

# Tebow time?: Jags reportedly near deal with former QB/B3

**TUESDAY**  
TODAY & next morning  
**HIGH 86**  
**LOW 68**  
Partly sunny and humid.  
PAGE A4

# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

www.chronicleonline.com



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Citrus County COVID cases

According to the Florida Department of Health, eight positive cases were reported in Citrus County since the latest update.

Two new deaths were reported, for a total of 447.

To date in the county, 11,162 people have tested positive (including 99 non-residents).

No new hospitalizations were reported, for a total of 726 hospitalized.

Totals reflect preliminary reports received by the state, and are subject to revision.

### Let's Feed Citrus at fairgrounds

This week's Let's Feed Citrus Drive-thru starts at 9 a.m. Wednesday, May 12, at the Citrus County Fairgrounds, 3600 S. Florida Ave. in Inverness. This week's food distribution is sponsored by state Rep. Dr. Ralph Massullo Jr., We Care, Community Food Bank of Citrus County, FarmShare, Citrus Rotary, Citrus County Commission, Suzanne Fuller, James Langston, Charles E. Davis and anonymous donors.

### Court stops temp checks, limits masks

Following orders from the Florida Supreme Court, courthouses statewide will no longer check temperatures or require masks in public areas in response to COVID-19.

Mask wearing and social distancing will still be enforced in courtrooms for in-person hearings.

Citing a "widespread availability of vaccines," Chief Justice Charles T. Canady signed an administrative order May 6 to relax the measures.

"Almost everyone has free means to protect themselves," the judge said in a YouTube video.

Canady said he expects to issue similar orders in the future to bring courtrooms back to normalcy and address a backlog of cases stalled by the novel coronavirus canceling jury trials.

### Lightning sends chunk of road through truck

WALTON COUNTY — A lightning strike in Florida launched a chunk of highway pavement through a truck windshield and injured two people inside the vehicle on Monday morning, according to fire officials.

The Walton County Fire Rescue responded to the accident on Interstate 10 near DeFuniak Springs, news outlets reported. Photos shared by the department on social media showed the Ford pickup truck's windshield and back window shattered.

Walton County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Corey Dobridnia told the Tallahassee Democrat that the two occupants of the vehicle suffered minor lacerations from the smashed glass and "will be fine."

— From staff and wire reports

## County vet luminary dies

NANCY KENNEDY  
Staff writer

Whenever retired Rear Adm. Carlton "Mac" McLeod participated in the Veterans in the Classroom program, kids always asked him if he ever shot anybody.

He always got a kick out of answering, "I shot people all day long."

As a dentist in the Navy, he "shot" people with Novocain.

But he was so much more than a dentist, and so much more than a two-star, rear admiral and a past Chief of the Navy Dental Corps.

After serving nearly 30 years in the U.S. Navy, "Admiral Mac," as he was called, continued to serve his fellow veterans and the residents of Citrus County for



Carlton 'Mac' McLeod died Saturday at age 90.

more than 35 years until his death Saturday, May 8, at age 90.

"The phrase 'an officer and a gentleman' fit Admiral Mac perfectly," said Richard Hunt, Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander. "He was a truly nice man, a joy to be around and someone

who constantly gave of himself. He believed the good things in people. ... I was absolutely honored to have known him."

Retired Army Col. Curt Ebitz said Admiral Mac was one of the first people he met after moving to Citrus County almost 30 years ago, and they served together in a number of veterans organizations, beginning with the Veterans Appreciation Week Committee when it

started in 1993 to the Veterans Foundation, which started in 2004.

"Back when Royce Carter was the county veterans service officer in the late '90s, when a veteran would come in seeking emergency financial help, Royce would call people in the community who might have the means to help, and Mac would always quietly donate," Ebitz said.

See MCLEOD/Page A2

## Second mobile vaccine site coming



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

A nurse delivers a Pfizer vaccine Thursday morning, March 4, at a drive-thru clinic in Crystal River. More than 1,000 vaccines were delivered into the arms of residents during the day. Inverness will hold a similar clinic this week at Whispering Pines Park.

### State operation coming to Inverness this weekend

MIKE WRIGHT  
Staff writer

When the state chose Crystal River for a COVID-19 mobile vaccination site in March, Inverness officials were quick to request one as well.

And the state responded.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management will set up a mobile vaccination site from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 15-16, at Whispering Pines Park.

Sheriff's Capt. Troy Hess, interim director of Citrus County Emergency Management, said

state officials made the offer.

"We contacted Inverness to host something and they jumped all over it," Hess said.

Gov. Ron DeSantis visited Crystal River in early March to announce a mobile vaccine site in Crystal River held in a shopping center parking lot over three days.

Hess said the mobile vaccination program this weekend at Whispering Pines Park is open for anyone 16 or older. Appointments are not necessary; anyone can walk up and receive the vaccine.

See SITE/Page A5

## Third of county residents now fully vaccinated

BUSTER THOMPSON  
Staff writer

Roughly a third of Citrus County's population became fully vaccinated against COVID-19 over the week while the total number of the county's infections surpassed 11,100.

On Monday, May 10, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) reported 50,824 county residents completed their vaccination series for the novel coronavirus — an increase of 4,024 since Monday, May 3.

Around 41% of county locals — or 61,731 of them — were partially inoculated, according to the FDOH on May 10.

For more information on how

and where to get vaccinated, visit [floridahealthcovid19.gov/vaccines](http://floridahealthcovid19.gov/vaccines).

Also since May 3, Citrus County's average 7-day rate of positive COVID-19 tests decreased from 7% to 6.89%. Health officials want to keep positivity rates — the number of positive results out of total test results — below 10%.

Another 126 locals contracted the disease over the week, bringing the county's COVID-19 case count to 11,162, and the virus hospitalized 10 and killed two, according to the FDOH. As of Monday, there've been 726 hospital admissions and 447 deaths from the illness.

See VIRUS/Page A5

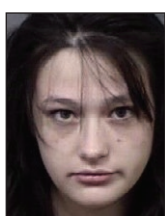
## Woman agrees to 15 years for selling drugs

BUSTER THOMPSON  
Staff writer

Nichole Leigh Cash doesn't want to be late — again.

After showing tardy to her Monday, May 10, court hearing, Cash told Citrus County Circuit Judge Richard "Ric" Howard she would turn herself in in seven days to start her 15-year prison sentence for selling fentanyl, methamphetamine and heroin to an undercover detective.

If the Inverness 23-year-old isn't at



Nichole Cash

the county jail by noon May 17, Cash's time behind bars could be up to 205 years.

"Nobody can live through that sentence," Howard told Cash. "Do you understand that?"

"Yes, sir," she replied.

By changing her not-guilty plea to no-contest, Cash agreed on Monday to go to prison as punishment for her 12 felonies in six separate criminal cases for her drug dealings between June and July with

See COURT/Page A10

## Time to prepare for hurricane season

MICHAEL D. BATES  
Staff writer

Hurricane season is just around the corner and this week is the ideal time to get ready.

Hurricane Preparedness Week runs through Saturday, May 15, and the National Weather Service (NWS) is urging people to determine their hurricane risk by finding out if they live in a storm zone and reviewing or updating insurance policies.

It's also time to make a list of items to replenish hurricane emergency supplies and start thinking about preparing your home before the season begins June 1. The NWS offers these guidelines:

■ Go over your hurricane evacuation plan.

■ Find out if you live in a storm surge hurricane evacuation zone or if you're in a home that would be unsafe during a hurricane.

See SEASON/Page A2

# MCLEOD

Continued from Page A1

JJ Kenney, U.S. Marine and a former county veterans service officer after Royce Carter left, also used to call on Admiral Mac to help veterans in need.

It was around that time that the Veterans Foundation was formed, Kenney said.

Admiral Mac was the foundation's first member and the first president, a position he held until January of last year (2020) because of his health.

"One thing about Mac, he never quit," Ebitz said. "He was on dialysis 10 hours a day with Stage 4 kidney disease, yet you would never know it. He was out there running the 11th Hour Memorial Service for Veterans Appreciation Week, serving as foundation president, attending events and always 'showing the flag' in support of veterans."

Ebitz said the trademarks of a great leader are humility and leading by example and "Mac personified that ... he dedicated

his life to serving our country, the state of Florida, Citrus County and his fellow veterans."

"Everybody knew him as 'Admiral Mac,' everybody loved him," Ebitz said. "He was a great man, a great leader and just a great human being."

At age 88, McLeod was one of 20 Florida veterans inducted into the 2018 Florida Veterans Hall of Fame in Tallahassee, which, since 2013, honors military veterans who have made a significant contribution to the state of Florida through their civic, business and/or public services after their military service.

In his nominating letter for that honor, Ebitz wrote: "Admiral Mac has personally secured temporary housing arrangements for homeless and transient veterans," adding that he had also helped veterans or surviving spouses relocate to be near family.

Among many other things, he had also spearheaded an effort to raise several thousand dollars to replace a drinking water well for a disabled veteran.

"Wherever there is an opportunity to help a

fellow veteran ... Admiral Mac is not only the first to step forward, but has the determination to stay the course," Ebitz wrote.

Yet, he stayed humble. On a résumé or job application, Admiral Mac always listed "paper boy" in Rhode Island as his first job.

During his time in the Navy, he spent time on an aircraft carrier in Vietnam. He told the Chronicle in 2018 that he was always fascinated with watching the planes take off, how they'd go from 0 to 100 mph in an instant.

He was given two lifetime achievement awards, one locally from the Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart and the second from former President Donald Trump for volunteerism.

"His passing is a great loss for the county," JJ Kenney said. "I never met a 'flag officer' that was as gracious as him. He was one hell of a fine individual. I don't think you could find a finer gentleman."

Funeral services with military honors for Rear Adm. Carlton McLeod will be at a later date.



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

In this September 2017 file photo, Eugene Villanci removes tree branches from around his Inverness home. Trees and limbs toppled in Hurricane Irma fell on and around Villanci's home.

# SEASON

Continued from Page A1

■ If you are at risk, determine where you will go to escape the storm if told to evacuate.

■ Identify someone,

perhaps a friend or relative, who doesn't live in an evacuation zone or unsafe home, and coordinate with them to use their home as your evacuation destination.

■ Be sure to account for your pets, as most local shelters do not permit

them. Put the plan in writing for you and those you care about.

Forecasters are predicting 18 total named storms, with eight being hurricanes and three of Category 3 or higher.

For information, visit [hurricanes.gov/prepare](http://hurricanes.gov/prepare).

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► One of the most common conditions affecting elderly adults is age-related hearing loss, medically known as presbycusis. Approximately one in three people in the United States between the ages of 65 and 74 experience hearing loss, according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Difficulty in hearing can often lead to frustration, miscommunication, and a sense of isolation, which can negatively affect quality of life. However, there is a solution, and it is available right here in Ocala.

Ricky and Deidra Richardson, owners of the Miracle-Ear franchise in Marion and Citrus Counties, have been servicing those in need of hearing tests and hearing aid options since 1996. Setting them apart from other business in the same category, Miracle Ear offers free-of cost hearing consultations, superb customer service, and unmatched life care maintenance and warranty options.

"We are the only national hearing aid company where the product is serviceable free of charge at any Miracle Ear locations throughout the U.S.," Deidra Richardson said.

The first Miracle-Ear hearing aid was invented by World War II veteran Ken Dahlberg and a team of scientists in 1948. Seventy years later, there are over 1,400 Miracle-Ear Centers nationwide equipped to help millions of people hear better.

Although nationally accessible, Miracle-Ear Hearing Aid Centers are still locally owned and operated. The owners are residents, friends, volunteers and families in the neighborhoods of the same towns and cities as its shoppers. Ensuring that customers receive the best care and service



**"We are the only national hearing aid company where the product is serviceable free of charge at any Miracle Ear locations throughout the U.S."**

from the knowledgeable care professionals is just one of Miracle-Ear's priorities. The company provides highly experienced state-licensed hearing aid specialists. Miracle-Ear staff members will thoughtfully listen and suggest hearing aids, technology and accessories to fit unique needs and lifestyles.

In addition to providing high-quality hearing aids, Miracle-Ear offers other services. An audiogram pinpoints precise information that can lead to methods of preserving and augmenting the hearing ability that remains. An audiogram can be the first step on the road back to hearing the full range of beautiful, important, life-enhancing sounds, and it is provided cost-free at Miracle-Ear.

Miracle-Ear even goes beyond this, by providing peace of mind.

They offer a 30-day satisfaction guarantee plus a 3-year factory warranty. The best-in-class products with the leading digital technology combined with a lifetime of aftercare at no charge is efficient and cost-effective.

"We really do believe in the product," Deidra Richardson said. "We want people to leave with the ability to hear and understand conversations that they've been missing out on for years."

The path to hearing clearly again is readily available. Ricky and Deidra Richardson look forward to providing an informative hearing assessment, along with a myriad of hearing aid options.

**Miracle Ear is located inside Wal-Mart at 9570 SW State Rd 200, Ocala, 352-291-1467 and inside Crystal River Mall in Crystal River, 352-795-1484**

CC-01064F

*Around the*  
**COUNTY**

**Royal Oaks to host vaccine site**

The Royal Oaks homeowners association will host a full day of immunization using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

There are 140 vaccines available and the date is to be determined. To register, call 352-341-6269.

**Hernando/Citrus MPO to meet**

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will have a public meeting at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 13, at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, in Lecanto.

Items scheduled on the agenda include:

- FDOT/MPO annual joint certification 2020.
- Adoption Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY 2021-FY 2022 amendment.
- Amendment to the MPO agreement.
- Quarterly financial report.
- General informational items.
- Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2022-2026.
- FY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) amendment.
- Transportation disadvantaged planning grant applications, Hernando and Citrus counties for FY 2021-2022.

Social distancing and a temperature check upon entering the building are required. Face masks are suggested.

Approximately one week prior to the meeting the meeting agenda may be viewed online at: [hernandocounty.us](http://hernandocounty.us) or [hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo](http://hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo).

The public is encouraged to attend. For information, contact Steve Diez, MPO executive director, at 352-754-4082, ext. 28013, or [mpo@hernandocounty.us](mailto:mpo@hernandocounty.us).

**Join VFW's 'Show Me the Money'**

VFW Post 10087, 2170 W. Vet Lane, Beverly Hills, offers "Show Me the Money" from 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

— From staff reports

**Walk for Life fundraiser Saturday**

*Walkers to move through Inverness to help Citrus Pregnancy Center*

**NANCY KENNEDY**  
*Staff writer*

Called the "2021 Great Stork Race 2," people with a heart for families facing unplanned pregnancies will be "walking for life" Saturday morning, May 15,

beginning and ending at First Baptist Church Inverness, 550 Pleasant Grove Road.

This fundraising event benefits Citrus Pregnancy Center in Inverness.

Walkers, who have been raising money by gathering sponsors,

hope to raise a total of \$36,000.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The walk begins at 9 a.m. and walkers will be done and on their way by 11 a.m.

For information about the walk for life, contact Patti Kinderman at [financial.secretary@citruspregnancy.org](mailto:financial.secretary@citruspregnancy.org) or call 352-341-5176.

