grand prize is \$5,000 plus an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C., for the winner and guardian. Cash prizes are awarded through 53rd place.

The ninth through 12th grade students will record their reading of their draft speech to a CD or flash drive. The recording can be no shorter than three minutes and no longer than five minutes (plus or minus five seconds). This year's theme is "Is this the Country the Founding Father's Envisioned?" Grand prize is \$30,000. The state winner will also receive an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C., along with their guardian. Around \$154,000 in scholarships will be awarded at the national level.

Teachers are eligible for the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. All current classroom teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) in grades K-12 are eligible. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self nominations are not eligible. Prizes are \$1,000 for the teacher and \$1,000 for the school, plus plaques for both and all-expenses paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention.

VFW scholarship programs are available to all public, private, parochial and home-schooled students in grades 6-12.

For forms and information, contact Bob Haines, youth and education chair of VFW Post 4252, at 352-527-4968 or bobhaines8@gmail.com, or contact Post Cmdr: John Bond at 248-379-6928. Additional information can be found at www.vfw.org.

NOTES

Continued from Page A20

Dog tag sales benefits veterans programs

Veterans dog tags now being made at the Beverly Hills American Legion Post 237 located at 6726 N. Lecanto Highway.

These are the genuine notched and un-notched type tags as were issued. Chains and silencers also in stock.

Custom made tags for any purpose, veterans, pets, luggage, etc.

Call the post at 352-897-4776 to make an appointment with Carolyn Mills. Proceeds go to Post 237 veterans programs.

VA looking for volunteer drivers

Do you have a few hours during the week to drive a Citrus County veteran to much needed services? Volunteer drivers are desperately needed to drive veterans to appointments at the Gainesville Veterans' Administration Medical Center (VAMC) and to the Villages Out Patient Clinic (OPC).

Drivers volunteer on an on-call basis, one to three times a week. Volunteers will receive a free physical examination at the Gainesville VAMC, lunch the day they drive and participate in the awards program for miles driven.

There is an application process for potential volunteers and a Veterans' Administration (VA) identification badge will be provided. Fingerprinting and proof of driver's license and vehicle insurance will need to be provided to participate. For more information on this volunteer opportunity call, 352-746-8005.

Enrollment open at VA clinic

The Lecanto Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Based Outpatient Clinic is accepting enrollment applications for eligible veterans. Primary Care and Mental Health access is available. Call 352-746-8004 or visit in person at 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, Lecanto, to apply.

Donate sweats for veterans in recovery

DAV Auxiliary Unit 70 in Inverness is coordinating a "Sweats for Vets" drive, collecting new nylon sweatshirts and pants. These will be donated to VA hospitals and nursing homes for recovering veterans and those in rehabilitation. When you go shopping, remember a vet and put a new sweatsuit in your cart — any size or color. Please, do not drop off used clothing.

Donations can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays at the DAV chapter hall at the corner of Independence Highway and North Paul Drive, Inverness near the pink elephant on U.S. 41; or call Sunny Hayes, auxiliary commander, at 352-527-3395; or Ann Fair, senior vice commander, at 352-249-7827 to make other arrangements.

Businesses: List discounts for vets

Business offering a discount to female veterans for services or goods can now be listed on the website of the Female Veterans Network.

Send your business information, what you are willing to offer as a discount, and a contact name to cynthia@femaleveteransnetwork.org, and list the subject as: offering discount.

Want to be a member and support

Female Veterans Network? Visit www.femaleveteransnetwork.org.

Make appointment at Veterans Service Office

Scheduled appointments and walk-in clients at the Citrus County Veterans Service Office will be seen from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Anyone wishing to meet with a service officer between 4 and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday should call to make an appointment, as walk-ins will not be accepted during these hours.

For information, call the Veterans Service Office directly at 352-527-5915.

Benefits available from Camp Lejeune

Benefits have been extended from August 1953 to December 1987 for former residents of Camp Lejeune.

From the 1950s through the 1980s, people living or working at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, may have been exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene and other chemicals.

Veterans, and non-veterans, who served (lived) at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987, may be eligible for cost-free medical care through Veterans Affairs (VA) for a variety of health conditions. Contact a Veteran Service Officer for details or to file a claim.

Veterans must still meet the criteria of a veteran — minimum service time, character of discharge, serving in the active-duty military, naval or sea service.

If you know anyone who has served during Operation Enduring Freedom and has ties to Citrus County, call Barbara Mills with Operation Welcome Home at 352-422-6236.

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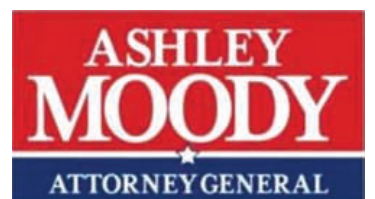
OPERATION COIN TOSS

Operation Coin Toss is a four-part mission, which has already yielded **147 arrests of drug dealers and abusers** who have bought or sold significant amounts of drugs in Citrus County within the last year

Endorsed by: Attorney General Ashley Moody, the NRA, the Realtors Association of Citrus County, and Pasco County Sheriff Bob White (ret.)



Sheriff Bob White
Pasco County Sheriff (Retired)



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Gerry Mulligan
OUT THE WINDOW

You can say something good about every candidate who is appearing on Tuesday's primary ballot.

Really. The world has gone nuts. We spend so much time believing the worst in people who run for office.

Primary elections are done Tuesday, how about we start believing the best in people. We want everyone else to think the best about us — how about we each do

the same thing.

So to the challenge — let me say something good about every candidate on the ballot.

Start with the GOP race for sheriff, probably the most bitter race in Citrus County this season.

■ Patrick Crippen: He is a local candidate who has probably run the best-organized campaign of anyone this primary season. On top of that, he is a really nice guy.

■ Mel Eakley: He is a smart cop. He's got tremendous law

enforcement experience in Pasco County where he started out at the bottom and became one of the top commanders.

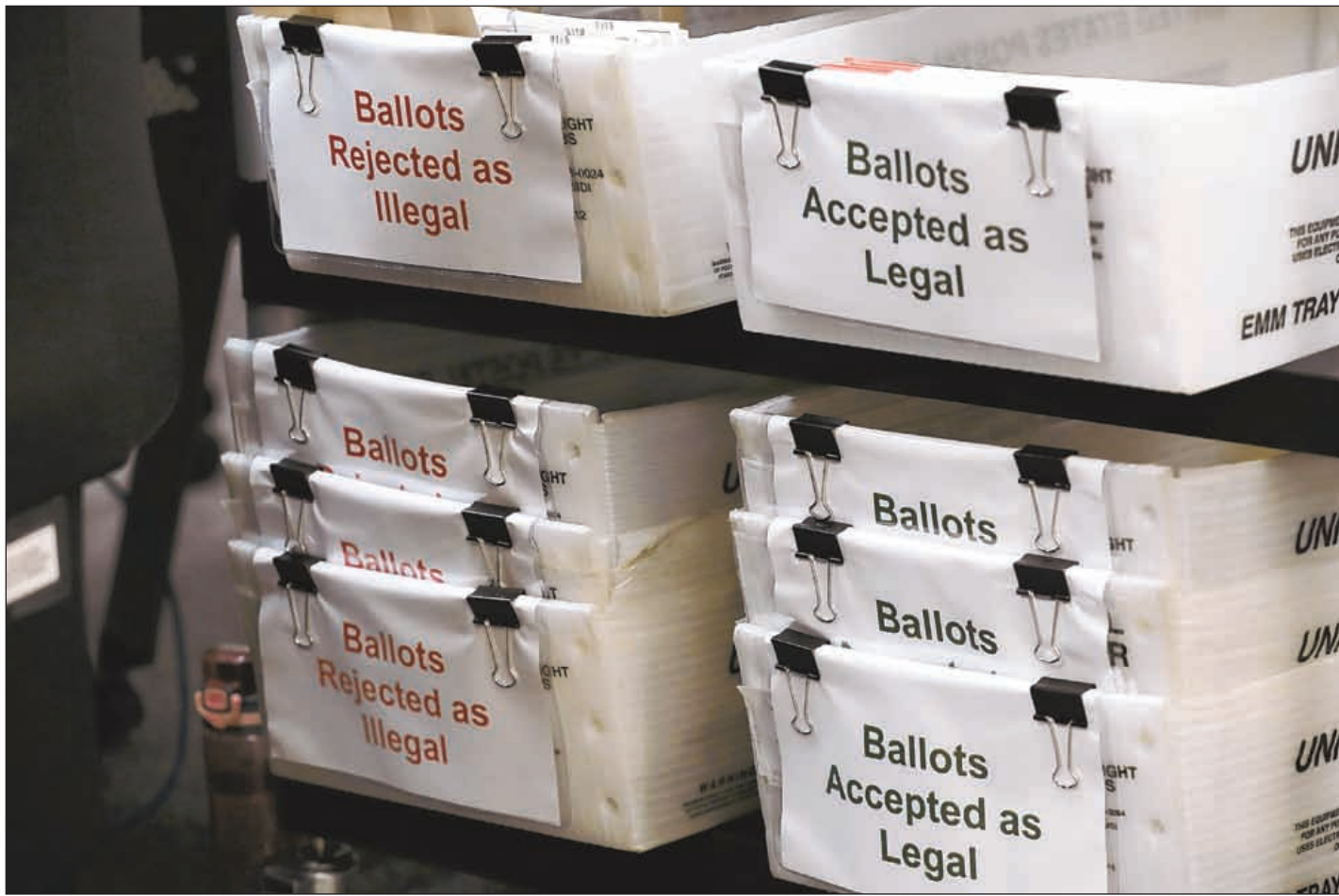
■ Michael Klyap Jr.: He was a beat cop in Crystal River and got promoted through the system to leadership jobs. He always found the time to be a Little League and flag football coach. And he has organized a group that provides military honors at the funerals of veterans.

■ Michael Prendergast: He is

the sheriff and his wife, Namoi, is just about the nicest person you've ever met. The sheriff also finds the time to be extremely active with the Knights of Columbus.

The property appraiser's race also has found candidates and some not-so-nice things have been said. But it only takes a quick look at the candidates to see they are all good people.

■ Cregg Dalton works with the sheriff's department, but he See **WINDOW/Page B3**



Boxes for illegal and legal vote-by-mail ballots are shown July 30 as the the Miami-Dade County canvassing board meets to verify signatures on vote-by-mail ballots for the Aug. 18 primary election at the Miami-Dade County Elections Department in Doral. Never in U.S. history will so many people exercise the right on which their democracy hinges by marking a ballot at home.

Associated Press



Alex Williams
GUEST COLUMN

Take a walk with me

My name is Alex and I've been asked to share my thoughts on some of the issues we face throughout the nation.

Specifically, the issue of race.

You see I am a young father who is focusing on earning my pay to put food on the table and provide a future for my family.

I am of mixed race, with my mother being white and my father being black.

You may wonder when did I first face racism? The first time I experienced racism was at Hernando Elementary and I was in fifth grade. A white student didn't like the fact that I was always done before everyone else. He said, "You must be cheating there's no way a n***** is smarter than me."

I got suspended for the rest of the year for my reaction, even though I had previously been a stellar student.

Because of this incident, I started to get into trouble. Such as falling into the wrong crowd, due to the fact that they were the ones to listen when I needed it or allowed me to do things that weren't exactly right.

See **WILLIAMS/Page B5**

In Florida, you can securely and safely cast your vote

A free and secure election is a hallmark of our democratic republic. Casting our vote is a responsibility that we who are blessed to live in a free country must take seriously. I know there are concerns about health safety going to the polls and the security of voting by mail. The good news is that over the years Florida has taken steps to protect and secure a free and fair election process. Florida law

includes strong voter identification, registration and voting processes that govern our early, in-person and mail-in ballots. I have confidence in the integrity of Florida's current voting methods and system.

An honest elections process relies on eligible voters casting ballots and the accurate counting of every lawful vote. Importantly, unlike other states, Florida does not universally mail ballots to all registered or

eligible votes. The request to vote-by-mail is made by a registered voter contacting their Supervisor of Elections, verifying their identity and requesting a ballot before 5 p.m. on the 10th day before the election. The request must be personally made by the registered voter or their designee and must include identification confirmation. An affidavit is required to pick up a vote-by-mail ballot in person.

See **WEBSTER/Page B4**



Daniel Webster
GUEST COLUMN

Returning educators will face new challenges during pandemic



Cortney Stewart
SEEING BEYOND

America has decided it is time to move on. And if we can't shake COVID-19, then we're going to push through it.

That's a hard statement for a lot of people to hear. The truth is that the pandemic has affected all of us in really different ways. It's become yet another political mountain upon which to stake one's claim — and sometimes with seemingly little regard for who is hurt in the process.

There's no doubt the pandemic

has shaken this country to its core. But come Aug. 20, things in Citrus County are going to get back to the most normal pattern its seen since mid-March.

On July 6, Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran mandated that all Florida schools must reopen face-to-face education for the 2020-2021 school year unless state and local health officials declare the re-opening of campuses unsafe.

It's a confusing time for sure.


The abrupt shuttering of schools in March when the virus had left a relatively limited mark on the country sent students, parents and teachers alike into a tailspin of quickly trying to move all learning to a virtual platform. School districts did the very best they could with little time and virtually no resources or training. But we all know that it wasn't the most successful pivot in our nation's history.

To be clear, virtual learning is

not the same as face-to-face instruction. You can't just turn on a camera and transport a class. Face-to-face and virtual instruction are both legitimate means of education. They can both help our kids be successful in life. But they do require different skill sets, different resources and different frames of reference.

It's important as we near the start of school on Thursday we remember just how much our

See **BEYOND/Page B3**



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CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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

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

MENTAL HEALTH

LifeStream deserves expanded county support

Citrus County is fortunate that a new direction has been taken in providing mental health services to the residents of the county.

LifeStream has been given the county contract to provide services and The Centers, based in Ocala, has been forced to step aside. Since that transition has taken place, the level of service in the county has more than doubled.

County residents facing desperate times now find treatment available locally. The new Baker Act in-take center in Beverly Hills has more than met expectations of the law enforcement community and of residents seeking immediate help. Law enforcement dollars are being saved because deputies no longer have to drive to adjacent counties to use their Baker Act in-take facilities.

The Centers was troubled with financial woes and could never move from that crisis to actually providing the level of service needed here. The new LifeStream organization has both the professional and financial acumen to get the job done.

If there is a negative aspect to LifeStream's organizational expertise, it is that they have come to Citrus County and discovered that we are terribly underserved. And to meet the minimum needs of county residents, Citrus County is going to have to carry more of the financial load.

That means money and support is needed from both county government, the medical and law enforcement communities.

Make no mistake, when a community does not deal adequately with its mental health problems, the costs are not avoided, they are simply shifted to pay for the medical needs of citizens or the cost of incarceration in the county jail for those who end up in crisis.

Officials with LifeStream recently appeared before

the county commission and requested both a financial contribution and the donation of some county property near the jail so that service efforts can be expanded.

They also sought an additional \$250,000 to bridge the operation costs of the service.

Some inside government objected because budget timelines are already in motion for the next fiscal year.

The roadblocks must be knocked down and county government needs to take its partnership with LifeStream seriously.

Citrus County is in a mental health crisis that has only been complicated by the current pandemic. As commissioner Jeff Kinnard, a proponent of expanded LifeStream services said at a recent county meeting: "The need for mental health services has far exceeded anything they imagined. We've got a number of folks in our community, quite a number of folks, who need the services."

Other parties need to come to the table as partners. Our hospitals, the community health foundation, United Way, the county health department and so many others have a responsibility to help find solutions.

When a community fails to address its mental health needs the experience involves more than just a spike in the individual misery index. There is a bankable cost to taxpayers for cleaning up the pieces of the puzzle and putting lives back together.

Better to deal with the mental health needs up front.

Later this month LifeStream officials will offer specifics to county government. These are citizens of this community in crisis. We've brought in a new and aggressive partner in LifeStream and the county needs to step up to the plate to make sure services are available.

Doing the right thing is not always easy.

Garlock: My experience as a teacher will benefit school board

I started this campaign to talk about technology and innovation. That was back in April of 2019, which feels a lot longer than just over one year ago. One of the deciding moments in my motivation to run was when a student approached me and openly expressed dismay about having to attend the next class taught by a long-term substitute teacher. The student loved being in school and truly valued an education. However, the limited nature of what a long-term sub can offer just wasn't cutting it for this student, nor does it for hundreds of others in



Mark Garlock
 GUEST COLUMN

the same situation. Technology can bridge this gap. We could connect classrooms virtually to enhance the quality of teaching a long-term sub is able to give with a teacher giving the same curriculum in a different classroom. This was one of the platforms I was most excited to talk about.

