

WEDNESDAY

TODAY & next morning
HIGH 73
LOW 57



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CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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NEWS BRIEFS

Citrus COVID-19 update

According to the Florida Department of Health, 61 positive cases were reported in Citrus County since the latest update. Four new hospitalizations were reported; two new deaths were reported.

To date in the county, 6,111 people have tested positive (including 37 non-residents), 487 have been hospitalized and 226 have died.

The Spot offers Christmas assistance

The Spot Family Center is hosting its 17th annual Christmas Jam, bringing hope to families in emergency Christmas need. This year more than ever, this program will bring hope and essentials to families in crisis. Even though 2020 has presented many devastating times, the giving spirit of Citrus County is abundant to offer hope.

The two day event is free, and will feature music, bounce houses, games, prizes, and a message of hope. Hot dinners and beverages will be served each night, along with a free community clothing giveaway. Groceries will be distributed on the first night while supplies last.

The Spot Christmas Jam will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, and Thursday, Dec. 24, at Jim LeGrone Park, 405 SE Seventh Ave. in Crystal River (behind The Spot building). Everyone must register to receive services and registration closes promptly at 7 p.m. Registration is from 5:30 to 7 p.m.; there is no preregistration.

On Christmas Eve, a hot dinner will be served. After a special Christmas message, all children will receive presents. Children must attend to receive gifts.

For more information on donating, volunteering, or attending the event, email evthespot@yahoo.com or call 352-212-4851.

If you prefer, you can make a financial contribution by sending a check payable to The Spot Family Center at P.O. Box 2046 Lecanto, FL 34460.

Bring a pet home for the holidays

Precious Paws Rescue has several young felines waiting for their "Home for the Holidays."

Come on out to the precious Paws Rescue Adoption Center located at 5164 S. Florida Ave. in Inverness and meet the perfect family gift.

Precious Paws Rescue is an all-volunteer incorporated charity based in Citrus County. Adoption center hours are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

For more information or to set up a special Christmas Day adoption, call 352-726-4700 and leave a message. A volunteer will return your call.

— From staff reports

Locals react to relief bill

MICHAEL D. BATES
Staff writer

The federal \$900 billion pandemic relief package should be a lifeline for Citrus County business owners and residents impacted greatly by the economic lockdown.

So say locals reacting to the news about Congress on Monday passing a

\$900 billion pandemic relief package that would deliver long-sought cash to businesses and individuals and resources to vaccinate a nation confronting an increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths.

President Donald Trump is expected to sign the bill in the coming days. The bill combines coronavirus-fighting

funds with financial relief for individuals and businesses. It would establish a temporary \$300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and a \$600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans, along with a new round of subsidies for hard-hit businesses, restaurants and theaters and money for schools, health care

providers and renters facing eviction.

State Rep. Ralph Masullo said there are a few billion dollars of pork in the relief bill but believes the money will make it into the hands of struggling business owners and citizens who need it most. "For a family of four, that's \$2,400," he said. "I think that will help

tremendously. That money goes back into the economy."

Massullo said he is hoping that once President-elect Joe Biden takes office work can begin on a stimulus package aimed at producing jobs and completing infrastructure projects.

See BILL/Page A2

Refuge to get manatee upgrade



Special to the Chronicle

Visitors to the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Center will see displays explaining the biology and habitat of manatees. The complex is expected to attract 40,000 visitors a year and enhance tourists' experience in Crystal River and countywide.

New visitor center will offer wealth of info about county's star creatures

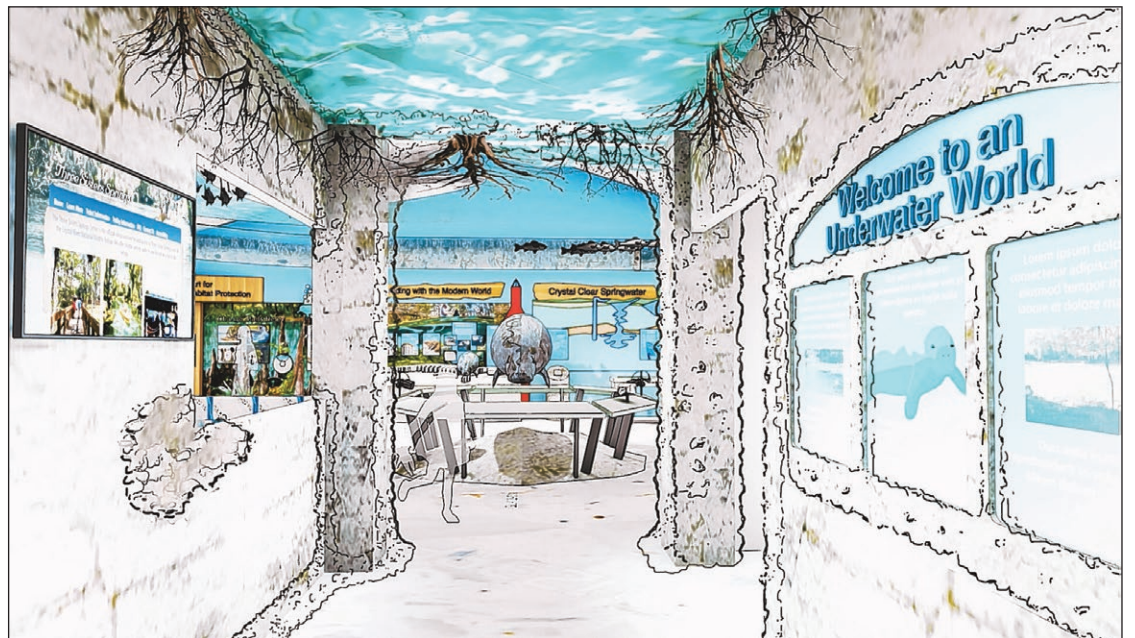
MICHAEL D. BATES
Staff writer

Citrus County's manatee-viewing experience draws people from all over the world because they can swim with manatees.

That alone is a huge tourism coup. But there has been one component of that experience that has been lacking and it is about to change this spring.

The Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge will open its new state-of-the-art visitor center at 1520 SE King's Bay Drive and from the moment visitors enter, they will be immersed in the world of water, manatees and more. The complex is expected to attract 40,000 visitors a year and enhance tourists' experience in Crystal River and countywide.

The Citrus County Tourist Development Council (TDC) in November unanimously approved spending another \$100,000 to help The Friends of Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge's expansion. The council had previously given the agency \$100,000 to help defray costs for installing interactive displays and exhibits.



The new Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge will feature interactive displays to educate visitors about Three Sisters Springs and nearby waterways.

This will be sort of a Manatee 101 for visitors who will learn their anatomy, habits and how best to protect them.

John Pricher, Citrus County Visitors Bureau director, said he is confident this new interactive component will enhance the manatee adventure for locals and tourists and fulfill the

TDC's main objective of putting "heads in beds."

Instead of leaving right after swimming with manatees, he said visitors will be more inclined to stay longer in Citrus County and stay in one of the area's hotels and inject money into the local economy.

"I think having this new way to

learn about them in a really top-of-the-line display is something that's going to be a valuable piece for us as a destination," Pricher said. "This is going to be the thing that really enhances that whole experience at the welcome center."

See REFUGE/Page A2

Life interrupted: Unplanned stay led to 'paradise'

George and Linda Ryan, from the Chicago area, sold their house and set out on a post-retirement RV adventure on Feb. 22. They were gone three weeks when the coronavirus pandemic hit, interrupting their travel plans. They ended up in Citrus County, which they describe as paradise, and have settled here.

NANCY KENNEDY/Chronicle



NANCY KENNEDY
Staff writer

Editor's note: Every one of us has had our life interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, some more than others.

We asked people to tell us about how their lives have been interrupted, in ways large or small, and how they've handled their situations, how it has changed them. As we continue the series, "Life Interrupted," we're still looking for stories.

If you have a story to tell and would be willing to share it with our readers, email Jeff Bryan at jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com or Nancy Kennedy at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.

For two years, George and Linda Ryan planned for their post-retirement dream of life on the road in their enormous RV, traveling the country, visiting places like the

See PARADISE/Page A2

RELIEF

Continued from Page A1

Sen. Wilton Simpson said the bill should accomplish two important things: it gets money into the hands of people who need help and it extends unemployment benefits.

"We'll be dealing with this pandemic probably into May or June of next year and the fallout for the next couple years," he said. "So we need to get the unemployed those resources and additional cash in people's pockets (for) essentials."

The country is over \$30 trillion in debt right now and it's vital to get

the economy moving again, come up with an infrastructure plan and perhaps develop a debt pay-down strategy, he said.

U.S. Congressman Daniel Webster said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is to blame for the delay in rolling out this package.

"After spending months playing political games and trying to use the coronavirus pandemic to push through their socialist agenda, last night (Monday) Democrats finally caved and agreed to a COVID-19 relief bill that is not much different than proposals Republicans offered starting last summer," Webster said in a statement.

Webster said he is pleased the bill extends the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and allows small business owners to deduct PPP expenses.

"PPP has been a lifeline for countless small businesses and under this bill those still experiencing severe revenue reductions can apply for a second loan," he said.

Josh Wooten, president/CEO of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, was pleased Congress acted in a bipartisan fashion to get some more support to businesses, nonprofits and citizens, "who through no fault of their own, continue to suffer from the effects of COVID-19."

"Hopefully, with the vaccine coming online and widely distributed, businesses will be unleashed to do what they do best — create commerce and provide jobs — thereby eliminating the need for future relief packages," Wooten said.

Continuously pumping federal stimulus into the economy may be necessary for the time being but it is not sustainable, he added.

Information from the Associated Press was used in this report.

Contact Chronicle reporter Michael D. Bates at 352-563-3205 or mbates@chronicleonline.com. To see more of his stories, visit tinyurl.com/y6kb23vv.

Around the COUNTY

School district extends free meal program through academic year

Citrus County School District officials extended their free meal-distribution program through the end of the 2020-21 school year for children 18 years old and younger.

Students enrolled in a public brick-and-mortar school can get their breakfasts and lunches Monday through Friday at school.

Between 12:15 and 1:15 p.m. Thursdays, parents and guardians can also pick up prepackaged meals for their children to eat during the weekend. Visit www.citrusnutrilslice.com for meal pickup locations.

Families of Citrus Virtual school students can pick up meals between 12:15 and 1:15 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays.

Homeschooled students and those enrolled in private schools can also receive food through the program if parents call the Citrus County Schools Food and Nutrition Services Department at 352-726-1931, ext. 2402, where other question should also be directed.