Last year, just before the coronavirus pandemic hit, the center opened a new location at 3185 E. Thomas St. in Inverness.

There, the Christ-centered medical clinic for women facing an unplanned pregnancy, offers free services such as: pregnancy testing and OB sonograms, pregnancy options counseling, adoption education and emotional support, abortion information (procedures and risks), parenting training and fatherhood support, grief counseling (for those who have experienced abortion) and much more.

Visit the website at: [www.citruspregnancy.org](http://www.citruspregnancy.org).

**Pipeline attack should not affect Citrus gas prices, supply**

**MICHAEL D. BATES**  
*Staff writer*

Despite last weeks' cyberattack on the country's largest pipeline, Citrus County should remain well-supplied with gas.

But that could change if the Colonial Pipeline isn't repaired soon and back in operation.

Citrus County and Florida is not largely dependent on the pipeline because fuel is delivered from Gulf Coast refineries via waterborne vessels.

"The longer the pipeline is down, the greater the threat of rising gas prices," said AAA-The Auto Club spokesman Mark Jenkins.

If operations early this week, drivers may see very little to no impact at the pump.

"A lengthy downtime, like a week, would be a different story," Jenkins said.

Colonial Pipeline Co. is reportedly developing a restart plan and will bring the full system back online when they believe it is safe to do so. There is currently no clear timeline on when that full restart will occur.

Meanwhile, Florida gas prices increased 10 cents last week due to crude oil and gasoline futures price gains. The state average is now \$2.88 per gallon, or 3 cents less than the highest price so far this year, according to AAA.

Many Citrus County stations are selling regular unleaded up to a dime cheaper than the state average, according



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

**Gas prices are not expected to rise as a result of an international ransomware plot that is disrupting oil delivery along the east coast of the United States.**

to GasBuddy.

GasBuddy spokesman Patrick De Haan said the situation "is growing more intense each day that passes without the pipeline restarting, and

motorists are advised to show extreme restraint or exacerbate and prolong the challenges."

The pipeline, operated by Georgia-based Colonial Pipeline,

carries gasoline and other fuel from Texas to the Northeast. It delivers roughly 45% of fuel consumed on the East Coast, according to the company.

**Sheriff's office to unveil memorial**  
*Fallen Law Enforcement Memorial event set today*

**FRED HIERS**  
*Staff writer*

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office is inviting the public to attend the unveiling of its Fallen Law Enforcement Memorial.

The local agency commissioned the memorial to commemorate the three Citrus County law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

"This memorial is a vision of our office to a ways represent and remember our fallen colleagues, whose lives were sadly lost in the line of duty," Sheriff Mike Prendergast said.



**Mike Prendergast**  
 sheriff of Citrus County.

The unveiling will be 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 11, at 1 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Inverness.

There have been three law enforcement officers in Citrus County who have died while on duty.

The three are:  
 ■ Deputy Sheriff James McIntosh McMullen. McMullen died Dec. 26, 1899, when he was ambushed and killed outside his home by a local fugitive. He had a wife and three children.

■ Floral City Marshal J.W. Newsome. Newsome was ambushed and shot in a local saloon March 3, 1908, while attempting to apprehend a murder suspect. He had a wife and three children.

■ Master Detective Aubrey Fred Johnson. Johnson died on Feb. 11, 1997, when his patrol vehicle was struck by another car. He was 61 years old. He was a 16-year veteran with the Citrus County Sheriff's Office.

"As sobering as the reason behind this memorial is, we will make it our duty to give this fitting tribute of dedicated, selfless service to our local heroes," Prendergast said.

Planning for the memorial began two years ago.

**IF YOU GO**

- **WHAT:** Unveiling of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office's Fallen Law Enforcement Memorial.
- **WHEN:** 9 a.m. today, Tuesday, May 11.
- **WHERE:** CCSO facility at 1 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Inverness.
- **ON THE NET:** [www.sheriffcitrus.org](http://www.sheriffcitrus.org).

**Arrest made in vehicle burglaries at parks**

**FRED HIERS**  
*Staff writer*

A Crystal River man is facing multiple vehicle burglary and petit theft charges in connection to a rash of car break-ins at local trail parking lots. The Citrus County Sheriff's Office also charged a related woman with fraudulent use of a stolen credit card.

According to the couple's arrest reports, the arrest investigation of Bryce Levi Coviello, 32, and Christina Caridao Piedra, 38, began on May 1 and May 3 when deputies were investigating a string of vehicle burglaries at the west Withlacoochee State Trail, Dunnellon, and Crystal Cove trail head in Crystal River.

As part of that broader break-in investigation, sheriff's deputies on May 3 met with one victim.

The victim told deputies that she parked her Kia sedan at 1239 W. Withlacoochee Trail at 2:49 p.m. and locked the car and then walked a portion of the trail, according to the couple's arrest reports.

The victim told deputies that she returned about 3:20 p.m. and found the passenger window broken and several items stolen from the car, including a Vera Bradley purse, Capital One credit card, \$5 in cash and sunglasses, according to reports.

During the interview with deputies, the victim saw

unauthorized transactions on her credit card at a Circle K gas station.

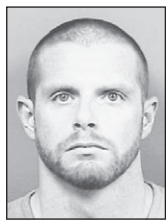
On May 4, one of the investigating deputies obtained security video from the service station, which shows a Hispanic woman and white male come into the store, purchase two cartons of cigarettes and a Slim Jim.

According to records, Piedra was recorded on May 3 entering the credit card into the payment machine and Coviello signing for the items.

Arresting deputies contacted the couple on North Pennsylvania Avenue in Crystal River. According to the reports, deputies arrested Coviello on an unrelated charge of a sexual offender failing to report an address change within 48 hours of moving.

Piedro told deputies that she was with Coviello when he used a spark plug to break into the victim's car, but that she remained in their car when he broke the other car's window, according to reports.

She admitted to using the stolen credit card to buy \$161.07 in cigarettes and a Slim Jim, according to arrest documents.



**Bryce Coviello**



**Christina Piedra**

Deputies arrested Piedra and charged her with fraudulent use

of a credit card. Her bond was \$2,000. Deputies also charged Coviello with criminal mischief, fraudulent use of a credit card, petit theft and burglary of a conveyance.

But there were more charges to come against Coviello.

About this time deputies were also investigating another May 3 car break in.

The victim told those deputies that she also parked her 2020 Subaru at the trail parking area at 2:49 p.m. and returned about 3:20 p.m., according to reports.

She reported that when she returned the passenger window was broken and the contents of the car thrown about, but nothing was stolen.

Piedra told deputies that she was the lookout when Coviello also broke into that car.

Deputies again charged Coviello with burglary of a conveyance and criminal mischief.

Charges kept piling up against Coviello, though.

That's because on May 1 another deputy interviewed a victim at Crystal Cove trail head where the victim said he and his daughter parked his 2005 Nissan Xterra at about 1 p.m., according to records.

About 2:45 p.m. when they

**Asked how he selected which vehicle to break into, Bryce Coviello replied he randomly drove around at parks.**

returned from their hike, they saw the rear passenger window broken and the daughter's backpack missing. The victims told the investigating deputy that in addition to the backpack, also missing were cloths, electronics, sports shoes, a purse and identification cards.

During the interview another victim approached the deputy to report his 2015 Chrysler Town and Country van had been broken into and a purse stolen.

During a separate interview deputies reported that Piedra told investigators that she drove Coviello to that park's trailhead and he got out of her car. When he returned, he had a computer tablet, according to records.

For that alleged break in, Coviello was charged with petit theft, criminal mischief, and burglary of a conveyance.

The deputies reported interviewing Coviello and asked how he selected which vehicle to break into and he replied that he randomly drove around at parks. His total bond was \$30,000.



# SITE

Continued from Page A1

Officials are providing the Pfizer vaccine. Hess said the mobile vaccine bus will return 21 days later to administer the second shot.

About 34% of Citrus County residents have been fully vaccinated, according to the Florida Department of Health.

Vaccinations are available at Publix, Walmart, Walgreens and Winn-Dixie by appointment.

The health department also operates a walk-up vaccination site at the Duke Energy training complex, 8200 W. Venable



**A nurse fills a syringe Thursday morning, March 4, at a temporary drive-thru vaccination clinic in Crystal River.**

St., Crystal River. To see a list of Citrus County vaccination sites, go to [www.floridahealth19.gov/vaccines/vaccine-locator](http://www.floridahealth19.gov/vaccines/vaccine-locator). Contact *Chronicle* reporter *Mike Wright* at 352-563-3228 or [mwright@chronicleonline.com](mailto:mwright@chronicleonline.com). To view more of his stories, go to [www.tinyurl.com/y3bakm6w](http://www.tinyurl.com/y3bakm6w).

# VIRUS

Continued from Page A1

COVID-19 data from the FDOH is subject to change as epidemiological investigations reveal new information on cases.

A Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) report from Monday stated Citrus County had 16 people in hospitals with a primary diagnosis of COVID-19.

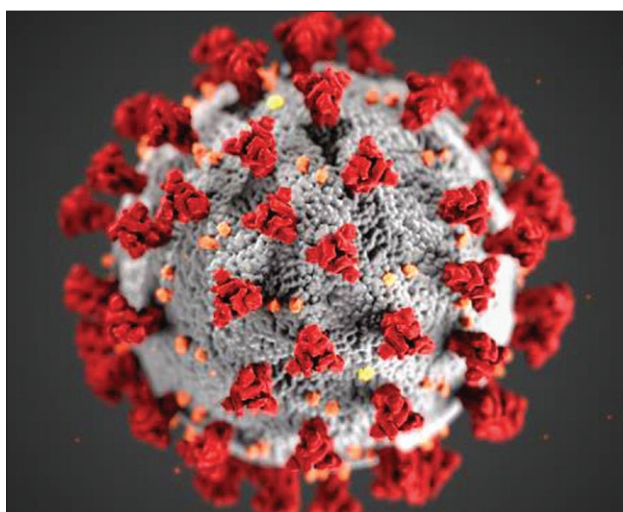
There were also 38% of hospital beds available Monday in the county, according to the AHCA, and 43% of local adult intensive care units were open.

Since starting school Aug. 20 for the 2020-21 school year, the school district recorded 769 COVID-19 cases — 218 staff, 551 students — as of Monday, an increase of 25 since April 26.

According to the FDOH on Monday, 222 COVID-19 cases have been reported for inmates housed at correctional centers in the county, and for staff who live locally, but could also work at an outside facility. It's an increase of two cases since May 3.

Here are the number of COVID-19 cases reported May 10, ranked by Citrus County's 15 ZIP codes:

34452 (Inverness, Floral City, Inverness Highlands



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

North and Inverness Highlands South): 1,255, an increase of 27 since April 26; 34461 (Black Diamond, Citrus Hills, Homosassa Springs, Lecanto, Pine Ridge and Sugarmill Woods): 1,194, up 31; 34465 (Beverly Hills, Black Diamond, Citrus Springs, Lecanto and Pine Ridge): 1,161, up 29; 34446 (Homosassa, Homosassa Springs, Lecanto and Sugarmill Woods): 1,129, up 45; 34442 (Citrus Hills, Citrus Springs, Hernando, Lecanto and Pine Ridge): 1,008, up 14; 34429 (Crystal River, Ozello, Homosassa Springs, Lecanto and Black Diamond): 916, up 17; 34453 (Inverness, Citrus Hills, Hernando, Inverness Highlands North and

Lecanto): 791, up 24; 34428 (Crystal River, Red Level and Inglis): 709, up 23; 34434 (Dunnellon, Citrus Springs, Hernando and Pine Ridge): 696, up 15; 34448 (Homosassa, Homosassa Springs, Sugarmill Woods, Lecanto and Crystal River): 616, up 29; 34450 (Inverness and Inverness Highlands South): 583, up 11; 34433 (Dunnellon, Citrus Springs and Pine Ridge): 425, up 11; 34436 (Floral City): 415, up 10; 34445 (Holder, Citrus Springs, Hernando and Pine Ridge): 13, up one; and, 34449 (Inglis and Yankeetown): seven, no change.

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# Fall Proof Your Life? Yes, Please!

We spend most of our lives bumping into things or tripping over toys and pets, sometimes we even trip over imaginary objects. Hardly ever does it result in a fall, instead we Weeble-Wobble and move on; that's called balance. As we age, balance seems to diminish. Does it, or do we stop doing the things necessary to maintain or improve balance?

A friend of mine told me that this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> time he had fallen this week. I was amazed that he said it so nonchalantly. He saw my amazement and went on to tell me about the hundreds of "Jumps" (parachute type) he made in his life. Essentially, he did not fear falling because he knew how to fall safely.

Simply put, not thinking about falls is a major contributor to falling. Some reasons I've heard are: "I should have put my glasses on," "My medication made me drowsy," "I was carrying..." "I was in a hurry and just missed the step," and "I think I stepped in a hole." None of these reasons or lapses in judgment is worth a change in lifestyle. If the label on a medication container reads, "Do not operate machinery" or this "Medication can cause dizziness" it should be interpreted as "Caution: May contribute to falls!"

Life's journey can have many paths; not all are enjoyable and some cannot be prevented. A fall resulting in a lasting injury is one of those journeys that can have devastating effects on a person and their family. Many times, the family is also greatly impacted by a devastating fall. As we age the injuries from falls can be more severe and many times the recovery is less than complete. There is a lot of information available on how to "Fall Proof Your Home." This generally includes information on clearing anticipated fall zones, like the garage entrance to the house and removing potential trip items, like frayed rugs. Most of this guidance meant to minimize injury should a fall occur. I believe "Fall Proofing" is a great idea and should be considered for every home.

What about the fall that does not go according to your "Fall Proof" plan or occurs when you're not in your home? To avoid these falls wouldn't it require you to "Fall Proof Your Life?" The simple answer is..... Yes! How is that possible? The human body is like everything else:

When it is new, it can take abuse as it ages, it needs TLC. Do what is necessary to improve your balance and you have a "Fall Proof Your Life Plan." Reducing the likelihood of a fall is the best plan. It makes you safer and it does not require the monumental task of redecorating to fall proof every place you go. Businesses, friends, and family may get irritated when you move their furniture or remove rugs.

**Eat Right** – Your body cannot not operate on bad fuel or no fuel. Make sure you are getting adequate nourishment. Quantity of food does not equal nourishment; type of food matters most.

**Exercise** – Use it or lose it. Exercise to prevent falls. To improve balance, we only need to walk. Walking on a flat surface, on an uneven surface (grass), and walking a straight line are examples of simple balance exercises.

**Remain Alert** – Falls, like automobile accidents, often disrupt you from getting to your destination. If you are ill, emotionally distracted or just do not feel right, exercise caution when moving about.

Age or the first fall should not be the trigger for starting a "Fall Plan." Anyone taking medications that impact balance, or with illnesses such as UTI (Urinary Tract Infection), ear infections, blood pressure or sugar issues should be concerned about falls. Remember the 70's toy: "Weeble Wobbles" and the saying "Weebles Wobble but They Don't Fall Down;" Be A Weeble! If a fall plan is too much trouble the other choice is to learn how to fall. However, for most, learning to fall by jumping out of an airplane 100 times is not an option!!