Then the unthinkable happened. A global pandemic unlike anything we've seen in 100 years hit, and we will still be facing challenges from the fallout for years to come. I finished the semester as a teacher at Crystal River High School through this time.

I saw first-hand how classrooms changed, what behaviors of students would need to be altered, and what different policies would work to keep our students and staff safe while maximizing the effectiveness of getting our kids quality in-class instruction. I now ask for your vote to take that knowledge and experience to the school board. Our future will be defined by technology and innovation, but our present needs a leader who has seen the challenges we face first-hand. I am the only candidate who can say that I have. My name is Mark Garlock and I ask for your vote Tuesday, Aug. 18, in the primary election.

Mark Garlock is a candidate for the Citrus County School Board.

LETTERS to the Editor

Arrogant deniers of the virus

The year was 1968 and the American public was shocked. The government mandated all vehicle passengers in the front seat had to wear a seat belt. Imagine the anger, government telling us how to be safe. There was no internet but there were many opinions and conspiracy theories, not to mention way too many arm chair experts.

I was assigned to an accident investigation unit for seven years. The local newspaper called me deputy grim reaper because of the number of fatalities I investigated and reported on. I hate to tell you how many people died unnecessarily because they were ejected out of their vehicles often through the windshield or the door while not wearing a seat belt.

I heard many of the arm chair experts say seat belts cause injuries, that you are safer getting ejected out of the vehicle etc. The facts, which so many seem to want to ignore because it does not fit their version of reality is seat belts have saved thousands of lives and are very effective in limiting injury.

We now have the current version of the seat belt denial with the COVID-19 virus. There are a lot of opinions from would be experts, but of course, they are from the school of "don't confuse me with facts, my mind is made up." It is not rocket science to figure out if your mouth and nose are covered the virus is going to be deterred from entering your body likewise if you have the virus the bugs are going to be hard pressed to get passed the mask and infect others yet the nonsense and denials continue to go on. Most recently the Marion County Sheriff ordered no masks on his deputies and no one entering his buildings can wear masks, because he has decided based on his vast medical

OPINIONS INVITED
 ■ Viewpoints depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
 ■ Letters must be no longer than 400 words, and writers will be limited to four letters per month.
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knowledge (none) that they are not needed. I wonder if he wears a seat belt?

We know those that died because they were not wearing a seat belt, we can only estimate the number of people that did not die because they were. How many people will die from the virus because of the arrogant deniers of the virus danger, how will history view these snake oil experts.

Roger B. Krieger
 Beverly Hills

Bryant's dedication invaluable to students

While school boards across our nation have the challenging task of deciding the policies and procedures that impact the educational development and safety of our students, the decisions that educators now face in the presence of COVID-19 and its related economic impact require maximum clarity and expertise.

Citrus County has one of the finest school boards, with each of the five members completely dedicated towards maximizing the potential of our student's educational experience. The majority of the board members have served multiple terms and their collective experience combined with the public trust they have engendered resulted in their ability to function in a high cohesive team for the benefit of all in our district.

Consequently, I am

endorsing Virginia "Ginger" Bryant for re-election to the Citrus County School Board. Not only is she a graduate of our school district, she has served as a classroom teacher for 25 years and as a school board member for two decades. I have interacted with Mrs. Bryant on numerous occasions during my prior roll as a school psychologist and have always been impressed with her caring interpersonal style, willingness to consider input from multiple sources, and the clarity of her decisions. Her wisdom, experience, and dedication would continue to be invaluable to our students, especially during these difficult times.

Dr. Andy Nott
 NCSP school psychologist
 Inverness

Cummings left an impression

I am humbled in my attempt to share the impact that Monsignor George Cummings had on so many lives through the Our Lady Of Good Counsel Camp. I could tell so many stories of his shining example of Christian love, but two observations come to mind. I have seen former counselors and campers, now grown adults and leaders in their field — doctors, law enforcement officers at local and federal levels, educators, business owners, and parents — all become deferential and quieted when in his presence. He was a true man of God who shared a quiet love and strong but simple faith to all who knew him. I have participated in masses all over the Southeast; sometimes they were held in huge, ornate structures that seemed to reach to the heavens, but no mass ever touched my soul as much as one offered by the monsignor in the small chapel at Good Counsel.

Mark Algeo
 Inverness

Hot Corner: ANIMAL SHELTER

■ I'm referring to the (Aug. 12, 2020, front-page story) "Board mulls shelter options," where they can't see spending \$900,000 in donated funds to replace the aged kennels in the animal shelter. Well, if that donated money — \$900,000 — was donated for the shelter, that money should be utilized toward the shelter and not elsewhere. That's totally wrong.

■ I'm calling about the article here, "Board mulls shelter options." I don't know what they're mulling. I see that they agreed to repair roofs and concrete floors, but they're balking at spending \$900,000 in donated funds. OK, here's my question: Was that \$900,000 donated specifically for the shelter? And, if it was

— or any part of it — then it needs to be spent for the shelter. That shelter is woefully old and broken down and it needs to be fixed. So they need to stop mulling and they need to get off their tushes and move forward with this shelter. Or is the money not there? Have they already spent the money on something else? Because that's what I'm starting to wonder. So let's get that shelter done. Have a good day.

■ I'm calling to respond about the commissioners voting the animal shelter down. Of course they would. Could we have expected anything else? I just want to say that I guess animals aren't important, but buildings for the county are. So, my answer to all of that and my

complaint is when it comes to voting for you. ... Shame on you. That money should go to that shelter. All that's important to you is the additional land there to do something for you all, but not the animals. So you're going to fix what's there — and it needs new air-conditioning and, God knows, new everything — and you're just going to put a Band-Aid on it and use the Band-Aid approach. Shame on you. So (County Administrator Randy) Oliver has to decide on a new proposal and so on. So it just keeps on going on. You just avoided another big spend for our wonderful animals. Shame on you. I hope St. Francis doesn't bless you. Have a good day.

CHRONICLE ENDORSEMENTS

- Commissioner, District 5 — Holly Davis
- Commissioner, District 3 — Ruthie Davis Schlabach
- Supervisor of Elections — Maureen "Mo" Baird
- Circuit Court Judge — George Angelidiadis

- School Superintendent — Sandra "Sam" Himmel
- Property Appraiser — Cregg Dalton
- School Board, District 2 — Virginia "Ginger" Bryant
- Sheriff — Mel Eakley

A community with no newspaper? That's bad news

What would my town be without a newspaper? If you haven't asked yourself that question, perhaps it is time to consider just what the newspaper means to this community.

Because the doleful fact is, too many small towns and mid-sized cities are losing their newspapers right now. An extensive study from the University of North Carolina released in January found that by last year, 2,100 newspapers had disappeared, or almost 25% of the 9,000 newspapers published in 2004. That translates to 1,800 communities that 15 years ago had their own newspapers that now have no original local reporting, either in print or digital.

Note that this report was released just weeks before the coronavirus pandemic swept up newspapers in the same financial catastrophe that's devastated businesses of all types and sizes and thrown millions out of their jobs and households into terrifying economic uncertainty.

What does a community lose when it loses its newspapers?

The most obvious is the community's access to news about itself: The workings of its town hall; information about taxes and property values; the operation of schools for its children; the achievements, or the criminal activities, of local residents;

the scores of local ball teams; schedules and reviews of movies, concerts, restaurants and books; and the offerings of local small businesses.

During this pandemic and in spite of their deep financial troubles, newspapers continue to provide the unique local news and information about COVID-19 — from testing spots to restrictions and openings to dining options — unavailable from any other source.

But the less obvious losses when a newspaper disappears may be the most devastating to a community.

Researchers in 2018 found that when a local newspaper closes, municipal borrowing costs — and therefore residents' taxes — go up. Why? Losing a paper, the study said, creates a "local information vacuum." It turns out that lenders depend on local reporting to judge the value of government projects — and the officials in charge of them. Without that information, lenders tend to charge higher rates.

Communities without newspapers are also more likely to be victims of corruption petty and grand, local incidents the national media will never uncover. The most glaring example comes from the small California city of Bell, where — without the eyes of a local newspaper on them — the city council engineered



passage of a virtually unnoticed referendum to get around a new state law capping council member salaries. Within five years, council members were taking home a cool \$100,000, the police chief was being paid \$450,000 — and the city manager of this municipality of just 37,000 souls was making nearly \$800,000.

Losing a local newspaper, another study found, can also lead to more political polarization — something no community, nor our nation, needs now.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to avoid becoming another "news desert." For one thing — subscribe.

But there is also pending bipartisan legislation that deserves your support. The Local Journalism Sustainability Act (H.R. 7640) provides for tax credits that support the three pillars of trusted, fair and accurate journalism: people who subscribe to newspapers or other local media; businesses that advertise in local newspapers; and newspapers that staff their newsrooms with journalists who cover the community. The tax credits aren't permanent and sunset after five years.

In a nutshell, this bill would provide every taxpayer tax credits up to

\$250 a year to spend on subscriptions to qualified local newspapers. It would give businesses with fewer than 1,000 employees tax credits of up to \$5,000 the first year and up to \$2,500 for the next four years for advertising in local newspapers or local media. And it would give local newspapers a tax credit of 80% of its compensation to journalists in the first year and 50% for the next four years.

These are tax credits — not a handout, not a bailout. And the tax credits go away after five years. But this legislation provides a lifeline for everyone affected by the pandemic:

local readers, local businesses, local news providers.

Asking your legislators in Washington to support the Local Journalism Sustainability Act is a simple step you can take to help your community from becoming yet another news desert. There's a simple way to take that step, too: Just go to <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials> for contact information for your legislators. Your right to fair and trusted local news and information is worth the effort.

Dean Ridings is CEO of America's Newspapers.

Letters to THE EDITOR

Davis brings passion, purpose

Asked to pick three words to describe Holly Davis, a candidate for Citrus County Commissioner District 5, I would choose passion, purpose and promise. I have known Holly for nearly 30 years, from meeting as young women establishing careers in competitive Washington, D.C., through countless professional and personal triumphs and trials, and all along I have known her to be reliable, generous and straightforward.

Holly's passion for

what she loves drives her success — whether it be devoting blood, sweat and tears to build her creative agency business, putting in thousands of training hours to become a skilled and safe aviator and scuba diver, or caring for her family, friends and beloved pets. Her sense of purpose has kept her focused on achieving her goals throughout her life. I've never seen her let setbacks diminish her drive or positive attitude.

I picked "promise" for two reasons. She keeps her promises, and is one of the most

dependable people I know. And, as a newcomer to politics—but not to Citrus County—she brings the promise of fresh perspective, diverse experience and deep roots in the community to ensure she will succeed as your County Commissioner.

I don't have skin in this game. I can't tell you if her vision for your lovely community is the right one. And if she wins or loses, it won't help or hurt me. But what I can tell you is that with her passion, purpose and promise she will work tirelessly, without attention to personal bias or gain, to effect thoughtful,

balanced and future-focused programs and policies for the advantage of the entire Citrus County community now and in the future. I urge you to vote for Holly Davis before or on Aug. 18.

Gwyn Donohue
Alexandria, Virginia

Irresponsible behavior at rally

Sturgis, South Dakota, is the location of the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Half a million bikers attend. I am a motorcyclist, but I ride the backroads. I do not consider myself a biker. To me, bikers are people

who ride big, shiny and loud motorcycles. They travel the roads in roaring packs. At rallies, they cruise up and down the strip trying to look tough. Surprisingly, they all look alike — potbellied, old white guys with beards.

Normally all of this does not bother me. This year it is different. We are in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. Our nation is setting a bad example. This year's Sturgis Rally represents the worse that we have to offer: large numbers of people walking the streets, in the bars, with not a mask in sight. A complete flaunting of

any public health pandemic control standards.

Most galling is watching the media interviews of these bikers. They claim a constitutional right not to wear a mask and that they are patriots. They seem to believe that the Constitution gives them the right to be stupid. Yes, they have individual rights, but the public has rights, too. When you go home, you will spread the virus there. But then, I know who you will be voting for to be the next president. So, breathe deeply!

Chris Conklin
Inverness

BEYOND

Continued from Page B1

teachers and school administrators are doing to make this work for our kids. Almost 25% of our student population has opted to go virtual this school year. The fact that our district is capable of creating platforms and shifting teachers into those roles for that number of students means they haven't fallen down on the job. They have diligently

been working through this pandemic to figure out a way to get our kids to the other side.

They should be applauded.

Having said that, don't expect there to be no issues. This is all new. There will be kinks in the system. But from the way the Citrus County School District has tackled this problem, they'll get to the bottom of it. There will be no perfect fixes to education during a worldwide pandemic. But we can feel confident that there is a good team stand-

ing behind our kids.

We need to trust them, respect them and be patient with them as this thing rolls out.

Having said that, we also need to be diligent about what the future holds. School board races are in full force for the November election. These are races that can often be overlooked and underestimated. They are far less political than the circus that steals headlines every day.

Don't be fooled, though. These elections are of

vital importance.

Listen to the forums and do the digging to find out what each candidate wants to bring to the table. Don't assume that change for the sake of change is always good. At the same time, don't assume that longevity in the position is the better route. Do your homework — even if you don't have kids in the school system. The school board shapes so much of how our kids learn. And these kids are the future. It is in everyone's best interest to invest in

them wisely.

There's a lot going on when it comes to our kids' futures in the coming days. We owe it to them to show good judgement and to be well informed when we make decisions. That includes being full of grace and patience with their teachers and administrators who will expend themselves in the physical and virtual classrooms this year.

It's cliché by now but it hasn't stopped ringing true: We are in this together. Let's all do

our part.

Courtney Stewart is a 2003 graduate of Lecanto High School. She has bachelor's degrees in political science and international affairs, a master's degree in intercultural studies and is currently working on her Ph.D. in international conflict management. She most recently spent two years teaching and training students, teachers and government officials in Baghdad, Iraq. Email her at seeingbeyondccc@gmail.com.

WINDOW

Continued from Page B1

serves as the voluntary leader of a group called Men Building Men through the county Education Foundation. The group provides mentoring to young men by volunteers.

■ David Gregory has retired from the property appraiser's office and has the insight of that experience. And he is about as plain spoken as it gets.

■ Tim Reynard works in the property appraiser's office, but he and his family still have time to be active volunteers with the Blessings program.

■ Rob Tessmer is a young and successful businessman, but he also volunteered his time to be president of the Rotary Club of Inverness, one of the youngest ever to serve in the respected role.

In the race for superintendent of schools:

■ Sam Himmel, as the current superintendent of schools, has more employees working for her than any other person in Citrus County. More than 2,200 people call her boss. But on weekends she is sometimes called upon to work a shift at the family gift store in Inverness. She does it with a smile.

■ Paul John Reinhardt is the challenger in the race for school superintendent. He has tenacity. A lot of it.

In the race for supervisor of elections:

■ Scott Adams, the former county commissioner, can be very friendly to every person he meets. He also has a delightful family.

■ Maureen "Mo" Baird is the most unpretentious person on the campaign trail.

In County Commission District 3:

■ Thomas Joseph Corkery is relentless. He has

strong opinions and wants to be heard, so he runs for political office. He funds his own campaign and says exactly what he thinks.

■ Ruthie Davis Schla-bach is a smart businesswoman who will not be roughed up by bullies on our county commission. It was about four years ago when she first had a run-in with county government and was ignored by those in power. Now she is running for the job.

■ Mark S. Hammer is a local guy who graduated from Lecanto High School and has spent his life involved in community activities in Citrus County. He is not afraid to be the leader.

■ Angel Lewis owns Riviera Mexican Restaurant in Crystal River and is a second generation restaurant owner. She has the most pleasant personality of any candidate on the campaign trail. You spend five minutes with

Angel and you immediately like her.

■ Luis Marin is a retired cop with a very organized platform on the issues facing Citrus County. He is logical and a straight shooter.

■ Edwin Lewis Roberts has served previously in elected positions and he knows how the process works. He is also not afraid to kick the status quo in the shin.

In county commission District 5:

■ Holly Davis grew up in Citrus County and went off and created a successful business. She thinks strategically and long term, a skill that has been in short supply in Citrus County.

■ Jimmie T. Smith has experience as a county commissioner and a state representative. He also has the knack for listening to people who are not insiders and advocating for their positions.

In the Circuit Judge

(Brooksville) race:

■ George Angeliadis has been doing a good job as an appointed judge and he had a good reputation as the city attorney for Crystal River.

■ Pam Vergara has a history of accomplishments. She first got her Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from USF and became a professor. In 2010 she graduated from Stetson University's College of Law to become a lawyer. Smart is an understatement.

School Board District 2: ■ Virginia "Ginger" Bryant is a veteran school board member who came from the classroom and cares about kids. When she speaks, she actually has something to say.

