


THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE

January 3, 2021

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INSIDE

CITRUS COUNTY VIRUS UPDATE
View the latest data on COVID-19 in Citrus County. **Page A10**

BRIEFLY

Cardinal Interchange Management meeting set

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners proposes to adopt a new Future Land Use Map category in relation to the Suncoast Parkway Interchange Management Area at West Cardinal Street, along with supporting text, goals, objectives and policies, at 5:20 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, at the Citrus County Courthouse, Room 100, 110 N. Apopka Ave.

For information, contact the Land Development Division, 3600 West Sovereign Path, Suite 140, Lecanto, or call 352-527-5239.

If you are unable to attend, you may state your position in writing and forward it to the Land Development Division at the Lecanto address listed above.

All citizens entering the meeting will be screened. If you are sick, stay home.

Boating Safety course to be offered virtually

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary of Homosassa is offering a virtual boating safety course from 6:45 to 9:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, through Friday, Jan. 29. Cost is \$30, payable by cash or check prior to the course date. A discount is applied for family members sharing a book. Space is limited. Reserve a space by calling 727-992-6177 or emailing hal1414@tampabay.rr.com. For information, visit forms.gle/5GmZNVyUSPg4AG3M8.

First Time Homebuyer Course to be offered

Looking to purchase your first home? The UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County will offer a free First Time Homebuyer virtual class from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 4 through 25. To register and receive a link, visit cchomebuyers.eventbrite.com. For more information or to register, contact Sarah at the UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County office at 352-527-5700 or ellissm@ufl.edu. Participants that attend the entire 4-week program will receive a Certificate of Completion that is valid for any down payment assistance program. Class size is limited and pre-registration required.

— From staff reports

Chronicle 2020 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

No one ever grows up saying they want to be a supervisor of elections. It just doesn't happen. — Susan Gill

Community champion

Susan Gill: public servant, organizational leader, fundraiser



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Longtime Citrus County Supervisor of Elections Susan Gill will be leaving her post in January. She has spent the past 24 years in the position and cites many significant changes in the voting process since taking over the job. But it is for the work she's done quietly behind the scenes for nearly a dozen local charitable organizations, and the organizational skills she brought to bear, as well as her work at the elections office, that made her the Citrus Chronicle 2020 Citizen of the Year.

FRED HIERS
STAFF WRITER

Susan Gill enjoys working behind the scenes before stepping out in front to enjoy what she helped create.

It is a strategy she has employed since she was a child growing up outside Boston, one of six children in a Catholic family.

She was first elected as Citrus County's supervisor of elections in 1996 and modernized the elections process here as many other Florida counties struggled to get voting results right and out on time.

But it is for the work she's done quietly behind the scenes for nearly a dozen local charitable organizations, and the organizational skills she brought to bear, as well as her work at the elections office, that made her the Citrus Chronicle 2020 Citizen of the Year.

Gill has worked tirelessly to make Citrus County a better place to live and to help people in need.

She doesn't want to just make donations to worthy charities. She likes to get her hands a little dirty, Gill said.

See CITIZEN/Page A6

WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY ...

"She has overseen elections for Citrus County in the past in admirable fashion, but she did an outstanding job for us this past election due to the tumultuous situation concerning legality and count of votes. She proved once again that Citrus County excelled in its handling of the voting procedure with fully trained poll workers under her diligent leadership. The public benefited from her dedicated experience and she will be missed in the future." — *Helen Lefave*

"Not only did she move into a new building. Seeing that all material was packed and transferred correctly. She started a year in advance to get folks lined up as instructors for the 2020 elections. Supplies had to be ordered and paid for. She then had to obtain citizens to work the polls and class instructions.

Polling places had to be OK'd, and voting machines set up and inspected. When COVID-19 hit the area, lots of folks backed down. Special permit was granted by Gov. DeSantis so county employees could fill vacancies. She had to start over for instructors and workers. The polls opened and closed with no problems. The final results were the first turned in as soon as the last voter was finished. Citrus County was recognized as No. 1 in the country to have all votes tabulated so soon. I feel she should be honored as the Top Citizen for all the work that has been accomplished." — *N. Jean Johnson*

"Susan has gone over and above the duties of this job in handling the most difficult and frustrating election season ever (and also elections for the past 20 years). I had the pleasure of working in her office

as a front desk person handling the public and was always impressed with her ability to diffuse a difficult situation in a calm manner. I know this is all part of her job, but Susan has shown that she is an outstanding citizen of Citrus County by her leadership of our election office, and her reaching out to the community to explain the election process and encourage new voters, including those voting for the first time as 18 year olds. She is also involved in her community with a myriad of organizations, too numerous to mention individually. Susan is amazing. We are so lucky to have had her. Thank you, Susan." — *Sue LaPorte*

"Without question the most deserved Citizen of the Year in Citrus County. There is no higher standard." — *Mike Tringali*

Sugarmill structure squabble

Neighbors frustrated about new garage

MIKE WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Donald Dozier's garage is causing quite the stir with his Sugarmill Woods neighbors.

Depending on who's doing the speaking, the \$49,000, 18-by-38 foot garage is attached to the house. Or it's not.

The distinction is big in Sugarmill because deed restrictions do not allow for detached garages.

And while deed restrictions are normally private matters between owners of deed-restricted property and the associations that govern them, citizens instead are also blaming Citrus County government for issuing Dozier the wrong permit.

"I want the county to uphold their own standards," resident Barbara Perreault said. "It's an eyesore."

Dozier said he's done everything above board.

"I don't care what people think," he said.

The issue is one that combines a regulatory agency — the county — and deed restrictions, which the county has nothing to do with.

According to interviews and public records, this is what happened:

Dozier, a member of the Cypress Village Property Owners Association board of directors, applied for a building permit for a garage. His notice of commencement, which formally begins the construction process, was filed with the clerk of court on Oct. 30, 2020. It reads: "Construction of a detached garage."

Dozier called that a "clerical error" and noted a second notice of commencement was filed Dec. 8 that said "construction of an attached garage."



MIKE WRIGHT/Chronicle

Neighbors say Donald Dozier's new garage violates Sugarmill Woods deed restrictions, and that he's being helped by the county's interpretation of its own code.

See SQUABBLE/Page A6



WEEK

IN REVIEW

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

Manatee rescue



JENNIFER SCAPPETONE/Special to the Chronicle

ABOVE LEFT: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rescue workers prepare to bring an injured manatee on a boat. ABOVE RIGHT: The injured manatee stays close to the seawall, suffering from a previous boating strike.

GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK

Leanto High School senior, Aidan Bush, is proving that one person can make a difference. As part of his Eagle Scout project, the organizer and leader of "COVID-19 Care Packages," has delivered 125 care packages so far to at-risk people living in health care facilities or who are homebound.

The bags include coloring books, word finds, pens, colored pencils, masks, stress balls and handwritten messages from members of Boy Scout Troop 462.

Bush said it's "deeply rewarding" to bring a bit of comfort to people who are isolated because of COVID-19.

HOT TOPIC OF THE WEEK

What to do with the "blighted" Crystal Square Plaza on U.S. 19.

Here's what some Citrus County people had to say on Facebook:

● Rita Glover: "It's a shame we have to go down to Spring Hill for shopping. Crystal River is a tourist town people are starting to get away from city life. I hope that charm in downtown CR will influence the construction. A Whole Foods or Trader Joe's would help the locals."

● David Mann: "Demo the building — it's not worth saving."

● Andrea L. Hodges: "I've always thought that if I had the money it would be a great place to have low rent apartments, with rules that the folks that rent there be part of the upkeep."

● Laura Mason: "Mixed use. Add

apartments up and smaller commercial units down. New small businesses could use smaller spaces. They could live above the shop."

● Gail Bledsoe: "They are always preaching 'Buy local.' Well, give us stores that we all drive out of the county for, decent places to shop other than Walmart or Bealls — Joanni's, Hobby Lobby, Target, Home Goods, Old Tyme Pottery, Kirklands just to name a few that people go to Marion, Hernando or Pasco counties to shop!"

● Scott Brooks: "We do not need more stores or restaurants. We need offices, small factories, corporate offices, call centers etc. Businesses that provide jobs. This strip mall should be renovated and marketed to various businesses as office and production spaces."

THE MOST POPULAR STORIES FROM THE WEEK THAT WAS

Manatee in critical condition after Homosassa rescue

Jennifer Scappetone, a University of Chicago professor visiting family in Homosassa for the holidays, has been remotely monitoring the manatees and their plight since her sister and brother-in-law moved to the Homosassa area nearly a dozen years ago. She also visits and kayaks the canals and waters to see the animals in their native habitat.

On Dec. 26, she spotted a manatee and thought something wasn't right. She had watched and studied enough about the animals to know its behavior wasn't that of a healthy manatee.

"He was sort of crawling around," she said, moving only the front of his body and dragging the rear. She called the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for help, a rescue worker from the state agency organized local volunteers and at about 2:30 p.m., a rescue truck arrived and 15 minutes later a rescue boat.

The young male manatee, 8 feet, 6 inches long, is in critical condition, said Sandra Torres, spokeswoman for Zoo Tampa, where veterinarians are caring for the animal.

"His prognosis is guarded as he is dealing with complications from an old chronic boat strike wound," she said.



Property owner discuss fate of 'blighted' plaza

Crystal Square plaza on U.S. 19, developed in the mid-to-late 1980s, once was a thriving plaza, home to a long gone Winn-Dixie, a temporary home of a TG&Y dime store, a Farmer's Furniture, a Revco pharmacy, a Greyhound bus station and a hodgepodge of other businesses and eateries.

Now its 10-12 empty and blank shopfronts await occupants. In the square's grand parking lot are potholes and remnants of cart bays alongside a working ice machine and Suncoast ATM.

Recently, Crystal River officials and owners of the "blighted" shopping plaza discussed how to fix the eyesore property.

Nathan Kamara, who met with City Attorney Robert Batsel on behalf of company manager Isaac Malekan, said they'll be immediately addressing the handful of city code violations before deciding the future of their 8.37-acre parcel to attract "Class-A" tenants to a currently tenantless lot.

"We're going to work on making the fixes that need to be fixed," Kamara said. "I wish I could snap a finger, and have one of the best plazas in the world."

Redeveloping Crystal Square could also spare its owners from Crystal River foreclosing on their property because of a \$333,549 debt owed to the city in unpaid assessments and fines.



Longtime pharmacist Bob Brashear retires

After 40 years and many lives he has helped heal and save, Bob Brashear is hanging up his white pharmacist's coat and retiring as of Jan. 1, 2021.

Brashear began his pharmacy career in Pinellas County.

In 1979, he cut out a help-wanted ad in the Tampa Tribune for a pharmacist at Citrus Memorial Hospital and carried it around for several weeks until both he and his wife, Dianne, had time off to make the trip to Inverness.

After a short time at CMH, Brashear worked at a small retail pharmacy in Inverness, Fedco, staying there for almost 20 years before opening his own retail pharmacy, now with two locations.

Brashear said he plans to spend some time at the beach and with his grandchildren but will still maintain his pharmacy license for three more years.

"Once a pharmacist, always a pharmacist," he said. "But I believe it's time to pass the torch to younger, brilliant pharmacists still working at Brashear's Pharmacy: Jon Wright, Elis Brashear, Zack Rigsby and David Stimson."



First vaccinations for first responders, seniors arrive

The first coronavirus vaccinations for senior citizens aged 65 and older in Citrus County are slated for next week after local health officials received 2,000 doses.

Audrey Stasko, spokeswoman for the DOH in Citrus County, said the Moderna vaccinations will first be given to Nature Coast first responders, which includes paramedics and EMS workers, as well as firefighters, and then seniors will be next.

There are about 53,000 people in Citrus County who are 65 years old and older. Stasko said she did not know when the next batch of vaccinations would arrive.

"What we do next week will serve as a pilot," Stasko said.

Meanwhile, the DOH in Citrus County is preparing for the additional work of inoculating local residents and is looking to boost its employee rolls and hiring more temporary workers.

"The Florida Department of Health in Citrus County is looking to hire some more temporary COVID-19 positions to assist with our response efforts," Stasko wrote to local health care organizations.

The positions are guaranteed through June 30, 2021.

Interested applicants should email Janora.Wade@FLHealth.gov or Anne.Murphy@FLHealth.gov to receive a state of Florida application.

Homosassa woman accused of DUI manslaughter

Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) troopers arrested 65-year-old Janis Marie Bressan-Stacey the evening of

Tuesday, Dec. 29, for DUI manslaughter in connection to the collision

from earlier in the day on U.S. 19 in southern Homosassa.

According to her arrest report, she allegedly had narcotics in her system when she struck a 43-year-old Homosassa man jogging along the highway, killing him.

Bressan-Stacey's arraignment was scheduled for Jan. 25, when she's expected to announce a formal pleading to her second-degree felony charge, which carries a 15-year prison sentence.

— compiled by Nancy Kennedy



Welcome to our team,

Robin Holloway,
DNP, APRN, NP-C!

We are excited to have Robin leading the Bone Health and Fracture Prevention Program at Citrus Spine Institute. Call us today for a consultation with Robin to discuss how we can create an individualized treatment plan for you to rebuild bone and help prevent fractures.



CITRUS
SPINE INSTITUTE

Dean Toumbis, MD, PhD

Brittany Olofsson, PA-C

Allen Conn, PA-C

Robin Holloway, DNP, APRN, NP-C

Around the
COUNTY

Abuse shelter seeks donations

The Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association (CASA) is in need of baking soda, disinfectant spray and clear totes with matching lids.

Donations can be dropped off at the CASA Outreach office between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, at 1100 E. Turner Camp Road, Inverness, or at Carol's Interiors and Floors from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 6410 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa.

For information, email Angie Arnold at angie@casaff.org.

If interested in volunteering, call 352-344-8111 or download the Volunteer Application at casaff.org.

Food safety course on tap

The University of Florida/IFAS Extension Citrus County is providing training to help food managers and staff keep food served to Florida's consumers safer. The ServSafe Manager's exam is given at the end of the training, which provides a National Certification that is good for five years.

The next class will be at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 29, at the UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County office, 3650 W Sovereign Path, Suite 1, Lecanto.

Certification is required in Florida for food managers of all establishments licensed by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and selected licenses of the Department of Health. Pre-registration of two weeks is required, due by Jan. 15.

Participants should bring a valid picture identification and lunch. To register online, visit tinyurl.com/z6dp7jf.

Cost for the course and exam is \$110.

For information, call 352-527-5700.

— From staff reports

Correction

Due to a reporter's error, the story titled, "BOCC to consider new economic development director," on Page A1 should have stated Bruce Register is retiring Feb. 2.

The Chronicle apologizes for the error.

Readers can alert the Citrus County Chronicle to any errors in news articles by emailing community@chronicleonline.com or by calling 352-563-5660.

Vaccines for residents to begin

DOH-Citrus COVID-19 inoculation drive-thru for 65-plus set for Jan. 7, 9

Special to the Chronicle

The Florida Department of Health in Citrus County (DOH-Citrus) will offer COVID-19 vaccines to individuals 65 and older at two drive-thru clinics from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or until supplies last, Thursday, Jan. 7, and Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Central Ridge District Park, 6905 N. Lecanto Highway in Beverly Hills.

Due to a limited supply, the vaccines will be provided at no cost while supplies last.

Each person must provide a valid ID and plan to be in Citrus

County to receive their second-round shot, 28 days after their first dose. Individuals should expect a wait and plan to remain in their vehicles the entire time.

Only the Moderna vaccine will be given at this time.

Prior to receiving the vaccine, individuals will be required to download and complete the Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Screening and Consent at tinyurl.com/yb5bqrb9.

People are also asked to review the DOH Moderna Fact Sheet about what they can expect

during and after the vaccination. That site is tinyurl.com/yccuff75.

All documents will be available on site.

Individuals are encouraged to contact their primary care provider with questions about whether they should receive the vaccine before coming to the site.

Each person will receive a second dose reminder card that lists the date and the manufacturer for the first vaccination, as well as date the second dose is due.

The second dose of the Moderna vaccination should be received 28 days after the

initial dose.

The second dose must be from the same manufacturer as the first vaccine.

After receiving the vaccination, recipients will be asked to remain on site for 15 minutes for medical monitoring.

As more vaccines become available, additional dates will be announced.

Information regarding availability and future vaccine clinics will be shared with local media outlets, posted online at www.CitrusCountyHealth.org or on Twitter at @FLHealthCitrus.

Looking for new revenue sources



Associated Press

With a projected \$3 billion shortfall in revenue over the next two years and after two sessions of not passing gambling legislation, lawmakers will likely be amenable to measures that create new revenue without raising taxes when Florida's 60-day legislative session begins March 2.

Florida sports wagering bills filed to spur stalled Seminole pact negotiations

JOHN HAUGHEY
The Center Square

With states scrambling for revenue to boost pandemic-stressed budgets, it's a good bet a raft of sports gambling bills will be approved by lawmakers across the nation in 2021 — including in Florida.

With a projected \$3 billion shortfall in revenue over the next two years and after two sessions of not passing gambling legislation, lawmakers will likely be amenable to measures that create new revenue without raising taxes when Florida's 60-day legislative session begins March 2.

Among them: Proposals to establish a legal sports wagering program and an "e-fairness" bill that could together boost state coffers by more than \$1 billion annually.

Sen. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg, filed three bills Monday that would allow the state's lottery department to issue licenses and

oversee legal sports wagering in Florida with revenue dedicated to education beginning Oct. 1, 2021.

Brandes' Senate Bill 392 authorizes the state's Department of the Lottery to operate a sports wagering program and lays out the parameters of how it would operate.

SB 394 imposes a 15-percent tax on "sums received from a sports pool" and SB 396 establishes \$100,000 application and renewal fees for state-issued sports wagering licenses.

Sports betting is now legal in 18 states and Washington, D.C., following the 2018 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*.

An additional four states — Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Washington — passed 2020 bills legalizing sports betting that go into effect in 2021. Missouri is among states where lawmakers have submitted 2021 bills seeking to legalize sports wagers.

Brandes' 2021 proposals are

similar to the trio of bills he introduced in the waning days of the 2020 legislative session as lawmakers prepared to leave Tallahassee in March without a new gaming pact with the Seminoles.

The bills are essentially a prod to spur urgency in talks between Florida and the Tribe and to stop leaving money on the table — some estimates top \$700 million annually — when the state's current year and next year budgets face unanticipated pandemic-induced shortfalls.

The Seminole gaming compact remains in negotiation with the Tribe objecting to the state's taking control of sports wagering, especially since such an expansion could be outlawed under the November 2018 passage of Amendment 3, which requires any "expansion of gambling" be approved by at least 60 percent of voters in a ballot measure.

Amendment 3, largely bankrolled by Disney and the Seminoles, passed with a 71 percent

majority and "ensures Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling."

The Seminoles stopped making monthly payments when their pact with the state expired in May 2019 after lawmakers and the Tribe failed to reach an accord over banked card games, control of online gaming and discord over newly legal sports gambling.

The Tribe cited the state's failure to install "a mechanism to shut down the illegal banked card games," as ordered by U.S. District Court Judge Robert Hinkle in 2016, as the reason for discontinuing revenue-sharing payments — \$350 million annually.

House and Senate leaders, led by former Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Sarasota, and now-Senate President Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, had negotiated several tentative deals including a proposal in which the Seminoles' casinos and pari-mutuel sites serve as a sports wagering "hub."

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 - The Ledgers -

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE BEST OF THE BEST WINNER 2020

Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthdays — Protect what you have, and enjoy peace of mind. Don't set up scenarios that will leave you in vulnerable or uncertain positions. Stay focused on your long-term goals. Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Someone will reveal a position of opposition that can influence your home or lifestyle. Use charm and the power of persuasion to avoid a costly mess. Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Take a break, do something that challenges you physically and blow off steam. You'll gain perspective regarding what you are trying to achieve. Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — An emotional plea will help you gain interest in something you want to pursue. The information shared will open your eyes to unique options. Aries (March 21-April 19) — Diplomacy and enthusiasm are favored. A personal realization may not turn out to be accurate. Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Research will help you put together a routine that offers better health, nutrition and emotional stability. Choose to be practical regarding finances. Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Your actions will send a message that will either bring you closer to someone or drive you apart. Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Get your feelings out in the open, and you will find innovative ways to improve your relationships. Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Verify information before sharing. Take better care of your health, wealth and emotional well-being. Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Use your knowledge, experience and intuition to guide you. A change at home or to a meaningful relationship will cause an emotional uproar if handled poorly. Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Ask questions, discuss possibilities and look for compromises that will keep the peace. Offer hope as well as hands-on help. Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Follow your heart and don't let anyone talk you into spending money on something you don't need. A friend or relative will make a suggestion that leads to an exciting partnership. Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — If you give someone the wrong impression, it will leave you in a vulnerable position. Make a change at home.

ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrating small ... or illegally

Bomb-sniffing dogs? Check. Times Square crowd? Not this year

NEW YORK — Gone were the revelry and shoulder-to-shoulder crowds that typify Times Square on New Year's Eve, replaced by empty streets and an eerie quiet as the final moments of 2020 ticked away.

This was New Year's Eve in the age of COVID-19.

Crowd control gave way to crowd prevention, as police closed the Crossroads of the World to vehicles and onlookers hoping to catch a glimpse of the glittering, crystal ball that still descended down a flagpole to mark the stroke of midnight. Would-be partygoers were urged to watch the ball drop on television.

Still, modest throngs of people gathered just outside the police perimeter, which took on the feel of a tailgate as midnight neared. Many said they wanted to end a challenging year on their own terms.

Small groups of revelers, some wearing glittery hats, filmed their distant view of Times Square on their phones and broke out in cheers at midnight. There were kisses and toasts, but police quickly broke up the crowds gathered along Broadway after the ball fell.

One reveler, Daniel Camacho, 36, of Manhattan, described the experience as "anticlimactic" given the small crowd.

"I'm just glad it's over," he said of 2020.

Preparing for the worst, the New York Police Department deployed its bomb-sniffing dogs and sand-filled sanitation trucks



Associated Press

New York City's Seventh Avenue was mostly empty during what would normally be a Times Square packed with people, late Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020, in New York, as celebrations were truncated this New Year's Eve due to the ongoing pandemic.

intended to guard against explosions. But the department's playbook included an unusual mandate this year: preventing crowds of any size from gathering at the spot of what is usually the nation's biggest New Year's Eve party.

France's giant curfew-busting party over after two nights

PARIS — A French prosecutor said police detained seven people Saturday, including two alleged organizers, after a New Year's Eve rave party drew at least 2,500 people despite a coronavirus curfew and other restrictions.

French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin tweeted that actions by police around the site at Lieuron, in Brittany, "led to the end of the illegal party without violence" on Saturday morning, 36 hours after it began.

Prosecutor Philippe Astruc said an investigation has been opened

for "endangering others' lives," "deliberate violence" against police officers and drug-related offenses. Investigators found that organizers requested a financial contribution to take part in the party and that illicit drugs were in plentiful supply, Astruc said.

Police detained two people born in 1998 suspected of being organizers after a police search found money, illicit drugs and sound equipment in the Brittany town of Iffendic. Five other people were arrested as they were leaving the party for drug-related infractions and transporting sound equipment.

Emmanuel Berthier, head of the local state authority, said in a news conference Saturday that police issued at least 1,200 fines, including 800 for not respecting the virus curfew, not wearing a mask and illegally taking part in a gathering. Hundreds of people were also fined for using illicit drugs, he said.

— From wire reports

Today in HISTORY

Today is Sunday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2021. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight: On Jan. 3, 1977, Apple Computer was incorporated in Cupertino, California, by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Mike Markkula Jr.

On this date: In 1870, groundbreaking took place for the Brooklyn Bridge.

In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced the United States was formally terminating diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba.

In 1990, ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to U.S. forces, 10 days after taking refuge in the Vatican's diplomatic mission.

In 2013, students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, reconvened at a different building in the town of Monroe about three weeks after the massacre that had claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and six educators.

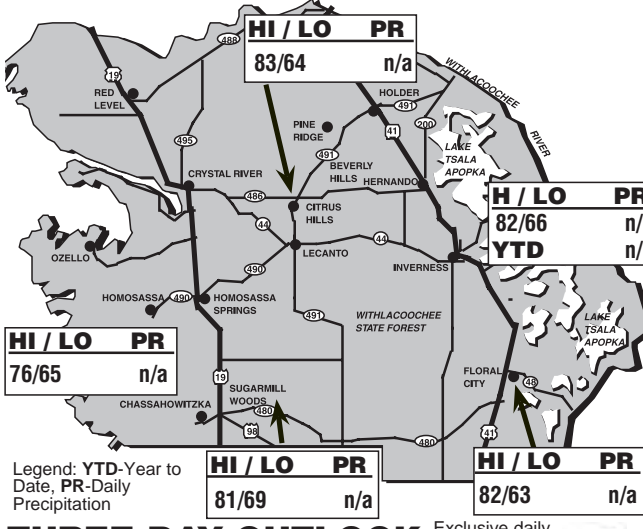
Ten years ago: Prosecutors in Dallas declared Cornelius Dupree Jr. innocent of a rape and robbery that had put him in prison for 30 years.

Five years ago: Republican presidential contender Donald Trump brushed off an African militant group's video that showed him calling for Muslims to be banned from coming to the U.S.

One year ago: Health authorities in the Chinese city of Wuhan said the number of cases of a newly diagnosed respiratory illness linked to a food market there had risen to 44, with lung damage appearing in a "small number" of cases.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Dabney Coleman is 89. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Hull is 82. Musician Stephen Stills is 76. Actor Victoria Principal is 71. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 65. Actor Danica McKellar is 46. Former NFL quarterback Eli Manning is 40. Actor Nicole Beharie is 36.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



Legend: YTD-Year to Date, PR-Daily Precipitation. Today & Tomorrow Morning: High: 54° Low: 44°. Scattered AM showers, decreasing clouds PM.

Monday & Tuesday Morning: High: 65° Low: 40°. Sunny, light winds. Tuesday & Wednesday Morning: High: 66° Low: 41°. Sunny, light winds.

ALMANAC

Table with weather statistics: Temperature (Yesterday 81/68, Record* 84/23, Normal 70/42), Dew Point (67°), Humidity (63%), Pollen Count (Today's active pollen: juniper, maple, oak), Barometric Pressure (30.05).

SOLAR TABLES: Table with columns for Date, Day, Minor (Morning), Major (Morning), Minor (Afternoon), Major (Afternoon).

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK

Table with celestial events: Sunset Tonight (5:45 pm), Sunrise Tomorrow (7:23 am), Moonrise Today (10:22 pm), Moonset Today (10:52 am).

BURN CONDITIONS

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

WATERING RULES

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

Table with watering schedules: 0-1 Monday, 2-3 Tuesday, 4-5 Wednesday, 6-7 Thursday, 8-9-or-Common Areas Friday.

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

TIDES

Table with tide information: *From mouths of rivers, **At King's Bay, ***At Mason's Creek. Sunday High/Low times for various locations.

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

Table with Florida temperatures: City, H, L, F'cast. Includes Daytona Bch., Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Gainesville, Homestead, Jacksonville, Key West, Lakeland, Melbourne, Miami, Ocala, Orlando, Pensacola, Sarasota, Tallahassee, Tampa, Vero Beach, W. Palm Bch.

MARINE OUTLOOK

Today: North winds around 10 knots. Seas 2 to 3 feet. Bay and inland waters a light chop. A chance of showers early in the morning, then a slight chance of showers in the late morning and afternoon.

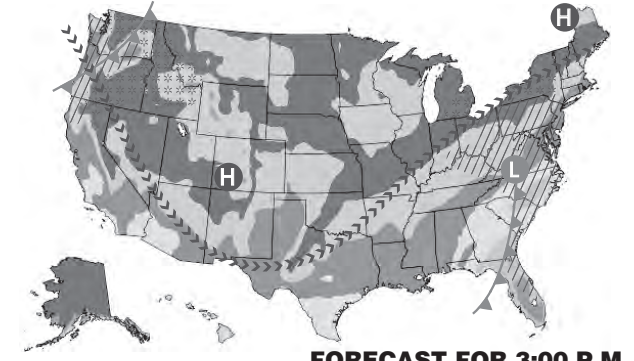
Gulf water temperature 68° Taken at Crystal River

LAKE LEVELS

Table with lake levels: Location, SAT, FRI, Full. Includes Withlacoochee at Holder, Tsala Apopka-Hernando, Tsala Apopka-Inverness, Tsala Apopka-Floral City.

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

THE NATION



FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. Sunday

Table with national forecasts: City, H, L, Pcp., H, L, Fcst. Includes Albany, Albuquerque, Asheville, Atlanta, Atlanta City, Austin, Baltimore, Billings, Birmingham, Boise, Boston, Buffalo, Burlington, VT, Charleston, SC, Charleston, WV, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbia, SC, Columbus, OH, Concord, NH, Dallas, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, El Paso, Evansville, IN, Harrisburg, Hartford, Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Mobile, Montgomery, Nashville, New Orleans, New York City, Norfolk, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Palm Springs, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, ME, Providence, RI, Raleigh, Rapid City, Reno, Rochester, NY, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Savannah, Seattle, Spokane, St. Louis, St. Ste Marie, Syracuse, Topeka, Washington, YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL HIGH & LOW.

WORLD CITIES

Table with world city forecasts: City, H/L/Sky, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Mexico City, Montreal, Moscow, Paris, Rio, Rome, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, Warsaw.

ALERT CITRUS SIGNUP

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

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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I want to send information to the Chronicle: MAIL: 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429. FAX: Advertising - 352-563-5665, Newsroom - 352-563-5665.

Who's in charge: Gerry Mulligan, Publisher, 563-3222. Trina Murphy, Operations/Advertising director, 563-3232. Tom Feeney, Production manager, 563-3275.

Report a news tip: Opinion page/letters - Brian LaPeter, 564-3294. News stories - Jeff Bryan, 564-2909.

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CITIZEN

Continued from Page A1

“What if everyone just wrote a check and no one actually did anything? Where’s your sense of community?” she asked. “(Volunteering) draws together the community.”

Gill was a successful real estate broker in Citrus County after moving here in 1984, but saw an opportunity to do something else.

Then-Supervisor of Elections Wilma Anderson was retiring. Gill was a Republican but not well connected in the party. Despite that, she ran in 1996 and won her party’s nomination and beat her opponent in the general election.

“I do like politics, but the process part of it. I like to organize stuff,” she said of the job. “It’s a very important position. It’s our democratic process. I’ve always really loved it.”

As for leaving her real estate job behind: “I liked it but I liked this (supervisor of elections job) a whole lot more,” she said. “And I didn’t have time to miss it.”

She ran unopposed again in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016.

She announced earlier in 2020 she would not seek re-election after this past year.

Of the job she said laughing, “No one ever grows up saying they want to be a supervisor of elections. It just doesn’t happen.”

“But I liked the structure. Government has to hold things together. Without government there’s chaos,” she said.

She recalled saying to her elections staff, “We just keep our noses to the grindstone. We don’t want to see my smiling face in the newspaper because that would

mean something went wrong. We just want to see the (voting) results in the newspaper.”

The job also allowed her to utilize her knack for organizing and showed how she could play a role in the community outside her election walls.

A ‘joiner’

Gill said she joins organizations not for the social and political networking that comes with it, but the sheer pleasure of belonging and a place her organizing skills can be put to good use.

“I’m a joiner,” she said. “I ran for vice president of my senior high school class because it meant I organizing the prom and that was very attractive to me,” she recalled for the Chronicle.

The class president didn’t organize the prom so she wasn’t interested in that post.

During a recent Citrus County commission meeting, elected officials had this to say about Gill.

“The integrity is hands down, the best in state of Florida,” said Commission Chairman Scott Carnahan at the Board’s Dec. 15, 2020, meeting in which it recognized Gill. “We appreciate her for everything she’s done. Citrus County, we definitely know our elections. We appreciate all you’ve done and where you’ve taken us.”

Former Commission Chairman Brian Coleman said, “We’re very proud of Susan Gill. You, as citizens, could not ask for anything better from a supervisor of elections. If you want integrity, this is what integrity is all about.”

“We are very blessed to have such an efficient election operation,” Commissioner Ron Kitchen said.

See CITIZEN/Page A10

SQUABBLE

Continued from Page A1

Dozier said the error caught the attention of neighbors who believe he’s trying to get away with something.

“The people around here really latched onto that,” he said.

The county, meanwhile, determined the garage was attached because of a breezeway that connects the building with the house — through there are no doors in the breezeway connecting the house to the garage.

Neighbors say this goes against the county code for an attached garage. According to code, a garage is considered an accessory structure to the main building, a house.

The Land Development Code states: “An accessory structure attached by a common wall(s), foundation and under the same roofline of the principal

structure.”

The county, for its part, says it doesn’t get involved in deed restriction issues. And County Administrator Randy Oliver noted in an email that Building Director Carl Jones plans to clear up the confusion in the definition of attached vs. detached.

Neighbors like Sue Hale say a breezeway, which isn’t connected with doors to either building, doesn’t fit the definition.

“A 3-year-old child could look at this and see it’s not attached,” she said.

Former property owners association board member Carol Bush said the difference is significant.

“Now anybody else can build a detached garage, connect it to their house with a breezeway, and what are we going to stay?” Bush said. “It doesn’t make any sense.”

