

MONDAY
 TODAY & next morning
HIGH 83
LOW 60
 Partly sunny with scattered showers.
 PAGE A4



BRIEFLY

Citrus County COVID-19 update

According to the Florida Department of Health, 117 positive cases were reported in Citrus County since the latest update. No new deaths were reported, for a total of 362.
 To date in the county, 9,329 people have tested positive (including 75 non-residents).
 Three new hospitalizations were reported, for a total of 607 hospitalized.

Vaccine registration system open

DOH-Citrus' preregistration system to schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments for individuals 65 and older and frontline health care workers is now available.
 Individuals can now be added to a waiting list for vaccine appointments and be notified when appointments are available in Citrus County by visiting myvaccine.fl.gov or by calling 866-201-0442; TTY is 833-476-1036.

As part of the statewide preregistration system, each county has a designated number that individuals can call and pre-register with if they do not have internet access. Citrus County's designated number is 866-201-0442.
 Vaccine supply remains limited and appointments may not be available for several weeks.
 When calling, get the name of the operator and do not hang up until you receive confirmation the appointment has been made, including the date, time and location of the appointment.
 — From staff reports

INSIDE

Find listings of local free food programs and giveaways on **Pages A7 & A8**

POLL

What do you think?

Just for fun: What's the best thing about living in Citrus County in the winter months?
A. No snow.
B. Sunny, perfect days. Basically — eternal summer.
C. Seeing manatees.
D. More business from snowbirds. They really help the local economy.
E. Eating juicy, ripe oranges and strawberries.
F. All of the annual festivals that make living here just plain fun.
 Scroll down the home page and look for the poll box in the right-hand column.
 Results will appear next Monday. Find last week's online poll results. / **Page A3**

Hooked on snook



HEATHER DANENHOWER/Special to the Chronicle
Duke Energy's Crystal River Mariculture Center staff Bridgett Fagan, left, and Justin Branch remove one of 10 snook from a holding tank Wednesday, Feb. 10, so it could be measured and then tagged. University of Florida researchers teamed up with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Duke Energy's Crystal River Mariculture Center to tag and track snook, a tropical game fish prized by anglers.

Scientists collaborate with Duke Energy to tag snook to learn more about winter survival, migration patterns

Special to the Chronicle
Tracking data will help inform conservation efforts and future recreational snook fishing.
 University of Florida researchers have teamed up with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Duke Energy's Crystal River Mariculture Center to tag and track snook, a tropical game fish prized by anglers.
 The research is funded with a \$25,800 Duke Energy Foundation grant awarded in 2020. The grant came after Duke Energy workers at the Crystal River Energy complex noticed snook congregating in the canal each winter for several years and

When ocean temperatures drop, snook have been found in rivers, streams and natural springs, which are warmer than the ocean.

— Charles Martin
 research assistant professor at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Nature Coast Biological Station in Cedar Key
 reached out to the onsite Mariculture Center's supervisor, who then contacted researchers at the University of Florida.
 "This grant helps scientists gather valuable data and continue the good work they do every day to protect, restore and rehabilitate our state's environmental treasures," said

Catherine Stempien, state president of Duke Energy Florida. "Such collaboration with our Mariculture Center is a good example of how Duke Energy is committed to being both a good steward of the environment and a good community partner."
 See **SNOOK/Page A2**

Mikayla: 'No excuse for drug abuse'

Lecanto Middle student wins Florida Elks essay contest

BUSTER THOMPSON
Staff writer
 In no more than 250 words, Lecanto Middle School eighth-grader Mikayla Lucena spelled out why there's "no excuse for drug abuse."
 "Drugs are extremely harmful to a person's mental and physical health, and there are many treatment options and a variety of ways to get help," the 14-year-old wrote as her lead paragraph in her piece for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Drug Awareness Essay Contest. "So yes, it's true: drug abuse, no excuse!"
 Mikayla's words caught the attention of Florida Elks leadership, which announced her on Feb. 1 as the state winner of the 2020-21 contest.
 "It's an indescribable feeling because drugs are horrible," Mikayla said, "and if I could be able to just change one person's life by writing this essay, it would be amazing."
 Mikayla's work will be printed in copies of the Elks Club pamphlet for its May convention in Orlando, where she'll travel to give a reading for attendees.
 See **ESSAY/Page A5**

Mikayla Lucena's Elks Drug Awareness Essay

Drugs are extremely harmful to a person's mental and physical health, and there are many treatment options and a variety of ways to get help. So yes, it's true: drug abuse, no excuse!
 One of the main reasons why drugs are bad is because they are harmful to a person's physical and mental health. Another factor in why drugs are especially dangerous is because they can cause violence and bad behavior. A very serious way that drugs are bad is because they disrupt families, neighborhoods and society.
 A very important sense of why there is no excuse for doing drugs, is that there are lots of treatment options, and people that want to help. If you learn self-control and discipline then you wouldn't have to worry about doing drugs. A reason why I think that there is no excuse for doing drugs, is because there are many good choices that you can make to stay on the right path and stay clear of drugs if you really try.
 I know that it can be very tempting to do drugs in today's society, so you can be considered "cool," but there are so many ways that you make the right, smart choices and get away from drugs. That is why there is no excuse for drug abuse.
 — Mikayla Lucena



Mikayla Lucena
 won first place for her anti-drug essay.

Better, but not great

Average new US virus cases below 100K for first time in months

SUDHIN THANAWALA AND KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Average daily new coronavirus cases in the United States dipped below 100,000 in recent days for the first time in months, but experts cautioned Sunday that infections remain high and precautions to slow the pandemic must remain in place.
 The seven-day rolling average of new infections was well above 200,000 for much of December and went to roughly 250,000 in January, according to data kept by Johns Hopkins University, as the pandemic came roaring back after it had been tamed in some places over the summer.
 That average dropped below 100,000 on Friday for the first time since Nov. 4. It stayed below 100,000 on Saturday.
 "We are still at about 100,000 cases a day. We are still at around 1,500 to 3,500 deaths per day. The cases are more than two-and-a-half-fold times what we saw over the summer," Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."
 "It's encouraging to see these trends coming down, but they're coming down from an extraordinarily high place."
 On Saturday, the seven-day rolling average for deaths was around 2,500. That number peaked at more than 3,300 earlier in the winter, according to Johns Hopkins.
 The U.S. saw a spike of more than 5,400 deaths reported Friday — nearly half from Ohio, where authorities said earlier in the week that they planned to add deaths to the state's tally over the course of a few days after discovering as many as 4,000 unreported COVID-19 fatalities.
 Walensky added that new variants, including one first detected in the United Kingdom that appears to be more transmissible and has already been recorded in more than 30 states, will likely lead to more cases and more deaths.
 "All of it is really wraps up into we can't let our guard down," she said. "We have to continue wearing masks. We have to continue with our current mitigation measures. And we have to continue getting vaccinated as soon as that vaccine is available to us."
 See **VIRUS/Page A6**



SNOOK

Continued from Page A1

During winter months, snook never used to be found in Florida north of Tarpon Springs because of sensitivity to colder water temperatures in northern areas of the Gulf of Mexico. But during the past two decades, snook have been appearing north of their historic range, including near Duke Energy's Crystal River Energy Complex in Citrus County, about 85 miles north of Tampa. Now, anglers catch the sought-after fish in the Crystal River and Cedar Key areas — and sometimes farther north.

Recent University of Florida research has shown that fewer hard freezes in the region have allowed snook to establish a growing population in these northern waters. However, how snook have expanded their range remains a mystery. While freezes may be less frequent, the northern Gulf still experiences periodic cold snaps that would lead to most snook's demise.

Now scientists are asking: How do snook manage to survive?

This winter, a research team led by Charles Martin, research assistant professor at the University of Florida Institute of

Food and Agricultural Sciences Nature Coast Biological Station in Cedar Key, will work to find out.

"When ocean temperatures drop, snook have been found in rivers, streams and natural springs, which are warmer than the ocean," Martin said. "This suggests that snook are moving to these areas to escape colder water. To confirm this, we need to track them and understand their migration patterns."

As of Feb. 10, the UF, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Duke Energy team have tagged a total of 20 snook, which will allow the team to track the fish's migration patterns during the next several years.

Tags attached to the fish will ping acoustic receivers installed at different points in Duke Energy's Crystal River Energy Complex discharge canal, Cedar Key and the Suwannee and Waccasassa rivers, recording each snook as it moves between the ocean and inland waters. This data will also provide information about the snook's life cycle, offering valuable insights about how the snook fishery is managed and the future of recreational snook fishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Duke Energy's Mariculture Center at the Crystal River Energy Complex

supports recreational fishing and the environmental health of the Gulf of Mexico by cultivating and releasing more than 4 million fish and crustaceans into the Gulf. Since opening in 1991, the center has become one of the most successful marine-stocking programs in Florida. The center also grows submerged aquatic vegetation, such as freshwater eelgrass and saltwater marsh species like mangroves and cordgrass. Since 2014, the center has provided more than 8 million individual plants for springs and lake restoration projects as well as living shoreline projects along the Florida Panhandle.

TRACKING SNOOK

- Snook, a prized game fish, have been moving farther north in the Gulf of Mexico during the last few decades as hard freezes become less frequent.
- Researchers have tagged 20 snook to track their movements during the winter when the fish retreat to warmer inland waters.
- Tracking data will help inform conservation efforts and future recreational snook fishing.



HEATHER DANENHOWER/Special to the Chronicle

Ashley McDonald, left, research scientist with the UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station, and Scott Alford, doctoral student, measure a snook before it is tagged.



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Around the
COUNTY

Residents can virtually visit Sen. Rubio Feb. 17

Citrus County residents can schedule a virtual visit with U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Feb. 17.

Constituents can learn what services are available and discuss such items as immigration, Medicare, Social Security and other legislative issues.

To schedule a visit, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/citrus-county-virtual-mobile-office-hours-tickets-141164770629.

— Michael D. Bates

Homosassa River Garden club to meet Feb. 15

The Homosassa River Garden Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 15, at the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 8831 W. Bradshaw St. in Homosassa.

The meeting will include a presentation on the wetlands by Scott Kirby of the Environmental Protection Agency. Social distancing and masks required. Bring a beverage.

For information, visit homosassarivergardenclub.wordpress.com or call Carole at 352-586-9506.

County opens grant applications to nonprofits

The Board of County Commissioners is now accepting applications for its nonprofit grant program. The grant program's purpose is to assist Citrus County citizens adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and will provide a grant for food distribution, or/and health care expenses in Citrus County. The nonprofit grant program is specifically for 501(c)(3) organizations excluding member groups. The program currently has \$300,000 in available funds.

A completed online application must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, including an IRS W-9 form; Form 990 filings for the past three years; and a formal presentation to the BOCC, scheduled for March 16. To receive a copy of the application form, email cares@citrusbocc.com.

Deadlines are strictly enforced. All materials submitted with an application will become a matter of public record, open to inspection by any citizen of the State of Florida subject to Chapter 119, Florida State Statutes.

There are no guarantees that applicants will be awarded funding. Even though a program may qualify, limited funds may not allow all programs to receive assistance. Decisions regarding the award of funds are at the sole discretion of the BOCC.

For information, call the Citrus County Office of Management and Budget at 352-527-5207.

Community band to present 'Comedy of Errors'

The Nature Coast Community Band, under the baton of conductor J. Craig Lilly, is back in concert mode with "A Comedy of Errors" coming March 6 and 7.

The March 6 production will begin at 3 p.m. at the Crystal River Mall Food Court, 1801 U.S. 19. On March 7, the concert will begin at 3 p.m. at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1100 W. Highland Blvd., Inverness.

All NCCB concerts are free and open to the public.

— From staff reports

Sumter attorney arrested, disbarred

MARTIN STEELE
Sumter County Times



Special to the Chronicle

Former attorney Edward Juan Lynum of Wildwood faces charges in Sumter County for allegedly threatening or attempting to intimidate two circuit judges.

Disbarred attorney Edward Juan Lynum, 45, of Wildwood, is facing multiple charges in Sumter County for allegedly threatening or attempting to intimidate two circuit judges.

In a related case, Lynum was also disbarred by the Florida Supreme Court, according to a Jan. 28 announcement by the Florida Bar. He was among several Florida attorneys who were subject to the court's disciplinary action in January.

Lynum, in 2018, ran unsuccessfully for Sumter County Judge. His earlier forays into politics included an unsuccessful run for the Orlando City Commission seat formerly held by his late mother, Daisy Lynum.

Sumter County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) deputies, acting on a local warrant, on Jan. 5, arrested Lynum at a Wildwood area convenience store, according to an SCSO arrest report. He was booked into the Sumter County Detention Center for four counts each of writing threats to kill or do bodily harm and corruption by threat of harm against a public servant. He was also arrested on a Lake County warrant for stalking. He was released the next day on a \$40,000 bond.

In January, Lynum was granted a change of venue for the legal proceedings. Circuit Judge Richard A. "Ric" Howard is presiding over the case in Citrus County.

The probable cause affidavit for Lynum's arrest warrant listed multiple allegations of social media activities that investigators cited as being threats against the two judges and a private attorney who were apparently involved in Lynum's earlier divorce case.

Investigators identified multiple FaceBook accounts and websites belonging to Lynum, according to the affidavit. A detective reported reviewing approximately 215 posts made from October 2019 to July 2020 and consisting of public messages made by Lynum, video logs narrated by Lynum, letters sent by Lynum and articles cited by Lynum.

"The postings made by Edward Lynum formed a central theme that described (him) as being the victim of a large and overarching conspiracy theory in which the Florida Judicial System, including but not limited to the 5th Judicial Circuit, as well as both state and federal figures conspired, due to their bigotry and worship of satanic spiritual forces, to not only kill him, but to destroy his

life reputation and separate him from his family," an SCSO detective wrote in the probable cause affidavit.

Lynum used his social media platforms to "to create a narrative based on a central theme that the victims in this incident are racist members of a satanic cult who act in concert to rule against him in judicial proceedings," according to the affidavit. The detective also wrote that Lynum used "hyperbole, innuendo and misrepresentation to make threats to do physical harm veiled in a religious context of his own design."

In the affidavit, the detective noted a particular posting that he cited as revealing a summary of Lynum's contention. "God comes before secular justice is why degenerate satanic monkey slut judges like (victim's name) in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida along with her conspiring pedophile judge friends must be charged and arrested for desecrating God's truth."

Lynum continued, according to the affidavit. "God strengthens us to kill ... it is time to kill."

Lynum used social media to repeatedly threaten the victims, the detective noted. Lynum described the victims as "four hoodlums ... too dumb and demonic to know they're coming with their guns for all of you."

Lynum posted "Good luck ducking and dodging bullets from inside your own white castles ... good luck surviving the deluge," according to the affidavit.

The Florida Bar began investigation of Lynum's communications in the summer of 2019 and subsequently placed Lynum on notice that his conduct was of serious concern to the bar and that it was being investigated. But according to the Supreme Court

Referee's findings, Lynum's conduct only intensified.

Lynum's activities included personally suing the attorney who represented his ex-wife in a divorce and child custody case, posted "egregious and disparaging" comments about the attorney on Facebook and has sent "numerous disturbing and threatening emails and/or posts to, or about" the attorney, according to the Supreme Court findings. The attorney testified that Lynum posted about the attorney's personal residential address and that he was "coming to (the attorney's) house." The Supreme Court document also noted that the attorney also testified that Lynum's posts included threats of violence including threats to bomb the Sumter County Courthouse, the attorney and client (Lynum's ex-wife).

The case findings also noted that the attorney testified that Lynum has made posts including violent images such as guns, fires, riots, has referred to the attorney as a "Nazi" and has posted suggestions that someone kill the "Clermont lawyer who wears a 'What Would Jesus Do' bracelet."

The Supreme Court referee report contained an extensive list of incidents of professional misconduct by Lynum including violations of court orders, Rules of Professional Conduct and violation of his oath of admission to the Florida Bar.

The full report can be viewed at www.floridabar.org/public/acap/disc-docs/?icn202030020&member18484. Click on the link titled "Report of Referee."

Martin Steele is a reporter for the Sumter County Times, a sister newspaper of the Citrus County Chronicle.

Dunnellon to eliminate administrator position

SEAN ARNOLD
Riverland News

DUNNELLON — The Dunnellon city council on Feb. 8 directed staff and City Attorney Andrew Hand to draw up an ordinance that eliminates the city administrator position and redefines the city clerk position to encompass more city management duties.

The move came after Police Chief Mike McQuaig, who's been handling city administrator duties in an interim role in the wake of the retirement of former administrator Dawn Bowne in December, said he reached an agreement with City Clerk Mandy Roberts to take on additional duties as the City potentially eliminates the administrator position from its code.

The Council was originally to consider a resolution at the meeting Monday that would've temporarily expanded the city clerk's and chief of police's duties until a permanent city administrator was appointed.

With the new direction by the

council, Hand will present language for a proposed ordinance at the city workshop on March 3 with an eye toward holding a first reading at the regular meeting March 8. The second (and final) reading for passing such an ordinance requires a 10-day delay from the first meeting, and Mayor Bill White said he'd like to schedule a special meeting in March so the council doesn't have to wait until April for a second reading.

Roberts said, while she required significant convincing, she'd be willing to take on the extra duties as long as the city restores the assistant city clerk position, which Roberts served in before she became city clerk in 2017 and the assistant position was eliminated.

"I feel confident I can handle the duties if I'm able to hire a very qualified person that can serve in the role I used to serve in as assistant city clerk," Roberts said.

Under the new setup, McQuaig, who previously reported to the city administrator, would report directly to the city council. Most of the remaining city administrator and clerk duties would fall under the title of the new expanded clerk position and a new assistant clerk. The city administrator position was established to

manage City Hall and carry out the direction of the city council, given the impracticality — and limitations from Sunshine Law — of the council directly managing day-to-day operations for the city.

The council was facing the prospect of not having a new permanent city administrator until possibly late spring or summer, depending how long a new hiring could be completed and how soon a new administrator could take over.

Bowne was Dunnellon's first and only city administrator, which was put into place in 2017. She was the interim city manager in 2016 and began working for the city in 1986.

The restructuring is expected to reduce personnel costs to the city, but Vice Mayor Valerie Hanchar was insistent the duties of a city administrator will remain, even if under a new title, and Roberts is owed compensation that reflects as much. McQuaig echoed Hanchar's remarks.

"So this is not a shock to

anyone, she deserves more (than her current salary as city clerk)," McQuaig said. "She'll be taking on all the responsibilities (of the city administrator), except for me reporting directly to the council."

"I know everybody wants to make sure we save money," Hanchar said. "We really need to make sure we're understanding (that) one person cannot do this job. Everyone doesn't want a city manager or city administrator, (but) I don't care what we call (it), we have to do the job of those titles, no matter what it's called."

Hanchar said a salary of around \$73,000 should be a target as reflected in a salary study performed on behalf of the city last year. White said Hanchar's amount was "on target" with preliminary discussions with Roberts.

"We feel like we're going in the right direction," Councilwoman Louise Kenny said. "I think we've got a good handle on what we're doing. We're very appreciative of Mandy stepping forward. We've got all the confidence in the world in her, so I think that clarifies my position."

Sean Arnold is editor of the Riverland News, a sister newspaper of the Citrus County Chronicle.



Mike McQuaig
 Dunnellon police chief.



Mandy Roberts
 Dunnellon city clerk.

HOW YOUR LAWMAKERS VOTED

Key votes for the week ending Feb. 12, reported by Voterama in Congress. (The House was in recess.)

- **Acquitting Donald Trump:** Voting 57 for and 43 against, the Senate on Feb. 13 failed reach a two-thirds majority needed to convict former President Trump on an article of impeachment charging him with "incitement of insurrection" for his role in prompting a deadly assault on the Capitol Jan. 6 by a mob of his supporters. **Marco Rubio, Rick Scott, No.**
- **Agreeing to Trial Rules:** Voting 89-11, the Senate on Feb. 9 approved rules (S Res 47) agreed to by both parties to govern the second impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump starting that day. **Marco Rubio, Did not vote; Rick Scott, No.**
- **Rejecting Constitutional Objection:** Voting 56-44, the Senate on Feb. 9 agreed to a motion that the second impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump was constitutional. This dispensed with a Republican argument that Trump, who was impeached by the House while still in office, could not be tried by the Senate because he was a private citizen. **Marco Rubio, Yes; Rick Scott, No.**
- **Allowing Witness Testimony:** The Senate on Feb. 13 voted, 55-45, to allow witness testimony in the Donald Trump impeachment trial. **Marco Rubio, Rick Scott, No.**
- **Confirming Denis McDonough as Veterans Secretary:** Voting 87-7, the Senate on Feb. 8 confirmed Denis R. McDonough, 51, as secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, making him the second non-veteran to fill the post. **Marco Rubio, Yes; Rick Scott, No.**
- **Key votes ahead:** The Senate will be in recess in the week of Feb. 15, while the House's legislative schedule was to be announced.

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

QUESTION: The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce is asking state lawmakers to support a bill to give businesses legal protections from customer COVID-19 lawsuits, if protective guidelines were "substantially" complied with. What do you think?

- **A.** It was the customer's decision, pure and simple. (414 votes)
- **B.** No one twisted the customer's arm to patronize. (176 votes)
- **C.** Hey, life is a risk. (74 votes)
- **D.** Businesses have an obligation to their customers. (283 votes)
- **E.** The customer is always right. (11 votes)

Total votes: 958. Find this week's online poll question./Page A1

Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthdays — Look at the possibilities and focus on the ones that make the most sense. How you make decisions and pursue offers will determine your success. Don't copy what others are doing.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Follow your heart, use your skills benevolently and do the best job possible.
Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — Let your instincts lead the way.
Aries (March 21-April 19) — Trust in your ability to get things done quickly and efficiently.
Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Step into the spotlight and reap the rewards.
Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Don't be afraid to do things differently.
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Take a moment and observe.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — A change is necessary.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Sign up for something you find intriguing.
Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Stick close to home.
Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Trust and believe in yourself.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Take on and do only what you know you can handle.

ENTERTAINMENT

Ashley Judd describes how she 'nearly lost' her leg

NEW YORK — Ashley Judd has recounted a painful ordeal she believes almost cost her leg after tripping in a Congolese rainforest and having to be evacuated by motorbike.
In one of two Instagram Live videos hosted Friday by New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, the actor said she was stuck on the ground for five hours with a "badly misshapen leg," biting a stick because of pain, and "howling like a wild animal."
Judd was injured when she and researchers were up early in a rainforest looking for bonobos when she tripped over a log and the fall shattered her tibia. She was carried out the rainforest in a hammock and back to camp.
Then she was evacuated by motorbike, with a driver steering and another man "holding the top part of my shattered tibia together." That trip lasted six hours.



Associated Press

In this April 25, 2015 file photo, Ashley Judd attends the 2015 White House Correspondents' Association Dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington. Judd was injured last week when she and researchers were up early in a Congolese rainforest looking for bonobos when she tripped over a log and the fall shattered her tibia. She was carried out the rainforest in a hammock and back to camp.

ABC dating show.

In a new statement posted Saturday, Harrison apologized again for defending the actions by a contestant that are considered offensive. "By excusing historical racism, I defended it," he wrote.

Harrison came under fire after an interview on "Extra" when he was asked about racially insensitive past behavior from current "Bachelor" contestant Rachael Kirkconnell.

Past photos of her resurfaced in which she is dressed in costume as a Native American and at an antebellum plantation-themed ball. Kirkconnell later issued an apology for what

she calls her past "racist and offensive" actions.

In the interview, Harrison defended Kirkconnell against what he called the "woke police" on social media. "We all need to have a little grace, a little understanding, a little compassion," he said in the interview.

Harrison apologized on Saturday, saying "my ignorance did damage" and he was "ashamed over how uninformed I was." He said he is stepping aside from his TV show "for a period of time" and will not be hosting the "After the Final Rose" special that will follow the season finale of "The Bachelor."

—From wire reports

Today in HISTORY

Today is Monday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2021. There are 319 days left in the year. This is Presidents Day.

Today's Highlight: On Feb. 15, 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

On this date: In 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court.

In 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

In 1992, a Milwaukee jury found that Jeffrey Dahmer was sane when he killed and mutilated 15 men and boys. (The decision meant that Dahmer, who had already pleaded guilty to the murders, would receive a mandatory life sentence for each count; Dahmer was beaten to death in prison in 1994.)