■ Danielle Damato Doty is the most cheerful person on the 2020 campaign trail. She smiles and knows how to relate to people. She also is a Citrus County native who has extensive experience

working at the community college and with programs for children.

■ Mark Garlock is a music teacher in Crystal River who knows the education system from the inside. He has an intense desire to make things better.

So there you have it. While it has become routine to speak in negatives, it is easy to find the positive in every person on the ballot. The real measure of success comes when the candidates use their experience and intelligence to problem solve on behalf of the public.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could change the conversation from how "bad" candidates are to what their "ideas" are for going forward? We'd have a better county for it.

Gerry Mulligan is the publisher of the Chronicle. Email him at gmulligan@chronicleonline.com.

Eakley: I will restore community trust

I am entering the race for Citrus County Sheriff because I will restore both the community's and organizations trust in the sheriff's position. My team will serve and support the front-line deputies who patrol our county every day. Retaining the finest men and women within the Citrus County Sheriff's Office by recognition, development and compensation will be a top priority. As a respected civilian law enforcement executive, I earned the respect of those I served due to fairness, credibility, competence and professional expertise. My administration will work with elected officials. Reducing crime and fear in the community will be achieved through innovative policing strategies. A leader who will listen. A leader who will collaborate. A leader who will serve. Here is an outline for a safer and prosperous Citrus County into the future.



Mel Eakley
GUEST COLUMN

Drug strategy
The citizens of Citrus County are my No. 1 priority. Your safety, opinions, and feedback are important to me and my team. I will focus on drug traffickers, not addicts and abusers. Filling up the jail with the same offenders without addressing the addiction problem is like filling up a tire with a large hole, it doesn't achieve the desired result. In today's climate, policing must be efficient and focused on reducing repeat offenses from the same offenders. Taxpayer money should not be directed to putting hundreds of people back

out on the street on probation who have an addiction problem who will likely re-offend. Drug strategies must have a two-prong approach beginning with the demand, the addict, and the trafficker, the supplier. As evident by the type of arrests by the CCSO, there currently is one approach: Arrest the addict who is supplying other addicts. Trafficking is a charge for those moving/distributing large quantities of illegal drugs not those just selling small amounts for personal usage.

Traffic safety
Citrus County roadways claimed nine lives in a 30-day period this summer. This is not to be taken lightly and I feel confident that the families who have lost loved ones do not think Citrus roads are safe. Law enforcement executives need to immediately respond to understanding the commonalities to this spike in traffic deaths. Selective Traffic Enforcement Programs (S.T.E.P) and highway traffic crash mitigation takes intelligence and data analysis. Selecting site locations, target violations for enforcement, and analyzing time of day/day of week are key to reducing risk and reducing both the severity and frequency of crashes. Enlisting county and roadway engineers should be considered. STEP is conducted throughout the year and is a high-visibility ongoing strategy. Experienced law enforcement leaders do not use a random happenstance approach because

it is not effective. Evidence of these lack of specific strategies is clear with the fatalities in years 2017 (31), 2018 (37) and 2019 (23). Communication and education are key to changing future driver behavior. An immediate strategy of flashing board signs, temporary lighting of the dangerous intersections and focused traffic enforcement operations in those areas would be an immediate response. Traffic safety is everyone's responsibility but prudent and concerned leaders can make a difference.

Mental health
Mental health is one of the top issues facing law enforcement today. As policing begins to change, experienced law enforcement executives will prioritize training and equipping their members with how to respond to those in crisis. Deputies must be provided specialized skills, techniques and practice patience during crisis interactions. In some cases, those in crisis are experiencing an addiction problem. Law enforcement, mental health practitioners, and community-based advocates must collaborate to be successful for the community's health. Children, sometimes forgotten, when speaking of mental health are unique and require specialized care. Strong and genuine partnerships with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), local hospitals, the VA, LifeStream, other local elected officials, The PATH and the Mid-Florida Homeless Coalition will strengthen the community response and will ensure the best recovery and wellness for those impacted. As a both an advocate and veteran we must ensure Veterans receive care that they earned

while serving our country

School safety
My commitment to ensuring your children are safe when going to, during and returning home will never be risked and will be a top priority. Ensuring safe schools is a team effort between students, staff, parents and law enforcement. I have collaborated with staff during contract discussions and we always put safety above finances. During my years as a School Resource Officer, I prioritized crisis training for our schools' staff, students and parents. I developed and implemented a crisis plan to handle school bus crashes which was used during a severe overturned crash full of elementary school children. School administrators acknowledged without my command on scene presence and plan, the scene would have been chaotic and unmanageable. Returning the SRO Program to one of the best in the country will take a leader who genuinely cares and who can cooperate with school leaders.

Strategic planning
Planning for growth should be an ongoing task for sheriff's personnel and ensuring all county stakeholders share information is key to preparation and deployment of resources. My experiences with parkway growth will help plan long term resources and personnel growth. Projecting needs to the BOCC will help them plan for allocation of funds long before any request is made. Reoccurring costs should be built into the sheriff's budget and never should a budget modification request be made mid-year. Technology should not get outdated before you start to consider replacement. Emergency Operations

should always be a priority and planning, cooperation and collaboration will lead us through any natural disaster that we experience. As a previous emergency policy group member, my experience and education will strengthen decision making and provide a high level of citizen confidence.

Recruitment/retention

Servant leaders place those they serve above themselves. In order for employees across the organization to feel well compensated, they must receive at least the same cost of living raise as the starting salary raise. I have past experience and will advocate for comparable compensation for all employees in all job descriptions from deputy to IT tech to fleet maintenance mechanic. Training members in all occupations is very expensive and we must focus on retaining them well into the future. My staff will treat people fairly, respectfully and will demonstrate genuine recognition of their accomplishments and successes. Professional development plans will be established for every employee and we will road-map their career and education.

Accountability
These are words of action and demonstration. I will have an open-door policy and share with you an open and honest line item budget. I am fiscally responsible and the needs of the organization should not be a secret. Florida is an open records state, and I will ensure I fill these requests without delay. Interfering with public records requests is unlawful, and I promise you I

will not hide information that is open to you. My general orders will be available and online for your review. Continual open town halls from the business community to the school community to your neighborhood to the church hall will be conducted by me and my staff. Feedback will be provided, so, you know we listen and we act.

Body-worn cameras

Body worn camera's (BWC) are an effective tool to protect both the citizen and the officer. In 2015, I led and implemented a large BWC project in a Florida sheriff's office. The benefits far outweighed the costs. Leaders find ways to create policies which address privacy concerns, the release of the footage and the handling and preservation of evidence. Human behavior dictates people behave better when they are being recorded. When both officers and citizens respect one another, physical confrontations are reduced. Chief law enforcement officers focus on reducing harm and risk to all parties involved. The protection of officers against frivolous civil, administrative and criminal complaints is in everybody's best interest. It has been many years since officers have been able to be taken at their word without supportive evidence or testimony. I am asking for your vote on Aug. 18, 2020, and I want the responsibility to lead the men and women of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office to serve and protect you and your family.

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Maj. (Ret) Mel Eakley is a candidate for Citrus County Sheriff.

Sound Off

No masks at license bureau

I went to get my driver's license yesterday — which I got, thank you — but most of the people were not wearing masks and they weren't wiping nothing down. You had to put your head against the machine to see numbers. Nothing was wiped down. The girl that waited on me, she did not have a mask on. They were not keeping 6 foot apart. The doors, none of them, nothing was cleaned or wiped or anything. What's wrong with this county that they don't have control? I mean, does anybody care? What kind of a commission do we have? Please, people, care

A highway completion party

I was just trying to get this word out to some of these road crew guys on (U.S.) 19: If any of them can give me a heads-up, I want to throw a party — the largest party, probably, this side of Citrus County has had in years and years — for the completion of this highway. So if there's any flagman or barrel lady out there that has a heads-up, maybe you're in these meetings and you hear something — I know you kind of know what's going on — just give a little heads-up to Sound Off. If you know if it's going to be 2021, '22, coming on '23

A NOTE ABOUT SOUND OFF
■ Sound Off is meant for readers to voice their opinions on local issues. If you would like to comment on national issues, please submit a letter to the editor.

— you know, spring, winter, summer — I need to contact these caterers and these guys are busy. So if I can get a heads-up, I can get reservations on more tables than everybody has seen, more chairs than anybody has seen. Of course, all the construction crew's going to be invited. I was thinking on shooting for 2025 and then anything sooner than that would be like, whoa, ching-ching! I mean, that would be great. So if any of you guys out there want to drop a dime

on what you know — do they see anything or are the vacations canceled for a couple years — just give a heads-up, you know?
Teachers were teaching virtually
This is for the Sound Offs ("Where's the rebate?" and "Cut budget if schooling is online") in Sunday's paper, Aug. 9, about lowering taxes because the schools will be closed and saying that with virtual teaching, there are no teachers and there are no

this and there are no that. Well, this is from a wife of a teacher. My husband is a teacher and he taught virtually from March 23 to June 2, so he did work. So you want to reduce your taxes even though they did it virtually? They still taught, they still worked and the kids didn't show up, which is what's going to happen. He had to hunt them down or call their parents and find out where they were so they could get a grade. He teaches seniors. Seniors were playing around with their grades because they wouldn't do the work that they were supposed to do. That's why, unfortunately, you need brick-and-mortar schools, because the kids

will show up. When they have to do it online, they're not going to show up. So the students are the ones that are going to hurt if the schools do not open. There are precautions — wear face masks, wash hands, social distancing — and we can do the best we can, but the kids do need to learn.
Some businesses don't call back
I have a question: Why do the businesses or attempting-to-be businesses in Citrus County advertise in the Chronicle Service Directory and when you call them, they never call you back? So they're just going to have to keep advertising. Somebody needs to teach them.

Hot Corner: FACE MASKS

■ I'm responding to the (Sunday, Aug. 9, 2020, Page B6) "Hot Corner: Face Masks," where the persons asks why corporations have a face mask policy but do not enforce them. It's very simple; they can't enforce it. They don't want to offend their customers. They have every right not to wear a mask, just as you want to wear a mask. So there's no difference. They're not

going to say anything. Just like they don't say nothing about dogs. Instead of asking the manager about enforcing them, why don't you just mind your business?
■ (Re the Sunday, Aug. 9, 2020, Page B5 Sound Off, "Infecting the whole neighborhood"): A person said he doesn't like to see these people sitting on their front porches with no masks on and he's tired of

it because their droplets could cause an infection in the whole neighborhood. I don't think so. If you want to sit on your porch without a mask, you have a right to. I guess that's social distancing, unless you're less than 6 feet away from them or you're going on their property.
■ On Aug. 11, as a rare treat, we decided to eat out for breakfast. We stopped at two places. ...

We immediately left because the servers were not following the guidelines and wearing masks. Last try was Joe's on (State Road) 44. All the servers wore masks. Thank you, Joe's, for following the guidelines and protecting the public.
■ This is getting to be ridiculous — masks, no masks. If you see people without masks on and it really offends you, don't

go there. Go somewhere else or go when nobody's in there. That's the best thing to do. Quit complaining about it. Some people are not going to wear the masks and (some businesses) are not going to enforce it. If it really offends you that they're not wearing a mask, don't go in. Order online and stay home.
■ Here we go again about face masks.

There's one about somebody who went to see their eye doctor and they were mad the eye doctor was not wearing a mask. If it bothered you that she wasn't wearing a mask, why didn't you just find another eye doctor? I went to my eye doctor and she wasn't wearing a mask and it didn't bother me. If it did, I would have just found another eye doctor.

WILLIAMS

Continued from Page B1

My mother did try to help by getting me into counseling for impulse control issues; she even got me into a youth program to try to help address my frustrations. The juvenile program as well as local youth programs did help and I'm now properly focused on my family's future, as well as maintaining being a productive member of society. I don't personally see racism on a regular basis, although I've experienced it a lot and have had plenty of friends who have dealt

with it as well. You may not have experienced it personally, but I guarantee that someone, possibly your close friends or family members have. There isn't just one place that it happens, sometimes it's at the gas station or grocery store. As you're reading this, you may be asking, "what does it look like when I see it?" Well, it comes in many forms. From a bewildered look of what's he or she doing here to slick comments or even jokes such as a stereotypical watermelon and fried chicken slur. But as I've seen, if someone speaks out about it,

people who made the comment will gaslight them. Gaslighting: verb, is a form of psychological manipulation in which a person or a group covertly sows seeds of doubt in a targeted individual or group, making them question their own memory, perception, or judgment, often evoking in them cognitive dissonance and other changes including low self-esteem. It's often the reason those who face racism don't speak up. What do I think is needed to make changes? Leaders could help improve the situation by showing up, not just at election time or special

events, but because they want to. Build a relationship that supports diversity by being there and listening, instead of telling people what they need to do. From the lowest level to the highest level of the county, there is a saturation of Caucasians within positions of power that have the unique opportunity to open doors. By helping to show people that they can achieve the same position, through mentoring people such as people of color to feel comfortable with running for elected positions. At the last community action meeting, one of the pastors talked about

spending years training people to be administrators, yet was never looked at for an administrative position. Good enough to train but not good enough to lead is the message a young man like me gets from these stories. I also believe black people focusing on business development and entrepreneurship would also help promote success within our community. Small business leaders are respected and everyone believes in helping the mom and pop establishments to succeed. I'm blessed, my parents raised me to treat the janitor the same as you would

the CEO of a company. I believe the black community doesn't want to take from anyone, instead we want to be recognized as part of the community as well as individuals trying to live the same American dream as the rest. What I would like to see done to improve the race relationships, is to prevent children from being affected like I was when I was younger! Teach your children that no matter the skin color, job title, or ethnic background, that we are all the same people. Alex Williams lives and works in Citrus County.

Prendergast: I value mission success more than political power

You have a choice this election cycle. You can vote to continue the law enforcement excellence that has yielded some of the largest busts of the deadliest drugs on our streets in county history. Or, as one of my opponent's has campaigned, you can vote to move backward to what was. Let me make this clear. My administration values merit over cronyism, mission success more than political power, and dedicated full-time determination instead of selective service. The results speak louder than rhetoric. We



Mike Prendergast
GUEST COLUMN

have talked a lot about the increase in drug arrests but one thing we haven't highlighted was the success of Operation Coin Toss. This four part operation has yielded 147 arrests of dealers who push a significant amount of the most dangerous drugs on the street. These types of operations have been called ineffective by my opponents but there is little arguing with the success they produce. Over the past two weeks, we've secured the endorsements of some great local and statewide leaders in advocacy and public

safety. Florida's leading law enforcement official, state Attorney General Ashley Moody, was among those to endorse me. The National Rifle Association, NRA, also endorsed my re-election because of my strong support of the Second Amendment. Locally, the Realtors Association of Citrus County endorsed me. Lastly, the three-time elected sheriff of Pasco County Sheriff Bob White, whose relevance in this election speaks for itself, endorsed me as well. I'm honored to have the support of such a wide array of individuals who know both public safety and what is best for Citrus County. This will likely be my last time addressing primary voters. I'm disappointed that I didn't have a chance to meet more of

you this election cycle. In 2016, I was the most active door-to-door candidate and I had every intention of continuing this style of campaigning in this cycle but circumstances dictated differently. Many of you know me from community events or at civic associations where I have been the guest speaker. Please know this. With another four years, I will continue this trend of getting to know each and every one of you as your community-engaged sheriff. Again, I am Sheriff Mike Prendergast, and I humbly ask for your vote Tuesday, Aug. 18, in the primary election. Thank you.

Mike Prendergast is the incumbent sheriff up for re-election.

Join us in showing appreciation to our first responders as we recognize the 19th Anniversary of 9/11



We will be delivering cards and letters of appreciation and encouragement to first responders on 9/11.

If you would like to send a card or letter, please send to:
Nature Coast Volunteer Center
2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, Key 4
Leconto, FL 34461

We will deliver your sentiments to law enforcement, paramedics & EMTs, and firefighters.



We appreciate your participation. Let's show our first responders how grateful we are to have them in our community!



For more information, please contact the Nature Coast Volunteer Center at (352) 527-5959.



Volunteers Needed

For Citrus County's 31st Annual Lakes, Rivers & Coastal Cleanup to clean up our County's waterways

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020
From sunrise to 11:30 am

Adopt-a-Shore applications are online at:
www.citrusbocc.com/pubworks/aquatics/aquatic-services.htm
or contact Tracey with Citrus County Aquatics Services directly at 352-527-7620 or tracey.ivkovic@citrusbocc.com
Deadline to register is Sept. 3



Twenty-fifth Annual Save Our Waters Week Photo Contest



First Place Winner Gets \$100!

You could win tickets to area attractions and have your photo entry featured on the Citrus County Chronicle's Sunday Commentary Section.