Students who are not yet approved for free- or

reduced-priced meals for the school year must complete an application.

Children don't have to be present in the vehicle to get meals, but parents do have to provide their child's name, grade and school. Forms to expedite the process can be found by visiting tinyurl.com/y2v49bzt.

Some meals do have to be heated. For cooking instructions, visit tinyurl.com/yb8r383s.

Order takeout for the holidays and help the Key Training Center

The Key Training Center is partnering with KC Wine and Koffee to offer takeout options for the holidays for a good cause. Currently they are receiving orders for the two platter options, where you'll be able to pick them up from the Key Center staff at KC Wine and Koffee's new location on Citrus Avenue in Crystal River.

There is a small cheese/meat/fruit platter option with one bottle of wine, and a large cheese/meat/fruit platter option with two bottles of wine. To place an order and get more information, call 352-795-5541, ext. 312.

— From staff reports

REFUGE

Continued from Page A1

The education center is practically on top of prime manatee-viewing areas, so that helps. It can work both ways, Pricher said. Someone can go to the refuge first, get stirred up about manatees and check out Three Sisters Springs. Or vice versa.

"Having something else that covers one of our key products in case of inclement weather is something that's been lacking for us as well," he said.

Michael Engles, president of the Friends of the Crystal River National

Wildlife Refuge, described the visitor experience this way: When you walk into the door, it will be similar to entering a 10-foot underwater landscape (karst), with rocks, aquifers and different formations. There will be rock ledges on either side.

Toward the middle of the facility, the ceiling will appear a shimmering blue — mimicking waves — and you will see manatees suspended from the ceiling. There will be displays surrounding them and each will feature a different theme, including the biology and habitat of the manatees, their preservation, information about Three Sisters Springs, the watershed and water clarity.

There will be displays about other waterfowl, such as egrets, herons and the varieties of fish.

"It's not just to come and learn, but how we can protect them and save water and promote economy and conservation activities that help the springs and the manatees," Engles said.

The Friends of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge had hoped to open the center before Christmas but the pandemic put them behind and they are now shooting for a spring debut.

The Friends of Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge, in a recent presentation before the TDC board, said the new refuge

will be a "portal to exploration of other destinations within the county," resulting in longer tourism stays and repeat visits.

It also has the potential of becoming a "premier visitor destination" for tourists visiting Citrus County, they said.

Bonnie Rybak, on the board of the Friends of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge, said during a recent TDC meeting that the new state-of-the-art visitor center "is going to be a gem."

Contact Chronicle reporter Michael D. Bates at 352-563-3205 or mbates@chronicleonline.com. To see more of his stories, visit tinyurl.com/y6kb23vv.

PARADISE

Continued from Page A1

Grand Canyon and Glacier National Park, going to the hot-air balloon festival in New Mexico, making their way down the Pacific coast.

Linda, who has rheumatoid arthritis and needs IV infusions every eight weeks, even mapped out where they would be when she needed an infusion and had already made arrangements with nearby rheumatologists — that's how detailed their plans were.

It took only four days to sell their home near Chicago, and on Feb. 22 they set out on their new life.

What could possibly go wrong?

"It was four degrees the day we left, and it was so cold we couldn't get the trailer warmed up, and it was blowing fuses" George said.

Linda added, "We were saying, 'WHY did we think it was a good idea to leave in February?'"

They warmed up and took off and made it to Tupelo, Mississippi, where they visited Elvis' birthplace, then went to New Orleans for a day and then headed to Florida to visit George's sister, Eleanor, in Homosassa — a short visit.

They had been on the road for three weeks when the coronavirus pandemic started

spreading across the US and the state parks started closing.

"We looked at going to a private RV park, but they wanted \$1,000 a week to stay — I couldn't believe it," George said. "We were 1,000 miles away from Chicago and about 200 miles from my sister in Homosassa. When we pulled into Eleanor's front yard and told her about our situation, she graciously said we could camp in her side yard for as long as we needed to and plugged into her electricity."

That was March 19. By August, they were still there.

"We kept saying, 'COVID will get better and the parks will open up and we'll be back on the

road again,' but that didn't happen," Linda said. "After awhile we decided we'd better start looking at houses."

Meanwhile, the Ryans fell in love with the area — the lakes, the gulf, the people.

Eleanor lives on the Homosassa River and the Ryans decided they had found paradise.

After looking at about 25 homes in Citrus County and being out-bid on several of them, they found one in a peaceful neighborhood in Inverness and closed on it Aug. 13.

They still have the enormous RV, but George wants to sell it and buy a smaller one for short trips.

"We love it here," Linda said.

"You can plan and plan and plan, but God might have different plans for you, so you have to be adaptable. Yes, our life was interrupted, but we found a silver lining in the COVID cloud: a beautiful home in sunny Florida close to our family."

"The people in Citrus County are so warm and welcoming, and we're making new friends," she said. "We love the sandhill cranes walking through our yard, and we've got lakes to fish in, and manatees — it's paradise."

Contact Chronicle reporter Nancy Kennedy at 352-564-2927 or nkennedy@chronicleonline.com. Read more of Nancy's stories at tinyurl.com/yxt69grh.

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SevenRivers.org
(Christmas Eve Service available at above link
any time after 4:00 pm on December 24)

SEVEN RIVERS CHURCH



Around the
COUNTY

**Fire damages
 Inverness home**

A fire damaged an Inverness home late Monday, Dec. 21.

Citrus County Fire Rescue (CCFR) crews were dispatched at 11:43 p.m. to East Beech Circle, where firefighters from CCFR's Hernando station first arrived at 11:53 p.m. to find smoke showing from the eaves of a 1,000-square-foot, single-story house, a CCFR release states.

Firefighters forced their way into the home, located the fire and had it under control by 12:09 a.m.

Additional CCFR crews from the Kensington, Connell Heights and Inverness Highlands stations also responded to assist. No injuries were reported.

Authorities with the State Fire Marshall Division are investigating the scene, according to CCFR.

— Buster Thompson/Staff writer

**Crystal River
 launches survey**

Crystal River wants to know how its city residents use their curbside garbage services.

A 16-question survey on trash, recycling and yard-waste pickup is available online, at crystalriverfl.org/trashsurvey, and at city hall, 123 NW U.S. 19, Crystal River.

Crystal River is the process of renewing its waste contract, currently held by Waste Management (formerly Advanced Disposal) with a new trash hauler.

"The city hopes," a news release states, "to gain valuable information from residential customers to utilize in the procurement of a vendor next year."

**Chronicle spreads
 holiday cheer**

Join the Citrus County Chronicle as it brings you virtual presentations of beloved Christmas stories. The reading will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, on the Chronicle Facebook page.

This is a free event and is open to everyone.

**Buy a calendar,
 support Rotary
 charitable causes**

Like many during the pandemic, the Rotary Club of Central Citrus County was forced to cancel major fundraising events that supported scholarships.

For \$35, donors will receive a 2021 calendar with 365 daily prizes throughout the year. One thousand calendars are individually numbered, and the calendar matching the daily mid-day Florida Cash 3 Lotto number receives the daily prize. It is never less than \$35 and can vary from that amount to \$50 up to \$500 on New Year's Day.

If you would like to make a donation and receive a calendar, email Vera Swade, president of Central Citrus Rotary Club, at vswade5016@aol.com or visit citrusrotary.com or its Facebook page.

— From staff reports

Clarification

A story on page A1 of the Tuesday, Dec. 22 edition, "Virus cases pass 6,000 in Citrus," warrants a clarification. Those 15 local residents who received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine live in Citrus County but work in an outside medical facility where vaccines have been distributed.

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

Sheriff promotes six

FRED HIERS
 Staff writer

Citrus County Sheriff Mike Prendergast announced the promotion of six of his deputies and brought attention Tuesday to their accomplishments during a ceremony.

"These promotions were made to further strengthen and structure the Citrus County Sheriff's Office for future endeavors," CCSO spokesman Sgt. Lee Carey wrote the Chronicle.

Prendergast congratulated those promoted.

"I would like to congratulate these six individuals on a new chapter in their professional career," said Sheriff Prendergast. "With

these changes, our team of professionals will continue to add to our rich legacy of excellence in public service."

The following promotions took place:

■ Sgt. Terry Corbin to patrol lieutenant.

Corbin began working with CCSO in 2000 as a communications officer. Corbin worked in patrol and later as a detective until he was promoted to sergeant in 2015.

Corbin's most recent assignment was to oversee all newly hired deputy trainees.



Mike Prendergast
 Citrus County sheriff.

Corbin is also assigned to the dive team and agency's honor guard.

■ Sgt. Craig Callahan to lieutenant over the Community Impact Section.

Callahan began working in 2008 as a patrol deputy.

Callahan served as a patrol field training officer and as a detective, and intelligence-led policing sergeant.

Callahan's most recent assignment was to oversee all new deputy trainees as one of the agency's FTO sergeants.

Callahan also is the

assistant SWAT team commander.

■ Detective Rachel Montgomery to sergeant over the Behavioral Health Unit.

Montgomery has worked for the CCSO 13 years, serving as a communications officer, patrol deputy and domestic violence detective.

■ Detective Allison Perry to patrol sergeant.

Perry held numerous positions during her 15-year tenure, including patrol deputy, tactical impact unit detective, community crimes detective and community crimes officer in charge.

Perry also serves as a team member on the Cri-

sis Negotiations Team.

■ Detective Michael Sanchez to patrol sergeant.

Sanchez began working for CCSO in 2012.

He served as a patrol field training officer and community crimes detective.

■ Detective Michael Laborda to patrol sergeant.

Laborda started as a patrol deputy in 2011.

Laborda advanced to canine deputy and worked alongside K9 Gunny until Gunny's retirement.

Laborda most recently served as a major crime detective and also is a member of the agency's SWAT team.

Roofer works in frosty morning chill



NANCY KENNEDY/Chronicle

On a frosty Dec. 22 morning, Josh Sumlin from Dave Sumlin Roofing pulls off a ridge cap atop a tile roof of a home in the Windermere subdivision of Inverness. Temperatures will dip into the 30s in the mornings Christmas Eve through Saturday, with a Christmas morning forecast of a 28 degrees.

Floral City man charged in thefts

FRED HIERS
 Staff writer

A Floral City man is facing charges of grand theft of a truck and petit theft of a minibike after Citrus County Sheriff's deputies say he drove off with both.

The deputies arrested Lucas David Britts, 24, after his victim on Dec. 14 told investigators that Britts helped him load the mini bike onto the back of his pickup from a home off Crede Avenue in Crystal River, according to Britts' arrest report.