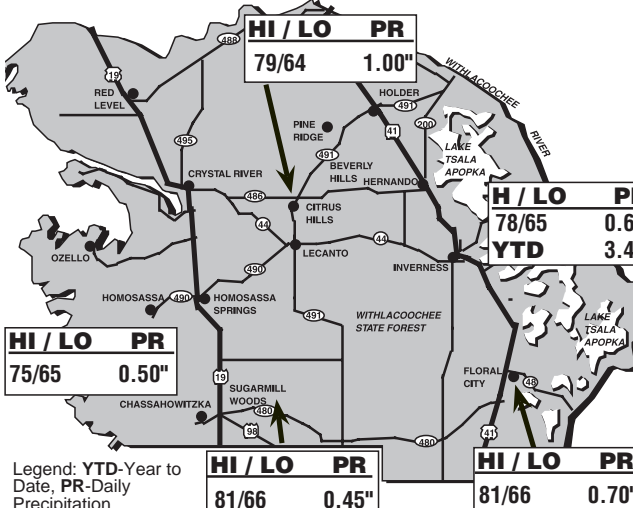
Ten years ago: Protesters swarmed Wisconsin's capitol after Gov. Scott Walker proposed cut-backs in benefits and abolishing bargaining rights for most public employees

Five years ago: President Barack Obama opened a meeting in Rancho Mirage, California, of leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, calling the landmark gathering on U.S. soil a reflection of his personal commitment to an enduring partnership with the diverse group of countries.

One year ago: China reported 143 new coronavirus deaths, but a dip in the number of new cases; the World Health Organization praised China's efforts to contain the new disease.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Claire Bloom is 90. Songwriter Brian Holland is 80. Actor Jane Seymour is 70. Singer Melissa Manchester is 70. Model Janice Dickinson is 66.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



Legend: YTD-Year to Date, PR-Daily Precipitation
HI / LO PR
79/64 1.00"
78/65 0.60" YTD 3.40"
75/65 0.50"
81/66 0.45"
81/66 0.70"

THREE DAY OUTLOOK
TODAY & TOMORROW MORNING
High: 83° Low: 60°
Partly sunny, scattered showers
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MORNING
High: 65° Low: 50°
Showers end early AM, partly cloudy and turning cooler PM
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING
High: 79° Low: 60°
Partly sunny, scattered afternoon to evening storms

ALMANAC table with columns for TEMPERATURE, DEW POINT, HUMIDITY, POLLEN COUNT, and BAROMETRIC PRESSURE.

SOLAR TABLES with columns for DATE, DAY, MINOR MAJOR (MORNING), and MINOR MAJOR (AFTERNOON).

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK
SUNSET TONIGHT 6:19 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 7:06 am
MOONRISE TODAY 9:35 am
MOONSET TODAY 10:03 pm

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

WATERING RULES table with columns for ADDRESS and WATERING DAYS.

TIDES
*From mouths of rivers **At King's Bay ***At Mason's Creek
MONDAY
City High Low
Chassahowitzka** 8:22 a.m. 0.5 ft 8:24 p.m. 0.4 ft 2:08 a.m. 0.1 ft 3:38 p.m. 0.1 ft

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

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

Table with columns for City, H, L, F'cast, and another set of City, H, L, F'cast.

MARINE OUTLOOK

Today: South winds 15 to 20 knots. Seas 2 to 3 feet. Bay and inland waters a moderate chop. Patchy sea fog. A slight chance of thunderstorms. A chance of showers in the afternoon.

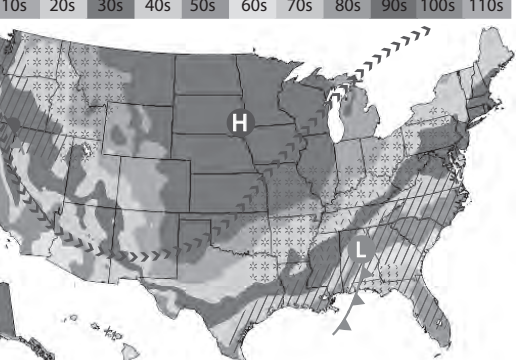
Gulf water temperature 71° Taken at Crystal River

LAKE LEVELS

Table with columns for Location, SUN, SAT, and Full.

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

THE NATION



FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. Monday

Table with columns for City, SUN, MON, and another set of City, SUN, MON.

YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL HIGH & LOW
HIGH 90, Sebring, Fla.
LOW -42, Sandstone, Minn.

WORLD CITIES

Table with columns for City, H/L/SKY, and another set of City, H/L/SKY.

ALERT CITRUS SIGNUP

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

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ESSAY

Continued from Page A1

"Just being able to share what I have thought long and hard on with people is really amazing," she said.

Samuel Len Wenzel, state chairman of the Florida Elks Drug Awareness Education Committee, picked Mikayla's essay to be the state's contender in the organization's national contest level.

"They must put a lot into drug awareness within that school district because her essay was pretty right on point about using drugs, what they will do to you and how they'll disrupt your family," he said. "She incorporated a little bit of everything in her essay."

Mikayla said she'd be happy if her message received nationwide attention.

"I would be able to share something that has been a problem for so long, and be able to give direction on someone's life," she said. "Even if it's just one person, it's helping one person."

Before Mikayla's essay went to Wenzel and the Florida Elks, it was judged by Inverness Elks Lodge 2522 and Jim Manos, the lodge's drug awareness coordinator.

Each of the 94 Elks lodges in Florida, including the seven in Citrus County, have such a position to help educate communities and youth about narcotics.

Manos solicited English classes at Lecanto Middle to send in essays for the Elks Club contest and its theme: "Drug Abuse — No Excuse."

He also stopped by Inverness Primary and Hernando Elementary schools to have students there create and turn in posters on the same subject.

Mikayla's essay was one of three Manos and other judges decided to send to Wenzel for consideration.

"I liked the fact she tied in ... how drugs harm people mentally and physically, and how there are treatment options for drugs," Manos said. "It was a tough prompt."

Mikayla said she was inspired by her English Language Arts teacher, Stephanie Hill.

"She has always pushed me to be an overachiever, and she was telling us we should really do this assignment," Mikayla said, "and I felt like it's something that is so important to me; I should branch out in my essay, put as much personality as I could."

Becoming a psychologist is Mikayla's goal career.

"I have always enjoyed learning about the human brain and why people who are mentally ill behave the way that they do," she said. "I'd like to figure out what illnesses they have, and help them overcome that or deal with it."

Mikayla's essay, according to Manos, is the fourth one from his lodge to consecutively win state recognition.

"I really just want to thank my parents for pushing me to do my very best on this essay and try my hardest," Mikayla said, "and my ELA teacher for having me do this assignment, and I'd like to thank the Elks Club for making this a thing."

Wenzel said the essay contest has been around for between 15 and 20 years.

"I retired as a (22-year) law enforcement officer from New York," he said, "and I just love to see these young children's responses when you give them a two-, three-, four-word theme ... and they incorporate it with their everyday life."

"I'm pleased the Elks continue with the program," Manos added, "any way that we can limit drug abuse by our kids in any way, shape or manner is a good thing."

DI-Y ONLINE CALENDAR

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

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS BRIEFS

- Local organizations are welcome to submit news briefs for publication in the Chronicle.
- Send news releases to community@chronicleonline.com. Submissions are always subject to editing.
- For more information, call the newsroom at 352-563-6363.



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Showing their passion to serve

Lecanto High School Student Government Association goes for gold

BUSTER THOMPSON
Staff writer

Bridging Citrus County's citizens with their campus isn't just a mission for members of the Lecanto High School Student Government Association, it's their passion.

"We have the people, we have the power and we have the means," said senior Alicia Nagda, community liaison of the association's (SGA's) executive board. "So putting those to good use ... is not just because we have to give back ... it comes from our hearts."

Officials with the Florida Association of Student Councils recognized this organized selflessness in March 2020, when they awarded the SGA with a Gold Medallion during a three-day, pre-COVID-19 conference at Leon High School in Tallahassee.

A Gold Medallion from the FASC credits a middle or high school's SGA as being top-tier in their threshold of student populations.

It was the first time Lecanto's SGA, now 75 members strong, showed at the conference and brought back a Gold Medallion, which symbolizes the impact of its 60 brainstormed "passion projects" from last school year.

"It was a great experience ... it definitely came as surprise," said junior Vincent Lahera, SGA board vice president. "We didn't know what was happening ... we were super excited."

Area veterans, retirees, grieving youth, teachers and other students benefitted from the actions of the association, which is led by board members and elected students.

"We're helping them," Sophomore Class President Julia Parker said, "but we're also learning, seeing firsthand from others as well."

For freshman English teacher Angela Rausch, the SGA advisor, her students' medallion is a testament to their willingness to explore, enact, adapt and evolve their community- and school-service projects.

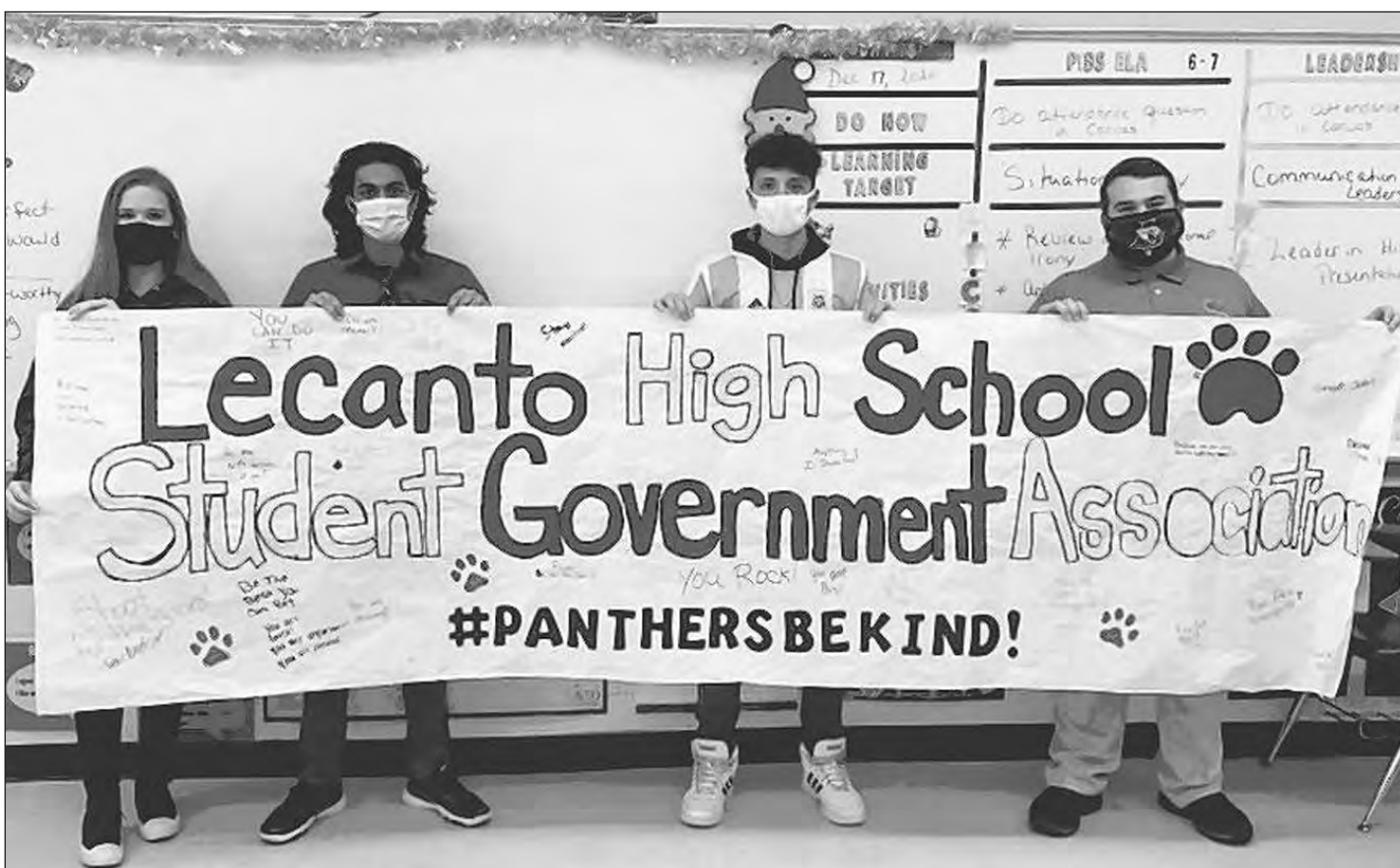
"They do great with it and just run with it," she said. "They're learning a lot of life-skills ... and I look forward to what they do after they leave high school."

"We want to do so much, but Ms. Rausch always has to remind us we have restrictions," Nagda said. "It stems from our passion. ... Everyone wants to give back and help out."

Some of the SGA's projects last school year included: helping with the Tim Tebow Foundation's Night to Shine, a prom for people with special needs; writing letters of gratitude during Teacher Appreciation Week in May; caroled for residents of a Lecanto assisted-living facility; and started showcasing original routines for kids to perform at Citrus Gymnastics.

SGA members are now prepping for the FASC's 2021 convention April 9-11 at Palmetto Ridge High School in Naples.

For it, the SGA has to compile a binder of — among other things — their association's constitution, meeting minutes and agendas, typed reports detailing their



Members of the Lecanto High School Student Government Association present messages of kindness they wrote for Lecanto Middle School during their "Do Be Nice Week" in December 2020. Pictured, from left, are: juniors Delaney Lamon, Deep Patel, Aidan Finamore and Vincent Lahera.

ANGELA RAUSCH/Special to the Chronicle

year's worth of projects

"It takes a lot of time to put them together," said Rausch, who's supported by class sponsors and fellow instructors.

"Ms. Rausch prepared us a lot for state because she had everything planned out in what we need to do," Junior Class President Aubrie Cioe said. "We knew what we had to do and what we had to achieve, and we did."

Even though it put a pause to many of the functions the SGA is responsible for, COVID-19 didn't slow down the number of endeavors its members pursued since March.

They volunteered at Camp Good Hope, a local bereavement camp for children and teens dealing with loss.

"It was definitely very eye-opening," Parker said. "We were able to see firsthand what some of those children were going through."

In November, for Veterans Day, SGA members wrote more than 200 "thank-you" letters to servicemen and women in the county, and also hosted a drive to donate hygiene products toward veterans with the Mission in Citrus Homeless Shelter.

To promote good manners and acceptance in mid-December, the SGA went across schools for its Panthers Be Nice Week, when they delivered hand-written notes of goodwill to classes.

"It was kind of like a spirit week," Nagda said, "but it was more of like showing who you are and showing kindness to others."

Speaking of school spirit, the SGA is responsible for boosting student morale ahead of homecoming and prom.

Even with the virus halting the dances, the SGA still hosted a virtual crowning of the prom king and queen and decorated their school hallways.

"We still had the essence of homecoming," Senior Class President Austin Recta said.

SGA members are hopeful to put on a traditional prom this year, but their future is dependent on the decisions of the Citrus County School District.



Before the impacts of COVID-19, a group of the Lecanto High School Student Government Association participated in the three-day Florida Association of Student Councils conference in March 2020 at Leon High School in Tallahassee, where they were awarded a gold medallion for their school and community service projects. Pictured, from left, are: Angela Rausch, SGA advisor; Vincent Lahera, sophomore vice president; Elise Leturno, sophomore and executive board secretary; Chase Wilson, senior and executive board president; Aubrie Cioe, sophomore and vice president; and Hollie Dutcher, sophomore class sponsor.

"It goes to show the power of students," Lahera said, speaking about the relationship between SGAs and district leaders. "While these adults do everything to help us, they still want us to make decisions on our own; they want us to be able to enjoy our experience the way that we want to."

One of the biggest and recent roles of the SGA is to fuse as many segments of the student body together to help tackle issues on and off their campus.

"Our class wanted to do stuff like that, but we didn't know how to," Recta said, recalling his freshman year. "There were a lot of cliques and nobody wanted to talk to each other, but now we try to integrate all different kinds of students."

Interested in joining the high school student government association?

Speak with a representative or sit in on

a general assembly meeting, where a SGA partners with other school clubs. Be sure to sign up early to participate in officer elections.

Prospective SGA members should have the "strive and motivation to help their school and their community," Cioe said.

Lecanto SGA members are now working on a project to pack "buddy bags" of essential items for those in foster care.

Planning and doing these projects teaches and transforms these student leaders into the adults who'll continue to serve their hometown and neighbors.

"One day, we're going to be those citizens. ... We're learning now what we can do for our community," Lahera said. "You're going to have that push by yourself to decide, 'do I really want to make a difference in my hometown?'"



Associated Press

Pharmacy technician Sochi Evans fills a syringe with a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine Feb. 11 at Texas Southern University in Houston. Coronavirus cases are continuing to decline in the U.S. after a winter surge. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University say the seven-day average of new coronavirus cases in the country dropped below 100,000 on Friday, Feb. 12 for the first time since Nov. 4.

VIRUS

Continued from Page A1

The U.S. has recorded more than 27.5 million virus cases and more than 484,000 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins data.

With parents and political leaders eager to have children around the country back in school for in-person learning, it is important that people continue to observe precautions, Walensky said.

"We need to all take responsibility to decrease that community spread, including mask wearing so that we can get our kids and our society back," she said.

The CDC released guidance on Friday outlining mitigation strategies necessary to reopen schools or to keep them open.

Some teachers have expressed concern about returning to the classroom without having been vaccinated, but the guidelines do not say that's necessary. Dr. Anthony

Fauci said on ABC's "This Week" that it would be "optimal" if teachers were vaccinated but that other measures laid out in the 24-page document can lessen their risk.

"Practically speaking, when you balance the benefit of getting the children back to school with the fact that the risks are being mitigated, if you follow the recommendations and these new guidelines from the CDC, hopefully, I think that will alleviate the concerns on both sides," he said.

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Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council works to make Citrus County more resilient

VERONICA KAMPSCHROER
Special to the Chronicle

Guest COLUMN

With the goal of working on resiliency efforts with municipalities and companies around the area, Citrus County is a member of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition, which made good progress in 2020 toward making west-central Florida more resilient to extreme weather and sea level rise.

The three-year-old coalition, a group of 31 area municipalities and more than 90 private-sector companies, held the first resiliency summit of its kind in our region in January 2020. Over two days, the coalition established priorities for area-wide issues to be included in a Regional Resiliency Action Plan.

This year, the coalition will turn these regional resiliency priorities into actionable ideas for local municipalities with the help of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC), which is tasked with moving the coalition's work forward.

"We all need to do our part to make Citrus County more resilient, whether it's taking steps to better protect low-lying areas

from flooding or helping the county's residents who are being impacted by economic challenges," said Ron Kitchen. The Citrus County Commissioner is a member and former Chair of the TBRPC.

The Regional Planning Council has participated in a number of resiliency related initiatives that involve Citrus County over the past several years, including an economic impact analysis of transportation and land use impacts related to the extension of the Suncoast Parkway through Citrus County. By recommending specific land-use scenarios along the route, the analysis was designed to help the county derive economic benefits beyond simply having more service stations and convenience stores.

Later this year, the Regional Planning Council will hold cross-jurisdiction workshops and public input sessions to define consensus on the objectives and actions for the plan.

"We expect the plan to include recommendations on everything from making our area's highways better able to withstand extreme weather, to mitigating neighborhood flooding by

installing backflow preventers and storm drains," Kitchen said.

The plan will not be designed to tell local municipalities what to do. Instead, it will include recommendations to consider and other information that governments around the region can use in deciding what priorities fit their communities.

The TBRPC is also involved in a number of other resiliency related programs:

■ A project called Resilient Tampa Bay, one of 11 throughout the country, assessed the resiliency and reliability of Tampa Bay's transportation system, finding that nearly one in five of Tampa Bay area's roadways are highly or moderately vulnerable to storms, sea level rise, and heavy precipitation.

■ The Project Phoenix model, showing the potential impacts of a Category 5 hurricane on our area, was updated in 2020. Project Phoenix's trainings teach business owners how to prepare for a disaster, through actions like creating continuity plans, evaluating insurance needs, developing human resource plans, and protecting the business' property and facilities.

Local housing, resilience, and recovery planning experts and community leaders are using a two-year grant from JP-Morgan Chase to assess potential risks that local communities face from extreme weather and sea level rise, and define new strategies and policies to increase affordable, resilient housing development and redevelopment.

The Resilience and Energy Assessment of Communities and Housing (REACH) Initiative is working to integrate affordable housing, neighborhoods and community redevelopment into area climate vulnerability assessments, and resilience and sustainability planning.

■ The Clear Sky Tampa Bay project is creating a toolkit for integrating disaster risk and resiliency into planning of solar energy sites and storage facilities.

The project, one of eight around the country, is creating a regional technical and economic framework for considering the risks from disasters and other resilience factors in planning area sites for solar energy.

■ The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and five other regional planning councils around Florida will be working

over the next three years to develop a statewide approach to flood planning, which will provide a framework for municipalities to create disaster models and mitigation strategies.

So what does this work mean for Citrus County residents?

"As we see more extreme weather events and flooding in our area, we can see why resiliency needs to be top of mind," Kitchen said. "And beyond events like last year's named storms, Sally and Eta, we also need to make our county more resilient to economic challenges — whether they are tied to the COVID-19 pandemic, or related to such events as the closing of the Crystal River nuclear power facility.

"As elected officials, we want to hear about what resiliency efforts matter to you, so we can make priorities for our local neighborhoods and business areas. Also, look for information about an open forum the Regional Planning Council is planning for the fall, as the council shares details of its action plan for input."

Veronica Kampschroer is the public information officer for the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners.

Food PROGRAMS

FOOD PANTRIES

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

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

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

■ St. Anne's Episcopal Church — 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the administration building, 9870 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River. Call 352-795-2176.

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

■ We Care Food Pantry — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 5259 W. Cardinal St., Homosassa. If you need help, come sign up. The pantry gives away meat, dairy, produce, personal care items and more. Assistance is also available for SNAP, Medicare, Medicaid and Access Florida assistance is temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.

■ First Baptist Church of Crystal River — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday

and Thursday, 700 N. Citrus Ave. Call 352-795-3367.

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

■ Living Water Ministries — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, 4021 N. Lecanto Highway, in the Beverly Plaza. Call 352-270-8886.

■ Our Lady of Fatima — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, 604 U.S. 41 S., open to needy residents of Floral City, Hernando and Inverness. Call 352-726-1707.

■ Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church hosts a food pantry from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 114 N. Osceola Ave. in downtown Inverness. For information, call 352-726-3153.

■ The Citrus County Veterans Coalition's food pantry, for veterans and their families, operates from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and the first and third Thursdays (excluding holidays) at 1801 N. Paul Drive in Inverness, just west of U.S. 41, on Independence Highway. The pantry offers a variety of dry, canned and frozen goods (cereals, rice, canned vegetables, soups and meats) for veterans in need. For food assistance, call Food Pantry Director Trish Hendry at 352-857-1171, see a member at one of CCVC's flea markets, or ask a volunteer during food pantry hours.

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

■ St. Margaret's Episcopal Church — 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call 352-726-3153. Feed My Sheep is closed until further notice.

■ First Presbyterian Church of Crystal River

— 9:30 a.m. to noon the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly, 1501 SE U.S. 19. Call 352-795-2259.

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

■ Homosassa First United Methodist Church Bread of Life Pantry — 8 to 11 a.m. Thursdays in fellowship hall. Bag of groceries with bread, meat and produce available for Homosassa residents once a month. Call 352-628-4083.

■ Serving our Savior (SOS) — 8:30 to 11 a.m. Thursdays at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 439 E. Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando. This is a drive-thru food pantry. Clients are allowed to come every other week. SOS is an equal opportunity provider. Email sos4food@gmail.com

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

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

■ Floral City First Baptist Church — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the third Thursday monthly. Proof of residency required.

■ Food and non-food items are available from 10 a.m. to noon every fourth Saturday at

North Oak Baptist Church in Citrus Springs. Remaining in their cars, people can enter at the Citrus Springs Boulevard entrance. They will be met with a person bringing them a bag of essential non-food items, which could include toilet paper, paper towels, personal hygiene items and other supplies based on availability. As cars continue around the drive, the food pantry crew waits with pre-assembled bags of food items. Cars then exit onto Elkcam Boulevard. There is no charge for these ministries and all are welcome. North Oak Baptist Church is located at 9324 N. Elkcam Blvd. in Citrus Springs. Call 352-489-1688 for more information.