Enter photos by Friday, August 28, 2020 at:
www.chronicleonline.com/contests

Photos submitted should depict scenes of Citrus County's waters and/or habitats. Enter photos by Friday, August 28. Photos must have been taken within the last year and cannot depict any particular business. All photos become the property of Citrus Publishing, Inc.

SPONSORED BY



16th Annual Citrus County Veterans 4 Person Scramble



ONLY \$65⁰⁰ per person

September 12, 2020

Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club
Check in is at 7:30 am at the Pro Shop
Shotgun Start is at 8:30 am

Price includes: golf cart, beverages on course, lunch at the clubhouse.
Prizes: 1st, 2nd & Last Hole in One Prize

Proceeds donated to the Citrus County Veterans Foundation.
DO NOT NEED TO BE A VETERAN TO PLAY

Sign up and payment due by August 30 or first 120 players. Check payable to: Citrus County Veterans Foundation mail to J.J. Kenney, (Tournament Chair) 17 Gloxinias Ct., Homosassa, FL 34446

For registration form, call 382-3847 or visit the website at www.citrusvf.org



Your Name Here

For Crippen

Patrick A. Crippen For Citrus County Sheriff

Bringing
Leadership ★ Trust ★ Transparency

This list of businesses, jobs and professions are supporting Patrick Crippen during this election journey.

Tuesday is your last chance to be part of this grassroots campaign.

Let's return CCSO to Citrus County Strong.

- ✓ Attorneys
- ✓ Businesses
- ✓ Clergy
- ✓ Police Chiefs
- ✓ Teachers
- ✓ Sheriffs
- ✓ Workers of Every Stripe
- ✓ LEO's
- ✓ First Responders
- ✓ Non-Profits
- ✓ Military Veterans
- ✓ Retirees
- ✓ Senior Citizens
- ✓ Former Colleagues
- ✓ Lifelong Friends



JOIN US

The experiment of an outsider is done.

End the friction and mediocrity.

Let's give our deputies what they need to succeed.

Your vote for Patrick A. Crippen reengages citizens, retired LEOs and military veterans.

The time for change is now.

The last day to vote is August 18th 2020.



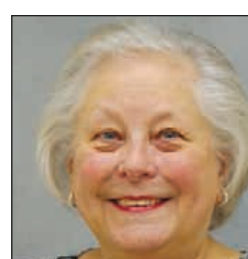
YOU ARE--WE ALL ARE--CITRUS COUNTY STRONG

The clock is ticking

Unless you live under a rock, you should have heard about the TikTok app in the news. Do you really know what all the hubbub is about?

TikTok is a Chinese app launched in September 2016, then called Douyin. In 2017, they changed the name to ByteDance for markets worldwide. Later, ByteDance bought Musical.ly (also a Chinese app), which was available in the U.S. With this purchase, TikTok gained entree into the substantial U.S. teenage market.

The app has every short video that you could imagine, from a mom embarrassing her daughters by dancing in the kitchen to a duck being tickled and “laughing.”



Mari-Elain Ebitz
ALL THINGS TECH

TikTok is extremely popular with adults and, especially, teens.

But why is TikTok so popular? Various theories are out there; creators can go “viral” and become an overnight sensation, new features are added constantly, it’s easy and there is instant gratification.

In September 2018, Jimmy Fallon of “The Tonight Show” encouraged his viewers to participate in several TikTok challenges. Immediately, downloads skyrocketed, which became one of the factors for the app’s huge popularity.

Not only popular in the U.S., it’s available worldwide. According to TechJunkie, as of June 2020, there have been over 800 million downloads in 155 countries and 75 languages with over 500 million active daily users.

Every day, 90% of users play it for 53 minutes. Last year, it was the second-most downloaded non-gaming app in the world.

However, under the fun side of TikTok lies something more sinister.

Because TikTok is a Chinese app, it doesn’t adhere to any U.S. privacy laws. It requires your personal information when you register — age, phone number and email address — but it doesn’t stop there. It collects other information — your location, behavioral information, how you use TikTok, information from third-party social networks like Facebook, Twitter, etc.

And, there’s more. They collect your IP address, unique device identifiers, model of your device, your mobile carrier, time zone setting, screen resolution, operating system, app and file names and types, keystroke patterns or rhythms and face recognition.

Additionally, according to their own website (under Privacy Policy), they state, “We also collect information contained in the messages you send through our Platform and information from your phone book...”

Yes, the policies are on their website, but what 13-year-old actually reads it? Even most adults don’t read an app’s policies.

Under “How we share your information” there is a disturbing statement: “Within Our Corporate Group” — “We may share your information with a parent, subsidiary, or other affiliate of our corporate group.”

This is a Chinese-owned and -operated app. Therefore, they can share data with any “other affiliate of our corporate group.” That is an incredible amount of personal information the Chinese government could potentially know about our teens and adults.

Earlier in August, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said all “untrusted” Chinese apps should be removed from U.S. app stores.

He added, “With parent companies based in China, apps like TikTok, WeChat and others are significant threats to the personal data of American citizens.”

That’s why the administration has said TikTok must be sold to an American company or be banned from the U.S. Microsoft said it is working on a deal to purchase the app and hopes to close by September. Although Twitter has come into play in this deal, they don’t have the funds, as Microsoft does, for this purchase.

The U.S. is not the only country looking to ban TikTok. TikTok was overwhelmingly popular in India but, in June, the Indian government banned 60 Chinese apps due to national security issues and later banned 59 more.

Until the deal goes through, my suggestion is to not download the app yourself nor allow your teen to download it. Wait until TikTok becomes a U.S.-owned app and then, with your and their privacy protected, enjoy that video of the cute dog running through leaves.

Mari-Elain Ebitz was the first editor of the Greenbelt Gazette and is a past member of the College of Central Florida College Board of Trustees. She also does web design, specializing in not-for-profit organizations. Email chronicletech@yahoo.com.

Bigger and better



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Joe Durkin of Spectrum said the decision was made to relocate the former Spectrum store on County Road 491 in Lecanto and open the new state-of-the-art store in a great location. The employees were transferred to the new site, Durkin said.

Spectrum relocates to Main Street in Inverness

MICHAEL D. BATES
Staff writer

Spectrum has closed its Lecanto store and opened a new, roomier one on the east side of the county.

The new location is at 1050 W. Main St. in Inverness. It’s all part of a company initiative to open new stores and remodel others. Spectrum has opened 30 new and remodeled stores in Florida in the past two years.

“The (Inverness) store was opened to meet the needs of the customers throughout the east side of Citrus,” said Spectrum spokesman Joe Durkin.

Durkin said the decision was made

to relocate the former store on County Road 491 in Lecanto and open the new state-of-the-art store in a great location. The employees were transferred to the new site, Durkin said.

“It was chosen because it’s an ideal spot to open one of our new state-of-the-art stores,” Durkin said.

Along with sampling and ordering Spectrum services, customers at the Inverness location can conduct transactions, including account payments and upgrading or exchanging equipment.

The new location is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

The new store will adhere to Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

“Our Spectrum store’s team is here to help our local customers who need support in getting and staying connected during these uncertain times,” said Pattie Eliason, with Spectrum. “They are working to make our new store in Inverness a safe, convenient environment to add or manage services, shop for devices and accessories or make payments, while ensuring we adhere to current local and state health and safety guidelines.”

For more information, visit www.spectrum.com or call the Inverness store at 888-406-7063.

BUSINESS DIGEST

CareerSource offers free access to improve employability skills

CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion is offering free access to Metrix Learning, a dynamic online training platform to help anyone improve their employment skills. The online learning initiative, called “Skillup Citrus Levy Marion,” features more than 5,000 courses that can be accessed 24/7 by anyone with high-speed internet.

“We’re pleased to be able to help the citizens of Citrus, Levy and Marion counties improve workforce skills at a time and place that is convenient to them,” said Rusty Skinner, CEO of CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion.

Skinner said that area community organizations are invited to partner with CareerSource CLM to access the Metrix Learning system to benefit those they serve. There is no charge for the service.

Since the effects of the pandemic began to be felt in the region, the number of workers who lost their jobs skyrocketed to near record highs, hitting 12.9% in April, up from 3.9% just two months earlier.

Skillup Citrus Levy Marion allows participants to learn at self-pace, receive clear training milestones, and achieve industry certificates upon completion through customized badges. The online courses lead to more than 180 in-demand industry certificates, and offer coursework in everything from soft skills to project management.

For guidance and fee-free re-employment assistance, CareerSource CLM career coaches are also available to assess job-seekers’ interests and skills gaps and work with them one-on-one to create individual Training Plans aligned with their targeted career pathway.

CareerSource CLM’s services are accessible by phone, email, Live Chat and video conferencing. Job seekers may also meet with staff, by appointment only, at any of the region’s career centers in Ocala, Lecanto or Chiefland.

The Skillup portal can be reached at citruslevymarion.skillupamerica.org. For more information, call 800-434-JOBS or visit careersourceclm.com.

Community human services agencies interested in becoming a Skillup partner should contact Dale French, CareerSource CLM’s director of operations, at 352-873-7939, ext. 2204, or email dfrench@careersourceclm.com.

CMH recognized for exceptional women’s care

Citrus Memorial Hospital today announced that it is a five-star recipient for vaginal delivery as recognized by Healthgrades, the leading resource that connects consumers, physicians and health systems. This five-star rating indicates that Citrus Memorial Hospital’s clinical outcomes for vaginal delivery are statistically significantly better than expected.

“Our Women and Baby Center has long been known to offer a highly trained labor and delivery team that provides unparalleled care,” said Citrus Memorial CEO Ginger Carroll. “This recognition from Healthgrades for exceptional outcomes for vaginal delivery shows that our team’s commitment to continued advanced training and providing our patients with state-of-the-art care truly makes a difference.”

“Hospital quality should be top of mind for consumers when they evaluate and compare hospital performance,” said Dr. Brad Bowman, chief medical officer of Healthgrades. “Women who select a hospital with a five-star rating can feel confident in their choice knowing that these organizations are committed to providing exceptional women’s care to their patients.”

Healthgrades analyzed all-payer state data for 16 states for years 2016 through 2018. Healthgrades found that there is a significant variation in hospital quality between those that have received five stars and those that have not. For example, from 2016 through 2018, women who delivered vaginally in hospitals rated five stars have a lower risk of experiencing a complication while in the hospital than if they were treated by hospitals rated one star.



LIVE UNITED 365 Small Business Circle

Freakstrong Fitness and Training, located in Meadowcrest off State Road 44, is a new member of the LIVE UNITED 365 Small Business Circle of the United Way of Citrus County. Pictured at right is Meghan Pitzer, United Way CEO, with Kevin Wood, Freakstrong owner. To learn more about the program, call the United Way at 352-795-5483.

Special to the Chronicle



Chamber Connection

915 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 · 352-795-3149 · 106 W. Main St., Inverness, FL 34450 · 352-726-2801

Keeping our community safe, healthy

While certain restrictions remain in place to continue to ensure the safety of our community, it is important to continue to remind our residents of the steps your business is taking to follow CDC guidelines and provide your service safely.

■ **Utilize social media platforms** — Virtual communication is a major tool, more now than ever, in spreading your message to patrons and potential customers. Utilize these tools by posting sales, offers, and everyday photos of your company following safety procedures.

■ **Remind immediate customers** — Have signs at your location to remind customers the safety measures you have in place while they are patronizing your store. The Chamber website offers a pre-made sign for members to display at their location. A free downloadable PDF is available at www.CitrusCountyChamber.com/cvd-19-flyer

■ **Ensure your staff's safety** — Taking care of your frontline staff can help promote their efforts to take care of your customers. Happy staff is key to a

Chamber offers masks for Citrus County students
■ The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce is proud to have partnered with the Citrus County School District in providing over 1,000 masks to our local students as they head back into a learning environment. A limited number of masks are still available at our Crystal River location during regular business hours (M-F 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.) and Inverness location during regular business hours (M-F 11 A.M. – 4 P.M.)

successful business. We know our businesses strive for excellence, not only during the current circumstances, but everyday for the betterment of our community. Be proud and brag about your hard work!

Chamber Pillar Award Auction is virtual!

Due to an abundance of caution, and recommended CDC guidelines, the Annual Chamber Pillar Awards Dinner will be held with limited attendance this year. In an effort to ensure availability to all of the outstanding, and much anticipated auction items, we have decided to host our silent auction virtually this year.

Bidding is now open and will remain open through August 28th. Access to all the auction items are available at <https://tinyurl.com/y55egfm3> Thank you to our generous Auction donors:

Triton Sponsor
Mike Scott PLUMBING

Nautilus Sponsors
Crystal River Health Center, Sound

- Ace Hardware - Crystal River
- Ag-Pro Crystal River
- Anchored Souls
- Bayfront Health Seven Rivers Hospital
- Bubbaques BBQ in Crystal River
- Cavallo Winery
- Cedar River Seafood
- Cino Bugs

- Citrus County Chamber of Commerce
- Citrus Memorial Hospital
- Citrus Sports & Apparel
- Connors Gifts
- Crystal Aero Group
- Crystal River Health & Rehab
- Cumbie Jewelers
- Discover Crystal River
- Dr. Bob's Compassion

- Clinica
- Explorida Adventure Center
- Franklin Anderson Gallery
- Gary Kuhl Photography
- Glamour Salon
- Heavenly Colors
- Heritage House
- Home Instead Senior Care

- Hometown Citrus Magazine
- Hunter Springs Kayaks
- Jess Maloney
- J.A.M. (Just Amuse Me)
- Kane's Cattle Co. | The Loft | Lollygaggers
- Kelly's Half Shell
- KC Wine & Koffee Bar
- Key Center Thrift Stores
- Lisa Benson

- Lisa Calderone
- Lynn's Ice Cream
- Main Street Restaurant
- MezMer Eyes
- Mike Scott Plumbing
- Nancy Eardley
- New York Style Car Wash
- Oscar Penn's
- Resort Furniture Liquidators
- Riviera Mexican Cantina

- Seagrass Restaurant
- Shipyard Dog
- Sound Decisions
- Specialty Gems
- Sue Taylor
- Suncoast Dermatology & Skin Care
- The Cove Pub & Grub
- The Plantation on Crystal River
- The Plantation Pro Shop

RECENT RIBBON CUTTINGS

The Chamber is growing every week. We welcome our new members and thank all of them for joining the Chamber. We encourage the community to support their businesses. Ribbon cuttings currently featured were held prior to the CDC recommendations regarding physical distancing or without direct Chamber interactions. The Chamber encourages the community to follow current CDC recommendations, which can be found on our website at www.CitrusCountyChamber.com.

Mo Baird for Supervisor of Elections



The Chamber would like to welcome our new Member, Maureen "Mo" Baird, running for Supervisor of Elections! The Chamber does not endorse or support any candidate for election.

Rotary Club of Sugarmill Woods



Welcome, Rotary Club of Sugarmill Woods! Prior to COVID-19 the Rotary Club of Sugarmill Woods met every Tuesday except the 2nd Tuesday. Social time 4:45 PM Meeting time 5:15-6:15 pm. Although we are still not meeting in person due to COVID-19, we are conducting Rotary business through Zoom. If you have able hands, good ideas and a willingness to serve the community, we want your help. Whether it's volunteering at a local school, library, after school program or cleaning up the community, we need you. And so do communities in need. We pride ourselves on the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." www.SugarmillWoodsRotary.com. 510-241-5759.

CHAMBER EVENTS

All Chamber events have been postponed through August. For more information, call 352-795-3149; visit www.CitrusCountyChamber.com

Chamber Legacy Partners

The Chamber recognizes our Legacy Partners that have made a special investment in the Chamber to support the programs and mission of the Chamber. For information on becoming a Legacy Partner, please contact the Chamber at 352-795-3149.

'Chamber Report' on WYKE

Watch the weekly Chamber Report show on WYKE-TV to stay informed on Chamber events, issues, and member spotlights. Chamber Report is broadcast on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 5:00 p.m. on Spectrum Channel 16 or through LiveStream (www.livestream.com/watch and search for "WYKE TV 47").

This week, host Jade White, Chamber Public Relations & Communication Coordinator, talks with Tracy DeCosta of The Coupon Card about their contract free, individualized, advertising options. Also joining Jade is Meredith Linley-Bleakley, Executive Director of Crystal River Mainstreet, about her decision to join the team and the exciting new additions to downtown Crystal River including their new app, the walking tour, and a look into possible future events!

Chamber Report is your ticket to the many happenings in Citrus County!

Tracy DeCosta (left) and Meredith Linley-Bleakley



THE 2021 BRONCOS

There's a whole world out there just waiting to be discovered. To find it you have to break rules, push boundaries and climb over the barriers in your way. With its relentless toughness and durability, the all-new Bronco was built to carry outdoor enthusiasts to wherever the wilderness calls. Available in two- or four-door models.