The victim told deputies that Britts, whom he only at the time knew as "Luke" helped him load the minibike. The victim told deputies that Britts then pointed a handgun at him and made him move away from the truck, according to the arrest report.



Lucas Britts
 facing two theft charges.

The victim told deputies "Luke" then took the truck and the mini bike. The victim told deputies the mini bike was worth \$300 and his cellphone, which was also in the truck, was worth \$30, according to the arrest report. Although the victim did not know Britts' full name, he gave deputies a description, citing a distinctive tattoo on Britts' face.

Deputies later identified Britts, who is also homeless. A witness interviewed during the investigation told the arresting deputy that Britts had bragged to them about stealing the pickup from Crystal River, according to the arrest report.

**Because of
 conflicting
 statements
 about the
 gun, the
 deputy
 reported
 that he did
 not charge
 Britts with
 carjacking.**

Another witness told the arresting deputy that they saw the victim and Britts by the truck, but later only saw Britts drive away, according to the arrest report.

On Dec. 18, 2020, the arresting deputy found Britts in the 100 block of North Cedarview Terrace in Inverness. The deputy reported that at first Britts denied any involvement in the theft, but later said he had helped load the mini bike and was in the vehicle as it was driven away.

But because of conflicting statements about the gun, the deputy reported that he did not charge Britts with carjacking. As of Dec. 18, the truck had not been recovered.

The deputy arrested Britts. His bond was \$2,500.

Around the **STATE**

**Report: Prison failed to
 protect women inmates**

OCALA — A Florida women's prison has likely violated inmates' constitutional rights by failing to protect them from sexual abuse by staff, federal investigators announced Tuesday.

The U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida concluded that there is reasonable cause to believe that the conditions at Lowell Correctional Institution in north Florida violate the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution, according to a 36-page report. The Eighth Amendment prohibits "cruel and unusual" punishment.

The Justice Department punished the prison with written notice and suggested minimum remedial measures that include installing additional video surveillance and adopting new policies to protect inmates, officials said.

No criminal charges were

announced against specific staff members.

"Prison officials have a constitutional duty to protect prisoners from harm, including sexual abuse by staff," Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division Eric Dreiband said in a statement. "Sexual abuse is never acceptable, and it is not part of any prisoner's sentence."

The investigation found that sexual abuse by staff was frequent at Lowell and that the women remain at substantial risk, officials said. Prisoners are discouraged from reporting sexual abuse, and investigations of sexual abuse allegations are inadequate, investigators said.

Federal officials began investigating Lowell in April 2018 under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act.

Lowell, which sits on about 315 acres of land near Ocala, is one of the largest women's prison in the country. As of last year, it held more than 2,200 inmates.

**Burglary suspect shot
 in face during car chase**

HOMESTEAD — A South Florida police sergeant fired his gun from inside his patrol car after getting into a crash with a fleeing burglary suspect, police said.

Maynor Cruz-Solis, 22, was shot twice in the face during the Sunday night incident and remained in critical condition at a Miami hospital late Monday, authorities said.

Homestead Sgt. Jose Murillo fired his gun after colliding with an SUV driven by Cruz-Solis as the chase ended, according to police.

Authorities did not find a weapon inside the suspect's GMC Terrain, the Miami Herald reported.

"It's too early to comment yet," said Steadman Stahl, president of Miami-Dade's Police Benevolent Association, told the newspaper. "They haven't even processed the car yet."

Investigators are awaiting blood tests to determine whether Cruz-Solis was intoxicated.

— From wire reports

Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthdays — Relax and don't overreact. Look at the consequences before leaping into something. Put more time and effort into personal improvement...

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Keep the peace at home and when dealing with friends and relatives. It's better to observe and be objective when others decide to share opinions.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Keep the momentum flowing. Refuse to let outside influences slow you down or cause uncertainty. Look for opportunities; you will meet individuals who can help you bring about positive change.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — Be a leader, not a follower. Set the standard, follow your heart and do what you do best.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Refuse to get involved in someone's dilemma. You have enough to do without taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Be precise, and pay close attention to detail. Don't jump into something that has too many variables. Leave no room for mistakes or indiscretions.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Be open to suggestions and willing to try something new, but don't get carried away. Someone you least expect will disappoint you. If you want something done, do it yourself.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Emotions will surface, and anger will set in if you aren't careful. Take a positive approach when dealing with partners, and be willing to meet people halfway.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Uncertainty regarding your reputation, position or status will leave you in a quandary. Let things unfold naturally.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Take the initiative, and make things happen. It's up to you to lay the groundwork. Don't take risks with your or someone else's health. Focus on what you can do.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Be careful what you spend your money on, and protect your possessions, passwords and documents. Romance is in the stars.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You need to chill out, contemplate what's next and refuse to let others dictate what you can do. Use imagination.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Reach out, touch base with people you miss and spread a little joy to the folks you love.

ENTERTAINMENT

NYT's 'Caliphate' podcast withdrawn as Pulitzer finalist

NEW YORK — A high-profile podcast on terrorism from The New York Times that had been a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize was withdrawn as a contest entry in the wake of the newspaper saying the claims of a man central to "Caliphate" could not be verified.

In a statement on Tuesday, the board of the Pulitzer Prizes said it "accepted withdrawal of the entry as an appropriate resolution of this matter."

The 2018 podcast series, about a Canadian man who said he had carried out atrocities for the Islamic State in Syria, had been named as a finalist in the international reporting category for 2019, which was won by Reuters and The Associated Press.

But the Times said last week that, after the man was arrested in Canada in September for perpetrating a terrorist hoax, it investigated and the man's story didn't hold together.

"We volunteered to return the citation and the Pulitzer Prize Board accepted the offer," The Times said in an email to The Associated Press.

The paper had previously said it would return a Peabody award it had won for "Caliphate," and the Overseas Press Club of America said it was taking back an honor it had bestowed on the podcast.

Hallmark holiday movies offer viewers balm in tough year

NEW YORK — For the past decade, the Hallmark Channel has been a reliable destination for holiday programming. And in a year when many Americans are homebound because of the



Associated Press

This June 22, 2019, file photo shows the exterior of the New York Times building in New York. The New York Times says it was wrong to trust the story of a Canadian man whose claims of witnessing and participating in atrocities as a member of the Islamic State was a central part of its award-winning 2018 podcast "Caliphate."

COVID-19 pandemic, network executives say there's been a craving for the feel-good movies.

Hallmark's ratings are up 2% over 2019's holiday season, the Nielsen company said. That may not seem like much, but year-to-year increases are the exception rather than the rule in modern television.

The network turned its programming over to holiday fare on Oct. 23 and has been the top-rated entertainment cable channel, excluding news and sports, for the fourth quarter, Nielsen said.

"What we have seen is just how much our movies mean to our viewers," said Michelle Vicary, programming chief.

When coronavirus-related closures began in March, Hallmark tried to calm anxieties by airing a series of its holiday movies then.

But this season, COVID-19 did not affect the type of movies Hallmark made or how they were scheduled, Vicary said. Of the 40 new movies planned for this season, only one had to be canceled because filming couldn't be done because of the pandemic.

"We made a choice not to let COVID affect us thematically," she said. "There are a lot of places you can find information about COVID. What we provided was a respite from that."

This season's most popular movie has been "If I Only Had Christmas," about a perky publicist who teams with a cynical executive to help a charity. It stars Candace Cameron Bure, probably the most reliable draw among a collection of actors who often return to Hallmark each holiday season.

— From wire reports

Today in HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 23, the 358th day of 2020. There are eight days left in the year.

Today's Highlight: On Dec. 23, 1954, the first successful human kidney transplant took place at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston as a surgical team removed a kidney from 23-year-old Ronald Herrick and implanted it in Herrick's twin brother, Richard.

On this date: In 1913, the Federal Reserve System was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act.

In 1986, the experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, completed the first non-stop, non-refueled round-the-world flight as it returned safely to Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 2001, Time magazine named New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani its Person of the Year for his steadfast response to the 9/11 terrorist attack.

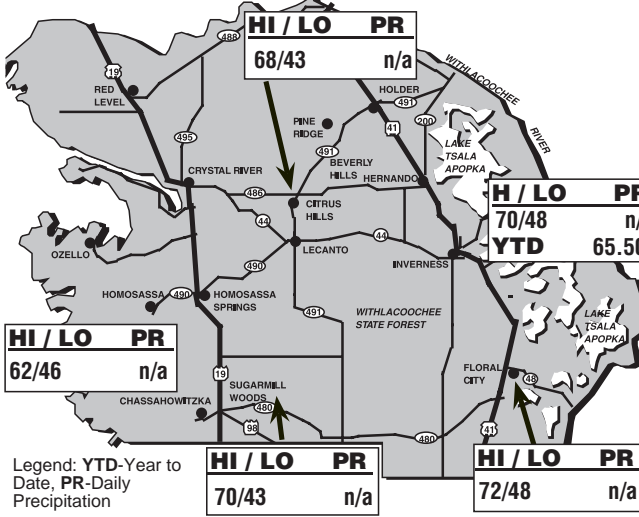
Ten years ago: Mail bombs exploded at the Swiss and Chilean embassies in Rome, seriously wounding two people.

Five years ago: Protesters blocked access to a terminal and caused significant holiday traffic delays around Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport after staging a Black Lives Matter rally that also briefly shut down part of the Mall of America; the demonstrations were organized to draw attention to the recent police shooting of a Black man in Minneapolis.

One year ago: Boeing ousted CEO Dennis Muilenburg as the company remained engulfed in the crisis stemming from the crash of two of its 737 Max airliners.

Today's Birthdays: Former Emperor Akihito of Japan is 87. Actor Susan Lucci is 74. Singer-musician Adrian Belew is 71. Actor Joan Severeance is 62. Rock singer Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) is 56. Actor Caleb Foote is 27.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



Legend: YTD-Year to Date, PR-Daily Precipitation. Exclusive daily forecast by: 9

THURSDAY & FRIDAY MORNING High: 72° Low: 36° Windy with thunderstorms moving in from the Gulf.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY MORNING High: 52° Low: 28° A morning freeze likely. Cold and breezy through the afternoon.

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

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

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK with columns for SUNSET TONIGHT, MOONRISE TOMORROW, MOONRISE TODAY, MOONSET TODAY.

BURN CONDITIONS Today's Fire Danger Index is: LOW. There is no burn ban.

WATERING RULES For established lawns and landscapes, irrigation may occur during only one (1) of the specified time periods...