■ The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Thomas the Apostle Church Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The church is located on U.S. 19, approximately 1/2 mile south of the Cardinal Street intersection. The pantry provides bagged canned goods, non-perishable food items and food staples for people facing temporary hardship and living within parish boundaries. To be eligible, clients must present photo ID. Call 352-628-3366. Emergency help with utility shut-offs, prescriptions and other emergency services are provided. Volunteers are available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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

FREE MEALS

■ Peace Lutheran Church offers a free community meal

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

■ The Salvation Army offers free hot meals from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays in the thrift

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

■ Free hot meals are available Monday through Friday for clients ages 60-plus at the following community centers. Call to reserve your first meal as a visitor: Central Citrus Community Center at 2804

See **FOOD/Page A8**

2100-0215 MCRN

PUBLIC NOTICE BY CITRUS COUNTY HOUSING SERVICES DIVISION

Under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Citrus County Board of County Commissioners announces the following housing program and availability of funding.

2021 SHIP ALLOCATION OF APPROXIMATELY \$30,000 (A MAXIMUM OF \$10,000 PER UNIT)

RENTAL HOUSING CONSTRUCTION OR REHABILITATION STRATEGY

This strategy will provide funding for the purchase of new construction housing, the purchase of existing housing, and the rehabilitation of, or additions to, existing housing that is group home housing. Priority goes to **Special Needs** housing groups as noted in Section 420.0004, Florida Statutes, including, adult persons with a disabling condition, young adults formerly in foster care, survivors of domestic violence, and applicants receiving SSI or a disability benefit. Provided the Special Needs Strategy is met. This strategy funds non-homeownership housing initiatives. This strategy is not restricted to geographical location, but must be located within Citrus County.

Applications will be accepted at the Citrus County Resource Center, Housing Services Division, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, Lecanto, Florida, 34461, effective **Friday, February 26 through Friday, March 12, 2021.**

The application can also be found on-line at https://www.citrusbocc.com/departments/community_services/housing_services/ship_programs/index.php

For more information pertaining to SHIP programs, please contact Tammy Harris, Housing Services Director or Michelle Alford, Housing Coordinator at (352) 527-7520.

It is unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, sex, marital or familial status, national origin or handicap in the award application process for eligible housing.

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We Care mobile pantry schedule of locations



Matthew Beck/Chronicle file
 In this photo from Nov. 24, 2020, volunteers direct cars through a line for food pick-up during the We Care Food Pantry mobile food pantry in Beverly Hills.

In 2019, We Care began taking food into the community at strategic locations. In 2021, their program has expanded to 10 locations each month in an effort to make it easier for people who need assistance with food.

Here is the schedule for the remainder of February. All We Care mobile pantries are free and open to the public.

- Feb. 13: 7 a.m. at We Care, 5259 W. Cardinal St., Homosassa.
- Feb. 16: 9 a.m. at Old Chassahowitzka Fire Station, 10300 S. Riviera Drive, Homosassa.
- Feb. 18: 10 a.m. at the New Church Without Walls, 300 S. Kensington Ave., Lecanto.
- Feb. 20: 10 a.m. at Independent House of God Church of the Living God, 557 NE Second Ave., Crystal River.
- Feb. 23: 9 a.m. at Beverly Hills Civic Association, 1 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills.
- Feb. 24: 10 a.m. at Red Level Baptist Church, 11025 W. Dunnellon Road, Crystal River, FL 34428
- Feb. 25: 10 a.m. at the New Church Without Walls, 300 S. Kensington Ave., Lecanto.
- Feb. 27: 7 a.m. at We Care, 5259 W. Cardinal St., Homosassa.

— From staff reports

FOOD

Continued from Page A7

W. Marc Knighton Court in Lecanto (352-527-5993); West Citrus Community Center at 8940 W. Veterans Drive in Homosassa (352-795-3831); East Citrus Community Center at 9907 E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway in Inverness (352-344-9666); and at the historic Hernando School on the corner of Florida Avenue and Parsons Point Road.

■ St. Margaret's Episcopal Church's Feed My Sheep outreach — 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Call 352-726-3153.

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

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

GIVEAWAYS

■ El-Shaddai food ministries "brown bag of food" distribution is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays at Crystal River Church of God, 2180 W. 12th Ave. Although food is distributed

once a week, families are only eligible for food once a month. Call 352-628-9087 or 352-302-9925.

■ Iglesia Comunidad Cristiana Nuevo Comienzo (New Beginnings Church) sponsors a food giveaway at 10 a.m. every second and fourth Wednesday morning at Shepherd's Way Community Church, 965 N. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto. This is drive-thru pre-bagged groceries. For more information, call 352-804-2263 (Español) or 352-527-9900 (English).

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

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

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

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Sound OFF



Mail service very slow

I'm calling Sound Off in reference to our United States Postal Service. I had an item I was supposed to receive back on Dec. 22, was when it was supposed to be delivered. According to tracking, it just arrived in Jacksonville almost a month later — one month to get from Maryland to Jacksonville, when it was supposed to be delivered on Dec. 22. Unbelievable.

Trucks speeding down Maylen

I noticed this morning, Tuesday morning (Jan. 19, 2021), I saw the sheriff's office was giving tickets out on (State Road) 44 in the school zone, which was good. But I wonder why we have trucks on Maylen Avenue, next to the Seven Rivers school, going 50 mph downhill with a full load of sand in the dump truck in a 25 mph zone and you never see any police. Seems like the risk of somebody getting killed at that location would be kind of high if the trucks can't stop in a hurry and ram into somebody delivering their schoolchildren there. I'd like to ask Sheriff Prendergast, why the disparity?

How many wore masks?

I'm responding to Sound Off (about the Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021, Citrus County COVID-19 update). Well, here is the quote — I'd like to know this — you say, "55 new positive cases were reported in Citrus County." OK, so out of 55, how many of those were actually wearing masks? I'll bet you the CDC wouldn't tell you that. Why is that? Out of 55, I'd just like to know how many were actually wearing masks. Or was all 55 not wearing masks? I would really like to know that. But yet, the CDC, I bet you, would not give you the answer to that ...

Editor's note: The CDC doesn't keep stats on who wears a mask.

I didn't see any signs

I'd like to compliment the Chronicle on publishing the article about the visitors center (Page A3, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021), but I'd also like to point out to the city of Inverness that I don't see a single sign that indicates on the roads that there is a visitors center even in Inverness. I drive by it at least every other week going to one of the parks that are beautiful, but no signs to tell there is a visitors center.

Call center idea makes sense

This is to Mr. Lee Kane in Crystal River in the paper about setting up a vaccine call center. I think that is an excellent idea because I'm 69, but there's no way I'm going to go sit in a line. For one thing, there's too many people that might have it. I just want to thank you for your (letter to the editor, Page A7, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021). It makes a lot of sense to me.

I see a lot of deputies on US 19

(Re the Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, "Hot Corner: Traffic Fatalities"): Wonder where these callers are when they drive their cars. I drive 10 miles of (U.S.) 19 one way every day and I will see at least four sheriff's deputies' cars in that 10-mile stretch. Sometimes I think there's too many sheriff's deputies out there. Problem is the construction zones, the ridiculous orange barrels and the changing of lanes. It's ridiculous. That causes more accidents. I'd like to see the Chronicle publish how many accidents were

in that construction zone. And the construction zone continues for another four or five years, so it's not over yet.

Left-turn lane, no signal is dangerous

I'm calling about the traffic fatalities in the "Hot Corner" (Friday, Jan. 22, 2021). One of the most dangerous intersections in Inverness is heading on (State Road) 44 East, which is also called Main Street at this point, and trying to make a left turn onto (U.S.) 41 North. There's a left-turn lane, but no left-turn signal. Do you realize how long you have to sit there waiting for an opening of oncoming traffic heading west on (S.R.) 44? What is the point of having a left-turn lane without a left-turn signal? Do the people that designed the roadways and traffic lights ever actually use the roadways that they design? How could you have a left-turn lane at one of the busiest intersections on (S.R.) 44 East and no safe way to turn left onto (U.S.) 41 North? There's no turn arrow. It makes no sense because oncoming traffic never ends.

I don't buy cards but donate money

To the person who stated, "Not sending cards is just lazy" (in Sound Off, Friday, Jan. 22, 2021): I stopped sending cards and instead donated what I would spend on stamps and cards to a charity. I also have arthritis in my wrist and it is very difficult to write in cards. And to receive a card without a handwritten "Hi," or at least "Hope you're doing well," to me, is not good enough. Again, it has nothing to do with laziness.

What about the folks in the way?

(Re the Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, front-page story, "Board OKs Cardinal plan"): Just curious. I see the new plan for the Cardinal intersection for the parkway. What about the folks that's living in those areas? Will they be forced off their property like all the others that were in the way of the great parkway?

No retailers will come

I'm sorry, but I really don't see any big real retailers wanting to build down there on Cardinal down there in no-man's land.

It's bad planning by the city

I'm calling Sound Off in reference to (the Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, front-page story), "Inverness to allow alcohol sales at train depot." My, my, my, now we have gray areas. No alcohol is permitted in any Inverness parks whatsoever, but now we're going to make a loophole because you built a building and you can't rent it out. So it's bad planning on your behalf and now you want to sell alcoholic beverages to draw people to the business. So my response is: No, if you don't bring alcoholic beverages into a park, then you should not be allowed to sell it there in the park. You're opening Pandora's box by allowing them to sell alcoholic beverages. All this should have been taken into account when the planning stages were in about building this building and what was to be sold there and so forth, to see if it would really be utilized or needed there. Apparently not, so it's bad planning as usual by Citrus County.

Editor's note: The train depot was built decades ago.

Dreaming of new ramps

I had a dream last night. In that dream, it was

scallop season on the Nature Coast of Florida and the day was sunny with light winds from the south-east. My brother and I and our wives just arrived at the brand-new Nature Coast boat ramps on the Cross Florida Barge Canal north of Crystal River. Ramps 8 and 10 were open, so we backed up to ramp 8 for a quick start out onto the water. People were happy and laughing and eager to get out on the water to see what the Gulf of Mexico had to offer today. The years of boat ramp turmoil were behind us. So, hats off to those great people at the BOCC that made the Nature Coast boat ramps happen.

Driving with a cellphone

I would like to make a comment on someone driving and looking at their cellphone, causing an accident and endangering the lives of others. That's reckless endangerment when you take your eyes off of the road and look at something else. I know we have to glance at the rearview mirror and we have to glance at the side mirror because someone could be coming up to sideswipe us. I have had two cars totaled from me here in two years in my 70s. I survived for seven years because God is good, but the repercussions from those live with me until today — a broken back, a broken leg, head injuries, neck injuries. ... But when people go to looking at their cellphones, it's time to turn your driver's license in and just stay home on your cellphone. ... Listen, people, when you're in a car, don't get in a hurry. Have a good day and stay safe.

Vaccine plan not working

My husband and I are very upset. We went to the park this morning, sat in a long line of cars approaching it and at 8:30, just as we drove by the entrance, we heard the announcement that all the vaccines had been used. That was at 8:30. The park was supposed to start with them at 9 o'clock. So I don't know what went wrong or what they did, but it's not working for us. My husband's 91, I'm 83 and this is the second time we've tried a place for the vaccine. There's got to be a better plan in Citrus County. So, governor and whoever else, get your act together and help us before we have another super-spreader.

Canal would have been a benefit

I'm reading today's Chronicle, Sunday (Jan. 24, 2021, the front-page story, "'Ditch of Dreams'"). It's a shame that the Florida Barge Canal never went through. It was a bad decision by everybody. I think it would have been a great thing. But the main reason I'm calling is I hope that the mayor of Crystal River has some say and some power to (oversee) the construction that's going to go on in the widening of (U.S.) 19. The Wawa station should have been done; it's still not done. The Homosassa widening was a complete disaster. It overran budget and it took two years longer than it was supposed to take. There's something somewhere, somehow that should be done about the construction people that widened these roads. ... So before they even start — this is to the mayor of Crystal River — stop the construction overruns and stop the accidents. And, if you have anything at all to say when the contract comes up, if they don't finish on time,

they get fined \$1,000 a day. If they finish ahead of time, they get extra money. The one in Homosassa was an absolute disgrace. It should not have happened.

Support the local businesses

Regarding Mr. Mulligan's comments about the critics in Citrus County complaining about not getting enough stores, and abandoned shopping centers (Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, Page C1): You know, there's a reason that happens and the reason it happens is we, as a county, don't support a lot of the local businesses. We had an Insight Credit Union in Crystal River that had to close shop for lack of support and we have a wonderful Laredo Taco Company in Inverness, which serves great food at a great price, and I don't see a lot of support for it, either. So I don't see why any big company would want to take a chance and come into a county that doesn't support its local businesses.

They should be wearing masks

I'm calling about the picture that you have in Saturday's front page of the Sports Section (Jan. 23, 2021). It appears to be a high school basketball game and I'm wondering why the commissioners or the school board hasn't done something about this. There is approximately 15 people sitting in the stands, no social distancing and they're not wearing any masks. This is why, one of the reasons that Citrus County is going up in their

COVID-19 cases. I think this should have been addressed.

Barge canal needs some boat ramps

(Re the Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, front-page story): The "Ditch of Dreams" has been waiting 50 years for some boat ramps to be put on its shores. The water may be too cool for the manatees, but the location is ideal for Nature Coast boaters. Since this canal is within the borders of Citrus County, the BOCC should be making plans for some boat ramps on this old ditch.

Adverse effects information

(Re the Jan. 24, 2021, Page C3 "Hot Corner: Vaccinations"): Someone inquired in the Sunday Sound Off about adverse effects to the first round of vaccines administered in Citrus County. The CDC does not break down adverse events by county, but that information is available on the CDC website at wonder.cdc.gov. There is a section for the vaccine adverse event reporting system. As of Sunday evening in the United States and its territories, there were just over 7,800 adverse events recorded, with 338 of them in Florida; 148 of the adverse effects reported for the United States was 148 deaths, and in Florida, there were eight deaths. That information is updated regularly by the CDC, but anyone can check the data on the vaccine adverse event reporting system. People can also report their adverse reactions to the COVID vaccine or any other vaccine through that website. You do not have to wait for a doctor's office to report it for you.

We don't need to belong to MPO

(Re the Monday, Jan. 25, 2021, front-page story, "County backs transportation projects," "\$250,000 'fair share' contributed to Hernando-Citrus planning organization"): Incredible! Mr. Kinnard, along with the county commissioners, thinks we have to spend a quarter of a million of our hard-earned tax dollars to some other county for some bogus planning department. What do they do? Oh well, they look at what the state's going to do and then they tell you what the state's going to do. Well, we don't need to belong to this MPO and that county's asking for us to give them money. Well, how did they manage to get along so far? And what does the money go for? It goes for government employees. That's what it goes for. Do we need it? No. Will it benefit our county? No. Why are the county commissioners even considering this boondoggle of a waste of our money? They act like it's their money. It's our money. I say forget the MPO. We need to tighten our belts a little bit around here. I notice no relief went to any of the citizens of this county during the COVID epidemic — not one dime. No tax cuts, no credits — in fact, tax increases. But they have (\$250,000) to give to another county for some bogus transportation department. I say "no" and the people should say "no" and let the people in power know what they want — no waste of our funds.

I appreciate the truth

As always, the editor's notes are very appreciated, because the truth does matter.

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— David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

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

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Remember past accomplishments of great leaders

"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man."

— George Washington, first president of the United States.

George Washington's quote, which is still relevant today, should inspire us all as we observe Presidents' Day.

Today, we recognize the legacies of two of America's most famous statesmen: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Although these two are the most recognized leaders, Presidents' Day, a federal holiday observed on the third Monday of February yearly, is now popularly seen as a day to recognize the lives and achievements of all of America's chief executives and is traditionally viewed as a time of patriotic celebration and remembrance.

Presidents' Day is a time to put aside the division that is stewing in the country and reflect on the good things the country stands for and the presidents who have led us to greatness.

President Washington led our country to freedom, and while we've fallen short, we've certainly made strides in learning from our mistakes. President Lincoln delivered the Emancipation Proclamation as well as pushed and signed legislation to abolish slavery in the U.S.

We should recognize their achievements as pivotal leaders in our history.

Time is skewing the proud

accomplishments of many presidents before us as we grow as a human society and realize the wrongs of our past.

No person is perfect and our great leaders certainly had flaws. To denigrate them for their human flaws does a disservice to their lifetime achievements and their historic contributions to the founding and preservation of our republic. To condemn them by today's moral standards is a self-centered holier than thou arrogance. Our national history, and the men and women who shaped it, are the

foundation not only of our past and present, but also our future. Celebrating them is celebrating America.

All these men had at least one thing in common: the desire to make the country better. Some succeeded more than others.

Given our nation's political strife, we should reflect on the legacies of Washington and Lincoln to serve as a reminder of what binds us together as people.

While we celebrate Presidents' Day, let's take a moment to reflect on some of the strengths these men had that made our country great: character, integrity, leadership, humility, self-confidence, and the power to inspire others.

THE ISSUE:

Presidents' Day.

OUR OPINION:

A day to reflect on and honor the lives of our past presidents.

Hold Trump accountable

Our senators, Rick Scott and Marco Rubio, could care less about this opinion, and calling them, in my humble opinion, is simply a waste of time. They do, however, pay attention to any and all press coverage they get. I encourage everybody to write their local newspapers.

The storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6 was, pure and simple, a terrorist action to prevent the legal and peaceful transfer of power, incited by then-POTUS Donald J. Trump. It was quite a show and one the entire American public witnessed. We watched it unfold, from Trump's call to action to the breaching of the Capitol. Five people died. Enough is enough. Or maybe it's not in the alternative universe of QAnons, Confederates, and Nazis. Trump needs to be held accountable for his actions if rule of law is to prevail. The Senate must vote to make this happen.

The American electorate gave Trump the thumbs down. He provided not one shred of evidence to support his steal claims. Those claims were laughed out of the courts. In fact, Trump was the one attempting to rig the election by strong-arming state officials to change actual vote counts.

Florida senators Rick Scott and Marco Rubio have thus far supported this former president in this attempt at violent overthrow of the duly elected government. Although highly unlikely, they can still redeem themselves. The entire public of the United States was witness to this anarchy. Not that they care what we think, but if Senate Republicans call it a rose, it will still stink. We all saw it. We all know what we saw. We all remember it. We are now all watching our leadership and hoping they will do what is right.

Tony Ostrander
Crystal River

False accusations of socialism

Socialism is a system under which the government owns and controls the means of production, the means of delivery and the allocation of labor. Business decisions are made by government officials, not by private citizens. Private enterprise is not allowed. The former Soviet Union, Cuba, and China under Chairman Mao are the only nations of which I am aware that had that system of government, and they predictably were totally unsuccessful.

Most nations that today refer to themselves as socialist have governments that are very similar to our own. For example, they provide medical care and education to all of their citizens, while we provide it only to some. This is blatant discrimination on

LETTERS to the Editor



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the basis of age. If everything that government pays for is socialism, does this mean that you do not want your garbage collected by the city? By this definition, government itself is a socialist entity, because every government official is a government employee. Paying taxes in exchange for government services is not socialism.

The following is a quote from Harry Truman. In it, he is not identifying himself as a socialist. He is merely decrying the false accusations which call it something that it is not.

"Socialism is a scare word that they have hurled at every advance the people have made. Socialism is what they called public power. Socialism is what they called Social Security. Socialism is what they called farm price supports. Socialism is what they called bank deposit insurance. Socialism is what they called the growth of free and independent labor organizations. Socialism is their name for anything that helps all of the people. When the Republican candidate inscribes the slogan 'down with socialism' on the banner of his 'great crusade,' that's not what he means at all. What he really means is down with progress. Down with Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. That's all that he means."

William Collins
Inverness

A plant-based diet is healthy

I miss Mardi Gras. I miss being in crowds on Fat Tuesday. I'm hoping for a speedy recovery from the pandemic so we can all congregate again.

After Fat Tuesday, Lent begins. Lent is the 40-day period before Easter when Christians stop eating meat and dairy in remembrance of Jesus' 40 days of reflection. As a Christian, Lent has meaning to me.

For me, I already don't eat

meat and dairy. My plant-based diet helps reduce chronic diseases, environmental degradation, and animal abuse. Countless reports have linked consumption of animal products with risk of heart failure, stroke, cancer and other diseases. A U.N. report named meat production as a source of greenhouse gases and water pollution. Investigations have revealed animals raised for food under horrible conditions of caging, crowding, drugging, and mutilation. These actions go against what I believe.

Lent offers an opportunity to honor Jesus' powerful message of compassion and love for all living beings, stop subsidizing the meat industry, and choose a nonviolent plant-based diet. It's a diet that goes back to The Bible (Genesis 1:29) and observed in the Garden of Eden.

Enter "plant-based Lent" in Google and explore hundreds meat-free recipes.

Cecil Casterelli
Crystal River

I'm leaving the Republican Party

I'm a registered Republican for the last time in my life.

I'm a firm believer in fiscal responsibility and border security. I even believe in gun ownership with common sense regulations to protect us from the challenged among us.

But I draw the line at trying to overthrow our government. I know this may seem picky to some of my fellow Republicans, to which I respond, this is total insanity.

Barry Stine
Homosassa

Get ready for a bumpy ride

If I'm not mistaken, Joe Biden called for unity, for the end of partisanship leading up to his election and he still seems to imply that he wants these things, all the while issuing over 40 presidential proclamations killing thousand upon thousands of high paying jobs, shutting down a goodly portion of the oil and gas industry, calling for the end of construction of the border wall, all but guaranteeing the closing of thousands of businesses with his call for a \$15 minimum wage.

Yes, elections have consequences and the consequence of the last election is to return our government to those who would overregulate us, stifle small business, reenter international agreements detrimental to our national interest and start us further down the path to higher taxes for the least able to pay with more government intrusion into our daily lives.

Hang on folks, get ready for a bumpy ride these next few years!

David W. Martin
Hernando

No rocks, just questions

(Re the Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, Page A14, Grace Notes column, titled, "Let's all drop our rocks"): There was an excellent article by Nancy Kennedy about dropping rocks — our rocks of hate — because throwing rocks doesn't change minds...I'm not going to throw rocks, but I will ask questions.

Do not raise the electric rates

I'm calling Sound Off in reference to your article today, "Duke rates could increase" (the front-page story, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021). They're asking to review for a settlement to raise an increase. Really? We're in a pandemic, people are out of work and they want to raise the rates. On top of that, they want an increase of from 1% to 6.5%. We didn't even get 6.5% from

Social Security. You've got to be kidding me. No, if they get an increase, it should be the same equivalent to what Social Security got or a little less than what Social Security got. If Social Security got a 4% raise, then Duke Energy should get maybe 2%. This is totally ridiculous. I say no, don't let them have it. It's a pandemic. Do not raise the increases for electricity.

Hit drug dealers where it hurts

(Re the Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, Page A10 editorial.) To the "Citrus County needs a plan on the drug epidemic": Let's start with the sheriff's department because the only way to put a big dent and really hurt it is to get the major drug dealers out of Citrus County, not the little people with a little methamphetamine or marijuana. They have to go after the big honchos. ... It starts with the

sheriff's department and law enforcement going after the big drug dealers, not the small-time users. You need to get them where it hurts — the big wheels.

I'm leaving up my holiday lights

Hi neighbors! I know the holidays are technically over and I'm supposed to take my lights down. This has been a difficult year and I'm going to be different this year.

Don't raise rates during pandemic

(Re the Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, front-page story, "Duke rates could increase"): This is



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a lovely time. I see Duke Energy has the citizens of Florida on their minds, knowing that we're having a \$1,400 stimulus check maybe coming, but yet with all the other problems — the people who can't pay their rent and everything else — they want an increase. This is very nice. Thank you very much, Duke.

Find the culprits soon

(Re the Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, Page C2 editorial, "Sea Cow Statement," "Manatee abuse should not be tolerated"): Like every animal lover, I'm sick about the manatee. Maybe somebody should start a go-fundme page and I'm sure the animal lovers will raise so much money that one of those people that did it will squeal on the other one, or maybe somebody that was in the area who'd seen it, because you know it had to take at least two people to do

that. I hope they find them soon.

Service animal shouldn't be in cart

This is in reference to the Sound Off in Sunday's paper where the individual that was upset about her or his service animal being asked to leave a store (on Jan. 17, 2021, Page C2, "Dog in shopping cart draws ire"). My question to this individual is: What is a service animal doing in a shopping cart on a towel?

Coming from out of state for vaccine

This is in reference to our COVID-19 vaccines. I know of someone that came from another state from up North who came down here and got their COVID shot. They were in that line at the park. This person is not a snowbird. This is not right. Our commissioners need to step in and correct this.

Cardinal plan utterly ridiculous

I wish to send kudos to Karen Esty's letter that was calling for reasonable development in the paper (Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, Page A9). She has decades of education and knowledge in this scenario. She is one to be honored and thanked for her knowledge and I really appreciated her letter because that development down on Cardinal sounds utterly ridiculous. The examples they are using are from a much richer economy area and an area that could possibly sustain something like that. But our economy in this county will not sustain a development like that, so you are dreaming of pies in the sky. Thank you again, Karen Esty.