2019 Mustang Conv



Was \$33,485
Now \$27,999

YOU SAVE **\$5,491** OFF MSRP
OR 0% for 72 mos

2020 F-150 REG CAB



Was \$30,390
Now \$25,990

YOU SAVE **\$4,400** OFF MSRP

2020 FORD ECOSPORT S



FROM \$16,990

2020 Ranger Super Cab XLT



Was \$31,720
Now \$27,999

YOU SAVE **\$3,721** OFF MSRP

2020 FORD ESCAPE S

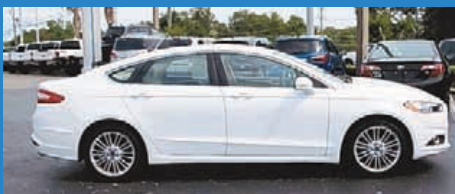


FROM \$23,400

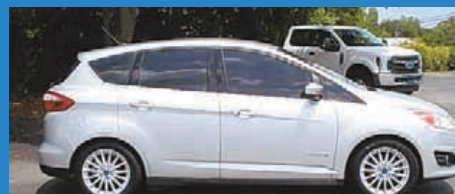
PREOWNED SUMMERTIME SAVINGS!



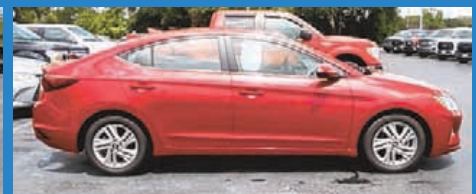
2019 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
Factory Warranty. Lot's of safety & convenience features. LOADED! NP7357
\$12,984



2016 FORD FUSION SE
New Lower Price. Leather & Tech Pkg. NPR1214A
CERTIFIED \$13,221



2016 FORD C-MAX HYBRID
SEL w/Leather. Navigation, Technology pkg, pwr liftgate, rear camera. NPR1239A
CERTIFIED \$13,500



2019 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
Hyundai Factory Warranty. Lot's of safety and luxury features. NP7361
\$13,984



2016 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SE
LIMITED. Hands free liftgate. Leather. Dual power seats, more. NOT361B
\$14,968



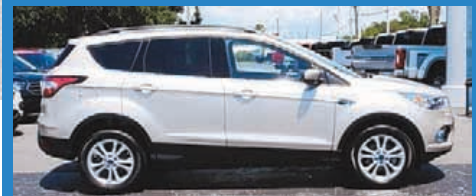
2016 FORD EDGE TITANIUM
Bronze Fire color. Tech pkg, Navigation, Blind spot, 19" Luster wheels. NOT128A
\$16,968



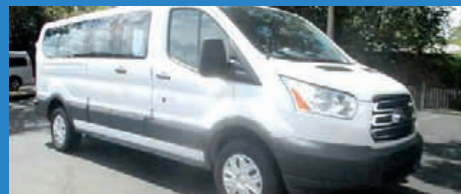
2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON
Comfort & convenience pkg. Power seat, windows, locks. Factory Warranty. NP7359
\$15,957



2016 NISSAN PATH FINDER S
53,785 miles, 3rd row seating. N9T565B
\$16,968



2017 FORD ESCAPE 2WD SE
New Lower Price. 11,300 Low Miles. White Gold Metallic. NP7362
CERTIFIED \$17,963



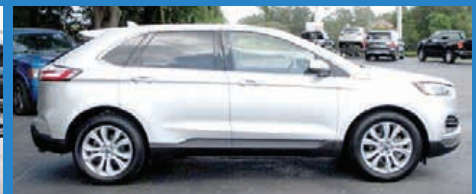
2017 FORD TRANSIT-350 XLT WAGON
82,255 miles, 6-Speed Automatic with Overdrive. NPR1207A
\$19,968



2017 FORD EDGE FWD SEL
New Lower Price. 11,800 Low Miles. Tech/Nav Pkg. NPR1231
\$25,950



2018 FORD F150 XL SUPERCREW
Chrome Appearance Pkg. 3.5 EcoBoost. NPR1209
\$26,888



2019 FORD EDGE TITANIUM SUV
8-speed Auto, 28,821 Miles, Hands Free Power Liftgate. NP7371
\$28,950



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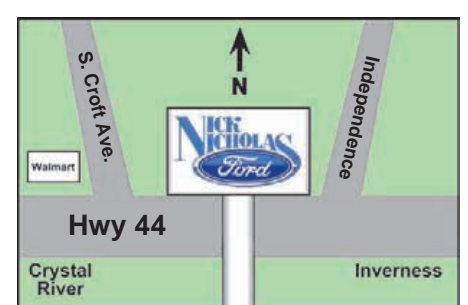
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HomeFront



JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle

Native, perennial, evergreen Stokes Aster, *Stokesia laevis*, is the only species in this genus. Seeds can be gathered when dry on the plant or the perennial can be dug and divided in spring. A Sleepy Orange butterfly, *Eurema nicippe*, nectars on the vibrant lavender-colored composite flower.

Inside this week:

Jane's Garden

Jane Weber introduces readers to annual and perennial plants/Page D8

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Are older building materials and methods really better?

TIM CARTER
Tribune Content Agency

— Ask the **BUILDER** —

You've undoubtedly heard the saying, "They don't make 'em like they used to." Often it's said in frustration when a newer product fails long before you think it should. If I were a teacher at a vocational school dedicated to building things, I'd divide my senior class into "old" and "new" teams and make them research the topic for a debate.

But since I am merely a builder, plumber and scribe, you and I will have that discussion here and now. Which team would you choose to be on?

I had the good fortune to cut my teeth as a young builder working in and on old homes in Cincinnati. The city experienced explosive suburban growth in the late 1800s. People started to see the benefits of living up on the hilltops that overlooked the smoky and grimy Mill Creek Valley. New single-family and multi-family homes were being built in a building boom that lasted decades.

Rough framing lumber back then was indeed rough. It was bigger than today's wall studs and floor joists. The wood was cut from old-growth timber, and when you looked at the end grain, what stood out was the thin growth rings. There was often an equal amount of strong, dense summerwood — that's the darker growth ring — as weaker, softer springwood — the lighter growth ring you see on lumber.

Today's timber has been hybridized to grow faster, and you see far more spring wood than summerwood. As a result, modern lumber is more susceptible to rot and movement.

Old brick homes didn't have the water-leakage issues and mold problems of today's brick-veneer homes. The masons of old knew that wind-driven rainwater would penetrate brick walls so they used a softer inner brick to absorb the water before it got indoors. After the storm, the water would be pulled out of the brick by the sun and wind. The masons also knew that hydrated lime and sand made for a much better mortar than today's modern products.

Walk down older sidewalks in some cities or look at the concrete supporting railroad bridges and you might be able to make the case that today's concrete is not as good as that made 80 or 100 years ago. This is a complex topic, but one thing the older concrete masons knew is that if you just added some additional Portland cement to the mix, the concrete would absolutely be stronger and

last longer. There have been amazing advancements in modern concrete that, when coupled with expert installation, create an artificial rock that will last hundreds of years.

Those are some strong points from the "old" team. What could the "new" team boast about? They would most likely win the day when it comes to plumbing and electric service. It's hard to disagree with the benefits of modern PEX water supply lines over the older galvanized iron water lines I used to remove because they were clogged with calcium deposits. PEX water lines don't burst when they freeze, causing mayhem and untold headaches.

Old cast iron and galvanized drain lines would rot out or become clogged, whereas modern PVC can perform for decades with no issues if you watch what you put down your sinks and toilets. Granted, modern spun-cast iron pipes are far superior to older cast iron, and they don't transmit sound like modern PVC pipes, which sound like Niagara Falls when you flush a second-floor toilet.

Modern electric cable and advanced circuit breakers are, in my opinion, far superior to the old knob-and-tube wiring and screw-in fuses. Modern electric wiring in homes, installed to code, creates a much safer environment than what you might find in a home wired in 1913.

Ceramic tile would be an interesting debate subject. You might not know about ceramic tile set in concrete on both walls and floors. I can't begin to tell you how durable older ceramic wall tile was when installed over screeded concrete mortar embedded in wire lath. Today's tile installed over a waterproof gypsum board or 1/2-inch-thick cement board simply cannot compare.

The "old" team could have a field day with workmanship. In my opinion, the workmanship in older homes is far superior to what you generally see in today's homes. Yes, there are still a few craftsmen who treat what they do as a vocation rather than a job. But go back in time and just about every worker took enormous pride in what they produced each day.

This is why I'm a huge proponent of reintroducing building technology courses into all high schools across the USA. I want to expose young girls and boys to the trades and open their eyes to how fulfilling it is to work with

D-I-Y ONLINE CALENDAR

- Local groups are welcome to add their upcoming events to the Chronicle's online community calendar. Go to www.chronicleonline.com. At the very top of the screen, click on "Submit your news."
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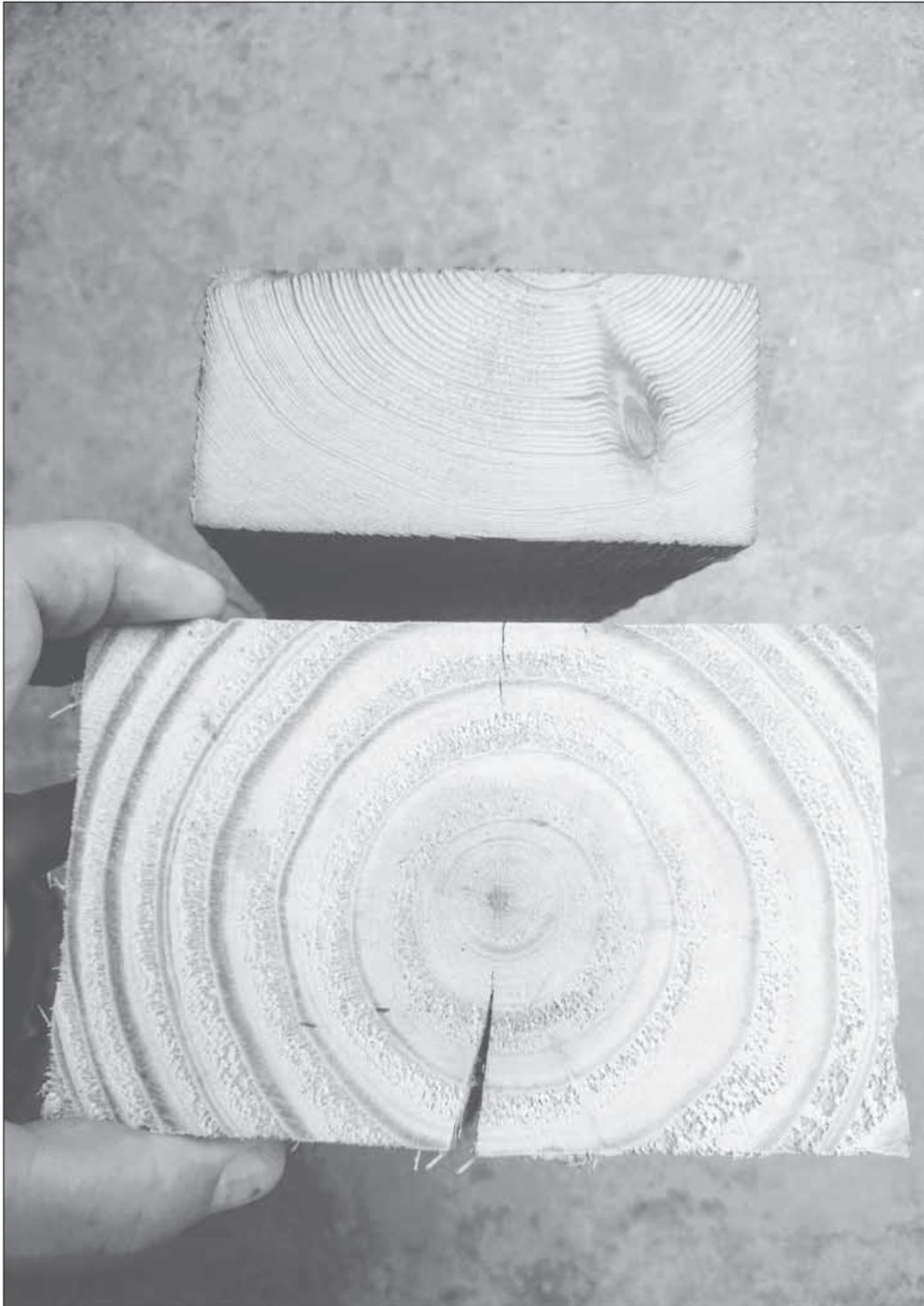
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TIM CARTER/Tribune Content Agency

You're looking at an old piece of lumber from the late 1800s (top) and a piece of modern lumber. Look at the difference in the size of the growth rings.

BUILDER

Continued from Page D4

your hands and create things that help others. There's a vast shortage of young people entering all of the building trades and there's never been a better time to get a job that will pay well.

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- Photos need to be in sharp focus.
- Photos submitted electronically should be in maximum-resolution JPEG (.jpg) format.

Living SPACE

Tips for reducing clutter in kid's room

KRISTINE KENNEDY
BHG.com

When people swooningly say "It's the little things in life ..." they're clearly not parents talking about the endless blocks, crayons, hair scrunchies and folded notes that spill out of kids' spaces and into every other room of the house. Rather than nagging your kid to clean his room every other day, try tackling the clutter at its source by investing in a generic piece of furniture, such as a computer armoire, and customizing it to suit your child's possessions, habits and style.

Accessorize beyond basic white

Kids love color, so why should you paint a storage armoire basic white?

Because these days it's so easy to find containers in eye-popping brights. Keeping color to the portable storage and bulletin boards means the same armoire is just as useful through several room redecorations — or several kids.

Make it a teen's dream

Give a teenager's armoire personality and practicality by filling the largest space in back with a cork board covered in a funky fabric. Cut cork from the roll, staple fabric around the cork, and pop the board into place. Choose colorful bins that coordinate with the fabric to pull the look together. Bins placed on the top shelf are a great place to store less-used or off-season items, such as swimsuits.

See LIVING/Page D15

Inside ...



'Story of Gardening' **PAGE D7**

Jane's Garden **PAGE D8**

Weather summer storms **PAGE D14**

This reader's mother was a talented jewelry maker

Dear John: Can you lead me in the right direction in getting gold jewelry into the hands of someone who would appreciate and wear these beautiful creations?

I have attached a few photos of my mother's work, so you get a sense of her expertise. She was a goldsmith and silversmith. She took gold ingots and made her own 24 karat gold.

Her goldsmith shop took up the entire basement of her home. I was fortunate to be led to Berea College which accepted her workshop in its entirety to share with their students. Thank you for anything you can do to assist me. — C.H., *Hernando*

Dear C.H.: Both necklaces are quite nice. Why not consider passing the pieces on to family members if there is interest?



John Sikorski
SIKORSKI'S ATTIC

If she sold her creations through a gallery or agent, then that might be a good venue.

Berea College has a gift shop, perhaps that might be a way to find a home for the pieces. Good luck.

Dear John: We just moved to Crystal River and discovered your column about antiques in the Citrus County Chronicle.

My husband, who is 78 years old, has his father's antique railroad pocket watch.

He worked for the railroad for 30 years and carried the watch every day. We want to pass it on to our son and would very

See ATTIC/Page D11

This reader's mother was a goldsmith and silversmith; this necklace was one of her many creations.

Special to the Chronicle



Review: 'Story of Gardening' gets a timely update

JULIA RUBIN
Associated Press

It's an opportune time for an update to this lavishly illustrated history of gardening and landscaping. "The Story of Gardening" might sit (heavily) on a coffee table, but it transports the reader out into the yard or the park with some new perspectives and ambitions.

We all appreciate green space more than ever these days. As always, gardens offer the promise of beauty, serenity, artistry and practicality. They're also a relatively safe place to spend time, and gardening as a pursuit has taken off in the age of coronavirus.

"We can picture the garden owner gradually beginning to derive pride, status and pleasure from the plot that it was within his power to make fertile and beautiful," write the authors, Penelope Hobhouse and Ambra Edwards, imagining humankind's very first gardens. They could just as well be describing many people this summer.

The authors show gardening to be an age-old struggle to appreciate and

"We can picture the garden owner gradually beginning to derive pride, status and pleasure from the plot that it was within his power to make fertile and beautiful ..."

amplify nature's beauty while also imposing order on it. It's about finding a balance, too, between what looks good and what is practical.

"The Story of Gardening" begins in the Fertile Crescent and travels around the world and up to the present.