Addresses with house numbers ending in: 0-1 Monday, 2-3 Tuesday, 4-5 Wednesday, 6-7 Thursday, 8-9-or- Common Areas Friday.

TIDES *From mouths of rivers **At King's Bay ***At Mason's Creek WEDNESDAY High Low

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

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

Table with columns: City, H, L, F'cast, City, H, L, F'cast. Includes locations like Daytona Bch., Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Ocala, Orlando, etc.

MARINE OUTLOOK

Today: East winds around 15 knots diminishing to 5 to 10 knots in the late morning and afternoon. Seas 2 feet. Bay and inland waters a moderate chop.

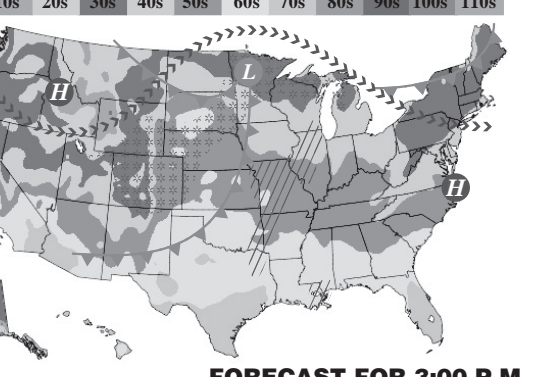
Gulf water temperature 63° Taken at Crystal River

LAKE LEVELS

Table with columns: Location, TUE, MON, Full. Includes Withlacoochee at Holder, Tsala Apopka-Hernando, etc.

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. Wednesday

Table with columns: City, H, L, Pcp., H, L, Fcst, City, H, L, Pcp., H, L, Fcst. Lists cities like Albany, Albuquerque, Asheville, Atlanta, etc.

WORLD CITIES TUE LISBON 61/54/mc CITY H/L/SKY MADRID 55/50/ra ACAPULCO 95/70/ra MEXICO CITY 73/58/mc AMSTERDAM 52/48/ra MOSCOW 26/17/cl ATHENS 57/48/pc TOKYO 54/41/s BEIJING 40/30/s PARIS 57/55/ra BERLIN 46/42/ra RIO 76/75/ra BERMUDA 67/63/pc ROME 60/50/mc CAIRO 70/56/pc SYDNEY 74/62/pc CALGARY 28/9/s HAVANA 77/70/pc HONG KONG 67/64/ra JERUSALEM 56/49/ra WARSAW 47/38/ra

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... Those without computer access may call 352-249-2705.

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Obituaries

Eleanor Lash, 97

INVERNESS

Eleanor Tetlock Lash, 97, of Inverness, passed away peacefully on December 15, 2020 at home surrounded by her family.

Mrs. Lash was born in Taylor, PA, to Charles Tetlock and Josephine Maciejewicz Tetlock on February 4, 1923. After graduating high school,



Eleanor Lash

she worked a few years to help support her family after her father's untimely death when she was a teen. When WWII broke out, she took the Civil Service Exam and worked as a secretary. A transfer from Washington, D.C. moved her to Orlando, FL, where she met her future husband, Frank Louis Lash, an Army Air Corps pilot. While he was deployed in Europe, she spent the remaining war years working for the War Department in New York City.

During their decades together, Frank and Eleanor Lash had seven daughters, ran a restaurant together in Pennsylvania and later, an insurance company after they relocated to South Florida. After retirement, they moved to Inverness, where Eleanor was an active member of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church.

She was a great cook and a voracious reader. She loved to travel and shop. She especially loved visiting with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, whether they lived nearby or around the country.

Mrs. Lash was predeceased by her husband, Frank, and youngest daughter, Marianne Lash Freese, and also her sisters Irene Guyette, Evelyn Llewellyn and Delores Martinez.

She is survived by six daughters, Stephanie Hopper (Larry), Suzanne Lash, Francine Kurtz (John), Paulette Ritchie (Tom), Christine Kelly (William) and Sister Bernadette Therese; 13 grandchildren, Matthew Payne, Michael Payne, Kristin Baber, Peter Klinkenberg (Heather), Kate Gupta (Retesh), Jonathan Kurtz (Kristin), Gillian Kurtz, Jamie McBee (Sterling), Laura Lee Ritchie, Luke Ritchie, Meghan Martinez (Tony), David Kelly (Erica) and Anna Kelly; eight great-grandchildren, Jake, Mary Jane, Benjamin, Lily, Grace, Rose, Faxton and Honey.

A Mass of Christian burial at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church and a private memorial will be held early in the new year. Memorial gifts may be sent to:

Sisters of the Visitation of Holy Mary at: Visitation Monastery, P.O. Box 432, Tyringham, MA 01264. Heinz Funeral Home, Inverness, FL. Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Patricia Tucker, 70

HOMOSSASSA

Patricia Ann Tucker, 70, of Homosassa, Florida passed away December 17, 2020.

She was born October 12, 1950 in Grove City, Pennsylvania and moved to Homosassa 22 years ago from Youngstown, Ohio. Mrs. Tucker was a retired florist. She had a love for animals, reading, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, and especially loved her family.

She was preceded in death by her father, Joseph A. Strausser. She is survived by her husband Chuck Tucker, three sons, Samuel W. Bulatko, Daniel J. Bulatko, and Martin L. Tucker; her mother, Geneva Strausser; four brothers, Bruce Strausser, Joe Strausser, Joseph E. Tucker, and William P. Tucker; one sister, Ruthi Hurn, three grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

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

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

OBITUARIES

- Obituaries must be verified with the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements.
- A flag will be included for free for those who served in the U.S. military.
- Barring holidays, obituary deadlines for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday editions is 3 p.m. the day before. Deadlines for Saturday, Sunday and Monday editions is 3 p.m. Friday.
- The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.
- 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.
- Obituaries are at www.chronicleonline.com.
- For information, call 352-563-5660.
- A keepsake plaque is included with full, paid obituaries. Extra plaques are available for \$40 each, should the family want more than one — request more information when submitting text.

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

- Due to the upcoming Christmas holiday, obituaries submitted for publication on any of the following days have a deadline of **noon Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020**:
- Friday, Dec. 25.
- Saturday, Dec. 26.
- Sunday, Dec. 27.
- Monday, Dec. 28.

Bonadonna named Knight of the Month

Special to the Chronicle

Mike Bonadonna was named Knight of the Month for October by the St. Scholastica Knights of Columbus Council 14485 in Lecanto. Mike and his wife, Laura, moved to Clearview Estates of Citrus Hills from Hawthorne, New Jersey, in 1998 and have two daughters, Lisa and Carolyn.

They have one granddaughter, Abbigale. Mike has previously been named Knight of the Month and Mike and Laura were named Family of the Month for November 2019.

In 2008, Mike joined the Knights of Columbus and became a charter member of St. Scholastica Knights Council, being one of the original members to petition for a charter for the local council from the Supreme Council. He is Coordinator of Food Preparation for St. Scholastica Council. Mike plans meals, orders food, assists in cooking and is responsible for the overall operation of the kitchen.

Food is prepared for monthly breakfasts and fundraising dinners/dances throughout the year. He helped establish and assists in

planning and running the annual car show for the council. Utilizing his mechanical skills, Mike repaired the steering mechanism on the transport van for Don Bosco's Children Home. He also welded and repaired a gazebo on the grounds of the Don Bosco's Children Home. Being the Family Director of St. Scholastica Council for four years, Mike is in charge of the Brown Bag Food Drive and planning the Annual Mass for Deceased Knights. He is an usher for St. Scholastica parish.

Mike received a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark. He worked for Singer Kearfott as a Production Engineer. He later became an entrepreneur, running an electronics repair shop.

Mike enjoys restoring vintage cars. He is a member of the Walter P. Chrysler Club, Nature Coast Mustang Club and Citrus County Mopar Club, of which he is president. These clubs have shows which allow members to share ideas and promote friendship, while raising funds for donation to charities.



Special to the Chronicle
Mike Bonadonna was named Knight of the Month for October by the St. Scholastica Knights of Columbus Council 14485 in Lecanto.

Santos is Council 6168 Knight of the Month

Special to the Chronicle

Ben Santos of Terra Vista in Citrus Hills is the Knights of Columbus Council 6168 November Knight of the Month.

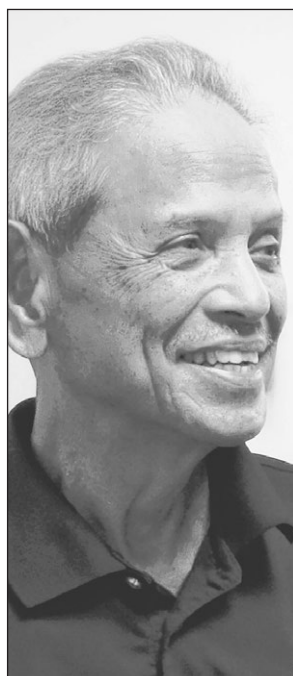
Council 6168 Grand Knight Mike Belkin selected him because of his long-time dedication to Our Lady of Grace Church in Beverly Hills, where he is a cantor and co-coordinator of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

"We know Ben's voice well. He leads the Alleluia and chants the responsorial psalm at Mass almost every weekday," Belkin said. "Even with the governor's C-19 restrictions, he and his wife, Cora, still manage to help feed the hungry where homeless people gather at the Family Resources Center in Hernando."

Santos learned to play music and sing when he was young in the Philippines. As a member of the church choir at Our Lady of Grace Church, he sings and plays a set of bongo drums on Sundays. At home he also plays a piano, but he shares that talent only with Cora. He is a charter member of the Skyview Golf and Country Club in Terra Vista and golfs with the Knights of Columbus Council 6168 League in the Citrus Hills Golf Club.

Santos is a third-degree life-member of the Knights of Columbus and fourth-degree member of Father James Hoge Assembly 1547. Before COVID-19, he helped collect donations for People with Intellectual Disabilities, served on a Knights of Columbus bingo team, helped paint the outside of the church and sang with the Knights of Columbus choir at Our Lady of Grace.

He served in the Philippine Navy for almost



Special to the Chronicle

Ben Santos was named Council 6168 Knight of the Month for November 2020.

18 years and held the rank of lieutenant before resigning and coming to the United States in 1972.

With a degree in mechanical engineering, Santos worked in the automotive industry in Michigan, mainly as a plant quality engineer and quality control manager. He retired to Citrus County with his first wife, Sally, a medical technologist, who had worked in Detroit hospitals.

Cora, like Ben, an immigrant from the Philippines, is a medical doctor. She and her late husband, Rogelio, also a medical doctor, practiced in Barbourville, Ky. for almost 30 years before moving to Citrus County in 2003.