Give us the CARES money stats

I think it's wonderful that Citrus County is getting its share of CARES money. What I would like the populace to know is what business or entity, by name, is going to receive it? How much are they going to receive? Why are they considered applicable for receiving the money? And who, by name, the politician — by name, I don't want the committee — takes the accountability for allocating that money to that particular entity? I think this is another fiasco, another COVID fiasco — unorganized, disorganized — in the making.

Everything is computerized

In reference to our United States Postal Service: They damaged my item. It was supposed to be insured for up to \$100. I go to put a claim in on-line and it's outrageous to even find it. Then when you do find it, it kicks you out. You fill it out and then it kicks it out. You cannot

even file a complaint against the post office for your damage, nor can I contact the postmaster to file a complaint against the employee. You go to do it and it kicks it out. You can't file a claim and you can't even file a complaint against an employee. What is this coming to? Everything is computerized.



Do something about road

This is a heads-up to our county commissioners to do something about the road on Fort Island Trail and (U.S.) 19. That traffic light on (U.S.) 19 and Fort Island Trail has to be adjusted. You can wait four traffic lights to turn left because people are coming out of the shopping center going down Fort Island Trail. The traffic going northbound cannot get out on the road. They should have a right-turn lane to go south on (U.S.) 19. They should have a lane going straight across (U.S.) 19 over to the shopping center and a left-turn-only lane going northbound. If you get a couple boaters with boats, you're lucky to make it through in five traffic lights. And cutting down Three Sisters is the only shortcut. If they cut down Three Sisters to go down to the traffic light, they can get up onto (U.S.) 19.

They may want to detour all boaters that way. But it's going to be a mess once they bring the freeway up here and this road construction. No better time than to do it now, commissioners. Come up and take a look at it and adjust accordingly. This is what you're getting paid for. Prior planning prevents bad performance.

Not taking the proper measures

(Re the Feb. 8, 2021, front-page story, "Beer, Bucs in bars," "Local establishments gear up for Super Sunday"): I read with disgust in the Sunday paper interviews with bar owners gleeful at the prospect of hosting COVID super-spreader Super Bowl parties with big crowds and no masks, either for the staff or the patrons. One owner had the gall to say the business owners were taking all appropriate measures. Since appropriate measures would be limiting crowd size and having everyone wear masks, the truth is, she was taking none of the appropriate measures. ...

Charge cyclists to use the road

I'm responding to Sound Off about the boat fees, but I also think what we should do is start putting tags on these bicycles. That's a lot of revenue we could be collecting on all these bicycles. There's a bicycle rent shop that rents bikes for these tourists, so let's put tags on those bikes and let them pay a small fee. Let them pay for the use of roadways and the trails. I think it's only fair. Let them register the bicycles. I don't have a problem with that.

Watch out for that squirrel

How can a person not see a fox squirrel on a 25 mph street? What the heck?

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Associated Press
Ice clings to the spines of a prickly pear cactus Saturday, Feb. 13, in Midland, Texas. Sub-freezing temperatures are expected in all of Texas, according to the National Weather Service, and snowfall totals of up to 8 inches are forecast in the Dallas area.

Winter weather blankets the US

JAMIE STENGLE
 Associated Press

DALLAS — Wintry weather was forecast for much of the U.S. on Sunday, with freezing temperatures expected to dip as snow falls as far south as Texas' Gulf Coast.

"Typically, we just don't have quite this much cold air in place that far south," said Marc Chenard, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center.

The storm has prompted officials in Houston, where temperatures were in the 70s (20s Celsius) earlier this week, to advise residents to prepare for power outages and hazardous roads that could be similar to those experienced in the wake of a Category 5 hurricane. Temperatures were expected to drop to below freezing there by Sunday night.

He said significant ice and up to 12 inches of snow were expected across parts of the southern Plains on Sunday and into Monday, with the most snowfall expected near the Oklahoma-Texas border.

Winter weather conditions are affecting large portions of the U.S., but it is rare for them to extend so far south, Chenard said.

The Dallas area had a covering of snow by Sunday morning, with flakes still falling, and as much as 6 inches was forecast.

With the wintry conditions falling on Valentine's Day, florists stayed busy even as the snow fell.

In Fort Worth, where it was already icy and snowy, Gordon Boswell Flowers' general manager said delivery drivers were trying to wrap up before conditions got worse later Sunday afternoon.

"It is icy and snowing and they're calling for more snow," Cheri Kirkman said.

Despite the weather, she said they still had some people coming in to pick up gifts. "We've got plenty all made up, ready to go," Kirkman said.

Chenard said sleet and freezing rain could hit further south.

"We're looking at potentially over a quarter inch of freezing rain, and that will cause significant impact," Chenard said. "We may even see some freezing rain get as far as New Orleans by early Monday."

Shining for justice



Associated Press
People draw hearts with their cellphones flashlights in support of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny and his wife Yulia Navalnaya Moscow, Russia, Sunday, Feb. 14. When the team of jailed Russia opposition leader Alexei Navalny announced a protest in a new format, urging people to come out to their residential courtyards on Sunday and shine their cellphone flashlights, many responded with jokes and skepticism. After two weekends of nationwide demonstrations, the new protest format looked to some like a retreat. But not to Russian authorities, who moved vigorously to extinguish the illuminated protests planned for Sunday.

Pro-Navalny 'flashlight' protests light up Russian cities as officials react

DARIA LITVINOVA
 Associated Press

MOSCOW — Supporters of imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny came out to residential courtyards and shined their cellphone flashlights Sunday in a display of unity, despite efforts by Russian authorities to extinguish the illuminated protests.

Navalny's team sent photos of small groups with lit-up cellphones in cities from Siberia to the Moscow region. It was unclear how many people participated overall.

No arrests were immediately reported. However, police detained nine people at a daytime demonstration in the city of Kazan calling for the release of political

prisoners, according to OVD-Info, a human rights group that monitors political arrests.

The group said security guards at Moscow State University recorded the names of people leaving a dormitory to take part in a flashlight rally there.

When Navalny's first team urged people to come out to the cellphone protests, many responded with jokes and skepticism. After two weekends of nationwide demonstrations, the new protest format looked to some like a retreat.

Yet Russian officials spent days trying to blacken the protests. Officials accused Navalny's allies of acting on NATO's instructions. Kremlin-backed TV channels warned that flashlight rallies were

part of major uprisings around the world. State news agencies cited unnamed sources as saying a terrorist group was plotting attacks during unapproved mass protests.

The suppression attempts represent a change of tactics for Russian authorities, who used to ignore Navalny.

Kremlin-controlled TV channels used to not report about protests called by Navalny. Russian President Vladimir Putin has never mentioned his most prominent critic by name. State news agencies referred to the anti-corruption investigator as "a blogger" in the rare stories when they did mention him.

"Navalny went from a person whose name is not allowed to be mentioned to the main subject of

discussion' on state TV, said Maria Pevchikh, head of investigations at Navalny's Foundations for Fighting Corruption.

Pevchikh credited Navalny's latest expose for the sudden surge in attention. His foundation's two-hour video alleging that a lavish palace on Black Sea was built for Putin through corruption has been watched over 111 million times on YouTube since Jan. 19.

The video went up two days after Navalny was arrested upon returning to Russia from Germany, where he spent five months recovering from a nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. The Russian government denies involvement and claims it has no evidence that Navalny was poisoned.

Myanmar rattled by army, internet cutoff

Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar — Sightings of armored personnel carriers in Myanmar's biggest city and an internet shutdown raised political tensions late Sunday, after vast numbers of people around the country flouted orders against demonstrations to protest the military's seizure of power.

Public concern has already been heightened for the past few nights by what many charge is the military's manipulation of criminals released from prison to carry out nighttime violence and stir up panic.

Ambassadors from the United States and Canada and 12 European nations called on Myanmar's security forces to refrain from violence against those "protesting the overthrow of their legitimate government." They condemned the arrests of political leaders and activists as well as the military's interference with communications.

"We support the people of Myanmar in their quest for democracy, freedom, peace, and prosperity," they said in a joint statement issued late Sunday night. "The world is watching."



Associated Press
Mandalay University graduates hold posters that read "Stop Arresting People Illegally at midnight" "Save Myanmar" during an anti-coup protest in Mandalay, Myanmar, Sunday, Feb. 14.

The military seized power on Feb. 1, detaining the country's elected leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and members of her government and preventing recently elected lawmakers from opening a new session of Parliament.

The junta, led by Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, said it was forced to step in because the government failed to properly investigate allegations of fraud in last year's election, which Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won in a

landslide. The state election commission refuted that contention, saying there is no evidence to support it.

There was no official word about why armored personnel carriers traversed the streets of Yangon in broad daylight Sunday, making their way through busy traffic. As night fell, there were videos and other reports on social media of the movement of trucks packed with soldiers, and in the central city of Mandalay as well.

Separatists grow majority in Catalonia despite Socialist win

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — The pro-union Socialist Party claimed a narrow win in regional elections in Catalonia late Sunday, but the bloc of parties supporting secession by Spain's northeastern corner widened their control of the regional parliament.

With 99% of the votes counted, the three main parties pledging to carve out an independent Catalan state increased their number of seats in the regional parliament to 74. In 2017, those same parties won 70 seats of the 135-seat chamber, just two above the majority.

The Socialist party led by former health minister Salvador Illa was poised to take 33 seats with over 625,000 votes. The pro-secession Republican Left of Catalonia was also set to claim 33 seats, but with 580,000 votes.

But despite the huge boost in support for the Socialist Party of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who has held talks with the separatists in an attempt to ease tensions with the region, Illa will have a difficult time trying to cobble together support for a government. He would need the support of several

parties, including some separatists.

"This is a clear victory that has one reading: It is time to turn the page, to write a new chapter, to reach out to one another and advance together," Illa said after his victory.

The outcome confirms that pro-separatist sentiment has not waned despite the collective suffering of the COVID-19 pandemic and a frustrated secession bid in October 2017 that left several of its members in prison.

However, it was not clear if the separatist parties would be able to overcome the in-fighting that has plagued their bloc since the dream of an easy breakaway from Spain proved elusive.

The results shifted the power within the pro-secession camp to the leftist Republican Left of Catalonia party, whose 33 seats edged out the center-right Together for Catalonia, set to win 32 seats.

The Republican Left of Catalonia of jailed leader Oriol Junqueras can now dispute the leadership of the bloc with Together for Catalonia, the party of former Catalan chief Carles Puigdemont, who fled to Belgium following the ineffective 2017 breakaway bid.

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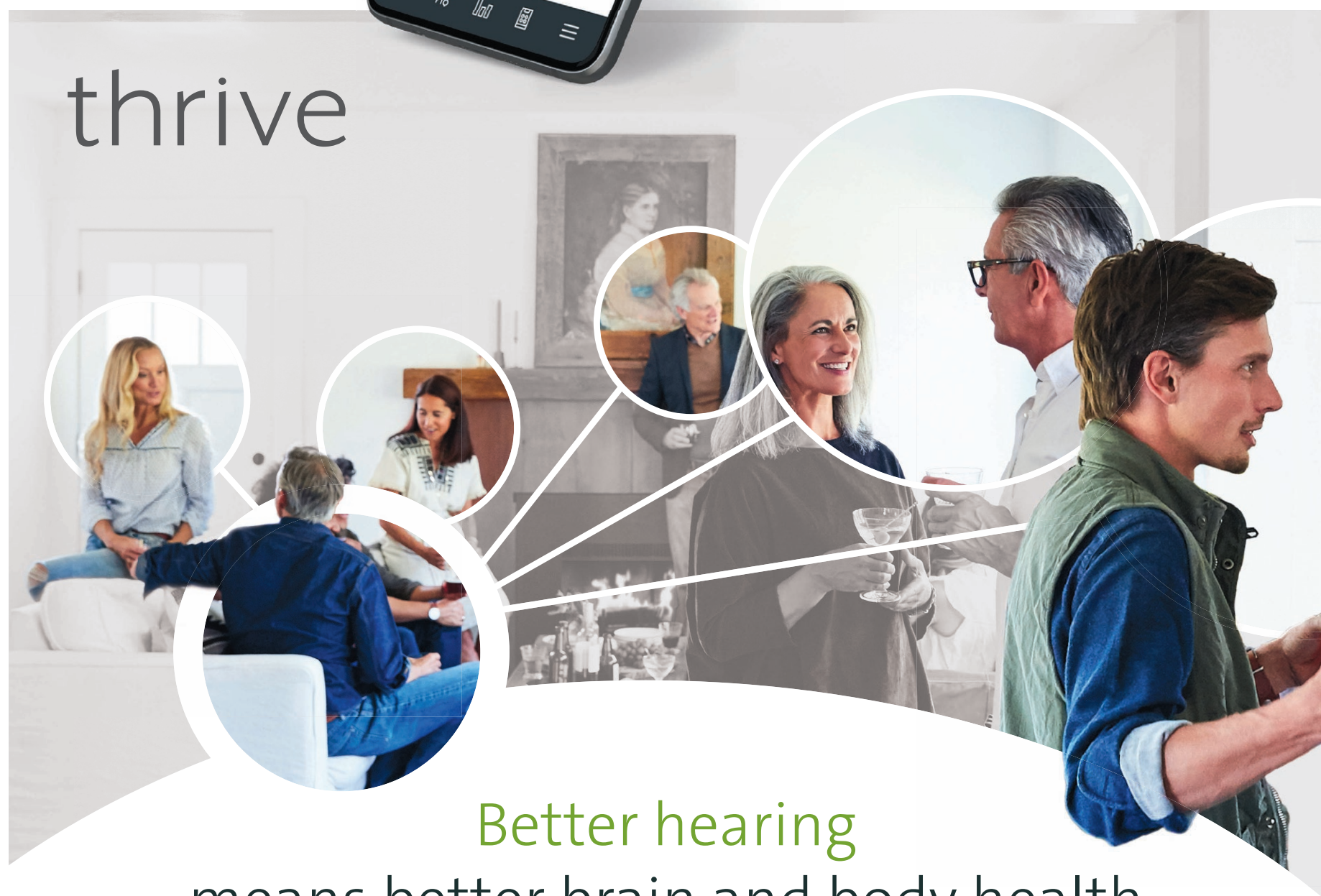


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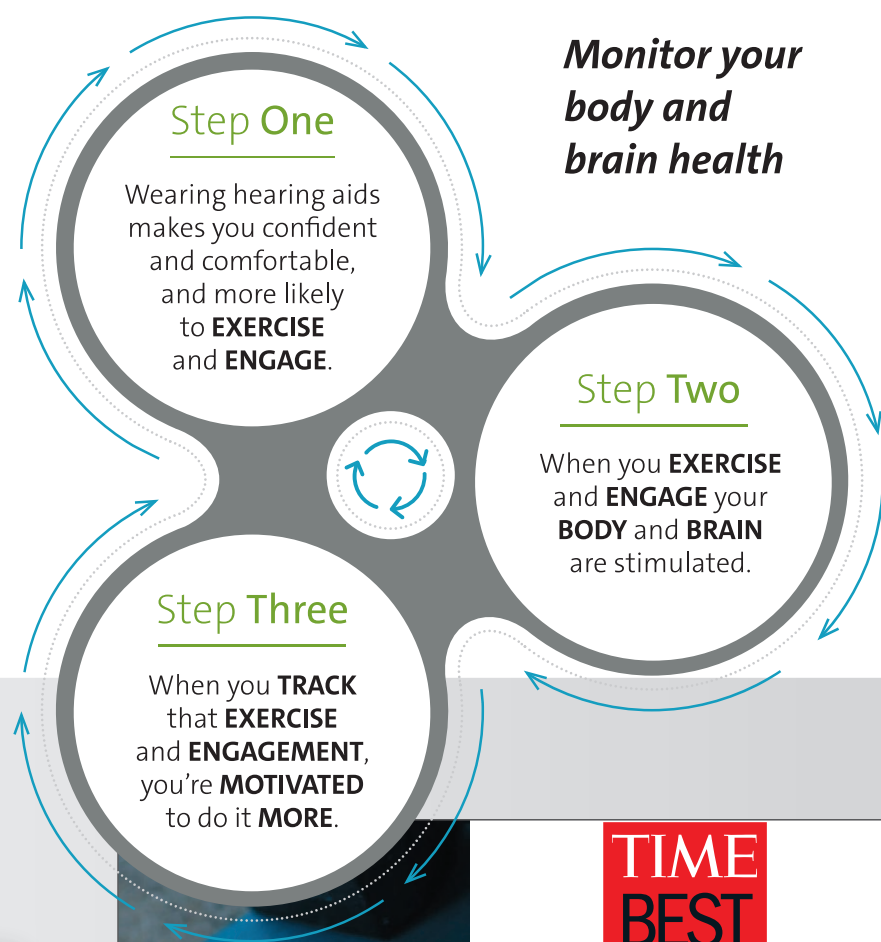
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One Good Thing: Compassion



Artist Donald Verger poses with his images of sea glass, landscapes and flowers, Thursday, Feb. 11, in Falmouth, Maine. Verger, who has donated his photography to schools and hospitals, said he considers his small but colorful contribution a way of bringing a smile to people's faces during the ongoing pandemic.

Associated Press

Heart-shaped art brings love, hope to virus-ravaged spots

DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

FALMOUTH, Maine — Donald Verger has been putting heart into his art during the pandemic.

And images of those intricate hearts made from vibrant sea glass are flowing back to schools and hospitals that have been hard hit by COVID-19 during the pandemic.

"The hearts hit a sweet spot for people," Verger said. "People love sea glass, the color, the patterns."

Across the country, many artists find themselves struggling during the pandemic, but they're also finding ways to give back during a health crisis that has claimed more than 465,000 lives in the United States.

Verger's efforts represent his small but colorful contribution to the effort to bring people a smile, or maybe a moment of calm and peace, amid the isolation of the pandemic.

He's sent about 25,000 postcards of his hearts and landscape photography to schools and hospitals. He delivers them at 1,000 or 2,500 at a time. Employers and teachers give them to

staff, students and patients.

Recently, he's donated at least 10,000 with LOVE superimposed on them. Another 10,000 had HOPE superimposed on them.

"It seems like a great privilege to do something that supports happiness and some sense of hope," said Verger, whose studio is in Falmouth, Maine.

In Boston, Shriners Hospital Administrator Eileen Skinner was handing out cards with hearts with the word LOVE to more than 400 workers ahead of Valentine's Day.

"You have to be in a health care organization to understand the COVID fatigue," Skinner said. "It's just encouraging to the staff that somebody is thinking of them."

Verger, 72, grew up in New York but considers himself a New Englander. Living in Massachusetts, where he raised his family, he founded the Children's Discovery Museum and Science Discovery Museum in New England, in the town of Acton, Massachusetts.

As a photographer, he's renowned for his stunning images of landscapes

and lighthouses in New England. His best known photo is "Dawn of Peace," which depicts sea smoke greeting the sunrise on a subzero morning on Thompson Lake in Otisfield, Maine.

He merged his photography with colorful sea glass that he began collecting on the coast of California. He began arranging the sea glass into images reminiscent of a Monet or Renoir painting.

His first donations came about after a brush with a tornado in Missouri while photographing the dramatic storms in 2011.

The storm chasers became the ones being chased by a massive tornado that left the town of Joplin, Missouri. More than 150 people were killed.

After returning to Maine, he put some of his images meant to soothe and to calm onto postcards with a message and the name Joplin. All told, he sent about 25,000 of them to the Red Cross, schools and other organizations.

During the pandemic, he's sent postcards to schools and hospitals.

'Obamacare' sign-ups reopen as Dems push for aid

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — HealthCare.gov's market for subsidized health plans reopens Monday for a special three-month sign-up window as the Democratic-led Congress pushes a boost in financial help that could cut premiums by double digits.

This enrollment period during the coronavirus pandemic is an early test of President Joe Biden's strategy to use the Affordable Care Act as a springboard toward health coverage for all. Advancing on a parallel track, the new COVID-19 relief bill from House Democrats would offer a generous, though temporary, increase in subsidies for people covered by the law known as "Obamacare."

"It is a hugely important signaling move," said Katherine Hempstead of the nonpartisan Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "The administration is doing more than having open enrollment here, they're saying they want to make this coverage more affordable."

While policy experts like Hempstead are taking note, it's unclear how uninsured Americans will respond. Former President Barack Obama's health law has been on the books over a decade, but surveys consistently show that many people lacking job-based insurance do not realize they may qualify. The Congressional Budget Office estimates about 33 million people are uninsured this year.

At Foundation Communities, an Austin, Texas, nonprofit that serves

low-income working people, program director Kori Hattermer says she's seeing an uptick in interest. Although her agency had not started advertising, appointments for enrollment assistance booked up quickly. Volunteer counselors are being called back.

For clients, "it's their last chance probably to enroll in health insurance for 2021," Hattermer said.

One is Jacklindy Barradez, a housekeeper and restaurant worker unemployed since the start of the pandemic. Her husband hung on to his maintenance job, but the couple and their two children are uninsured. Barradez said a friend told her about the health law and she intends to follow through.

With no health insurance as the pandemic stretches into its second year, Barradez is uneasy. "We are not exempt from having something happen to us," she said in Spanish, her first language. "Not having the means to respond is extremely worrisome."

The Biden administration is going the extra mile to try to sign up people such as Barradez.

HealthCare.gov will be accepting applications through May 15, a period about twice as long as annual open enrollment. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which runs the program, has a \$50 million advertising budget, five times what the Trump administration would spend on annual open enrollment. Under Biden, there will be a special emphasis on reaching Black and Latino communities that have borne a heavy burden from COVID-19.

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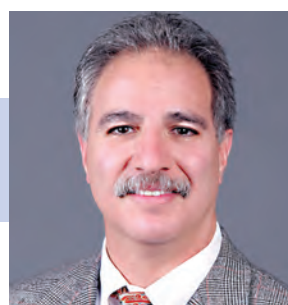
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Good dogs!



Associated Press file
Unlikely top dog Rufus, a tan-and-white bull terrier and America's top dog after winning Best in Show in the Westminster Kennel Club show, stands over a table at Sardi's restaurant in New York, in this Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006, file photo.

20 years of Westminster Kennel Club show

**GINGER TIDWELL
AND BEN WALKER**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — To every sport, there's a season, a spot on the calendar that fans mark for the big event. World Series, October. College hoops, March. Indy 500, Memorial Day.

For dog owners, it's right around Valentine's Day. That's when they normally cuddle up on the couch with their precious pooch to watch the Super Bowl of Dogs — the Westminster Kennel Club show.

This year, they'll have to wait for the coveted best in show. Because of coronavirus concerns, the competition was moved from Madison Square Garden this weekend to mid-June at an outdoor estate about 25 miles north of New York City.

For now, AP Baseball Writer Ben Walker and wife Ginger Tidwell share their fondest memories from the green carpet over 20 paws-itively wonderful years covering Westminster:

HE'S NUMERO UNO!

Beagles had always been in the Westminster doghouse. No matter how cute, poor ol' Snoopy had never, ever won the grand prize. Bow-wow bummer.

That changed in 2008 when perhaps the greatest show dog of all time showed up. A tri-colored package of personality-plus, Uno quickly bayed his way to fan favorite.

A sold-out Garden crowd chanted his name as judge J. Donald Jones studied the seven finalists for nearly three minutes, mulling over his pick for best in show. They say there's no cheering in the press box, but having been raised in Maryland with beagles — Charlie, Gatsby, Sam and Jake — I looked at Ginger and prayed this was our moment.

When Jones said, "May I have the beagle," the place went bonkers.

"Ah-roo!" Uno erupted. "Ah-roo!" This little, merry hound enjoyed a terrific life. He visited President George W. Bush at the White House, rode in a float at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and brought out the first ball at Busch Stadium and Miller Park.

Uno lived till 13, spending his last years on a ranch in Texas and playing with his buddy, a neighbor's potbellied pig.

Happy trails, champ.

GOT SOME GRUB?

Sometimes the dog that everybody's barking about isn't the best in show. Like, Dario the Leonberger.

Winning wasn't on this big guy's mind when he romped around the ring in the 2016 working group competition. Naw, he only wanted to gnaw at his handler's pocket, trying to scarf up a treat.

Doggedly determined, the 2 1/2-year-old eating machine kept nipping at Sam Mammano's gray suit, hoping to grab some loose rebounds.

A dog just being a dog ... and the crowd went crazy, hollering with every step and every bite.

He didn't win, that went CJ the German shorthaired pointer. But Dario earned a place in dogdom lore forever.

We rushed from our seats on the floor to catch up with Mammano backstage, right after he left the ring. He was a little disappointed, but also could see the charm.