Gailen Spinka has been working with our senior population since purchasing a Comfort Keepers Franchise in 2004. Most opinions are garnered from interactions with clients and their families. Should you like more discussion on the topic please call Gailen at Comfort Keepers 352-726-4547

For in-depth information about **Comfort Keepers**, visit their website at [seniorservicescitruscounty.com](http://seniorservicescitruscounty.com) or stop by the local office at 2244 Highway 44 West in Inverness, Florida **352-726-4547**

\*Comfort Keepers is licensed by the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (ACHA) as a Home Health Agency.

# Tortoise movers sue for \$500k

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Two men who relocate gopher tortoises are suing Florida's wildlife commission, saying they should be awarded at least \$500,000 in damages because the agency violated due process by prematurely revoking their company's license for less than three weeks.

The lawsuit names the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and one of its employees, Claire Sunquist Blunden. It was filed in Leon County Circuit Court by Kaiser Consulting Group LLC, Drew Kaiser and John Wilson, The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported.

Gopher tortoises are listed as threatened and must be relocated prior to land development. The state accused Kaiser and Wilson of failing to report dead tortoises, overstocking pens for the tortoises and not maintaining a pen that was in disrepair.

According to the lawsuit, the agency warned Kaiser on March 19 that the licenses would be revoked if they didn't request a hearing. That same day, the agency posted on its website that the pair's licenses had been revoked. The agency then reinstated them on April 7, describing the abrupt revocation as a "procedural error."

"It was a fundamental constitutional violation of their rights," said Kenneth G. Oertel, their Tallahassee attorney. He said the agency put his clients out of business without a



CAM BONELLI/Hattiesburg American via AP

**Jim Lee, biologist with the Nature Conservancy, holds a 6-year-old gopher tortoise at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Miss., in this Sept. 9, 2020, file photo. A lawsuit filed against Florida's wildlife commission claims the agency wrongfully revoked a company's permit to relocate gopher tortoises. It claims the agency failed to follow due process when it revoked licenses allowing Drew Kaiser and John Wilson to relocate tortoises, which are listed as threatened and must be relocated prior to land development.**

hearing or a chance to question or challenge the action.

"They just took it without any notice, without any process, without anything," Oertel told the newspaper. "They just wrote them a letter saying 'your license is terminated'. Well, Florida law doesn't allow an agency to do that. You've got to give what's called due process."

The wildlife agency's spokeswoman Carli Segelson, told the newspaper she couldn't comment.

"This is an ongoing investigation and we will release additional details when available," Segelson said in an email.

Oertel said the agency described finding fragments of tortoise shells on large ranches, and said his clients didn't know about those remnants.

"The rule says you have to report tortoises that you actually discover," Oertel said. "You can't report what you don't know."

# Illinois researchers working to save box turtles

Associated Press

FRANKLIN GROVE, Ill. — A team of Illinois researchers is using dogs to track down a threatened species of turtle.

Researchers believe ornate box turtles, once living in half of Illinois' 102 counties, are found in less than 10.

One known home for the species is in Lee County, and a team from the Chicago Zoological Society and the University of Illinois spent Friday surveying the 3,800-acre Nachusa Grasslands.

A team paced through the grasses trying to spot the small turtles, aided by



BRIAN CASSELLA/Chicago Tribune via AP

**Dog handler John Rucker collects an ornate box turtle that one of his Boykin spaniels located and brought to him Thursday, May 6, 2021, at the Nachusa Grasslands, near Franklin Grove in Lee County, Ill.**

a group of Boykin spaniels that can sniff out the turtles' trail. When a human or a dog located a

turtle, researchers made notes about the reptile's eyes, ears, nose and took physical measurements

along with a blood sample.

Ornate box turtles' shells have distinct yellow markings in a sunburst pattern. They typically weigh about a pound and are 3 or 4 inches in length, said Dr. Matt Allender, the Chicago Zoological Society clinical veterinarian and director of the University of Illinois Wildlife Epidemiology Laboratory.

The health study is in its 15th year.

## To Place Your "In Memory" ad,

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## Obituaries



### Wayne Geary, 78

CRYSTAL RIVER

A Celebration of Life for Wayne Geary, 78, of Crystal River, U.S. Navy and U.S. Army veteran, will commence at 3:00 P.M. on Sat., May 15, 2021 at the Homosassa Lions Club, 3705 S. Indiana Terrace, Homosassa, FL 34446.

Military Honors will be rendered promptly at 3:30 P.M., so all guests are kindly asked to arrive at 3:00 P.M. Wilder Funeral Home, Homosassa.

### Judith McDonald, 69

HOMOSASSA

The Service of Remembrance for Mrs. Judith K. McDonald, age 69 years, of Homosassa, will be held 11:00 AM Thursday, May 13, 2021 at Faith Baptist Church, Homosassa.

Interment will follow at Fountains Memorial Park, Homosassa. Friends may call from 10:00 am until the time of service Thursday at the Church. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.HooperFuneralHome.com](http://www.HooperFuneralHome.com).

Mrs. McDonald was born December 17, 1951 in Beaver, West Virginia and came to Homosassa in 2004 from there. She passed away Saturday, May 8, 2021 in Homosassa. Mrs. McDonald attended Faith Baptist Church and liked to stay busy reading and cooking. She was caring, loving, kind and compassionate.

She was preceded in death by her parents Jerry and Delores Gossett, a son, Ricky and 3 brothers, Richard, Leon, and Larry. Surviving are her husband, Jeff McDonald; a daughter, Melanie (Zach) Cox; a brother: Timmy; 4 sisters, Rosa, Teresa, Diane and Barb; and 2 cats: Tiggy and Squeaky.

Arrangements under the direction of the Homosassa Chapel of Hooper Funeral Homes.



Judith McDonald

### OBITUARIES

- Obituaries must be verified with the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements.
- A flag will be included for free for those who served in the U.S. military. (Please note the branch of service when submitting an obituary.)
- Obituary deadlines for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday editions is 3 p.m. the day before. Deadlines for Saturday, Sunday and Monday editions is 3 p.m. Friday.
- The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.
- Email [obits@chronicleonline.com](mailto:obits@chronicleonline.com) or call 352-563-5660 for more information.

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Hills of Rest Cemetery

GERALD SCHLOSS  
Service: Tues., 12:30 PM

PATRICK O'BLOCK  
Fri., 11 AM, Graveside Service: Hills of Rest

ROLAND ARAGUNDE  
Sat., 11 AM, Inverness Church of God

ANTHONY WILLIAMS  
Private Arrangements

MELISSA COLLAZO - Private Arrangements

JAMES C. WILSON - Private Arrangements

GARY MEYER - Private Arrangements

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# STAR'S

## STUDENT ATHLETIC RECOGNITIONS

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## Around the STATE

### Florida clears officials in Epstein case

FORT LAUDERDALE — Florida detectives have cleared Palm Beach County prosecutors and sheriff's officials of criminal wrongdoing in connection with their handling of wealthy and prominent sex offender Jeffrey Epstein more than a decade ago, reports released Monday show.

The Florida Department of

Law Enforcement said in its reports that it found no evidence that Epstein received any special treatment due to bribery or influence by any member of the Palm Beach County sheriff's or state attorney offices between 2005, when the investigation launched, and 2009, when he was released from jail.

Both the state attorney's office and sheriff had been criticized by Epstein's victims and their advocates for

the plea and sentencing deal he received and for his participation in a work-release program that allowed him to travel to his office most days for up to 16 hours, where he possibly engaged in the sexual abuse of underage girls.

Gov. Ron DeSantis had ordered the investigation in August 2019, just days before Epstein killed himself at a federal jail in New York City.

— From wire reports

## For the RECORD

### Citrus County Sheriff's Office

#### Arrests

■ **Brenton Bowdrie Vinson**, 30, Dade City arrested May 7 for violation of probation. No bond.

■ **Skye E. Smith**, 20, Crystal River, arrested May 7 for retail petit theft.

■ **Christopher Michael Hampton**, 48, Crystal River, arrested May 7 for felony battery (commit battery with one prior conviction for battery). No bond.

■ **Luann Marie Tamburro**, 44, Crystal River, arrested May 7 for possession cannabis (less than 20 grams) and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$2,000.

■ **Tyler James Tyree**, 29, Crystal River, arrested May 7 for drug paraphernalia. Bond \$1,000.

■ **Andre Wayne Williams**, 37, Belleview, arrested May 7 for drug paraphernalia. Bond \$1,000.

■ **Gretchen Natalie Wynkoop**, 40, Crystal River, arrested May 7 for violation of probation. No bond.

■ **Kristine Lynn Hess**, 37, Inglis, arrested May 7 for violation of probation.

■ **Troy Glenn Draughn**, 54, Floral City, arrested May 7 for violation of injunction by refusing to vacate dwelling parties share. No bond.

■ **Jonathan Edward Siner**, 43, Homosassa, arrested May 7 for violation of probation. No bond.

■ **Amy Lou McGlocklin**, 40, Crystal River, arrested May 7 for auto theft. Bond \$5,000.

■ **Brett Bear Bigel**, 23, Hernando, arrested May 7 for violate injunction for protection

against domestic violence — within 500 feet of designated area. No bond.

■ **Barbara Ann Kuniski**, 53, Floral City, arrested May 7 for drug paraphernalia. Bond \$1,000.

■ **Justin Yandle Webb**, 37, Floral City, arrested May 7 for possession of controlled substance. Bond \$2,000.

■ **Dante Anton Alexander**, 33, Inverness, arrested May 7 for trespass other property after warning. Bond \$1,000.

■ **Stephen Robert Poling**, 21, Crystal River, arrested May 6 for possession of controlled substance. Bond \$2,000.

■ **Gretchen Natalie Wynkoop**, 40, Crystal River, arrested May 6 for resist officer without violence. Bond \$1,000.

■ **Harmon Constantine Stevenson**, 42, Floral City, arrested May 6 for resist officer without violence and cause cruel death, pain and suffering. Bond \$3,000.

■ **Jessica Keely Voss**, 29, Floral City, arrested May 6 for possession of a controlled substance. Bond \$2,000.

■ **Derek Taylor Stevens**, 30, Inverness, arrested May 6 for failure to appear. No bond.

■ **James Harold Smith**, 36, Dunnellon, arrested May 6 for failure to appear. Bond \$2,000.

■ **Robert Michael Owskiak**, 42, Hernando, arrested May 6 for domestic battery. No bond.

■ **William Carl Butler**, 50, Hernando, arrested May 6 for driving while license or revoked (habitual traffic offender), resist officer without violence and fail to stop or fleeing LEO after ordered to stop. Bond \$7,000.

■ **Brian Wayne Livingston**, 54, Hernando, arrested May 6 for failure to

appear. No bond.

■ **Christina Caridao Piedra**, 38, Crystal Rivera, arrested May 6 for petit theft (\$100 or more but less than \$750) and burglary of unoccupied conveyance.

■ **Brooke Ann Campbell**, 37, Brooksville, arrested May 6 for two counts of failure to appear. Bond \$1,026.

#### Burglaries, thefts and vandalisms

Here are the reported burglaries, thefts and vandalisms (criminal mischiefs) released Monday, May 10, by the Citrus County Sheriff's Office:

Vehicle burglary, 11:06 p.m. May 9, undisclosed address, Floral City.

■ Theft, 10:44 a.m. May 9, 3100 block of South Country Club Drive, Inverness.

■ Residential burglary, 10:24 a.m. May 9, undisclosed address, Dunnellon.

■ Residential burglary, 10:23 a.m. May 9, undisclosed address, Beverly Hills.

■ Vehicle burglary, 9:20 a.m. May 9, undisclosed address, Homosassa.

■ Theft, 12:58 p.m. May 8, 2300 block of South Hull Terrace, Homosassa.

■ Auto theft, 11:54 a.m. May 8, undisclosed address, Crystal River.

■ Theft, 9:48 a.m. May 8, undisclosed address, Hernando.

■ Theft, 1:42 p.m. May 7, 3200 block of South Anatole Way, Homosassa.

■ Retail theft, 12:28 p.m. May 7, 2400 block of East Gulf-To-Lake Highway, Inverness.

■ Theft, 12:04 p.m. May 7, 7800 block of North Carl-G-Rose Highway, Hernando.



## Tobacco Free Partnership Citrus County

The Tobacco Free Partnership is made up of individuals and organizations working towards reducing the burden of tobacco use and shaping tobacco free norms in Citrus County.

### Join Our Virtual Meeting:

Tuesday, May 11th, 2021

3:30PM - 4:30PM

### EMAIL FOR MEETING LINK:

[TobaccoFreePartnershipCitrus@gmail.com](mailto:TobaccoFreePartnershipCitrus@gmail.com)

CC-001046H



## How to Choose a Hospice Provider

Choosing a hospice provider is one of the most important decisions you will make for yourself, a loved one, and your family. By law, every hospice program must offer the same basic services. How can you be sure you're choosing the best program?

Keep these factors in mind to ensure you receive the professional, compassionate end-of-life care you and your family deserve.

**Evaluate the provider's reputation.** How long has the provider been in business? Does it hire its own employees or contract with other agencies? What do other patients/families say about this provider?

**Check the provider's certification, licensing, and payment policies.** Is it Medicare-certified, licensed, and accredited in your state? Is it certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a We Honor Veterans program? Does it accept Medicare, Medicaid, VA benefits, and most private plans? Provide charity care?

**Obtain details about depth of care.** Does the program provide individualized care? Does each team include: nurse, physician, aide, social worker, chaplain, bereavement specialist, and volunteer? How frequently do team members visit? Do they educate caregivers?

**Ensure it provides all four levels of hospice care:** Routine home care (wherever you call home); continuous care up to 24 hours per day (per Medicare guidelines); inpatient hospice care (when symptoms can no longer be managed at home); and respite care (up to 5 days) for caregivers.

**Ask about timing and emergencies.** How quickly can hospice care start? Are patients admitted 24/7? Does the program provide a 24-hour hotline to answer questions and respond to crises?

**Assess the provider's expertise.** Can it care for patients who require complex modalities or have more than one chronic disease? Does care honor the cultures, traditions, beliefs and needs of specific populations (e.g. veterans, LGBTQ, Black, Latino, Haitian, Asian, Jewish, etc.)?

**Explore supportive services.** Does the program help with advance care planning and provide integrated services (e.g., music therapy, massage therapy, pet visits, etc.)?

**Pay attention to impressions.** Were the representatives empathetic? Good communicators? Did they answer all your questions?

Learning about end-of-life care options can transform a difficult time into a "good death." Ask the right questions to make sure you choose the best hospice provider for your family so that your experiences and memories will be positive and heart-warming for years to come.