Ben and Cora married in 2015 after their first spouses passed in 2013.

To Place Your "In Memory" ad,

Contact **Lori Driver** 564-2931 or email: LDriver@chronicleonline.com

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



NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH OR CHANGE REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE USE OF LAND

change of meeting date

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) proposes to adopt the following by ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER TEN, THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT, OF THE CITRUS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP SERIES BY ADOPTING AN INTERCHANGE MANAGEMENT AREA MAP AND THE FUTURE USE ELEMENT BY ADOPTING A NEW FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORY ENTITLED THE CARDINAL MIXED USE CATEGORY IN RELATION TO THE SUNCOAST PARKWAY INTERCHANGE AT W CARDINAL STREET, ALONG WITH SUPPORTING TEXT, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM CONSIDERATION AT PUBLIC HEARING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

CPA-20-11 – BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT (CHAPTER 10) BY ADOPTING AN INTERCHANGE MANAGEMENT AREA MAP AND A NEW LAND USE MAP CATEGORY, CARDINAL MIXED USE

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a **Public Hearing on January 19, 2021 at 5:20 PM in Room 100, Citrus County Courthouse, 110 N. Apopka Avenue, Inverness, Florida.**



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

A copy of the proposed ordinance(s) and supporting materials are available for public inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, at the Department of Planning and Development, 3600 West Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461. For more information about this application, please contact the Land Development Division at (352) 527-5239.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, he or she may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes all testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any person requiring reasonable accommodation at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the County Administrator's Office, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 267, Lecanto, FL 34461, (352) 527-5210, at least two days before the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, dial 7-1-1, 1-800-955-8771 (TTY) or 1-800-955-8770 (v), via Florida Relay Service.

Si necesita un traductor de español por favor haga arreglos con el Condado dentro de dos días de la notificación de la publicación (352-527-5370).

Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
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CLYDE BERGBAUGH Private Arrangements
GEORGE GRANT - Private Arrangements
SANDRA ALTOMARE Mass: Tue., (12/29) at 11 AM
Our Lady of Fatima
MARY "JANE" WISDOM Private Arrangements
MELDON BISHOP Private Arrangements, Burial in Maine
RICHARD LITTLE - Arrangements Pending
EDWIN NORMOYLE - Arrangements Pending

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Trump issues string of pardons

**COLLEEN LONG,
KEVIN FREKING
AND ERIC TUCKER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday pardoned 15 people, including a pair of congressional Republicans who were strong and early supporters, a 2016 campaign official ensnared in the Russia probe and former government contractors convicted in a 2007 massacre in Baghdad.

Trump's actions in his final weeks in office show a president who is wielding his executive power to reward loyalists and others who he believes have been wronged by a legal system he sees as biased against him and his allies. Trump issued the pardons — not an unusual act for an outgoing president — even as he refused to publicly acknowledge his election loss to Democrat Joe Biden, who will be sworn in on Jan. 20.

Those pardoned on Tuesday included former Republican Reps. Duncan Hunter of California and Chris Collins of New York, two of the earliest GOP lawmakers to back Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. Trump also commuted the sentences of five other people, including former Rep. Steve Stockman of Texas.

Collins, the first member of Congress to endorse Trump to be president, was sentenced to two years and two months in federal prison after admitting he helped his son and others dodge \$800,000 in stock market losses when he learned that a drug trial by a small



A Marine stands outside the entrance to the West Wing of the White House, signifying the President is in the Oval Office, Tuesday, Dec. 22 in Washington.

pharmaceutical company had failed.

Hunter was sentenced to 11 months in prison after pleading guilty to stealing campaign funds and spending the money on everything from outings with friends to his daughter's birthday party.

In the group announced Tuesday night were four former government contractors convicted in a 2007 massacre in Baghdad that left more a dozen Iraqi civilians dead and caused an international uproar over the use of private security guards in a war zone.

Supporters of Nicholas Slatten, Paul Slough, Evan Liberty and Dustin Heard, the former contractors at Blackwater Worldwide, had lobbied for pardons, arguing that the men had been excessively punished in an

investigation and prosecution they said was tainted by problems and withheld exculpatory evidence. All four were serving lengthy prison sentences.

The pardons reflected Trump's apparent willingness to give the benefit of doubt to American service-members and contractors when it comes to acts of violence in war zones against civilians. Last November, for instance, he pardoned a former U.S. Army commando who was set to stand trial next year in the killing of a suspected Afghan bomb-maker and a former Army lieutenant convicted of murder for ordering his men to fire upon three Afghans.

Trump also announced pardons for two people entangled in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia

investigation. One was for 2016 campaign adviser George Papadopoulos, who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about a conversation in which he learned that Russia had dirt on Trump's Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. The president also pardoned Alex van der Zwaan, a Dutch lawyer who was sentenced to 30 days in prison for lying to investigators during the Mueller probe.

Van der Zwaan and Papadopoulos are the third and fourth Russia investigation defendants granted clemency. By pardoning them, Trump once again took aim at Mueller's inquiry and advanced a broader effort to undo the results of the investigation that yielded criminal charges against a half-dozen associates.

Last month, Trump pardoned former national security adviser Michael Flynn, who had twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI, and months earlier commuted the sentence of another associate, Roger Stone, days before he was to report to prison.

Trump has granted about 2% of requested pardons in his single term in office — just 27 before Tuesday's announcement. By comparison, Barack Obama granted 212 or 6%, and George W. Bush granted about 7%, or 189. George H.W. Bush, another one-term president, granted 10% of requests.

Also among those pardoned by Trump was Phil Lyman, a Utah state representative who led an ATV protest through restricted federal lands.

Lyman was serving as a Utah county commissioner in 2014 when he led about 50 ATV riders in a canyon home to Native American cliff dwellings that officials closed to motorized traffic. The ride occurred amid a sputtering movement in the West pushing back against federal control of large swaths of land and came in the wake of an armed confrontation Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy had with Bureau of Land Management over grazing fees.

Lyman spent 10 days in prison and was ordered to pay nearly \$96,000 in restitution. The Trump administration in 2017 lifted a ban on motorized vehicles in parts of the canyon but left restrictions in place through other areas where Lyman led his ride.

Two former U.S. Border Patrol agents were also pardoned, Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean, convicted of shooting and wounding a Mexican drug smuggler near El Paso, Texas, in 2005.

Others on the list included a Pittsburgh dentist who pleaded guilty to health care fraud, two women convicted of drug crimes, and Alfred Lee Crum, now 89, who pleaded guilty in 1952 when he was 19 to helping his wife's uncle illegally distill moonshine.

Crum served three years of probation and paid a \$250 fine. The White House said Crum has maintained a clean record and a strong marriage for nearly 70 years, attended the same church for 60 years, raised four children, and regularly participated in charity fundraising events.



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► *"In a typical mental health catch-22, the alienating nature of depression tends to keep its sufferers from finding their way to the very support groups that might help them."*

Elizabeth Wurtzel, 1967-2020

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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

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

SYSTEM SUPPORT

Statewide grand jury focuses on mental health issues

In a follow-up to the 2018 shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas high school, a statewide grand jury was empaneled to make recommendations for legislative measures to implement recommendations arising from the initial investigation into the shooting.

In the fall of 2019, the grand jury issued its second

report with recommendations that included stripping school districts of their ability to inspect their own construction and issue certificates of occupancy, authorizing investigation of school district reports that appear to gloss over issues of compliance with state laws

and regulations, requiring school districts to certify that charter schools in their jurisdiction have adequate school safety plans, and requiring that school district policing agencies report to the county sheriff instead of the school district.

Many of these recommendations were included in legislation introduced into last year's general assembly, but they were not passed and signed into law.

In the most recent report issued this December, the grand jury reemphasized that it still supports these initiatives, but it also added that the grand jury has received evidence and testimony about mental health issues that need to be urgently addressed.

"To put it bluntly, our mental health care 'system,' if one can even call it that — is a mess," the report states,

and the commission has formulated recommendations for improvement.

The report notes that mental health programs are inadequately funded, that programs are spread among various agencies, without effective central coordination, and there is not effective leadership in addressing mental health issues.

The report notes that "we

THE ISSUE:

Marjorie Stoneman Douglas grand jury issues its third report with focus on mental health issues.

OUR OPINION:

A solid recommendation.

also recognize from the outset that these are hard problems. They are hard in the sense that the way forward is uncertain, but also — and we cannot stress this enough — they are hard because many of the government and private actors who have the power to implement the necessary legislative and administrative changes may lack the will to do so."

The report notes that "this Grand Jury has only scratched the surface of the myriad difficulties in addressing the sad state of mental health care services in the State of Florida," and noted that this examination is beyond its charter.

For this reason, the grand jury recommends that "the Florida Legislature should appoint a commission to specifically examine the provision of mental health services in Florida."

Given the multiple issues that are involved in mental health, and what the report refers to as the "sad state" of our mental health system, this recommendations seems like a reasonable one that should be given consideration by our state Legislature.

United Way needs your help

■ The United Way of Citrus County needs your help this Christmas season. The Chronicle is asking that residents consider contributing \$36 (or whatever you can afford) to the annual campaign. Checks can be sent to: Gerry Mulligan, Citrus County Chronicle, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429. They can also be dropped off at the Chronicle office in Inverness or Crystal River. Thanks for being part of the solution to our community's problems.

Gerry Mulligan, publisher

County should rename road

As I was driving on West Dunnellon Road (AKA County Road 488), I was wondering if the county commission would consider renaming the road "Junk Car Road."

I hate to see trees being cut down to store junk cars and U-Haul trucks.

Gary Mock
Dunnellon

How many deaths is too many?

Dec. 7, 1941: A day which will live in infamy — 2,403 deaths.

Sept. 11, 2001: America's darkest day — 2,977 deaths.

Dec. 9, 2020: Just another Wednesday in the nation — 3,124 deaths from COVID-19. Citrus County (Florida) COVID-19 update on Dec. 19, 2020

To date in the county, 5,877 people have tested positive (including 35 non-residents), 478 have been hospitalized and 218 have died. Those who died were our friends, family and neighbors.

Citrus County population in 2019 was 149,657 souls.

How many deaths will it take 'til we know that too many people have died?

Kathy Dobronyi
Inverness

BHCA president bids farewell

This is a bittersweet experience for me; for this is the last letter that I will submit to the Chronicle as President of the Beverly Hills Civic Association.

I decided to get involved with this non-profit organization in loving memory of my parents, Sidney and Veronica Newman, longtime residents of Beverly Hills. When they passed within weeks of each other, I decided to move back in 2014 and get involved in our community.