"Good comic relief," he said. "He's a young, silly dog and was just having fun."

K-9 HEROES

Most years, a dog like Appollo wouldn't get close to the green carpet at the Garden. But the show in 2002 was no ordinary show.

With New York City still in shock from the 9/11 terrorist attacks, 20 search and rescue dogs were honored for their tireless work at the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

At 10, Appollo the German shepherd was getting a bit gray in the muzzle, his

teeth were yellowing. He didn't look like the 2,500 perfectly primped pooches around him.

Yet there was hardly a dry eye as the 10,000 spectators stood and cheered for the German shepherds, retrievers and their partners, an ovation usually reserved for the star athletes who played in the arena. It was hard not to be swept up in the emotion.

A spotlight featured them as they walked one by one into the center ring and actress Glenn Close sang "God Bless America" during the 15-minute ceremony.

Not the usual reception for this group. "We were pretty nervous," said Lt. Daniel Donadio, head of the New York Police Department's K-9 unit. "We'd rather face gunmen than the crowd."

UNDERDOGS

Each year, there are the favorites. J.R. the bichon frise, Mick the Kerry blue terrier, Banana Joe the affenpinscher. Wire fox terriers and poodles always seem to take home the hallowed silver bowl.

Then there was Stump. With floppy ears and a slow roll, the golden-red Sussex spaniel didn't make our early list of potential champions in 2009. How could he? Retired from the ring for five years, it was just five days before the show when handler Scott Sommer thought Stump might like to take one final walk at the Garden.

What a walk! At 10 — that's almost 70 in human years — Stump became the oldest Westminster winner ever.

He was in good company among unlikely top dogs over the years. Rufus the colored bull terrier had a football-shaped noggin and won by a head. Hickory the Scottish deerhound was a rare champion. Big, barkin' Josh the Newfoundland slobbered around the ring, then nearly knocked over Ginger in the winner's circle.

And Stump. That old dog sure taught the young pups some new tricks.

POOCH PLANET

Seeing an Azawakh at the Garden was unusual. Loosely called an African greyhound, they made their Westminster debut last year.

Seeing the woman cheering them on was even more eye-catching. Dressed in bright pink and wearing a colorful hijab, Aliya Taylor realized she stood out.

"Like a sore thumb," she laughed. The retired Philadelphia police officer is among the few Muslims in the dog show world.

"Our sport welcomes people from all walks of life," said Gail Miller Bisher, the television host of the event. "That's our common bond, dogs."

Hiram Stewart made history in 2003 when he guided Les the Pekingese into the final best-in-show ring. It had been three decades since an African American handler made it that far.

"Maybe this will raise awareness of our sport among people of color," he said at the time. "It might give people of color something to aspire to."

In a competition that can include a Norwegian elkhound, Australian shepherd and Chinese shar-pei, the people come from all over the world, too.

Born in Mexico, Gabriel Rangel is among the most successful handlers in history.

He's won best in show three times at Westminster. In 2014, he guided Sky the wire fox terrier to victory. One of the perks was a walk-on part at the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical "Kinky Boots."

Ginger had the pleasure of dog-sitting Sky in a third-floor dressing room when he wasn't on stage. Almost every actor dropped by during the show to pet him and pose for a picture.

Having never tended such a prized pooch, Ginger wondered what to do if the dog got hungry. Surely some special high-performance, ultra-healthy food was in order, right?

Nope, said Rangel's wife, Ivonne. "Just go get him a hot dog," she said.

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MONDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 15, 2021. Table with columns for station, time, and program details.

Annie offers advice

Dear Annie: My sister and I don't speak anymore after a falling out with our now-deceased mother.

We recently had to speak because of our father's declining health. My niece, her daughter, is getting married, and I suspect I will not be invited, as I was not invited to her high school or college graduation.



DEAR ANNIE

Dear Annie: My sister and I don't speak anymore after a falling out with our now-deceased mother.

They did both friend me on Facebook, where they are discussing wedding plans and invitations.

My falling out with my sister is bad enough, but my mother and sister hurt me deeply by keeping me away from my two nieces, especially after I helped raise them.

Is this childish of me? Can I give myself permission to save my self-respect and dignity by unfriending them?

Dear Disapproving Family: In a perfect world, our parents and siblings would support us unconditionally and never judge us.

If you want to unfriend them on Facebook, that sounds like a fine idea. In fact, social media never really makes people feel better about themselves.

You might want to seek the help of a professional therapist to process this rejection.

As for your nieces, let them know how much you love them and that you wish them well.

Dear Annie: What is your take on the church getting involved with politics? The pastor of the church I attended posts on social media and preaches his political views from the pulpit.

Most of the attendees are of the same political beliefs and go along with the pastor. The situation was just too uncomfortable.

Dear Keep Politics out of Church: Overt political campaigning should be kept out of church. Any person who unfriends those who are not in agreement is not acting very kind, loving or tolerant.

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

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

Bridge PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn. If you and your partner wish to do better, discuss defense. Almost every card played by each of you should send some information to partner.

that suit. If you don't have an honor, you lead an unnecessarily high card. Note that these leads also apply after trick one, whenever you open a suit that neither side has yet led.

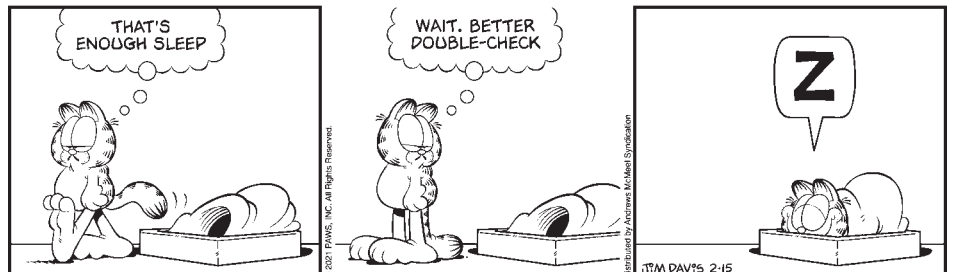
JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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

Peanuts



Garfield



Pickles



For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



Beetle Bailey



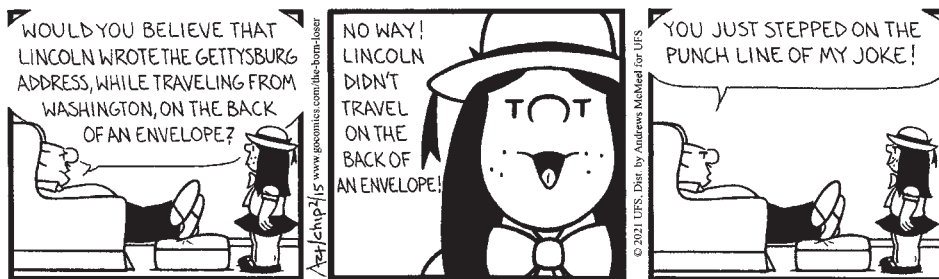
Dilbert



The Grizzwells



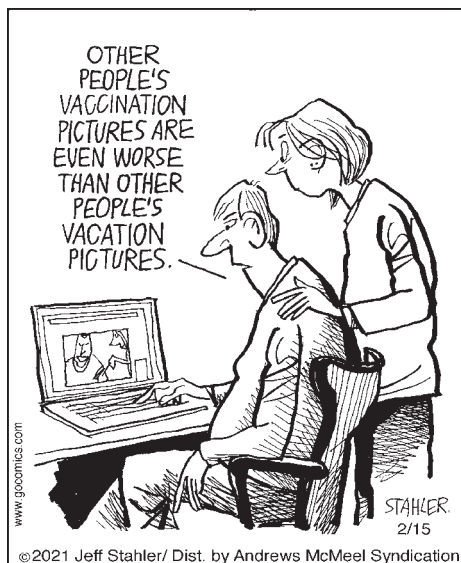
The Born Loser



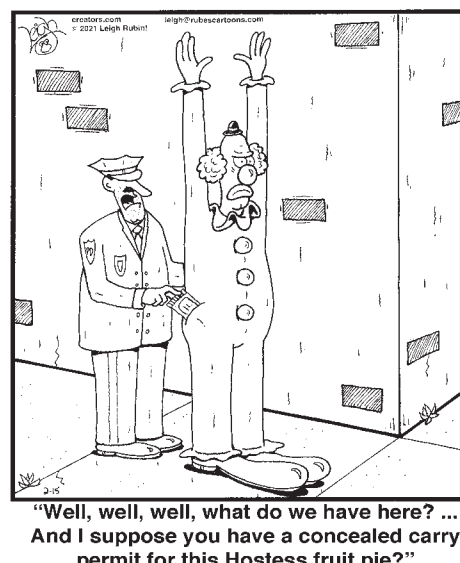
Blondie



Moderately Confused



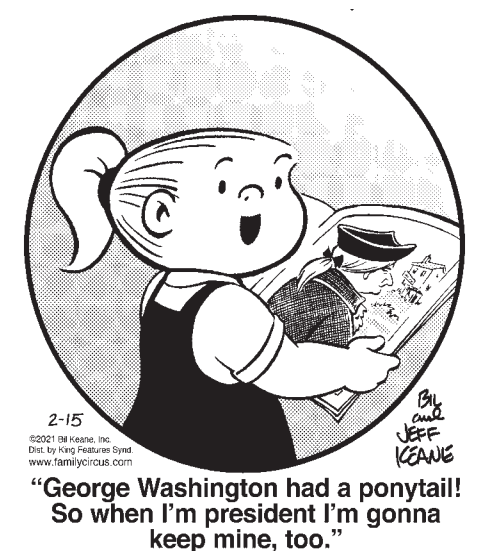
Rubes



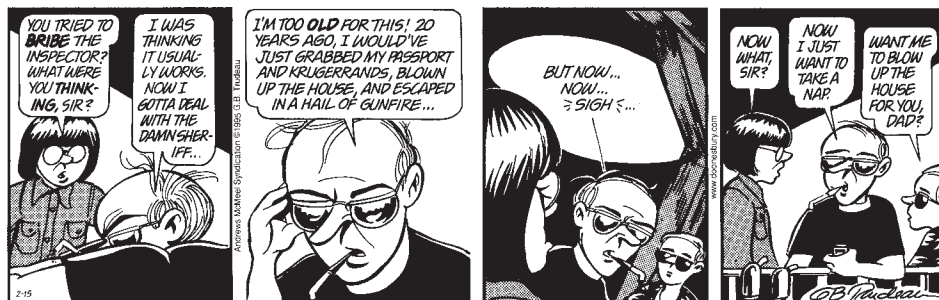
Dennis the Menace



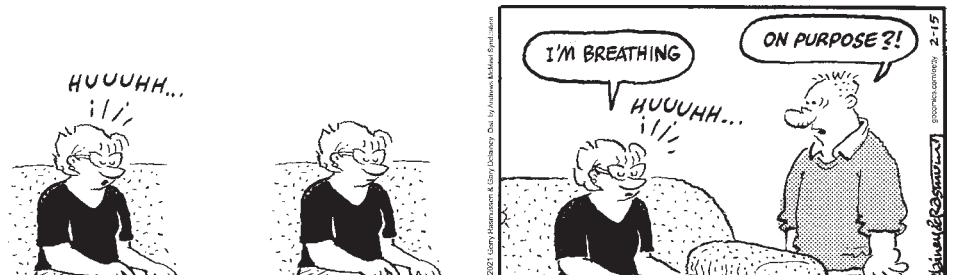
The Family Circus



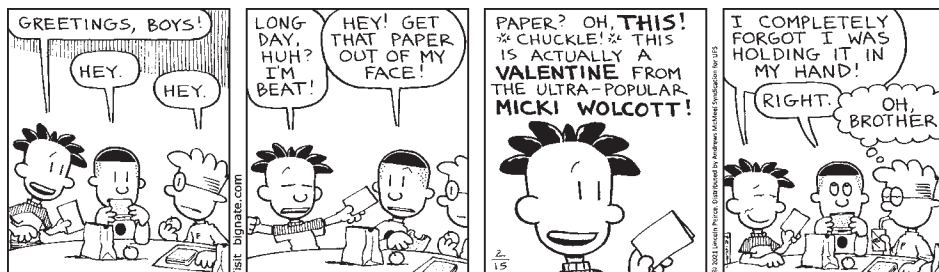
Doonesbury Flashbacks



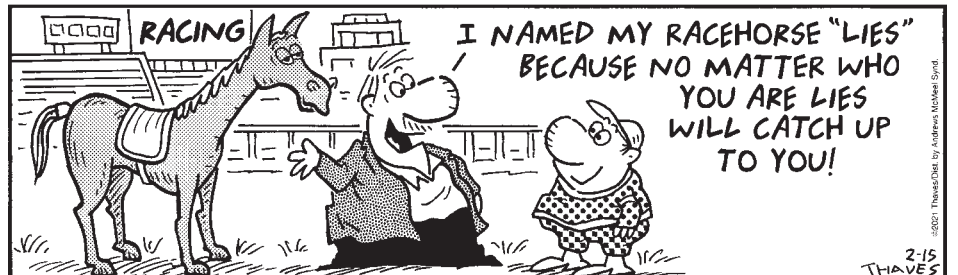
Betty



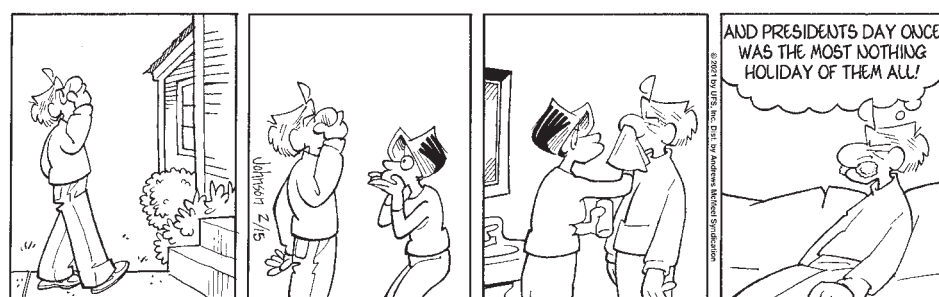
Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



- Local RADIO stations: WJUF-FM 90.1, WHGN-FM 91.9, WXCX-FM 95.3, etc.

Today's MOVIES

LOCAL THEATER INFORMATION

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

VALERIE THEATRE CULTURAL CENTER

NOTE THAT COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE.

- Arts and movies list: "Arthur" (PG) Feb. 15, 1 p.m., "Moana" (PG) Feb. 16, 4:30 p.m., etc.

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.

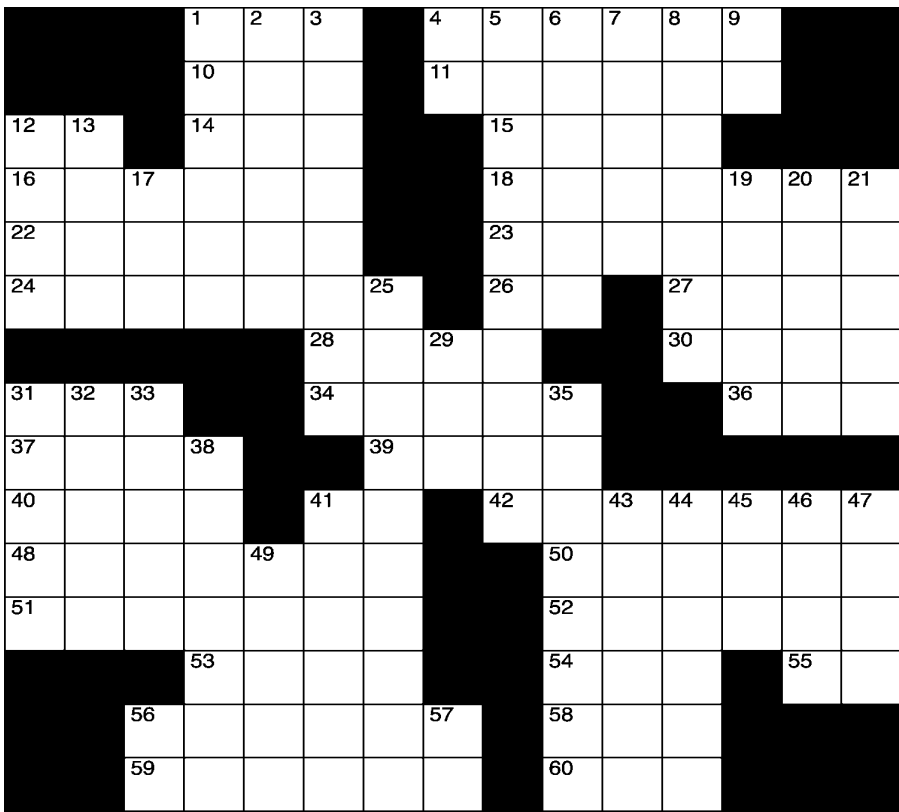
Today's clue: X equals W

"OK LYVCDU XYM SHV Y LYJGEUD. YLVDU YGG, CD XYM VCD LYVCDU HL Y NUDMJTDSV HL VCD ESJVDT MUYVDM." - CYUUK M. VUEOYS

Previous Solution: "Romance is thinking about your significant other, when you are supposed to be thinking about something else." - Nicholas Sparks

Puzzles Galore!

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Big tech firm
4. Picked
10. Type of whale
11. A woman of refinement
12. New England state
14. Common gibbon
15. Tall coniferous tree
16. State capital
18. Making a liquid muddy
22. Vinegary
23. Peninsula
24. Thee
26. Atomic #55
27. Used in units of measurement
28. Welsh female name
30. Arab ruler title
31. One's mother
34. Trap
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Assn. of oil-producing countries
39. Holy fire
40. Emit coherent radiation
41. Atomic #81
42. Orthodox Jewish college
48. Herbs
50. Ran after
51. Begin again
52. Named
53. Barbary sheep
54. Unwell
55. Postscript
56. Drivers
58. One point east (clockwise) of due north
59. Prim
60. A facility equipped for sports or physical training

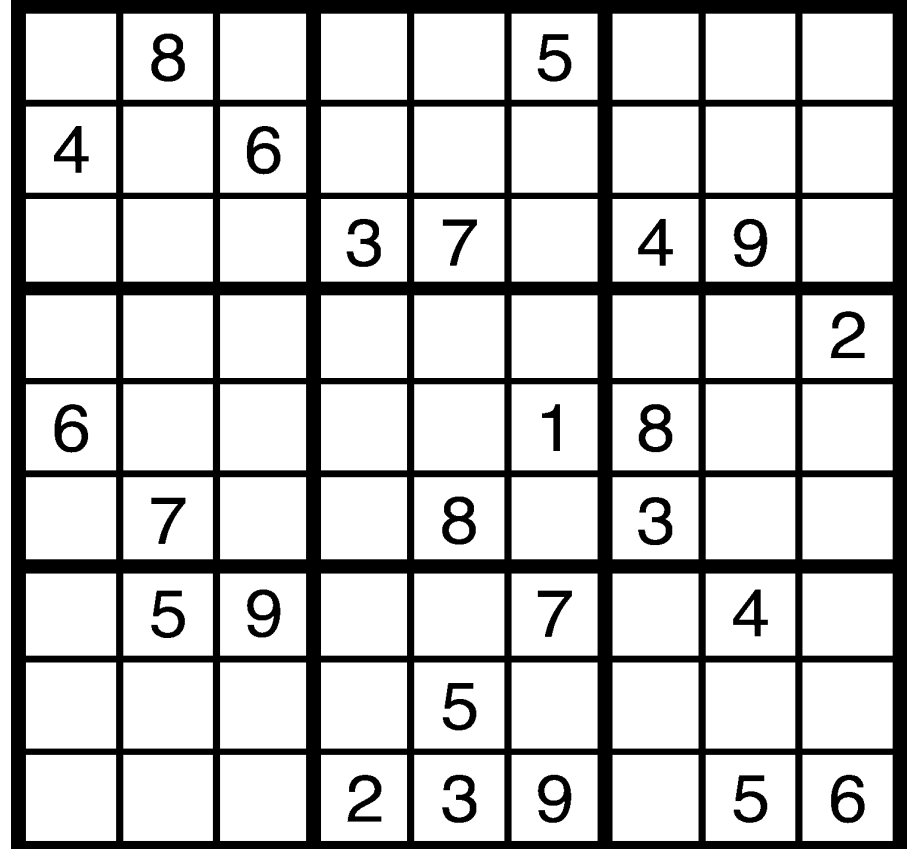
CLUES DOWN

1. Small islands
2. Skullcap
3. Unexplained events
4. One hundredth of a meter
5. Beloved
6. Repulsive
7. Northern European languages
8. Match or surpass
9. Northeast
12. Chew the fat
13. Innovative industry
17. Land to put down to grass
19. Products
20. Nostril
21. Surprise
25. Conclusive acts
29. Inform on
31. Grinding tooth
32. Keep up
33. Tablelands
35. Raising
38. Mythical creature
41. Hums
43. Mountain in Antarctica
44. Neighborhood in Manhattan
45. Distinctive practice
46. Vice president
47. Contributes to
49. Small bones
56. Oil company
57. Empire State

SUDOKU

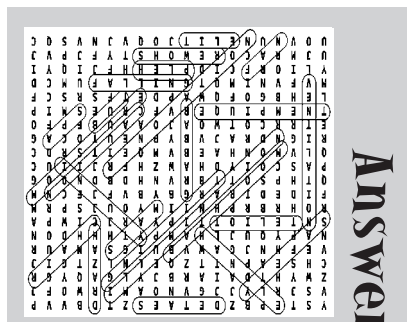
Fun By The Numbers

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

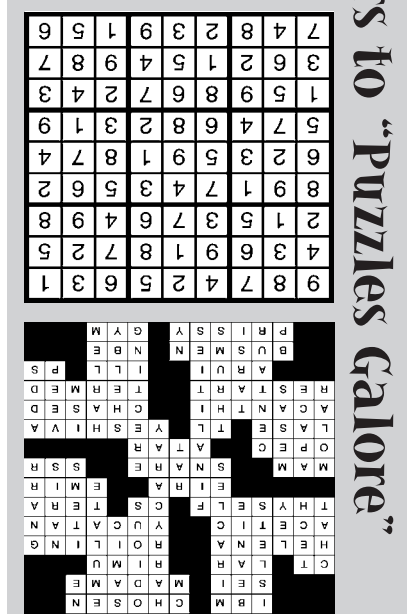


Level: Intermediate

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



Answers to "Puzzles Galore"



WORD SEARCH

(Bath Safety)

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| BATHROOM | MATS |
| CAUTION | MOISTURE |
| CHAIR | RENOVATION |
| EQUIPMENT | SAFETY |
| FALLING | SEATED |
| FAN | SHOWER |
| GRAB BAR | SPA |
| HANDLE | TILE |
| HAZARD | TOILET |
| HELP | TRIPPING |
| ILLUMINATION | TUB |
| INJURY | VENTILATION |

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

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SCREEN AMERICA CORPORATION is NOW HIRING SCREEN TECHNICIANS FULL-TIME \$10 per Hour **WILL TRAIN** Knowledge of reading a tape measure and use of hand tools is preferred. MUST: Be a team player, Be able to stay focused & pay attention to detail, Be on your feet 8 hrs a day, Be able to lift 50 lbs., Complete jobs assigned, Pass a drug screen & background check, Be at least 18 years or older

Apply with: 7269 W Homosassa Trail, Homosassa, FL 34448 (800)764-1110

General Help CHRONICLE Let us be your one stop shop for Employment needs.