Asked what he planned to park in the garage, Dozier said: “A boat? RV? Whatever I want to put in it.”

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Obituaries



Edward 'Ed' Lockman
HOMOSASSA

Edward (Ed) Lockman passed away on December 8, 2020 after a brief illness.

He was a devoted husband and father and is survived by his wife of 54 years Allie Lockman, daughter Missy (Lockman) MacDonald, son Ed Lockman, two grandchildren Ed Lockman and Maddy Lockman, sister Cody (Lockman) Gregg, and nieces and nephews.



Edward Lockman

Ed was born in 1936 in Hazleton PA to Felix and Sofia Lockman. He graduated from Hazleton High School, enlisted in the US Army, and served in Berlin, Germany 1955-1957. He earned his undergraduate degree at Bloomsburg College (Bloomsburg PA) and masters in education at Seton Hall University (South Orange NJ). He taught middle and high school in Parsippany NJ for 30 years and coached football, track, and cross-country.

Ed and Allie moved to Pennsylvania, then Florida after retirement. They lived in Homosassa FL for over 25 years. Ed was an avid reader, loved dogs, and enjoyed debating, classic cars, and fishing.

Stop All the Clocks

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,

Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,

Silence the pianos and with muffled drum

Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead

Scribbling on the sky the message He is Dead.

Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,

Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,

My working week and my Sunday rest,

My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;

I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted

now; put out every one,
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun,
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the woods;
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

— W.H. Auden

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Levon Maddox Jr., 77
INVERNESS

Levon E. Maddox Jr. of Inverness, FL took his last breath at 12:40 pm and passed away at home under the loving care of family and Vitas Hospice of Citrus County on Saturday December 26th, 2020.

He was born March 20th, 1943 to Marion and Levon E. Maddox Sr. Levon was a disabled retiree. He enjoyed photography, traveling, spending time with family and friends, and working on cars.

Left to cherish his memories is his wife Virginia Padilla Maddox, his siblings: Stephen, Ruth, and Marion, his 8 kids: John, Eddie, Sherman, Lisa, Denise, Lawrence, Alisha, Nina and his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents as well as his sister Gloria Maddox.

A memorial service will be planned according to the pandemic but will hopefully take place on his birthday March 20th. He's no longer suffering or in pain. He maybe gone but will not be forgotten. A special thanks to McGan Cremation Service for assisting the family during this difficult time.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

SO YOU KNOW

- More obituaries can be found on **Pages A8 and A9** today.
- For information about placing obituaries, email obits@chronicleonline.com or call 352-563-5660.
- Submissions must be verified with the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements.

Carol McMurray, 83
HOMOSASSA

Carol E. McMurray March 13, 1937 – December 16, 2020

With a deep sense of loss, we are saddened to announce the death of our mother Carol E. McMurray, beloved mother, best friend and confidant.

Carol was born on March 13, 1937, in Malden, Massachusetts, to Jeanette and John Jones.

Retiring to Homosassa, FL, after a career working with disabled children, Carol became very involved with the GFWC Crystal River Woman's Club and Hospice.

Carol is survived by John, Elizabeth and Michael. She also left behind 12 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and 7 great great grandchildren. She is preceded by the late Gilbert McMurray.

She left a lasting impression on those she met and who she called her friends. In lieu of flowers, please give to St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Hospice of Citrus County.

She will be missed by many and one.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

OBITUARIES

- The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.
- Full obituaries are \$175, and include placement in the newspaper and online, a headshot and a keepsake plaque. Text over 850 words will be subject to an additional fee.



John Minton Jr., 99
INVERNESS

On Monday December 21, 2020, John Henry Minton Jr. of Inverness, Florida passed away peacefully at Citrus Memorial Hospital. He was 99 1/2 years of age.

At his bedside was his eldest child and daughter, Joan Marsh. It was stated by all medical workers who cared for John that he was a delight, and all held him in high regard.

John was the eldest son of John Henry Minton Sr. and Bertha Minton, both originally from Hastings, Florida. John had 7 siblings and is survived by his sister, Miriam Minton-Piper of Toccoa, GA, and his youngest brother, Norman Minton of West Palm Beach, FL. John is also survived by his three children, Joan Minton-Marsh, John H. Minton III, and William Rowe Minton. Additionally, John has 6 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

John and his first wife, Eleanor Rowe Minton of Greenwich, CT, raised their family in Miami, FL after the second World War. John subsequently moved to Inverness, FL with his second wife, Betty Minton, where he remained until his passing.

John will always be fondly remembered as a fun-loving jokester and as someone who was always willing to help his fellow man and family members without reservation. He is the patriarch of the family and will be missed.

John will be laid to rest

alongside his wife, Betty Minton at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL. At a later date to be announced, the family will gather at the gravesite and pay fitting honors to this World War II Navy veteran.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.



Daniel Ouellette, 85
INVERNESS

Daniel Joel Ouellette, 85, of Inverness, FL died December 27, 2020.

He was born July 7, 1935 in Biddeford, ME to Armand and Emily (Lizotte) Ouellette. He moved to Inverness, FL from Old Orchard Beach, ME in 2003. A graduate of St. Louis High School, Biddeford, ME he served in the U.S. Army from 1958 to 1961, serving a tour in Korea.

Mr. Ouellette worked for a number of years at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME. He later owned and operated Portland Road Motor Sales, Saco, ME. Most recently he worked for Dragon Products, retiring in 1999.

Mr. Ouellette was a life member of BOPE. Also a member of the American Legion, VFW, FGGG and the NRA. He was an avid gardener and grape grower, enjoying making wine which he gave out at the holidays.

He is survived by his wife Suzanne (Bourcier) Ouellette for the past 55 years; two daughters: Nicole Caron and her husband Andre of Saco, ME and Pauline Ouellette and her companion Christina

brothers James Scott & Teresa (Cunningham) Allen and Michael David & Belinda (Quinn) Allen, grandchildren Ashley Nicole and Harrison David Rotton.

She married James Gail Rotton in March of 1967. He died March 21, 2004.

She was preceded in death by grandson David Linn Vedder on 28 November 2015.

Heinz Funeral Home & Cremation, Inverness, FL heinzfh.com.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Mitchell of Gardiner, ME; one son: Gerald (Jerry) and his wife Joyce (Duross) of Saco, ME; 2 granddaughters: Emily Caron and Morgan Ouellette both of Saco, ME; one sister, Joane Godrow and her husband Eugene of Inverness, FL.

His parents and one brother Conrad Ouellette predeceased him.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of Grace Church in Beverly Hills, FL. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date at Our Lady of Grace Church, Beverly Hills, FL. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated in the spring at St. Margaret's Church in Old Orchard Beach, ME. Interment at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Biddeford, ME.

Cremation care by National Cremation & Burial Society in Hudson, FL.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Cheryl Rotton

Cheryl Roseann Rotton, daughter of David Junior & Jo Ann (Gray) Allen was born on March 28, 1947 in Lafayette, Indiana and died on December 20, 2020 at Citrus Memorial Hospital, Inverness Florida.

Survived by son Allen Lee & Michelle (Gnaizda) Rotton and daughter Mirschell Lorraine Daniels,

brothers James Scott & Teresa (Cunningham) Allen and Michael David & Belinda (Quinn) Allen, grandchildren Ashley Nicole and Harrison David Rotton.

She married James Gail Rotton in March of 1967. He died March 21, 2004.

She was preceded in death by grandson David Linn Vedder on 28 November 2015.

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Cheryl Rotton

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Obituaries

Helena Bertagna, 71
BEVERLY HILLS

Helena Bertagna, 71, of Beverly Hills, FL, passed away on December 28, 2020. On Monday, January 4, 2021, the family will receive friends at the Heinz Funeral Home in Inverness, from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 AM, at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Beverly Hills. Interment will follow at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

Heinz Funeral Home & Cremation, Inverness, FL. heinzfh.com



Robert Crouse Jr., 89
INVERNESS

Robert R Crouse, Jr., age 89, of Inverness, FL passed away at his home. Robert was born on May 6, 1931 in Syracuse, NY to Robert and Rose (Rausa) Crouse. He moved to Citrus County in September, 2013. He was a retired Fork Truck Operator General Motors and he was a U.S. Marine Veteran. He fought in the Korean War and was awarded a Purple Heart and a Gold star. He was a member of the V.F.W. and he enjoyed home improvement projects.

In addition to his parents, Robert was preceded in death by his brothers, Richard and Ronald Crouse. Survived by six children, Rebecca A. Klutz, Robert R. Crouse, Jr, Kathleen A. Armstrong, Anthony M. Crouse, Michael A. Crouse, Celeste C. Cullington, five sisters, Rosalie, Rita, Ruth, Roberta, Roxanne; one brother, Roger; several grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Private cremation will take place under the direction of Brown Funeral Home and Crematory in Lecanto, FL. A memorial service is planned for May, 2021 in Syracuse, NY. Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.



Carl Ellspermann, 72
CRYSTAL RIVER

Carl Ellspermann, 72, of Crystal River, Florida, beloved husband and best friend of Valerie (Bengtson) Ellspermann for 34 years, passed away peacefully surrounded by the ones he loved on December 27, 2020.

He was preceded by his parents, Vincent and Chrysteen Ellspermann and Vince's second wife, Ruth (Badkey, Johns) Ellspermann. Carl was born in Evansville, Indiana and his family later moved to Ocala, Florida. He attended the

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University of Florida and earned his BA and Masters in Business and enjoyed running his accounting business in Ocala for over 40 years. He had many longtime clients, of which many became his close friends. Carl and Valerie later retired to Crystal River, where he enjoyed a contented life spent watching beautiful sunsets and for manatee sightings with their beloved dogs, Ella and Mia.

Carl's commitment to service was instilled by his late father, Vince, and remained for much of his life. He served in the Army National Guard and was also a long-time member and past President of the Ocala Kiwanas Club. He also served on the Board of Directors for both Monroe Regional Medical Center and M&S Bank. One of Carl's proudest moments was when he championed the development of Community Health Services of Marion County, which served vulnerable populations, as well as his work to provide support to the homeless.

Besides his wife, Valerie, Carl is survived by his children, Jim and his wife, Catherine, of Orlando, Florida, Vince and his wife, Kris, of Nashua, New Hampshire and his daughter, Angie (Pike) and her husband, Sonny, of Fife, Washington; his grandchildren, Maryanne, Jay, Emma, Scarlett and Victoria; as well as his three brothers, Steve, Lenny and David and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there are no immediate plans for a public service. The family will hold a celebration of life at a later date.

Sentiments may be left online at www.hiers-baxley.com.

John Hanse, 70
BEVERLY HILLS

John Kevin Hanse, of Beverly Hills, Florida, died December 21, 2020 at his home of natural causes, not COVID-19 related. John was born at the Paterson General Hospital, Paterson, New Jersey on December 4, 1950. His parents both deceased were Rev. John Chapman Hanse and Isabelle Maxwell Turnbull.

Hanse. Upon leaving the hospital with his parents he resided in Wanaque, New Jersey with his two older sisters.

John's life had many interesting events, at age 3 he moved with his family to Oakland, California, the Sbrante Park area. While John's formal education began on the West Coast it took several turns moving to the East Coast and ending in the Midwest. His education began at Sbrante Park Elementary School, Oakland, California followed by Alameda Christian Grammar, Alameda, California. Moving East it continued at North Fourth Street Christian Grammar School, North Haledon, New Jersey, next St. Paul's Lutheran School,

Paterson, New Jersey, and then Paterson Public Schools including school #24 and Eastside High School. John was a member of the Eastside High School Marching Band before moving to Michigan. He also played inter mural sports while at Eastside. His high school education was completed at Hamilton High, Hamilton, Michigan where John participated in Track and Field and competed in the Pole Vault event. He attended Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids, Michigan and spent a summer doing missionary work in Mexico. Completion of his bachelor's degree occurred at Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa. He earned a BA in Education for Special Education but never used it.

He worked in several companies before becoming a buyer for Therma-tron of Holland, Michigan. He continued as a buyer for Heath of Benton Harbor, Michigan then Sexton of Zeeland, Michigan. He worked hard and learned about environmental test chambers, with gained knowledge he began his own company, Hanse Environmental in Allegan, Michigan. He modified his chamber by adding vibration along with accelerated heating and cooling. These changes make his chambers unique. He was enormously proud of the chambers which are used to test parts for life expectancy. The company sells chambers to major companies like Hewlett Packard, Sony, Ford Motor Company just to name a few. Currently his youngest son, Peter runs the company. John traveled the world for his company. He invented several items for manufacturing and applied for several patents.

Giving back to others was one of John's passions. He was involved in the daily care of physically and mentally challenged children. He and his wife, Norma, were foster parents to several handicapped children. He and his wife worked to establish a group home in Holland, Michigan for ARC. The home was started and there are now other adult group homes in Holland, Michigan because of his efforts. He was always involved in church activities with his family. Moving to Florida was a dream and upon becoming a resident he joined local organizations; Beverly Hills Irish Americans, Nature Coast Republicans, helping at Bingo for Citrus Springs Civic Association, Beverly Hills Craftsman's Guild, Inc., and actively attending Beverly Hills Community Church, Beverly Hills, Florida. He may have had multiple medical needs, but he kept moving forward. He loved his new all-terrain electric chair and traveled within Beverly Hills area shopping and stopping to talk with neighbors. He loved to look for odd items at yard sales. He was always thinking of what he could make or how he could use something that might have been discarded.

Married life began in June 1970 with Norma Knoll. Together they were blessed with five children, Helen Dawn Boeve (John)

of Zeeland, Michigan, John Henry Hanse (Leeann) of Allegan, Michigan, James Paul Hanse (Rev. Joline) of Valley City, North Dakota, Anne Marie Blaine of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and Peter Kenneth Hanse (Lydia) of Allegan, Michigan. He later married Christine Baughman of Detroit, Michigan and became the father to her daughter, Jennifer Baughman Martin of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Lastly, he married Carol Dunning of Clifton, New Jersey. Carol's two children were already married so John was a stepfather in name only to John and Deborah. John leaves behind 16 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Left to cherish his memory are his sisters, Isabelle Hanse-Amundsen (Jeff) of Beverly Hills, Florida, Janet Hanse Barek (Paul) of Citrus Springs, Florida, and Joy Hanse Essenburg (Scott) of Holland, Michigan, his uncle, William C. Hanse (Barbara) of Wayne, New Jersey, and cousins Brian W. Hanse (Kathy), Pompton Plains, New Jersey, and Beverly Hanse Hubers (Michael) of Troy, Michigan.

Funeral arrangements are through Fero Funeral Home, 5955 N. Lecanto Highway, Beverly Hills, Florida (352)746-4551 Beverly Hills, Florida. There is a Celebration of Life planned for 11 AM on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at Beverly Hills Community Church, 82 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills, Florida. In lieu of flowers denotations can be made to Beverly Hills Community Church, 82 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills, Florida 34465. Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Annie Hensley, 94
INVERNESS

Annie May Hensley, age 94, Inverness, FL passed away at home on December 29, 2020 with her son Rocky at her side. Annie May was born in Archer, FL on May 12, 1926 to the late Clarence A. and Bernice (Nelson) Vause, and came to Citrus County in 1932.

She attended almost all of her school years in Citrus County where she graduated with the class of 1945 from Citrus High School. She worked for several county government offices and retired from the Citrus County Property Appraiser in 1988 after serving the people of Citrus County for 31 years in a variety of positions. Annie May was a Certified Observer for the Aircraft Warning Service under the US ARMY during WW II. She kept watch for enemy aircraft from the tower of the Historic Courthouse in Inverness. She also enjoyed being in "Follow that Dream" movie with Elvis Pressley as an extra in the courthouse scene. She

always said he gave her a piece of gum. She loved Nascar and Football! (Loved the Gators) If you wanted a mean piece of fried chicken, you just had to ask! A cast iron skillet was all she neededmany a Sunday lunch was spent eating her delicious meals cooked with love in her heart! Also had plenty in case anyone stopped by for a visit. Nothing made her happier than having her family all around her.

Left to cherish her memory is her son, Hershel "Rocky" Hensley and his wife, Melanie, Inverness, FL; 2 grandchildren: Kristen Todd and Hillary Hammerle (John); 4 great grandchildren: Makayla, Kinnley, and Jackson Todd, and Myles Hammerle. She is also survived by several beloved nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sisters: Betty Lee McIntyre and Jeannette Walter, who predeceased her two years ago on the very same day.

There is a Celebration of Life scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 12:00 noon at the Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with Rev. Dr. Byron Brown, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Inverness officiating. Burial will follow in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Friends may visit with the family from 11:00 AM until the hour of service. In lieu of flowers, memorials are being accepted by Citrus County Blessings, PO Box 42, Lecanto Fl. 34460 or Boys & Girls Club of Citrus County PO Box 907, Lecanto, FL 34460. Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Francis 'Sonny' Howard, 86
HOMOSASSA

Francis (Sonny) Freeman Howard, 86, of Homosassa, Florida passed away December 19, 2020. He was born May 15, 1934 in Elmira, New York to the late

Francis and Lydia Howard. Mr. Howard had moved here in 1975 from Oxford, New Jersey. He enjoyed camping in the Smoky Mountains and woodworking.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his brother James Howard and son-in-law Tom Pace. He is survived by his wife, Janet Nero Howard, three daughters, Karen (John) Lettow, Amy Pace, and Jennifer (Wayne) Crump, brother, Richard (Linda) Howard, and sister, Arlene Payne, 8 grandchildren and 18 Great grandchildren.

A Celebration of his Life will take place Saturday, January 9th 11:00 am at the Stage Stand Cemetery in Homosassa.

Arrangements are under the direction of Strickland Funeral Home and Crematory, Crystal River.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.



Frank Humphreys, 97
LECANTO

The Service of Remembrance for Mr. Frank A. Humphreys, age 97 years, of Lecanto, will be held 2:00 PM Friday, January 15, 2020 at Fountains Memorial Park, Homosassa. Full military honors will be presented by Citrus County All Veterans.

Online condolences for the family may be left at www.HooperFuneralHome.com. Arrangements under the direction of the Homosassa Chapel of Hooper Funeral Homes.

Mr. Humphreys was born May 24, 1923 in North Hampton, England to Frank and Annie Tomlinson Humphreys. He died Friday, December 18, 2020 in Crystal River. He was a retired cabinet maker and a WWII Veteran.

He was preceded in death by his Wife: Mrs. Margaret Humphreys, 2015. Surviving are his 3 sons: Kirk Humphreys and Mark Humphreys, both of Rochester, NY; Stephen Hawkins, Arcadia; 4 daughters: Pamela Staub, Crystal River; Paula Keir, Lecanto; Melanie Strof-field, Lecanto; Lorie (Rick) DeCarolis, Rochester, NY; 16 Grandchildren and 20 Great Grandchildren.

Rosa Letterman, 87

Rosa Letterman, 87, passed away Dec. 26, 2020. Rosa was born in Waynesboro, MS on April 13, 1933 to Dovie and Ulmer McKee. She was very involved with First Baptist Church of Homosassa church activities at local nursing homes.

Rosa is preceded in death by her husbands Dock Letterman and Robert N. Ainsworth; her parents Dovie and Ulmer McKee; brothers Ed, Elmer and Sonny; and sisters Ruby, Betty and Joyce. She is survived by her children Jaynee (Mike) Link, Robin (Dave) Shuck, Keith (Janet) Ainsworth Julie (Jeff) Delduca; step children Sarah Letterman, Rebecca (Dennis) Letterman; sisters Vivian and Evie; brother Charlie; and many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

A funeral service is scheduled 12 pm Wed. Jan 6, 2021, at Wilder Funeral Home. Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

SO YOU KNOW

- For information about placing obituaries, email obits@chronicleonline.com or call 352-563-5660.
- More obituaries can be found on Pages A7 and A9 today.

UNITED WAY OF CITRUS COUNTY LIVE UNITED United Way

Want to make a difference in a young child's life by volunteering just ONE hour a week?

United Way of Citrus County is currently recruiting volunteers to share classic books, engage in conversation and play games focusing on concepts like letters and colors to help local pre-kindergarten students develop reading readiness skills during the 2021-2022 school year. YOU can greatly impact the lives of two young children in our community by volunteering just ONE hour a week at a local school.

If this sounds like something you, or someone you know would be interested in, please log on to our website www.citrusunitedway.org/aboutreadingpals or call Cheri Simek at 352-795-5483 or email cheri.simek@citrusunitedway.org for more information or to sign up!

The Children's Movement of Florida Join the State Initiated Program TODAY!

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Obituaries



Gilbert Roof Jr., 88 WINDERMERE, INVERNESS

Gilbert Henry Roof Jr., fondly known as Gil to many of his friends, age 88, of Windermere, Florida (formerly Inverness, Florida) passed away on Monday, December 21, 2020.



Gilbert Roof Jr.

Gil worked most of his life in retail management for JM Fields, TG&Y, and Walmart. Gil also served in the Air Force for 4 years prior to working in retail management.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Sadaako Roof. He is survived by his loyal daughter, Debra Negrete, and her caring husband, Rodney Negrete, and his dear grandchildren Kennan and Kennedy Negrete who all loved him so deeply.

Gil will be remembered for his strength and resilience and his sense of humor. He loved telling silly jokes and making others laugh. He enjoyed spending time with his daughter and family. He took great pleasure in fishing and watching sports.

A private celebration of life will be held for Gil with his immediate family members. He will truly be missed.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

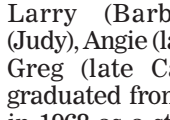


Richard Starkey Jr., 70 SPRING HILL

Richard Lane Starkey Jr., age 70, of Spring Hill, was welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven on December 25th, 2020.

Born November 26th, 1950 in Caples, West Virginia, he was the first-born son of the late Richard Starkey Sr. and late Thelma Miller (Hughie).

After a decade of living in a small mining town, his family moved to Cleveland, OH, where he grew up with his siblings.



Richard Starkey Jr.

Larry (Barb), Ronnie (Judy), Angie (late Bill), and Greg (late Cathy). Rick graduated from West High in 1968 as a standout basketball player.

Upon graduation he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he honorably served from 1969 to 1975. He was awarded the Vietnamese Service Medal for his time spent overseas during the Vietnam War. After completing his military service, he lived in Ohio and Illinois where he became a father to Crystal (Bo), Jason (Patty), Monica, Kim (Brittany), and Timm (Elyse). He was later blessed with the title, "Papa Rick", to his beautiful grandchildren: Isaiah, Chloe, Hannah, Martin, Madison, Julia, Aiden, Addison, Leah, Annabelle, Tucker, and Jack.

His love for Christ started at an early age due to growing up as a preacher's son. Upon retiring to Florida, he found a home at Christian Center Church, where he then served the Lord in many roles including volunteering in many mission trips. In addition to his love for Christ, Rick found his calling to serve

Veterans in need. He became a Veterans Affairs specialist, assisting countless service members from all eras with their need for medical help.

While helping veterans, he found a community at the American Legion Post 166 where he served as Chaplain and Service Officer. Earlier this year, until his passing, he held the position of Post Commander where he dedicated his time and was truly loved by all.

Friends and family are encouraged to share their memories of Richard during visitation at Brown

Funeral Home, 5430 W Gulf to Lake Hwy, Lecanto, FL 34461, on Sunday, January 3rd, 2021 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. A funeral service will be held at Christian Center Church, 7961 W. Green Acres St. Homosassa, FL, 34446, at 11:00 am on Monday, January 4th, 2021. Burial will follow at Bushnell National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to: The American Legion Post 166 4520 S Suncoast Blvd. Homosassa Springs, FL 34447-0767

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

OBITUARIES

- Submissions must be verified with the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements.
- The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.
- Death notices are \$25, and may include: full name of deceased; age; hometown/state; date of death; place of death; date, time and place of visitation and funeral services and, for members of the military, the branch of the armed services in which they served.
- If websites, phone numbers, photos, survivors, memorial contributions or other information are included in submissions, the obituary will cost regular price of \$175.
- Full obituaries are \$175, and include placement in the newspaper and online, a standard-size headshot and a keepsake plaque. Text exceeding 850 words will be subject to an additional fee of \$80.
- Larger, full-column photos may be accommodated in print, but could be subject to additional fees. Contact the Chronicle staff for details.
- A flag will be included for free for those who served in the U.S. military. (Please note the branch of service when submitting an obituary.)
- Email obits@chronicleonline.com or call 352-563-5660 for more information.

Happy New Year!

CITRUS MEMORIAL VOLUNTEERS

Thank You for the Dedicated Service to the Patients, Families, and Employees at CMH.

The CMH Auxiliary was formed in 1957 to provide a governing organization by which the volunteers could raise funds and donate scholarships and much needed equipment to the hospital for over 50 years. They committed themselves to years of being on the job without hesitation. It was not unusual for the 500 volunteers to donate over 100,000 hours per year. With the recent changes when CMH moved from non-profit status to for-profit, the role of the volunteers has changed. The need for a separate non-profit organization has ceased to exist. However, volunteers will still play an important role in patient satisfaction at CMH.



A special **THANK YOU** to our Volunteers of the Year!

Dee LaChance and Doug Hutchinson



All volunteers make a difference every hour they serve.

Sandi Phillips and her late husband, Larry took volunteering to a new level. Together they served over 50,000 hours during a 25 year period. They were named Volunteer of the year, received the Presidential award and were named Volunteer of the Month several times. Sandi served as President of the volunteer organization, chairperson in several areas and Larry served as a chairperson also.



CMHS Volunteers Inc is thankful for the years of dedicated leadership by **Penny Zaphel**, Manager of Volunteer Service. "Penny has treated each volunteer like a member of her family," said Sandi Phillips, President.



Joan Curcuru served the Volunteers as the office Coordinator for many years. "The volunteers and I were extremely blessed to have Joan in the office. Her smile and positive attitude along with a variety of skills were extremely important to all of us," said Penny Zaphel, Manager of Volunteer Services.



We have a dedicated group of volunteers that are officers for CMHS Volunteers Inc., a non-profit organization that played a key role in the volunteer system.

Jeff Shields - President
Sadly passed away this year

Sandi Phillips - Vice President
Will fill that role

Kitty Emmons - Secretary/Treasurer
Lynnette Edwards & Mary Mahoney
Board Members

Jack Condron - Past President

CMH Volunteers Inc. was fortunate to have an experienced team manage the Hospital Gift Shop.

Cindy and Don Israel came to the hospital with a wealth of knowledge from owning their own gift shop in the past. "They built the business into a place where much of the community loved to shop," according to Penny Zaphel, Manager of Volunteer Services. Now the Gift Shop is closed due to Covid 19 concerns. All the merchandise was donated to The Key Training Center. This donation of over \$50,000 will assist the Key Training Center to serve their clients, many of whom volunteered at the hospital.



SO YOU KNOW

- More local obituaries can be found on Pages **A7** and **A8** in today's Chronicle.

Chronicle Citizens of the Year

- 2020: Susan Gill
- 2019: Frank DiGiovanni
- 2018: Paul Pilny
- 2017: Mary Lee Johnson
- 2016: Doug Alexander
- 2015: Diane Damron
- 2014: Paul Cash
- 2013: Larry Gamble
- 2012: Art Jones
- 2011: Jewel Lamb
- 2010: Paul Mellini
- 2009: Brown Dumas Jr.
- 2008: Lace Blue-McLean and Andy Houston
- 2007: Barbara Mills
- 2006: Jean Grant
- 2005: Mike and Kautia Hampton
- 2004: Aaron Weaver
- 2003: Pete DeRosa
- 2002: Don Sutton
- 2001: Leroy Bellamy
- 2000: Ron and Beverly Drinkhouse
- 1999: Stan Olsen.
- 1998: Gary Maidhof
- 1997: Chet Cole
- 1996: Curt Ebitz
- 1995: Laura Lou Fitzpatrick and John Lettow
- 1994: Peggy and Dave Pattillo
- 1993: Ray Darling and William Bunch
- 1992: Avis Craig
- 1991: Annie W. Johnson and The Rev. Father James C. Hoge
- 1990: Ginger West
- 1989: David Langer and Phil Zellner
- 1988: Bob and Mary England
- 1987: Dr. Ed Dodge
- 1986: Wilson Burns and Steve Lamb
- 1985: Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board: Charles Miko, David Walker, Dixie Hollins, Tom Franklin, Rick Rollason, Robert Henigar and Clark Stillwell
- 1984: Ruth Levins
- 1983: Sam Tamposi
- 1982: Judge William F. Edwards
- 1981: Hank and Miriam Cohen
- 1980: The Rev. Roger Shively

COVID-19: summary for Citrus County

Data through Jan 1, 2021 verified as of Jan 2, 2021 at 09:25 AM

Data in this report are provisional and subject to change.

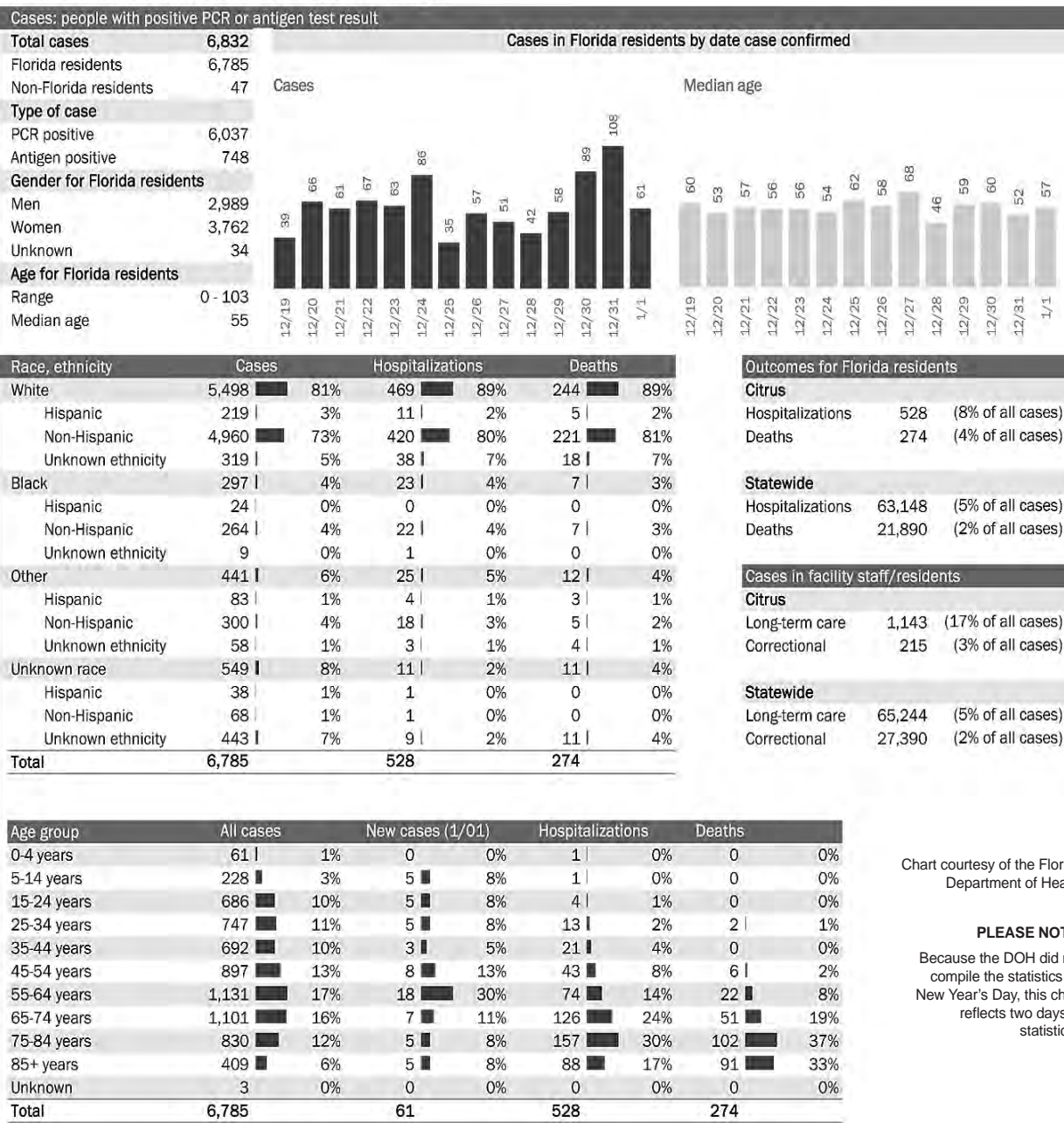


Chart courtesy of the Florida Department of Health

PLEASE NOTE: Because the DOH did not compile the statistics on New Year's Day, this chart reflects two days of statistics.

Florida releases 2-day total of 30,767 new COVID-19 cases

Statewide death toll now at 22,074

nearly 10,000. The numbers had fallen to about 2,000 in October and early November.

New Year's Eve saw the highest daily jump in COVID-19 cases ever detected in Florida, with 17,192 new cases.

FREIDA FRISARO
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE — Health officials in Florida reported a two-day total 30,767 new cases of the coronavirus and 217 new deaths on Saturday.

Florida's Department of Health did not release numbers on New Year's Day. The state has also chosen not to report COVID-19 cases on two other holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The two-day total brings the overall number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Florida to 1,354,833. The agency posted that 21,015 cases were reported on Friday and 9,752 reported on Saturday. The state's death toll during the coronavirus pandemic stands at 22,074.