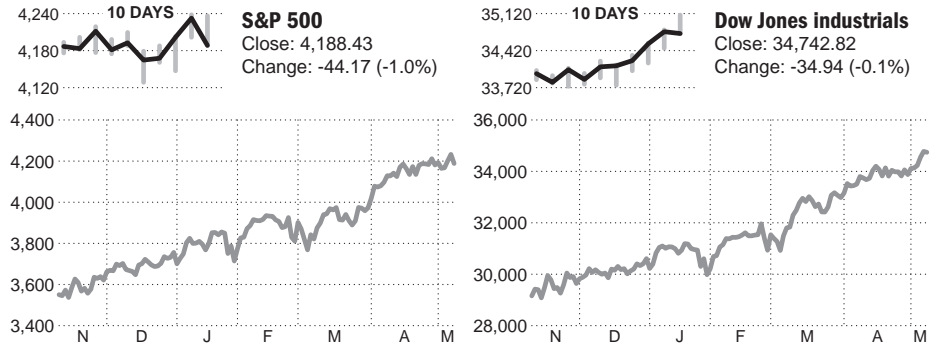
For more information about end-of-life care options, call VITAS Healthcare at 866.759.6695 or visit [VITAS.com](http://VITAS.com).

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StocksRecap

Table with columns for NYSE, NASD, DOW, DOW Trans., DOW Util., NYSE Comp., NASDAQ, S&P 500, S&P 400, Wilshire 5000, Russell 2000, HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, YTD.

Stocks of Local Interest

Table with columns for NAME, TICKER, 52-WK RANGE, CLOSURE, YTD 1YR, P/E, DIV. Lists various local companies like AT&T Inc, Ametek Inc, Anheuser-Busch InBev, etc.

Dividend Footnotes: a - Extra dividends were paid, but are not included. b - Annual rate plus stock. c - Liquidating dividend. d - Amount declared or paid in last 12 months. f - Current annual rate, which was increased by most recent dividend announcement. i - Sum of dividends paid after stock split. j - Sum of dividends paid this year. Most recent dividend was omitted or deferred. k - Declared or paid this year, a cumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m - Current annual rate, which was decreased by most recent dividend announcement. p - Initial dividend, annual rate not known, yield not shown. r - Declared or paid in preceding 12 months plus stock dividend. t - Paid in stock, approximate cash value on ex-dividend date. PE Footnotes: q - Stock is a closed-end fund - no P/E ratio shown. cc - P/E exceeds 99. dd - Loss in last 12 months.

Interestrates



The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 1.60% Monday. Yields affect rates on mortgages and other consumer loans.

Table with columns: TREASURIES, LAST, PVS, NET CHG, 1YR AGO. Lists 3-month T-bill, 6-month T-bill, 52-wk T-bill, 2-year T-note, 5-year T-note, 7-year T-note, 10-year T-note, 30-year T-bond.

Table with columns: CONSUMER RATES, NAT'L AVG, WK, 6MO AGO, 1YR AGO. Lists 48 month new car loan, Money market account, 1 year CD, \$30K Home equity loan, 30 year fixed mortgage, 15 year fixed mortgage.

Table with columns: PRIME RATE, FED FUNDS, LAST, 6 MO AGO, 1 YR AGO. Shows Prime Rate at 3.25 and Fed Funds at .13.

Commodities

Energy prices were mostly unchanged, with U.S. crude oil flat and wholesale gasoline up 0.3%. Gold and silver prices were also little changed.

Table with columns: FUELS, METALS, AGRICULTURE, CLOSE, PVS, %CHG, %YTD. Lists Crude Oil (bbl), Ethanol (gal), Heating Oil (gal), Natural Gas (mm btu), Unleaded Gas (gal), Gold (oz), Silver (oz), Platinum (oz), Copper (lb), Palladium (oz), Cattle (lb), Coffee (lb), Corn (bu), Cotton (lb), Lumber (1,000 bd ft), Orange Juice (lb), Soybeans (bu), Wheat (bu).

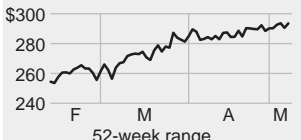
MutualFunds

Table with columns: FAMILY, FUND, NAV, CHG, YTD, TOTAL RETURN 1YR, 3YR\*, 5YR\*. Lists American Funds (AmrcnBalA m, CptWldGrInca m, CptIncBlDrA m, FdmTlnvnsA m, GrfAmrcA m, IncAmrcA m, InvCAmrcA m, NwPrspctvA m, WAMtlnvnsA m), Dodge & Cox (Inc, Stk), Fidelity (500IldxnsPrm, Contrafund, TtlMktIldxnsPrm, USBDIldxnsPrm), Schwab (SP500Ildx), T. Rowe Price (BCGr), Vanguard (500IldxAdmrl, DivGrInr, GrIdxAdmrl, InTrTEAdmrl, IntlGrAdmrl, MdCpIldxAdmrl, PrrmCpAdmrl, STInvmGrdAdmrl, SmCpIldxAdmrl, TrgtRtr2025Inv, TtBMldxAdmrl, TtInBlDxAdmrl, TtInSlDxAdmrl, TtInSlDxInrv, TtInMldxAdmrl, TtInMldxInrv, WlngtnAdmrl, WislyncAdmrl).

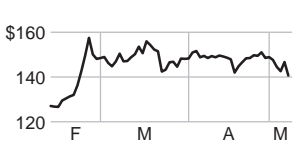
StoryStocks

A sell-off in technology companies dragged stocks lower on Wall Street Monday, pulling the major indexes back from their recent all-time highs. The S&P 500 fell 1% after wobbling between small gains and losses the first half of the day.

Air Products and Chem. APD Close: \$293.53 ▲2.98 or 1.0% The supplier of industrial gases reported weak fiscal second-quarter profit.



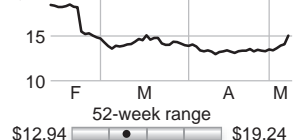
Marriott Int'l MAR Close: \$140.66 ▼-6.03 or -4.1% The hotel chain reported weak first-quarter earnings and revenue.



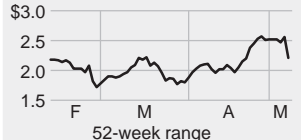
Jacobs Engineering J Close: \$142.36 ▲2.41 or 1.7% The construction and technical services company beat Wall Street's fiscal second-quarter profit and revenue forecasts.



Viatrix VTRS Close: \$15.04 ▲0.96 or 6.8% The generic drugmaker reported surprisingly good first-quarter financial results and announced a quarterly dividend.



Clear Channel Outdoor CCO Close: \$2.21 ▼-0.35 or -13.7% The outdoor advertising company's first-quarter revenue fell short of Wall Street forecasts.



Company Spotlight Revlon misses marks

Shares of Revlon had their biggest dip in more than two months as a pandemic-related drop in in-person meetings and social engagements continued to hammer demand for its cosmetics in the first quarter.



short of sales targets as well, though some segments showed signs of life. "Our businesses in the prestige channel, including Elizabeth Arden and Fragrances, experienced double-digit net sales growth in the first quarter, recovering more quickly than our businesses in the mass channel related to color cosmetics," said CEO Debra Perelman.

Table with columns: Revlon (REV), Monday's close: \$10.18, -0.99, Total return, 1-yr, 3-yr, 5-yr, Market value: \$544.5 million.

Tech slump drags market lower

Associated Press

A sell-off in technology companies dragged stocks lower on Wall Street Monday, pulling the major indexes back from their recent all-time highs.

The S&P 500 fell 1% after wobbling between small gains and losses the first half of the day. The decline broke a three-day winning streak for the benchmark index, which set a record high on Friday.

Big Tech companies, including Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Google's parent company, accounted for most of the index's decline. Communication stocks and companies that rely on consumer spending also helped pull the market lower, outweighing gains in household goods makers, utilities and other sectors.

The wave of selling handed the Nasdaq its worst day in more than seven weeks, as the index is heavily weighted with big technology stocks. The tech sector, which led the market's stunning comeback in 2020, now lags the other 10 sectors in the S&P 500 so far this year with a gain of 3.9%.

"You've had a tremendous run and there's a lot of tech-focused stuff that's up 70% to 100% in the last 12 months," said Andrew

Mies, chief investment officer at investment advisory firm 6 Meridien. "The fact that some people are taking chips off the table is not surprising."

The S&P 500 index, which notched a weekly gain in eight of the last 10 weeks, fell 44.17 points to 4,188.43. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 34.94 points, or 0.1%, to 34,742.82. The blue chip index, which hit an all-time high on Friday for the third straight day, had traded higher for much of Monday, but dipped into the red in the last half-hour of trading.

The Nasdaq lost 350.38 points, or 2.5%, to 13,401.86. The index is up just under 4% so far this year, lagging well behind the S&P 500's 11.5% gain. Small company stocks also had a rough day. The Russell 2000 index fell 58.93 points, or 2.6%, to 2,212.70.

Wall Street has been mostly rising in recent weeks amid expectations of an economic recovery and strong profits this year. Massive support from the U.S. government and the Federal Reserve, and increasingly positive economic data, have also encouraged investors to push stock prices to all-time highs, despite an

undercurrent of worry about inflation and the potential for higher interest rates later this year.

The government's latest U.S. jobs report Friday showed employers added just 266,000 jobs in April, far fewer than the 975,000 economists were expecting. It was a steep drop from March's hiring pace of 770,000. The weak jobs number suggests the economy is still in recovery mode and bolsters the case for the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates low.

But keeping interest rates low means the potential for more inflation down the road. Commodity prices spiked in early trading before settling down. Copper rose 5% in the early going before reversing to a loss of 0.7%. Platinum, which has several industrial uses, rose 0.1%. Investors will get some key inflation data this week, especially on Wednesday when April's consumer price index is released.

Inflation has been a concern for investors since bond yields spiked earlier this year, but yields have mostly stabilized since then. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.61% from 1.57% late Friday.

Large advertisement for Nurses Appreciation event at Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club. Includes text: 'Nurses Appreciation', 'Join Us To Celebrate May 19, 2021', 'Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club Casino Fun 5:30 - 6:30 Win Gift Baskets Dinner & Awards 6:30 - 8:30 Tickets \$35 each Limited Seating https://nurse2021.eventbrite.com'. Features images of nurses and logos for Diamond Ridge Health & Rehabilitation Center, West Florida Medical Associates, Gardner Audiology, Davis Family Hearing, Gastroenterology Associates, HPH Hospice, Canterfield Luxury Assisted Living, Bayfront Health Medical Group, VITAS Healthcare, Mederi Caretenders, The Grove Health and Rehab, Citrus Health and Rehab, and Citrus County Chronicle.



► “Apologies aren’t meant to change the past, they are meant to change the future.”

Kevin Hancock, chairman and CEO, Hancock Lumber Co.

## CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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

### SAYING ‘SORRY’

# Commissioner gets the facts wrong

County commissioner took a cheap shot at a respected businessperson during a public meeting a few weeks back. Now he has been called out for his statements.

Commissioner Ron Kitchen owes the businessperson — Joe Cappuccilli — a public apology.

The late Stan Olsen was a visionary who helped reshape the landscape of Citrus County. He developed places like Black Diamond, Meadowcrest and Rock Crusher Canyon.

Along the way, he hired Joe Cappuccilli to help manage his landholdings throughout the community. Olsen, who died in 2020, eventually had Cappuccilli begin to put the undeveloped and underutilized holdings up for sale.

One of the properties put up for sale was a large office building in Meadowcrest that today serves as the west-side government center.

Former county commissioner Dennis Damato was a big advocate of the Meadowcrest government center purchase. Kitchen was an adversary of Damato’s and was predictably opposed to buying the large office building.

Fast-forward to today and Kitchen went off on Cappuccilli at a public meeting where another commissioner — Holly Davis — had on agenda an item to discuss the possible county purchase of Rock Crusher Canyon.

Kitchen referred to Rock Crusher as “Meadowcrest 2.0” and inferred that Cappuccilli offered it to the county because he could not sell it to anyone else.

That is not what happened. There are buyers interested in purchasing Rock Crusher and Commissioner Davis brought up the idea of county involvement because she

wanted a discussion about saving the entertainment center. Over the years, famous performers such as Willie Nelson, Glen Campbell and Hank Williams Jr. have played at Rock Crusher. It is an important part of the county’s heritage.

Commissioner Kitchen once again permitted his distorted political views to get in the way of what was really happening.

The purchase of the Meadowcrest building was a sound county investment because it helped meet the

growing office-space needs of local government. If the county had to build the additional office space, they would have spent much more.

In addition, Cappuccilli was not pushing the Rock Crusher purchase because he could not find a buyer, as suggested by Kitchen. Commissioner Davis proposed (and later withdrew) the idea because she believes a major entertainment venue is a good thing for the community.

There is a private buyer ready to develop the property.

Cappuccilli was incensed by Kitchen’s inaccurate claims and he fired off a letter to all commission members, complaining.

We do not expect the long-time politician to apologize, because that is not what politicians do. However, citizens should be aware when statements are made in a public meeting and they do not represent reality.

This was such a case.

*Editor’s note: In the name of full public disclosure, the Chronicle purchased another Meadowcrest property Stan Olsen helped develop and today it serves as the daily newspaper’s main office and production facility.*

## CMH took good care of me

I recently had surgery at Citrus Memorial Hospital. I could not have asked for a nicer group of people taking care of me.

I would like to give a special thanks to my third floor daytime nurse, Heather; day nurse assistant Maresa; night nurse Arla and night assistant, Randy. They were very attentive to my every need and I could not have asked for a better team. They really rocked!

Edith Huys  
Homosassa

## REC must mend destructive ways

I am responding to the story, “County’s oldest GOP club faces elimination.”

Again, the Citrus County Republican Executive Committee is doing an injustice to the Republicans and to the voting public of this county. To dismiss a 36-year-old, faithful and productive club because of a personal vendetta is pathetic. There have been complaints in the past regarding the REC leadership, and its lack of compassion.

I have known Mike Belkin for more than three years, and in my opinion he is a man of integrity, a good Christian, and a tremendous asset to the Citrus County community with all his volunteer work. As a longtime Republican, I am embarrassed that the Republican leadership of Citrus County is resorting to kangaroo court tactics.

At a time when we should be bonding, we are infighting. Myself and my friends will not identify as Republicans until the REC mends its destructive ways. Hopefully, others will agree

Vincent Demaio  
Beverly Hills

## An unbelievable start to the day

Friday, May 7, started out as usual for our early-morning fishing trip out of Crystal River. Leaving the Fort Island Trail Park boat ramps at 5:45 a.m. got us a good start to reach our destination by

### OPINIONS INVITED

■ Viewpoints depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.

■ Groups or individuals are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.

■ Persons wishing to address the editorial board, which meets weekly, should call Jeff Bryan at 352-563-5660.

■ All letters must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email. Names and hometowns will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.

■ We reserve the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.

■ Letters must be no longer than 400 words, and writers will be limited to four letters per month.

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daybreak. Having little light from only a crescent moon, we relied totally on our 16,000 lumens light bar mounted under our T-top and our GPS to guide us in near total darkness out to the Gulf.

At 6:20 a.m., just as we were approaching the bend around Shell Island looking towards the southwest sky, there suddenly appeared a huge green light seeming to come out of nowhere from the totally dark sky that was streaking to the Gulf waters below. Lasting only 3-5 seconds, there was no time to grab my camera. We could only stand in total amazement and to wonder what this phenomenon could be.