In 2018, when I first took over as president, I knew that I had some big shoes to fill. I was taking over for Harvey Gerber, a man who had served as past president for over five years and who lobbied diligently for the Beverly Hills community.

Gerber was a major driving force behind the local Boys & Girls Club, fought hard to maintain and keep open our community pool, and has been a consistent financial supporter of our Association and various other causes. It is no wonder why our Board of Directors selected him to be the Beverly Hills Citizen of the Year.

In the same spirit of commitment to the community, it is with pleasure that I announce these upcoming events.

■ 7 p.m. Jan. 7 at the Central Ridge Community Center, we're having a monthly membership meeting to induct our new Board of Directors. Sheriff Mike Prendergast will be in attendance to swear in our new slate of officers. As with our last member meeting in October, we will be social distancing and have hand sanitizer available. The wearing of masks or face coverings is strongly encouraged.

■ 7 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Central Ridge Community Center, Citrus County Commissioner Ruthie Davis Schlabach, our new commissioner for our district, will be the

OPINIONS INVITED

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

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

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

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

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

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

■ SEND LETTERS TO: The Editor, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; or email to letters@chronicleonline.com.

guestspeaker.

■ 5 p.m. March 4 at the Black Diamond Clubhouse, the Beverly Hills Civic Association will host its first annual Anniversary, Auction and Awards Dinner. We plan to make this an annual event to celebrate our longstanding presence and to recognize those that have contributed to making Beverly Hills a better place to live, work, and play. We were first founded in 1963.

In January's President letter, our incoming President, Michael Belkin, will most likely be sharing updates about our Black Diamond event, a springtime community car show, and a Health Fair event that had to be postponed.

It has been an honor and a pleasure leading this organization through both joyous and challenging times. For those who would like to become a member of our organization or simply donate, call 352-746-2657. You don't have to live in Beverly Hills to care about Beverly Hills or become a member.

Louis "Lou" Newman
Beverly Hills

How does veterans' group not qualify?

I was shocked when I read the headlines in Sunday's edition of the Chronicle.

The veterans' organization did not qualify for the Cares Act and Goodwill does? From all information I ever saw, Goodwill operates on a 100% profit margin. The goods are donated — and their CEO makes approximately \$2.3 million a year.

None of the profits go to help anyone but the owner, Mark Curran. How could the Key Center and Goodwill ever be put in the same category? Can someone please help make sense of giving monies to an all-for-profit of a one-person organization and not one penny to an organization that the profit structure helps veterans?

Carol Clouthier
Inverness

Letter filed with incorrect 'facts'

I'm responding to the letter "I am happy with Trump's leadership." The letter is filled with distortions, misinterpretations and mischaracterizations.

She writes that Biden will bring about "a third Obama reign of terror and destruction?" I must have missed the

first two reigns. I did live through four years of behavior I would not allow my middle school sons to exhibit. I watched in real terror as Trump separated children from their parents at our southern border. I watched American soldiers clear a park of peaceful protestors. I've witnessed over 300,000 American die of COVID-19, because Trump ignored the advice of his experts, moved too slowly and didn't take the pandemic seriously.

I've watched the Attorney General act like his personal lawyer instead of defending the Constitution.

To say the "the swamp is back" under a Biden administration is comical. There have been 215 criminal indictments under Trump. The Obama/Biden administration had zero. Trump is responsible for filling the swamp with dishonest and corrupt officials, and the Justice Department is cleaning up the swamp as quickly as they can.

When he leaves office, it will be interesting to see how many indictments he will accumulate because of his personal criminal activities. He may try to pardon himself, but the State of New York continues to investigate him.

The writer says that Trump has been "wrongly quoted and accused." We all know that Trump is a habitual liar. It has been documented that he has told over 20,000 lies, big and small, in the past four years. It is not often he is wrongly quoted.

I don't have room to comment on the other distortions in the letter, such as making mask mandatory will lead to a dictatorship. Will making auto insurance mandatory also lead to a dictatorship?

Who promised to defund the police? Not Biden. He has said so many times.

The author claims under a Biden administration, we will have open borders and we will be flooded with undocumented individuals. The facts are more straightforward; under the Obama/Biden administration's first four years, far more people were deported than under Trump.

The author is looking at the past through Trump-colored glasses and 81 million Americans disagree with her.

I am looking forward to the next four years as we build bigger and better.

Thomas Mitchell
Inverness

COVID safety seems lacking

Red MAGA hats do not block coronavirus. In fact they seem to encourage its spread.

Joseph Phillips
Inverness

What about the national debt?

Here's one to watch. What was the national debt just before Trump entered office, and what is it now?

How much do you hear Fox and other right-wing media outlets talking about it? I haven't heard anything ... yet.

How long do you think it will take Republicans to start hammering Biden and blaming him for the national debt? I give it a week.

Stephen Brusko
Crystal River

I'm old-fashioned, I use VHS

Yes, there's a Sound Off about the VHS tapes and I'm old-fashioned and I still use them and still have a machine. If you can call me at 352-628-6695, I will put them to use. Thank you.

Spend money on beautification

(Re the Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020, front-page story, "City to eye beach options," "Inverness council to look at adding shoreline amenities to downtown parks"): I just don't get it. You want to

build a beach and buy some of the parks and you spent \$197,000 on a community garden that bombed. Why don't you take some of that money and tear down, especially, a building between Forest Drive and (State Road) 44, close to Independence, unless you just want to wait for the building to fall down all by itself. But you know what? You can beautify Inverness, but as soon as you leave downtown, it's kind of scary with all the abandoned buildings and



CALL 563-0579

things like that. So, I don't know, think about spending that money, but I won't visit it.

A road rage apology

Today is Dec. 1 and I have an apology to make. Today, actually around noon, I had a road-rage incident. There was a young woman driving a small delivery van in front of me and some things occurred and I totally lost it. I got up next to her and I cussed at her, I shot her the bird and I just totally lost

myself there for a minute and she didn't deserve that. So whoever she is, I hope maybe she might read this and know that, in retrospect, I thought about this and I want to say that I am very sorry and will learn to behave myself better and not lose control like that. Have a good day.

Swim with the gators

Dec. 1's headline, "City (of Inverness) to eye beach options." Wow, the director of tourism should jump on this one. Swim with the manatees in Crystal River. Swim with the alligators in Inverness.

US deaths in 2020 top 3M

By far most ever counted in US history

MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — This is the deadliest year in U.S. history, with deaths expected to top 3 million for the first time — due mainly to the coronavirus pandemic.

Final mortality data for this year will not be available for months. But preliminary numbers suggest that the United States is on track to see more than 3.2 million deaths this year, or at least 400,000 more than in 2019.

U.S. deaths increase most years, so some annual rise in fatalities is expected. But the 2020 numbers amount to a jump of about 15%, and could go higher once all the deaths from this month are counted.

That would mark the largest single-year percentage leap since 1918, when tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers died in World War I and hundreds of thousands of

Americans died in a flu pandemic. Deaths rose 46% that year, compared with 1917.

COVID-19 has killed more than 318,000 Americans and counting. Before it came along, there was reason to be hopeful about U.S. death trends.

The nation's overall mortality rate fell a bit in 2019, due to reductions in heart disease and cancer deaths. And life expectancy inched up — by several weeks — for the second straight year, according to death certificate data released Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But life expectancy for 2020 could end up dropping as much as three full years, said Robert Anderson of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC counted 2,854,838 U.S. deaths last year, or nearly 16,000 more than 2018. That's fairly good news: Deaths usually rise by



Associated Press

Hospital beds are set up in the practice facility at Sleep Train Arena in Sacramento, Calif. This is the deadliest year in U.S. history, with deaths topping 3 million for the first time. It's due mainly to the coronavirus pandemic that has killed nearly 320,000 Americans.

about 20,000 to 50,000 each year, mainly due to the nation's aging, and growing population.

Indeed, the age-adjusted death rate dropped about 1% in 2019, and life expectancy rose by about

six weeks to 78.8 years, the CDC reported.

"It was actually a pretty good year for mortality, as things go," said Anderson, who oversees CDC death statistics.

Nation & World BRIEFS

Newsom taps Calif. election chief Padilla for US Senate

SACRAMENTO — California Gov. Gavin Newsom selected Secretary of State Alex Padilla on Tuesday as the state's next U.S. senator, a historic pick that sends a Latino to the Senate for the first time in the state's history.

While Padilla had been the favorite, a video released by Newsom's office shows him getting emotional after Newsom offered him the job, reflecting on the hard work of his parents, who came to the United States from Mexico and worked as a cook and a housekeeper.

"It's a hell of an important perspective to bring to Washington," he told Newsom.

Padilla, 47, was appointed to fill out the remainder of Vice President-elect Kamala Harris' term. She plans to step down from the seat in January ahead of Inauguration Day, on Jan. 20. Padilla will need to run for a full term in 2022. The appointment gives him an advantage, but he's still likely to face challenges; California's top-two primary system allows two Democrats to face off in a general election.

"Through his tenacity, integrity, smarts and grit, California is gaining a tested fighter in their corner who will be a fierce ally in D.C., lifting up our state's values and making sure we secure the critical resources to emerge stronger from this pandemic," Newsom said in a statement.

Virus reaches Antarctica, last untouched continent

SANTIAGO, Chile — The pandemic has finally reached every continent on Earth.

Chilean authorities announced that 58 people that were at two military bases in Antarctica or on a navy ship that went to the continent tested positive for the new coronavirus.

Chile's army announced Monday that 36 people at the Gen. Bernardo O'Higgins Riquelme Antarctic base have tested positive, and on Tuesday the health minister for the Biobio region in Chile said there are 21 infections involving people aboard the Chilean navy's Sergeant Aldea supply vessel.

The army said the first group of 36 people includes 26 members of the military and 10 civilian employees of a maintenance contract company. It said none so far had shown complications.

The U.S. National Science Foundation, the agency overseeing U.S. programs in Antarctica, said it was aware of the reports of positive cases in passengers aboard the Sergeant Aldea.

"Personnel at U.S. Antarctic Program stations have had no interactions with the Chilean stations in question or the personnel who reside there," the foundation said.

— From wire reports

Britain faces new virus strain



Associated Press

Trucks are parked in Dover, while the Port remains closed, in Kent, England, Tuesday. Trucks waiting to get out of Britain backed up for miles and people were left stranded at airports as dozens of countries around the world slapped tough travel restrictions on the U.K. because of a new and seemingly more contagious strain of the coronavirus in England.