For those of us wondering what to do with our yards and gardens next year, there might be inspiration in seeing how different cultures have approached layout and plantings, from Islamic walled gardens to the "power-gardening" formalism of French royalty to the more naturalistic English cottage gardens to

pared-down Japanese gardens and more.

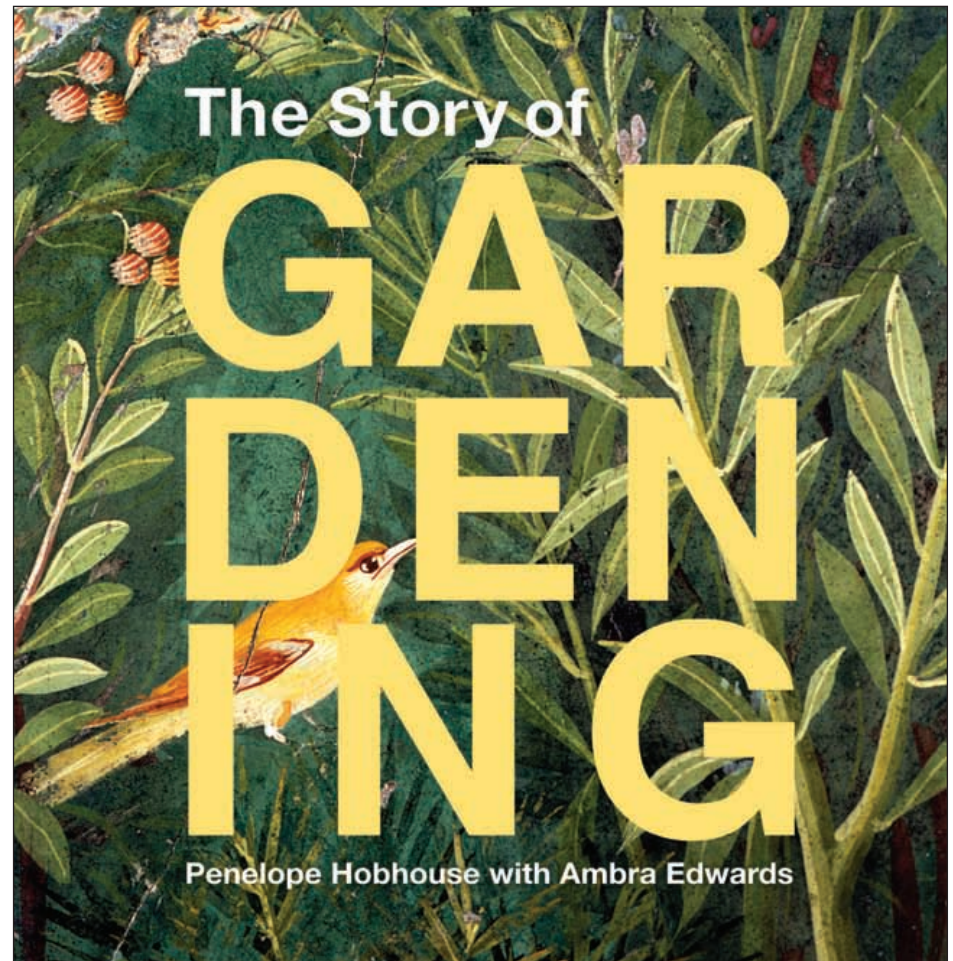
The American idea of the endless front lawn, one rolling into another, was an attempt to democratize the landscape, doing away with the walls and formal plantings of colonial estates, the authors say.

A new final chapter includes recent projects, including New York City's High Line and Piet Oudolf's sweeping meadows of grasses and perennials, and focuses on sustainability, ecology and other gardening concerns today.

Hobhouse, an English garden designer and author, wrote the original edition of "The Story of Gardening," published in 2002. Here she is joined by Edwards, a gardening historian and columnist.

This cover image shows "The Story of Gardening" by Penelope Hobhouse with Ambra Edwards.

Princeton Architectural Press



Penelope Hobhouse with Ambra Edwards



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Home sits on a quiet cul-de-sac in desirable Crystal Oaks. Features include cathedral ceilings, plant shelves, and large master bedroom with his/her walk-in closets to name a few. HVAC was replaced in 2014 and a new roof was put on in 2020. This beautiful home also has fresh paint inside and out, new flooring, spacious lanai, and fenced in backyard. **MLS #793740**

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JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle

This flowering bush is a native perennial plant commonly called Firebush and *Hamelia patens*. Its scientific binomial is *Hamelia patens*. Seeds may remain on the plant overwinter or until eaten by birds. These two Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*) butterflies flutter their wings constantly even while nectaring and mating.



JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle

Beggars tick or Spanish Needles, *Bidens alba*, is a prolific, tall, native annual wildflower useful as a nectar source to feed adult butterflies. There are two teeth on each seed — hence the name “bi-dens.” “Alba” means white. Seeds readily cling to clothing and animal fur so can be dispersed far from the parent plant. This Red-spotted Purple butterfly lays its eggs on Wild Cherry tree leaves where its caterpillars feed. It is resident in the northern half of Florida but not the southern half.

Annual and perennial plants

Florida has a wealth of flowering plants, including wildflowers. Each and every flower is short-lived, evolved to attract pollinators and then produce seeds that will later germinate and grow to produce more flowers and seeds to perpetuate the individual species. In nature, separate species rarely cross-pollinate except when closely related species in the same genus are crowded close together — or when humans tinker.



Jane Weber
JANE'S GARDEN

Annual plants complete their short lifecycle within one growing season, so are herbaceous rather than woody-stemmed plants. Seeds germinate, grow roots, shoots and leaves. Plants produce flowers and then seeds and promptly die. Geographical location and the length of the growing season influence when annuals can grow and flower. Some seeds may need cold stratification and remain

See JANE/Page D9

JANE

Continued from **Page D8**

dormant overwinter to sprout in spring. Other seeds may germinate in summer for a continuing wildflower display on new plants. Still other species seeds may germinate in the fall, form a basal rosette of leaves, overwinter and flower the next year before dying.

Florida's annual wildflowers that homeowners like to grow include Tickseed, *Coreopsis leavenworthii*; Blanketflower, *Gaillardia puchella*; Annual phlox, *Phlox drummondii*; Red Salvia, *Salvia coccinea*; Softhair coneflower, *Rudbeckia mollis*; and Blue-eyed Iris, *Sisyrinchium angustifolia*, among dozens of others. Fresh wildflower seeds are readily available online or from independent growers and dedicated environmentalists like me.

At Jane's Garden, a packet of hand-picked seeds costs \$1. Be aware. Always buy Florida-grown wildflower seeds, as many species from other geographic areas may not grow in Florida's specific climate with hot, humid summers, eight-month-long dry season and sandy, well-drained soils. Reliable seed sellers in Florida are <https://flwildflowers.org/>

planting, and www.floridawildflowers.com.

In Florida, wildflowers do not always grow in accordance with the traditional four seasons. Summer annuals germinate in spring or early summer and flower and set seed by late summer or autumn. Winter annuals germinate in the fall, overwinter as small plants then mature and flower the following spring or summer. Some species appear to be long-lasting but are actually successive generations of the same species.

Biennial plants have a lifecycle spanning two growing seasons in two calendar years, but usually less than 12 months. Seeds sprout and form a small plant usually with a rosette of basal leaves low to the ground.

After winter during the next growing season, stems lengthen, flowers bloom, new seeds develop, and the entire old plant dries and dies. Many wildflowers evolved to self-sow their own seeds. The wind, rain, stormwater runoff, passing wildlife and seed eaters may distribute seeds far from the parent plant's location.

Perennial plants live for two or more years. Palms, cycads, trees, shrubs, ferns, vines and grasses are perennials.

See **JANE**/Page D10

JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle

Bought from a big box outlet, this annual coreopsis is a human-made cultivar bred for its unique color that looks similar to native blanketflower *Gaillardia puchella*. Coreopsis makes an attractive potted patio plant. Its ample nectar attracts butterflies that delight homeowners.

<p>Terra Vista</p>  <p>Cool Coastal Feel-On Golf Course Feels Like a New Home</p>	<p>Terra Vista</p>  <p>Golf Course</p>	<p>Brentwood</p>  <p>New Home Carefree on Golf Course</p>			
<p>1237 W Skyview Landings Dr - \$635,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bedrooms • 3 full, 1 half baths • total sqft: 3,650 • MLS#793852 	<p>1959 N Eagle Chase Dr - \$495,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bedrooms • 3 full bathrooms • total sqft: 3,149 • MLS#786187 	<p>1540 W Caroline Path - \$299,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bedrooms • 2 full bathrooms • total sqft: 2,670 • MLS#792967 			
<p>Brentwood</p>  <p>New Home/Carefree</p>	<p>1665 W Caroline Path</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$264,000 • 3 beds • 2 full baths • total sqft: 2,502 • MLS#791634 	<p>Keetings Devil Neck</p>  <p>Lake Property</p>	<p>6600 S Merleing Lp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$225,000 • 3 beds • 2 full baths • total sqft: 2,273 • MLS#792901 	<p>Seven Lakes Park</p>  <p>Immaculate</p>	<p>2901 S Jean Ave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$220,000 • 3 beds • 2 full baths • total sqft: 2,394 • MLS#793391
<p>Citrus Springs</p>  <p>New Home</p>	<p>10299 N Spaulding Dr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$210,000 • 4 beds • 2 full baths • total sqft: 2,148 • MLS#793233 	<p>Sugarmill Woods</p>  <p>Carefree/New Price</p>	<p>86 W Byrsonima Lp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$204,900 • 3 beds • 2 full baths • total sqft: 2,708 • MLS#792945 	<p>Brentwood</p>  <p>Carefree on Golf Course</p>	<p>2425 N Andrea Pt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$182,000 • 3 beds • 2 full baths • total sqft: 1,875 • MLS#785729



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JANE

Continued from Page D9

The green leafy top growth of some flowering species dies for the winter. Deciduous perennial garden wildflowers include Butterfly weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*; Narrowleaf Sunflower, *Helianthus debilis*; Blackeyed Susan, *Rudbeckia fulgida*; and Goldenrod, *Solidago* species. These deciduous perennials regrow after winter and live for many years. Many such perennials, both native and exotic species, spread underground as well as by seeds. When perennials are grown from seed, they may not flower until the second year. Well-rooted, potted perennial plants bought from reputable nurseries should flower the same year as planted because they are already a year or two old.

The term annual/perennial is confusing and deceptive. In the warm-wintered south, plants benefit from the long growing season. For example, in Florida from cold zone 10 southward, native

Florida's state wildflower is **coreopsis**. Many county roadside mowers allow this native annual to set seed before mowing. This tickseed species is ***Coreopsis leavenworthii***. It attracts pollinators such as bees and wasps, butterflies and moths, among other insects. Birds and small wildlife eat the seeds.

JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle

Firebush, *Hamelia patens*, grows as an evergreen perennial and flowers year-round.

In north Florida, frosts and freezing will kill the top growth, leaving dead-looking leafless sticks. Dead is dead. Prune the sticks back a few inches at a time just above a leaf node until living tissue is seen. *Hamelia* will leaf out in spring. If a plant collector wanted to grow *hamelia* firebush in the great white north of Canada or Minnesota, it must be grown as a perennial in a pot and brought into a greenhouse for the winter.

Jane Weber is a professional gardener and consultant. Contact her at jweber12385@gmail.com.



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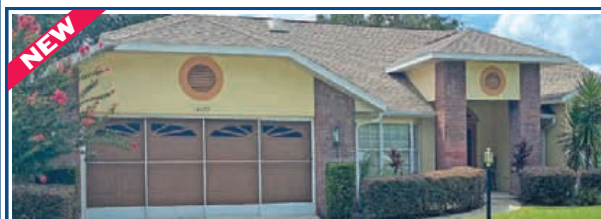
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ATTIC

Continued from Page D6

much like to know about the value and the history. We could send you pictures if this is something you can help with. If not, who or where would you suggest? — V.R., internet

Dear V.R.: Yes, I would be glad to help you. Railroad pocket watches are a popular category within the big category of pocket watch collecting. Include a picture of the front and back of the watch and the dial. Open the back of the case and photograph the movement or at least make sure to include all the information that appears there. Look at the inside of the back case cover for other marks as well. Then I will finish the story.

Dear John: I have had this very odd piece of artwork for many years. It was my father's. I am not sure what it is made out of, but it weighs almost 3 pounds. It is about 6 3/4 inches high by about 5 inches wide. Have you ever seen anything like this? We have tried looking it up with no success. Thanking you in advance for your help. — V.R., internet

Dear V.R.: It looks like there is some monkey business going on around the vase. You have a hand carved soapstone paintbrush pot. Soapstone is a soft stone that has a soapy feel. It is easily carved and is also used for various other purposes. If you turn your soapstone carving over and use a sharp point or knife, it will easily make a scratch. The item could have been made in China or Japan. likely before World War II. I think it would sell below \$50.

John Sikorski has been a professional in the antiques business for 30 years. Send questions to Sikorski's Attic, P.O. Box 2513, Ocala, FL 34478 or asksikorski@aol.com.



This soapstone carving appears to be a paintbrush pot. It was likely made in China or Japan before World War II.

Special to the Chronicle

D-I-Y ONLINE CALENDAR

- Local groups are welcome to add their upcoming events to the Chronicle's online community calendar. Here's how:
- Go to www.chronicleonline.com. At the very top of the screen, click on "Submit your news."
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<p>OLD HOMOSSASSA</p>  <p>CHEROKEE TRACE ISLAND! Ready to feel like you are alone in paradise? The views of the Homosassa River from this +/-0.31 AC lot are breathtaking! If you position your home correctly, your view will make you feel like you are the only one around. A private, gated bridge brings you to this little getaway. No bridges to the Gulf. Underground utilities. MLS#793371-\$239,000</p>	<p>THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! You can own an entire gorgeous point on a Crystal River canal just off of King's Bay! Almost 2/3 AC on a cul-de-sac off of Ft. Island Trail in homes only area. Easy shot to the Gulf! Outside of city limits but w/city water & sewer. Mostly cleared with nice trees remaining, esp. along the water's edge. Don't miss it! MLS#789852-\$266,000</p>
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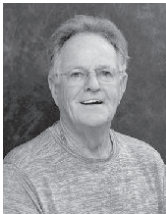
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TODAY

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Weather the storm

Prepare early for power outages, other impacts

Family Features

Surging summer temperatures can bring volatility that translates into major weather events. The 2020 storm season could see above-average probability for major hurricanes hitting the United States coastline and the Caribbean, according to the annual Colorado State Tropical Meteorology Forecast.

As those in the paths of seasonal storms know, property damage and power outages come with the territory. Being prepared for weather disasters and power outages is critical to protecting property, productivity and well-being.

Assess external threats. Before storm season arrives, take inventory of potential problems outdoors that could be exacerbated by bad weather. For example, trees may need trimming if limbs threaten power lines, the house or other structures on your property. Also examine the house for necessary repairs, such as loose guttering, shutters or shingles that may need to be secured and torn screens, all of which can worsen in heavy weather and cause more damage.

Another consideration is items that could topple in heavy winds, such as barbecue grills or lawn furniture. When possible, look for ways to secure these items so they don't take flight, aren't destroyed or cause additional damage.

Assemble emergency resources. An overnight storm is no time to discover your flashlight batteries are dead or you don't have the right size batteries to replace them. Making time to update your stash of storm supplies before weather hits can save some frustration and help ensure you're prepared to safely wait out the storm.

In addition to replacing flashlight batteries and checking that they're in good working order, if you don't have a light source in every room it's a good plan to place flashlights or lanterns in rooms where you may need to be able to see in an emergency. The idea is to give everyone in the family the ability to illuminate their path and move safely through the house no matter where they are when the lights go out.

Part of your preparation should also include restocking your first-aid kit. Some items in the kit, like ointments and medications, can expire so you'll need to replenish anything you've used and double-check that the contents are still safe to use. If you don't already have them, be sure to add a battery-operated radio and a portable power bank so you have access to news updates and can charge a low phone battery.

Take inventory of your non-perishable food items to ensure you have plenty of options on hand in the event power stays off through one or more meals. You may also want to stockpile some books and board games for convenient access to entertainment while your power is down.

Make power plans. Because power outages are near certainty during severe weather season, reliable electricity is a necessity for powering work, school and daily life. An appropriately sized standby generator can ensure your home power doesn't miss a beat when



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

faced with seasonal storms. Because standby generators are fueled by natural gas or liquid propane, the tank doesn't require regular refueling with gasoline which means no last-minute trips to the gas station when your generator runs out of gas.

"Standby generators can power an entire home, and because they are wired to the home's electrical system so there is minimal interruption," said Brian Northway, Briggs & Stratton field service manager. "When a storm knocks out power, the generator automatically takes over to deliver power, allowing you to take care of family and accomplish what you need to rather than worry about the power outage."