Its emerald green color didn’t seem to fit that it could be a shooting star. And with the recent news of the Chinese rocket due to break apart over the weekend and enter the Earth’s atmosphere, it was too soon for that to be a possibility.

Further researching this mysterious green light streaking across the sky finally lead us to believe it was indeed a shooting star (meteor) that had survived its fall through the Earth’s atmosphere and its green glow visible in its trail would be indicative of

the presence of burning copper and nickel. This finally put an end to its mystery.

It was an unbelievable way to start our day and I’m wondering if anyone else was up early that day to have also been lucky to witness this sighting. We later learned that a green shooting star is considered to be a rare sight.

Lois Booth  
Pine Ridge

## Thanks for the building class

We just want to thank Josh, Devon and Lenny for surrendering their time and helping start the Skills Building Class held each Wednesday in Homosassa, teaching trade skills to a group of youngsters from the area. Josh has asked several people to volunteer their time and experience to teach individual classes including welding, fence installation, sewing, automotive, drywall, tile and grout, survival skills class and woodworking to name a few. Thanks also to the Citrus Chronicle for such a nice article on the Skills Building Class. Thanks to Angelotti’s for all the great pizza that was donated. A big thanks out to your friend and mine Handy Hicks.

John and Elaine Keyes  
Homosassa

## Animal shelter and the hungry

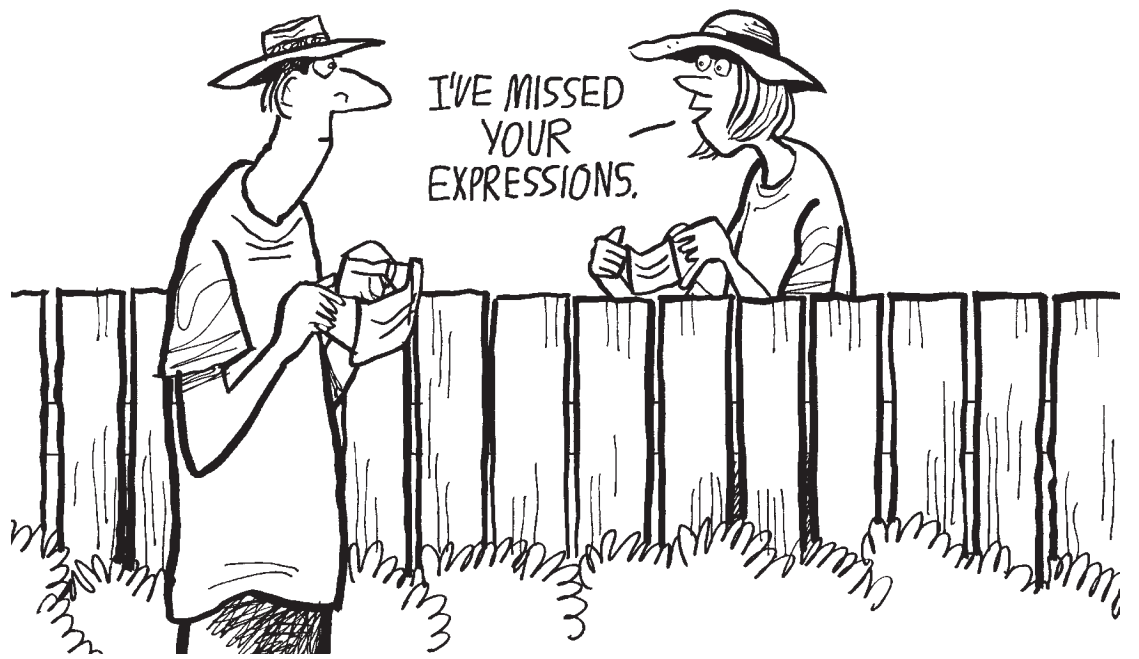
You just can’t make this up! Front-page headline Monday (May 10), Citrus County Chronicle: Jeff Kinnard, Citrus County commissioner, wants to spend \$8 million to \$9 million of our hard earned money on a new animal shelter. Also on the front page, the Citrus County Salvation Army will have to stop delivering hundreds of meals to our homeless and needy seniors for lack of a \$130,000 food delivery truck.

Jeff, are the animals at the current location going hungry? Why don’t you just take \$1 million and fix up the current animal shelter and give the rest to the Salvation Army to help the homeless and needy of Citrus County?

Jim Ward  
Floral City

## CDC EASES OUTDOOR MASK WEARING...

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## Colonade needs to be improved

When I went to get gas at RaceTrac today, coming up Forest Drive and turning onto Colonade, what a crap-hole road that is. I mean, (there are) new apartments, but it’s not very inviting for anybody that wants to live anywhere around there. Something needs to be done with that road. That’s awful. It’s been like that before the apartments and it’s like that after the apartments. It’s not very inviting to anybody that wants to move to these apartments in Inverness. Do your job.

## I can’t get any sandbags

Wake up, Mr. Kitchen, and do your job. My house in Homosassa is flooded, but I can’t get any sandbags because the place is locked up because it’s not the rainy season. No, it’s not the rainy season; it’s the flood season. So make these sandbags available to us in Homosassa.

## Offended by people who are offended

I’m calling to say I’m offended



by people who are offended. If people cannot stay friends and discuss things and agree to disagree, they’re not really friends.

## More waiting at the DMV

I’m calling Sound Off in reference to the Department of Motor Vehicles in Inverness. Went there this morning to change my address on my license. Sat there for an hour. They say the computer’s down.

I go there four hours later,

stand in line — you have to stand in line again because there’s people in front of us — and again, the computer system is still down.

You mean to tell me that within those (four) hours I was away, no one could put a sign up that says, “Driver’s license, change of address renewal system is down,” so people don’t have to stand in line?

Four hours later I come back and guess what? The license system is still down four hours later. Unbelievable. And this is modern technology? So everything comes to a complete stop. Really pathetic.

## Reconsidering my position on police

I had my first encounter with the Citrus County Sheriff’s (Office) today. I received a ticket.

I got a ticket on a moving violation. The deputy did not identify himself.

I have a safe driver’s record. I thought I would get a warning. He gave me a ticket.

So now I truly understand why people want to defund the police.

I’m not for that, but I’m kind of reconsidering that or they should really educate them.



# Jobless face crunch



Associated Press  
**Crystal Dvorak shops at WinCo Foods, Saturday, May 7, in Billings, Montana. Dvorak recently lost her job as an audiologist. The day Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte announced the \$300 benefit would end June 27 was Dvorak's second day of unemployment.**

## States pushing people to return to work as pandemic eases

**WILSON RING**  
 Associated Press

STOWE, Vt. — Eduardo Rovetto is hoping the state of Vermont's reinstated requirement that people who are collecting unemployment benefits must seek work to qualify will help him hire enough staff for his restaurant in the resort town of Stowe.

After more than a year of coronavirus restrictions on his business, Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge, he's expecting a breakout summer tourism season. But like employers across the country, he's worried he won't have enough workers.

"We've been getting many excuses as to why not to return," said Rovetto, who is offering a signing bonus of up to \$600 to try to add 15 to 20 employees who agree to stay through the middle of October. "Obviously, it was a legitimate one with COVID, but, you know, I think that's getting used less and less now. The vaccines are free; they are out there for anyone."

Many employers are telling similar stories. Fourteen months after COVID-19 put hundreds of thousands of people out of work, the U.S. economy is rebounding and employers are desperate for workers.

The challenge was highlighted Friday when employers nationwide added 266,000 jobs, far fewer than expected, and businesses reported they couldn't find people to fill the openings they have to keep up with the rapidly strengthening economic rebound.

### Pfizer COVID-19 shot expanded to US children as young as 12

U.S. regulators on Monday expanded the use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to children as young as 12, offering a way to protect the nation's adolescents before they head back to school in the fall and paving the way for them to return to more normal activities.

Shots could begin as soon as Thursday, after a federal vaccine advisory committee issues recommendations for using the two-dose vaccine in 12- to 15-year-olds. An announcement is expected Wednesday.

Most COVID-19 vaccines worldwide have been authorized for adults. Pfizer's vaccine is being used in multiple countries for teens as young as 16, and Canada recently became the first to expand use to 12 and up. Parents, school administrators and public health officials elsewhere have eagerly awaited approval for the shot to be made available to more kids.

"This is a watershed moment in our ability to fight back the COVID-19 pandemic," Dr. Bill Gruber, a Pfizer senior

To encourage people to return to work, more states are making it harder for people to stay on unemployment. Many blame the easy benefits that followed the pandemic, including what is now a \$300-a-week supplemental federal payment on top of state benefits. The argument is that people make more money staying home than going back to work.

Several states have begun requiring those receiving unemployment benefits to show they are actively searching for work, and a few will stop providing the additional federal supplement.

It's not just the hospitality sector that is scrambling to fill positions. Alene Candles,

based in Milford, New Hampshire, is looking to fill 1,500 positions for its facility there and another in New Albany, Ohio, to meet demand for the holiday season. Company representatives will be participating in a number of virtual job fairs this month.

"We have had more than 100 positions open since the start of the year, and just recently we increased sign-on bonuses to \$1,200 for hourly positions — in-part because we are competing with an entity that can print its own money — the federal government — and its \$300 per week additional unemployment benefit," said CEO Rod Harl. "I would love to welcome those searching

for work to join our team."

On Monday, the state of New Hampshire reopened its job centers for the first time since the pandemic hit to help people looking for work, but only a handful showed up in the first few hours at the largest one in Manchester.

Labor experts say the shortage is not just about the \$300 payment. Some unemployed people also have been reluctant to look for work because they fear catching the virus. Others have found new occupations rather than return to their old jobs. And many women, especially working mothers, have had to leave the workforce to care for children.

vice president who's also a pediatrician, told The Associated Press.

The Food and Drug Administration declared that the Pfizer vaccine is safe and offers strong protection for younger teens based on testing of more than 2,000 U.S. volunteers ages 12 to 15. The agency noted there were no cases of COVID-19 among fully vaccinated adolescents compared with 16 among kids given dummy shots. More intriguing, researchers found the kids developed higher levels of virus-fighting antibodies than earlier studies measured in young adults.

The younger teens received the same vaccine dosage as adults and had the same side effects, mostly sore arms and flu-like fever, chills or aches that signal a revved-up immune system, especially after the second dose.

Pfizer's testing in adolescents "met our rigorous standards," FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks said. "Having a vaccine authorized for a younger population is a critical step in continuing to lessen the immense public health burden caused by the COVID-19 pandemic."

— From wire reports

## Nation/World BRIEFS

### Colombia



Associated Press

**Protesters shout slogans during an anti-government protest in Bogotá, Colombia, Monday, May 10. Colombians have protested across the country against a government they feel has long ignored their needs, allowed corruption to run rampant and is so out of touch that it proposed tax increases during the coronavirus pandemic.**

### Colorado police seek motive in party shooting that killed 7

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — A shooting at a birthday party inside a trailer park home in Colorado Springs that killed six people before the gunman took his own life stunned a state weary of gun violence just weeks after another Colorado mass shooting killed 10 people.

Police on Monday were investigating what led the gunman, who they said was the boyfriend of one of the victims, to walk into the crowded party early Sunday and open fire.

Six adults were killed at the home at the Canterbury Mobile Home Park on the east side of Colorado's second-largest city, and a seventh died at a hospital, authorities said. The shooter was the boyfriend of a female victim at the party attended by friends, family and children, police said.

Authorities didn't release the names of the victims, gunman or disclose a possible motive. Nor did they release any further details on what weapon or weapons were used. Officials were still in the process of identifying the victims, Sandy Wilson of the El Paso County Coroner's Office said Monday.

### Calif. expands drought emergency to much of state

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday expanded a drought emergency declaration to a large swath of the nation's most populated state amid "acute water supply shortages" in northern and central parts of California.

The declaration now covers 41 of 58 counties, covering 30% of California's nearly 40 million people. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows most of the state and the American West is in extensive drought just a few years after California emerged from a punishing multiyear dry spell.

Officials fear an extraordinarily dry spring presages a wildfire season like last year, when flames burned a record 6,562 square miles.

The expansion comes as Newsom prepares to propose more spending on both short- and long-term responses to dry conditions. He was set to release details during a visit to Merced County, in the agricultural Central Valley south of Sacramento.

The Democratic governor last month had declared an emergency in just two counties north of San Francisco — Mendocino and Sonoma.

### Hamas launches new attack on Israel after Jerusalem clashes

JERUSALEM — The Hamas militant group on Monday launched a rare rocket strike on Jerusalem after hundreds of

Palestinians were hurt in clashes with Israeli police at an iconic mosque, as tensions in the holy city pushed the region closer to full-fledged war.

Israel responded with airstrikes across the Gaza Strip, where 20 people, including nine children, were killed in fighting. More than 700 Palestinians were hurt in clashes with Israeli security forces in Jerusalem and across the West Bank, including nearly 500 who were treated at hospitals.

It was a long day of anger and deadly violence that laid bare Jerusalem's deep divisions, even as Israel tried to celebrate its capture of the city's eastern sector and its sensitive holy sites more than half a century ago. With dozens of rockets flying into Israel throughout the night, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with top security officials and warned that the fighting could drag on, despite calls for calm from the U.S., Europe and elsewhere.

### Bystanders stop man who stabbed 4 at New Zealand supermarket

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Shoppers and staff at a New Zealand supermarket were being praised for their bravery Monday after authorities said they managed to stop a frenzied man from hurting others after he stabbed four people in a random attack, severely wounding three of them.

New Zealand Police Superintendent Paul Basham said he'd watched CCTV footage of the attack at a Countdown supermarket in the city of Dunedin and the actions of the bystanders in detaining the man until police arrived was "nothing short of heroic."

"What I can say is that those that intervened, some of whom became injured themselves, I think have acted selflessly and with great courage to prevent this man from hurting anybody else," Basham said.

### Czechs rejoice as stores reopen; honor COVID-19 victims

PRAGUE — The Czech Republic massively relaxed its coronavirus restrictions on Monday as the hard-hit nation paid its respects to the country's nearly 30,000 dead.

The latest easing came after new infections fell to the levels last seen in August, at which time the government failed to react fast enough to a rising number of infections, which later contributed to a record number of deaths.

People in the capital of Prague formed lines Monday before opening time as all stores and shopping malls returned to business.

"It's a relief that they are open," said shopper Dan Cooper. "I think I have a long list of things that I need to buy now."

— From wire reports

# Amazon fights flood of counterfeits

*Retailer says it removed more than 10 billion listings last year*

**JOSEPH PISANI**  
 AP retail writer

NEW YORK — Amazon, which has been under pressure from shoppers, brands and lawmakers to crack down on counterfeits on its site, said Monday that it blocked more than 10 billion suspected phony listings last year before any of their offerings could be sold.

The numbers were released in Amazon's first report on its anti-counterfeiting efforts since it announced new tools and technologies in 2019. The number of suspected bad listings that it blocked last year was up about 67% from the year before.