On New Year's Eve, the state reported the highest daily jump in COVID-19 cases ever detected in Florida, with 17,192 new cases.

Also on Thursday, state health officials disclosed in a statement tweeted on its HealthyFla site that evidence of a new and apparently more contagious coronavirus strain first seen in England has been detected in a Martin County man with no recent travel history.

The state offered no new updates on the man or his condition.

Other cases of the new strain have been reported in Colorado and California.

Martin County is north of Palm Beach County, which along with Miami-Dade and Broward counties have been the state's hardest hit region in dealing with coronavirus cases.

On Saturday afternoon, 6,701 people were being treated for COVID-19 in Florida hospitals, according to a state dashboard. That number stood at about 6,450 on Friday afternoon.

During the virus surge last summer, the number of hospitalizations reached

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

CITIZEN

Continued from Page A6

Gill joined the Altrusa International of Citrus County in 1985 and is the local branch organization's longest serving member. The organization, which formed nationally in 1917, focuses locally on literacy, women's issues and education.

She was new in the county and wanted to get to know like-minded people, Gill said.

She also joined the local American Heart Association here and helped the organization put on heart walks and balls to raise money.

"I learned a lot about heart disease," she said, smiling.

She also joined the College of Central Florida Foundation Board as well as the Citrus Memorial Health Systems Citizens Advisory Council.

So many causes

Gill and others raised money for local nursing and dental programs and helped fund the construction of the YMCA in Lecanto.

She served as the United Way campaign chair in 2005-2006 and 2013-14.

Gill also attends events held by the Key Training Center and the Citrus County Educational

Foundation and financially donates to each of them.

She also belongs to a national organization to help supervisor of elections to keep up with the latest ways to operate their departments and best address voter issues.

Gill also contributes to the Citrus County Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity and attends their fundraising events to help drum up more money.

"I don't have too many causes that aren't good ones," she said.

She encourages other people to also take part and help.

"When you go to these events you see a lot of the same people and they become your friends," she said.

As for retirement, "I'd like some time to get my head straight," she said, laughing.

Since 1996, she said she's been committed to her job and that took dedication.

But when she turned 71, she said she had to ask herself hard questions about why she still wanted to remain in office. She won't ease up on being part of the community and participating in organizations that help make people's lives better.

As for not running for office again, she said, "It was a hard decision. But once I make a decision I never look back."



VETERANS NOTES

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

NEW THIS WEEK

Citrus Veterans Coalition cancels monthly yard sales

Due to the seemingly uncontrollable spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Citrus County Veterans Coalition (CCVC) has canceled monthly yard sales, effective immediately, until further notice. With over 1,600 new reported positive cases, and over 90 deaths in Citrus County in the month of December, the CCVC has made this decision in order to safeguard the health of staff and the members of the public who support our efforts.

We also are not accepting any donated items at this time.

However, it is our intention to continue offering our food services to veteran clients. We ask that any veteran coming to collect food on Tuesdays and the first and third Thursdays of the month, to please wait in their cars, until the food is delivered to them. We ask that you wear a mask and that any new applicants, please have proof of residency and proof of honorable discharge from military service.

All active duty members of the Armed Forces are also invited to apply for services.

All CDC guidelines will be strictly adhered to. We will continue to accept any food donations to help replenish our supplies. These donations can be dropped off during our usual opening hours, of 9 a.m. until noon. Canned goods and non-perishable food items, as well as paper goods are in short supply.

During these trying times, we wish to adhere to an over abundance of safety in order to protect our staff as well as our clients.

We ask that you please bear with us, until there is some sense of normalcy returned to our lives.

For information, call 352-400-8952 or visit www.veterans-coalition.com.

Veteran author to sign books, perform at the Valerie

Local author and Silver Star recipient Frank Joliff will sign his book "365 and a Wake Up," a novel about Joliff's tour of duty with the ninth infantry in Vietnam during the TET offensive, beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at the Valerie Theatre in Inverness.

Joliff will also be performing magic and comedy. Come enjoy this free evening at the Valerie.

For information, call 352-341-7850 or visit www.valerietheatre.org.

Citrus Area Stamp Show set at VFW Post 4252

The Citrus Area Stamp Club will host its annual Stamp Show from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at VFW Post 4252 at 3190 N. Carl G. Rose Highway (State Road 200) in Hernando. All collectors are invited to attend. Stamps, covers, supplies, picture postcards and some coins will be available to buy and sell. Get free appraisals.

Citrus Area Stamp Club meets the first and third Tuesdays monthly at VFW Post 4252 at 3190 N. Carl G. Rose Highway (State Road 200) in Hernando. Doors open at 11 a.m. with the meeting starting at 12:30 p.m.

For more information on the show or club, contact Sheldon Rogg, club president, at 727-364-6897 or email h.rogg@verizon.net or visit the website at www.floridastampshows.com.

GOOD TO KNOW

Apply for Chapter 776 MOPH scholarships

Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart is pleased to announce two scholarship opportunities for local graduating high school seniors.

Chapter 776's College of Central Florida (CF) Endowed Scholarship awards \$1,250 to a graduating senior accepted or currently enrolled as a full time student (12 or more semester credit hours) at CF for academic year 2021-22.

Chapter 776's Sgt. Dennis J. Flanagan Memorial Scholarship awards \$1,000 to a graduating senior enrolled in the JROTC program and accepted as a full time student (12 or more semester credit hours) at any accredited U.S. college for Academic Year 2021-22.

The Chapter 776 scholarship information and application can be obtained at www.citruspurpleheart.org, by contacting your school guidance department or by either emailing info@citruspurpleheart.org or calling 352-382-3847. Chapter 776 must receive scholarship applications no later than 5 p.m. Feb. 26, 2021.

SALUTE TO THE GALS



Special to the Chronicle

From left, are: Female Veterans Network President Cynthia Henderson, holding a paper replica of the monument; Historian Joanne Hirst; and Treasurer Jeanetta "Jane" Mundis.

Female veterans monument unveiling Jan. 30 in Inverness

MARGO WILSON
For the Chronicle

She stands 5 feet 6 inches tall in her military uniform, saluting the female veterans who have preceded and who will follow her. She's made of American flash black granite, perched on a gray granite pedestal. She's polished like a mirror, curvy, triangular, and weighs a mere 3,200 pounds. She's cost about \$43,000 so far.

She's the monument the Female Veterans Network (FVN) of Citrus County has been trying to get erected for the past three years. At 11 a.m. Jan. 30, at the Old Citrus County Courthouse, the FVN will see its fundraising efforts come to fruition when the monument is dedicated to all American female veterans, from the Revolutionary War into the future.

The ceremony is dedicated to the late Florence McCann, a World War II WAVES veteran and an FVN member; or as FVN President Cynthia Henderson described McCann, "our dear friend and sister in arms."

An all-female honor guard is planned for the monument unveiling. Veterans and dignitaries have been invited. The winner will be announced of a raffle for a quilt donated by McCann's family. A lunch follows at the Marguerita Grill in Homosassa.

The public is welcome to attend the ceremony at the Old Courthouse, as well as the lunch — provided attendees pay for their own meal. FVN is recommending that those who attend the ceremony



Pictured is the base of the Female Veterans Network monument for female veterans. The three-step pedestal already is installed at the Old Courthouse in Inverness. Central Florida Monument Co. of Inverness installed it. The monument will stand next to the monument that is a tribute to those who fought in World Wars I and II.

practice social distancing and wear masks.

A quote on the monument from World War II veteran Anne S. (Sosh) Brehm reads, "Let the generations know that the women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom."

That's what the FVN would like the public to know and recognize, too.

Henderson, an Air Force veteran who worked with computers during her military stint, founded FVN in July 2015 when she placed an article in the Citrus County Chronicle, seeking other women veterans.

Joanne Hirst, who served first as secretary with the group and now is its historian, responded to that first article. Hirst was an Army Reserve nurse and nurse practitioner. Later, Henderson spotted Jeanetta "Jane" Mundis wearing a military uniform at an event in Homosassa and invited her to join FVN.

Hirst said the local Veterans Administration office had tried to form a group for female veterans, but the woman in charge wasn't a veteran and the group eventually dissolved.

See GALS/Page A13

Elks purchase flags for assisted living display



Special to the Chronicle

Members of the West Citrus Elks 2693 Veterans Committee recently purchased 11 American flags for display at nine local assisted living facilities. The committee members are looking forward to presenting these flags to the facilities as soon as they open up again for visitations. This has been a challenging year for the committee, since they were not able to have visits with the veterans, but they have been able to show support by dropping off personal items for their birthdays and holidays. Back row, from left, are: Bill Obermeier, Mel Gordy, Terri Obermeier, Becky Jones, Bill Shay, Orlan Hayes, Jack Stewart, Dave Kaczanowski, Charlie Mattingly, Rick Jeroski and Mike Vaughn. Front row, from left, are: Jim Ducey, Frank Stewart, Lana Hixson, Joanne Hepner, Jill Jeroski, Kathy Stewart and Donna Hayes. For more information about the Elks, visit Elks.org.

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

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

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

SUNDAY EVENING JANUARY 3, 2021. Table listing TV programs, channels, and times. Includes columns for C, S, D/I, F, H, and program titles like 'White House Down', 'The Wolverine', etc.

SUNDAY EVENING JANUARY 3, 2021. Table listing TV programs, channels, and times. Includes columns for C, S, D/I, F, H, and program titles like 'Narco Wars', 'The Heat', etc.

Annie gives advice

Dear Annie: I've noticed in the past several months that my 15-year-old daughter has been steadily gaining weight. I have struggled with my weight most of my adult life and absolutely do not want my daughter to have the insecurities and low self-esteem that I have.



DEAR ANNIE

She is not active at all, and remote learning isn't helping the situation. I encourage her to make healthier choices but have to be very careful with what I say, especially because weight and self-image are such a touchy subject with any girl or woman. Is this something my daughter will have to figure out on her own? — Hoping You Can Help

Dear Hoping: The answer to your question — if this is something she has to figure out on her own — is yes and no. Take the focus off the numbers on the scale and move it onto feeling good in your body. If you start to walk and do a form of exercise that makes your body feel good, then she will follow you. Self-esteem is created from within; it's not something we gain by looking a certain way.

good athlete; what counts is that she is having fun. I know that many sports are on hold for now because of lockdowns. By the spring, perhaps she can join a new team. In the meanwhile, the two of you could go for walks together, try yoga classes online or find time to dance to the latest TikTok craze.

Continue to focus on your own health and happiness, remembering that more is caught than taught. If she sees you exercising, making healthy food choices and being kind to your body, then she is more likely to make the same choices.

Dear Annie: This is addressed to "Confused About Cellphones." A partial fix would be to take data off the phones. Our kids have cellphones that text and call only. They have internet usage at home on other devices, and this solution really helps! — A Different Way

Dear Different Way: That sounds very clever. "Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book — featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send questions to dearannie@creators.com.

Today's MOVIES

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

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

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE.
"The Out Of Towners" (G) Jan. 3, 3 p.m.
"All About Eve" (NR) Jan. 4, 1 p.m.
"Gleason" (R) Jan. 6, 1 p.m.
"Dr. Zhivago" (PG-13) Jan. 9, 1 p.m.
"Capo Fear" (NR) Jan. 10, 3 p.m.
"Mr. Smith Goes To Washington" (NrR) Jan. 11, 1 p.m.
"The Emperor's New Groove" (G) Jan. 12, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday PUZZLER

- ACROSS
1 Cooked in oil
6 False
10 Marks from wounds
15 Fuss
18 Kitchen appliance
19 Prison camp
21 Erect (2 wds.)
22 Like a missing GI
23 "___ a Grecian Urn"
24 Highly decorated
25 Mountain ridge
26 Desert "soil"
27 Mister
28 Leather
29 Scandinavian
31 Trig function
33 In — (entirely)
35 Entreat
36 Saying
37 From Lhasa
38 Paver
40 Rub out
41 Give off
42 Shrewd
44 Coquette
45 "God's Little ___"
47 Do the backstroke
51 Charge
52 Sour or shaving
53 Oaks-to-be
55 Yoko ___
56 Flatten
57 Stylish
58 Make furious
60 Jargon
62 Burrowing creature
63 Wellness
65 Husband of Frigg
66 Trough for rainwater
67 Clairvoyance
68 Seed appendage
69 Director — Preminger
71 Picture
73 Rds.
75 Desire
76 Smudge
77 Cook in a microwave
78 Swab
81 Urge
83 Ski lift (Hyph.)
84 Healthy upstairs
85 Last — not least
87 Flowers
90 Old Russian ruler
92 Showed boredom
94 Unaccompanied
95 Peace goddess
96 Drunk
98 Actuality
99 Set of steps
100 Upper limit

- 101 Edict
103 Express a thought
105 Elevates
106 Singing voice
108 Come in contact with
109 Smug kind of smile
110 Conniving
111 Rare
113 Something gooey
114 Art
115 The blink of an eye
118 Porcelain
119 Diagnostic picture
120 Discord personified
124 Open wide
125 Stage play
126 Blackboard
127 Oklahoma city
128 Sufficiently, old-style
129 River nymph
131 Tex-Mex fare
133 Motionless
135 Wall pier
136 Hag
137 Brought forth
138 Young bird
139 Network (Abbr.)
140 — seal
141 Stone and Space
142 Domineering

- 48 Custom
49 "Picnic" playwright
50 Anchor
51 Summit
52 Retail establishment (2 wds.)
53 Passion
54 Hit hard
57 Roman goddess of the harvest
59 — public
61 Particular
63 Garfield's predecessor
64 Man
66 Stood wide open

- 70 Brewed beverage
72 French artist
74 Twirl
76 Utter
79 Certain musician
80 Hoisting machine
82 Woodwind
84 Posh
86 On your ___
87 Type size
88 Kind of surgeon
89 Calendar abbr.
91 Let it stand
93 In flames
94 Suppress
96 Pleasant smell
97 Control

- 99 Go by boat
102 High status
104 Kind of cotton
105 River to the North Sea
107 Canada's capital
109 Slender
110 Glided over ice
112 Topper
113 Protected from light
114 Climbs
115 Brainstorms
116 Foolish one
117 Casino machines
118 Leggy bird
119 Satisfy, as thirst
121 Tracks
122 Runs in neutral

- 123 Like some snacks
125 Fashion name
126 EPA concern
130 Macaw genus
132 Actress — Gardner
133 Weep
134 Playing card

GALS

Continued from Page A11

The women say FVN is needed as a place for women veterans and active duty personnel to share information and experiences that are unique to female veterans and recognize and thank women with military experience for their contributions. Although FVN has between 20-30 active members, the group

would like to let the approximately 1,500 female veterans in Citrus County know there is a group for them.

Mundis, a Naval Reserve veteran who served as a photographer, cook, and career counselor for the Navy, said some male veterans will ask, "Why do you have to be separate? We're all veterans."

Both Mundis and Hirst do belong to other veterans' groups. Hirst is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the

American Legion. Mundis is sergeant at arms for American Legion Post 166 in Homosassa and president of Fleet Reserve Association Citrus Branch 186.

Henderson doesn't belong to these groups.

Mundis and Hirst say that even though women have been fighting for their country since the Revolutionary War, they still don't always get the recognition they should.

For example, it was only recently that the

Veterans Administration has been offering female care breast clinics, breast surgery, and reconstructive surgery, Hirst said.

"At the VA clinic, they'll call out for 'Mr. Hirst.' I'll say, 'No, it's 'Mrs.'," she said.

Because what's male is often considered the norm in both military and civilian life, women "have to work harder to prove ourselves," Mundis said.

"And we've done it ever since Revolutionary War," she said. "Those women

dressed up as men. They did it because they felt a need to be there."

The monument honors the women from the five branches of military service who were willing to put their lives aside for a while to serve their country — or who chose to make a career out of serving in America's armed forces.

This heavy piece of granite has been the vision and obsession of Henderson for the past three years. At first, some

members of FVN were naysayers, questioning whether the group could pull off such a large and public feat. But Henderson and her team stuck with the project.

And "the naysayers of the group soon became staunch supporters," Hirst said.

"Cynthia has put her heart and soul into this," said Jo Monty, vice president of FVN and a Naval Reserve veteran, who

See GALS/Page A14

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GALS

Continued from Page A13

during the First Gulf War, was attached to a mobile hospital, essentially a MASH unit for Marines.

Many veterans, family members, friends, and the broader community have played a role in getting the monument built.

Henderson's son-in-law, Mike Suydam, designed the monument — with suggestions from Henderson. On one side is a female veteran — deliberately designed to look generic. Beneath her feet is a tribute to the women who served in the armed forces. On a second side is a star with emblems of each branch of the service and an interpretation of what the monument means. On the third side is a flying flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Central Florida Monument Co. of Inverness engraved the monument and placed it at the Old Courthouse. Owner Margaret Gay, Operations Manager Brad Watt, and Production Supervisor John Magill all played roles in getting the monument set next to the monument at the Old Courthouse that honors World War I and II veterans. The three granite



Female Veterans Network members sit on a sofa at President Cynthia Henderson's house in Lecanto. They are, from left, Jeanetta "Jane" Mundis, who is the group's treasurer; President Cynthia Henderson, and Joanne Hirst, who is the group's historian. Henderson is holding the paper replica of the monument.

steps forming the base of the female veterans' monument already are in place at the Old Courthouse. Magill set them there, while Watt oversaw the design. At the time of this writing, the dedication date still had to be sandblasted into the granite.

To get to this point, FVN had to raise money — lots of it. Many people and

groups contributed to the statue, but Henderson especially wants to thank Tommy Piliouras, owner of Marguerita Grill in Homosassa. For a fundraiser at his restaurant in May 2019, Piliouras donated a day of his proceeds and his staff donated their time, netting FVN over \$11,000.

The monument originally was going to be

located at a site along Yulee Drive in Homosassa that is subject to flooding. When FVN became aware of the flooding issues, the group started looking for a new site.

In July, the Citrus County Commissioners unanimously approved the site at the Old Courthouse, which it shares with the World War I and II



A paper replica of one side of the Female Veterans Network monument to honor female veterans is shown. The star and emblems represent the five branches of the military. The inscription interprets what the form and shape of the monument mean.

toiletries to the homeless, cancer survivors, and others in need. They've donated masks and socks to elementary children. They've donated afghans and blankets to homeless people and to veterans.

"For us, it's about giving back to the community," Monty said.

Now that the dream of a monument is almost reality, what would Henderson and FVN like to tackle next?

"I'd like to see a monument to female veterans in every county," Henderson said, "or at least to female veterans in every state."

FVN welcomes new members, including veterans, current duty members, and those who haven't served in the military but who support female veterans and the goals of FVN. For more information about FVN, the monument, or the monument unveiling, contact Henderson at 352-628-6481 or email cynthia@femaleveteransnetwork.org.

News of RECORD

Marriages recorded in Citrus County from Dec. 14-20, 2020

- David Allen Bletsh Sr., Homosassa / Patricia Ann Wright, Homosassa.
- William Paul Booker, Inverness / Carmen Joan Otts, Inverness.
- Selena Nicole Cox, Crystal River / Mark Raymond Wise, Crystal River.
- Travis Ryan Denny, Hernando / Nancy Ann Bormann, Hernando.
- Cassie Lynn Hall, Hernando / Glen Edward Hall, Hernando.
- Benjamin Levi Keech,

- Dunnellon / Corrinna Carol Camilleri, Umatilla.
- Marc Gregory Manders, Inverness / Cheyenne Marie Morgan, Inverness.
- Rachel Marie Re, Beverly Hills / Brandon Ray Hardy, Beverly Hills.
- Robert Nicholas Topping, Floral City / Samatha Collene Cave, Floral City.
- Nickolas James Vanbelkum, Citrus Springs / Donna Marie Fontaine, Citrus Springs.

Dissolution of marriage

- Renee A. Bailey, Crystal River vs. Dennis M Bailey, Crystal River.
- Lisa L. Demicoli, Crystal River vs. Frank E Demicoli, Homosassa.

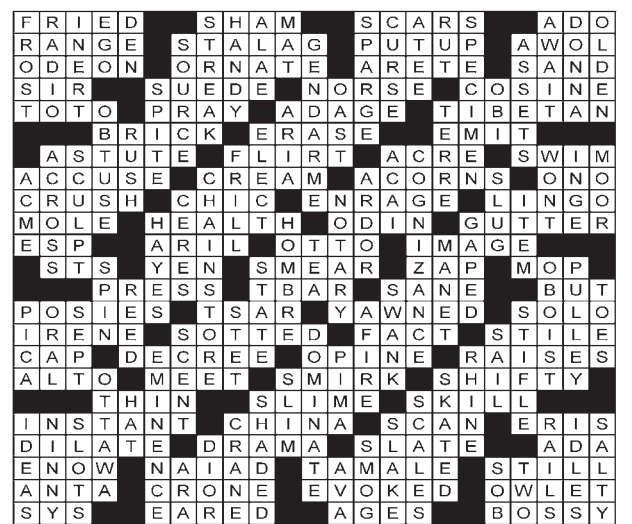
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Sunday PUZZLER ANSWERS

Sunday Puzzler is on Page A12



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■ News of record is provided by the office of the Citrus County clerk of the circuit court.

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<p>FREE</p> <p>Pontic with bridge (3 units or more)</p> <p>D6740</p> <p><small>Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. Expires 1/31/21</small></p>	<p>Metal-Free Crowns "The Aesthetic Crown"</p> <p>\$659</p> <p>D2740</p> <p><small>Excludes D2950 Core build-up. For non-insured patients. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. Expires 1/31/21</small></p>	<p>Replacement Denture starting at</p> <p>\$500</p> <p>D5110 or D5120</p> <p><small>For non-insured patients. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. Expires 1/31/21.</small></p>	<p>\$1,800</p> <p>Implant</p> <p>D6010</p> <p><small>Excludes: Crown (D6058), custom abutment (D6057), Socket preservation, sinus lift, and extractions (D4265, D4263, D7951, D7952, D7210) For non-insured patients only. Must present coupon at time of service. Price subject to change. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. Expires 1/31/21.</small></p>

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Games with multiple rushing touchdowns for Iowa State's Breece Hall, tying the record for the most in a season in Big 12 history.



Breece Hall

SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021



No. 12 Iowa St. beats No. 25 Oregon 34-17 in Fiesta Bowl./B2

- College football/B2, B5
- Scoreboard/B3
- Sports briefs/B3
- Lottery, TV/B3
- NFL/B4
- Bowling scores/B5
- NBA/B6
- Men's college basketball/B6

Alabama, Ohio State go at it again

Six years after last playoff meeting

STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP sports writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — When Ohio State upset Alabama in the semifinals of the first College Football Playoff on the way to the Buckeyes' last national title, it seemed like the start of a budding postseason rivalry between the two traditional powers.

Instead, Clemson became the Crimson Tide's nemesis and the biggest challenger to Nick Saban's Alabama dynasty over the next five years.

Six years later, Ohio State and Alabama meet again, the Tide still rolling and the Buckeyes again looking for an upset.

After the SEC champion Crimson Tide rolled past Notre Dame 31-14 in a Rose Bowl played deep in the heart of Texas, the No. 3 Buckeyes of the Big Ten beat Clemson 49-28 in the other CFP semifinal at the Sugar Bowl on Friday night behind Justin Fields' six touchdown passes.

How Fields is feeling will be

the main story line heading into the title game. He took a hard shot to the side in the second quarter against Clemson, but managed to play through the pain.

"He couldn't do everything, but what a gutsy performance, what a tough and special young man Justin Fields is," said Ohio State coach Ryan Day, in his second season after taking over from Urban Meyer.

Clemson was trying, like Alabama, to get to the title game for the fifth time in the seven seasons of the four-team playoff. It would have been the fourth Tigers-Tide game for the CFP championship.

Instead it's a matchup of storied programs playing Jan. 11 in suburban Miami to determine the champion of this most unusual season played in the shadow of a pandemic.

Alabama was the top seed in the first four-team playoff after the 2014 season, but Ohio State beat the Tide 42-35 in the semifinal Sugar Bowl behind Meyer, Ezekiel Elliott and Cardale Jones.

Those Buckeyes faced doubters of their playoff worthiness like these. In 2014, Ohio State had to come back from an early



Alabama players celebrate their 31-14 win against Notre Dame in the Rose Bowl game on Friday in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

season loss to Virginia Tech to slip into the final playoff spot on the last weekend of the regular season.

After beating Alabama, the Buckeyes went on to win the national title 42-20 over Oregon that year, but they had lost twice

to Clemson in the semifinals since.

While this season's CFP has
See CFP/Page B3

One last tune up



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) throws during the first half of a game against the Detroit Lions, Saturday, Dec. 26, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Red-hot Buccaneers not looking past Falcons as the playoffs approach

FRED GOODALL
AP sports writer

TAMPA — Bruce Arians is not ready to reflect on the challenge of transforming the Tampa Bay Buccaneers into winners.

With the 68-year-old coach and six-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady leading the way, the Bucs (10-5) are headed to the playoffs for the first time since 2007. They enter Sunday's regular-season finale against the Atlanta Falcons as one of the hottest teams in the NFC.

A fourth consecutive win would clinch their best finish in 15 years, as well as send them into the postseason as a No. 5 seed.

"I think our guys made a commitment in August to each other, that if we beat the virus, we'd have a chance. If we stayed healthy, we'd have a chance to beat some teams that didn't," Arians said.

"This is a big game coming up — a chance to keep that five seed and go 11-5," the coach added. "I think we'll think about all that when we can look in the rearview mirror. Right now, we're

still looking ahead. It's not really a time to reflect yet."

Brady said it's vital to finish strong, continuing to build momentum for the playoffs.

"We were 7-5 at the bye week and then won three straight," the 43-year-old quarterback said. "It's been really important, and we've got another big one ... against Atlanta. Whatever happens after that is bonus for all of us."

The Falcons (4-10) are wrapping up a season that claimed the jobs of former coach Dan Quinn and general manager Thomas Dimitroff after an 0-5 start. The team has gone 4-5 under interim coach Raheem Morris, including a 31-27 loss at home to Tampa Bay two weeks ago.

The Bucs trailed by 17 before Brady led scoring drives on five consecutive second-half possessions to win the game.

Atlanta played reigning Super Bowl champion Kansas City tough before falling 17-14 on the road last week.

Morris said one of the things he'll remember most about a season in which the coronavirus pandemic has presented challenges on and off the field for all teams is the consistent effort of

the Falcons in the face of adversity.

"These guys play hard every single week," Morris said. "You can question a lot of things about a team, you can question a lot about talent, you can question a lot about decision making, you cannot question these guys' effort."

SUBPAR YEAR

Defensive end Dante Fowler struggled after signing a \$45 million, three-year contract with the Falcons in free agency. He was coming off an 11 1/2-sack season with the Los Angeles Rams, but was slowed by ankle and hamstring injuries in addition to spending time on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

"We have to get him going," Morris said.

"I was pretty banged up this year, but that's no excuse. I'm still held to a standard. This year I don't feel like I played up to my standards," said Fowler, who has two sacks. "Whether I was hurt or not, I can play better and I will get better."

MACK'S FUTURE

Count quarterback Matt Ryan among
See BUCS/Page B3

Castleton leads Gators Florida defeats LSU 83-79

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — Colin Castleton scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half and Florida held off LSU 83-79 on Saturday.

Castleton scored Florida's first 15 points of the second half, including a personal 9-0 run that put the Gators up 51-45. He made two free throws and Tre Mann followed with a 3-pointer to push the lead to 62-52 at the 12-minute mark.

The lead was never more than 10 but was at 10 on a Mann jumper with 3:15 to go. From there the Gators missed four shots and the Tigers twice made it a one-possession game but Scottie Lewis made 5 of 6 free throws in the last 29 seconds, including the clinchers with 5.9 seconds to go.

Mann scored 19 points, Lewis had 17 and Anthony Duruji 16 with seven rebounds for the Gators (5-1, 2-0 Southeastern Conference). Castleton was 7 of 10 from the field and 7 of 7 from the line, where Florida was 20 of 23.

Freshman star Cam Thomas scored 28 points for the Tigers (6-2, 1-1), who had their five-game winning streak stopped. Trendon Watford added 21 points with eight rebounds and Javonte Smart 20. LSU shot 41% but made seven 3s and went 22 of 25 from the line.

In the first half, LSU was 5 of 8 from 3-point range but Florida shot 58% overall and the score was tied at 40 at the break.

Thomas, the leading scorer in the SEC and third in the nation at 24.1 points a game, had a four-point play with just over a minute to go in the first half for a 40-35 lead. But Omar Payne made two free throws 10 seconds later and after LSU missed, Duruji had a deep 3-pointer from the right wing as time ran out.

It was a good half for the Gators with Castleton, the junior transfer from Michigan, playing just two minutes because of early foul trouble and leading scorer Keyontae Johnson (16 points per game) still sidelined after collapsing during a game on Dec. 12 and needing emergency medical attention.
See GATORS/Page B3

Corral, Ole Miss take down No. 7 Indiana

Rebels earn Outback win

FRED GOODALL
AP sports writer

TAMPA — Even before Mississippi took the field for the Outback Bowl, the Rebels felt good about the direction they're headed.

Coach Lane Kiffin was rewarded with a new contract despite having only been at the school one season. There also was no guarantee one of the nation's lowest-ranked defenses would be able to slow down No. 7 Indiana enough to ensure the team's first non-losing record since 2017.

"It's really only up from here," quarterback Matt Corral said Saturday after throwing for 342 yards and two touchdowns to pace a 26-20 victory that ruined the finish to surprising Indiana's breakout season.

Corral's 3-yard pass to Dontario Drummond put the Rebels (5-5) ahead for good with 4:12 remaining.

The Ole Miss defense, which allowed 535.7 yards and 40.3 points per game during the regular season, came through with one more stop to clinch the school's first bowl win since beating Oklahoma State in the 2016 Sugar Bowl.

"We talked about it all week. We're going to need that," Kiffin said. "We were not going to go score 60 points. ... We knew it was going to be a struggle, and it was great to see the defense play like they did."

Drummond finished with six catches for 110 yards. Corral completed 30 of 44 passes without an interception, including a 5-yard TD throw to Casey Kelly that put Ole Miss up 13-3 midway through the second quarter.

Jack Tuttle was 26 of 45 for 201 yards in his second start in place of Michael Penix Jr. for Indiana (6-2), which lost its star quarterback to a season-ending knee injury in late November.

Stevie Scott III rushed for 99 yards and scored on runs of 3 and 2 yards to help Indiana wipe out a 20-6 deficit in the fourth quarter.

Ole Miss missed the extra point after Drummond's go-ahead TD catch, leaving Indiana with an opportunity to pull out its first bowl win in nearly 30 years.

The Hoosiers, who don't have a postseason win since

the 1991 Copper Bowl, drove to the Rebels 33 before stalling and turning it over on downs.

"They made enough plays to come up with the win. I'm disappointed for our players," Indiana coach Tom Allen said. "They have been through so much, sacrificed so much and worked hard. This one is going to hurt for a while."

UNIFORM STATEMENT

Indiana created a stir by removing Big Ten logos from their uniforms before the game, sparking speculation of a rift between the Hoosiers and the conference after the team did not receive a berth in a New Year's Six game.

The Big Ten logo was replaced by an Outback Bowl logo on jerseys, and the letters "LEO" were added to helmets.

Allen issued a statement to clarify "what we are wearing on our uniform and helmet," noting that ever since he took over as coach at Indiana the program's mantra has been "LEO, Love Each Other."

"This season has been the most trying we will ever experience, and we felt it was appropriate to showcase LEO, which has carried us through one of the most historic years in Indiana football history," Allen said. "We did not intend to show any disrespect to anyone. We are a proud member of the Big Ten and are always representing our conference."

THE TAKEAWAY

Ole Miss: The Rebels appeared in a bowl for the first time in five years, finishing on a winning note despite playing without two of its most productive offensive players — receiver Elijah Moore and tight end Kenny Yeboah — who opted out of the remainder of the season to focus on the NFL draft.

Indiana: The Hoosiers were not happy about not being selected to play in a New Year's Six game. Saturday's loss concluded a season in which they turned heads by beating traditional Big Ten heavyweights Penn State, Michigan, Michigan State and Wisconsin and losing narrowly to CFP finalist Ohio State on the way to their best start since 1993.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

The loss could cost Indiana what likely would have been a Top 10 finish in the final AP Poll.

Iowa St. takes Fiesta Bowl



Associated Press

Iowa State wide receiver Xavier Hutchinson (8) can't hold onto the ball in the end zone during the first half of the Fiesta Bowl against Oregon on Saturday, in Glendale, Ariz.

Cyclones roll past Oregon

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Iowa State had a year of highs in the dark days of a pandemic. The Cyclones capped it with a dominating performance under one of college football's brightest spotlights.

Breece Hall ran for 136 yards and two touchdowns, Brock Purdy accounted for two scores and No. 12 Iowa State grinded out a 34-17 victory over No. 25 Oregon in the Fiesta Bowl on Saturday.

"Life has been really hard for our society, really since March," coach Matt Campbell said. "Through dark and trying times, this team has been a beacon of hope for a lot. This team has grown and gotten better when things maybe say the other way."