Your job will be featured on Top National Websites such as INDEED.COM and many MORE & IN PRINT

Call your Classified Representative for details at 352-563-5966

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE Serving Our County Since 1894 The Oldest business Supporting our Community

Financial ALL CLASSIFIED ADS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Antiques COPPER FOOT BED WARMER About 20" by 14" by 5" with wire type handle. \$30. Call or text (352) 586-4576

Collectibles Bedroom Suite Queen size bed, end table, armoire., \$100 (352) 569-0880

Antiques Vintage Boy Scout Memorabilia Shirts, Stockings, Caps and Belt. \$65 for ALL (352) 344-1515

Appliances CHEST FREEZER 15 cuft Whirlpool -LIKE NEW- ONLY 4 months old - \$375 obo (207) 576-1355

Tools MORTAR MIXER 2 bag, pull type 15" tires. \$300 cash 812-902-9004

Tools Spiral Vice good condition \$90 (352) 436-2953

TVs/Stereos TV 25" VIZIO flat screen has HDMI port & remote good condition delivery available \$60. 352-613-0529

Appliances Pressure Wash, Cool seal, general handyman. Call Stewart 352-201-2169

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General Help BARTENDER WANTED Must have experience Apply at Citrus Eagles 8733 E Gulf to Lake Hwy Inverness FL / Mon. or Fri. 9am to 12 noon No Phn Calls Please

General Help OFFICE CLERK Nature's Resort is looking for an office clerk and someone to work in Country Store. Full and PT positions available. Weekends a must. Apply at front office 10359 W Hollis River Rd, Homosassa 352-628-9544

NEEDED TOWER HAND BUILDING COMMUNICATION TOWERS Travel, Good Pay & Benefits, OT Starting at \$15.00/Hr. Call: 352-694-8017 Monday-Friday or Email: amyvip01@aol.com

Employment Info CHRONICLE

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Appliances SMITTY'S APPLIANCE REPAIR 352-564-8179 STOVE 4 Burner, Electric, White, \$60 (352) 436-2953 WHIRLPOOL CABRIO Washer and Dryer charcoal gray, like new, \$450 (352) 875-1445

Auctions Timed Online Auction Allan Spear Construction, LLC. Bidding closes: Thurs, Feb 25, 2021 at 10AM Sale will consist of: Construction equipment, Mack trucks, ski steers, most climbing work platforms, scissor lift, power tools, concrete mixers, gas fuel tanks, crane hoist, block saws, concrete pour buckets, shipping containers, fork lift and related items. Registration, catalog, photos and terms available at www.moeckeructions.com. Pick-up/removal: Gainesville, FL. Preview: 02/17 by appointment. Call for details (954) 252-2887 (800) 840-BIDS AB-1098 AU-3219, Eric Rubin

Timed Online Auction Bidding closes: Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 10AM Sale will consist of: vehicles (work trucks, box truck), dump trailer, office equipment, warehouse equipment, small appliances, construction equipment and more. Registration, catalog, photos and terms available at www.moeckeructions.com. Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors

Freedom Steel Building Corporation Case No. 2020-CA-014407-XXXXMB Provident Construction Group, Inc. Case No. CACE-20-021633 Cinium Holdings, LLC. Case No. 2020-014355-CA-01 (24) Pick-up/removal: Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach, FL. Preview: 02/18 by appointment. Call for details (954) 252-2887 (800) 840-BIDS AB-1098 AU-3219, Eric Rubin

Dudley's Auction -TUES 2/16 8AM OPEN AIR MARKET -FRI. 2/19 9AM SCREEN PRINT SHOP ONSITE AUCTION 15235 Cortez Blvd Unit 10, Brooksville dudleysauction.com 352-637-9588 4000 S. FL Ave., Inv. Ab1667 Au2246 15% bp

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Outdoor Furniture PATIO FURNITURE Chaise with cushion, 2 plastic chairs, 1 single woven seat glider. \$70 352-428-0721

Furniture 7pc. BEDROOM Set Queen Sz - Cannonball Style - BRAND NEW mattress, never slept on! - pd \$1800 Asking \$1000 352-228-2168

BAR STOOLS 4 solid oak swivel with backs, 28" high, excellent condition. \$200 for all (352) 220-4833

CURIO CABINET Lg white wash finish 82"X40"X13"D w/ shelves needs door \$100 352-613-0529.

FOUR POSTER QUEEN SIZE BED - Solid Dark Wood- Excellent Condition! Paid over \$900 asking \$350 (269) 251-7660

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General 3 PR MENS DICKIES Like New,black,slim 28X30 All 3 for \$25.00 352-513-5400 352-228-9451

HOODIES 2XX And 1 Bk. Dolphins GR/OR, superman Bk/Blu \$30 all 352-465-4208

WEDDING GOWN Ornate,like new, size 12? \$25.00 352-513-5400 352-228-9451

General 4 WHEELED WALKER With seat and brakes used once only 65.00 352-464-0316

*****SCAM ALERT*****

How to Avoid a Fake Check Scam

1. NEVER ACCEPT A CHECK FOR MORE THAN YOU ASK. 2. INSIST ON CASH 3. USE ANOTHER FORM OF PAYMENT. (SUCH AS WIRE TRANSFER)

4. IF POSSIBLE, GO TO THE BANK WITH THE PERSON PAYING YOU. 5. INFORM THE SELLER, THAT YOU'LL WAIT TWO WEEKS BEFORE SENDING ANY MERCHANDISE

Avoid CASHIER'S CHECK FRAUD.

INSIST ON CASH

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

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

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

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

Services Directory

Appliance Repair SMITTY'S APPLIANCE REPAIR 352-564-8179

Clean Up/Junk Removal JEFF'S CLEANUP/HAULING Clean outs / Dump runs, Brush Removal. Lic./Ins. 352-584-5374

Concrete PLUS handyman, flooring, painting. Pressure wash, free est. Veteran owned 352-949-2760

Concrete BIANCHI CONCRETE INC.COM Lic/Ins #2579 Reputable for 21 yrs. 352-257-0078

CURB APPEAL Decorating Landscape Curbing, Epoxy River Rock, Reseals & Repair 352-364-2120

Danny Works Concrete All type of concrete work Resurfacing & Painting Credit Cards accepted. Lic/Ins 352-302-2606

Concrete ROB'S MASONRY & CONCRETE Driveways tear outs, tractor work Lic#1476 726-6554

Concrete ROB'S MASONRY & CONCRETE Driveways tear outs, tractor work Lic#1476 726-6554

Driveways Property Maintenance Parking Lot & Driveway Improvements/ Blacktop, Seal coating, & Crack Repair. Free Estimates Lic# 022119/ 352-501-0306

Drywall A-1 Repairs Press, Wash, Painting (Int/Ext) 25 yrs., Ref, Lic #39765, 352-513-5746

County Wide DRY-WALL 30 Yrs. Exp. Lic.#2875. All your drywall needs!! Ceiling & Wall Repairs-Popcorn Removal 352-503-7193

Electrical DUN-RITE ELECTRIC Since 1978 ★ Free Est. Lic. EC 13002699 ** 352-726-2907 **

Electrical FERRARA ELECTRIC All Phases of Electrical Remodels, Panel Upgrades, Lighting Fixtures, Service and Repair 352-746-1606

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Vinyl, wood & tile PLUS Handyman, Pressure Wash, FREE EST. Veteran owned 352-949-2760

Gutters Get your mind out of the gutter! Cleaning \$25-\$45, most homes. Gutter guards,\$3-\$4 ft. And Handyman, Mark: 352-445-4724

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M&W INTERIORS Bath, kitchen, floors, walls, ceilings. Lic/Ins 352-537-4144

Andrew Joehl Handyman Gen. Maint/Repairs Pressure Cleaning 0256271 • 352-465-9201

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Handyman Affordable Handyman • FAST • 100% Guar. • AFFORDABLE • RELIABLE • Free Est. 352-257-9508

Pressure Wash, Cool seal, general handyman. Call Stewart 352-201-2169

Kitchen & Bath SKIP TO THE LOO Tile Bathroom Remodel & Repair specializing in no curb role in showers 352-794-1799

Landscaping CURB APPEAL Decorating Landscape Curbing, Epoxy River Rock, Reseals & Repair 352-364-2120

Painting A-1 Complete Repairs Pres. Wash, Painting (Int/Ext) 25 yrs., Ref, Lic #39765, 352-513-5746

PICASSO'S PAINTING Quality Craftsmanship We paint cabinets too 40 yrs exp. Pwr washing Lic/Ins 352-423-0116

PLUS handyman, flooring, painting, Pressure wash, free est. Veteran owned 352-949-2760

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Remodeling Perfection Renovations- Kitchen, Bath, Trim, Painting, Press Cl'n 954-249-7770

Roofing WHY REPLACE IT, IF I CAN FIX IT? Same owner since 1987 ROOF Leaks, Repairs, Coating & Maintenance Lic. #CC-C058189 Gary: 352-228-4500

Roofing AAA ROOFING Call The "Leakbusters" FREE Estimate/ 30 yrs Experience. Lic# CC0057537 352-563-0411

Services Bob's DISCARDED Lawn Mower Service ★ FREE PICK-UP ★ 352-637-1225

Stump Grinding Cheap!!! Avg 16" stump \$25. No stump to big or too small. Ask about our Disc: Vet, Vol., & Sr's. Free Est. Cheapest price guaranteed. Call Rich 352-586-7178 CitrusStumpGrinding.com

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Tree Service A ACTION TREE (352) 726-9724

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General

16 TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS POSTERS - Thick board - will send pic's - \$6 ea 352-678-9692

DOG KENNEL LARGE Pet Mate Vari Ultra 28" LX15" WX21.5" H taupe/black \$50 352-613-0529

GENERATOR NEW - Tested but Never Used - 6HP Briggs & Stratton - 2120W 20 Amp Receptacles - \$175 352-527-1088 after 2pm

Pets

****FREE****
TO GOOD HOME
PRETTY Gray Spayed Cat - NO fleas or worms - 2 years old - she is SWEET & WELL BEHAVED
(352) 464-1567

BOSTON TERRIER PUPS AKC limited registration 2M, 2F UTD shots and 1st cert. Ready Feb 17th. Call 352-419-4670

FROZEN RAW BEEF For Your Pets \$1.50/lb. Call Mike 334-414-7297.

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES AKC, White-2 fem, 7 male, 95% potty-trained. Avail. Feb. 24th; \$600 per pup. 352-419-4400 LV message or text

GOLDENDOODLE FIB PUPPIES 8 wks old. M & F, Sables, Goldens, Brown & Blacks. Health Certs & shots. Beautiful & lovable, raised in our home. \$700 each
Cell: 352-601-2147 Home: 352-621-3427

Medical Equipment

3 WHEELED SCOOTER New, Same as the Go Go. Same Co. Comes apart in 5 pieces to put in your trunk, or back seat only \$85.00 352-464-0316

Four Wheeled Upright Roller Walker w/ seat & Brakes \$50 (352) 637-2188

Manual Wheelchair with footrests. Used little only \$100 352-464-0316

MOBILITY CHAIR Pride, Jazzy Select Elite, New batteries \$3500 new; asking \$600 obo (352) 382-3280

MOBILITY POWER CHAIR Jazzy Select HD Mobility Power Chair, good condition, new batteries, less than 100 hours. This chair supports a person 250 plus. Asking \$1100.00 919-740-2265

SHOWER CHAIR Fiberglass and Aluminum. Adjustable legs & seat back. Only \$30 352-464-0316

SLIDE IN SHOWER CHAIR!! Goes half in half out of the tub. Slide in \$40 352-464-0316

TOILET SEAT RISER With handles VERY NICE! \$35 352-464-0316

TRANSPORT CHAIR (small wheels) with footrests. NEARLY NEW! ONLY \$75 352-464-0316

Transport Wheelchair \$50 (352) 637-2188

Musical Instruments

GUITAR Jackson guitar \$300 (352) 464-5957

Trumpet like new \$50 (352) 436-2953

Household

2 Gallon Fish Bowl w/ assorted Seashells and Starfish \$10 727-599-4809

3 TABLE LAMPS \$30 for ALL (352) 344-1515

COFFEE MAKER Works fine, Mr. Coffee brand, \$2 (352) 547-6479

Desert Rose Dishes over 100 pcs, no chips, around 50 yrs old - \$300 (352) 344-4742

Oil Paintings Local Artist - Landscapes & Seascapes \$10 Each (352) 344-1515

ROUND MIRROR 29" w/ Etched glass around edge \$10 727-599-4809

SHADOW BOX OCTAGON SHAPE 33" w & a Lg mirror insert, glass shelves, \$70 obo (352) 344-1515

VACUUM HOOVER FloorMate Vacuums, Washes & Dries - Like New! Only \$35 (352) 344-1515

Sporting Goods

GOLF CLUBS 3 Bags Golf Clubs - Womens & Mens \$20 for ALL (352) 344-1515

Ugly Stick w/ BG30 Reel - Fish Landing Net - Minnow Net - Rabbit Ears & Bait Bucket \$50 727-599-4809

Baby Items

CHANGING TABLE/ DRESSER - blonde finish has storage area in good condition \$100 352-613-0529

UMBRELLA STROLLER blue & red in good condition, \$10 352-613-0529

Wanted to Buy

CASH Offers for Dazzy Vance lures, boxes, photos, or any Vintage Tackle - 407-455-2273

I buy, jewelry, silver, gold, paintings, instruments, records, antiques, coins, watches & MORE! 352-454-0688

WANTED JUNK & ESTATE CARS Up to \$1,000 & MORE (352) 342-7037

Wanted Model Trains \$ INSTANT CASH \$ For old Lionel & other model trains, any quantity - one piece or a house full! 330-554-7089

Beauty Services

BLOW DRYER & FLAT IRON - REVLO - \$10 727-599-4809

Pets

****FREE****
TO GOOD HOME
PRETTY Gray Spayed Cat - NO fleas or worms - 2 years old - she is SWEET & WELL BEHAVED
(352) 464-1567

BOSTON TERRIER PUPS AKC limited registration 2M, 2F UTD shots and 1st cert. Ready Feb 17th. Call 352-419-4670

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Cell: 352-601-2147 Home: 352-621-3427

Commercial Real Estate

DUNNELLON North Williams St 3000 SF MOL; Commercial building on .042 acre **For sale or lease** Call for details Contact: Al Insetto, Palmwood Realty. 352-597-2500 x202

Beverly Hills Homes

FOR SALE BY OWNER 2-1/2-1, Corner Lot, Fenced- Ex. Cond. \$129,900 401 S Washington (352) 406-0659 or 746-9418

Lecanto Homes

FSBO 2/2 in Beautiful Neighborhood, includes den, lanai, remodeled kit, BRAND NEW Roof, 1 ac fenced, 2 sheds. No Realtors \$275K (978) 343-6920

Inverness Homes

For Sale Duplex-(2) 2/2/1 Apts, Countryside Subdivision built 2006, Large lot, newly painted in/out \$239,000 513-720-4421 or 937-378-4109

Crystal River Homes

FSBO - 3/2 Condo Boat docks, Trailer parking, Pool, Great Location! Paradise Point Villas \$254,900 904-571-9303

Homosassa Homes

FSBO- \$289,900 3/2/2 SMW Pool Home on Estate Sized Lot, 2300sqft tile & laminate, 1997 Royal Coachmen Built - (574) 532-6228

Sumter County Homes

MUST SEE!!! Bushnell Area Two HM's on 2.66ac **3/2 w/ office/ bonus Rm- Lg kit. w/ brkfst bar, Huge DR., Family Rm. **1/1 Totally separate w/ NICE Kit & LivRm. Both are Cedar Siding - Block Homes w/ multiple fenced pastures. Many Possibilities!! ONLY Asking \$159,500 CALL TODAY: (352) 457-3438 or 446-5602

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Citrus County Land

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Real Estate For Sale

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HERNANDO 3/3/2 + Den & Pool Maint. Free! Gated 55+ - Fully Furnished- No Pets/Smoking \$1850 Tom 352-422-0199 or Wanda 706-217-9507

Real Estate For Sale

Total Renovation on 2 Mobile Homes on 4 acres, 2 Bdrm / 1 1/2 BA and 3 Bdrm / 2 BA - CALL for detailed info 352-344-3084

Real Estate For Sale

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Boats

12 Ft- American Jon Boat - Minn Kota Endura Motor - battery, jackets & oars. \$1300 obo- INV 850-624-1308

1983 Hydra Sports 20.5' w/ cockpit 1992 225 Evinrude, Bimini, bait well, Garmin GPS/ depth/ 2way radio, NEW ign sys, batt, auto bilge pump, anchor, cover & tilt trim/ Dual axle trailer, 35 gal fuel cap. \$4250 obo or trade for Pontoon, call/text 352-566-0755

2013 Lowe Pontoon Sport Fisher - 21ft- 60HP Mercury w/ Trailer, Fish-Finder, extras - Well maintained \$13,500 After 10a 352-341-0858

16' Alum Flat Bottom Boat 15HP 4 stroke MERC, elec start, w/ trailer. Asking \$4900 - Call 765-720-0024 or 812-797-2845

CANOE w/ Back Plate for Motor Needs work \$40 (352) 432-2663

JON BOAT Alumcraft, 15 ft with trailer, 2 trolling mtr, 2 batt. life jackets, 3 seats \$1850, 812-902-9004

Recreation Vehicles

2005 JAYCO 32' 6" pull behind Excellent shape- NEW tires + rims \$6000 obo Carl: 352-400-8353 if no ans, Lv MSG

Classified Ads work!

Sell your vehicle today! Call 352-563-5966

Boat Accessories

2020 Mercury 4-stroke 200 HP O/B 4 yr wtry \$9,800 Call or text 352-422-4141

Recreation Vehicles

2007 Holiday Rambler -Endeavour 400 Cummings Diesel- Allison Trans.- 40 ft. 4 slides - 66K mi. Hankook tires- \$89K (231) 631-1643

Camper/Travel Trailers

Check Out! SPECIALS ~\$69.95~

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ALL Buying all junk cars And scrap best prices -8134659482 -Joey

CASH FOR CARS & TRUCKS Running or Not TOP \$\$\$ PAID * 352-771-6191 *

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Cars

2008 T@B Dutchmen RV w/ Awning. Model 320 \$7000 (352) 586-4231

2011 Forest River LT w/ w/ awning, stove, micro, fridge, shower, a/c, sleeps 6 - NEW tires, batt & system converter/ Used 5 times- Ex. Cond. \$6K (352) 527-4247

2017 HEARTLAND PIONEER- 5th WHEEL PI 276 -32ft./ 2 slides, Auto Leveling, Rear Bunks, \$24,500 352-634-2247

Vehicles Wanted

CHECK THIS OUT!

~\$69.95~

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Applies to all vehicles, boats, RV's, campers & motorcycles.

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CASH FOR CARS & TRUCKS Running or Not TOP \$\$\$ PAID * 352-771-6191 *

WANTED JUNK & ESTATE CARS Up to \$1,000 & MORE (352) 342-7037

Cars

2016 Ford Fiesta SE, 19K mi, Excellent Condition! \$7500 (352) 212-4620 LV Msg w/ Name & #

AUDI 2018 A4 PREMIUM Gray, 21K LOW MI. \$24,907 Nick Nicholas Ford 352-726-1231

CHEVY 2018 Malibu LT Excellent Condition! Only 5K Miles for info Please Call 352-601-3225

Cars

CHRYSLER 2010 PT Cruiser, 80k mi., gd cond. must see to appreciate \$5200 , 352-564-2756

FORD 2017 FUSION SE White, 23K LOW MI. \$17,262 Nick Nicholas Ford 352-726-1231

FORD 2018 FIESTA SE Blue, 0K Mi. \$11,968 Nick Nicholas Ford 352-726-1231

HONDA 2014 Honda Pilot EXL 99K miles \$14,500 352-228-4026 Lv Msg if no answer

Lincoln Towncar 2006 garage kept exc. cond., 121 K mi back up camera, good tires, \$6,000 OBO 352-341-5124

SELL YOUR VEHICLE IN THE CHRONICLE Classifieds

ONLY

\$19.95 for 7 days

\$29.95 for 14 days

\$49.95 for 30 days

\$69.95 Run 'til it sells!!

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AUDI 2018 A4 PREMIUM Gray, 21K LOW MI. \$24,907 Nick Nicholas Ford 352-726-1231

CHEVY 2018 Malibu LT Excellent Condition! Only 5K Miles for info Please Call 352-601-3225

Cars

MERCEDES 2002 SLK320, 2dr, Red, New Tires, HT Convertible, V6, AT, 29k mi., \$12,500 703-405-7789

NISSAN 2005 350 Z Convertible White, blue top, ground effects pkg, 94,769 mi. \$9,800 obo (352) 270-8485

TOYOTA 2005 AVALON-160K mi Sunroof, Leather, Digital display, SPACIOUS. \$5,000 352-621-3004

Classic Vehicles

89 MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE 5.0 5sp - Older Restore Many Extras! Too Much to List- Discs, SS Exhaust, etc. \$12,000 (352) 436-9718

AMC 1968 JAVELIN 290 V8, Auto, A/C, PS **Multiple Award Winner.. Must See! \$24K (352) 400-1430

CADILLAC 1989 COUPE DEVILLE 91K mi., 1 owner, Gold Edition! \$4,000 352-346-1053

CHEVROLET 1969 CAMARO - 454 Engine / 700R4 trans. MANY upgrades! Call for details! \$40,000 810-841-2692

FORD 1930 Model A 5 Window Coupe, 76 K mi./ EXCELLENT Cond. \$16,000 352-795-3510

FORD 1977 Ranchero GT auto, 351 M V-8 104,000 mi., \$7,500 352-346-1053

MERCURY COMET 1974 302 V8 Auto Trans. Great Collector Car! \$8,700 352-212-5747 Call for Appt.

Cars

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MERCURY COMET 1974 302 V8 Auto Trans. Great Collector Car! \$8,700 352-212-5747 Call for Appt.

Classic Vehicles

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FORD F150 4WD - 2015 Supercab - Bright Red, Excellent Condition

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES *By The Mephram Group*

Level **1** 2 3 4

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

Solution to Saturday's puzzle 2/15/21

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

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

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ACROSS

- 1 Prohibited thing (hyph.)
- 5 Chart
- 8 — Jones' locker
- 12 Do as told
- 13 Water, in Montreal
- 14 Yves' girlfriend
- 15 "Friends" friend
- 16 Flee
- 17 "Master of None" actress
- 18 Waithe
- 18 Courage
- 20 Vital signs
- 22 Watch carefully
- 23 Chef
- 24 — Garten
- 24 Poet's blue
- 27 Prim and proper
- 30 Duffer's goal
- 31 Something very funny
- 32 Mary — cosmetics

DOWN

- 34 Come to a conclusion
- 35 Get paid
- 36 Henri's island
- 37 Affluent one
- 39 Subscribe again
- 41 Lamprey
- 42 "Futureworld" name
- 43 Crown
- 46 Muppet drummer
- 50 Ferber or Millay
- 51 Eyebrow shape
- 53 Commend highly
- 54 Cold War capital
- 55 Fan noise
- 56 Fateful day
- 57 Mattress support
- 58 Even so
- 59 Salon rinse

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 3 Fit together
- 4 Off-white
- 5 Brawl
- 6 Shoe width
- 7 Work with weights (2 wds.)
- 8 Cotton Bowl site
- 9 Iowa college town
- 10 Honeysuckle
- 11 Affirmative votes
- 19 Drain cleaner
- 21 Single entity
- 24 Gorilla
- 25 Wacky
- 26 Lahore language
- 27 Study hard
- 28 Injure a knee
- 29 Sturdy lock
- 31 Desperation play (hyph.)
- 33 Hedge shrub
- 35 Pentathlon event
- 38 Stuff scholar
- 39 Jog
- 40 Evoke
- 42 Cruise in style
- 43 Society newbies
- 44 "White Wedding" singer
- 45 Ms. Paquin
- 47 Popular hemline
- 48 — — -foot pole
- 49 For fear that
- 52 Issa of "Insecure"

Monday, February 15, 2021

KATHLEEN SAXE

WORD GAME

TODAY'S WORD -- SOLDER

(SOLDER: SOD-er: A metallic alloy used when melted to join metallic surfaces.)

Average mark 17 words
Time limit 25 minutes

Can you find 20 or more words in SOLDER?
The list will be published tomorrow.

SATURDAY'S WORD -- AUTOGRAPH

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>agar
aorta
apart
argot
atop
aught
aura
author
auto</p> | <p>tapa
taro
thou
thug
toga
tough
tour
trap
trough</p> | <p>oath
ought
ghat
gout
graph
groat
group
grout</p> | <p>guar
ragout
rapt
rough
rout
part
path
phot
port</p> | <p>pour
pout
harp
hart
hoar
hora
hour
hurt</p> |
|--|---|---|---|--|

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

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DOWN

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20	21			
				22				23				
24	25	26			27				28	29		
30					31				32		33	
34					35				36			
	37		38					39	40			
				41				42				
43	44	45					46			47	48	49
50					51	52			53			
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

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WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

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

1. President 42 Clinton shall (1)
2. Pump up President 34 Eisenhower (1)
3. Ward off a thrust by 33 Truman (2)
4. Fraudulently sign 43 Bush's name (1)
5. "40 Reagan, meet future 45 Trump" (2)
6. One who gets President 39 Jimmy going (2)
7. Causin' resentment in President 32 Roosevelt (2)

ANSWERS: 1. BILL WILL 2. PSYCH IRE 3. PARRY HARRY 4. FORGE GEORGE 5. RONALD DONALD 6. CARTER STARTER 7. HANKLIN FRANKLIN

2-15-21

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FORD 2018 ESCAPE XLT
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White, 10K LOW Mi, Safe & Smart Pkg. \$20,968
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KIA 2019 SPORTAGE EX
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Nick Nicholas Ford 352-726-1231

LINCOLN 2017 MKC
Red, 34K LOW Mi, \$23,968
Nick Nicholas Ford 352-726-1231

Sport/Utility Vehicles

LINCOLN 2019 MKC
Blue, 10K LOW Mi, \$30,968
Nick Nicholas Ford 352-726-1231

LINCOLN 2019 NAUTILUS
Silver, 12K LOW Mi, \$43,968
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Vans

2012 VW Minivan
103K mi, Good Condition - Good Transportation \$5000
352-228-4664

FORD 2006 E150 CARGO VAN - many new parts - tow package - Awesome on Fuel \$6000 352-247-0788

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ONLY 20 Hours \$5900
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Harley-Davidson 2007 Fat Boy
Vance & Hines Pipes - 13K Orig. miles, Well Maintained! \$7950 OBO 516-819-9196

Motorcycles

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1500 CC, Blue/green. Only 11,401 mi., bought brand new. Perfect cond. Hardly driven. \$6000 obo Tony: 352-527-8950
Pictures avail. online!