Generators with a smart power management system, such as the line of units offered by Briggs & Stratton, can help manage high-wattage appliance priority. These power management technologies allow a homeowner to prioritize the power they need during an outage at a lower upfront acquisition cost.

Learn more about standby power options at power-now.com.

How big of a generator do you need?

It can be easiest to determine which type of home standby generator system is right for your household by first thinking about what items your family needs to remain functioning normally during a power outage. The number of home appliances or electrical loads you

want to power will determine the size and cost of the generator.

There are generally three different types of standby generators, which vary based on how much your home needs to power:

Select circuit home generators: power essential appliances

A select-circuit generator system is a cost-effective way to power your home's basics to get you comfortably through a power outage. These units can power up to 10 electrical loads in your home, including the fridge, some lights, television and the microwave.

Managed whole-house power generators: smaller, more power

A standby generator equipped with a smart power management solution gives your family the benefits of whole-house power with a smaller, more affordable generator system. These home generator systems can power all your electrical needs, including up to two air conditioners.

Whole-house generators: maximum backup power needs

Whole-house standby generator options are typically used as backup power solutions for extra-large and luxury homes. They power an array of high-wattage appliances, from double ovens to hot tubs with commercial-grade performance.

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LIVING

Continued from Page D6

Create a box set

Inexpensive wooden box sets can be painted any color and are perfect for holding hair doodads, electronics and notes from friends. Using labels that insert into metal holders means labels can change as storage needs evolve. The top surface of the stacked boxes also serves as display space for trophies or collectibles.

Hang out in style

Keep track of necklaces and other hanging items on unfinished peg racks that you can paint. They simply screw into the armoire. Remember that where there's jewelry storage, there's a girl looking in a mirror — so be sure to outfit the armoire with a gazing glass.

Look for ideas to customize space

Repurpose an unused feature into a clever organizer. The handy pullout drawer made to hold a computer keyboard easily converts to a storage drawer fitted with two sets of compartmentalized containers. Using clear plastic instead of opaque allows you to see small earrings, rings and barrettes at the bottom of the pile.

Cater to busy bees

Youngsters are all about toys, games and art supplies. An armoire command central keeps pieces in place while vertical surfaces provide display space. Hot-glue painted cork board to the inside back and inside one door to create a gallery for your child's masterpieces. Painting the cork the same color as the walls provides

a calm, coordinated backdrop for colorful artwork.

Keep the paintings coming with easy-to-reach roller paper. Install eye hooks beneath the top shelf; hold paper on a dowel cut about 4 inches longer than the roll. Use plastic containers to hold pencils, paintbrushes and chalk, and include a clear bin for glue, scissors and paint. Reserve the top shelf for toys used less often, and make the bottom bins home to daily favorites.

Embrace 'bin there, done that' theory

Kids looking for things tend to reach back, pull out and throw on the floor until the correct item is found. Stop bad habits. Translucent bins on pull-out platforms allow little guys to get a good look before grabbing. Be thoughtful when buying bins: inventory toys, then get bins that fit the toys.

Organization to chaos in drawers

Built-in drawers hold the biggest items, such as trucks, stuffed animals, robots and dinosaurs. Label each drawer with letter stencils; for kids who are too young to read, paint pictures of the items that go inside (use paint pens for detail).

Chalk it up with chalkboard paint

An armoire door coated with chalkboard paint serves double duty. Cover the panel areas of the door, or if your door is flat, simply mark off the borders with painter's tape before painting. Be sure chalk has a home right next to the board.

Better Homes and Gardens is a magazine and website devoted to ideas and improvement projects for your home and garden, plus recipes and entertaining ideas: www.bhg.com.



Getty Images

Cut your kid's clutter by offering a storage solution to combat a messy room.

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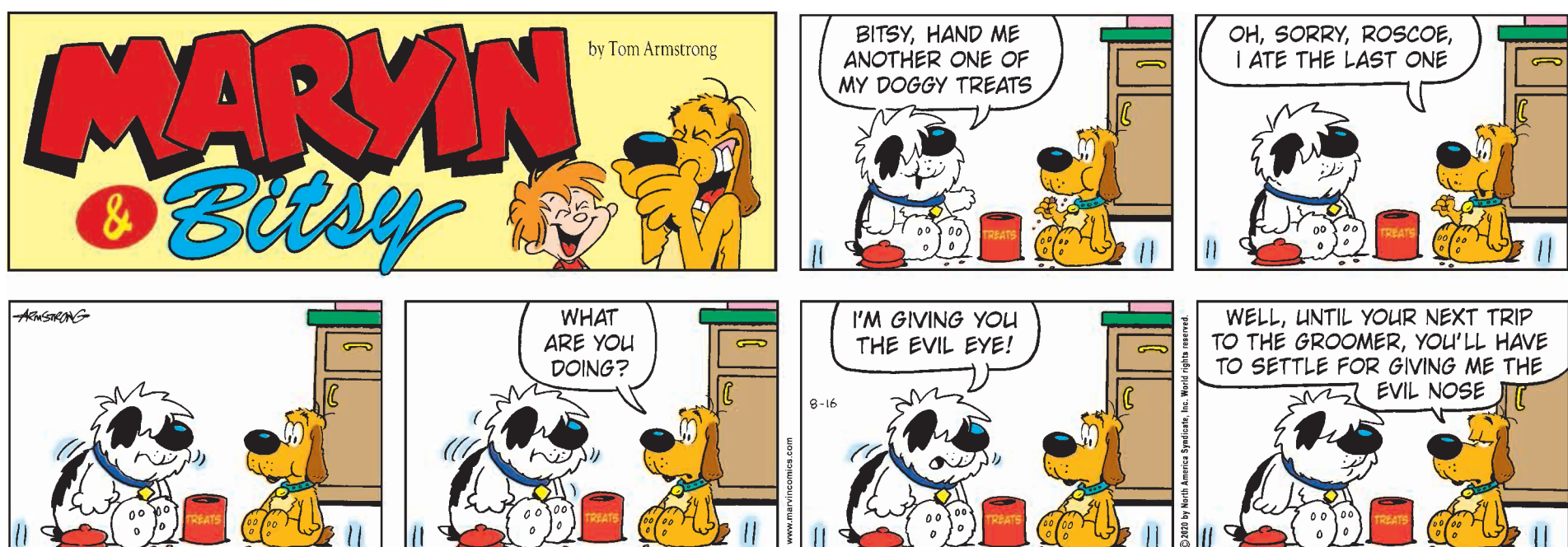
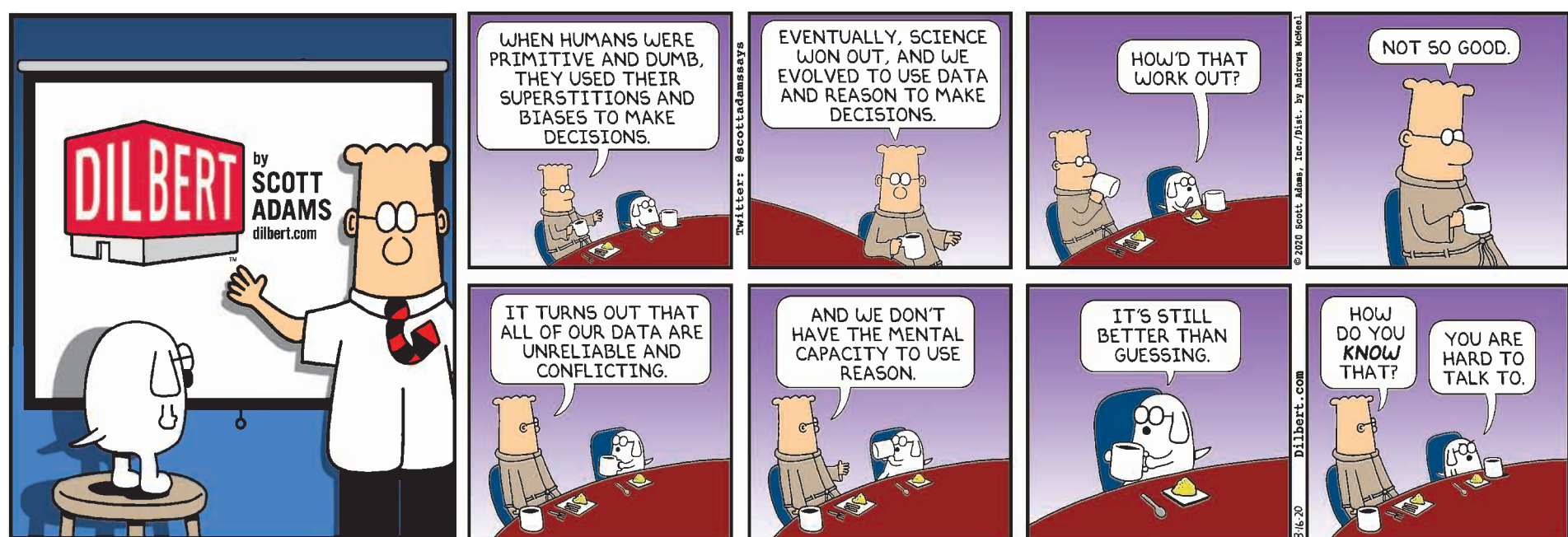
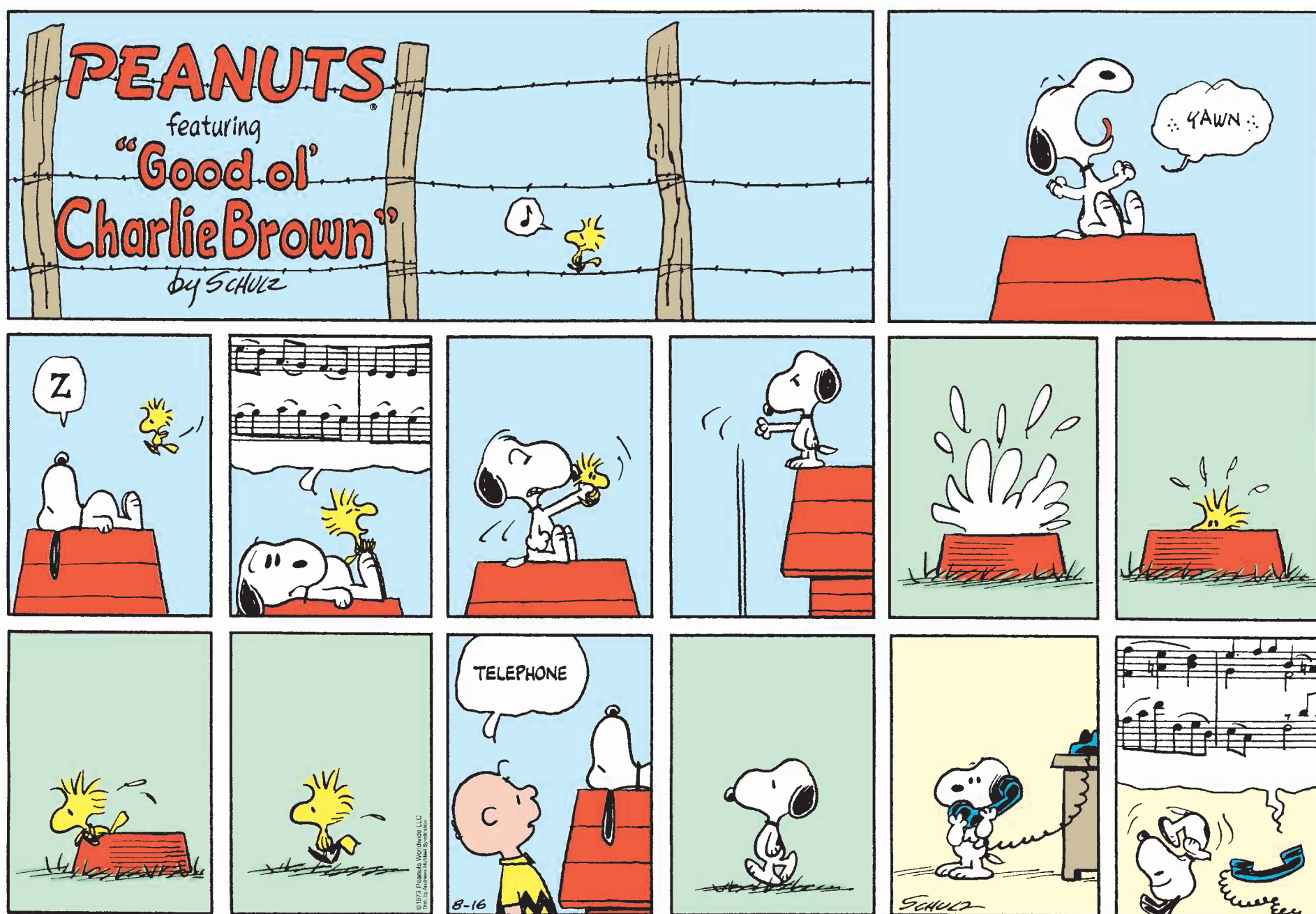
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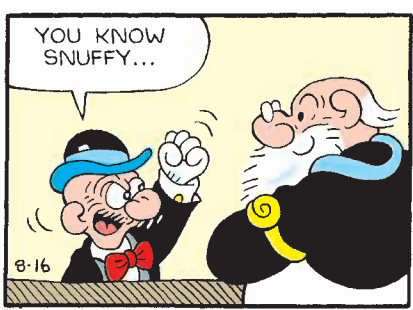
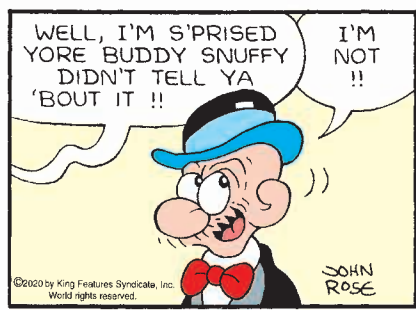
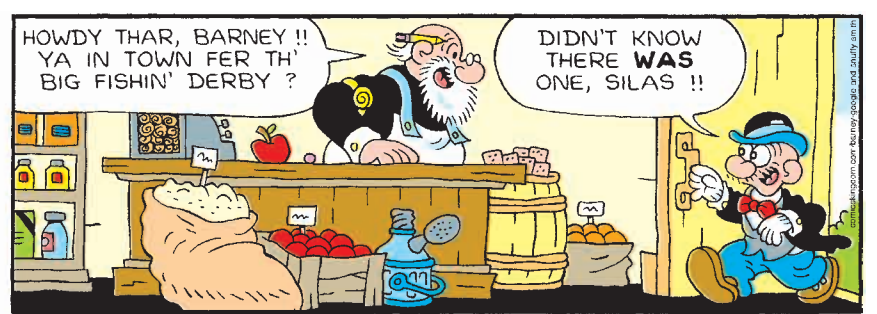
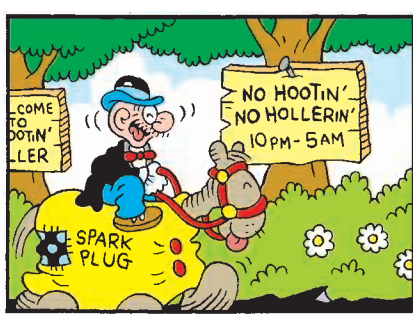
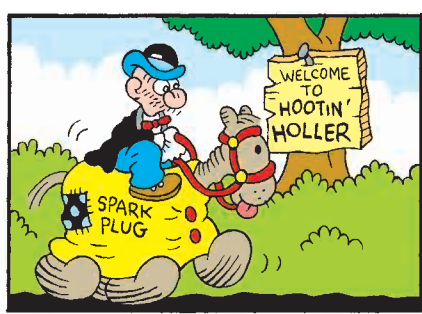
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a) Frog
b) Earthworm
c) Jellyfish
d) Butterfly

Answer -- Jellyfish have liver or brain.