The Cyclones (9-3, CFP 10) used their ball-control offense to dominate the time of possession and keep Oregon's offense off the field for long stretches to win their first New Year's Six bowl.

Hall, an AP All-American, had 34 carries and his ninth 100-yard game this season. Purdy, who went to high school in nearby Gilbert, threw for 156 yards and a touchdown on 20-of-29 passing, adding a touchdown on the ground.

Iowa State had a time of possession advantage of more than 25 minutes to cap the best season in school history.

"We're a tough team," Purdy said. "We've faced so much the past couple of years. We have a lot of great leaders and experienced guys who have been there and understand this is what we've got to do to take it to the next level. I feel like that's what we've done this year."

Oregon (4-3, CFP 25) alternated between Tyler Shough and Anthony Brown at quarterback, but couldn't sustain anything on offense and was plagued by numerous mistakes.

The Ducks lost two fumbles, an interception and a pooch kick. They also turned it over when a punt hit a blocker's helmet and had a touchdown wiped out by a penalty.

"Obviously, we didn't play up to our standards," Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said. "It's a game of execution and in critical situations, we didn't coach well enough or play well enough."

Iowa State took a methodical offensive approach in the Fiesta Bowl, scoring its first two touchdowns on drives of 14 and 15 plays. Hall scored for the 12th straight game on a 1-yard run and Charlie Kolar caught a 14-yard TD pass from Purdy.

The Cyclones were stuffed on a fourth-and-goal from the 1 in the

second quarter, but went right back to marching on Oregon's defense.

Purdy scored on a 1-yard run and Hall made it 28-14 with a 1-yard run after Iowa State recovered a pooch kick.

The Cyclones bogged down in the second half, settling for two field goals by Connor Assalley, but maintained their ball-control advantage and shut down Oregon's offense.

"We didn't go into the game saying, 'We're going to eat up as much clock as we can,' but that's really how the game turned out for us," Purdy said.

The Ducks won their second straight Pac-12 championship after Washington had to pull out, earning their second straight trip to a major bowl.

Oregon had some early offensive success against the Cyclones, scoring on touchdown runs of 6 and 16 yards by Brown. The Ducks moved the ball late in the first half, but a 27-yard touchdown pass from Brown to Mycah Pittman was wiped out by a holding penalty. Henry Kattelman's 47-yard field goal pulled them within 28-17.

Shough returned for several plays in the second half, but he nor Brown could get much going. Oregon had 88 yards of offense in the second half and Shough's pass was intercepted by Mike Rose late in the fourth quarter.

"They played exactly the way we expected to and we just didn't

execute," said Shough, who threw for 79 yards on 7-of-9 passing. "That's what it comes down to."

THE TAKEAWAY

Oregon labored offensively at times and was hurt by costly mistakes to end a strange season with a loss.

Iowa State used its ball-control offense to cap the best season in program history.

QB HOMECOMING

Purdy and Shough played on the same baseball team as kids growing up in Arizona. They work out together in the offseason, have the same quarterback coach and had some epic battles as high school rivals.

Purdy won their first meeting on a college football field, but their connection will remain strong.

"We said congrats on a great year to one another," he said. "He had a tremendous year and I told him that I loved him and that we want the best for each other."

UP NEXT

Oregon has one of the youngest teams in the country this season and should get nearly every-one back next year.

Hall is a sophomore and will be back and Purdy said he will come back for his senior season. Iowa State will have to replace several key players on defense, but Rose is just a junior.

Kentucky tops NC State in chippy Gator

Wildcats runs for 281 yards in victory

MARK LONG
AP sports writer

JACKSONVILLE — Kentucky's postgame locker room provided a scene players and coaches might never forget. They celebrated a third consecutive bowl victory while dedicating it to two guys who couldn't be there.

This one was for late offensive line coach John Schlarman and rehabbing linebacker Chris Oats, who has been battling a significant medical condition since May.

A.J. Rose ran for a career-high 148 yards, Chris Rodriguez added 84 yards and two scores and the Wildcats held off No. 24 North Carolina State 23-21 on Saturday in a chippy TaxSlayer Gator Bowl.

"It was extremely emotional, even walking into the locker room we were saying, 'That was for (Oats), that was for Schlarman,'" said linebacker Jamin Davis, who finished with 13 tackles and an interception.

"It's definitely something to show to the younger guys that we just keep playing through all the adversity, whatever's going on around us, all the outside noise," Davis added. "Just block it out. ... We've got to keep going regardless."

Christopher Dunn missed two field goals for the Wolfpack (8-4), who trailed 16-14 late when Bailey Hockman threw his third interception of the game. Rodriguez scored on the ensuing play, going nearly untouched for 26 yards.

NC State got a final chance after Jordan Houston scored with 1:10 remaining. But Allen Dailey recovered Dunn's inside kick, and the

Wildcats (5-6) ran out the clock. Coach Mark Stoops got a Gatorade bath following the team's second straight win, which ended a tumultuous season that included Schlarman's death following a two-year battle with cancer.

"John was definitely looking down on us; Coach Schlarman definitely inspired us all," said Rose, who was named Kentucky's bowl game MVP. "Offensive line did a great job today. They were moving people all around all day. I give credit to all five of those guys."

Kentucky finished with 281 yards on the ground, helping offset one of the nation's worst passing attacks.

A big issue for the Wolfpack was playing without four defensive starters. Safety Tanner Ingle (suspended), defensive tackle Alim McNeil (opt out) and injured linebackers Payton Wilson and Drake Thomas missed the game.

"Those are four really good run defenders against a really good rushing offense," NC State coach Dave Doeren said. "We were concerned coming into the game about it. Not that we stopped the run; we didn't. But we did enough and kept them off the scoreboard enough to give ourselves a chance."

Zonovan Knight, who led the Wolfpack with 52 yards rushing and a touchdown, was named the losing team's MVP.

Penalties were a problem for both teams. There were 11 unsportsmanlike conduct penalties and several more instances where a flag could have been thrown.

"I got to get them cleaned up and I will. That's not us; we're not going to accept that," said Stoops, who blamed part of it on being unfamiliar with the Big 12 officiating crew. "When you get in these bowl games, you're not used to certain officials,

and I've got to do a better job preparing us for that."

THE TAKEAWAY

North Carolina State: The Wolfpack were looking to end the season on a five-game winning streak. It would have been the first time the program had accomplished the feat since 1965.

Kentucky: The Wildcats won their third bowl game in as many seasons for the second time in school history. They also won three straight between 2006 and 2008.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

North Carolina State almost surely will fall out of the final Associated Press College Football poll, which is scheduled to be released following the national championship game on Jan. 11.

KEY INJURIES

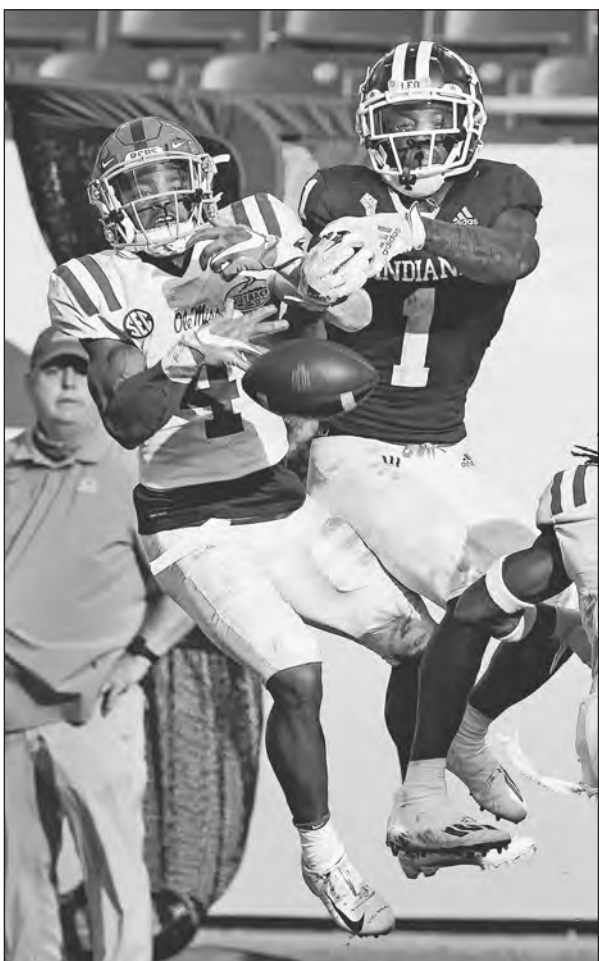
North Carolina State: Junior center Grant Gibson, who played every snap in the regular season, seemingly tore a ligament in his left knee while celebrating the team's first touchdown. Gibson and receiver CJ Riley jumped in unison, but Gibson crumpled to the ground after his landing.

Kentucky: Kentucky cornerback Brandin Echols was knocked out in the third after getting walloped by teammate Vito Tisdale. Echols, a senior, appeared to vomit on the field before getting helped to the sideline.

UP NEXT

North Carolina State: Opens the 2021 season at home against USF on Sept. 2.

Kentucky: Opens at home against Louisiana-Monroe on Sept. 4. It will be 65-year-old coach Terry Bowden's debut with the Warhawks.



Associated Press

Mississippi defensive back Tylan Knight (4) breaks up a pass intended for Indiana wide receiver Whop Philyor (1) during the second half of the Outback Bowl on Saturday, in Tampa.

FOOTBALL

NFL standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
yx-Buffalo	12	3	0	.800	445 349
Miami	10	5	0	.667	378 282
New England	6	9	0	.400	298 339
N.Y. Jets	2	13	0	.133	229 429
South					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Indianapolis	10	5	0	.667	423 348
Tennessee	10	5	0	.667	450 401
Houston	4	11	0	.267	346 423
Jacksonville	1	14	0	.067	292 464
North					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
yx-Pittsburgh	12	3	0	.800	394 288
Baltimore	10	5	0	.667	430 300
Cleveland	10	5	0	.667	384 397
Cincinnati	4	10	1	.300	308 386
West					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
*yx-Kansas City	14	1	0	.933	452 324
Las Vegas	7	8	0	.467	402 447
L.A. Chargers	6	9	0	.400	346 405
Denver	5	10	0	.333	292 414

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Dallas	6	9	0	.400	376 450
Washington	6	9	0	.400	315 315
N.Y. Giants	5	10	0	.333	257 338
Philadelphia	4	10	1	.300	320 398
South					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
yx-New Orleans	11	4	0	.733	449 330
x-Tampa Bay	10	5	0	.667	448 328
Carolina	5	10	0	.333	343 369
Atlanta	4	11	0	.267	369 370
North					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
yx-Green Bay	12	3	0	.800	474 353
Chicago	8	7	0	.533	356 335
Minnesota	6	9	0	.400	393 440
Detroit	5	10	0	.333	342 482
West					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
yx-Seattle	11	4	0	.733	433 348
L.A. Rams	9	6	0	.600	354 289
Arizona	8	7	0	.533	403 349
San Francisco	6	9	0	.400	353 364

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

z-clinched first round bye

*-clinched home-field advantage

Today's Games

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at New England, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 4:25 p.m.
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 4:25 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Kansas City, 4:25 p.m.
Las Vegas at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
New Orleans at Carolina, 4:25 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
Tennessee at Houston, 4:25 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.

NFL Playoff scenarios

Week 17
AFC

CLINCHED: Buffalo Bills - AFC East division title; Kansas City Chiefs - AFC West division title and first-round bye; Pittsburgh Steelers - AFC North division title.

BALTIMORE RAVENS (10-5)

at Cincinnati (4-10-1)

Baltimore clinches playoff berth with:

— A win
— Losses by Cleveland or Indianapolis
— A tie and a loss by Miami or Tennessee
— A tie and tie by Cleveland or Indianapolis
CLEVELAND BROWNS (10-5)
vs. Pittsburgh (12-3)
Cleveland clinches playoff berth with:
— A win
— A loss by Indianapolis
— A Tennessee loss and a win or tie by Miami and win or tie by Baltimore
— A tie and a Baltimore win or tie
— A tie and a loss by Baltimore, Miami or Tennessee
— A tie and a tie by Indianapolis
— A tie and a tie by Tennessee and a win by Baltimore and win by Miami

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (10-5)

vs. Jacksonville (1-14)

Indianapolis clinches AFC South division title with:

— A win and a Tennessee loss or tie
— A tie and a Tennessee loss
Indianapolis clinches playoff berth with:
— A win and a loss or tie by Baltimore, Cleveland or Miami
— A tie and a loss by Baltimore, Cleveland or Miami

MIAMI DOLPHINS (10-5)

at Buffalo (11-3)

Miami clinches playoff berth with:

— A win
— A loss by Baltimore, Cleveland or Indianapolis
— A tie and a tie by Baltimore, Cleveland or Indianapolis
— A tie and a loss by Tennessee
TENNESSEE TITANS (10-5)
at Houston (4-11)

Tennessee clinches AFC South division title with:

— A win
— A loss by Indianapolis
— A tie and a tie by Indianapolis
Tennessee clinches playoff berth with:
— A loss by Baltimore or Miami
— A tie and a loss by Cleveland
— A tie and a tie by Miami or Baltimore

NFC

CLINCHED: Green Bay Packers - NFC North division title; New Orleans Saints - NFC South division title; Seattle Seahawks - NFC West division title; Tampa Bay Buccaneers - playoff berth

ARIZONA CARDINALS (8-7)

at L.A. Rams (9-6)

Arizona clinches playoff berth with:

— A win
— A tie and a loss by Chicago
CHICAGO BEARS (8-7)
vs. Green Bay (12-3)
Chicago clinches playoff berth with:
— A win
— A loss by Arizona
— A tie and a tie by Arizona

DALLAS COWBOYS (6-9)

at N.Y. Giants (5-10)

Dallas clinches NFC East division title with:

— A win and a loss or tie by Washington
— A tie and a loss by Washington
GREEN BAY PACKERS (12-3)
at Chicago (8-7)
Green Bay clinches the first-round bye with:
— A win or tie
— A loss or tie by Seattle

LOS ANGELES RAMS (9-6)

vs. Arizona (8-7)

Los Angeles clinches playoff berth with:

— A win or tie
— A loss or tie by Chicago
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (11-4)
at Carolina (5-10)
New Orleans clinches the first-round bye with:
— A win and loss by Green Bay and a win by Seattle

NEW YORK GIANTS (5-10) vs. Dallas (6-9)

New York clinches NFC East division title with:

— A win and a loss by Washington
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (11-4)
at San Francisco (6-9)
Seattle clinches the first-round bye with:
— A win and a loss by Green Bay and a loss or tie by New Orleans

Florida LOTTERY

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

PICK 2 (early)

1 - 4

PICK 2 (late)

3 - 9

PICK 3 (early)

5 - 5 - 2

PICK 3 (late)

7 - 5 - 4

PICK 4 (early)

8 - 2 - 2 - 5

PICK 4 (late)

4 - 2 - 0 - 5

PICK 5 (early)

3 - 8 - 9 - 4 - 4

PICK 5 (late)

5 - 6 - 8 - 0 - 2

FANTASY 5

1 - 9 - 20 - 29 - 36

LOTTO

12 - 14 - 19 - 31 - 50 -

52

POWERBALL

3 - 4 - 11 - 41 - 67

POWER BALL

5

CASH 4 LIFE

31 - 33 - 35 - 37 - 50

CASH BALL

3

Friday's winning numbers and payouts:

Jackpot Triple Play: 12 - 20 - 32 - 36 - 43 - 46	4-of-5 MB 4 winners \$10,000
6-of-6 No winner	4-of-5 53 winners \$500
5-of-6 40 winners \$338.50	3-of-5 MB 138 \$200
4-of-6 1,416 \$23	3-of-5 3,094 \$10
3-of-6 23,625 \$1	2-of-5 MB 3,000 \$10
Combo 10+ No winner	Fantasy 5: 4 - 13 - 17 - 18 - 28
Combo9 15 \$500	5-of-5 3 winners \$66,336
Combo8 87 \$50	4-of-5 289 \$111
Combo7 629 \$20	3-of-5 8,970 \$10
Combo6 3,154 \$10	Cash 4 Life: 9 - 17 - 23 - 37 - 47
Combo5 11,883 \$5	Cash Ball: 1
Mega Millions: 8 - 24 - 53 - 68 - 69	5-of-5 CB No winner
Mega Ball: 7	5-of-5 No winner
5-of-5 MB No winner	Players should verify winning numbers by calling 850-487-7777 or at www.flalottery.com.
5-of-5 No winner	

On the AIRWAVES

TODAY'S SPORTS

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

4:30 p.m. (NBCSPT) Saint Joseph's at Rhode Island

6 p.m. (ACCN) Wake Forest at Georgia Tech

6 p.m. (ESPN2) Bradley at Northern Iowa

7 p.m. (ESPN2) Houston at SMU

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

12 p.m. (ACCN) Louisville at Virginia

12 p.m. (ESPN2) Kentucky at Mississippi State

1 p.m. (SEC) Texas A&M at Florida

1 p.m. (SUN) North Carolina at Pittsburgh

2 p.m. (ACCN) Boston College at NC State

2 p.m. (FS1) DePaul at Marquette

3 p.m. (ESPN2) Iowa State at Texas

3 p.m. (SEC) Vanderbilt at Mississippi State

4 p.m. (ACCN) Georgia Tech at Notre Dame

5 p.m. (ESPN2) Michigan at Northwestern

5 p.m. (SEC) Missouri at Arkansas

4:30 a.m. (ESPN2) Michigan at Northwestern (Same-day Tape)

NBA

3 p.m. (NBA) Boston Celtics at Detroit Pistons

6 p.m. (NBA) Washington Wizards at Brooklyn Nets

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

9 a.m. (ESPN2) TaxSlayer Gator Bowl: NC State vs Kentucky (Taped)

NFL

1 p.m. (10 CBS) Miami Dolphins at Buffalo Bills

1 p.m. (13 FOX) Atlanta Falcons at Tampa Bay Buccaneers

4:25 p.m. (10 CBS) Arizona Cardinals at Los Angeles Rams

4:25 p.m. (13 FOX) Green Bay Packers at Chicago Bears

8:20 p.m. (8 NBC) Washington Football Team at Philadelphia Eagles

RUGBY

2:30 p.m. (NBCSPT) Premiership Leicester Tigers vs Bath Rugby (Same-day Tape)

SOCCER

6:25 a.m. (ESPN2) Italian Serie A Inter Milan vs Crotone

7 a.m. (NBCSPT) Premier League Burnley vs Fulham

9:10 a.m. (NBCSPT) Premier League Newcastle United vs Leicester City

11:25 a.m. (NBCSPT) Premier League Chelsea vs Manchester City

WINTER SPORTS

3 p.m. (8 NBC) FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup: Women's Slalom (Taped)

4:30 p.m. (8 NBC) FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup: Men's Downhill (Taped)

6:30 p.m. (NBCSPT) FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup: Women's Slalom (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.

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM (6-9) at Philadelphia (4-10-1)

Washington clinches NFC East division title with:

— A win

— A tie and a loss or tie by Dallas

BASKETBALL

NBA standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	5	1	.833	—
Brooklyn	3	3	.500	2
New York	3	3	.500	2
Boston	3	3	.500	2
Toronto	1	4	.200	3½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	4	2	.667	—
Atlanta	4	2	.667	—
Miami	2	3	.400	1½
Charlotte	2	4	.333	2
Washington	1	5	.167	3

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	4	2	.667	—
Cleveland	4	2	.667	—
Milwaukee	3	3	.500	1
Chicago	2	4	.333	2
Detroit	1	4	.200	2½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	4	2	.667	—
Houston	2	2	.500	1
San Antonio	2	3	.400	1½
Dallas	2	3	.400	1½
Memphis	2	3	.400	1½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	3	2	.600	—
Portland	3	2	.600	—
Minnesota	2	3	.400	1
Oklahoma City	2	3	.400	1
Denver	1	4	.200	2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	5	1	.833	—
L.A. Clippers	4	2	.667	1
L.A. Lakers	4	2	.667	1
Sacramento	3	3	.500	2
Golden State	2	3	.400	2½

Friday's Games

Detroit 96, Boston 93

Memphis 108, Charlotte 93

Dallas 93, Miami 83

Atlanta 114, Brooklyn 96

Washington 130, Minnesota 109

Milwaukee 126, Chicago 96

L.A. Lakers 109, San Antonio 103

Utah 106, L.A. Clippers 100

Phoenix 106, Denver 103

Portland 123, Golden State 98

Playoff races going down to the wire

AFC South, NFC East up for grabs

BARRY WILNER
AP pro football writer

As the calendar turns to 2021, the NFL is experiencing pretty much what it covets. Try two division races, and five wild-card berths out of six still undecided.

Not to go unnoticed, naturally, is that the league is about to finish an entire schedule on time, with a few postponements but not nearly the disruptions plaguing the other major sports organizations in 2020.

The focus in Week 17 will range from coast to coast. Miami, Baltimore, Cleveland, Tennessee and Indianapolis are chasing postseason qualification in the AFC, while the Cardinals, Rams, Bears, Giants, Cowboys and Washington seek NFC spots.

AFC SOUTH

Both contenders for this division face NFL tailenders. The Titans have everything in their control, while the Colts need assistance.

Tennessee (10-5) at Houston (4-11)

"It doesn't get any more clear than it is for us right now," Titans quarterback Ryan Tanneill said. "We win this game, find a way to win, win the division. That's one of the things we set out to do this year. It's pretty clear what we need to do. We just have to go out and make it happen."

To do so, and take the AFC South for the first time since 2008, they'll certainly rely on Derrick Henry. He's assured of repeating as NFL rushing champ, the first since Hall of Famer LaDainian Tomlinson in 2006-07. Henry has a career-high 1,777 yards rushing and ran for 212 yards in his most recent game against the Texans. He had 211 yards rushing last year in Houston, so reaching the elusive 2,000-yard level is possible

Jacksonville (1-14) at Indianapolis (10-5)

Indy lost a direct path to the postseason by falling at Pittsburgh last week. So the Colts need to handle the league's worst team, then get help.

Indianapolis needs a win and a loss by Baltimore, Cleveland, Miami or Tennessee to make it. But Colts veterans claim they won't be watching the scoreboards.

"Me personally, it will be real easy," linebacker Justin Houston said. "I have a job to do and that's playing against the Jags. I can't focus on anything else. If you do focus on anything else, it will become a distraction from what you really have to do. I can't let that be a distraction."

Jacksonville owns the top overall selection in April's draft, and could carry a 15-game slide into an offseason when Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence figures to be that pick.

NFC EAST

It's quite simple, really — at least in this woeful division. A Washington victory gives it the division crown. Otherwise, the winner of the game at the Meadowlands gets in; we're not getting into any scenarios with ties.

Washington (6-9) at Philadelphia (4-10-1)

Washington blew its first shot



Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry, left, runs past Detroit Lions outside linebacker Jamie Collins during the second half of a Dec. 20 game in Nashville, Tenn. Henry led the NFL with 1,540 yards rushing last season before running the Titans to their first AFC championship game in 17 years.

Associated Press

to clinch a playoff spot by losing at home to Carolina. It tries again, hoping veteran quarterback Alex Smith has recovered enough from a calf injury to go. Otherwise, it's journeyman Taylor Heinicke.

"We understand the situation," running back J.D. McKissic said. "You can just tell guys are laser-focused out there (at practice). There's not much talking and when there is, it's about football. Guys are just ready to play."

Dallas (6-9) at New York Giants (5-10)

An atrocious defense has made a bit of a turnaround in Big D: The Cowboys have 10 takeaways in their three-game winning streak. They had 11 in the first 12 games.

Andy Dalton has settled in nicely at quarterback, too. Ezekiel Elliott, despite a mediocre performance in 2020, needs 63 yards rushing for 1,000 this season, his fourth such output in five seasons.

New York has a somewhat-hobbled Daniel Jones at quarterback and has dropped three straight. LB Blake Martinez has 140 tackles, his fourth straight season with at least that many.

AFC NORTH

The Steelers broke a very ugly three-game skid with a massive second half to beat Indianapolis and earn the division title. Cleveland gets a wild card with a win, would need help should it fail.

Baltimore also heads to the postseason by beating the Bengals.

Pittsburgh (12-3) at Cleveland (10-5)

Despite the juicy prospect of possibly extending their despised rivals' postseason exclusion, now at 17 seasons, the Steelers will rest a bunch of regulars, including Ben Roethlisberger. Pittsburgh's 52 sacks lead the NFL, putting the Steelers in a position to top the league a fourth straight season.

Several COVID-19 issues remain for Cleveland, but it should have its dynamic backfield combo of Nick Chubb, who's 41 yards short of 1,000 rushing, and Kareem Hunt. Chubb's got

11 touchdowns despite missing four games, including the earlier loss against Pittsburgh, with a sprained knee.

Baltimore (10-5) at Cincinnati (4-10-1)

During their four-game winning streak, the Ravens have averaged 37 points and 233.3 yards rushing per game. QB Lamar Jackson has thrown eight TD passes and run for four scores during that stretch.

NFC WEST

The Seahawks own the division crown and could get the top overall seed. In LA, the winner of Cardinals-Rams advances.

Arizona (8-7) at Los Angeles Rams (9-6)

The Cardinals need a win to get a wild-card spot, while the Rams require a win or a loss by the Bears. Normally, with Rams coach Sean McVay 7-0 against Arizona — six wins by double digits and a 233-84 aggregate score — that would not seem too challenging. But quarterback Jared Goff, as inconsistent as he has been, could be severely missed after thumb surgery. His replacement, John Wolford, would make his first NFL start.

Arizona's defense has come around. Over the past three games, it has 17 sacks, 14 tackles for loss, eight forced fumbles and 24 quarterback hits. LB Haason Reddick has 7 1/2 sacks and six forced fumbles over the past three games, and a career-high 12 1/2 sacks this season.

Seattle (11-4) at San Francisco (6-9)

The high-scoring Seahawks have won 12 of the past 14 in the series. They will be no worse than the No. 3 seed in the NFC playoffs, can move up to No. 2 with a win and loss by Green Bay, and could be the No. 1 seed with a win and losses by both the Packers and Saints. With 20 points on Sunday, the Seahawks would set a franchise record for a season with 453.

The Niners are playing their third "home" game in Arizona after being relocated because of coronavirus protocols. They lost the first two, but won at this stadium as the road team last week vs. the Cardinals.

AFC EAST

No, not the Patriots on top. For the first time since 1995, Buffalo won this division, snapping New England's 11-year run. Of course, the Patriots had Tom Brady for those seasons.

Miami (10-5) at Buffalo (12-3)

The Bills have won the past four meetings to match their longest win streak over the Dolphins since a team-best six-game run spanning the 1987-89 seasons. But with a victory, Miami would clinch only its third postseason berth since 2001. It can even get in with a loss and help elsewhere.

Miami will play at Buffalo in January for the first time since 1991. In December, it has lost three in a row there by a combined score of 85-33. But the Dolphins have allowed the NFL's fewest points at 18.8 per game, and could lead that category for a full season for the first time since 1998.

New York Jets (2-13) at New England (6-9)

Can the Jets, already guaranteed the No. 2 overall pick in the draft, finish by winning three straight games in what likely is Adam Gase's last outing as coach?

The Patriots have won the past nine meetings. The Jets haven't won in Foxborough in the regular season since 2008.

NFC NORTH

Should the Packers beat their biggest rivals, they secure the NFC's only bye, ensuring the path to the Super Bowl goes through Lambeau Field. SHIVER!!!!

A Chicago win puts the Bears into the postseason and eliminates the loser of Cardinals-Rams.

Green Bay (12-3) at Chicago (8-7)

Although the Packers clinched the division a while ago, they need to go full-out because a loss could sink them to the third seed.

"We both have something to play for," said Aaron Rodgers, who's led Green Bay to five consecutive victories. "We're playing for the (No.) 1 seed, they're

playing for their playoff lives, so there's a lot at stake for both squads. We got after them a few weeks ago; they've been playing a lot better since then. We know what kind of game it's going to be."

Minnesota (6-9) at Detroit (5-10)

And we know what kind of game this will be: worth ignoring.

NFC SOUTH

The Saints clinched even if they finish with the same record as the Bucs because they swept Tampa Bay.

New Orleans (11-4) at Carolina (5-10)

The Saints get the No. 1 seed with a win, a Packers loss and a Seahawks win. New Orleans is seeking to become the first team to finish 6-0 in the NFC South since the division was formed in 2002. And Alvin Kamara comes off a game for the ages: an NFL record-tying six TDs (all rushing) against the Vikings. He leads the NFL with a franchise-record 21 touchdowns.

Carolina has a pair of 1,000-yard receivers in D.J. Moore and Robby Anderson.

AFC WEST

Not much suspense here.

LA Chargers (6-9) at Kansas City (14-1)

The reigning Super Bowl champion Chiefs can match the 2011 Packers for the best record by a Super Bowl champion with a win. They already have set a club record for victories in a season and have won 10 straight games. One more would break the franchise record, but coach Andy Reid will be resting a bunch of regulars.

LA has won three in a row and seemingly found a franchise quarterback in rookie Justin Herbert.

Las Vegas (7-8) at Denver (5-10)

If finishing .500 in their first season in Sin City means anything to the Raiders, then there's some significance here. Otherwise, well, there's plenty of other NFL action to pay attention to.

NFL LEADERS

AFC Individual Leaders

Quarterbacks				
	Att	Com	Yds	TD
Mahomes, KC	588	390	4740	38
Watson, Hou	505	354	4458	30
Allen, Buf	547	378	4320	34
Herbert, LAC	564	374	4034	28
Rivers, Ind	516	352	4005	23
Roethlisberger, Pitt	608	399	3803	33
Carr, Las	479	324	3732	25
Tannehill, Ten	454	297	3603	32
Mayfield, Cle	459	288	3367	25
Burrow, Cin	404	264	2688	13

Punters				
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Bailey, NE	49	2406	71	49.1
Cooke, Jac	49	2334	67	47.6
Martin, Den	61	2872	69	47.1
Huber, Cin	64	3011	70	47.0
Long, LAC	55	2582	63	46.9
Sanchez, Ind	38	1767	60	46.5
Anger, Hou	53	2463	67	46.5
Berry, Pitt	54	2479	62	45.9
Townsend, KC	50	2257	67	45.1
Haack, Mia	63	2822	63	44.8

Kicking				
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Carlson, Las	42/44	32/34	54	138
Sanders, Mia	34/34	34/37	56	136
Bass, Buf	49/51	28/34	58	133
Blankenship, Ind	41/43	30/33	53	131
Tucker, Bal	47/48	25/28	55	122
Butker, KC	45/51	25/27	58	120
Badgley, LAC	32/35	24/33	53	104
Fairbairn, Hou	35/37	23/27	54	104
Folk, NE	26/29	26/28	51	104
Gostkowski, Ten	46/48	18/28	55	100

Receivers				
	No	Yds	Avg	LG
Hopkins, Ari	111	1372	12.4	60
D.Adams, GB	109	1328	12.2	56
Ridley, Atl	82	1322	16.1	63
Metcalf, Sea	80	1282	16.0	62
Jefferson, Min	79	1267	16.0	71
Robinson, Chi	100	1213	12.1	42
Moore, Car	61	1092	17.9	74
McLaurin, Was	80	1078	13.5	68
Cooper, Dal	86	1073	12.5	69
Anderson, Car	92	1056	11.5	75

Kickoff Returners				
	No	Yds	Avg	LG
Patterson, Chi	33	964	29.2	104
Agnew, Det	26	689	26.5	71
Pollard, Dal	29	705	24.3	67
Ballentine, NYJ	19	463	24.2	66
D.Lewis, NYG	21	475	22.6	48
Johnson, Was	25	551	22.0	46
Scott, Phi	28	590	21.1	46

Rushers				
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG
Henry, Ten	344	1777	5.2	94
J.Robinson, Jac	240	1070	4.5	47
Jacobs, Las	258	976	3.8	24
Chubb, Cle	176	959	5.4	59
Taylor, Ind	202	916	4.5	62
Jackson, Bal	148	908	6.1	50
Gordon, Den	189	893	4.7	65
Hunt, Cle	188	804	4.3	33
Edwards-Helaire, KC	181	803	4.4	31
Harris, NE	137	691	5.0	41

Punt Returners				
	No	Yds	Avg	LG
Grant, Mia	29	330	11.4	88
Renfrow, Las	22	244	11.1	32
McCloud, Pitt	28	295	10.5	57
Hines, Ind	26	260	10.0	26
Roberts, Buf	29	286	9.9	38
Erickson, Cin	21	206	9.8	29
Raymond, Ten	23	208	9.0	40
Proche, Bal	23	198	8.6	20
Hardman, KC	24	176	7.3	67

Scoring Touchdowns				
	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret
Hill, KC	17	2	15	0

Quarterbacks				
	Att	Com	Yds	TD
Ryan, Atl	582	378	4316	24
Brady, TB	569	375	4234	36
Rodgers, GB	502	353	4059	44
Wilson, Sea	522	364	4031	38
Goff, LAR	552	370	3952	20
K.Murray, Ari	547	367	3884	26
Cousins, Min	476	321	3860	32
Stafford, Det	497	319	3791	23
Bridgewater, Car	469	327	3557	15
Brees, NO	358	253	2741	21

Punt Returners				
	No	Yds	Avg	Long
Lamb, Dal	23	174	7.6	27
Webster, LAR	25	185	7.4	34
S.Sims, Was	22	140	6.4	22

Fields' day: No. 3 Ohio State routs No. 2 Clemson

Buckeyes headed to the CFP final

RALPH D. RUSSO
AP college football writer

NEW ORLEANS — Numbers have fueled Ohio State all year. There was 29-23, the score of last season's painful playoff loss to Clemson.