France relaxes its ban on trucks entering from UK

PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON — France relaxed its coronavirus-related ban on trucks from Britain on Tuesday after a two-day standoff that had stranded thousands of drivers and raised fears of Christmastime food shortages in the U.K.

French authorities, who had imposed the ban to try to protect the continent from a new variant of the virus that is circulating in London and southeast England, said delivery drivers could enter by ferry or tunnel provided they showed proof of a negative test for the virus. Select passengers will be allowed back on the continent, too.

After two days of intense talks with British and European Union partners, French Transport Minister Jean-Baptiste Djebbari said in a statement that the coming hours would be dedicated to setting up testing sites so that British truckers could make it to the continent and back in time for Christmas. Quick tests will be accepted if they are able to detect the new virus

variant, Djebbari said.

At least 2,800 truck drivers had been anxiously waiting near the England Channel port of Dover for word they could cross over to the continent. French and British authorities urged them to avoid ports until they can get tested.

France also said it would allow EU travelers, along with British citizens with EU residency, back into the country if they had a negative virus test in the preceding 72 hours. British tourists remain barred.

Some 40 countries imposed travel bans on Britain, leaving the island nation increasingly isolated, after Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned over the weekend that the new variant of the virus might be 70% more contagious. But the French restrictions were particularly worrisome, given that Britain relies heavily on its cross-Channel commercial links to the continent for food this time of year.

At the same time, Britain is witnessing an alarming rise in infections, with a record 36,800 reported Tuesday, and is facing deep uncertainty over its final exit from

the European Union in less than two weeks. Despite the looming deadline, the country has yet to work out its post-Brexit trade arrangements with the EU.

"What is so bad to me, is not just this new mutation, but the fact that we have been so bad at dealing with the pandemic, and it now looks like we're heading for what's called a perfect storm with the mutation 70% more infectious and Brexit all at the same time," 73-year-old Jim Gibson of London said during the standoff.

"People are really struggling to get their heads round one of these, let alone both — and now we're being told we may have eaten our last lettuce for three months, too, probably."

The virus is blamed for 1.7 million deaths worldwide, including more than 68,000 in Britain, the second-highest death toll in Europe, behind Italy's 69,000.

Over the weekend, Johnson imposed strict lockdown measures in London and neighboring areas amid mounting concerns over the new variant. He scrapped a planned relaxation of rules over Christmastime for millions of people and banned indoor mixing of households. Only essential travel will be permitted.

Justice Department sues Walmart over role in opioid crisis

MICHAEL BALSAMO AND ANNE D'INNOCENZO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department sued Walmart on Tuesday, accusing it of fueling the nation's opioid crisis by pressuring its pharmacies to fill even potentially suspicious prescriptions for the powerful painkillers.

The civil complaint filed points to the role Walmart's pharmacies may have played in the crisis by filling opioid prescriptions and Walmart's own

responsibility for the allegedly illegal distribution of controlled substances to the pharmacies at the height of the opioid crisis. Walmart operates more than 5,000 pharmacies in its stores around the country.

The Justice Department alleges Walmart violated federal law by selling thousands of prescriptions for controlled substances that its pharmacists "knew were invalid," said Jeffrey Clark, the acting assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's civil division.

Federal law required Walmart

to spot suspicious orders for controlled substances and report those to the Drug Enforcement Administration, but prosecutors charge the company didn't do that.

"Walmart knew that its distribution centers were using an inadequate system for detecting and reporting suspicious orders," said Jason Dunn, the U.S. attorney in Colorado. "As a result of this inadequate system, for years Walmart reported virtually no suspicious orders at all. In other words, Walmart's pharmacies ordered opioids in a way that went

essentially unmonitored and unregulated."

The 160-page suit alleges that Walmart made it difficult for its pharmacists to follow the rules, putting "enormous pressure" on them to fill a high volume of prescriptions as fast as possible, while at the same time denying them the authority to categorically refuse to fill prescriptions issued by prescribers the pharmacists knew were continually issuing invalid prescriptions.

Walmart fought back in an emailed statement to The

Associated Press, saying that the Justice Department's investigation is "tainted by historical ethics violations." It said the "lawsuit invents a legal theory that unlawfully forces pharmacists to come between patients and their doctors, and is riddled with factual inaccuracies and cherry-picked documents taken out of context."

Walmart noted it always empowered its pharmacists to refuse to fill problematic opioids prescriptions, and said they refused to fill hundreds of thousands of such prescriptions.

CHALK TALK

SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTESTS

DAR scholarships

The local Fort Cooper Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is offering two \$1,000 scholarships for Citrus County high school graduating senior women. Applications are due March 15, 2021.

Criteria includes achieving a minimum 3.0 GPA, acceptance at an accredited college or university, participation in extracurricular activities and community service, and demonstrated substantial financial need. Leniency will be observed regarding activities and service provided during 2020 due to virus limitations. Application forms and guidelines are available now in Citrus County high school guidance offices.

State DAR scholarship applications and guidelines are also available in school guidance offices. Additionally, the national DAR Society offers many scholarships in a variety of fields for high school graduates, current college students and graduate students through its online application portal <http://dar.academicworks.com>. For more information about all DAR scholarships, email Fort Cooper Chapter Scholarship Chairman Shirley Hartley at whartley1@tampabay.rr.com.

The Fort Cooper Chapter of DAR, with approximately 160 members, the chapter was founded to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence, promote enlightened public opinion, and foster patriotic citizenship. Locally, we support veterans and veteran services, education and literacy programs, citizenship training and patriotic programs.

CF offers nursing scholarship

The Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County is proud to announce that the window to apply for the 2021 Angelica G. Muns Scholarship is now open.

Students pursuing nursing degrees as well as post graduate nursing students are asked to apply. Qualified applicants must be enrolled in a certified nursing program in Marion County, maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout their duration

of schooling, and continue their career in an acute health care facility for up to two years.

To apply use this link or visit www.ocalafoundation.org/impact/#cfgrants to learn more. The application deadline is Jan. 4, 2021.

Environmental scholarships

The Riverhaven Garden Club in Homosassa has been giving scholarships for more than 20 years to area seniors interested in pursuing a career in botany, landscape design, or ecology. The scholarship alternates between Lecanto and Crystal River, since these are the two area high schools that students in Homosassa attend.

The scholarship amount has varied, as has the number of recipients, but scholarships vary for amounts between \$500 to \$1,500 toward a recipient's college tuition.

Email elainemoore4@gmail.com or call 352-621-3004 for information.

CHALK TALK

Church provides sponsorships for EMT program

Health care workers are priceless in a world burdened by a pandemic, and the knowledge someone gains in their pursuit of such professions can be just as valuable.

In consultation with Trudee Mason, guidance counselor at Crystal River High School, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church of Inverness has provided two \$350 sponsorships to two high school seniors for the Phil Royal Dual enrolment EMT program, hosted by the Crystal River High School Academy of Health Careers and the College of Central Florida.

Enrolling students pay roughly \$350 out of pocket, a savings of \$2,150 compared to CF's EMT program. These sponsorships will cover that out-of-pocket expense for two students.

Completing the course turns seniors into certified emergency medical technicians by the time they graduate, launching them into either a well-paying job or closer to their end goal in health care.

"What better way for us as a church family, engaged in our greater community, than

to assist two high school seniors to gain health care career skills, and hopefully remain as health care professionals in Citrus County," said Father Gene Reuman, Pastor of St. Margaret's.

St. Margaret's is at 114 N. Osceola Ave., one block northwest of city hall, and is celebrating its 126th year.

CF closed for winter break

All College of Central Florida campuses will be closed for winter break through Friday, Jan. 1. The CF Post Office and Print Shop on the Ocala Campus will also be closed.

The Ocala Campus Bookstore will be open Dec. 23 and 28-30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Ocala Bookstore will be closed Dec. 24-26, 31 and Jan. 1.

The Citrus Campus Bookstore will be closed to walk-in traffic Dec. 18-Jan. 1. Students can visit CF.bnccollege.com to purchase spring course books.

The college will reopen Monday, Jan. 4, 2021. Spring 2021 classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 6.

CF hosts virtual career chat

The College of Central Florida's Business and Technology Department will host a free event about careers in engineering on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, from 12:15-1:30 p.m., online.

Participants will hear how they can start training for a career in engineering and about skills employers seek in today's job market. This session will be hosted by Sam Ajani, associate professor for Engineering Technology at CF.

Register now at CF.edu/BusTechEvents. The first 10 to register and attend will receive a small gift.

For more information, email Bonnie Hays at haysb@CF.edu.

WTC offers Nursing Assistant classes

Withlacoochee Technical College (WTC) is now enrolling students for its Nursing Assistant (articulated) program. This semester, the college is offering the program two different ways:

■ Full Time (7-week) Course from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through

Friday beginning Jan. 11, 2021.

■ Part-Time (19-week) Course from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning Jan. 11, 2021.

Students will learn infection control, personal hygienic care of patients, record keeping, taking vital signs, patient transfer, nutrition, medical terminology, and much more. Program completers will be prepared to take the Florida Department of Health Certified Nursing Assistant certification exam.

Call the college at 352-726-2430 ext. 4326 for more information.

Take Stock wants students, mentors

Take Stock in Children is a school-based mentoring program that assists in creating a brighter future for deserving youths by providing college and vocational scholarships, volunteer mentors, tutoring and long-term support. Take Stock is not a tutoring program; rather, it is a program that provides support and encouragement for students as they work their way through middle and high school and prepare for college.

Although we are living in unique times, the work of Take Stock in Children of Citrus County goes on as we adapt to a new way of fulfilling our obligations to our students and our mentors.

We are preparing to add new students to our program and are hoping that you might consider joining us as a major component of our organization. You can help make a tremendous difference in the life of a student — starting with an application and a desire to make a difference.

Call Pat Lancaster, student services coordinator, at 352-422-2348 or 352-344-0855 to learn more about the program.

For more information, call Take Stock in Children of Citrus County at 352-344-0855.

WTC enrolling now

Invest in your future: Withlacoochee Technical

College is now enrolling for classes starting Jan. 11, 2021.

Programs include: Applied Cybersecurity, Automotive Collision Technology, Automotive Service Technology, Cosmetology, Electricity, Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning/Refrigeration, Medical Administrative Specialist, Nails Specialty, Network Systems Administration, Nursing Assistant (Articulated), Practical Nursing, Professional Culinary Arts, Technology Support Services, Welding Technology.

We also offer fast track

classes with short commitments of time to complete.

Contact the College at 352-726-2430 to schedule an appointment to meet with a career advisor or guidance counselor, or check us out online at www.wtcollege.org.