The Seattle-based e-commerce behemoth said the number of counterfeiters attempting to sell on the site rose as scammers tried to take advantage of shoppers who were buying more online during the pandemic.

Amazon has been wrestling with counterfeits for years. But since 2019, it has warned investors in government filings that the sale of phony goods poses a risk to the company and its image. Brands may not want to sell their items on the site if they know there are fake versions being offered. And knock-offs could cause shoppers to lose their trust in Amazon.

Counterfeiters try to get their products on Amazon through its third-party marketplace, where sellers can list their items directly on the site. The company destroyed 2 million counterfeit products sent to its warehouses last year before they could be sold.

Amazon said it can stop counterfeiters before they can sell anything thanks to machine-learning technology, which automatically scans listings to remove suspected counterfeits. The company also gives brands a way

to remove fake items from the site themselves.

The company's efforts comes as lawmakers are looking at ways to reduce counterfeits online. Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois re-introduced the INFORM Consumers Act this year. It would require third-party sellers to be verified and to disclose their name and address to shoppers.

Amazon and smaller online stores, such as eBay and Etsy, oppose the bill for reasons including concerns it could discourage people from starting a small business and selling online. But groups that represent big-box physical retailers, such as Home Depot and Lowe's, support it because they say it levels the playing field, since physical retailers already make sure their shelves are free of fakes.

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# Therapeutic music: Powerful medicine



Adele Jacobson  
**MUSIC IN MEDICINE**



**T**herapeutic music has proven itself to be powerful medicine when used in the surgical process. The music has a physiological basis in addition to the calming and emotional response it elicits.

Before going into surgery, many patients feel anxiety. Some patients near the panic stage. Others are less fearful, but nevertheless have some feeling of worry. As I've described in previous articles, therapeutic music works exceedingly well in reducing anxiety.

Lower pre-surgery anxiety levels and the relaxation that comes with lowered anxiety actually reduce pain sensations. Children, who frequently are not big fans of having needles stuck in their arms, can relax with appropriate music. And when this happens, they report that the needles do not hurt as much when piercing the skin.

Not only does the music relieve anxiety, but it produces hormones and neurotransmitters that cause the body to respond better to invasive surgery. The music suppresses all of the stress hormones that puts the body into fight or flight mode, instead of the healing mode. In the absence of all of the stress hormones, the hormones that promote healing can take over more efficiently.

Stress hormones are quite harmful during surgery. The hormones cause an increase in blood pressure and increased bleeding. For obvious reasons,

a surgeon wants to minimize bleeding. In most surgeries today, anesthesia plays a central role in reducing bleeding.

But when the body is under the influence of anesthesia, the normal body functions that promote wound healing are suppressed. So the heavier the anesthesia, the longer naturally occurring healing processes are delayed.

The immune system plays a critical role in wound healing. And guess what? Music promotes the production of critical components of the immune system. I'm not going to explain how, because it is complicated and beyond the focus of this column.

Before, during and after surgery, music is the medicine that mother should have ordered.

One patient I played for was a middle-aged lady, soundly in the arms of Morpheus. I played about 10 or 15 minutes before she began to regain consciousness. Her eyes opened tentatively, then after a minute or maybe two, she turned to look at me inquisitively. You have

to admit, the last thing you expect to see when you awaken from surgery, is a musician at your bedside.

She returned to resting with eyes closed. Gradually, she became more alert and looked at me again and smiled slightly. And she relaxed into the music. We never talked. But at the end of the session, as the nurses prepared her to go to a hospital room, she thanked me.

That is a typical session. Very quiet. Very relaxed. Very little or no talking. Just peace and healing.

As a therapeutic musician, I have not been able to perform inside an OR, but I do frequently play in the surgical recovery room. Because patients initially are sedated, there is no body language to read to see how the music is impacting them physiologically.

I have to rely on my training to know that the music is suppressing the deleterious hormones and promoting the good ones.

In the recovery room, I am able to see the monitors that tell me blood

pressure, heart rates and oxygen levels. If the monitor indicates a very erratic heartbeat or one that is too fast or too slow, I play my heart stabilization music.

Otherwise, I move into gentle soothing music that eases anxiety and pain. Pain commonly appears as the patients' first aware sensation when coming out of sedation. As they become alert, I try to ease their pain.

Of course, the whole time, I'm aware that the music is manipulating the hormones and neurotransmitters to the benefit of the patient's healing.

Studies have shown that with the use of therapeutic music, surgical patients have shorter hospital stays than those who did not have music.

This is all amazing. Almost sounds like voodoo. But I assure you, it isn't.

Adele Jacobson heads the nonprofit organization *Music in Medicine*. For more information about the group and its mission, email [musicbedside@gmail.com](mailto:musicbedside@gmail.com). The website is [musicinmedicinescitrus.org](http://musicinmedicinescitrus.org).

## HEALTH NOTES

### Vaccines available at Unity

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccination will be administered by the Florida Department of Health at Unity of Citrus County, 2628 W. Woodview Lane in Lecanto. The first dose event will be Wednesday, May 12, and the second dose event will be Friday, June 11.

Vaccinations will be administered to adults 18 years of age and older.

Vaccinations are by appointment only. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, call Unity of Citrus County at 352-746-1270.

### CMH to host stroke seminar

Citrus Memorial Hospital will present a stroke seminar at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, at the Citrus Memorial Health Foundation YMCA, 4127 W. Norvell Bryant Highway in Lecanto.

"Stroke 101" will feature a presentation from stroke coordinator Trudy Trahan. The seminar will focus on the types of stroke, signs and symptoms. Attendees will learn about steps they can take to prevent a stroke as well as the treatment and recovery process for stroke survivors.

Due to limited seating, RSVP is required. Call 352-637-3337 or visit [citrusmh.com](http://citrusmh.com) to reserve a seat.

### Low impact Zumba classes offered

The Citrus County Senior Center will have Zumba classes from 11 a.m. to noon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except holidays) at 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court in Lecanto.

Classes are lower impact and geared toward seniors. Space is limited.

To pre-register, call 352-527-5993 or email instructor Donna Scarpello at [missdonna@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:missdonna@tampabay.rr.com).

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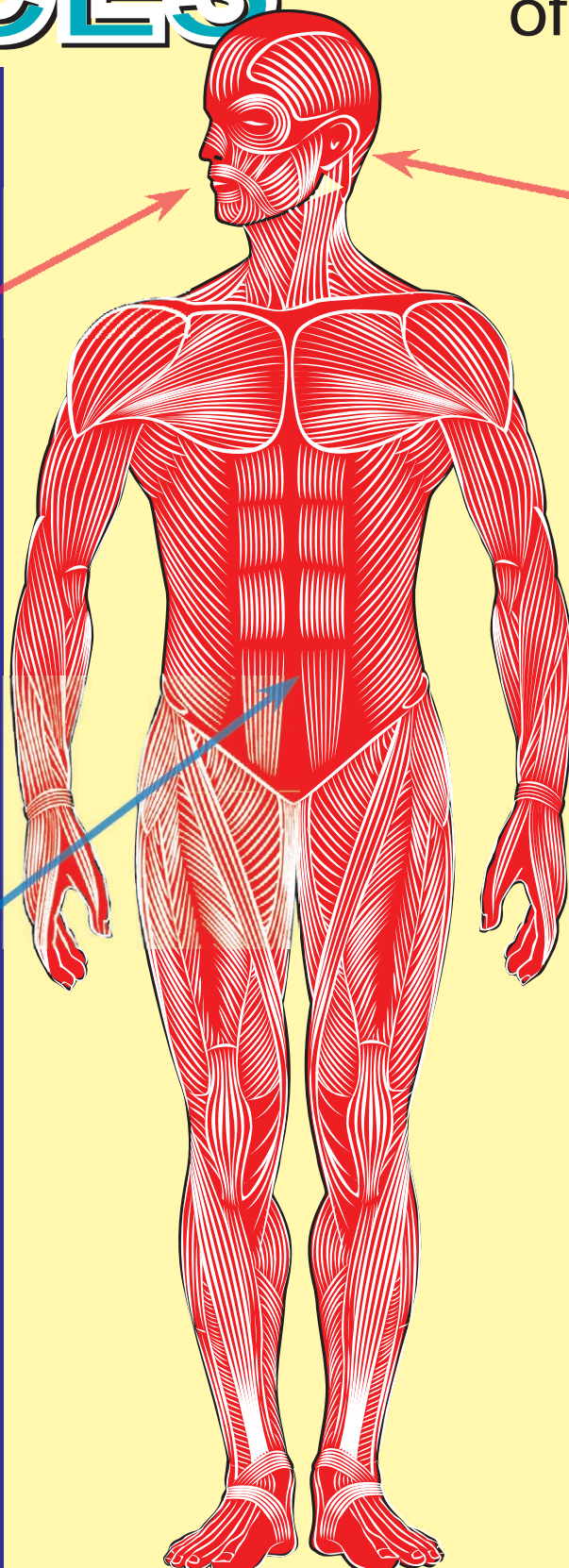
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## Vitamins and cancer

I see a 65-year-old gentleman who had a marked increase in bleeding tendencies. He would touch something and bleed. He was referred to me for further evaluation. On his first visit, I asked him lots of questions and he mentioned that he is healthy and does not take any medications. I did a complete blood analysis and did not find any evidence of a bleeding problem.

When he came for his subsequent visit, his wife mentioned that he is taking lots of vitamin supplements that he failed to mention in his first visit. I checked the detailed list.

He was taking almost 12 different supplements. I asked him to stop all except one multivitamin tablet a day and his bleeding tendencies markedly improved.

I often see patients like him who are taking lots of different vitamins. USPSTF, or US Preventive Service Task Force, updated its 2014 recommendation statement. It conducted a review of the evidence on the efficacy of supplementation with single nutrients, functionally related nutrient pairs, or multivitamins for reducing the risk of heart disease, cancer and mortality in the general adult population. They also looked at the potential harms of using supplements. Their recommendations are as follows:

- B-Carotene does not help for prevention of cancer but actually can increase the risk of cancer, particularly lung cancer in smokers.

- Vitamin E supplement does not prevent cancer or heart disease and may actually cause harm.

- No definite evidence that multivitamin supplements prevent cancer or heart disease.

The Task Force noted that more research is needed to understand the effects of vitamin, mineral, and multivitamin supplementation on heart diseases and cancer outcomes, as well as understanding whether or not vitamin D supplementation has an effect on cancer mortality.

There is also a need for further research to tease out whether there is heterogeneity across specific populations, or by baseline nutrient level, especially among individuals with no known deficiencies.

Overall, I suggest that a healthy diet and regular exercise is a lot more important than daily vitamins. If you do moderate exercise at least 30 minutes a day for five days a week and eat healthy, vitamins add very little to health after that. If you do not exercise and eat healthy regularly, you may take one multi vitamin a day. I strongly advise against taking too many different supplements. Also, avoid taking a supplement that has a lot more than RDA, or Recommended Daily Allowance.

*Dr. Sunil Gandhi is a hematologist and oncologist. He is the volunteer medical adviser of the Citrus Unit of American Cancer Society. Write to 521 N. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, FL 34461, email sgandhi@tampabay.rr.com or call 352-746-0707.*

## Keeping moms, babies safe

### Bayfront Health Seven Rivers welcomed hundreds of newborns in 2020

Special to the Chronicle

The delivery of babies has been a happy event for the labor and delivery team at Bayfront Health Seven Rivers over the past year. Hundreds of infants have taken their first breath at the hospital and been a welcome sight in the midst of the global pandemic.

While the virus has changed many things in the world — the hospital's child-birth center is a pleasant constant, located in a separate, enclosed area to provide specialized care and services. A dedicated team of nurses and obstetricians work exclusively with the moms and babies through delivery and postpartum care.

"It is a privilege and an honor to assist new parents with bringing their new little ones into the world," said Dr. Rose Sobel, OB/GYN at Bayfront Health Medical Group Primary Care & OB/GYN. "Our labor and delivery unit is specifically designed to keep our new families safe with highly trained nurses and centralized fetal monitoring."

Prenatal care remains critical and women are encouraged to stay in contact with their obstetrician and keep their appointments to be sure their pregnancy is on track. And once baby is here, regular visits to the pediatrician are important to help them thrive.

The hospital and physician clinics keep the safety of their patients as the top priority. Many actions have been taken to enhance infection prevention and support social distancing to maintain a safe environ-



MetroCreative

ment during the pandemic.

When an expectant mom arrives at the hospital, the staff will check her temperature, test for COVID-19 and complete a screening questionnaire.

Moms can have one guest who stays with them in their room throughout their stay and another visitor during visitation hours; the individuals must wear a mask at all times.

"In this era of COVID-19, we are taking all necessary precautions for the safety of our patients," said Sobel. "Hundreds of mothers

deliver their babies at Bayfront Health Seven Rivers each year. We give every one of them the individualized attention that they deserve and need during this special time."

Labor and delivery proceed as they always have and most adjacent procedures remain available. Tubal ligation after delivery is an option if a mother is negative for COVID-19 and circumcisions can also be performed.

Breastfeeding is encouraged, even for moms who test positive for COVID-19

and can protect their infant by wearing a mask.

From prenatal to postpartum care, Bayfront Health Seven Rivers is equipped with a team of OB/GYNs, specialty nurses and other professionals who all strive to support your birthing plan in a comfortable, welcoming environment.

To schedule an appointment with an obstetrician, visit BayfrontMedicalGroup.com or call 352-794-0870. To learn more about free childbirth education classes offered by Bayfront Health, visit BayfrontBaby.com.

## Beware the dangers of summer dehydration

As the hotter days of summer arrive, those of us caring for a loved one with dementia must become more wary of the dangers of dehydration.

First, we must be aware that an individual living with dementia may experience sensory changes that will leave them unable to recognize that they are not taking in enough fluids. They may not feel well, but be unable to connect this feeling with dehydration or describe how they feel. We may note that they seem more fatigued, confused, or irritable, yet not connect this with a lack of water.

The Mayo Clinic recommends 15 cups of water a day for men, and 11 for women. A senior may require less, but this should not be an excuse to neglect fluid intake. If your

loved one's urine is clear to light yellow, they are getting enough water. Darker yellow urine is an indicator of dehydration.

As summer arrives, your loved one may want to walk more or sit in the sun. These changes in behavior are good, since they will result in more exercise and greater intake of vitamin D. Encourage this behavior, but be aware that it will create a greater need for water.

We must become more proactive in encouraging them to drink liquids. Just as we do with their toileting, we may need to set a timed reminder on our smartphone or watch to tell us that it is time to encourage them to hydrate.

It is likely they cannot do this on their own, due to a range of sensory changes caused by

dementia. They may be losing peripheral vision, depth perception, and color discrimination, which will make it more difficult for them to see or recognize a glass of water you have set out for them.

They will lose manual dexterity, making it more difficult to pick up a glass or bottle and maneuver it to their lips. As dementia progresses, we may have to help them drink.

Try using red coloring with the water; red healthy juices such as cranberry juice, or red containers. Studies have proven that red is not just easier to see, but it actually stimulates the appetite. It can be more appealing than a glass of clear water.