Six, the number of games the Buckeyes played in this pandemic-altered season, which a lot of people thought was too few for them to deserve a return trip to the College Football Playoff.

Then there was No. 11, where Clemson coach Dabo Swinney placed Ohio State on his ballot in the final regular-season coaches' poll.

In a rematch with Swinney's Tigers in the Sugar Bowl, Justin Fields and the Buckeyes had Clemson's number.

Fields threw six touchdown passes to outshine Trevor Lawrence, and No. 3 Ohio State buried the second-ranked Tigers 49-28 in the Sugar Bowl semifinal Friday night.

"Everybody doubting us just pushed us a little more," Fields said.

The Buckeyes (7-0) head to the CFP title game for the first time since the inaugural playoff to face No. 1 Alabama on Jan. 11 at Hard Rock Stadium in South Florida. Ohio State beat the Crimson Tide in the semifinals on the way to the 2014 national championship.

Buckeyes coach Ryan Day

called it a statement game for the program.

"I think this performance, not only by Justin, but this team, hopefully will go down in Ohio State history as a landmark game," Day said. "Because we want to go on to win the national championship. But there was a lot of tough days, a lot of tough days over the last six months."

In a matchup of quarterback prodigies from Georgia, Fields might have given the Jacksonville Jaguars something to think about with that first pick in the NFL draft. Lawrence is the presumptive No. 1, but Fields outplayed him on this night, going 22 of 28 for 385 yards. He set a Sugar Bowl record for TD passes and did it playing more than half the game after taking a vicious shot to the side that forced him to miss a play and spend time in the medical tent.

Lawrence was 33 of 48 for 400 yards and three total touchdowns in what is expected to be the junior's final college game.

"We were confident and prepared," he said. "This was just one of those nights."

Lawrence's final pass was intercepted, but Clemson (10-2) finished 34-2 in his starts and won a national title when he was a freshman.

The third meeting between Clemson and Ohio State in the playoff, and fourth bowl matchup since the 2013 season — all Clemson wins — was a game the Buckeyes had been pointing toward ever since that 29-23 loss in the Fiesta Bowl last year. That score was everywhere



Ohio State head coach Ryan Day, from left, quarterback Justin Fields and linebacker Tuf Borland hold up the trophy after the team's win against Clemson in the Sugar Bowl on Friday, in New Orleans. Ohio State won 49-28.

the Buckeyes turned in the Woody Hayes Athletic Center in Columbus the past year.

A chance for revenge was nearly derailed when the Big Ten canceled fall football in August because of the pandemic. An abbreviated Big Ten season caused more headaches, with the Buckeyes having three games canceled because of COVID-19 issues, including their own outbreak.

The playoff committee still liked Ohio State enough to put the Buckeyes in the final four, despite much griping from various parts of the country, including Clemson.

Day talked all week about what a remarkable story it would be for the Buckeyes to endure the rollercoaster season and still reach their goal.

"It's been an emotional season," Day said, "and to come

back and have a chance to play Clemson and then win the way we did — unbelievable."

Clemson took a 14-7 lead in the first quarter with Lawrence and Travis Etienne running for scores.

From there it was all Buckeyes. Fields threw touchdown passes to tight ends Luke Farrell and Jeremy Ruckert to give Ohio State a 21-14 lead early in the second.

Bowling SCORES

Parkview Lanes

12-WEEK LEAGUE: The March Madness Trio league already has eight teams registered. An additional \$400 is added to the prize fund if the league has 12 teams. The league meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 6:30 p.m., and bowling will begin immediately afterwards.

LEAGUE SCORES FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 27:

PARKVIEW SENIORS
Handicap: Kenny Piispanen 268,723; Bill Johnston 265,744; Sharon Ericson 272,702; Patty Krombach 253,693. Scratch: Tony Hyatt 240,661; Bill Johnston 216,597; Sharon Ericson 227,567;

Monday Night Special

Handicap: Deke Keyser 298; Jan Stackpole 289,747; Charles Wiggins 749; Holly Aguilar 271,714; Stacy Christopher 257; Carol Anderson 731. Scratch: Deke Keyser 257; Ryan Aguilar 247; Chris Carr 647; Mark Smith 641; Debbie Aguilar 202,550; Holly Aguilar 193; Debbie Aguilar 550.

Parkview 7-9-8 Notap

Handicap: Norm Patch 380,1005; Jim Schlegel 379,1017; Glenda Johnston 358; Marilyn Seymour 339,872; Carol McHale 914. Scratch: Tony Hyatt 300,841; Bill Johnston 300,819; (men: six 300's); Marilyn Seymour 300,755; Glenda Johnston 300,692.

Sandy Oaks Fall

Handicap: Dan Fergen 251,659; Rob

Goethals 234,659; Marcia Schick 253,624; Patti Carmen 225,644. Scratch: Bill Johnson 192; Richard Barnhill 188,523; Homer Raush 513; Marcia Schick 192,441; Marlene Hyde 144,400.

Wednesday Scratch Trio

Scratch: Terry Rummier II 269,710; John Charette 257; Tony Hyatt 698; Lisa Pozzi 219; Stephanie Flory 200,550; Dorine Fugere 571.

Bowlers of the Week

Adults: Charles Wiggins, 89 pins over his average, and Carol Anderson, 62 pins over her average.

Sportsmen's Bowl

In the second half of the season there are

openings in several of the leagues for individual bowlers and full teams. The Wednesday evening league consists of three bowlers and the rest of the leagues consist of four bowlers. If interested call the bowling alley for openings. The phone number is 352-726-2873.

Bowlers of the Week
Men: Chris Carr 123 Pins over his average
Women: Twilla Sponholz 107 Pins over her average

His And Hers Mixed

Men Scratch: Ed Gruman 226, Mark Ash 215-605, Russell Snyder 214-632, Tom Frost 593

Men Handicap: Quinton Dates 263-720, Carl Hilgert 252, Billy Liik 252, Tom Frost 698, Al Sutherland 694

Women Scratch: Annia Vargoshe 199-523, Carmen Carrero 186-507, Vicki Jeffers 177-455

Women Handicap: Annia Vargoshe 256-694, Janice Crosby 249-690, Kelly Hall 243, Betty Faust 243, Carolyn Crosby 682

Firstnighters, Men

Scratch: Dave Howell 279-688, Tim Lawrence 248-701, Chris Carr 247-696, Scott Brown 247, Ricky Hooker 247

Handicap: Dave Howell 315-796, Ricky Hooker 307-781, Walter Napalitano 285, Chris Carr 801

Wednesday Mixed

Men Scratch: Tyler Beatty 245-647, Art Avery 214-579, Eric Avery 213-579

Men Handicap: Art Avery 266-735, Tyler Beatty 255-677, Rick Page 253-669

Women Scratch: Twilla Sponholz 180-443, Jamie Honegar 169-456, Brenda Keegan 167-443

Women Handicap: Twilla Sponholz 277-734, Jamie Honegar 250-699, April Harkin 244, Brenda Keegan 662

Mixed Trios Draw League, Fridays 1 p.m.

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Prizes for high game and series for both men and women, colored pins, mystery frames, mystery game, Bingo, side pots, 50/50, refreshments and fun for all. Entry fee \$10. High scratch scores: Rich Murdock 202-616, Jennifer Williams 187, Nancy Duncan 493.



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Thunder dominate second half, beat Magic

Knicks rally past Pacers to reach .500

Associated Press

ORLANDO — Darius Bazley had a season-high 19 points, George Hill scored 13 of his 18 points in the third quarter and the Oklahoma City Thunder dominated the second half of a 108-99 win over the Orlando Magic on Saturday.

The Thunder ended a three-game losing streak and bounced back nicely from a 33-point loss to New Orleans two nights earlier. Oklahoma City also avenged a 118-107 home loss against the Magic five nights ago.

"I just thought it was a good, resilient game for us because we carried a lot of stuff over from the New Orleans game that we wanted to address and from the last time we played Orlando," coach Mark Daigneault said. "Orlando is a good team that makes you play a clean game to win and I was pleased with how we did that."

Orlando (4-2) has dropped two straight after starting the season 4-0. The Magic were routed 116-92 by Philadelphia on New Year's Eve and lost on Saturday after making just 37% of their shots.

Orlando was even worse in the fourth quarter when it made just eight of 28 shots (28.5%) and missed all 10 of its tries from 3-point range. That allowed the Thunder to outscore the Magic 24-17 over the final 12 minutes to break open a close game.

"It started with one-on-one defense and we weren't getting stops," said Magic forward Aaron Gordon, who had 15 points, eight rebounds and five



Orlando Magic center Khem Birch (24) has his shot blocked from behind by Oklahoma City Thunder center Al Horford (42), right, while going up for a shot in front of Oklahoma City Thunder forward Darius Bazley (7) and guard George Hill during the first half of a game Saturday, in Orlando.

Associated Press

assists, but made only 6 of 15 field goal attempts. "It's just one-on-one defense and that just comes down to pride, technique and energy."

Nikola Vucevic scored a season-best 30 points by making 13 of 21 shots, including four 3-pointers. He also grabbed 13 rebounds. Terrence Ross added 26 points and four 3-pointers off the Orlando bench.

Six players scored in double digits for Oklahoma City, which shot 44.2% from the floor with 13 3-pointers. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 16 points, while Al Horford, Hamidou Diallo and rookie Theo Maledon each scored 12 points.

Bazley converted a driving, left-handed dunk with 4:37 left to give the Thunder a 99-91 lead, their largest of the night up to that

point. Horford drilled a straight-on 3-pointer with 50 seconds to play, sending the Thunder on their way to the second road victory of the season.

"Our coaches really harped on what we needed to improve upon from last game and we carried it over," Horford said. "We did a much better job of setting the tone early in the game."

The Thunder trailed by three points just after halftime, but they grabbed the lead late in the third quarter and never trailed the rest of the way. They outscored the Magic 22-15 in the fourth period.

Standout guard Evan Fournier missed Saturday's game with back spasms. Michael Carter-Williams started in place of Fournier and missed nine of his 11 shots and all four tries

from 3-point range.

"We struggled a little offensively, especially toward the end, because we didn't work the offense enough and we could have gotten some better shots," said Vucevic, who missed four of his six attempts in the final quarter.

Knicks 106, Pacers 102

INDIANAPOLIS — Austin Rivers made the go-ahead 3-pointer with 3:23 left and finished with 15 points to help the New York Knicks rally past the Indiana Pacers 106-102.

The Knicks have won three of four to pull to .500 after six games under new coach Tom Thibodeau. R.J. Barrett scored a team-best 25 points.

Malcolm Brogdon led the Pacers with a career-high 33 points but had his shot blocked with less than a

minute to go, which led to another basket by Rivers during an 11-0 run that helped seal the win. Indiana has lost two of three.

76ers 127, Hornets 112

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid had 19 points and 14 rebounds and Tobias Harris scored 24 points to lead Philadelphia over Charlotte.

Ben Simmons had 15 points, 12 rebound and 11 assists to help the Sixers beat the Hornets for the 12th straight time. Philadelphia has not lost to Charlotte since Nov. 2, 2016.

Terry Rozier scored 35 points for the Hornets.

The Sixers are rolling in Doc Rivers' first season on the bench and followed a 24-point win over Orlando with another victory in which

they led by double digits for most of the game.

Pelicans 120, Raptors 116

NEW ORLEANS — Eric Bledsoe capped a 19-point, 10-assist performance with a go-ahead 3-pointer in the final minute, and New Orleans held on to beat Toronto.

Brandon Ingram added 31 points, capped by four free throws in the last 13 seconds to seal the victory. Zion Williamson scored 21 points.

The Pelicans limited the Raptors to just one point during the final 2:47 of regulation.

Fred VanVleet scored 27 points and Chris Boucher added 24 for Toronto, which has opened the season by losing four of its first five games.

Rockets 102, Kings 94

HOUSTON — John Wall scored 28 points and Houston beat Sacramento despite playing without an injured James Harden.

Harden sat out with a sprained right ankle. He was not listed on the injury report and coach Stephen Silas did not mention his injury in his pregame availability.

De'Aaron Fox had 23 points for the Kings, who lost to the Rockets for the second straight game. Christian Wood had 20 points and 16 rebounds and Eric Gordon added 21 points for Houston.

Cavaliers 96, Hawks 91

ATLANTA — Collin Sexton scored 27 points, Andre Drummond had 12 points and 11 rebounds and Cleveland wiped out a 15-point deficit in the third quarter and beat Atlanta.

JaVale McGee finished with 14 points for the Cavaliers.

Clint Capela had 16 points and 16 rebounds for the Hawks, who had 22 turnovers in the final three quarters.

No. 8 Texas blows out No. 3 Kansas in Lawrence, 84-59

Collins leads USF past rival UCF

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Courtney Ramey scored 18 points to lead five Texas players in double-figures scoring, and the No. 8 Longhorns routed third-ranked Kansas 84-59 on Saturday to match the most lopsided win by an opponent in the history of Allen Fieldhouse.

Andrew Jones added 14 points, Matt Coleman III had 13 and Jericho Sims had 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Longhorns (8-1, 2-0 Big 12), who turned an eight-point halftime lead into a blowout in startling fashion.

The margin of victory was the most by an opponent in the Phog since Missouri's 91-66 victory on Feb. 1, 1989.

Jalen Wilson scored 20 points and Ochai Agbaji had 11 for the Jayhawks (8-2, 1-1), who shot 31% from the field and went just 3 of 23 from beyond the arc in losing their first game since their opener against top-ranked Gonzaga.

South Florida 68, UCF 61

TAMPA — David Collins had 19 points, eight rebounds and seven assists as South Florida topped Central Florida 68-61.

Darius Perry scored a career-high 23 points and had six assists for the Knights (3-3, 1-2 American Athletic Conference). Darin Green Jr. added 14 points. Dre Fuller Jr. had eight rebounds.

No. 1 Gonzaga 85, San Francisco 62

SPOKANE, Wash. — Corey Kispert scored 26 points on 9-of-11 shooting as top-ranked Gonzaga opened its West Coast Conference schedule by beating San Francisco.

Joel Ayayi added 18 points and Andrew Nembhard had 14 for Gonzaga (10-0, 1-0), which has won 44 consecutive home games — the longest streak in the nation. Drew Timme had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Jamaree Bouyea scored 18 for San Francisco (7-5, 1-1), which has lost 20 consecutive games to Gonzaga since 2012. The Dons were undone by poor shooting in the second half. Dzmitry Ryuny added 11 points.

Both teams shot well in the first half. San Francisco took a 14-13 lead, but the Zags replied with a 12-2 run to go up 25-16.

No. 2 Baylor 76, Iowa State 65

AMES, Iowa — Jared Butler scored 21 points to lead four scorers in double figures and Baylor held off Iowa State for its narrowest margin of victory this season.

The Bears (9-0, 2-0 Big 12) took seven of their previous eight games by at least 29 points, winning by an average of 32.8 points.

Javan Johnson led Iowa State (2-5, 0-3) with 17 points.

Alabama 71, No. 7 Tennessee 63

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — John Petty hit three critical 3-pointers and finished with 19 points, leading Alabama to a stunning victory over Tennessee.

The Crimson Tide (7-3, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) turned a two-point halftime lead into a double-digit advantage midway through the second behind Petty's trio of 3s and two more long-range makes by Joshua Primo.

Tennessee (7-1, 1-1) struggled from the field the entire game, hitting 21 of 66 shots (32%). Victor Bailey Jr. scored 16 points and Santiago Vescovi had 13 for the Volunteers.

Oklahoma 75, No. 9 West Virginia 71

NORMAN, Okla. — Umoja Gibson made eight 3-pointers and scored a season-high 29 points, and Oklahoma recovered after blowing an 18-point halftime lead to beat West Virginia.

The Sooners (6-1, 2-1 Big 12) have won three straight and four of five against the Mountaineers (8-3, 1-2), including a season sweep in 2019-20. The Sooners also have won four of their last seven games against ranked opponents.

Taz Sherman and Jalen Bridges



Texas senior forward Jericho Sims dunks over the Kansas defense in the first half of a game Saturday, in Lawrence, Kan.

Associated Press

had 19 points each for West Virginia, and Miles McBride had 15.

No. 10 Iowa 77, No. 14 Rutgers 75

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Luka Garza had 25 points, 15 in the second half, and Iowa beat Rutgers thanks to the Scarlet Knights' free throw struggles.

Rutgers (7-2, 3-2 Big Ten) has struggled all season at the foul line this season, hitting just 62%. It went 4 of 12 against Iowa (9-2, 3-1 Big Ten), which was 18 of 23.

No. 11 Creighton 67, Providence 65

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Christian Bishop had a go-ahead dunk with 0.8 seconds left and Creighton held off a late rally to beat Providence.

Marcus Zegarowski, who had the assist on Bishop's dunk, hit six 3-pointers and had 20 points to help the Bluejays (8-2, 4-1 Big East) to their fourth straight victory.

Damien Jefferson added a season-high 18 points, his eighth consecutive game in double-figures. Marcus Ballock finished with 14 points. Zegarowski, Jefferson and Ballock combined for 52 of the Bluejays' points.

Creighton led by 13 with about seven minutes left in the second half, but Providence (7-4, 3-2) tied it

with 7 seconds left on Noah Horchler's layup. Creighton in-bounded quickly, and Zegarowski pushed the ball up the floor and found the trailing Bishop for the dunk.

No. 12 Missouri 81, Arkansas 68

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Jeremiah Tilmon had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and Missouri handed Arkansas its first loss of the season.

Tilmon eclipsed his season high in points during the first half and finished with a career high. He was joined in double figures by Xavier Pinson with 23 and Mark Smith with 11.

Arkansas (9-1, 1-1 Southeastern Conference), missing its best interior player, could not match Missouri's physicality. The Tigers (7-1, 1-1) out-rebounded Arkansas 51-36, out-scored the Razorbacks 34-22 in the paint, and held them to 27% shooting from the field.

Oklahoma State 82, No. 13 Texas Tech 77, OT

LUBBOCK, Texas — Bryce Williams scored 15 points in his first start for Oklahoma State, including a steal and breakaway dunk in overtime as the Cowboys held on to beat Texas Tech.

Issac Likeleke and Avery

Anderson III both had 17 points for the Cowboys (7-2, 1-2), who needed overtime after blowing an 11-point lead in the second half. They lost their first two conference games by a combined five points.

Mac McClung led Texas Tech (8-3, 1-2) with 21 points. He hit a 3-pointer to start the overtime period, but those were his last points before he fouled out with 1:06 left.

Oklahoma State lost Big 12 leading scorer Cade Cunningham when the freshman guard fouled out in overtime, and was up only a point after Tech made a free throw. Cunningham, who was averaging 19.1 points a game, finished with 13 points on 3-of-12 shooting.

No. 15 Illinois 66, Purdue 58

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Kofi Cockburn had 14 points and 10 rebounds, Ayo Dosunmu scored 12 points and Illinois beat Purdue.

Da'Monte Williams added 12 points for the Fighting Illini (8-3, 4-1 Big Ten) in their seventh consecutive Big Ten home win dating to last season. Andre Curbelo, who leads the conference in assists, had six.

Purdue (7-5, 2-3) is one of the best rebounding teams in the nation, but Illinois outrebounded the Boiler-makers 39-33. Illinois shot 48% (25 of 52) from the field, while Purdue was 22 of 56 for 39%.

No. 17 Michigan State 84, Nebraska 77

LINCOLN, Neb. — Aaron Henry scored a career-high 27 points and Michigan State ended a three-game losing streak with a victory over Nebraska.

The Spartans (7-3, 1-3 Big Ten) bounced back from a 25-point loss to Minnesota on Monday and beat Nebraska for the seventh straight time.

Nebraska (4-7, 0-4) lost its 21st straight Big Ten game. It is off to its worst conference start since 2013-14.

Clemson 66, Miami 65

CORAL GABLES — Aamir Simms scored 25 points and his last basket with 19 seconds left was the game winner and Clemson beat Miami 66-65.

Isaiah Wong led Miami (4-4, 1-2) with 13 points.

Words without meaning



Gerry Mulligan
OUT THE WINDOW

We were having a socially distanced holiday lunch with friends last week and the conversation was jumping all over the place. We hadn't seen each other since March and had a lot of catching up to do.

That's when our friend answered a question saying: "Close, but no potato."

We all sat silently for a few seconds mulling over the potato.

We sort of knew what she meant, but at the same time knew that

what she said was not right.

Finally, I asked: "Do you mean - close, but no cigar?"

As a health care professional she did not like tobacco products so simply inserted "potato" to make it sound better. "What difference does it make," she asked.

Potato didn't make any sense, but once you thought about it, neither did cigar.

In defending the historical use of "Close, but no cigar" I was unable to come up with what it really meant.

After checking with Mr. Google I discovered the historical connection. Back in the early 1920s there were traveling county fairs or carnivals that would come to every small town. Cigars were handed out as prizes when games were played, but few people would win. The carnival folks would taunt the losers by saying, "Close, but no cigar."

It still makes no sense for us to use it, but there is at least a history to us not making sense. And we sort of understand.

The next morning at work someone told me they were going out west for the Christmas holiday. He explained that he wanted to be where "the deer and buffalo roam."

While I didn't object, I knew that was not right. Deer and buffalo do not roam together. At least that is not the official saying. We used to sing the ditty in the Boy Scouts.

"Oh Give me a home where the buffalo roam. Where the deer and the antelope play" are the official

See WINDOW/Page C4

And the nominees are ...



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Citrus County Tax Collector Janice Warren, center left, joins in a round of applause in 2017 with Aaron A. Weaver Citrus County Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander Bud Allen and other members of her staff and Purple Heart recipients after reading a proclamation honoring those members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart at her Meadowcrest office. Warren was nominated for Citizen of the Year by Marian M. Nosal because she embodies the attributes of a true public servant.



Courtney Stewart
SEEING BEYOND

A light at the end of the tunnel

It's over! We have finally waved goodbye to 2020. I imagine few people were sad to see it go.

So here we are in 2021 with hopes for a bright COVID-19-free future. Of course, we still have a long way to go. Optimistic estimates put us into fall before we can claim back a more "normal" normal. But still, light at the end of the tunnel should do us all some good.

The pandemic was the most monopolizing story in a year that, honestly, was fraught with many things that could have held that title in any other year: 2020 was one for the books.

I'm glad it's over. In the midst of celebrating the demise of a year that most of us could never have seen coming and the stress of what it looks like to beat COVID-19, 2021 brings with it some good things to look forward to.

The most obvious and important thing to look forward to this year is a hopeful containment of the novel coronavirus, a decline in hospitalizations and deaths related to COVID-19 and a return to normalcy. This should be, by far, the paramount thing on all of our agendas — do what is necessary to beat this virus.

And if we each make that priority No. 1, then it is possible to look forward to some positive happenings slated for 2021.

For starters, Disney World turns 50 this year. That's right — the happiest place on earth has been around for five decades. On Oct. 1, the birthday festivities are expected to take off with some pretty epic new attractions. Rumor has it that the birthday party is going to last some 15 months and will

See BEYOND/Page C4

Though Susan Gill was chosen as the Citizen of the Year, Chronicle readers submitted some strong nominations. Here is a list of those nominees, who nominated them and the reason why.

Nominee: Sandra "Sam" Himmel, superintendent of schools

Every year this award is presented to those in our community who are working to make a difference, and Mrs. Himmel fits that bill.

Mrs. Himmel has stood tall at a time when leadership is more important than ever.

Her focus has always been on relationships among individuals and organizations. Thanks to the partnerships she has formed throughout the years, when the pandemic struck, Himmel was able to lean on established connections with the city and county to keep the district running smoothly through the transition.

Sandra "Sam" Himmel has served as Superintendent of

Citrus County Schools for the past 15 years and just re-elected to a fifth term. She has a reputation not only in our state but throughout the nation as being an outstanding leader in public education, which is why she was named Florida's 2020 Superintendent of the Year. We always talk about people who make our community a great place to live, work, and play. Mrs. Himmel also makes our community a great place to learn, making the Citrus County School District one that is modeled throughout Florida.

Every decision she makes is based first and foremost on what is best for the children in Citrus County. We are most fortunate to have a superintendent who is truly devoted to making sure we provide the very best educational opportunities for our students. We are grateful for the work Mrs. Himmel has done throughout this year in leading our

community through an unprecedented time in our nation. She is an outstanding leader and most definitely worthy of the Citizen of the Year award.

Nominated by Lindsey Blair.

Nominee: Jimmy Stoltz

Reason: Is a true pillar of support for charity, law enforcement and our community.

His heart is just as caring as the amazing business he operates. When he hears of a need he gives without hesitation. He opens his

doors to provide meals for our hard working law enforcement officers. Every year he supports Shop with a Cop by donating a generous check. He recently became a member of

the Live United 365 Small Business Circle. Jimmy's joyful serving nature is reflected in the staff he employs. Just read the restaurant reviews to see how much every patron appreciates the friendly service they receive. The success of his business and his generosity to our community are a testimony to the giving spirit of Jimmy Stoltz and his beautiful wife Sue. Citrus County is fortunate that Jimmy chose us to call home and bring some classy Cajun cuisine with a large side order of community commitment.

Nominated by Nora and Tod Cloud.

Nominee: Janice Warren

Reason: The Citrus County Tax Collector, embodies the attributes of a true public servant. She has served Citrus County citizens since 2001, and will begin her fifth term in office Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021.


See NOMINEES/Page C3



Sam Himmel



Jimmy Stoltz



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► "The tragedy of life is what dies inside a man while he lives."

Albert Schweitzer

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— David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

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

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

A public servant of the highest order

Today, the Chronicle editorial board officially recognizes Susan Gill as its Citizen of the Year for 2020.

For the past 24 years, Ms. Gill has been the Supervisor of Elections for Citrus County. She officially retires later this week.

In the 40 years of awarding the Citizen of the Year honors, the Chronicle does not routinely recognize elected officials for just doing their job.

But in the case of Susan Gill, she deserves this recognition for all that she has done up and above her role as our election supervisor.

But we must start at the elections level, because she has become known as one of the best election supervisors in the state and nation. For 24 years she ran her office in a professional and efficient way.

She has been a model for others to emulate. She has served as the head of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections and has served a mentor to many of the newly elected supervisors in other counties.

From a Citrus County standpoint, her election year efficiency is a legend as her office is usually the first to report voter's totals on election night.

Her integrity has always been beyond question. While she got elected to the office as a Republican, there has never been a hint of favoritism toward any candidate or voter.

While 24 years of service is commendable, it is the efforts up and above her constitutional responsibilities that win her this recognition. Ms. Gill spent 24 years educating voters in the county with a special emphasis on high school students. She brought

excitement and passion to her community outreach efforts, which has resulted in Citrus County having one of the highest levels of registered voters

compared to eligible voters in the state.

She was a rock star with high school students. She brought mock elections and organized political forums for high school students. Candidates for public office stood before high school students at a forum and made politics relevant to the next generation.

During her 24 years in office, our elections have come under fire. First, it was the "hanging chads" in that long ago presidential election. More recently it was partisan claims of election fraud and vote tampering.

No one has ever made any accusations of impropriety against the Citrus County Supervisor of Elections office during Ms. Gill's tenure in office. They wouldn't dare.

Ms. Gill also quietly donated her time and resources to groups like the United Way and YMCA. She quietly did her part, often behind the scenes, because she believed she had a responsibility to build a stronger community.

Susan Gill is the definition of a good citizen. She is the type of public servant who has demonstrated a commitment to customer service, humility and respect to all citizens.

As she steps off into retirement, she deserves the accolades of all. While partisan wars rip at the constitutional foundations of our country, she has defended our democracy by being the best at what she does.

For those reasons, we recognize Susan Gill as Citrus County's 2020 Citizen of the Year.

THE ISSUE:

Citizen of the Year.

OUR OPINION:

The proficient woman who steered Citrus through 24 years of elections and beyond.

Reconstruction begins Jan. 20

The fragility of American democracy has been put on full display to the world in the weeks following the national election on Nov. 3. As of Dec. 11, President Trump and a majority of Congressional Republicans and Republican elected officials at all levels have expressed disdain for democracy and an open preference for autocracy. And it would appear that a majority of Republican voters share this view.

At the moment, it seems improbable that the results of what has been described as the most secure and best attended election in our nation's history will be overturned. We will know for sure in a few days. But with one of our two parties embracing the disenfranchisement of millions of American voters, we have reason to fear for the future of our democracy, even after the duly elected new administration assumes leadership Jan. 20. Autocracy will hopefully not prevail yet, but the threat is likely to linger just below the surface of our society and could emerge by the next election or sooner.

We also have reason to fear violence from armed supporters of the defeated president. Our nation is now poised on a cusp separating a democratic renaissance of reason, compassion and empathy from an autocratic dark age of ignorance, hate, dishonesty and greed. I feel confident that President Biden will lead us out of the pandemic and down a path of enlightenment. But the Republican dark side will not disappear; we must all remain vigilant.

I am 80 years old. Since I grew up in the '40s and '50s, my parents and grandparents instilled in me pride for American democracy, a pride that has endured through my life. Although I am a Democrat, I never suspected that the party of Lincoln, Eisenhower and Reagan would ever reject democracy in favor of despotism. From blatant neglect of the ballooning tragedy of the COVID-19 pandemic to undermining trust in the electoral process, Donald Trump and his GOP enablers have inflicted severe and lasting damage on the USA. Reconstruction (or rebirth) must begin immediately on Jan. 20.

Don Wright
Dunnellon

A good year for women in politics

2020 was a monumental year for women. We celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. 2020 again proved how important it is to be able to vote, and to vote. Women voted and also

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were elected at all levels, from our BOCC to vice president.

Stay motivated, participate, run for office and inspire others.

Linda Myers
Lecanto

The election as a football game

In a nation of football fans who really want their games back, there was a football game played.

In the first quarter, the red team got the first score, ahead by seven points. Then the blue team scored. Then the blue team scored again, 14 points. The half ended. The red team did not rant and rave that the blue team had changed the score. The red team understood that both teams were just participating in the game and the score could eventually change when one team scored more points than the other team. They understood that the game was made up of four quarters, not just the first quarter where the red team scored their seven points.

In the second half of the game, there was a blue team touchdown play that the officials were unsure of. The offended red coach called for a review. The officials did the review, looking at the play and judged it in favor of the scoring team. The offended coach didn't call for another review, he didn't demand three more reviews of the same play. The officials had done their job, it was time for the game to move on. When the game ended the score was 21 to 7 in favor of the blue team. The teams had played, the officials had done their part, and the points had been awarded. The red team went onto the field and congratulated the blue team with hand shakes and back slaps for a fair game that the red team understood they had simply lost. They had been outscored by the blue team. They went home hoping that maybe they would win the next time the two teams met.

YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- District 1 (Crystal River, Ozello, Citronelle, Red Level): Jeff Kinnard, jeff.kinnard@citrusbocc.com;
- District 2 (Homosassa, Sugarmill Woods): Ron Kitchen Jr., ronald.kitchen@citrusbocc.com;
- District 3 (Beverly Hills, Pine Ridge, Citrus Springs): Ruthie Davis Schlabach, ruthie.schlabach@citrusbocc.com;
- District 4 (Floral City, part of Inverness): Scott Carnahan, scott.carnahan@citrusbocc.com;
- District 5 (part of Inverness, Hernando, Arrowhead): Holly L. Davis, holly.davis@citrusbocc.com.

I appreciate the COVID information

To all you readers of Chronicle COVID information on the front page: Get over yourselves. I, for one, am glad as heck they post it every day. The totals are included in the daily count. Either you can't read or count properly. (Re the Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020, Page A7, "Hot Corner: Virus" Sound Off, "Brought back to life") And to say derogatory remarks (like) "Hooter-ville" about our county, if you can do a better job, do it or keep the trap shut.



A motto for the virus program

I'd like to state that a good motto for the virus program would be: "Mask it or casket."

Paying more for water in Citrus

Cannot believe the front page (News Brief) in the Citrus Chronicle on Dec. 26 telling me how much to participate in saving water in our state of great Florida. I've lived in Florida for 47 years — 20 in Broward County, 27 in Citrus County. In Citrus County, I have never paid more for water than I have in all

that 47 years. We have a state that's surrounded by 1,300 miles of water, more freshwater springs than any other state, yet we allow (a) water company, for a \$50 tax stamp, to take all the water they care to take. What is wrong with our system? Something else has to be done instead of taking surveys. Our people should get more money from (the) water company rather than a \$50 tax stamp.

I'm not taking the vaccine

I'm just calling in (about the Friday, Dec. 18, 2020) Sound Off, "Use reverse psychology with anti-vaxers." First of all, I don't care what psychology you use, I am not taking that vaccine

whatsoever — no how, no way. If you want to take it, enjoy it. You have my blessings. For me? No how, no way.