HONDA 2005 Gold Wing, 85k mi, 1800 CC, silver, perfect cond \$8000 (352) 897-4108

Motorcycles

HONDA 2014 TRX 400X
Low Miles - \$4,500 obo cash only (352) 613-8173

TRIKE V8 - 2004 MUST SEE!
Factory Made, Ex Cond./Low Mi Auto trans w/reverse 1 of a Kind- Pics online- Reasonable \$19,900 352-341-3803

2101-0222 MCRN PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the provision of Section 121.055, Florida Statutes, notice is given to the intent of the Citrus County Property Appraiser, to approve an additional position to be included in the Senior Management Services Class (SMSC) in the Florida Retirement System. The following regularly established position is to be designated: Director of Administrative Services. The effective date of inclusion of the above position will be March 1, 2021.

Published February 15 & 22, 2021

9027-0217 MXDCRN
United Way of Citrus County

LOCAL EFSP BOARD 158600 IN CITRUS COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)/FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM (EFSP) PHASE 38.

Local EFSP Board 158600 has been awarded \$44,732 to supplement **Emergency Food and Shelter Programs** in the county. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council

Misc. Notices

of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army; and The United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the county.

A Local Board made up of United Way of Citrus County, Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, The Salvation Army of Citrus County, et. al, will determine how the funds awarded to Local EFSP Board 158600 are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the term of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must:

- 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government,
- 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds,
- 3) have an accounting system,
- 4) practice non-discrimination,
- 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food, shelter, or utility assistance programs,
- 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board,
- 7) applicants must be on the Mid Florida Information Network system or willing to participate (Local Board recommendation.)

Local EFSP Board 158600 has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with Daystar Life Center Citrus County, The Salvation Army of Citrus County, United Way of Citrus County, and The Pregnancy and Family Life Center. These agencies were responsible for providing rental, utility and diaper assistance.

Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must go to United Way of Citrus County's website to download an application.

Completed applications are to be submitted to United Way of Citrus County via mail or drop-off at United Way of Citrus County, 1582 N Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34465. The deadline for application submission is Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Published February 4,5,8,9,10,11,12, 15, 16 & 17, 2021

SPECIAL PURCHASES

OVER 500 PLANTS AND TREES PURCHASED FROM WHOLESALE NURSERY - WE'VE GOT BIG DISCOUNTS ON OVERSTOCK AND YOU CAN SAVE UP TO 50% AND MORE!

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 House plant or can grow in shade
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BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

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 3 gal. Reg. \$40.00 **SALE \$15.00**
 15 gal. 4' to 5' Tall Reg. \$75.00 **SALE \$50.00**

WEeping BOTTLE BRUSH
 7 gal. Reg. \$75.00 **SALE \$50.00**
 15 gal. 6' to 7' Tall Reg. \$125.00 **SALE \$100.00**

CREPE MYRTLES
 Red - Pink - Purple - Lavender - White
PLANT NOW! Beautiful blossoms in spring.
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SAVE 20% & MORE
 3 gal. Reg. \$30.00 **SALE \$24.00**
 5 gal. Reg. \$50.00 **SALE \$40.00**
 15 gal. Reg. \$150.00 **SALE \$100.00**

PEACH TREES - Blossomed
 3 gal. **SALE \$30.00**
 15 gal. Reg. \$125.00 **SALE \$90.00**

JUNIPER GROUND COVER BLUE PACIFIC OR BLUE RUG
 3 gal. **SALE \$10.00**
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

AZALEAS - DWARF - SEMI-DWARF VARIEGATED SILVER SWORD VARIEGATED DOGWOOD - Pink & White RED SLIPPERS
 3 gal. **YOUR CHOICE \$8.00**

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ROBELLINI - Pygmy Date Palm SAVE UP TO 40%
 3 gal. Reg. \$20.00 **SALE \$16.00** 15 gal. Reg. \$125.00 **SALE \$80.00**
 7 gal. Reg. \$50.00 **SALE \$40.00** 30 gal. Reg. \$250.00 **SALE \$150.00**

COONTIE or SAGO PALMS SAVE 20%
 1 gal. Reg. \$10.00 **SALE \$8.00** 3 gal. Reg. \$20.00 **SALE \$16.00**
 7 gal. Reg. \$50.00 **SALE \$40.00**

QUEEN PALM - 5' to 6' Tall SAVE 30%
 7 gal. Reg. \$60.00 **SALE \$42.00**

LIGUSTRUM SHRUBS
 Makes Excellent Hedge
 3 gal. Reg. \$12.00 **SALE \$8.00**

MAGNOLIA TREES - Little Gem SAVE 20%
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 7 gal. Reg. \$40.00 **SALE \$32.00**

MILKWEED - Save Our Monarch Butterflies
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GIANT MILKWEED -
 1 gal. **SALE \$10.00** 3 gal. **SALE \$25.00**

SWEET VIBURNUM - SILVERTHORN - LOROPETALUM - BOXWOOD PODOCARPUS SHRUBS
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PODOCARPUS SHRUB - 4' Tall SAVE 20%
 7 gal. Reg. \$35.00 **SALE \$28.00**

SWEET VIBURNUM
 15 gal. Reg. \$75.00 **SALE \$60.00**

BOTTLE BRUSH
 3 gal. **SALE \$10.00**
 15 gal. 4' to 5' Tall Reg. \$80.00 **SALE \$50.00**

SWEET BAY MAGNOLIAS 5' Tall 3 gal. SALE \$15.00 6' Tall 7 gal. Reg. \$75.00 SALE \$25.00	LONG LEAF PINE TREES Over 10' Tall 15 gal. Reg. \$50.00 SALE \$25.00	CAMILLIA Pink, Red, Candy-Stripe 3 gal. Reg. \$25.00 SALE \$12.00	TEA OLIVE Over 4' Tall Very Fragrant 15 gal. Reg. \$60.00 SALE \$30.00	SCHEFFLERA Umbrella Plant 3 gal. Reg. \$12.00 SALE \$8.00	SOCIETY GARLIC 1 gal. Reg. \$5.00 SAVE 40% SALE \$3.00	CHINESE FAN PALM TREES 3' Tall Reg. \$15.00 SALE \$8.00 each or 2 for \$12.00	CHINESE LANTERN Orange Reg. \$50.00 SAVE 50% SALE \$15.00	GARDENIAS FROST PROOF 3 gal. Reg. \$10.00 SAVE 20% SALE \$8.00	SEA GRAPES Grow in Sand 3 gal. Reg. \$15.00 SAVE 20% SALE \$12.00
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THE NUMBER:**4**

Centers in Pistons history with a triple-double after Mason Plumlee tallied 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists on Sunday.



Mason Plumlee

SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021



Down but not out, Serena Williams into Aussie Open QFs./B2

- Australian Open/B2
- Scoreboard/B3
- Sports briefs/B3
- Lottery, TV/B3
- Golf/B4
- NBA/B4
- Men's college basketball/B4

Late night in Daytona



Associated Press

Denny Hamlin wins the second stage ahead of Kevin Harvick during the NASCAR Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway, on Sunday in Daytona Beach. The race was delayed for several hours by rain and had not finished at press time. For a full recap see Tuesday's sports section.

New year, but protocols remain

Spring training begins this week

JAKE SEINER
AP baseball writer

NEW YORK — Completing the 2020 season required MLB to rewrite its rule book. Stadiums were emptied, schedules rewritten. Some players opted out. The ones that didn't spat into COVID-19 testing cups until their mouths went dry.

"When it was all said and done, you kind of look back and go, 'God, that was the longest 60 games I've ever been a part of,'" veteran pitcher Jon Lester said last month.

Well, to borrow from another Chicago Cubs favorite:

Let's play 162!

Against the backdrop of a still dangerous coronavirus pandemic, pitchers and catchers are reporting to spring training this week, the first step in a 2021 season that will take many of the complexities from 2020's 60-game sprint and stretch them over an additional four months.

Sure, there's the usual buzz over players with new homes. Blake Snell and Yu Darvish, hoping to push the upstart San Diego Padres over the top. Still in their way, the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers, who upgraded with NL Cy Young Award winner Trevor Bauer. Francisco Lindor is a Met, Nolan Arenado a Cardinal, and George Springer and Marcus Semien have joined up on the Blue Jays.

This season, though, promises to again be defined by the pandemic.

Offers by MLB to delay opening day were rejected by the players' association last month,



Associated Press

Tampa Bay Rays pitchers and catchers throw on Feb. 12, 2020, after reporting for spring training in Port Charlotte.

defaulting the league into an on-time start.

Baseball will again use seven-inning doubleheaders and runners on second base to start extra innings — experiments introduced during last year's condensed regular season to ease the burden on

pitchers amid a flood of postponements prompted by positive tests and contact tracing.

Sunflower seeds are still outlawed, and high-fives frowned upon, too. Although limited-capacity crowds are expected at many stadiums, autographs will remain a no-no.

Other 2020 changes have been put on the bench. The universal designated hitter is gone, and no deal has been reached to re-expand the postseason. Of course, last year's agreement to fatten the playoff field from 10 to 16 teams wasn't finished until hours before the first pitch on

opening day, so there's precedent for a late change.

Then again, the league and union have agreed on little lately — hardly a promising sign with the collective bargaining agreement set to expire Dec. 1. Expect chatter about that this

See MLB/Page B3

Down but not out, Williams into QFs

Knocks off No. 7 Sabalenka in 3

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Serena Williams tumbled to the ground, her heavily taped right ankle turning, her body contorting, her racket flying.

This was early in the second set of a competitive-as-can-be matchup in the Australian Open's fourth round against a younger version of herself — stinging serves, huge ground-stroke cuts, a fierce streak — and during a stretch Sunday (Saturday night EST) when things seemed to be slipping away.

Williams quickly put up a hand to indicate she was OK, retied the laces of her right shoe and, while it took her a bit to regain control, she did so, just in the nick of time. Grabbing the last two games, Williams pulled out a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 victory over No. 7 seed Aryna Sabalenka to reach the quarterfinals at Melbourne Park.

Two years ago at this tournament, Williams was on the verge of a quarterfinal win when she hurt her ankle and ended up losing.

"Well, my first thought was, 'Not another ankle sprain in Australia.' But I knew immediately that it wasn't. Then I was more embarrassed than anything. I was like, 'Oh, my goodness.' I don't like falling," Williams said. "But I was fine. I mean, once I realized I didn't twist my ankle, like at all, I was like, 'OK, I'm good, let me just get up.'"

Williams, who wore a black T-shirt with "Unstoppable Queen" in capital gold letters to her news conference, moved closer to an eighth Australian Open championship and record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles title overall.

Her most recent came in 2017, while she was pregnant.

On a cloudy day with the temperature in the mid-60s Fahrenheit, both Williams and Sabalenka dismissed much in the way of subtlety or nuance.



Serena Williams hits a forehand return to Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championship on Sunday in Melbourne, Australia.

"I was OK with it, really," Williams said. "If she wants to play power, let's go."

These two hit the ball hard, over and over again in Rod Laver Arena, and Williams was barely better. She ended up with more winners, 30-24, and more aces, 9-4, while cranking up her best-in-the-game serve to as fast as 126 mph.

When Williams needed to volley, she did, claiming 13 of 15 points when she went to the net. More importantly, she covered the court much in the way she did in her younger days, when opponents' apparent winners were rendered mere fodder for her own strikes.

And she showed no signs of trouble from the left Achilles tendon that hampered her in a U.S. Open semifinal loss in September and forced her to withdraw from the French Open before the second round later

that month.

"I've worked really hard on my movement. Yeah, I like retrieving balls. I mean, obviously I like to be on the offense, but I can play defense really well, as well," the 39-year-old American said. "I didn't think about my Achilles. It's so good to not think about it. Oh, my goodness."

Sabalenka — a 22-year-old from Belarus playing in only her second fourth-round Slam match — was visibly and audibly frustrated. She frequently would scream after lost points. She spiked her racket, too.

With the high quality of the match, the only shame was that no fans were there to see it in person. That's because this was Day 2 of the five-day lockdown imposed by the Victoria state government after some COVID-19 cases emerged at a local hotel. (Any cheering or chatter TV viewers heard at home was

being piped in to broadcasters' feeds).

Williams now faces No. 2-ranked Simona Halep, a two-time major winner who beat French Open champion Iga Swiatek 3-6, 6-1, 6-4. The other quarterfinal on that half of the draw will be Naomi Osaka against unseeded 35-year-old Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan.

Osaka barely advanced, saving two match points and grabbing the last four games to top Garbiñe Muguruza 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

The third-seeded Osaka returns to the quarterfinals of a tournament she won in 2019 for one of her three major trophies. Osaka ran her winning streak to 18 matches — a run that included a U.S. Open title in September.

"She's playing great. Big shots, big serve," Muguruza said. "That gives her a lot of free points."

The key moment came when

Osaka was serving at 15-40 while trailing 5-3 in the final set. Muguruza could not convert either chance to end things: Osaka delivered one of her 11 aces at 118 mph on the first; Muguruza missed a groundstroke on the second.

Fifteen minutes later, the match was over.

The 71st-ranked Hsieh's 6-4, 6-2 victory over 2019 French Open finalist Marketa Vondrousova made her the oldest woman to make her major quarterfinal debut in the professional era.

This is the 38th major for Hsieh, who beat 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu in the second round.

The secret to Hsieh's success?

"I try to pretend," she joked, "I'm only 18 years old."

Djokovic advances to quarters at Australian Open

Shakes off injury to stay in Slam

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Novak Djokovic wore tape above his right hip, and winced when he stretched for some shots in a three-hour match against Milos Raonic that will go into the records as his 300th win at a major.

For anyone curious about the severity of his injury, he put it into context after qualifying for the Australian Open quarterfinals for the 12th time.

"If it's any other tournament than a Grand Slam then I would retire, withdraw from the event, that's for sure," Djokovic said in an on-court TV interview Sunday following his 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 fourth-round victory. "When it warmed up it was fine. During the match it was kind of on and off."

The eight-time Australian Open champion planned to spend most of the next two days recovering ahead of his quarterfinal against sixth-seeded Alexander Zverev.

That's pretty much how he spent his time after injuring an abdominal muscle in his five-set, third-round win over Taylor Fritz.

A lot of recovery, a lot of time getting physiotherapy and, he said, "different treatments with different devices. You know, just pills, painkillers and stuff like this with the medical team ... that definitely helped a lot."

He didn't practice on Saturday — he said he didn't hit a ball — and didn't know until he was warming up three hours before his match against Raonic whether or not

he'd be fit enough to play Sunday's late match on Rod Laver Arena.

In the end, he looked OK as he extended his career streak to 12-0 against the big-serving Canadian. He dropped his racket and hurdled an advertising hoarding in the first set, and later watched on as 14th-seeded Raonic had his right ankle re-taped during a medical timeout in the second.

His movement wasn't peak Djokovic, but it was good enough to produce 41 winners and drop only one of his 20 service games. His career win-loss record in the four tennis majors is now 300-45, making him the only man other than Roger Federer (362-59) to compile 300 wins.

"I won the match against a great player," Djokovic said, "and hopefully it's going to be even better in two days."

U.S. Open finalist Zverev beat No. 23-seeded Dusan Lajovic 6-4, 7-6 (5), 6-3 to move into the quarterfinals at Melbourne Park in back-to-back years.

The projected quarterfinal in that top section of the draw panned out according to the seedings.

This other quarterfinal match in that half of the draw is one that nobody saw coming.

With a straight-sets win over third-seeded Dominic Thiem, the U.S. Open champion and Australian Open runner-up in 2020, Grigor Dimitrov advanced to a showdown with Aslan Karatsev.

Yes, that Karatsev — the Russian ranked No. 114 who is playing in his first Grand Slam tournament. Dimitrov beating Thiem isn't exactly an upset.

The 29-year-old Bulgarian has been ranked as high as No. 3, won the ATP Finals, and already led his friend, Thiem, 3-2 in career head-to-heads, although this was their first meeting at a major.

Despite his lengthy tennis pedigree, Dimitrov has never been past the semifinals at a Grand Slam. So he's wary of somebody like Karatsev.

"If you're here, it's for a reason — there's no doubt about it," Dimitrov said after his 6-4, 6-4, 6-0 win. "Whether it's a fairytale or not, it's a match — you've got to be ready."

Karatsev earlier added a win over No. 20 Felix Auger-Aliassime, coming back for a 3-6, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 victory, to an earlier upset over No. 8 Diego Schwartzman.

He'd failed in nine previous bids to qualify for a Grand Slam tournament, but finally succeeded in Doha last month, when qualifying for the Australian Open was held offshore for the first time because of restrictions in place for the COVID-19 pandemic.

He's now just the third qualifier to get this far in Australia in the professional era, the first since Goran Ivanisevic in 1989. The last man to get to the round of eight in his first Grand Slam appearance was Alex Radulescu at Wimbledon in 1996.

And not since Patrick McEnroe — John's brother — in 1991 has a man ranked as low as 114th made it to the Australian Open quarterfinals.

"I was working a lot, and it just happened right now," the 27-year-old Karatsev said of his recent streak.

"It's like you never know when it happens. It just happened here."

Thiem said he had a few issues on Sunday, but didn't want to elaborate or use them as excuses.

It was clear that he was still fatigued after having to come from two sets down to beat Australia's Nick Kyrgios in five sets on Friday night.

"Some little physical issues, plus a real bad day,



Serbia's Novak Djokovic reacts during his fourth round match against Canada's Milos Raonic at the Australian Open tennis championship on Sunday in Melbourne, Australia.

plus the fact that, well, result like that can he added. "I mean, some- times I would like to be, but there are really, really bad days."

happen." "The thing also is that I'm also not a machine,"

TENNIS**Australian Open**

At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: AUD32,790,000
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
(seedings in parentheses)

Men's Singles
Fourth Round
Aslan Karatsev, Russia, def. Felix Auger-Aliassime (20), Canada, 3-6, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4.
Grigor Dimitrov (18), Bulgaria, def. Dominic Thiem (3), Austria, 6-4, 6-4, 6-0.
Alexander Zverev (6), Germany, def. Dusan Lajovic (23), Serbia, 6-4, 7-6 (5), 6-3.
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Milos Raonic (14), Canada, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Women's Singles
Fourth Round
Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, def. Marketa Vondrousova (19), Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2.
Naomi Osaka (3), Japan, def. Garbine Muguruza (14), Spain, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.
Serena Williams (10), United States, def. Aryna Sabalenka (7), Belarus, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.
Simona Halep (2), Romania, def. Iga Swiatek (15), Poland, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Men's Doubles
Second Round
Lukasz Kubot, Poland, and Wesley Koolhof (4), Netherlands, def. Nick Kyrgios and Thanasi Kokkinakis, Australia, 6-3, 6-4.
Men's Doubles
Third Round
Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hugues Herbert (8), France, def. James Duckworth and Marc Polmans, Australia, 6-4, 6-3.
Nikola Pietrangeli and Mate Pavic (2), Croatia, def. John Millman, Australia, and Thiago Monteiro, Brazil, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

Matwe Middelkoop, Netherlands, and Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez, El Salvador, def. Andrey Golubev and Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Phillip Oswald, Austria, and Marcus Daniell, New Zealand, def. Nicholas Monroe and Frances Tiafoe, United States, 6-3, 7-5.

Women's Doubles
Third Round
Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara (7), Japan, def. Hayley Carter, United States, and Luisa Stefani (12), Brazil, 6-2, 6-4.
Aleksandra Krunic, Serbia, and Martina Trevisan, Italy, def. Viktoria Kuzmova, Slovakia, and Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, 6-4, 6-3.
Darija Jurak, Croatia, and Nina Stojanovic, Serbia, def. Jasmine Paolini, Italy, and Aliona Bolsova Zadoinov, Spain, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.
Elise Mertens, Belgium, and Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, def. Vera Zvonareva, Russia, and Laura Siegemund (16), Germany, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2.

Mixed Doubles
Second Round
Robert Farah, Colombia, and Nicole Melichar (2), United States, def. Fabrice Martin, France, and Caroline Dolehide, United States, 6-4, 6-4.
Rajeev Ram, United States, and Barbora Krejickova (6), Czech Republic, def. Henri Kontinen, Finland, and Yaroslava Shvedova, Kazakhstan, 7-6 (6), 7-5.
Arina Radionova and Max Purcell, Australia, def. Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Alexa Guarachi Mathison, Chile, 7-5, 6-4.
Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, and Neal Skupski, Britain, def. John Peers and Belinda Woolcock, Australia, 6-2, 5-7, 12-10.
Hayley Carter, United States, and Sander Gille, Belgium, def. Nikola Pietrangeli, Croatia, and Barbora Strycova (1), Czech Republic, 6-4, 5-7, 10-4.
Bruno Soares and Luisa Stefani (8), Brazil, def. Matwe Middelkoop, Netherlands, and Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, 7-5, 6-4.
Matthew Ebden and Sam Stosur, Australia, def. Alexander Bublik and Elena Rybakina, Kazakhstan, 6-1, 6-4.

HOCKEY**NHL standings**

	East Division				
	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF GA
Boston	14	10	2	2	22 42 30
Philadelphia	13	8	3	2	18 46 41
N.Y. Islanders	13	6	4	3	15 32 33
Washington	13	6	4	3	15 47 51
Pittsburgh	13	7	5	1	15 43 47
N.Y. Rangers	13	4	6	3	11 31 34
New Jersey	9	4	3	2	10 23 26
Buffalo	10	4	4	2	10 30 32

	Central Division				
	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF GA
Tampa Bay	13	10	2	1	21 50 26
Florida	12	8	2	2	18 38 36
Carolina	12	9	3	0	18 43 33
Columbus	16	7	5	4	18 47 53
Chicago	16	7	5	4	18 47 49
Dallas	12	5	3	4	14 40 34
Nashville	15	6	9	0	12 36 52
Detroit	16	4	10	2	10 33 51

	West Division				
	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF GA
Vegas	13	10	2	1	21 41 28
St. Louis	15	9	4	2	20 52 48
Colorado	12	7	4	1	15 38 25
Anaheim	15	6	6	3	15 30 39
Arizona	14	6	6	2	14 39 42
Minnesota	11	6	5	0	12 30 30
Los Angeles	13	4	6	3	11 40 44
San Jose	13	5	7	1	11 35 49

	North Division				
	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF GA
Toronto	15	11	3	1	23 53 38
Montreal	15	9	4	2	20 52 39
Edmonton	16	9	7	0	18 55 52
Winnipeg	14	8	5	1	17 47 38
Calgary	14	7	6	1	15 40 37
Vancouver	18	7	11	0	14 54 67
Ottawa	16	3	12	1	7 34 64

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. The top four teams in each division will qualify for playoffs under this season's temporary realignment.

Saturday's Games
Vegas 3, San Jose 1
Montreal 2, Toronto 1
Detroit 4, Nashville 2
Chicago 3, Columbus 2, OT
St. Louis 5, Arizona 4, OT
Vancouver 3, Calgary 1
Ottawa 2, Winnipeg 1
N.Y. Islanders 4, Boston 2
Tampa Bay 6, Florida 1
Carolina 4, Dallas 3, SO
Washington at Buffalo, ppd
New Jersey at Philadelphia, ppd
Minnesota at Los Angeles, ppd

Sunday's Games
Pittsburgh 6, Washington 3
Vegas 1, Colorado 0
Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers, ppd

Tuesday's Games
St. Louis at Arizona, 4 p.m.
Columbus at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Florida at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Boston, ppd
Ottawa at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Anaheim at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Florida at Carolina, 5 p.m.
Ottawa at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Calgary, 10 p.m.
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 10 p.m.