Good hydration is not just about drinking water. High water content foods are also effective, and, fortunately, many of these become popular or more available in the summer months. Examples are cucumbers, celery, zucchini, watermelon, strawberries,

spinach, grapes, and cauliflower.

Also, try Jell-O or that ever-popular treat ice cream. Eggs have good water content, and also provide easy-to-consume protein.

Avoid high-sugar energy drinks. They are designed for high-activity, perspiring, younger people. For a senior, they can result in a dangerous level of sugar retention.

We too often take hydration for granted. Please practice good hydration, both for yourself and your loved one with dementia, especially when hotter weather arrives.

*Debbie Selsavage is a certified trainer and consultant in the Positive Approach to Care, and a certified dementia practitioner. Her company, Coping with Dementia LLC, is dedicated to making life better for individuals living with dementia. Contact Debbie at deb@coping.today to learn about free support groups online.*

■ **So you know:** The information contained in the Health & Life section is not intended to cover all possible directions, precautions, warnings, drug interactions, allergic reactions or adverse effects and is not intended to replace consultation with a physician.

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**THE NUMBER:**

**182**

Career NBA triple-doubles for Washington's Russell Westbrook, to break the record set by Oscar Robertson in 1974.

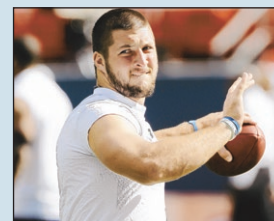


Russell Westbrook

# SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021



Report: Tebow-Meyer reunion on verge of being official./B3

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# STARS

## STUDENT ATHLETIC RECOGNITIONS

### OFFENSIVE FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

## ZAIRE WILCOX, SENIOR, LECANTO



- Led Citrus County teams with 730 rushing yards
- Scored a county-best nine rushing touchdowns in just seven games
- Scored on eight two-point conversions
- Helped lead the Panthers to the county championship

#### 2020 All-Chronicle Football Team - Offense

- Quarterback**  
Nehemiah Vann, sophomore,  
Seven Rivers Christian
- Running Back**  
Joel Velazquez, freshman, Crystal River  
Zaire Wilcox, senior, Lecanto
- Wide Receiver**  
Mario Aguilera, junior,  
Seven Rivers Christian  
C.J. Phillips, senior, Seven Rivers Christian
- Tight End**  
Brock Summers, senior,  
Seven Rivers Christian
- Offensive Line**  
Logan Alford, junior,  
Seven Rivers Christian  
Hunter Beyer, senior, Citrus  
Jacob Cameron, junior, Lecanto  
Evan Loudon, senior, Crystal River  
Tanner Short, senior, Lecanto
- Kicker**  
Zach Van Fleet, sophomore, Crystal River

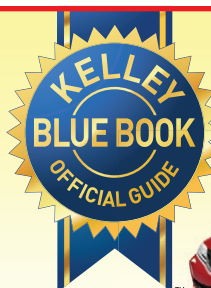
#### Finalists for player of the year



Joel Velazquez, freshman, Crystal River



C.J. Phillips, senior, Seven Rivers Christian



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# Panthers blank Bolts 4-0

## Driedger gets third shutout

Associated Press

SUNRISE — Chris Driedger stopped 30 shots to record his third shutout of the season, Juho Lammikko scored a short-handed goal, and the Florida Panthers secured home-ice advantage for the opening round of the Stanley Cup playoffs with a 4-0 win over the Tampa Bay Lightning in the regular season finale for both clubs on Monday night.

The Lightning opened the game with the first all-Black line in NHL history — Mathieu Joseph, Gemel Smith and Daniel Walcott. Walcott was making his NHL debut, Smith was in his fifth game of the season and Joseph has been in the lineup for all 56 Tampa Bay games in 2020-21.

Carter Verhaeghe scored a goal in his first game back from injury, and Alex Wennberg and MacKenzie Weegar also scored goals for the Panthers. Keith Yandle had an assist and recorded his 600th NHL point.

Andrei Vasilevskiy made 26 stops for the Lightning.

The teams will meet in the first round of the playoffs, the first instance of the Sunshine State rivals going head-to-head in the postseason. The NHL has not announced when that series will begin.

Leading 1-0, Lammikko's short-handed goal put the Panthers ahead 2-0 at 8:23 of the second. Vasilevskiy nonchalantly played the puck behind the net, and Lammikko hustled over and tucked the puck behind Vasilevskiy's left skate on a wraparound.

Verhaeghe stretched the Panthers lead to 3-0 on his shot from the right circle 2:27 into the third. Verhaeghe returned after missing 13 games with an upper-body injury.

Wennberg tipped in a shot from Radko Gudas with 5:53 left to make the score 4-0.

Weegar gave the Panthers a 1-0 lead when he fired a shot from the slot that went high into the net with 4:41 left in the first period.

Florida played without forward Jonathan Huberdeau for the first time this season, after he was a late scratch with an upper-body injury and was listed as day-to-day. Huberdeau had 20 goals and 41 assists for Florida this season, his fourth consecutive year with at least 20 scores.



Florida right wing Juho Lammikko (83) reacts Monday after scoring a goal against Tampa Bay goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy (88) during the second period in Sunrise. The Panthers defeated the Lightning, 4-0.

It was, by far, the best regular season in Florida history. The Panthers had the best point percentage in team history, best home record and best road record. It was also the first time they won the regular-season series against the Lightning in four years; Florida has won the in-state series 14 times, Tampa Bay eight times and the clubs have split their regular-season meetings four times.

### Bruins 2, Islanders 2 OT

BOSTON — Taylor Hall scored his second goal of the game 2:53 into overtime and the Boston Bruins beat the New York Islanders 3-2 in their home finale to clinch third place in the East Division.

Brad Marchand also scored for Boston, which will face second-place Washington in the first round of the playoffs. Tuukka Rask had 16 saves. Mathew Barzal and Oliver

Wahlstrom scored for the Islanders. New York will face East champion Pittsburgh in the first round.

### Flyers 4, Devils 2

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Farabee scored two goals and James van Riemsdyk added one on the power play to lead the Philadelphia Flyers to a 4-2 win over the New Jersey Devils in the season finale for both teams.

The Flyers finished yet another season without a Stanley Cup — they haven't won one since consecutive championships in 1974 and 1975 — and this ends as one of the more disheartening ones in franchise history.

### Canadiens 4, Oilers 3 OT

MONTREAL — Connor McDavid scored 2:42 into overtime for his league-leading 102nd point of the season and the Edmonton Oilers

beat Montreal 4-3 in overtime as the Canadiens clinched the last playoff spot in the North Division.

Dominik Kahu, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and James Neal also scored for the Oilers, who won their sixth straight on the road.

Jake Evans, Paul Byron and Artturi Lehkonen scored for the Canadiens, who lost their fourth straight.

### Stars 5, Blackhawks 4 OT

CHICAGO — Jason Robertson scored 4:30 into overtime, and the Dallas Stars rallied to beat the Chicago Blackhawks 5-4 in the final game of the season for each team.

Miro Heiskanen had a goal and an assist for Dallas, which had dropped six of seven. Joe Pavelski, Jason Dickinson and Joel Kiviranta also scored, and Jake Oettinger made 19 saves.

Collin Delia made 45 stops and

Alex DeBrincat extended his goal-scoring streak to seven in a row.

### Predators 5, Hurricanes 0

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Pekka Rinne made 30 saves for his second shutout of the season as the Nashville Predators finished the regular season by beating the Carolina Hurricanes 5-0.

Rinne tied Tom Barrasso for No. 19 in NHL history with his 369th victory in his first start since April 10. Now 38 and in the final year of his contract, Rinne notched his 60th career shutout in what might have been his final start for Nashville as fans chanted his name early and often.

Matt Duchene scored twice, and Ryan Johansen and Tanner Jeannot each had a goal and an assist for Nashville. Rocco Grimaldi scored a short-handed goal.

# Medina Spirit heads to Preakness Stakes

## Minus trainer

### Bob Baffert

GARY B. GRAVES  
AP sports writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit is headed to Baltimore for the Preakness Stakes while trainer

Bob Baffert said Monday that he won't attend the race to avoid being a distraction in the wake of scrutiny following the colt's failed postrace drug test.

Medina Spirit's Derby win by half a length over Mandaloun on May 1 gave Baffert his record seventh victory in the sport's premier race. That milestone win is now in jeopardy

following Baffert's announcement on Sunday that test results revealed the horse had more than twice the state-allowed amount of the steroid betamethasone.

Baffert is appealing the positive test and part of the original sample will be re-tested. If the violation is upheld, Medina Spirit could be disqualified and runner-up Mandaloun

elevated to winner.

The trainer has denied all wrongdoing and promised full transparency with Kentucky racing officials. Churchill Downs nonetheless suspended Baffert from entering horses at the track. The Maryland Jockey Club and Pimlico officials say they will decide on Medina Spirit's status in the Triple Crown's middle jewel after reviewing the facts.

Those events will unfold with Baffert back in California instead of at the race where he will go for a record eighth victory.

"I go to Baltimore to have a good time. It's a fun trip," Baffert said. "I don't want to take away from the horses. I think it'd be a distraction if I went. I think it'd be a distraction if I win. The owners will be there. (Assistant trainer) Jimmy (Barnes) can handle it."

Whether he is in Baltimore or not, the focus right now is on Medina Spirit and Baffert.

Medina Spirit and Concert Tour, who skipped the Derby, were being transported by van to Baltimore and scheduled to arrive late Monday. The field for the 146th Preakness will be drawn on Tuesday after being pushed back a day because of the uncertainty.

In the meantime, Baffert continued to deal with the fallout from his fifth horse to have failed a drug test in over a year.

Medina Spirit was found to have 21 picograms of betamethasone, which is sometimes used to treat pain and inflammation in horses. It was the same

drug found in Baffert-trained filly Gamine, who finished third in last fall's Kentucky Oaks before being disqualified following a test. Baffert was fined \$1,500.

Baffert acknowledged the criticism he is receiving on social media and understands the public scrutiny of him as the face of horse racing. He also expressed disappointment with Churchill Downs officials for a statement announcing his suspension soon after he revealed the failed drug test.

"I thought I had had a pretty good relation(ship)

with them with all the stuff I've done with my Triple Crown winners," he said. "I'm the face of the sport and I'm trying to promote my sport. And that was a pretty low blow, what they did yesterday. I wish they would've called me."

With that, Baffert's hope is that Medina Spirit can make a strong showing in the Preakness and put the public skepticism to rest — for now.

"I want him to run a good race because now everybody's piling on him," Baffert said. "It's probably more pressure now that he's got to run well."



Associated Press

Jockey John Velazquez onboard Medina Spirit gives a thumbs up after winning the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs, Saturday, May 1, in Louisville, Ky. Medina Spirit is headed to Baltimore for the Preakness Stakes while trainer Bob Baffert said Monday that he won't attend the race to avoid being a distraction in the wake of scrutiny following the colt's failed postrace drug test.



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C: Comcast, Citrus S: Spectrum Df: Comcast, Durnellon & Inglis F: Oak Forest H: Holiday Heights

Table with 18 columns (Channels: 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 20, 22, 23, 23, 62, 63, 40, 44, 50, 51, 63) and 28 rows of TV listings. Each row lists channel numbers and program titles.

Annie offers advice

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for 12 years. We have never had an easy marriage, and I am considering leaving him.

I got out of an abusive relationship before I met him, and I feel like I am being put in that position again. This time, it is not physical violence but emotional and financial.

My husband took a job that he had always wanted. During the training, he made less than what he was making before. I had to leave my full-time job to take care of the kids. I picked up a part-time job, but it did not compare to what I was making before. Both his and my credit were ruined, and we almost lost the house.

Then, COVID-19 hit. My husband's employer put a stop to voluntary overtime, but there was mandatory overtime. His employer blacked out dates that were off-limits for vacation.

My husband is a first responder, and we had to cancel our vacation this year due to those blackout dates. In fact, the whole summer was blacked out, from mid-April until mid-September. He was just informed that he will be on 12-hour days, with no days off for the foreseeable future.

It has been years since we have been away as a family. What's worse is that I have health issues. The only thing the doctors can do is treat the symptoms and make me comfortable. We have been through a lot together.

I love him with all my heart, and he is a great guy. However, he treats me differently now. He told me today to cancel his phone and leave him alone. He won't talk to me or his daughter. I am not sure how much longer I can take this. What should I do? — Stay or Go?

Dear Stay or Go: Only you can truly know whether to stay or go. It does sound like there has been a lot of love and history between you.

Your husband's attempts to isolate himself seem to be in response to demands from work that he cannot control. He might have depression or built-up rage. Try marriage counseling or encouraging him to attend therapy on his own to navigate through these challenges.

Life is filled with peaks and valleys, and you — along with the entire world — are in a valley because of the pandemic. Never make life-altering decisions in a peak or valley. Try and get to a state of calm and peace first. Hopefully, your children can go back to school soon (if they haven't already) and you can continue working, all of which will offer some calm. This is a moment in time, and it will pass.

Dear Annie: I've never seen an answer quite so compassionate as yours to "Totally Broken," who was mourning the loss of her husband. Without impatience or condescension, you walked her step-by-step through the process of finding a counselor, which, for overwhelmed and grieving people, can feel like a bridge too far.

What a sensitive act of kindness, to remove the complications that might keep "Broken" from taking such a needed step.

I have not lost a spouse, but my sister-in-law lost her police officer husband in the line of duty at 34, and my grief for her, a pale imitation of the agony she surely was facing, made it nigh impossible for me to function. I simply can't imagine how she felt. — Compassion for the World

Dear Compassion: Thank you for your kind words. I am printing your letter because, like you, I truly believe that when we are compassionate toward one another, we feel better ourselves. The only thing bigger than fear is love.



DEAR ANNIE

Bridge

PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Sitting third hand, you hold Q-J-2 and it's your turn. Yesterday, we learned that if your card might win the trick, you play the jack, the bottom of equal cards. However, what happens if you cannot win the trick, because partner or dummy has already played the ace or king? What would you do then?

If you think it is beneficial to tell partner about your honor sequence, drop the queen, the top of

the touchers. This guarantees that you have either the queen and the jack (perhaps with one or more lower cards), or an unlikely singleton.

Now partner, if he led ace from ace-king, knows that he may underlead at trick two, and you will win the trick either with your jack or by ruffing. (Partner can probably read the position correctly, knowing from the bidding that you cannot have a singleton queen.)

This agreement aided the defense in today's deal.

When West overcalled, he was primarily hoping to make it harder for the opposition to reach a spade contract.

However, despite the adverse vulnerability, it was possible that East-West could win the auction. South, after receiving a single raise from his partner, took an understandable shot at game.

West led the club ace, and East signaled with the queen, promising the jack (or a most unlikely singleton). West continued with a low club, not the king. After winning with the jack, it was the work of a moment for East to shift to the diamond queen. In another moment, the defenders had taken the first four tricks.

Note that without this defense, declarer has 10 major-suit winners.