Thanks for your dedication

Thank you, the entire staff, for your dedication in putting out your Chronicle every day. I enjoy reading it. It's a great little paper and merry Christmas to you all. Happy holidays.

The EMTs were terrific

I'm calling about all the negative things you people write in your paper about the EMTs. Tell all the people that are complaining they're lucky they've got the

How can some people be so knowledgeable and supportive about how football games are played but be so ignorant and destructive about how national elections are done. Thank god that these same people don't create the same kind of mess with our adored football games that they are trying to do with our national election.

Susan Clemons
Inverness

Say goodbye to country you loved

It is a shame that we have cowards in the justice department that will not do the right thing and look at the evidence.

Justice Roberts is a coward and told the rest we will not take the case. So now we have no one to help with this rigged election. Yes, I know you will say where is the proof? We have plenty of evidence. You just cannot get the courts to hear it. So no one is listening to what is going on.

So what is it going to take to see the truth? It is a shame that the courts are letting the rioters win instead of putting a stop to this mess. If this election gets overturned, there will be riots. However, if Trump declares martial law then it will stop the mess. Do not let these rioters win.

This is America, the brave and the free.

Our boys fought for this country to be free. So now it will be taken all away.

Communist China will own America. History repeats itself. We need to fight for our freedom. That means every one of us. Otherwise here comes the communists.

Please do not tell me we have no proof of it. Are you blind and do not see the handwriting on the wall? It is in front of us and all around us. So ignoring it and it will go away? No, it will not. In a few weeks, it will be final. No changing back.

Just say goodbye to the America we all loved and knew. So pray to God that he will change all this for the good of we the people. So much corruption to talk about. Some people are waking up to the truth. They never knew it was this bad. That is because the media never tells us the truth. Now that all this is going on they are seeing it for what it is. Some are sorry about who they voted for. They said if they only knew what they know and see now the votes would have been different.

That is the media for you. They print only what they want you to know.

If it is the truth they will not print it. God help us all and God bless America. Pray, pray, pray.

Anna DeRose
Lecanto

NOMINEES

Continued from Page C1

Many technical and statutory changes have taken place in the past 19 years and Mrs. Warren has seamlessly led her organization through those changes. Taking on Drivers' License services, Florida birth certificates and concealed weapons licenses are just a few of the enhancements made to the office that daily provides a convenient one stop shop experience for our citizens.

Janice's leadership has provided an atmosphere of courteous, professional and accurate service for the hundreds of customers serviced each day. Customer service staff is given a customer service rating by customers of consistently over 99% excellent customer service as evidenced by the thousands of comment cards received in the office. This is a direct result of Janice's leadership and staff commitment and is a true reflection of the organization's mission and vision statements. Even during this year's pandemic, Janice and her team remained committed to providing essential services to customers and found alternative ways to get work done for citizens.

Janice believes that we should give back to our community. Over the years, office campaigns have been held with citizens donating funds to local organizations including the Citrus County Veteran's Foundation, Junior Achievement, Citrus Aid Cancer Foundation, Two Good Soles, We Care Food Pantry, and CASA. In addition, funds have been raised for Donate Life, breast cancer awareness and the American Heart Association.

Because of her passion for our community, her vision of its future, and her leadership as a true public servant, I submit the nomination of the honorable Janice A. Warren for the 2020 Citizen of the Year Award recipient.

Nominated by Marian M. Nosal.

Nominees: Don and Sue Taylor

Reason: They are a power couple. Sue with United Way; Don with the EDC, chamber board, YMCA and so much other stuff. Retired head of Progress Energy.

Nominated by Gerry Mulligan.

Nominee: Pastor Douglas Alexander of The New Church Without Walls

Reason: For the 2020 Citizen Of The Year. Pastor Doug has consistently provided free food to the community and his support in so many ways continues to be a bright light for the county's needs.

Nominated by Laura Duplain. Frank Ringel, also nominated the Rev. Alexander.

Nominee: Steve Minguay

Reason: He and his wife Cindi formed the Homosassa River Restoration Project. They worked many years to receive fund from the State of Florida to begin the cleanup of our beautiful River. They began the cleanup this year and will continue after Manatee Season is over. His efforts are monumental in persevering this beautiful waterway for future generations.

Nominated by Connie Wright.

Nominee: Tito Rubo, County Health Department director

Reasons: Despite subtle and not so subtle political pressure, Mr. Rubo led the local Health Department to advocate COVID-19 testing and prevention. The department gave out free masks, when they were scarce to find, and pursued safety measures, even if unpopular.

The testing site was a model of efficiency and professionalism. One generally zipped through the line, and received results quickly.

Frequent statistical summaries are provided and questions and concerns are welcomed by Mr. Rubo and his team. He will be informing us of vaccines to be received.

COVID-19 is the story of the year, and Tito Rubo did the most in Citrus County to fight this disease.

Nominated by Linda Myers.

Nominee: Josh Wooten

Reason: In the early days of the COVID-19 shutdowns and every day since, Josh Wooten has worked tirelessly for the local business community to ensure local business and our community survives this pandemic. The mission of the Citrus County

Chamber in part is to "advance the economic growth of the region, promote the interests of the business community, provide key leadership on key commerce issues and preserve the county's quality of life." Josh has



Josh Wooten

championed the effort to fulfill that mission.

From the beginning of the pandemic, the Chamber has been leading this community. When federal and state governments began to offer grants and loans for payroll protection, unemployment benefits, and other support it was Josh and the Chamber that made sure businesses understood how to navigate the system. Josh spent countless hours on the phone with small businesses, members, and nonmembers helping them understand how to apply for PPP loads and other funds.

Since the early days of the pandemic, the Chamber has handed out thousands of masks free of charge to local businesses. The chamber has helped hundreds of businesses navigate the CARES Act funding from the county. Now the Chamber is working hard to ensure \$1 million of CARES Act funding goes directly to local businesses and not into the county general funds for everyday projects. Local business needs help and Josh has shown more leadership during this pandemic than some of our county commissioners.

Just last week, Josh led the Chamber to meet and discuss these very important issues with Sen. Rubio, Sen. Scott and Congressman Webster. As leaders in Washington get wrapped up in partisan politics, Josh made sure our representatives understood the plight of local businesses imploring them for action.

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce has a decade of working tirelessly for local business under Josh's leadership. This year more than ever Citrus County should be thankful for Josh's leadership and passion for our community.

Nominated by John Murphy.

Nominee: Debbie Selsavage

Reason: I have known her for many years, back to when she was the administrator of Sunshine Gardens Memory facility in Crystal River. I was an ombudsman with the state of Florida at the time and would make visits to the facility four times a year. Debbie, as the administrator, was always welcoming when I entered the building. My visits were always unannounced. The respect shown by her to the residents was so impressive. Debbie's husband, Albert, was struck with Alzheimer's. That alone shows the compassion she always had with the residents. When Debbie left the facility, she wanted to teach and tell her story about Albert and the disease that affects so many all over the world. She teaches, lectures and is always available by phone to anyone that needs her help. She puts on seminars where it is reenacted how an Alzheimer's resident lives inside their head and what families are dealing with. I have watched Debbie laugh and cry with citizens about this terrible disease. She is unselfish with her time and energy. To that end, Debbie and Ed Youngblood created Coping with Dementia, a wonderful gift to all that are dealing with this disease that is not reversible. There is so much more to Debbie, but never enough time to tell all.

Nominated by Mary Darling.

Nominee: Roger Ingall, president of VFW Auxiliary 8190

Reasons: Achievements this year: Organized and lead a joint American flag retirement service of more than 800 flags with AMVETS Post 89 of Beverly Hills, Young Marines, VFW 8189 and VFW Auxiliary 8189.

Worked with Homosassa River Garden Club; Young Marines; Crystal River football team; AMVETS Post 89, VFW Post/Auxiliary 8189 to clean up Stage Stand Cemetery in Homosassa.

Worked with VFW 8189 to clean up trash on West Venable Street.

Organized and lead Veterans Day Service at Stage Stand Cemetery with four different organizations.

Lead efforts to raise funds to send World War II veterans on Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

Participated in fund drive for a local boy with serious medical condition.

Lead drive to raise funds for Crystal River Safety Patrol to send them to Washington D.C.

Financial Trustee for AMVETS Post 89.

Organized VFW Auxiliary

Float for Crystal River Christmas Parade.

Writes news articles for AMVETS, VFW/Auxiliary 8189 to Chronicle and Facebook posts.

Mowed grass, picked up trash at Crystal River Memorial Cemetery.

Assisted in recognizing Rock Crusher Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Nominated by Floyd Blodgett, commander, AMVETS.

Nominee: Larry White

Reasons: Due to his many volunteer hours as well as out of pocket money to help numerous veterans, community people and the homeless. He is the finance officer for American Legion Post No. 155 in Crystal River. He has been past commander for Post No. 155, district commander, state and national commander, serving veterans worldwide. He has accumulated thousands of hours visiting and serving veterans at the VA Hospitals. He will continue to serve and honor veterans as he just an amazing man, always lifting a helping hand and more.

Nominated by Jody Schneider.

Nominee: Dorothy Dilworth, Florida House District 34

Reason: Ambassador with the Citrus Chamber of Commerce. Charity volunteer bartender Masked Miracles. Attends most ribbon cuttings for the Chamber. Takes pride working with constituents, goes above and beyond to help with their concerns. Promotes local businesses through Facebook and word of mouth. Volunteers for parades and festivals. Volunteers passing out supplies with churches. An excellent and proud grandmother of five she can't talk enough about. Four post secondary degrees she specifically chose to enhance her ability to help the community. A very hard working individual, going beyond her regular work hours doing all community events on her personal time.

Nominated by Amanda Santana.

Nominee: DuWayne Sipper

Reason: DuWayne once lived a life working among the rich and famous, fast-paced and filled with adventure and material rewards. With all of this, there was still something missing. On visiting his elderly dad in Citrus County, he prayed for



DuWayne Sipper

direction and found that he was being directed to a dream of building a rescue mission for people who found themselves in lives that were broken by many things, drugs, alcohol, violence, and so many other intervening demons. Seldom are rescue facilities built in non-city environments, but DuWayne felt strongly that Citrus County had a need. Fast-forward twenty years later and here we are. Citrus County has The Path Rescue Mission that is now a shelter for not only adults, but for women and children and families.

I feel strongly that DuWayne Sipper embodies the attributes for a Citrus County Citizen of the Year. He works hard, sets an example for his staff, his clients, and for those in the community who know and respect him. Life as a rescue mission director is not easy. DuWayne is often on call 24 hours a day. He tackles everything from field work on The Path farm to executive responsibilities that entailed raising the money to purchase the former Beverly Hills Motel and to renovate it into a beautiful residence for adults and families wanting to find a better life. The program at The Path is based on strong Christian principles that guide its residence into learning to make choices that will strengthen and support their futures.

I have known DuWayne for a number of years and have recently been privileged to serve on the board of The Path after being an active volunteer literacy instructor to several Path clients. I see the man who eats and breathes forgiveness and hope to those who have often felt lost, forgotten, and thrown away. When a client is struggling, DuWayne struggles. When a client succeeds, DuWayne rejoices in victory with that person. DuWayne is involved in the community even though being the Executive Director of The Path Rescue Mission is a full-time all-encompassing job. He is a member of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (now Citygate Network), past board member for the Early Learning Coalition, active with The Citrus County Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance, The Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, the Hernando Church of the Nazarene, worked on the committee to help formulate and launch the Citrus County

Food Bank, member of the Agricultural Alliance, the Rotary Club of Inverness and a board member on the Charitable Foundation of the Inverness Rotary, and a member Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

Citrus County owes a huge debt of gratitude to DuWayne Sipper and the program that he continues to grow. His vision and constant work and mentoring have saved hundreds of lives of clients as well as impacting the lives of their children and families. DuWayne remains a man of vision and continues to improve Citrus County through his example, his work, and his hope. I feel that honoring DuWayne Sipper as our Citizen of the Year would not only be a tribute to this man, but to the hundreds of people whose lives have been improved for the better because of him and the work of The Path Rescue Mission.

Nominated by Bonnie Rybak, Inverness.

Nominees: Donna and Al Small

Reason: They have brought a systematic approach to the educational aspect of recovery for clients at The Path. They are spiritual leaders, creative leaders and who have introduced many innovative ways of accomplishing The Path's overall mission: To provide a Christian living environment that allows true rehabilitation. To allow long-term stays for life changing, biblical teachings to take effect. To encourage the work ethic, for those without a home in Citrus County. Now serving Marion County.

Donna and Al moved to Citrus County from New York in 2016. Prompted by the Holy Spirit after hearing about The Path on a Mission's Sunday at her church, she began volunteering by helping out at The Path's fall fundraiser banquet, Harvest of Hope. "And here I am," Donna says with an enthusiastic smile, "Still helping! Whatever is needed there."

Donna and Al Small are the Volunteer Coordinators at The Path's rescue mission in Beverly Hills, presently, and have been involved with volunteering there in other capacities for over five years. They believe in giving to others because God has been giving and gracious with them. They just keep giving and God keeps giving to them.

Their can-do servant's heart spills over into everything they do. Donna shares: "It has strengthened my connection to the Lord. I feel that part of our role as Christians is to help others and give back. It's important to us to be part of a Christian-minded organization. That really helps reinforce my faith."

"Because of what The Path does and how they do it," she continued, "it's really transforming lives for people who got into their situation for whatever reason — not just the typical homeless we think of. This is the biggest message that needs to get out somehow. I don't think people really understand until you come here and do something." Whether it's giving money, time, or furniture — they both believe it all works together to help The Path change lives and make an impact.

Al has been irreplaceable at the Path farm by fixing machines, pumps and often helping with the farm co-op. The men in The Path's program often like to work with him and his mellow demeanor: He never hesitates to buy parts on his own, or doing errands to get keep The Path farm running. He's even used his skills to design and build a "mobile" chicken coop and other farm equipment.

We feel honored to nominate them, and honored to have them serve The Path and our community.

Nominated by Nicole Carley, program director, The Path of Citrus County.

Nominee: Michelle Goldstein

Reason: Advocate for the elderly. Finding placement for those that need placement even for stressed seniors with financial and medical and social limitations.

Nominated by Byron Goldstein.

Nominee: John Bordeaux, deceased

Reason: I am a relative newcomer, but I heard about John and worked around him at the S.O.S. distributions at my church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, in 2018-19.

Always, I was impressed with how John started the distributions, welcoming everyone and how glad he was they were there, then assuring the crowd of at least 100 people there was enough food for everybody. That was followed by the most gracious of prayers giving thanks for all present and the bounty of food. His calm, generous present started

the day off so that people were patient and chatty with each other while they waited for their number to be called.

As time went on, I learned that John was used to bringing \$100 or more in \$20s every week so that he could answer every sob story with one or more bill which he never expected to be paid back. I didn't know John nearly as well as many other people, so I hope there are more who write you. We lost someone irreplaceable when John died.

Nominated by Lynn A. Becholdt, retired clergy.

Nominee: Timothy Donohue

Reason: He has been our paper carrier here at the Inverness Club and never missed a day during this time. For an older resident and not getting out, this has been our lifeline.

Nominated by Helen Hopler.

Nominee: Harvey Gerber

Reason: He's received precious little credit for his accomplishments over the last few years; although to be fair, he has sought none. Gerber founded, chaired or officiated over several nonprofit organizations that have done immeasurable good for the community of Beverly Hills, its residents and, particularly, its youths. As the head of Nature Coast Affordable Housing, he created an entity that financed and built the splendid Boys & Girls Club off Roosevelt Boulevard near the library. He also established two consignment shops to assist with operational costs of the club. For many years, he served as president of the Beverly Hills Civic Association and in that capacity, he was a driving force in convincing the Board of Commissioners to pass a "vacant registry ordinance," which, in many cases, compels financial institutions and reluctant landlords in Citrus County to pay some attention to their foreclosed or abandoned residential properties.



Harvey Gerber

Nominated by Bob and Doris Foster.

Nominee: Kinsley Gist

Reason: Five-year-old combating homelessness one glass of lemonade at a time. Kinsley hopes to raise enough money to get homeless people "homes and food and chairs and couches and bedrooms and a bed." Her mom is planning to make the donation to Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, because the staff there has direct contact with homeless people and they use donations to purchase things grant money does not cover.

Nominated by Bob and Doris Foster.

Nominee: Janis Edwards

Reasons: Edwards has lived in Citrus Springs for 8 years. She volunteers any place she is needed at the age of 75. Retired from Publix Super Markets, Edwards likes to keep her work local. She makes blankets for veterans; made 75 pillow case dresses; every nursing home (three), received afghans for Christmas (150 total); makes blankets for unwed mothers as needed; volunteers at Hospice; cleans roads in the neighborhood; works at two Thrift Stores when needed. She has made her goal of 25,000 volunteer hours. Way to go! She also works at the food bank.

Nominated by Barbara Maldonado.

Nominee: Coach Archie Dabney

Reason: Coach came to CC as a young man, he taught Earth Science and coached basketball back in the early '70s. Every student loved this man then, and still to this day. In addition to being involved in the school system Coach Dabney is a veteran.

He touched the lives of hundreds of young people and it is my understanding he went on to become a Principal here in the county. We all were his kids, and still are. He was more than a mentor, a guidance counselor, he was a man everyone loved unconditionally. Many will say, if it weren't for Coach Dabney I don't know where I would be today. All so very true.

Coach Dabney who is in his 90s now still remembers everybody's name. Coach has some ailments now and is presently in Citrus Memorial Hospital diagnosed with COVID-19. Coach is more than worthy of being named Top Citizen and hope you consider him for this honorable nomination.

Nominated by Margaret Bailey, CRHS Class of '74.



Archie Dabney

Sound OFF

Tired of chronic complaining

Boy, I am really getting bored with the sign and mask comments. I'm wondering if my paper isn't called the Chronicle because of all the chronic complaining, whining and hissy fits of the same Citrus County readers. Sometimes you're funny; most

times, not so much — just whiny complaining. On the sign's bottom line, you have two choices: smoking section or nonsmoking section. Your call, but don't blame me if you're unhappy with your choice. Before the sign and masks, it was dogs, always dogs. Then it's always snowbirds. Before that it was touching eggs in the carton. And

then there's always speeders, but sometimes these are people that are going 20 or 25 mph, so when you're doing the speed limit, it just seems like you're going fast. Before that it was toasted manatees. It was almost headlamps in the rain, but we dodged that one. As for the masks, I wear one where I'm supposed to. For all

the professionals who say they protect, there's a bunch that say they don't. But don't call people stupid. That's so base and ignorant of yourself.

It's the science, not your opinion

I'm calling in regards to a Sound Off here in Friday, Dec. 11's ("Hot Corner:

Masks") about name-calling against people that aren't stupid enough to want to wear a mask and they say that they don't like being called names but they don't mind calling other people names. Well, you know, the fact of the matter is that the people who don't wear masks, that's just their opinion. Science says that everybody wearing a mask

will help slow down the transmission of the virus. So the people that don't wear a mask, they are stupid because stupid means knowing better but doing something anyway. And they are stupid for not trusting science and just going along with their own opinion when their own opinion doesn't really matter at all because it's not scientific.

WINDOW

Continued from Page C1

words. The buffalo are not roaming with the deer. The deer and the antelope are playing. Buffalo like to roam alone.

With all the COVID going around, I called an employee at home to see if he was feeling better. I was told he was still "feeling under the weather."

I get the meaning, but do the words really make sense? Upon further

review, the "under the weather" is a nautical term used back in the day when much travel happened aboard sailing ships. Passengers who began to feel seasick were often sent below deck because the rocking of the boat was less noticeable. Hence, they were "under the weather."

Checking in with another employee and she was feeling better. She had the rest of the week off and told me she was 'happy as a clam.'

That was nice that the employee was feeling

better, but what the heck is a happy clam? How do we know clams are happy or sad? I like to eat Cedar Key clams all the time, but I have never considered their happiness part of the equation.

But, I dug a little deeper and discovered that the original saying was "happy as a clam at high tide."

The assumption is that clams are happy at high tide because humans have trouble finding them along the shoreline. At a low tide, you can dig into the exposed sand and easily

find the delicacies. Not so much at high tide.

Another employee stopped by that morning and I asked how the advertising sales effort was going.

"It's a dog eat dog world out there," she replied. "But I think we will make budget by the skin of our teeth."

My head began to hurt as I pondered the lack of meaning to "dog eat dog world" and the "skin of your teeth." I wasn't going to get any work done if I kept trying to figure out

what all these sayings meant.

Dogs do not eat each other and there is no skin on my teeth. Enough said.

I tried to close my office door and the employee reminded me "money can't buy you happiness."

While money might not buy me happiness, I could at least rent it for a short period of time when I reviewed our budget numbers at the end of the month.

I pushed the office door closed and finally had some peace. I am in the

word business and words were not making any sense that day.

After three seconds of silence the phone rang.

The caller immediately asked: "Are you the person who writes the editorials? If so, you can't see the forest for the trees."

I calmly told him "close, but no potato" and then hung up the phone.

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

BEYOND

Continued from Page C1

introduce new rides from the movies "Ratatouille," "TRON," and "Guardians of the Galaxy." And there's going to be a "Star Wars" hotel for all you Jedi fans out there.

But Disney World isn't the only one celebrating a birthday in 2021. In Osaka, Japan, the Super Nintendo World theme park will make its debut. I know for sure my nephew is going to be jealous of that one. Maybe world travel will come back in the picture soon, too.

And speaking of Japan,

let's not forget about the postponed 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games that will now take place this coming summer. So while we may not get to play around with Mario and Luigi just yet, maybe the Olympics in Tokyo will give us a sneak peek of what it's like to be inside the epic video game.

Either way, we'll get to see plenty from Japan and watch history as four new sports make their inaugural Olympic appearances: surfing, skateboarding, karate and sport climbing. I'm psyched to see that baseball and softball will be back in the games this year, too.

Also coming our way in October is the 2021 World

Expo in Dubai. It was slated for 2020, too, but is coming this year instead. Almost 200 countries showing off technology and innovation on a global stage — should be an interesting opportunity for international collaboration and cooperation that has been largely absent for a year.

This next one is a bit of a new something to look forward to for me. During lockdown I discovered what the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) was all about. So I watched all three phases while we were all shut off from the world and I was immediately hooked. I don't know how long-term Marvel fans

lived with the suspense for so long. Anyway, 2021 is going to bring about the next phase of the MCU and I'm really excited about that — specifically the return of big-time movies in the theater.

That's good news for movie theaters that have taken a thrashing because of the pandemic. Hopefully 2021 will bring the comeback of this iconic business.

Those things may not strike your fancy but they are just a few happenings that make me smile when I think about 2020 being in the rear view mirror. On a much more everyday level though, 2021 will hopefully bring about fewer Zoom

calls and the end of the mask debate. And that's something we can all look forward to.

2021 isn't a magic solution, though. We have lots of work to do to get to the end of COVID. If we don't do what needs to be done on local, state, nation and worldwide levels, 2021 may look a lot like 2020. And the cancellations and postponements of all those positive 2021 happenings will be the least of our worries.

We need to commit to wearing masks for at least the better part of the year and come to grips with the fact that some things will never look the same again. We need to be vigilant and dedicated to public health

and safety until we can defeat this crisis together. But if everyone does their part, 2021 can definitely be the year of the light at the end of a long and dark tunnel.

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



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Dr. Frederick Herzog
NONPROFIT BRIEFS

Protecting volunteers

Welcome to the new year! Early in January, calls and email come into the Non-Profit Resource Center. These communications come from people who have made a decision to do volunteer work.

The reasoning is always they want to do something productive and make their life more meaningful. They feel their life work and experience is signaling them to support something and "give back." Once involved, most sense they made a good decision to serve in some way.

Here is some good news. Citrus County heartily welcomes volunteers. There are hundreds of opportunities to volunteer for a worthwhile commitment.

Volunteering has a long history and our governing provides incentives and protections. The incentives are usually a combination of doing something important and being a part of it.

There are also legal protections via the concept of the "corporate veil" and the Volunteer Act of 1997. Both offer volunteers protection from lawsuits while involved in nonprofit endeavors.

It is important to understand this protection only exists as long as a volunteer does not break local, state or federal law while performing volunteer work.

History: Many benefits

During the period from 2009-11, government records on Citrus County indicated the county had about 600 nonprofit organizations. Many were churches; however, the preponderance of nonprofit organizations were not.

A large number of the nonprofits represented were charities, education, safety, research, medical and professional groups, trade-, civic- or business-related nonprofits.

The existence of these groups is testimony to the fact Citrus County firmly believes the benefits of the volunteer movement is a huge asset. The number of nonprofits has had significant growth. Citrus County nonprofits grew from 600 in 2006 to approximately 1,000 presently.

The NonProfit Resource Center serves to provide guidance and education on starting and managing nonprofit organizations for success.

Not paid, but protected

Volunteers are not compensated for their work for a nonprofit. When the Internal Revenue Service issues a Determination Letter to a nonprofit, it clearly states the officers and directors may not be compensated.

The benefit IRS provides is freedom from federal income tax on properly earned income thru donations and grants. Legal protections are a positive incentive.

Legislators realized the value of nonprofit efforts as both social and financial. On June 18, 1997, legislators affirmed Public Law 105-19, known as the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997.

Legal protections

"Nonprofit Briefs" on Dec. 20 discussed the "corporate veil," which is the legal concept that protects the officers and directors for both for profit and nonprofit corporations. The Volunteer Protection Act offers essentially the same protections.

The findings and reason for this legislation were clearly stated in Public Law 105-19, June 18, 1997. Our government understood the inherent value of volunteer work and wanted to entice and protect volunteers who work to enhance social values.

Dr. Frederick J. Herzog is the founder/executive director of the NonProfit Resource Center in Citrus County. He can be reached at 847-899-9000 or via email to fherzog@tampabay.rr.com.

The city of Crystal River begins to realize a 'long-awaited' dream for the waterfront: Walking by the river



Special to the Chronicle
About 75% of the Crystal River Riverwalk is completed in the city's downtown and along King's Bay. City officials are working to find more funding to finish the rest.

Officials report project fulfills successful tourism mission

MICHAEL D. BATES
Staff writer

There is one overriding goal the Citrus County Tourist Development Council (TDC) hammers home when making funding decisions: getting visitors to stay overnight at a local hotel or lodging accommodation after they're done swimming with manatees or biking the Withlacoochee State Trail.

The board is constantly seeking more activities to get them to hang around and spend money locally.

That "heads-in-bed" mindset was one of the selling points of the ambitious King's Bay Riverwalk project, a 30-year-plus endeavor that is now gaining traction.

The city of Crystal River recently got the TDC to commit \$500,000 to the \$8.6-million project, with hopes the city can line up other funding sources.

In its request application to the TDC, city officials outlined specifically how they think the Riverwalk project will benefit tourism in Citrus County.

This is more than just a pedestrian sidewalk next to and over water, they said. It's an economic driver and it's eco-friendly to boot.

Here are highlights from the city's presentation:

The numbers

Crystal River has become a worldwide tourist destination, with about 340,000 visitors annually. Forty-five thousand people alone visit the Three Sisters Springs unit of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge yearly.

Social media sites verify the numbers.

Crystal River's own Three Sisters Springs Facebook page has over 67,000 followers and a single post from that page depicting a manatee reached over 1.7 million people from around the world.

"The world has discovered Citrus County and people are coming here," the city said.

Stay awhile

"We hear all too often that there is not enough in the area to hold people's attention for more than day trips from surrounding areas," according to the city. "The Riverwalk will provide the reason to extend a day trip into that elusive overnight stay needed to benefit the economy of Crystal River and Citrus County as a whole."

"The ability to visit downtown and shop, dine, eat, and now stroll the Riverwalk will be the boost to our local economy we have been searching to find."

"Boat traffic is showing its wear and tear on King's Bay," according to the presentation. "The state is

spending tens of millions in the restoration of the Bay. The Riverwalk will provide an alternative to visitors other than seeing the bay, and its manatees, by boat."

What's next?

The city now turns its attention to permitting, funding, and construction outside of manatee season.

The city hopes the project will be permit-ready at the conclusion of manatee season in March 2021.

"Being realistic and following the state's timeline for funding, the project would most likely begin in the late summer of 2021 or the conclusion of the manatee season in 2022," city officials said.

'Long-awaited dream'

"In the past five years, the city has seen the completion of Hunter Springs Park, Crystal River Town Square and phase one of the King's Bay Riverwalk," Crystal River City Manager Ken Frink said in a recent letter to the TDC board.

Next year, a splash pad, event area and parking additions will be added to Town Square.

"Along with these city projects, there have been several new businesses in and around our downtown area," Frink said. "We can now bring all these projects together and see a long-awaited dream for our waterfront come true with the completion of the King's Bay Riverwalk."

Have you been hacked on Facebook?

You might have heard about a friend's Facebook account having been hacked; however, it could never happen to you.

Wrong! It just happened to me.

Recently, a friend asked me on Facebook if I had sent them a friend request. Why would I do that to someone who is already a friend? The answer is simple. I didn't. I was hacked.

I immediately did several things. First, I changed my password. Then I posted the following statement on my Facebook page.

"If you have received a 'friend' request from me DO NOT click on it. I have been hacked but have taken care of it by doing several things. One is immediately changing my password."

I then posted a screenshot of my account where someone in Reston, Virginia, using a Mac (like I do) but on the Safari browser (I use Chrome) on

Dec. 24 at 4:06 p.m. had logged onto my account.



Mari-Elain Ebitz
ALL THINGS TECH

Everyone needs to periodically check their Facebook account to see if someone else has had access.

To do that, go to the upside-down triangle at the upper right near your name. That

will take you to Settings & Privacy.

Click on Settings. That takes you to the General Account Settings page.

On the left side, go to Security & Login. That's where you can find out if anyone else has been in your account, like my "friend" in Reston.

If you've been hacked, change your password immediately to something strong and write it down so you don't forget it.

Next go to Two-Factor Authentication. Go through the

steps (best authentication is your cellphone).

Additionally, I suggest that you go to Setting Up Extra Security, then to "Get alerts about unrecognized logins." That will allow notifications if someone logged into your account.

Click on the notifications you want to receive. I suggest checking them all. Then save.

One last safety precaution is the item just below the Alerts section. It's "Choose three to five friends to contact" if you get locked out. This could be critical.

To begin, select three to five friends that you can call for help, if there's ever a problem with your account. Make sure to click on the drop-down Facebook friend's name. Just typing their name is not enough.

For your security, Facebook will notify any new contacts that you add. You must choose three, at a minimum. Once you've chosen three, their photos will show in that section. Later, if you change your mind, you can always edit or remove all.

After you've completed

either the Two-Factor Authentication and/or Setting up Extra Security, those will show "on" in blue.

There are other sections that you can also choose to add onto your account but the above are the most important for the security of your Facebook account.

You also can take a look at Privacy while you're in Settings. There are many choices, but I suggest that you only allow Friends, not the Public in those categories.

While you're in Settings, take a look at everything that Facebook has provided. It may take you awhile to go through it all but it's worthwhile, especially if you've never done that.

You could do none of this and just cross your fingers. That advice only works if you do not have a Facebook account.

Hope this helps.

Mari-Elain Ebitz does web design, specializing in not-for-profit organizations. You can email her at chronicletech@yahoo.com.



Chamber Connection

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(352) 400-4894
www.AnytimeFitness.com/
Gyms/2184/Inverness-FL-34452/
- Citrus Gymnastics

As we head full force into the New Year, we tend to re-evaluate our goals, aspirations, and priorities! Do we want to focus on our personal health and wellness, taking more time for our children and families, or perhaps we want to rekindle our creativity? Our community is blessed with many Chamber members who aim to help you on your New Year journey!

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Lecanto, FL 34460 8419
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www.CitrusGymnastics.com
- Crystal River Kayak Company and Dive Center
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www.CrystalRiverKayakCompany.com
- Crystal Lodge Dive Center, Inc.
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www.Manatee-Central.com
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Inverness, FL 34450
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www.InvernessBicycle.com
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(352) 586-5259
www.PaddlesOutdoorRentals.com
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(352) 212-4992
www.SchOfDanceArts.com
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www.WTCollege.org
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www.CitrusLibraries.org
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Inverness, FL 34450
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www.RutabagasMarket.com

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www.CrystalAeroGroup.com
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www.NatureCoastin.com
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(352) 795-7033
www.CrystalRiverWatersports.com
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www.PlantationOnCrystalRiver.com
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(352) 795-3552
www.TwinRiversMarina.com

Florida Manatee Festival Postponed To Mar. 27, 28

After continued meetings with our City and County (Health) Officials, as a condition of our permit to conduct the festival within the parameters in consideration of Covid 19 guidelines/protocol, The 2021 Florida Manatee Festival has been postponed to March 27th-28th, 2021.

We were hoping for significant improvement in our infection numbers and hospitalization cases. This has not occurred.

Following two weeks of consultation with the Florida Department of Health, City of Crystal River and the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, the benchmarks we agreed upon regarding

case numbers, infection rate, and hospitalizations cannot be met.

Therefore, in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of our vendors, visitors and residents, we have reached the decision to postpone the festival until March 27th-28th, 2021.

While we are disappointed to have to make this call, we look forward to producing a larger, less restrictive event during the last weekend in March.