Florida LOTTERY

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

PICK 2 (early)
3 - 4

PICK 2 (late)
4 - 0

PICK 3 (early)
5 - 0 - 2

PICK 3 (late)
2 - 4 - 2

PICK 4 (early)
0 - 5 - 4 - 2

PICK 4 (late)
2 - 2 - 0 - 2

PICK 5 (early)
1 - 5 - 1 - 4 - 9

PICK 5 (late)
6 - 5 - 3 - 4 - 2

FANTASY 5
3 - 16 - 29 - 34 - 35

CASH 4 LIFE
16 - 22 - 50 - 52 - 57

CASH BALL
4

Saturday's winning numbers and payouts:

Powerball: 20 - 28 - 33 - 63 - 68
Powerball: 20
5-of-5 PB No winner
No Florida winner
5-of-5 No winner
No Florida winner
Lotto: 4 - 5 - 18 - 27 - 30 - 37
6-of-6 No winner
5-of-6 2x 8 winners \$6,000
5-of-6 3x 5 winners \$9,000
5-of-6 4x 7 winners \$12,000

5-of-6 5x 1 winner \$15,000
5-of-6 10x No winner
Fantasy 5: 2 - 15 - 16 - 20 - 29
5-of-5 1 winner \$226,616.20
4-of-5 303 \$120.50
3-of-5 9,141 \$11

Cash 4 Life: 3 - 45 - 52 - 56 - 58
Cash Ball: 3

5-of-5 CB No winner
5-of-5 No winner

On the AIRWAVES**TODAY'S SPORTS****MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

5 a.m. (ESPNU) Arkansas at Missouri (Taped)

7 p.m. (ESPN) Virginia at Florida State

9 p.m. (ESPN) Texas Tech at TCU

9 p.m. (ESPNU) Texas Southern at Jackson State

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

5 p.m. (ESPN2) Notre Dame at NC State

7 p.m. (ESPN2) Stanford at Oregon

7 p.m. (FS1) Seton Hall at DePaul

7 p.m. (SEC) Kentucky at Florida

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

7 p.m. (ESPNU) Minnehaha Academy (MN) vs. Houston (TN)

NBA

3 p.m. (ESPNU) G League Iowa Wolves vs G League Ignite

7 p.m. (NBA) Houston Rockets at Washington Wizards

10 p.m. (NBA) (SUN) Miami Heat at Los Angeles Clippers

EQUESTRIAN

2 p.m. (FSNFL) America's Day at the Races

NHL

12 p.m. (NHL) Colorado Avalanche at Vegas Golden Knights (Taped)

4 p.m. (NHL) St. Louis Blues at Arizona Coyotes

7 p.m. (FSNFL) Florida Panthers at Tampa Bay Lightning

7 p.m. (NBCSPT) New York Islanders at Buffalo Sabres

SOCCER

12:55 p.m. (NBCSPT) Premier League West Ham United vs Sheffield United

2:55 p.m. (NBCSPT) Premier League Chelsea vs Newcastle United

AUSTRALIAN OPEN TENNIS

7 a.m. (TENNIS) Round of 16 (Taped)

1 p.m. (ESPN2) Round of 16 (Same-day Tape)

4 p.m. (TENNIS) Round of 16 (Taped)

7 p.m. (TENNIS) Men's & Women's Quarterfinals

9 p.m. (ESPN2) Men's and Women's Quarterfinals

3 a.m. (ESPN2) Men's Quarterfinal

WINTER SPORTS

11:30 p.m. (NBCSPT) IBSF Bobsled & Skeleton World Championships: Four-Man Bobsled, Final Run (Taped)

12:30 a.m. (NBCSPT) IBU World Biathlon Championships: Women's 10km Pursuit (Same-day Tape)

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

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

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	18	9	.667	—
Brooklyn	16	12	.571	2½
Boston	13	13	.500	4½
New York	13	15	.464	5½
Toronto	12	15	.444	6

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	13	15	.464	—
Miami	11	15	.423	1
Atlanta	11	15	.423	1
Orlando	10	17	.370	2½
Washington	7	17	.292	4

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	16	11	.593	—
Indiana	14	13	.519	2
Chicago	10	15	.400	5
Cleveland	10	17	.370	6
Detroit	8	19	.296	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE**Southwest Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	16	11	.593	—
Memphis	10	11	.476	3
Dallas	13	15	.464	3½
New Orleans	11	15	.423	4½
Houston	11	15	.423	4½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	22	5	.815	—
Portland	16	10	.615	5½
Denver	14	11	.560	7
Oklahoma City	11	15	.423	10½
Minnesota	7	20	.259	15

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	21	6	.778	—
L.A. Clippers	19	8	.704	2
Phoenix	16	9	.640	4
Golden State	14	13	.519	7
Sacramento	12	13	.480	8

Saturday's Games

Phoenix 120, Philadelphia 111
Indiana 125, Atlanta 113
New York 121, Houston 99

Sunday's Games

Washington 104, Boston 91
San Antonio 122, Charlotte 110
Detroit 123, New Orleans 112
Minnesota 116, Toronto 112
Portland 121, Dallas 118
Oklahoma City 114, Milwaukee 109
Orlando at Phoenix, late
Cleveland at L.A. Clippers, late
L.A. Lakers at Denver, late
Memphis at Sacramento, late

Today's Games

Chicago at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Houston at Washington, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Utah, 9 p.m.
Brooklyn at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Cleveland at Golden State, 10 p.m.
Miami at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Denver at Boston, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Detroit, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Memphis, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Portland at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Brooklyn at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Chicago at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
New York at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Washington, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Cleveland, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 9 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Memphis, 9 p.m.
Portland at New Orleans, 9 p.m.
Miami at Golden State, 10 p.m.
Utah at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.

Men's College Basketball Scores

Sunday, Feb. 14

EAST

Boston U. 86, Holy Cross 68
Colgate 92, Army 83
Harford 75, NJIT 61
Loyola (Md.) 88, Lafayette 69
Maryland 72, Minnesota 59
Mercy 92, Mollo 66
Nebraska 62, Penn St. 61
Norfolk St. 68, Morgan St. 65

Seton Hall 57, Marquette 51
St. Peter's 66, Fairfield 49
St. Thomas Aquinas 90, Roberts Wesleyan 85, OT
Towson 68, Northeastern 57
Vermont 61, Stony Brook 57

SOUTH

Ala.-Huntsville 76, Christian Brothers 69
Elon 66, Coll. of Charleston 55
Georgia Tech 71, Pittsburgh 65
James Madison 74, Hofstra 70
Richmond 90, St. Mary's (Md.) 49
Tulane 62, South Florida 59

MIDWEST

Cincinnati 69, UCF 68
Drake 51, Chicago 50, OT
Indiana St. 76, Evansville 70
Michigan 67, Wisconsin 59
Missouri St. 72, Bradley 57
N. Iowa 74, Valparaiso 60
North Dakota 85, South Dakota 81
Notre Dame 71, Miami 61
S. Dakota St. 95, Oral Roberts 80
S. Illinois 59, Illinois St. 49

FAZ WEST

Arizona St. 75, Oregon St. 73
Sacramento St. 70, Cal Baptist 69
UC Irvine 73, UC Riverside 67
UC Santa Barbara 81, Hawaii 74

TRANSACTIONS**BASEBALL**

Major League Baseball
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Sent LHP Dillon Peters outright to Salt Lake (Triple-A West).

SPORTS BRIEFS**Rust scores twice, Penguins defeat Capitals**

PITTSBURGH — Bryan Rust scored two goals and added an assist as the Pittsburgh Penguins remained unbeaten at home with a 6-3 victory over the Washington Capitals on Sunday.

Brandon Tanev, Jake Guentzel, Zach Aston-Reese and Sidney Crosby also scored for Pittsburgh while Tristan Jarry made 28 saves and assisted on Aston-Reese's score as the Penguins beat the rusty Capitals for the third time in three meetings this season.

Nicklas Backstrom collected his 250th career goal for Washington and Jakub Vrana and Evgeny Kuznetsov also scored, but the Capitals couldn't rally back while playing for the first time in a week thanks a series of COVID-19-related postponements. Vitek Vanecsek finished with 32 stops but Washington — finally at full strength after three-plus weeks of COVID-19 roster disruptions — remained winless this month (0-4).

Pacioretty's goal, Fleury's saves lead Vegas to win

LAS VEGAS — Max Pacioretty scored early in the second period, Marc-Andre Fleury made 30 saves and the Vegas Golden Knights beat the Colorado Avalanche 1-0 on Sunday.

Vegas, which improved to 5-1-0 since returning from a pause due to COVID-19 protocols, leapfrogged the St. Louis Blues to reclaim first place in the West Division. The Golden Knights are one point ahead of St. Louis with 21.

Vegas was playing on the second of back-to-back days after a 3-1 win at San Jose on Saturday.

Colorado played for the first time in nearly two weeks after its schedule was paused due to coronavirus protocols.

Fleury, who has allowed two or fewer goals in seven of his eight starts this season, improved to 12-5-2 lifetime against the Avalanche.

Colorado netminder Philipp Grubauer, who had played nine of Colorado's first 11 games, didn't appear to be affected by the team's pause. He was sharp in making 23 saves.

His only glitch came early in the second period, when Zach Whitecloud sent a long pass to Pacioretty, who gathered the puck, raced to the top of the right circle and fired a wrist shot to Grubauer's short side, just under his glove.

It was all Vegas would need. Fleury completed his second shutout of the season and the 63rd of his career, moving him within one of Henrik Lundqvist for 16th on the career list.

Petit in agreement with A's on \$2.55M, 1-year deal

OAKLAND, Calif. — Veteran reliever Yusmeiro Petit has agreed to a \$2.55 million, one-year contract to stay with the Oakland Athletics, pending a physical, his agent said.

The deal could pay the right-handed Petit up to \$3 million based on incentives for games pitched, agent Rafael Godoy said Sunday night.

"He's excited to return. It was his first choice all along," Godoy said via text message. "The team had been in contact all winter."

Also Sunday, Oakland was closing in on a \$2.25 million, one-year deal with veteran righty reliever Sergio Romo, a person with direct knowledge of the negotiations said. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the contract wasn't

finalized. He also still must pass a physical

Surging Irish down Miami Cincinnati hangs on to beat UCF

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Nikola Djogo scored 18 points on 7-for-10 shooting, Nate Laszewski scored 14 and Notre Dame beat Miami 71-61 on Sunday.

Laszewski finished shooting 6 for 8, Juwan Durham scored 12 and Dane Goodwin scored 11 with 11 rebounds for the Irish.

Notre Dame (9-10, 6-7 Atlantic Coast Conference) now has won back-to-back games for the third time this season, and six of its last eight as it tries to make a push coming down the season's home stretch.

Laszewski's three-point play gave the Irish a 50-43 lead with 10:46 remaining in the game. Miami (7-12, 3-11) countered with an 11-2 run over the next four minutes, and Elijah Olaniyi's 3-pointer put the Hurricanes ahead 54-52.

Laszewski responded with consecutive layups, the second resulting in a three-point play, and the Irish proceeded to distance itself.

Isaiah Wong scored 17 points for the Hurricanes, Anthony Walker had 14 points with 10 rebounds, Kameron McGusty 12 points, Olaniyi 11 points and Nysier Brooks secured 10 rebounds.

The injury-ravaged Hurricanes again played with just seven scholarship athletes. Point guard Chris Lykes suffered a setback in practice late last week to his injured ankle, which has kept him out for all but two games this year.

Compounding Miami's injury woes, the club announced freshman Earl Timberlake will miss the rest of the season because of a shoulder ailment. He averaged 9.3 points and five rebounds in seven games this season.

The Hurricanes next host Georgia Tech on Saturday. The Irish host Clemson on Wednesday.

Cincinnati 69, UCF 68

CINCINNATI — Keith Williams and David DeJulius scored 14 points each and Mason Madsen hit the clinching free throw with 2.1 seconds left as Cincinnati held off Central Florida for a 69-68 win.

Brandon Mahan had 22 points and seven rebounds for the Knights (6-11, 4-10). Perry added 17 points. C.J. Walker had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

No. 3 Michigan 67, No. 21 Wisconsin 59

MADISON, Wis. — Isaiah Livers scored 20 points and Hunter Dickinson had a double-double as No. 3 Michigan returned from a three-week layoff and rallied from a 14-point deficit to beat No. 21 Wisconsin 67-59.

Drake 51, No. 22 Loyola Chicago 50, OT

DES MOINES, Iowa — Tremell Murphy scored 17 points, including the go-ahead basket in overtime, as Drake rallied to win despite a poor shooting performance.

Tulane 62, South Florida 59

TAMPA — Jaylen Forbes had 19 points and Tulane made 6 of 8 free throws in the last 20 seconds to hold off South Florida 62-59.

Berger has final say, gets the win

Eagles 18th at Pebble Beach

DOUG FERGUSON
AP golf writer

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — For all the stunning views at Pebble Beach that can be so soothing, Daniel Berger couldn't escape the tension when he arrived at the final hole Sunday in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

He was tied for the lead, needing a birdie on the par-5 18th to win. Off to his right was out-of-bounds markers below a row of hedges, where Berger hit his drive on Saturday that led to double bogey. To his left was the Pacific Ocean.

"I was going to go down swinging," he said. Two of the best swings of his career, a driver into the fairway and a 3-wood from 250 yards away in the cool air at sea level, left him 30 feet and two putts away. Berger capped it off with an eagle putt for a 7-under 65 and a two-shot victory over Maverick McNealy.

"To step up there and hit a great drive and then one of the best 3-woods I've ever hit in my life, and then to make that putt is just as good as it gets for me," Berger said.

He finished at 18-under 270 for his fourth career victory.

Berger started his final round with a 4-iron to 20 feet for eagle on the par-5 second hole to catch up to Jordan Spieth in no time at all. And while the cast of contenders kept changing, Berger was never out of the mix until he had the final say with one last eagle, his fourth of the week.

He won for the second time since the PGA Tour returned to golf in June from the COVID-19 pandemic, starting with a playoff victory at Colonial, where a half-dozen players had a chance to win over the final hour.

This wasn't much different.

Spieth went from leading to lagging behind. He started with a two-shot lead and was three shots behind after six holes, wasting the scoring stretch at Pebble Beach. He finished with two birdies for a 70 and tied for third with Patrick Cantlay (68), who made all his putts at Pebble on Thursday. He had 10 birdies in the opening round when he tied the course record with a 62. He made seven birdies and an eagle in two weekend rounds.

Berger saw a leaderboard leaving the 18th green and knew he was tied. He just figured it would be with Nate Lashley, unaware of the sad



Daniel Berger reacts after making an eagle putt on the 18th green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links during the final round of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournament on Sunday, in Pebble Beach, Calif. Berger won the tournament.

turn of events on the 16th.

Lashley, playing in the final group with Spieth, nearly holed his wedge on the 11th for a tap-in birdie that took him to 16 under and leading by one shot. He was tied with Berger with three holes to play when Lashley went long on the 16th hole. He pitched out to 12 feet, missed the par putt and then missed the next two putts from the 3-foot range.

That gave him a triple bogey from which he could not recovery. Lashley jammed the bottom of his putter into the green and left without speaking to the media.

McNealy, who played at Stanford and once lived in a house near the 15th green at Pebble Beach, quietly made five birdies over his last eight holes.

"I had the adrenaline pumping coming down the stretch there and feelings that I hadn't really felt on the golf course in a little while, trying to close this out and give myself a chance," McNealy said.

The last one was on 18 when his eagle putt stopped inches from the cup, giving him a 66 and a tie for the lead that didn't last long. Berger was in the group behind him, and he played the hole to perfection.

"I wanted to win the golf tournament. I didn't want to lose it on the last," Berger said. "I just wanted to go out there and try to hit the best shot that I could and I wasn't going to be conservative on the 3-wood coming in."

The eagle putt was fast and broke both ways and

Berger only wanted a two-putt birdie with no stress. That it fell for eagle was a bonus he was all too happy to take.

Spieth finished in the top four for the second week in a row, a strong sign that his game is coming back after a drought that dates to his 2017 British Open victory at Royal Birkdale.

He hit a hybrid from a fairway bunker for a good look at eagle on the second hole and just missed, and then he caught an awkward lie in a fairway bunker on No. 3, his shot low and long over the green, leaving Spieth fearful it was out of play. He made bogey. He made bogey from a bunker on the par-3 fifth, and he had to play out sideways from a fairway bunker on the par-5

sixth, taking birdie out of the equation.

"Really it was just a really poor first six holes. And out here, that's where you can score," Spieth said. "I needed to be a couple under through six, and I was 1 over. And really, that was the difference."

A field that featured only three players from the top 20 in the world got one of them as a winner — Berger, who was outside the top 100 in the world when golf returned last June as he tried to come back from wrist injuries.

"I think today really solidified my position as one of the best golfers out here and I just need to continue to do the things I've been doing," Berger said. "And I feel like there's no limit to what I can accomplish."

AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am

Sunday At Pebble Beach Golf Links Pebble Beach, Calif. Purse: \$7.8 million Pebble Beach Course Yardage: 6,958; Par: 71 Spyglass Hill Course Yardage: 6,858; Par: 72		
Final Round		
Daniel Berger (500), \$1,404,000	67-66-72-65—270	-7
Maverick McNealy (300), \$850,200	68-69-69-66—272	-6
Patrick Cantlay (163), \$460,200	62-73-70-68—273	-6
Jordan Spieth (163), \$460,200	65-67-71-70—273	-6
Paul Casey (105), \$301,275	68-67-71-68—274	-6
Nate Lashley (105), \$301,275	65-72-68-69—274	-5
Jason Day (80), \$228,930	69-69-68-69—275	-5
Charley Hoffman (80), \$228,930	69-72-68-66—275	-5
Max Homa (80), \$228,930	69-70-68-68—275	-5
Russell Knox (80), \$228,930	66-70-69-70—275	-5
Cameron Tringale (80), \$228,930	67-72-69-67—275	-5
Tom Hoge (65), \$181,350	67-70-68-71—276	-4
Kevin Streelman (60), \$165,750	69-72-67-69—277	-4
Cameron Davis (56), \$146,250	74-67-69-68—278	-4
Tom Lewis (56), \$146,250	66-69-74-69—278	-4
Chris Kirk (49), \$118,950	69-73-70-67—279	-4
Troy Merritt (49), \$118,950	71-69-71-68—279	-4
Matthew NeSmith (49), \$118,950	74-67-70-68—279	-4
Chez Reavie (49), \$118,950	74-67-71-67—279	-4
Brian Stuard (49), \$118,950	66-71-69-73—280	-4
Jim Furyk (39), \$81,822	71-69-71-69—280	-4
Doug Ghim (39), \$81,822	69-72-71-68—280	-4
Will Gordon (39), \$81,822	66-73-68-73—280	-4
Cameron Percy (39), \$81,822	67-70-73-70—280	-4
Vaughn Taylor (39), \$81,822	67-73-71-69—280	-4
Jason Dufner (32), \$59,280	68-71-70-72—281	-3
Ryan Moore (32), \$59,280	68-73-70-70—281	-3
Henrik Norlander (32), \$59,280	64-70-74-73—281	-3
Pat Perez (32), \$59,280	69-72-72-68—281	-3
Akshay Bhatia, \$49,920	64-73-72-73—282	-6
Scott Brown (26), \$49,920	69-70-74-69—282	-6
Scott Stallings (26), \$49,920	69-71-70-72—282	-6
Tim Wilkinson (26), \$49,920	67-74-69-72—282	-6
Brian Gay (20), \$40,638	70-72-69-72—283	-5
Branden Grace (20), \$40,638	71-69-73-70—283	-5
Matt Jones (20), \$40,638	67-72-73-71—283	-5
Brendan Steele (20), \$40,638	69-72-71-71—283	-5
Michael Thompson (20), \$40,638	67-74-71-71—283	-5
Sam Burns (14), \$30,030	72-70-69-73—284	-4
Brian Harman (14), \$30,030	67-74-70-73—284	-4
Patton Kizzire (14), \$30,030	69-70-76-69—284	-4
Hank Lebioda (14), \$30,030	70-70-72-72—284	-4
Rob Oppenheim (14), \$30,030	72-70-72-70—284	-4
John Senden (14), \$30,030	70-69-72-73—284	-4
Kyle Stanley (14), \$30,030	70-70-73-71—284	-4
Nick Taylor (14), \$30,030	69-71-72-72—284	-4
Ryan Armour (10), \$21,814	70-73-74-68—285	-3
Bronson Burgoon (10), \$21,814	68-72-75-70—285	-3
Beau Hossler (10), \$21,814	72-70-68-75—285	-3
Scott Piercy (8), \$19,204	69-74-69-74—286	-2
Ben Taylor (8), \$19,204	68-72-75-71—286	-2
Josh Teater (8), \$19,204	70-74-70-73—286	-2
Jhonattan Vegas (8), \$19,204	72-71-74-69—286	-2
Vincent Whaley (8), \$19,204	68-71-73-74—286	-2
Sebastian Cappelletti (6), \$18,096	75-65-73-74—287	-1
Mark Hubbard (6), \$18,096	66-74-73-74—287	-1
Andrew Putnam (6), \$18,096	72-70-76-69—287	-1
Will Zalatoris, \$18,096	69-74-75-69—287	-1
Francesco Molinari (5), \$17,706	69-70-76-73—288	E
Joel Dahmen (5), \$17,394	71-71-75-72—289	+1
Zack Suerich (5), \$17,394	72-71-76-70—289	+1
Peter Uihlein (5), \$17,394	69-72-73-75—289	+1
Joseph Bramlett (4), \$17,004	73-70-76-71—290	+2
Sung Kang (4), \$17,004	73-68-76-73—290	+2
C.T. Pan (4), \$16,770	70-72-74-75—291	+3
Scott Harrington (4), \$16,614	72-71-76-73—292	+4
Wes Roach (4), \$16,458	71-71-74-77—293	+5

Lillard helps Blazers top Doncic, Mavs

Plumlee has triple-double, lead Pistons

Associated Press

DALLAS — Damian Lillard hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer in the final minute, and the Portland Trail Blazers overcame another high-scoring outing from Luka Doncic in a 121-118 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday night.

The young Dallas sensation scored 44 points two nights after getting a career-high 46 in a victory over New Orleans, but it wasn't enough to extend the Mavericks' four-game winning streak, tied for their longest this season.

Lillard finished with 34 points and 11 assists. He connected on the go-ahead 3 after Doncic assisted on a tying 3-pointer from Dorian Finney-Smith after the Mavericks trailed by 13 midway through the fourth quarter.



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) reacts to a call of a jump ball as Dallas Mavericks forward Dorian Finney-Smith (10) celebrates during the first half of a game on Sunday in Dallas.

The Trail Blazers won their fourth consecutive game with help from a 45-point third quarter, matching the franchise record for that period.

Pistons 123, Pelicans 112

DETROIT — Mason Plumlee had 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his

first career triple-double, and the Pistons spoiled Stan Van Gundy's return to Motown.

Van Gundy was the coach and president of basketball operations for the Pistons from 2014-18. He's coaching the Pelicans now, and Detroit became the latest team to blitz New Orleans from 3-point range.

The Pistons had six players

with at least 15 points, and Detroit went 17 of 35 from beyond the arc — 13 of 21 during the final three quarters.

Josh Jackson led Detroit with 21 points, and Svi Mykhailiuk added 18.

The Pelicans also lost their previous two games, allowing 25 3-pointers in each one.

Zion Williamson and Brandon Ingram each scored 26 points for New Orleans.

Thunder 114, Bucks 109

OKLAHOMA CITY — Justin Jackson scored a season-high 22 points and hit a critical 3-pointer in the final minute to help Oklahoma City overcome Giannis Antetokounmpo's triple-double.

With Milwaukee making a late push, Jackson hit a 3-pointer with 14.9 seconds remaining to put the Thunder in control for good in just his second start of the season.

Timberwolves 116, Raptors 112

TAMPA — Karl-Anthony Towns scored seven of

his 20 points late in the fourth quarter before fouling out, helping Minnesota snap a four-game losing streak.

Malik Beasley also scored 20 points for the Timberwolves, and Anthony Edwards finished with 18.

Spurs 122, Hornets 110

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Dejounte Murray had 26 points and 12 rebounds, and the Spurs outlasted the short-handed Hornets.

Derrick White scored 12 of his season-high 25 points in the fourth quarter, helping San Antonio to its fifth win in six games.

Wizards 104, Celtics 91

WASHINGTON — Bradley Beal scored 35 points in his return from a rare night off, leading Washington to the victory.

Beal went 10 for 18 from the field and 11 for 11 at the free-throw line. The NBA's leading scorer rested during Friday night's loss to the New York Knicks.