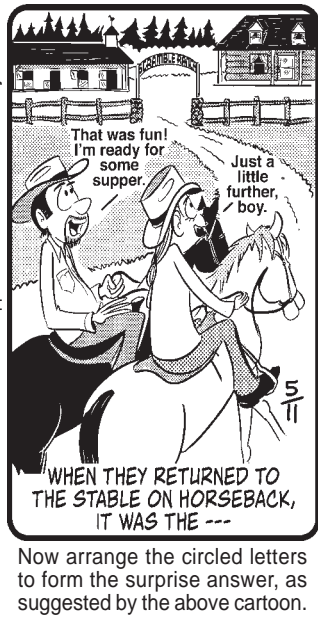
Cards table showing North and South hands with suits and ranks. Includes dealer information and opening lead.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

Jumble puzzle grid with letters and empty squares. Words: INNOO, LAGEE, LDCEDU, FTAIYR.



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

THE "O O O O" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PLANT RATIO HECTIC SESAME Answer: Of all the movies featuring lions of Africa, "Panthera leo" has the — LION'S SHARE

MORE PUZZLES

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

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

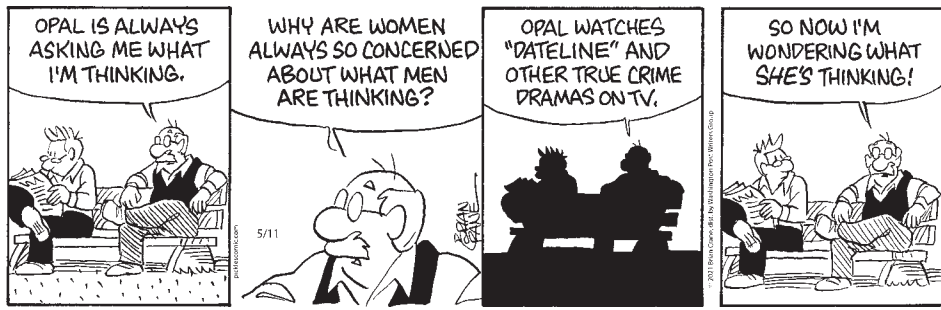
Peanuts



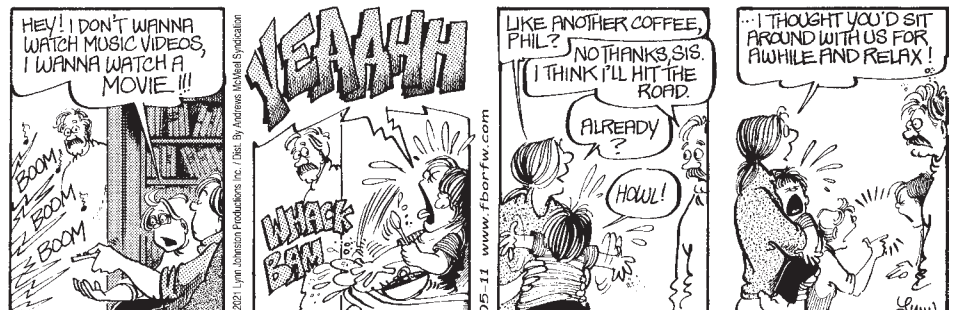
Garfield



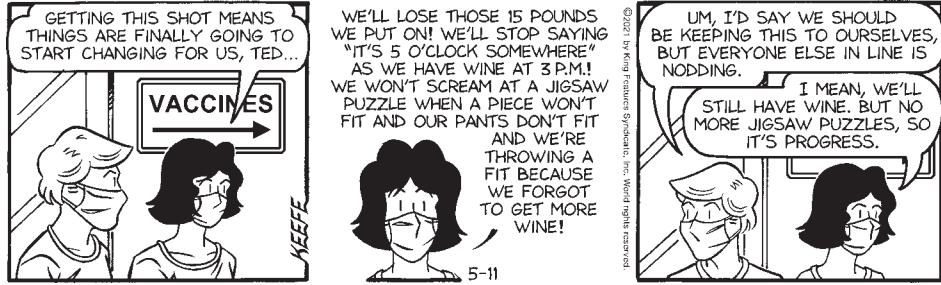
Pickles



For Better or For Worse



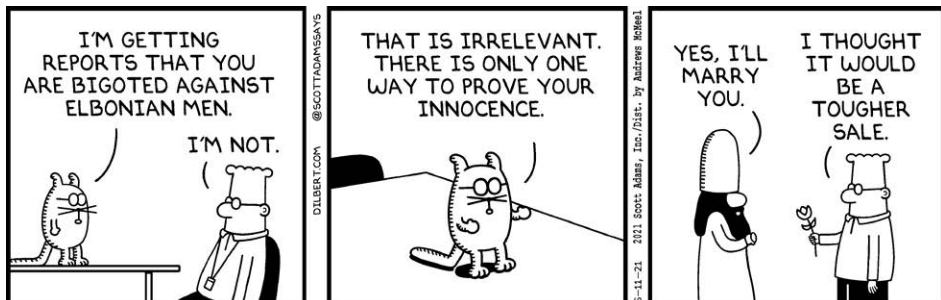
Sally Forth



Beetle Bailey



Dilbert



The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



Blondie



Moderately Confused



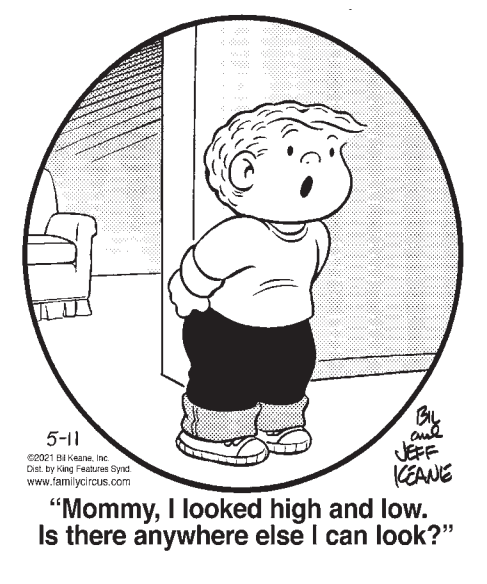
Rubes



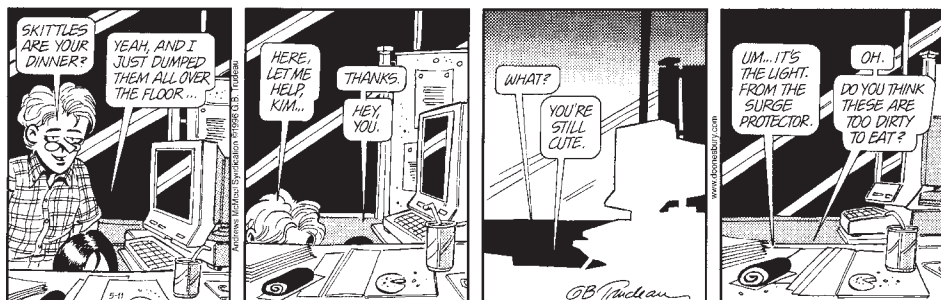
Dennis the Menace



The Family Circus



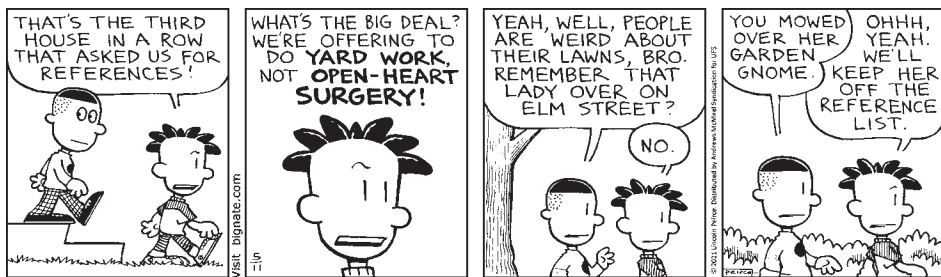
Doonesbury Flashbacks



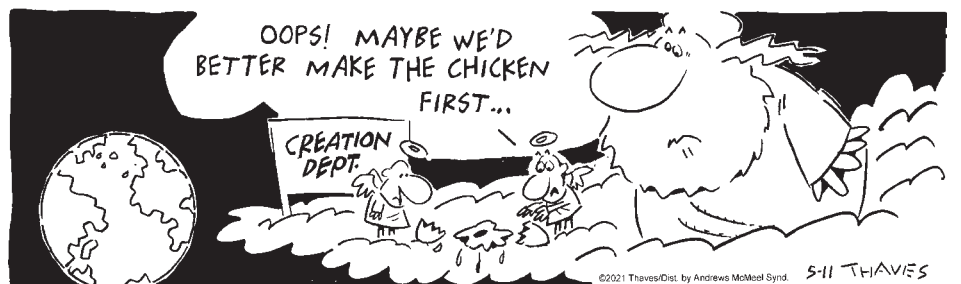
Betty



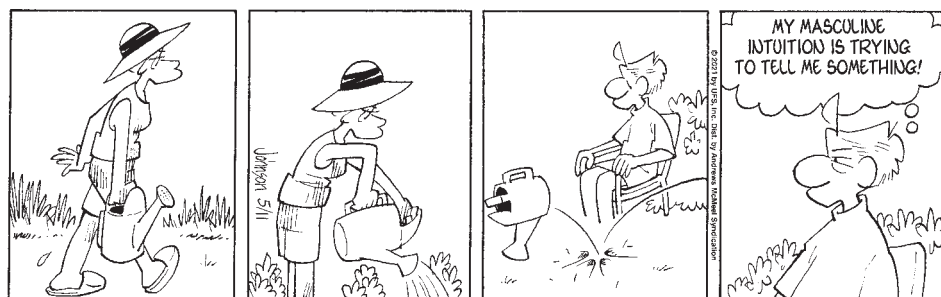
Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



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<b>WXOF-FM 96.7</b> Classic Hits		<b>WFJV-FM 107.5</b> Classic Rock
<b>WEKJ FM 96.3, 103.9</b> Religious		<b>WRZN-AM 720</b> Religious

Today's MOVIES

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

LOCAL THEATER INFORMATION

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VALERIE THEATRE CULTURAL CENTER

Note that COVID-19 safety protocols are in place. Masks are recommended, general admission with social distancing, capacity is 40 individuals for films.

"Back to the Future" Friday, May 28, 7 p.m. "Frankenstein" Saturday, May 29, 3 p.m.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

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

Today's clue: P equals C

"UJUDNHWSN KRI ZKUXD WLC IZWDN

-- XZ'I LKW NWY RDU. XA X LRIC'Z

AXJU-AWWZ, X LWYBSC'Z HU LKW X

RT." -- IRHDXCR PRDVUCZUD

Previous Solution: "My heroes are the ones who survived doing it wrong, who made mistakes, but recovered from them." -- Bono

# SEC will once again feature playmakers

*Players to watch on both sides of the ball*

**JOHN ZENOR**  
AP sports writer

There are once again a host of playmakers in the Southeastern Conference. While there is going to be several quarterback competitions to keep an eye on heading into preseason camps, here's a look at non-quarterback players in the Southeastern Conference this spring who are poised to have standout seasons this fall:

## SEC EAST FLORIDA

No one expected Florida defensive end Zachary Carter to return for a fifth year. His decision even shocked position coach David Turner. "My prayers had been answered," Turner said. Carter notched 16 1/2 tackles for loss the past two seasons, including a team-high five sacks in 2020. After being one of the few bright spots on a defense that was historically bad in Gainesville, the 6-foot-4, 277-pound lineman will be the centerpiece of a revamped unit.

## GEORGIA

The biggest story of the spring was the serious knee injury suffered by top wide receiver George Pickens early on. He'll miss most, and probably all, of the 2021 season. Freshman Adonai Mitchell might be in line to help fill the void. Mitchell ran with the first-team in the spring game and had seven catches for 105 yards, including a 24-yard TD catch.

## KENTUCKY

WR Wan'Dale Robinson transferred from Nebraska, where he caught 91 passes in two seasons before heading back to his home state. The Wildcats are in need of playmakers, particularly in the passing game, and the speedy 5-11, 185-pounder could make a big impact.

## MISSOURI

WR Mookie Cooper transferred after one season at Ohio State and could give Connor Bazelak another target in the passing game. He was a four-star recruit out of high school.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Defensive end Jordan Burch was a five-star freshman who was South Carolina's highest rated recruit since Jadeveon Clowney nine years earlier. The 6-6, 270-pound Burch hopes to show similar dominance in his sophomore season

## TENNESSEE

LB Byron Young. The 6-3, 240-pound linebacker lined up in a lot of places in the Vols' new defensive scheme, but the 23-year-old junior college transfer from Georgia Military College had seven sacks in 11 games in 2019. Tennessee coach Josh Heupel had offered him while still at UCF and got Young to commit to follow him. Young showed a lot of speed during spring practice.

## VANDERBILT

WR Will Sheppard. The sophomore wide receiver caught three TD passes in the Commodores' spring game after having only two catches as a freshman. But Vanderbilt has plenty of experience ahead of the 6-3 Sheppard led by Cam



Auburn running back Tank Bigsby (4) celebrates a touchdown with teammate Luke Deal (86) during the A-Day spring football game Saturday, April 17, at Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn, Ala.

Johnson, Chris Pierce and Amir Abdur-Rahman.

## SEC WEST ALABAMA

LB Will Anderson started every game as a freshman and showed signs of being the Crimson Tide's next great pass rusher. The 6-4, 235-pounder, a freakish athlete, ranked third in the SEC with seven sacks and 10.5 tackles for loss. Anderson even blocked a field goal in the College Football Playoff semifinal game against Notre Dame.

## ARKANSAS

WR Treylon Burks. The 6-3, 225-pound junior was a second-team All-SEC performer last season after catching 51 passes for 820 yards and seven touchdowns. He finished third in the SEC with 91.1 yards receiving per game. He caught two passes for 67 yards in the Spring Game, including a 31-yard touchdown.

He has 80 catches for 1,295 yards in two seasons.

## AUBURN

RB Tank Bigsby was one of the Tigers' best playmakers as a freshman, earning second-team All-SEC honors. With several top wide receivers gone, Bigsby could play an even bigger role. He ran for 834 yards, second-most by an Auburn freshman, and also returned kicks.

## LSU

CB Derek Stingley was an immediate star and a first-team AP All-American as a freshman. He went from six interceptions then to none in seven games last season when the Tigers had the nation's worst pass defense. But LSU is counting on him — and the defense — to return to form.

## MISSISSIPPI

DB Jake Springer, who sat out last

season after transferring from Navy, should help bolster a defense that was among the nation's worst at stopping the pass. Springer had 69 tackles in 2019 and led Navy with 16 tackles for loss and eight sacks, the third-most sacks by a Midshipmen in a season.

## MISSISSIPPI STATE

LB Nathaniel Watson could step into a bigger role after making 40 tackles last season. He figures to step into the starting job at middle linebacker, with the Bulldogs trying to replace defensive standout Erroll Thompson.

## TEXAS A&M

Running back Devon Achane, a former four-star recruit who has sprinter's speed, only got limited chances last season with several upperclassmen ahead of him. But he still produced 364 yards and four touchdowns on just 43 attempts.




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