VENDORS: In the event that you are unable to participate with us on March 27th & 28th, please submit a withdraw email to Erika L. Corley, Events@citrus-countychamber.com.



All registration fees are refundable once we have received your written withdraw email (events@citruscountychamber.com), and will be applied to the payment method

utilized upon registering for the postponed January 16th & 17th 2021 festival.

On behalf of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida Manatee Festival team, thank you for your understanding.

VENDOR APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR NEW DATE

- The Florida Manatee Festival has re-opened vendor applications for the new dates, March 27th & 28th. If you missed the initial round of applications, visit www.GoManateeFest.com and click on the vendors tab. All applications must be submitted by March 1st



'Chamber Report' on WYKE

Watch the weekly Chamber Report show on WYKE-TV to stay informed on Chamber events, issues, and member spotlights. Chamber Report is broadcast on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 5:00 p.m. on Spectrum Channel 16 or through LiveStream (www.livestream.com/watch and search for "WYKE TV 47").

This week, host Jade White, Chamber Public Relations & Communication Coordinator, talks with incoming Chamber Board Chairwoman, Tabitha Wells about her aspirations for 2021. They also discuss Tabitha's three local businesses, Wells Business Solutions, Crystal River Segway Tours, and Nature Coastin'. Also joining Jade is Citrus County Blessings Executive Director, Christina Reed, to discuss work Blessings has been doing throughout the pandemic and the importance of their programs. Chamber Report is your ticket to the many happenings in Citrus County!



Tabitha Wells



Christina Reed

Chamber Legacy Partners



The Chamber recognizes our Legacy Partners that have made a special investment in the Chamber to support the programs and mission of the Chamber. For information on becoming a Legacy Partner, please contact the Chamber at 352-795-3149.



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Applications will be accepted until Friday, January 8th 2021 at 4:00 pm and may be picked up at the Inglis Town Hall 135 Hwy 40 West, Inglis FL. Monday - Friday 8:00-5:00 P.M. E.O.E. Veterans encouraged to apply.

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54 INCH HUSQVARNA BAGGER. Very good condition \$100. leave message will call back 352-422-2029

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

Plants

STAGHORN FERN \$75 (727) 599-4809

Garage/Yard Sales

MOVING SALE LECANTO DAILY Sale starts Thurs. 12/31 to 2 Kensington Estates 311 N Brighton Rd

Communication Equipment

RadioShack. Whistler DIGITAL Desktop & Handheld Radio Scanner 1065 Desktop \$299.99 1040 Handheld \$299.99 call/text 352-423-1650

General

"DUCK DECOYS" DECOYS GALORE "ALL KINDS" - \$3 and up 352-586-8946

AP CRASH COURSE BOOKS 6 books total, call for more details. Asking for \$40 for all. (352)465-1616

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

Wanted to Buy

I buy, jewelry, silver, gold, paintings, instruments, records, antiques, coins, watches & MORE! 352-454-0068

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

CHANGES HAIR DESIGN STUDIO welcomes both Ashley & Sue to our winning team! Call for an appointment or walk-ins are always welcome!

CHANGES HAIR DESIGN STUDIO 3914 S. Suncoast Blvd. Homosassa Springs (Publix Center) (Next to Kim's Rest.) 352-382-HAIR (4247)

Household

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

COFFEE MAKER Works great, have had it for years, Mr. Coffee brand, \$2 (352) 547-6479

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

QUEEN MATTRESS AND BOX SPRING. Queen mattress box spring and frame. Like new. \$50.00 815-742-0088

SHADOW BOX OCTAGON SHAPE 33 inches Wide & a Lg mirror insert \$70 obo (352) 344-1515

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

Sporting Goods

Golf Bag Caddy, Range ball picker, laundry basket full of name brand balls. \$75 obo (727) 599-4809

GOLF CLUBS 3 Bags of Golf Clubs- Womens & Mens \$30 for ALL (352) 344-1515

Orvis Fly Rod Model 905-4, 4pc - 5wt (New in Case \$198) + Old Florida Fly Reel backing and Line (New in Case \$340) + Assortment of Saltwater Flies (New in case \$65) includes a used Fishing Bag -Take ALL for \$295 - Can send pics - Call/Text 239-273-7935

Utility Trailers

Trailer Flat bed \$95 (352) 436-2953

Baby Items

UMBRELLA STROLLER blue & red in good condition, \$15 352-613-0529

Wanted to Buy

I buy, jewelry, silver, gold, paintings, instruments, records, antiques, coins, watches & MORE! 352-454-0068

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

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Recreation Vehicles

5th Wheel 2018 Forest River Riverstone Legacy 38RE - 43ft. residential refrig., 3 A/C's, W/D \$70,000 352-584-2015

ISATA 2007 M310 Ford Diesel Toy Hauler \$11k in upgrades last mo., NADA \$69,500 - \$83,750 asking \$62,500 Cash (607) 387-6639

KEYSTONE '17 Raptor King Suite 5th wh toy hauler. 42' 1 1/2 Ba, triple slide, VGC, new tires \$55k obo. Tow vehicle avail (727) 639-5229

Campers/Travel Trailers

Check Out SPECIALS! ~\$69.95~ Run 'til it sells

Applies to all vehicles, boats, RV's, campers & motorcycles. ***** Call your Classified Representative for details. 352-563-5966

2007 JAYCO SPORT TRAILER 18 ft. good cond., clean, \$5,500 or B/O 352-212-2856

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

2015 DENALI 316RES 5th wheel - 3 slides, Arctic pkg, self leveling, 4yrs extended warranty w/Hitch,washer /dryer & King sz bed \$31K 810-705-2539

5TH WHEEL 2007 Grand Surveyor . GSF273RL . super lite wt. VG cond. w/ hitch \$12,000 352-201-5062

DAMON 2011 Tuscany - 43 foot Bath & a half, King size bed. 44K mi. Exc cond MUST SEE !! 352-601-0310

FIFTH WHEEL 2017 Heartland Pioneer PI 276 -32ft/ 2 slides, Auto Leveling, Rear Bunks. \$24,500 352-634-2247

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Truck / Car -NEW- Emergency Tire Changing Kit , 1/2" Drive D.C. 12 Volt \$39 352-726-1337

Vehicles Wanted

CHECK THIS OUT! ~\$69.95~ Run 'til it sells

Applies to all vehicles, boats, RV's, campers & motorcycles. ***** Call your Classified Representative for details. 352-563-5966

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2006 Chrysler Sebring Convertible 106K mi. Svc rec'd/s, Runs & Looks Good! \$3,350 obo (207) 215-0623

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

CHRYSLER '91 New Yorker, been in storage 10 yrs, New: AC, batt, radiator, tires breaks. Top of the line with all options \$3000 352-341-0062

FORD - 2004 Thunderbird - Lt. blue, both tops, NEW conv. top w/ NEW inner headliner - 43,937mi, garage stored -Moving Must Sell- \$24,500 obo Lv txt msg 352-201-9675

HONDA CIVIC 2012 Only 48K mi. Original Owner Garage Kept. \$9500 352-503-7243

KIA SOUL + 2014/ Ex cond/ 76K mi, Inspected 8/20, svc records, asking \$9500 negotiable 352-201-1205

NISSAN 2005 350 Z Convertible White, blue top, ground effects pkg, 94,769 mi. \$12,800 obo (352) 270-8485

NISSAN 2018 VERSA - 4dr- 42K mi - 5sp Standard- 40+ mpg- Great Condition- Like New! \$10,200 obo (352) 571-0886

Motorcycles

Can-Am Spyder 2016, White, 4,705 mi, Garage-Kept Excellent Condition! \$17,500 352-794-0352

EW-66 SCOOTER Brand NEW! EW-66 -2 Seater- See on Internet. \$2500 352-465-6335

HARLEY 2016 Switchback, 2,935 mi., HD extended warranty 2023. \$11,500 352-765-4679

Harley-Davidson '08 FLHX Street Glide, Very Clean, Low Miles, \$8900 OBO 352-277-9175

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

HONDA 1989 Goldwing SE 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 2001 Goldwing GL1800 28,500 miles. Many extras. Excellent cond. Ultimate touring bike. New price. \$6950 352-270-8089

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

TRIKE V8 Factory Made Ex Cond./Low Miles- Automatic transmission 1 of a Kind- Reasonable \$17,900 352-341-3803

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

AUTO SWAP CORRAL CAR SHOW

SUMTER SWAP MEETS Sumter County Fairgrounds SUN. Jan 3rd (727) 848-7171

CHEVROLET 1936 5 Window Coupe 350 V8 Automatic, Chrome Eng. -Steel body, ALL power, cold A/C, \$26,500 352-746- 0589 352-302-6979

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

CHEVROLET 1971 Camaro RS 4 sp. Black. V8 & A/C. \$22,000 obo or possible trade. 352-303-8226

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

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

WANTED TO BUY

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

Classic Vehicles

TRIUMPH 1973 TR6, 4 spd, 6 cyl, 2 Tops, Red w/ Black Interior \$15,000 Firm 352-503-6859

Trucks

DODGE 2002 Ram Diesel - 2500 Cum's/ BLK / 181K mi / 1 owner/ Tow pkg/ Ext. cab / Great Cond. - a/c \$11,500 352-601-0383

FORD 2001 Ford Ranger XLT 4LO V6, 242K mi- Very Good Condition! \$4,000 (352) 445-9448

FORD 2002 F450 Lariat 141K mi, 7.3 diesel, Jake brake, 5th wheel body, Air susp. & 2 Gas tanks - Was \$25,000 Now \$21,950 502-345-0285

FORD F350 Diesel King Ranch Crew Cab 4 x 4 108K mi/ Rear Ent./ Retractable Tonneau Cover- 1 owner- ALL svc rec's/ Mint Condition! \$20,900 352-497-6945

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Motorcycles

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TRIKE V8 Factory Made Ex Cond./Low Miles- Automatic transmission 1 of a Kind- Reasonable \$17,900 352-341-3803

Meeting Notices

Brooksville, FL, 34601, telephone (352) 754-4082, extension 28013 or email mpo@hernandocounty.us.

Meeting Notices

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Steve Diez, no later than seven (7) days prior to the meeting at (352) 754-4082. If hearing impaired, please call 1-800-676-3777 for assistance.

Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization

/s/ Steve Diez MPO Executive Director

Published January 3, 2021 MPO-21-01

1312-0103 SUCRN NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Hernando/Citrus MPO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will conduct a public meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, FL.

Items on the agenda are included but not limited to:

- Award Presentation
Florida Department of Transportation - Tentative Five-Year Work Program FY 2022-2026
Florida's Turnpike Enterprise - Tentative Five-Year Work Program FY 2022-2026
Tampa Bay Management Area Transit Funding Position Statement

- Election of 2021 Officers
Annual Safety Performance Measures
Unified Planning Work Program Goal Setting
Congestion Management Process Scope of Services

Approximately one week prior to the meeting, the meeting agenda may be viewed online at https://www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo. Any questions concerning this public meeting should be directed to Mr. Steve Diez, MPO Executive Director, Hernando/Citrus MPO, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, FL, 34601, telephone (352) 754-4082, extension 28013 or email mpo@hernandocounty.us.

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Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization

/s/ Steve Diez MPO Executive Director

Published January 3, 2021 MPO-21-02

1313-0103 SUCRN NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Hernando/Citrus MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) will conduct a public meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, FL.

Items on the agenda are included but not limited to:

- Florida Department of Transportation - Tentative Five-Year Work Program FY 2022-2026
Florida's Turnpike Enterprise - Tentative Five-Year Work Program FY 2022-2026
Tampa Bay Management Area Transit Funding Position Statement

- Election of 2021 Officers
Annual Safety Performance Measures
Unified Planning Work

HomeFront

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021



Most Australian bottlebrush varieties have red flowers. Some species evolved with yellow, green, orange or white flowers. Most are upright species, but one with a weeping form is a popular ornamental garden plant.

JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle

Inside this week:

Jane's Garden

The Australian bottlebrush./Page E6

Blended space? 4 Tips for a productive 2021

Family Features

This year has taught many workers a thing or two about being productive when offices and homes blend into one.

As the calendar turns to 2021, consider these key products and processes to stay productive next year.

Find a system (and stick to it): Creating an organizing system is an easy way to ensure your at-home workspace is ready for optimal productivity. Designate space

to house all your work items – a drawer, cabinet or box – and keep work items organized by type (pens, papers, computer gear, etc.) At the end of each day, transitioning to “offline hours” can be easier when you have a place to stow your work items.

Start your day clean: Studies have shown cleanliness has a direct impact on productivity. Yet, many people struggle to find the time and energy to clean, especially at the end of a busy day at home.

An option like The DEEBOT T8 from Ecovacs provides a hands-free cleaning experience, complete with the time-saving benefits of an all-in-one robot vacuum and floor mop, along with TrueDetect technology to avoid tangling in small objects. Easily controlled via an app, just set it to clean before bed and wake up to a tidy workspace.

Break up your day: With so many hours at home in front of a computer, workdays

can get a little monotonous. Break up the day to make working from home feel as “normal” as possible – shower in the morning, take a walk or drive to coffee then make time for at least two breaks throughout the day. Some people have found success with the Pomodoro Technique, which is breaking your day up into 25-minute chunks of work, with 5-minute rest periods.

See TIPS/Page E7

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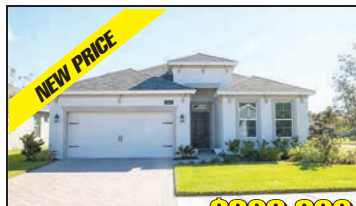


MLS#796618 **\$167,900**

**7612 W. SUNBURST LANE
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This 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home is cute as a button! Move right on in and enjoy your new home or rent it out as an investment property! It's been beautifully updated with a new kitchen, new bathrooms, and more! Hurry because this great home with endless possibilities will sell quickly!

KATHY GREEN (352) 325-5525
Website: kathygreensellshomes.com

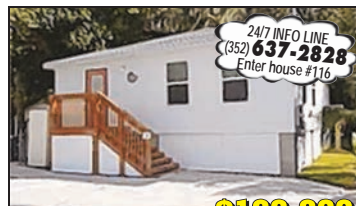


MLS#0M612024 **\$298,800**

**5166 CAPPLEMAN LOOP
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Beautiful 2/2/2 Kingsley Home built by Inland with many amenities! Enjoy cooking in this stunning, luxury kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances! Wonderful features include: Covered Entry, Spaciously Open Floor Plan, & an On Demand Water Heater. Relax on the large and inviting lanai overlooking the water!

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Website: kathygreensellshomes.com



MLS#795210 **\$199,900**

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MLS#797278 **\$280,000**

**12 HACKBERRY COURT S,
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This immaculate Royal Coachman home is move-in ready with its spacious open floor plan, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a 2 car garage! The master bath features dual sinks and a large walk-in shower. Situated on a PRIVATE CUL-DE-SAC in the lovely Cypress Village of Sugarhill Woods and featuring a tropical backyard!

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US home prices rise

Fastest pace in more than 6 years

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. home prices jumped in October by the most in more than six years as a pandemic-fueled buying rush drives the number of available properties for sale to record lows.

That combination of strong demand and limited supply pushed home prices up 7.9% in October compared with 7.9% in October 2019, according to Tuesday's S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-city home price index. That's the largest annual increase since June 2014.

The coronavirus outbreak has forced millions of Americans to work from home and it's curtailed other activities like eating out, going to movies or visiting gyms. That's leading more people to seek out homes with more room for a home office, a bigger kitchen, or space to work out.

"The data from the last several months are consistent with the view that COVID has encouraged potential buyers to move from urban apartments to suburban homes," said Craig Lazzara, Managing Director at S&P Dow Jones Indices.

All 19 cities reported larger year-over-year price gains in October than in September, Lazzara said. Detroit wasn't able to fully report its home sales data because of delays related to a coronavirus lockdown.

The biggest price gain was in Phoenix for the 17th straight month, where home prices rose 12.7% from a year ago. It was followed by Seattle with 11.7% and San Diego at 11.6%.

Home sales slipped in November, according to the National Association of Realtors, after rising steadily for the previous five months. Even after the decline, sales were nearly 26% higher last month compared with a year ago. Sales have also been boosted by low mortgage rates, which reflect the Federal Reserve's moves to keep its benchmark short-term rate at nearly zero.

Islands can work in smaller kitchens, too

TIM CARTER
Tribune Content Agency

Q: Tim, I'm about to embark on a kitchen remodeling adventure and don't want to get shipwrecked on the island of kitchen mistakes. I've never had an island in my kitchen, and I don't have lots of space. Can you help me decide if one will work? What, in your opinion, is the smallest island you can have in a kitchen? What about appliances and electricity in the island? What happens if you get a stone top and want to change it later? How would you get the stone top off? — *Mary Chris F., Cincinnati*

A: A lot of homeowners are flummoxed when it comes to kitchen remodeling challenges. I've come to respect Europeans' skills at making the most of the least when it comes to space in kitchens, bathrooms and other living spaces. If you need

inspiration about how to work with small spaces, look on the internet for images of how they do it across the Atlantic Ocean!

I didn't build the house I live in. My goal is to build one more house for myself and, believe me, it will have as near a perfect kitchen layout as possible. My current house had a horrible kitchen layout when I bought the home. I don't know what the architect or homeowner was thinking, but it had virtually no counter-top space. All of the tops were short sections, the longest being about 30 inches.

The overall size of my kitchen is only 14 feet 7 inches by 13 feet 3 inches. Believe it or not, with some ingenious planning and relocating the entry we doubled the area of the kitchen's countertops and included two new islands to boot!

The primary island cabinet in my kitchen

Ask the **BUILDER**

measures 25 by 48 inches. It's got a stone top that overhangs 1 inch on all sides. When planning a kitchen layout, it's important to leave enough space around the island so two people can pass one another with ease. See **BUILDER/Page E11**


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Linda Bega 352-212-2161




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Ernestine Brinager 606-359-2325



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- Photos need to be in sharp focus.
- Photos submitted electronically should be in maximum-resolution JPEG (.jpg) format.

Living SPACE

How to arrange your furniture: No-fail tricks

BHG.com

No matter if your rooms are big or small, having the right furniture arrangement will make them more enjoyable. Check out these tricks for arranging furniture to meet everyone's needs.

Face the view: If you're not sure how to arrange furniture in a living room, orient seating so it takes advantage of whatever view your room has to offer, whether it's a TV or a bank of windows. Create your own focal point by hanging a large piece of art on a wall or create a vignette of favorite objects on a console or bookshelf.

Arrange seating for fireside chats: For face-to-face chats, place seating no more than 8 feet apart. In a large living room, use furniture to create comfortable islands. Face two sofas in the center of a room and place a

group of chairs and side tables at one end to create a separate conversation area.

Leave room to move: One of the secrets to learning how to arrange furniture is making sure you leave enough space between pieces. Allow 30 inches between furniture you need to be able to walk around and 14 to 18 inches between a coffee table and sofa, so drinks are within reaching distance.

Use the right side tables for your space: Use round pedestal tables as side tables between chairs and sofas. The curves of round tables make them easier to navigate around. When space is tight, use nesting tables for flexible use when needed.

Think about lighting: Lighting is a key factor in the overall mood of your room.

See LIVING/Page E5

Inside ...



Dressing up young trees for the winter

PAGE E8

Inherited items are best donated to a thrift store

Dear John: Like many people, I have inherited items from my parents. I wanted to know if they are of value or should I donate them to our local thrift shop. I have enclosed pictures of some of the items. We live in Citrus Springs.



John Sikorski
SIKORSKI'S
ATTIC

Thanks for your input. — C.S., internet

Dear C.S.: The glass decanter has a nice decorative look but is of no specific collector interest. The two wine glasses are of a commercial grade quality and also have no collector interest.

Likewise for the cocktail glass. I think a donation to a charity or thrift shop is the correct path.

Dear John: Enclosed is a snapshot of a

plate that my wife bought in an antiques shop decades ago. On the bottom of the plate, all it says is "Made in Thuringia," with no company logo.

Can you give me any information on it and if it is worth anything? — N.C., internet

Dear N.C.: The plate with flower decoration is a transfer print with a little hand color. The time of production was after World War I. Potential dollar value is below \$25.

You might consider contacting Replacements Ltd. in Greensboro, North Carolina. They might be able to identify the manufacturer based on the pattern. The phone number is 800-REPLACE (800-737-5223). Good luck.

See ATTIC/Page E11

The decanter at right is nice-looking, but isn't of any specific collector interest. The cocktail glass at first right appears to be commercial grade.

Special to the Chronicle



SPACE

Continued from Page E4

Windows let in ample natural light, while chandeliers, sconces and lamps keep the room bright at night. Install in-floor electrical outlets to service floating furniture arrangements.

Get your TV right: The No. 1 tip when learning how to arrange living room furniture with a TV? Place the television so the screen faces away from the sunlight. The viewing distance for a standard TV is 8 to 12 feet, and the best viewing angle is not more than 30 degrees. For traffic flow, create paths that flow behind viewers and not between them and the screen.

Add storage to your family room: Family rooms are oftentimes storage hubs. Consider freestanding storage pieces in a smaller room and wall-to-wall built-ins for a larger room. Make sure there is some storage near the TV for media items.

Consider all options for the bedroom: Don't be afraid to give your bed a slightly unusual placement, such as in front of a window, if it will help you maximize space. Every space is a little bit different, so it's important to play around with arranging bedroom furniture until you find the optimal layout.

Adjust furniture by size: In a small bedroom, use fewer furniture pieces of a slightly larger scale to maximize floor space. Opt for tall pieces, such as this armoire, that add volume in a smaller footprint.

Add comfort to the bedroom: For an extra-cozy space, place a bench at the foot of the bed or a small-scale armchair in a corner for bedroom seating. Consider placing a chair next to a bedside table. The chair and bed can share the nightstand. If there isn't room next to the nightstand, pair the chair with a small garden stool, which will serve as a small table without occupying much space.

Plan walkways in the bedroom: Allow at least 2 feet on either side of the bed to allow for space to make the bed. Avoid placing the bed within 3 feet of the door; otherwise the bed becomes a roadblock.

Select the right-size bed: It's possible to use a larger bed if you don't need a lot of storage furniture. Also, consider the visual weight of your headboard. If the bed is slightly large for the room, opt for a visually



Getty Images

Get comfortable by making the most of furniture placement.

lighter headboard, such as one that features metal scrollwork. A solid headboard consumes more visual space, and taller, heavier headboards work best in bigger bedrooms or bedrooms with tall ceilings.

Consider how you use your dining room: How do you use your dining room? For family-style meals or

buffet-style serving? Make furniture choices that support your needs. Then, arrange furniture in a room-appropriate layout.

Buy the right-size table: For optimal dining room arrangement, be sure to allow a minimum of 36 inches from the table to the wall on all sides. Position the table so traffic flows smoothly around it and chairs

have plenty of space to slide out.

Measure up so you're not crowded around the table: When determining how many chairs you can fit around your table, allow for a width of 20 to 24 inches and a depth of 15 inches per place setting and leave at least 6 inches between chairs. This furniture design will keep guests comfortable, not too close.

Stay functional in the dining room: Make the most of square footage with a wall of shelves that provide storage for the dining room's alternative uses — office supplies, games and crafts — or dining extras such as china, linens and barware.

Light up your dining room the right way: Choose and place lighting that adapts to the room's functions. For example, hang the chandelier with extra cord length so it can be adjusted for homework or dining. Use dimmer switches, lamps and sconces to set the mood for the occasion.

D-I-Y ONLINE CALENDAR

- Local groups are welcome to add their upcoming events to the Chronicle's online community calendar. Here's how:
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JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle

Australia's endemic Narrow-leaved Bottlebrush, *Melaleuca linearis*, can flower from spring through to winter in Central Florida. First described in 1796 by Schrader and Wendland, this popular shrub or small tree is now again classified as *Melaleuca linearis*. Three misidentified synonyms were formerly used: *Callistemon linearis*, *C. pinifolius* and *C. rigidus*.

Australian Bottlebrush trees and shrubs



Jane Weber
**JANE'S
GARDEN**

Evergreen, non-native bottlebrushes are *Melaleuca* species endemic to warm, temperate Australia. They must have protection from winter freezes in northern Florida. Bottlebrushes are in the *Myrtaceae* family. Modern scientists place most bottlebrushes in the *Melaleuca* genus, first described in 1814. Scientific studies indicate the difference between the 50 former callistemons and melaleuca does not warrant the former's status as a separate genus. As some melaleuca

plants are invasive and old habits persist, there is resistance to scientific proof that plants formerly misnamed callistemons are really in the *Melaleuca* genus.

Bottlebrush trees can grow 25 feet tall but are usually sold as shrubs that will need pruning. Widely cultivated in warm temperate gardens around the world, some bottlebrushes have escaped cultivation and naturalized in very few locations. No former callistemon is on Florida's FLEPPC invasive species list. Bottlebrush is a

descriptive name because of their prominent distinctive flower stamens which radiate from a long flowering spike and resemble a bristly bottlebrush kitchen utensil.

Most bottlebrush varieties have red flowers. Some species evolved with yellow, green, orange or white flowers. Most are upright species; one has a weeping form. Bottlebrush flowers attract hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators to feed on flower nectar.

First described in 1796 by

Schrader and Wendland, Australian narrow-leaved bottlebrush, is now again classified as *Melaleuca linearis*. It continues to be sold under former synonyms *Callistemon linearis*, *C. pinifolius* and *C. rigidus*. *M. linearis* is a medium-sized shrub with long narrow leaves that end in a rigid point. Leaves have a mid-vein but the lateral veins are inconspicuous. It grows 10 feet tall and has hard, fibrous, gray bark.

See JANE/Page E7

JANE

Continued from Page E6

Narrow-leaved Bottlebrush prefers full sun and moist soil and is hardier, more pest resistant and shorter than weeping *M. viminalis*. It has spikes of red-to-greenish petaled flowers from spring to winter locally. The flower clusters can be 2 to 3.9-inches long and 2 to 3 inches in diameter. Close to the central stem, each tiny flower has 23 to 33 long red stamens that radiate like bristles of a bottlebrush.

Australian Weeping Bottlebrush, *Melaleuca viminalis* (formerly *C. viminalis*), is a popular large shrub to small tree with hard furrowed bark. It is often sold as a multi-trunked plant made from several rooted cuttings. The branches and alternate narrow leaves droop gracefully. Red flowers cluster at the tips of the branches from spring to late fall. Three seeds are in hard capsules clustered around the stems. Stems continue to grow from the branch tips. There are several named cultivars and smaller "dwarf" varieties available.

Weeping Bottlebrush needs full sun of more than six hours a day and winter protection. Although marginally salt-tolerant, salt water will kill it. Drought-tolerant Weeping Bottlebrush flowers better and longer with supplemental irrigation during



JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle
Lemon bottlebrush, *M. pallidus*, is upright with spreading branches and silvery new leaves. Flowers are pale creamy-white with white stamens.

Florida's dry periods. Rich, moisture-retaining soil should be well-drained.

Lemon bottlebrush, *M. pallidus*, is upright with spreading branches and silvery new leaves. Flowers are pale yellowish-white with white stamens. Some named cultivars have pinkish-white flowers. There are many former synonyms but only one accepted correct scientific binomial.

Most gardeners use bottlebrush as

a specimen or accent tree and prune off unwanted suckers and branches to maintain the desired form. However, in South Florida, the erect type can become a tall privacy screen or dense hedge. In frost-prone areas, gardeners can espalier the tree on wires on the south side of a building. It takes work to prune and train espaliered plants, but offers winter protection without having to cover the plant on frigid nights.

I do not protect the narrow-leaved bottlebrush in my garden. It has a microclimate surrounded by native trees and a nearby garden shed. Less than a kilometer down the road, neighbors cover their weeping bottlebrush during freezing overnight temperatures and frosty mornings. Their weeping melaleuca is near the front door and facing west, but is not close enough to benefit from heat radiating from the building. Propagation is mainly from cuttings, but seeds can be germinated. Seed capsules naturally open only after a fire, so unwanted sprouting seedlings are not a problem.

When researching online, gardeners need to be aware that publication dates may be before newer scientific studies were published and accepted.

Jane Weber is a professional gardener and consultant. Semi-retired, she grows thousands of native plants. Contact her at jweber12385@gmail.com or phone 352-249-6899.

TIPS

Continued from Page E2

If you continue to work until you feel like taking a break, odds are you'll overwork yourself until it's too late to take the "big break" you had in mind.

Bookend your days with mindfulness: At the beginning and end of each workday, do a 3-5-minute mindfulness meditation. Before

signing on to work for the day, allow your mind to fully focus on the day's tasks at-hand.

Signoff by doing another mediation to end the day and let go of any worries or stresses you might have. Incorporating this tactic into your daily routine can help create a natural boundary from work and home while also restoring peace of mind.

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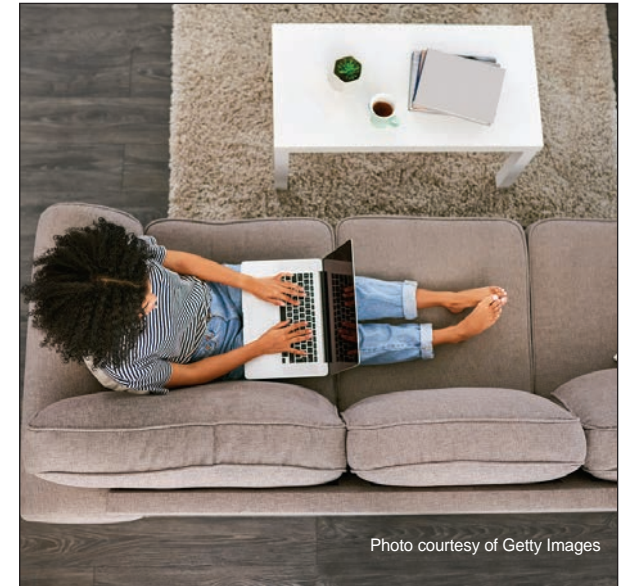


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Young trees may need some dressing up for protection

LEE REICH
Associated Press

My young trees are decked out in their winter finery: arboreal attire, perfumes and cosmetics that will protect them through the winter.

Insects and disease-causing fungi are dead or dormant, but larger, furrer animals now pose a threat. Deer, rabbits and mice are eager to gnaw on succulent stems, bark and roots.

And then there's cold weather to dry out or sunscald the trees.

Evergreens are most susceptible to drying out because they lose water through their leaves all winter long. Sunscald, caused by fluctuations in bark temperature, is most likely to occur on the southwest-facing bark because that's where it's last heated by day before the sun and temperatures plummet.

With their thick, tough bark and gnarly, old wood, older trees are better able to fend off animals and cold than are young trees.

So here's what my well-acquainted, young trees are wearing to protect them from winter's woes:

Footwear

For this, mulch is all the rage. Leaves, hay and straw insulate the soil against low temperatures and wide swings in temperature. Evergreens are especially thankful for mulch because it keeps more soil water unfrozen and, hence, accessible to roots during the winter.

Never pile mulch right up against tree trunks, though, or the trunks may rot. Mice will have not only sheltered living quarters, but bark on which to nibble right at home.

Which brings us ways to keep animals at bay: Down around a tree's "ankle," a legging of an 18-inch-long cylinder of 1/8-inch or 1/4-inch hardware cloth, pushed a bit into the ground, prevents mice and rabbits from gnawing at roots and bark near the base of the tree. You can purchase other kinds of bark protectors, such as various plastic meshes or wraps that spiral up the trunk.

Scent

Higher up the tree, "perfume" fends off deer. For starters, I dangle a bar of deodorant soap in the branches — one bar per tree, the cheaper the better. I've also used mesh bags containing wads of human hair, but my deer, at least, don't seem to mind that perfume anymore. The efficacy of any perfume in keeping deer away depends on how many and how



LEE REICH/Associated Press

A young tree protected for winter in New Paltz, N.Y. This "well-dressed" tree is decked out to protect it from winter's woes of hungry animals, fluctuating temperatures, and sunburn.

hungry they are, and how easy it is for them to get to neighbors' trees instead.

Makeup

In other winter tree wear, there are sprays that make trees taste bad to furry animals. Because these animals are vegetarians, many of these sprays are based on animal products such as eggs or milk. These animals also don't like hot pepper. Commercial sprays are sometimes appropriately named (Deer-Away, Chew-Not, Hinder), sometimes not (Bobbex, Thiram).

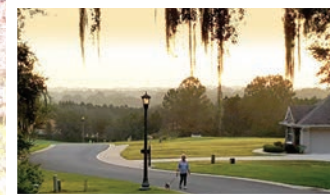
The main problem with sprays is they wear off, so spraying must be repeated periodically through the winter, especially since animal feeding gets worse as winter wears on. Look for a spray that lasts the longest, typically about a month. Once again, the efficacy of such sprays depends on how many and how hungry the deer are, and what else is readily available to eat.

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BUILDER

Continued from Page E3

while one person is working at the island. I can tell you from past jobs that 40 inches of clearance, and you really don't need more than this.

Most professional kitchen designers will tell you that 36 inches is the minimum clearance you need. I agree, but I will say I violated this standard by an inch between my island countertop edge and the front of my giant range. In 10 years this has not caused any problems.