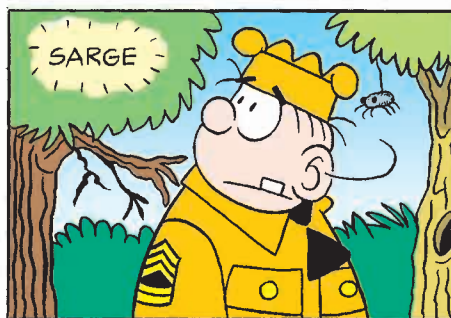
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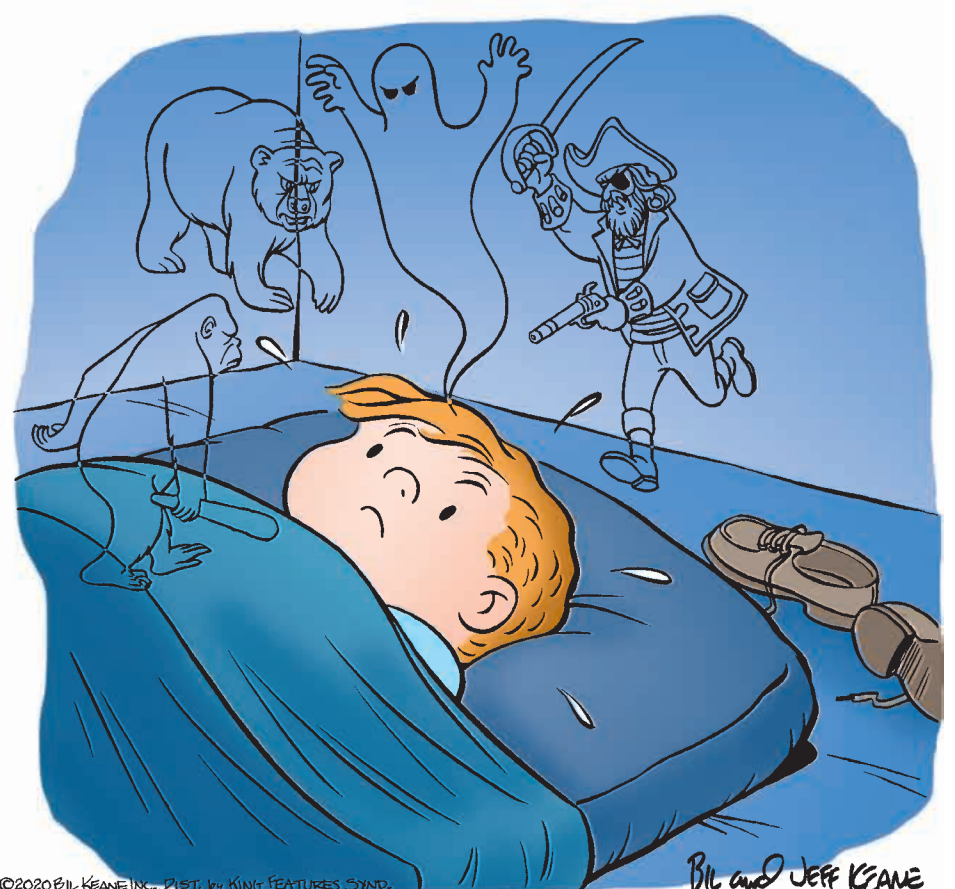


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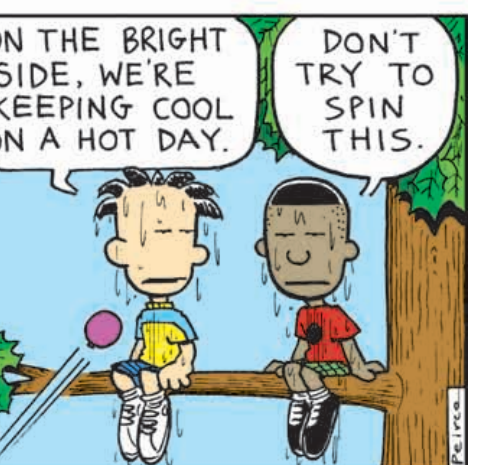
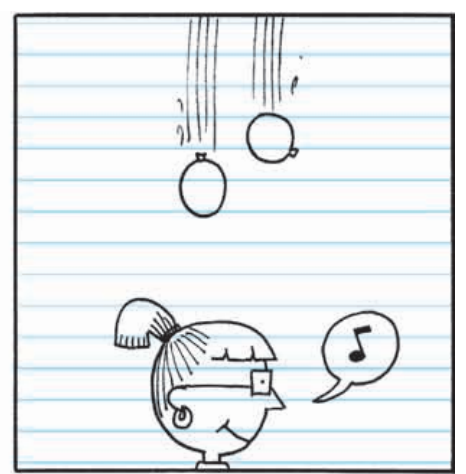
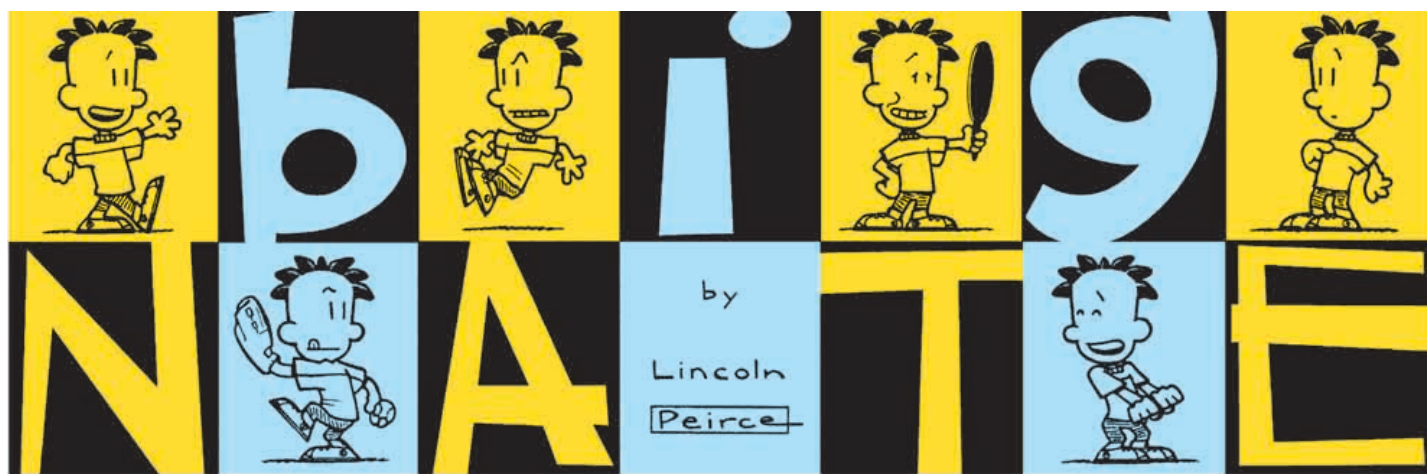
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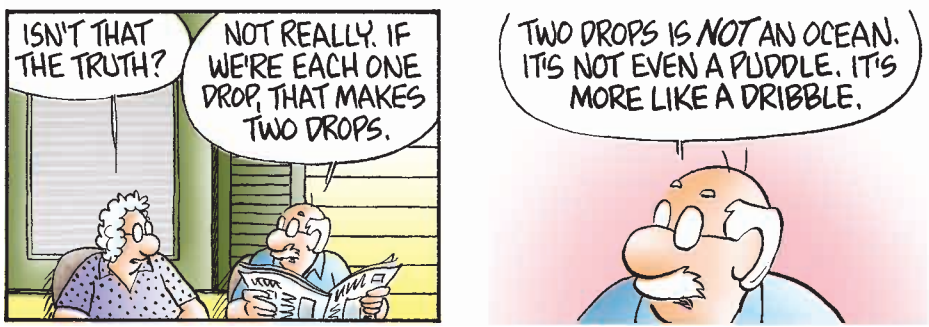
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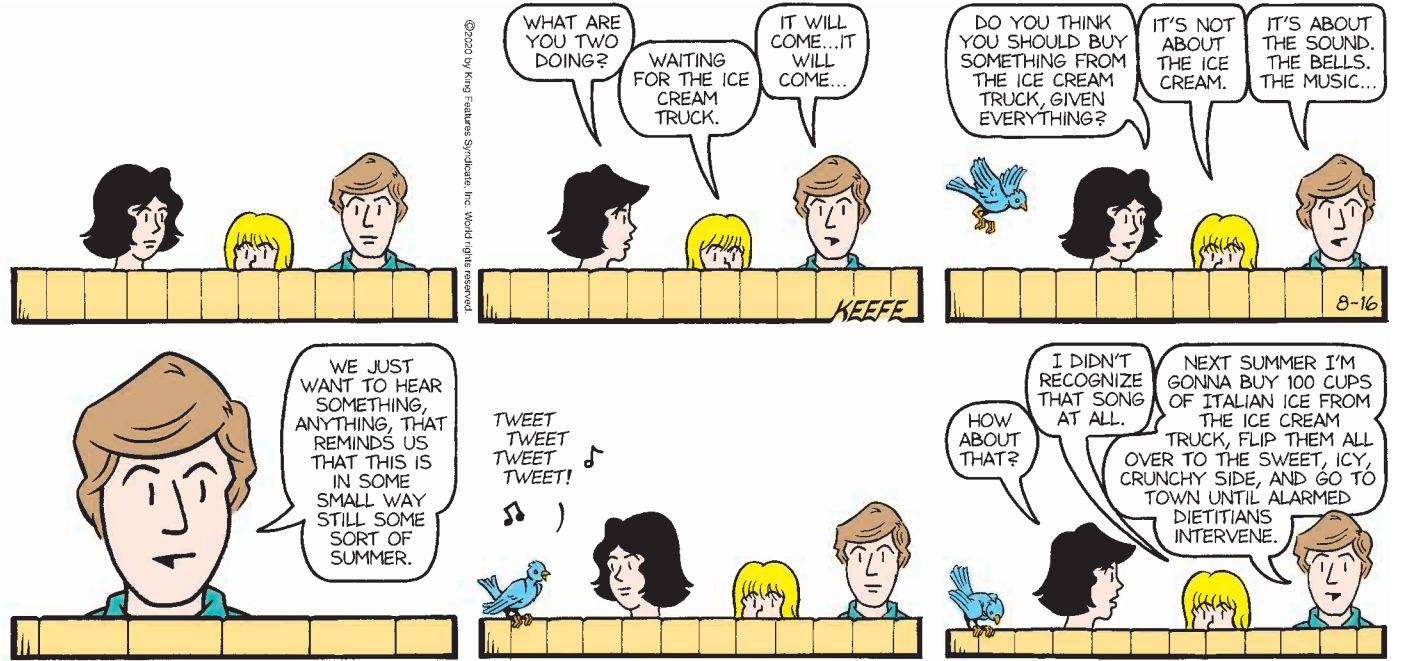
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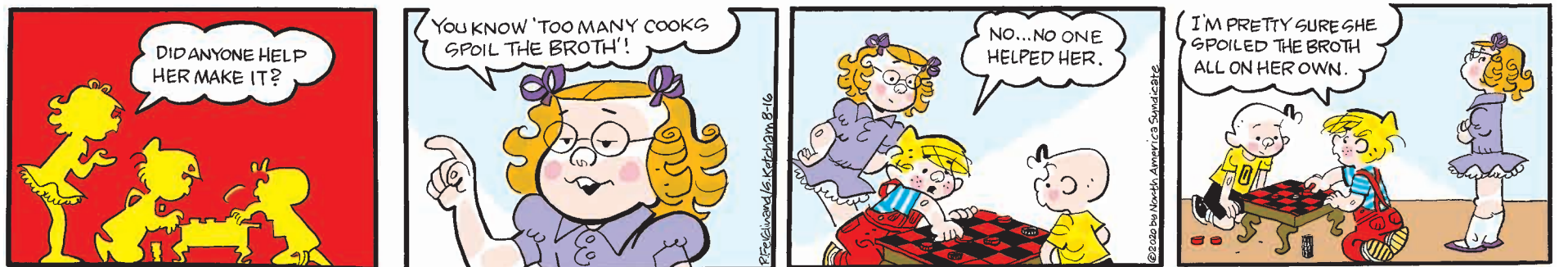


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Luann
by GREG EVANS

YOU STILL HAVE YOUR OLD CASSETTE PLAYER—AND TONS OF TAPES!

YUP. DIARIES AND MIX TAPES FROM BACK IN THE DAY

THIS ONE'S LABELED "GUNTHER EXPLAINS MATH PROBLEMS"

OH, YEAH. SOMETIMES I RECORDED HIS LITTLE "LESSONS"

OOO! WHAT'S THE MYSTERIOUS "Z!" MEAN?

HM! I DUNNO!

... TO CALCULATE THE HEIGHT OF A RIGHT TRIANGLE, USE THE PYTHAGOREAN THEOREM: $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$

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HAGAR
the horrible
by DIK BROWNE

WHERE'S TODAY'S FIGHT, DAD?

SHH... NEVER TATTLE BEFORE A BATTLE!

CHARGE!

CHARGE!!

WHAT JUST LANDED ON MY HELMET?

THUD! OOF!

IT'S A BIRD OF PARADISE!

I COULDN'T BE MORE LOST!

TAKE THAT!

CLANG

YOW!

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WIZARD OF ID
by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker

YAWN

WRONG STRIP AGAIN

WHEW

GRUNT

YOU GOT ONE MINUTE..

GRIEVANCE DAY

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BLONDIE
by SEAN FLYNN & JOHN MARSHALL

GRUMBLE... GRUMBLE... GRUMBLE...

WHAT'S WRONG, BOSS?

CORA WANTS ME TO TAG ALONG WITH HER ON ANOTHER CRUISE NEXT YEAR

THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN, BOSS!

NOT TO ME! I'D RATHER SKIP THE CRUISE AND KEEP AN EYE ON MY COMPANY

IN THAT CASE, JUST EXPLAIN TO HER HOW IMPORTANT YOUR WORK IS, BOSS

JUST REMIND HER THAT J.C. DITHERS & COMPANY MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO AFFORD ALL THOSE CRUISES!

NOPE, THAT WON'T WORK WITH HER

BUT BY GOLLY, MY BOY... YOU GAVE ME A GREAT IDEA!!

GOOD! WHAT'S YOUR IDEA, BOSS?

CORA, BUMSTEAD IS HERE WITH ME, AND HE WANTS TO EXPLAIN WHY I SHOULD SKIP THE FALL CRUISE NEXT YEAR

I'M LISTENING!

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, BUMSTEAD!!

WELL?!!

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Hi and Lois
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BUDDY?

OH, YOU KNOW, HUSBAND DUTY.

ARE WE GONNA PLAY GOLF TODAY?

I TOLD YOU, I HAVE TO HELP LOIS IN THE GARDEN.

WHEN WILL YOU BE DONE?

IT'LL TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY.

WHY DON'T YOU USE THE TIME TO MOW YOUR LAWN?

NAH.

WHAT A WORKAHOLIC.

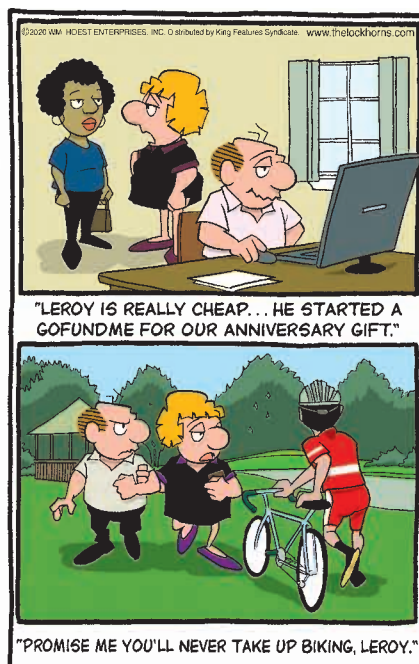
WHY DOESN'T HI JUST HIRE SOMEONE TO DO HIS YARDWORK?

CAN I HIRE YOU TO DO OURS?!

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THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER



WELCOME Back to School!

Help kids follow these safety tips along the way to their first day and beyond!

Teach your child to never talk to strangers. Go over specific scenarios, such as a motorist asking for directions or assistance, or a stranger with a friendly pet, that may trick kids into interacting with a stranger.

Do a practice walk to school or the bus stop with your child on or before the first day of school, choosing a route with the fewest street crossings and avoiding deserted areas. If you can't accompany your child to school or the bus stop, coordinate with a nearby schoolmate so kids can walk together.

Make sure your child knows your cell phone number and place of work, as well as his or her home address. Kids should also have a backup phone number for another trusted adult, and know to call 911 in the event of an emergency.

Teach kids what traffic signals and signs mean, and communicate the importance of obeying them. Remind kids to carefully cross streets at crosswalks, looking both ways twice and never entering the street from between parked cars.

Go over school bus rules with kids, reminding them to stay seated throughout the ride. Teach kids to never approach or prepare to exit the bus until it comes to a complete stop, and to only cross at least 10 giant steps in front of the bus when exiting, so the driver can see them.

Make sure your child's backpack weighs no more than 10 percent of his or her body weight. Select a pack with padded shoulder straps and a hip or chest belt, and make sure your child uses all straps to evenly distribute weight.

Teach kids to remain alert at all times when walking anywhere. It is dangerous for kids to be distracted by headphones or smartphones while walking to school.

Kids riding bikes to school should always wear their helmets, riding single file on the right side of the road. Make sure kids know the hand signals to use when turning, and to walk bikes across crosswalks.