I have a wonderful drawer-type microwave oven in my island, and it has worked well for more than 10 years. All of my plates, bowls and saucers are in slide-out drawers in a cabinet next to the microwave. The silverware is in a standard drawer next to the oven. Below the oven is a medium-sized drawer that lots of platters, large cooking pans and so forth fit into with ease. In other words, lots of stuff is stored in this tiny island!

Electric is easy to incorporate into a kitchen island, and there are many ways to do it. The easiest way is to have standard duplex outlets in the sides or rear of the island. The National Electrical Code permits this as long as the electrician installs the cables within the cabinet so they can't get damaged. Remember, you can often do better than the code, and I prefer to have these cables run in metal conduit so there's no chance a cable can be damaged by moving anything around in the island cabinet.

You can also install hidden outlets in an island where the actual receptacle is inside a drawer of all places. My daughter did this in her new home, but I'm not yet sold on this method for a host of reasons. It's a safe installation, but I just don't know if I want a drawer partially open while I use an appliance up on



TIM CARTER/Tribune Content Agency

This kitchen island is small but mighty.

top of the island.

Mary Chris was smart to think about how to remove a stone top from a cabinet without damaging the actual cabinet. I've installed countless granite and marble tops, and I can tell you they weigh hundreds of pounds. Gravity alone can keep a stone top on a cabinet, but you do need something to help keep a stone top from sliding.

I've found that just a few dollops of clear silicone caulk at the four corners of an island cabinet are plenty to keep the top secure. The dollops only need to be the size of a dime.

If you discover you need to replace the top, you can easily cut through the silicone using a 4-foot-long piece of very thin braided picture-hanging wire that's tied to two pieces of broomstick handle. Two people use this wire saw much like lumberjacks use a two-man bucksaw on a log. It only takes seconds to cut through the caulk.

Subscribe to Tim's free newsletter and listen to his new podcasts. Go to AsktheBuilder.com.

ATTIC

Continued from Page E4

Dear John: I bought this antique sewing chest for my mother and wondered if you could tell me anything about it. Enclosed is a picture. I was told it was Civil War era and made of cherry.

The top opens up like an old school desk, revealing a mirror on the underside of the top. There are also compartments separated by thin pieces of wood. On the bottom of the upholstered pull-out

drawer there is a small paper sticker with the following information: "Geo. W. Ware & Co., Manufacturers and Dealers in Furniture, Looking glasses and upholstery goods, 25 Washington Street, Boston." —A.R., *internet*

Dear A.R.: How nice that the original label is on your sewing chest. Your sewing chest is typical of those made during the 1860s to 1870s, so the Civil War time frame is accurate. They were very popular pieces of furniture and were manufactured by most furniture companies in the United States.

I was unable to find a listing for the specific company you mention. For further research, I suggest that you get in touch with the historical society or perhaps the library in Boston and inquire about the company. The name sounds familiar to me; I suspect I have seen the company name mentioned in past research somewhere in a journal or book.

John Sikorski has been a professional in the antiques business for 30 years. Send questions to Sikorski's Attic, P.O. Box 2513, Ocala, FL 34478 or asksikorski@aol.com.

1488 N Chapelcross Loop - Crystal River - 3 bedroom 2 bath Meadowcrest home with bonus room and the custom closet of your dreams!!! List price \$225,000

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PENDING

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PENDING

5774 N Lamp Post Drive - Beverly Hills - Recently remodeled Pine Ridge Pool Home. 3 bed 2 bath. List Price \$279,000

PENDING

4289 W Cameo Lane - Citrus Springs - Beautiful 3 bedroom 2 bath home in Citrus Springs with 2 offices and a detached garage. List Price \$399,000

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OPEN HOUSE 12-2PM



2985 N. HOOTY POINT, INVERNESS
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MLS #796072 **\$115,000**
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5727 N. LARUE DENISE DR., CRYSTAL RIVER
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COMMERCIAL



1911 HIGHWAY 44 W, INVERNESS
LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION, this prime commercial corner is now available for purchase. Over 136 front feet of Highway frontage and situated on .70 acres and offers easy access to Downtown Inverness.
MLS #784028 **\$475,000**
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MLS #794892 **\$579,000**
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710 W. DOERR PATH
Here's your chance to own a maintenance-free villa that is move-in ready with a brand new kitchen and carpet. Bring your furniture and start enjoying the carefree lifestyle of Terra Vista. This 3/2/2 villa has a brand new kitchen and new carpet.
MLS #796598 **\$279,900**
Kerry Rosselet 352-697-5487



3634 E. HIDDEN COVE
Wonderful, nicely maintained 3 BR 2 bath home in ARBOR LAKES. Lots of light in this open split floor plan. Lanai has a view of a private backyard. Lots of amenities in this gated community.
MLS# 796127 **\$209,000**
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This property has 11 units, (1 duplex and 9 mobiles) with an annual income of \$78,360. Close to all amenities between Inverness and Crystal River.
MLS #794906 **\$520,000 Make offer**
Call **Ruth Frederick 352-563-6866** for information.

VACANT LOT



1136 N. CHERRY POP DR., HERNANDO
Build your dream home on this 1.14-acre lot in the desirable Clearview Estates of Citrus Hills. Minutes away from shopping, restaurants, golf courses, walking/biking trails, and so much more amenities.
MLS #797518 **\$25,500**
Call **Mordecai Kamlot 352-643-0995** for property information today!



INCOME PRODUCING PROPERTY:
2 HOMES, 2 MOBILES, ALL RENTED FOR INCOME OF \$30,720 PER YR. Between Inverness and Ocala, close to Crystal River and a short distance to the Suncoast Parkway.
MLS #795041 **\$220,000**
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3460 E. McDONALD LN., HERNANDO, 34442
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MLS #791290 **\$425,000**
Call **Omar Migdad, 352-228-3011**, for additional information



808 WINDY AVE., INVERNESS
Now available this 2/2/2 home located in the Inverness Highlands South with a tiled flooring enclosed/screen lanai for enjoying your mornings or afternoons relaxing and great for entertaining family and friends, fenced backyard. It is within minutes from Historic Downtown Inverness and all the amenities it has to offer.
MLS #797480 **\$144,900**
Call **Kate Von Staden 352-464-2787** for your viewing appointment today!



8580 N. TEMPEST DR., CITRUS SPRINGS
Check out this lovely 3/2/2/1 carport home located in Citrus Springs. It has a 10x18 workshop/storage with electricity, screened back porch, open floor plan and so much more.
MLS #797539 **\$174,900**
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VACANT LAND



0 825TH ST. OLD TOWN
Check out this 2.50 acre tract and is just minutes from the Historic Suwanee River and wonderful nature.
MLS #797261 **\$13,000**
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BEVERLY HILLS - \$8,900
.28 acre corner lot with public water. MLS #797455
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CITRUS SPRINGS - \$7,500
23 acre lot with public water. MLS #797456
7614 N. FOUNTAINHEAD DR.
CITRUS SPRINGS - \$21,900
1.00-acre lot with public water. MLS #797453
Call **Lyndsee Philipps 352-201-5250** for property information today!

THE CHRONICLE **SUNDAY** January 3, 2021

COMICS

PEANUTS

featuring "Good ol' Charlie Brown" by SCHULZ

1-3

ALL RIGHT! CUT IT OUT!!

YOU CAN STOP DOING THAT ANY TIME!

I SAID CUT IT OUT!!

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO!

SHE WANTS TO BE THE TALLEST ONE IN OUR FAMILY...

EVERY TIME SHE WALKS BY, SHE PUSHES DOWN ON MY HEAD TO KEEP ME FROM GROWING!

DILBERT

by SCOTT ADAMS dilbert.com

3-7

I'M PLANNING TO INCREASE THE BUDGET FOR TRAINING BY FIFTY PERCENT NEXT YEAR.

HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE OTHER BUDGETS.

HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE BUDGET FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

SOUNDS LIKE HE'S PHASING OUT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

HE WOULDN'T PHASE OUT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNLESS HE KNOWS THE COMPANY IS FAILING.

THE COMPANY MUST BE GOING BANKRUPT.

THE COMPANY IS BANKRUPT.

I GUESS I DON'T NEED TO INCREASE THE TRAINING BUDGET.

MARVIN

by Tom Armstrong

1-3

OKAY, I'LL TAKE YOU OUT

WHIMPER

HURRY UP AND GET YOUR BUSINESS OVER WITH, BITSY

WE NEED TO GET BACK HOME

...BEFORE THE BIG BLIZZARD THAT'S COMING

SWOOSH

...GETS HERE

Bob Weber Jr.'s SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

Count Weirdly claims he invented a device that can make an object disappear and then reappear in another location. He says his first object of transport was a frog. Slylock Fox strongly suspects the count's claims are a hoax. How does Slylock think the frog passed through the thin flask neck?

...PATENT PENDING, OF COURSE.

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer: Cat's eye, microphone, bandage, thumb, book and keyboard.

FOR MORE SPOT SIX DIFFERENCES, SLYLOCK FOX AND OTHER PUZZLES AND COMICS, GO TO www.slylockfox.com

HOW TO DRAW a swan

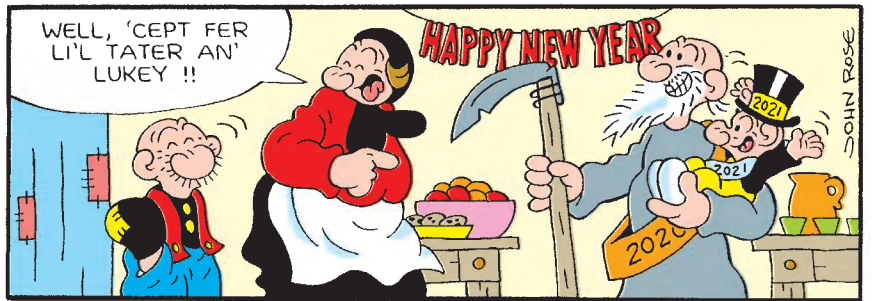
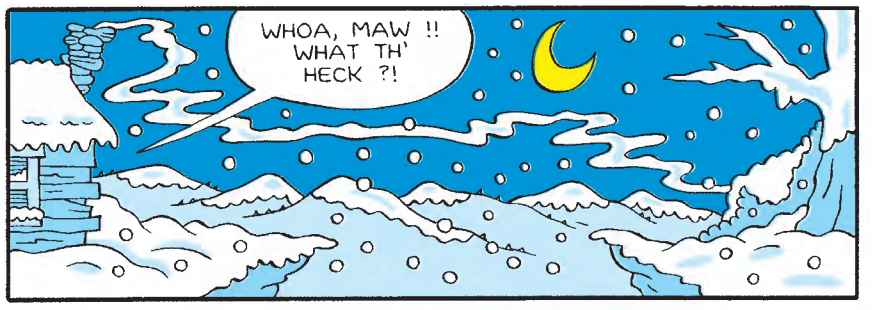
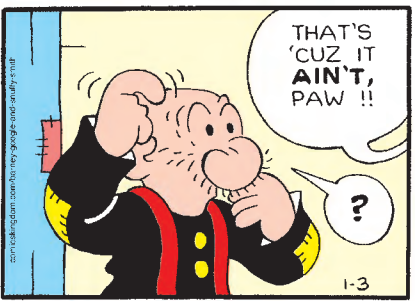
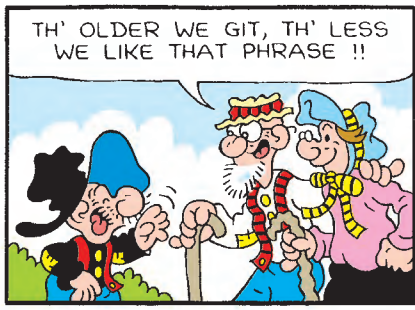
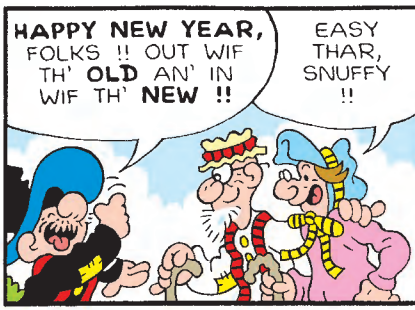
YOUR DRAWING Today's terrific artist is Silas, age 9

A group of frogs is called a...
 a) Herd
 b) Swarm
 c) Army
 d) Band
 e) Mess

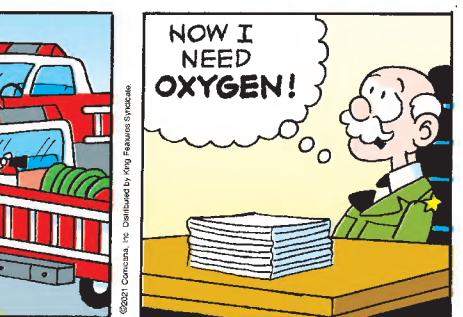
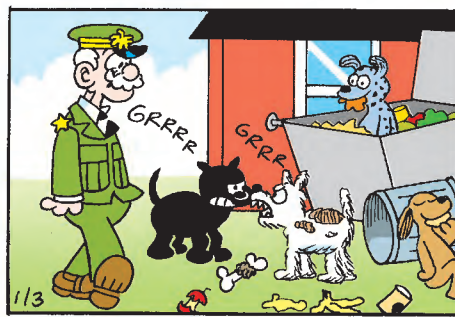
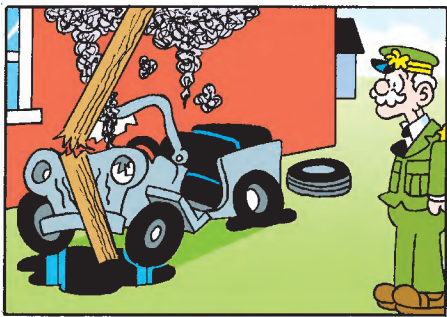
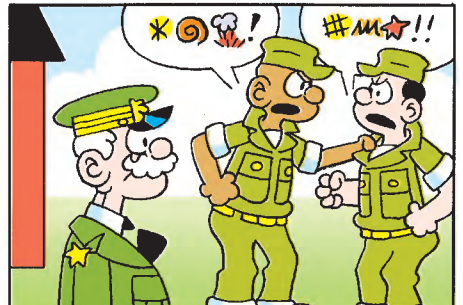
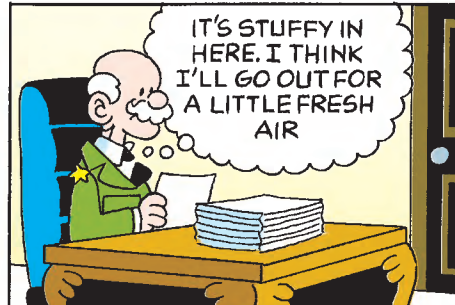
Submit your black-and-white drawing to www.slylockfox.com

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BARNEY GOOGLE and SNUFFY SMITH BY JOHN ROSE

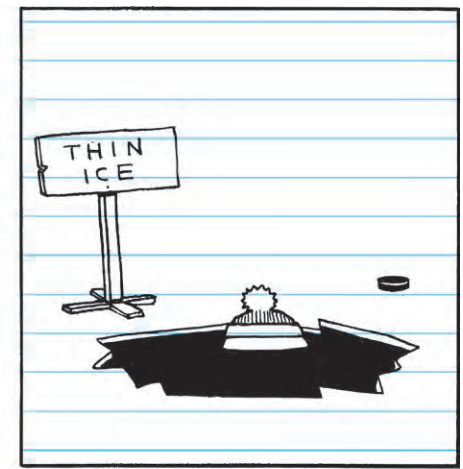
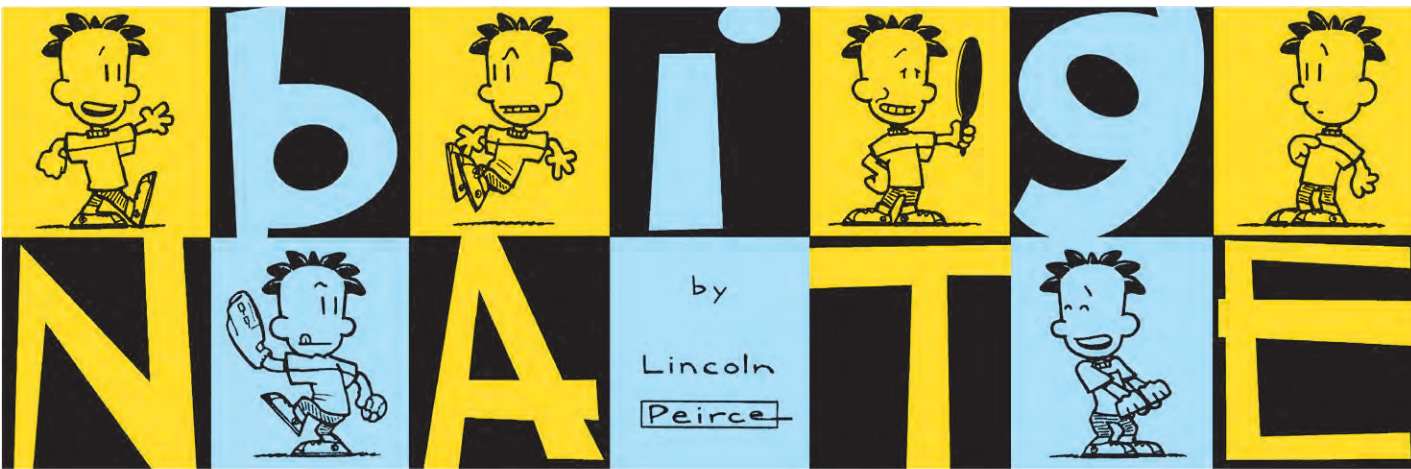
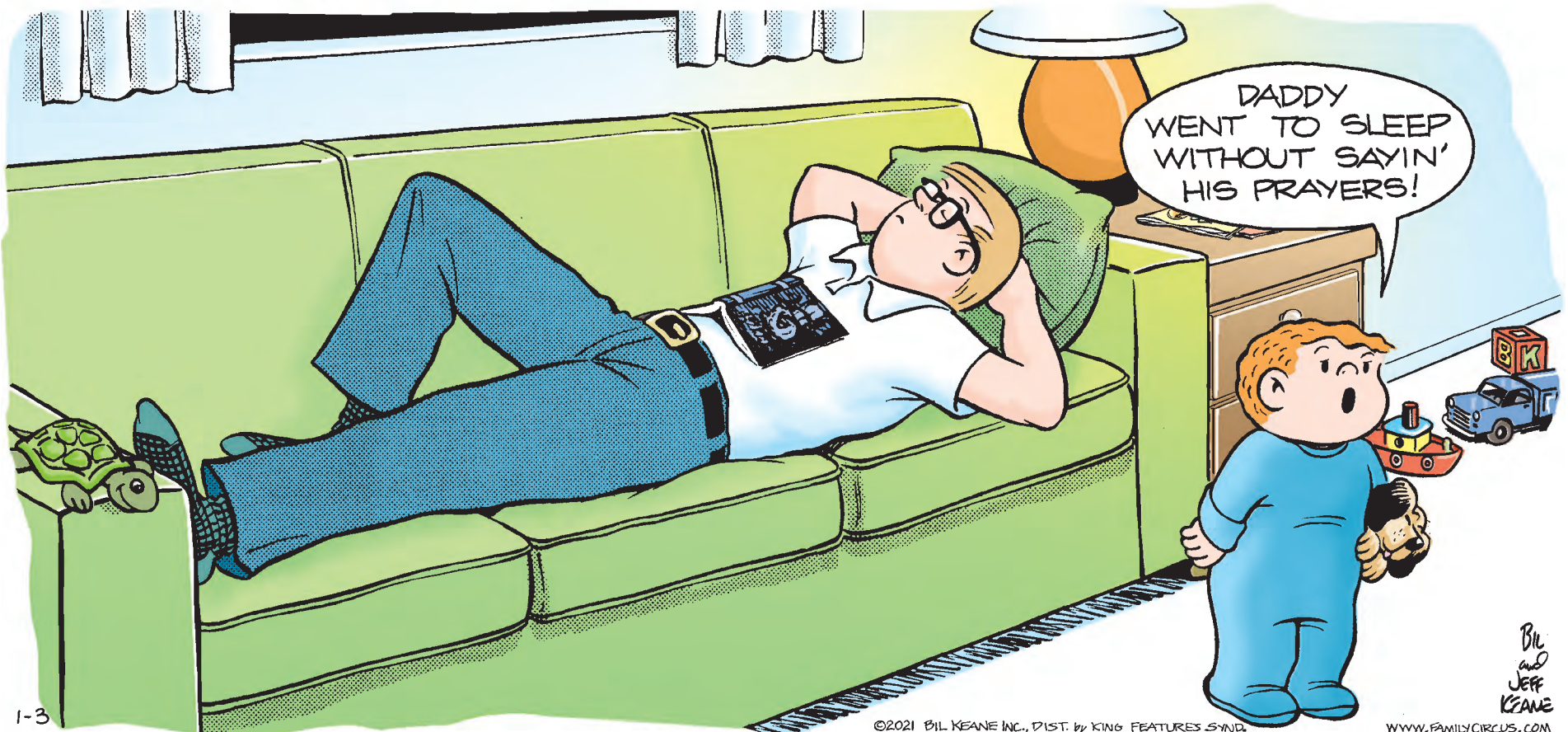


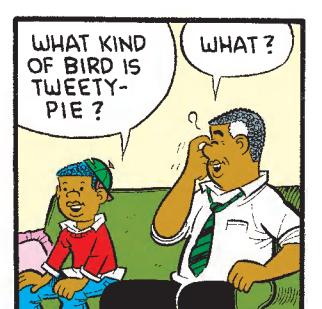
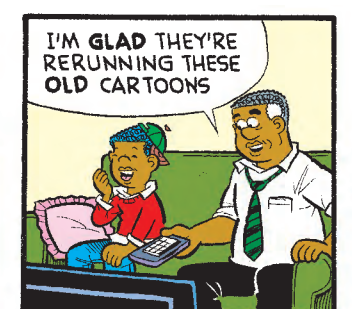
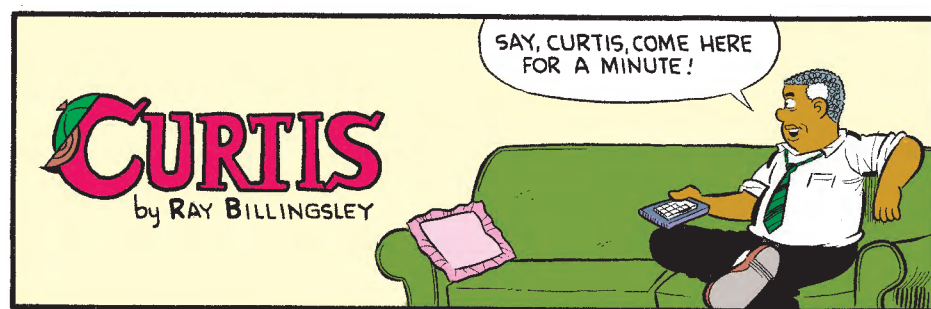
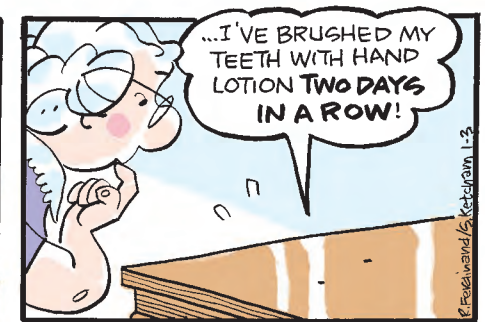
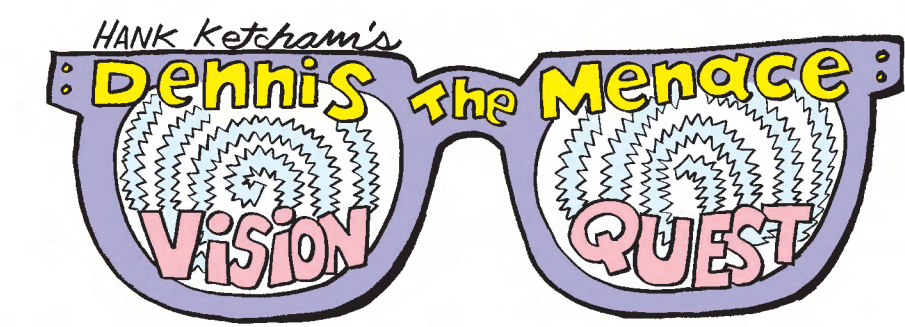
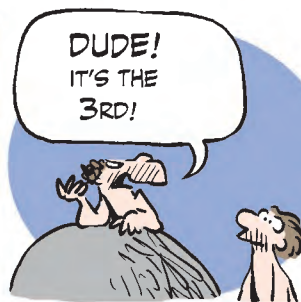
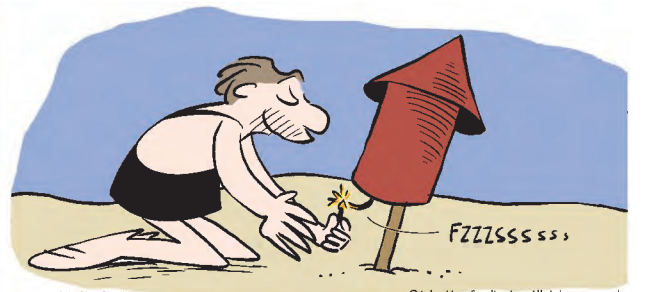
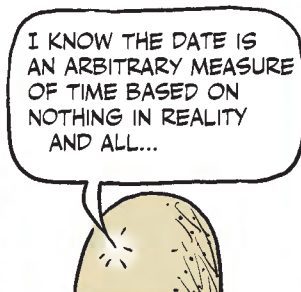
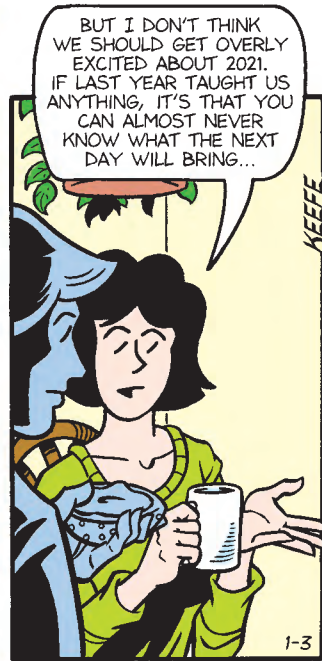
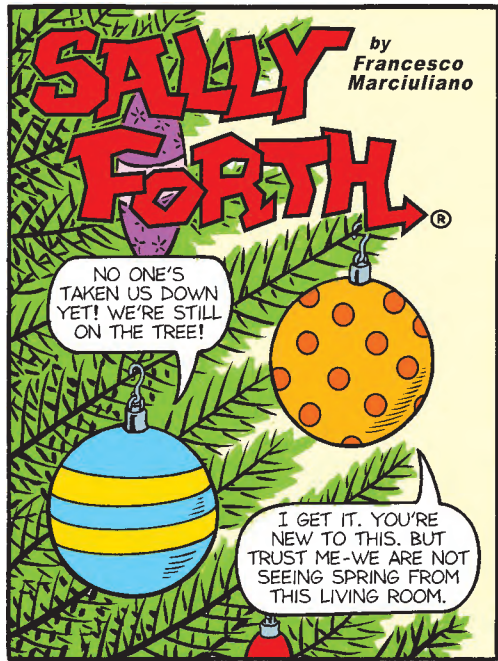
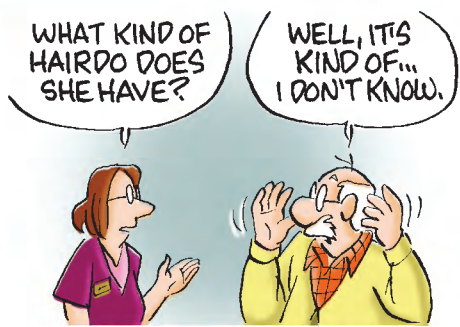
Mort Walker's beetle bailey



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane





LUANN
by Greg Evans

I GOTTA SAY, BRAD, I MARVEL WHENEVER I SEE YOU IN YOUR FIREMAN'S UNIFORM

WHY?

BECAUSE OF HOW MUCH YOU'VE CHANGED! YOU USED TO BE SUCH A DOOF!

NOW YOU'RE A SPIFFY FIREMAN! YOU'VE EVEN LEARNED TO TIE A -

OH, THAT'S REGULATION EMERGENCY-RESPONSE ATTIRE!

OOOPS. STILL A BIT DOOFY

1:3:21
GREG

HAGAR
the horrible
by DIK BROWNE

LUCKY EDDIE, QUIT WASTING YOUR TIME WITH BOOKS AND COME WITH ME!

BOOKS AREN'T A WASTE OF TIME!

THEY ARE IF YOU CAN'T READ!

LUCKY EDDIE, IF YOU WEREN'T A VIKING, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO BE?

A NOVELIST!

REALLY? WHAT WOULD YOU WRITE ABOUT?

I'D TELL STORIES ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE I'VE KNOWN IN MY LIFE!

BAD IDEA!

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?

I'M A NOVELIST!

1-3
BROWNE

WIZARD OF ID
by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker

GOOD MORNING, SIRE

GO AWAY!

UMMM...

WHAT THE...?

WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD

MIND TURNING UP THE HEAT?

AAAAHHHH, THANKS!

I HAD REACHED DEW POINT

1:3:21
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Wizardofid.com
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BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

IT'S TIME I SHAKE THINGS UP IN MY LIFE

THIS IS THE YEAR THAT I FINALLY TAKE MY RESOLUTIONS SERIOUSLY!

THE FIRST THING I'M GONNA DO IS EAT HEALTHIER AND EXERCISE EVERY SINGLE DAY

NO MORE LOAFING AROUND ON THE SOFA AFTER MEALS

I'LL WAKE UP ON TIME EVERY MORNING AND NEVER BE LATE FOR WORK AGAIN

I'M GONNA STRAIGHTEN UP MY WORKSHOP ONCE AND FOR ALL

THEN I'LL TACKLE THE GARAGE AND MAKE IT SPARKLE LIKE A SHINY NEW NICKEL!

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO ALL MORNING, DEAR?

OH, JUST OUT FOOLING MYSELF!

1-3
MARSHALL

Hi and Lois
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER

THAT WILL BE A SAD DAY.

AND A HAPPY DAY.

SOMEDAY ALL OUR KIDS WILL BE GONE.

AND WE'LL BE EMPTY NESTERS.

WE'LL HAVE A WHOLE NEW LIFE IN FRONT OF US!

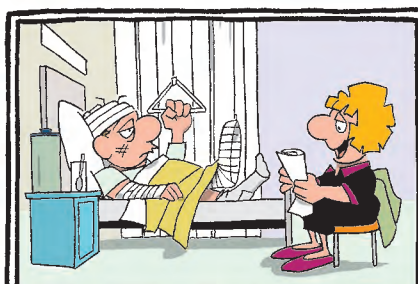
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MARKING THE DATE ON A 2038 CALENDAR.

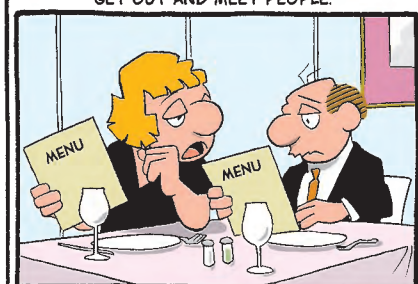
1-3

THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER



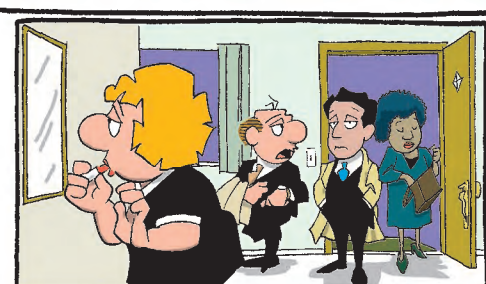
"YOUR HOROSCOPE SAYS THIS IS YOUR DAY TO GET OUT AND MEET PEOPLE."



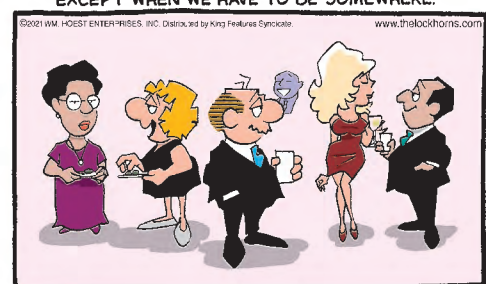
"THAT'S NOT THE PRICE, LEROY... IT'S THE YEAR THEY OPENED THE RESTAURANT."



"LET'S GET THIS FOR YOUR MOTHER... SHE LOVES TO PRY."



"LORETTA HAS ALWAYS BEEN AHEAD OF HER TIME... EXCEPT WHEN WE HAVE TO BE SOMEWHERE."



"I DON'T WORRY ABOUT LEROY CHASING OTHER WOMEN... THEY CAN ALL OUTFRAN HIM."

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Lori Driver
Advertising
Account Executive
3 Years

Lori has lived in Citrus County for 32 years and graduated from Crystal River High School! She loves working with the local businesses and being involved in all community events!

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- Recommendations for great local eateries
- Recipes to make at home
- Social media articles
- Special sections for your news
- Support for the community

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