To list notes in Chalk Talk, email community@chronicleonline.com. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style. Publication in the print version each week is not guaranteed.

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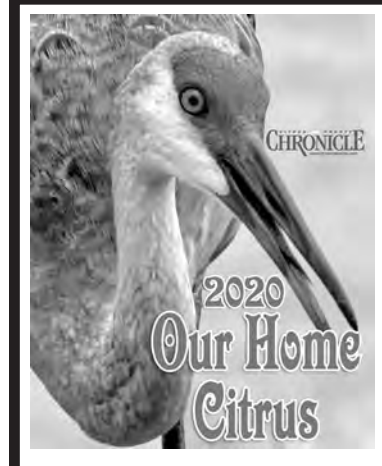
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- The Ledgers -

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE BEST OF THE BEST WINNER 2020

We need your information

As our community grows, it becomes even more important that we know how to keep in touch with each other. The Chronicle's annual publication of Our Home Citrus is the best and most complete resource for all those important organizations, clubs, hobby groups and other ways we make friends, share pastimes and help each other out.

If you would like your group to be listed in this publication please go to ChronicleOnline.com/OurHomeCitrus and fill out the online form, or fill out the form below and mail or deliver by December 31, 2020 to:

**Citrus County Chronicle
Attention: Cindy Connolly
1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd.
Crystal River, FL 34429**

NAME OF ORGANIZATION (must be nonprofit) _____
 ORGANIZATION WEB PAGE _____
 MEETING PLACE: Specific building designation (Elks Lodge, Resource Center, Restaurant, etc.) _____
 Street address: _____
 City: _____
 MEETING TIME: _____
 MEETING DATE: _____
 Day of the week (i.e. every Monday, third Monday of the month): _____
 Contact Name: _____
 Phone number: _____
 Email address: _____

- Please check the category which best describes your organization - only one category, please:
- Animals
 - Education and Youth
 - Political
 - Support Groups
 - Arts and Crafts
 - Food Programs
 - Recreation Groups
 - Vehicles
 - Civic
 - Fraternal
 - Seniors
 - Weight Control
 - Computers
 - Gardening
 - Service Clubs
 - Women's Clubs
 - Cultural and Heritage
 - Hobbies
 - Special Interest

To complete the form online, go to ChronicleOnline.com/OurHomeCitrus

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AT THE LIBRARY

Dunnellon Public Library
352-438-2520
Donations to the Dunnellon Friends of the Library Bookstore are welcome during December. Check out the great assortment of books available and stock up. Bookstore hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Citrus Springs Memorial Library
352-489-2313
The Citrus Springs Library has new hours due to the loss of volunteers. The new hours are 10 a.m. through 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. There is an ongoing book sale inside of the library. If interested in volunteering, applications are available in the library. Volunteers work 3-hour shifts. For information, call 352-489-2313.

Citrus County Libraries
Visit citruslibraries.org to get the latest information on services and programming offered at the library. Registration is currently required for all programs listed below. Please call the branch to register. Or visit citruslibraries.org to get the latest information on services and programming offered at the library.

All Locations
Dec. 24
■ Christmas Eve, Libraries Closed, All Day
Dec. 25
■ Christmas Day, Libraries Closed, All Day
Jan. 1
■ New Year's Day, Libraries Closed, All Day
Live Online — Citrus Libraries Facebook
Dec. 31
■ Virtual Noon Year's Eve, 11:30 a.m.

Central Ridge, Beverly Hills, 352-746-6622
Dec. 23
■ Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.
■ Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.
Dec. 29
■ Artistic Doodling, 1 p.m.
■ Color Me Happy, 1 p.m.
Dec. 30
■ Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.
■ Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.
Jan. 5
■ Getting Started with Computers, 10:15 a.m.
■ Color Me Happy, 12:30 p.m.
■ Artistic Doodling, 1 p.m.
Jan. 6
■ Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.
■ Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.
■ Reel Time: Movie Show-ing, 1 p.m.
Jan. 7
■ Internet Basics, 10:15 a.m.
■ Adults Create: Parrot Décor, 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 8
■ Friends Annual Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
■ Diamondizers! (Diamond Painting), 1 p.m.

Coastal Region, Crystal River, 352-795-3716
Jan. 5
■ Community Jam Session, 2 p.m.
■ Tech Talk: Getting Started with iPhone, 2:30 p.m.
Jan. 6
■ Game On!, 3 p.m.
Jan. 7
■ Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.
■ Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.
Jan. 8
■ Reel Time: Movie Show-ing, 1 p.m.

Floral City, 352-726-3671
Dec. 29
■ Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.
■ Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.
Dec. 31
■ Tai Chi, 9:30 a.m.
Jan. 4
■ Penny Challenge Mason Jar Bank Creation, 10:30 a.m.
■ Chess Time, 1 p.m.
Jan. 5
■ Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.
■ Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.
Jan. 6
■ Creative Bullet Journal-ing: Getting Started, 10:30 a.m.
Jan. 7
■ Tai Chi, 9:30 a.m.

Homosassa, 352-628-5626
Dec. 23
■ Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.
■ Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.
Dec. 29
■ Color Me Happy, 1 p.m.
Dec. 30
■ Pre-GED Math Class, 3 p.m.
Jan. 4
■ Getting Started with Computers, 10:15 a.m.
■ 3D Printing Pen Projects, 2 p.m.
■ 3D Printing Pen Projects, 3:15 p.m.
Jan. 5
■ Color Me Happy, 1 p.m.
Jan. 6
■ Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.
■ File Management, 10:15 a.m.
■ Tiny Tales, 11 a.m.
Pre-GED Math Class, 3 p.m.
Jan. 9
■ Embrace Wild Florida, 10:30 a.m.

Lakes Region, Inverness, 352-726-2357
Jan. 4
■ Tech Talk: Healthy Living Apps, 10:15 a.m.
■ Tweens & Teens: Winter Jars, 2 p.m.
Jan. 5
■ STEM @ Your Library: Winter in Wonderland, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 7
■ Tiny Tales, 10 a.m.

CHALK TALK

Berry College names two local students to Fall 2020 Dean's List

ROME, Ga. —The following area students were named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Berry College. The Dean's List honors students who posted an academic average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale while carrying a class load of at least 12 hours during the semester.

- Hailey McMahon of Inverness.
- Luke Steel of Inverness.

Nationally recognized for academic excellence and as an outstanding educational value, Berry is an independent, coeducational, comprehensive liberal arts college of approximately 2,100 students.

For more than a century, the college has offered an exceptional education that balances intellectual exploration, practical learning, and character development. Its 27,000-acre campus is the world's largest.

Visit www.berry.edu for more information.

Teacher grants available

Apply Jan. 11-15

Special to the Chronicle

Whether in the classroom or working virtually, teachers are being asked to come up with new methods for helping students learn. To celebrate and reward Florida teachers who have or are developing new and original approaches to teaching during the pandemic, State Farm is here to assist.

Teachers in Florida are invited to submit their innovative teaching ideas. State Farm Teacher Assist, <https://tinyurl.com/yd3pzb8s>, will accept 200 submissions and 40 will be selected as

grant recipients. Each teacher who is selected will receive a \$2,500 grant to implement or support their creative projects.

The program launches at 4 p.m. Jan. 11 and concludes when up to 200 submissions are reached or at 11:59 p.m. Jan. 15. Teachers can prepare now by going to the website to download the rules and get their answers ready for the following three questions on the entry form:

- If you receive a \$2,500 grant, how will you use the funding to resolve your challenges?
- What opportunities will this funding help your students realize?
- How can the program be replicated

by teachers at other schools?

After the 200 submissions are reached, the State Farm Review Committee will score all the submissions to identify the 40 winners. The winning teachers will be announced the week of Feb. 1 on the State Farm Teacher Assist website. The teacher's school will receive the \$2,500 grant for the teacher to implement their ideas.

"Teachers innovate on a daily basis to overcome challenges in their classrooms and this year has required even more creativity than usual," said Annette Martinez, State Farm senior vice president. "We are proud to offer a program that helps them reach their goals for their students."

Hernando Elementary hosts VFW Good Citizen Award Ceremony



Recently, Hernando Elementary held their VFW Good Citizen Award Ceremony for the months of October and November. March recipients of the award were also honored during this ceremony. Seated, from left, are: Ryleigh Cobb, Maverick Vega, Dillon Bushey, Mark Straffin, Ella Carroll. Standing, from left, are: Principal Kyle Jaecks, Cheyenne Umphress, Jazlynn Mattull, Caitlin MacDill, Luke Meade, Emily Orr, Lindsey Bradshaw, Assistant Principal Christina Touchton.



Seated, from left, are: Jacob Oliver, Justin Oliver, Jazlynn Hubbard, Loriele Berrios, Aubrey Turner, Caden Tuetemacher. Standing, from left, are: Principal Kyle Jaecks, Makenzie Lee, Kai Arnold, Alyvia Coderre, Scarlett Slaght, Cayden Carroll, Evelyn Owsiak, Lia Trombley, Mai Truc Nguyen, Assistant Principal Christina Touchton.

Connors Gifts gives back

Special to the Chronicle



Earlier this month, the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society of Key Women Educators participated in a "Community Give Back" event at Connors Gifts in downtown Inverness.

Funds from this event will enable DKG to present a scholarship to a local adult woman working on achieving her teaching degree and credentials, to continue a workshop for local teachers on successful mini-grant writing, to support continuing education for teachers, and to provide supplies for teachers' classrooms.

DKG is composed of working and retired women educators who work to support education, teachers and our local school system.

If interested in learning more about the work of DKG, call President Michelle Josey at 352-302-5946 or find us on Facebook at Mu Chapter, Florida.

Receiving \$600 raised for the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society of Key Women Educators in a "Community Give Back" event at Connors Gifts in Inverness from Doug Connors, second from right, are chapter President Michelle Josey, left, along with Linda Van Allen, Sam Himmel, Bonnie Rybak and Brenda Fitzpatrick.

Special to the Chronicle

THE NUMBER:

22

Points for Kevin Durant as the Brooklyn Nets opened the NBA season Tuesday with a 125-99 rout of Golden State.



Kevin Durant

SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020



Ohio State's Fields repeats as Big Ten offensive POY./B2

- College football/B2
- College hoops/B2
- NFL/B2
- Scoreboard/B3
- Sports briefs/B3
- Lottery, TV/B3
- Golf/B4

Florida, Mullen sanctioned for violations

Program receives year of probation

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — Florida received a year of probation and football coach Dan Mullen was sanctioned Tuesday after the school and the NCAA agreed to resolve an infractions case involving impermissible contact with recruits last year.

None of the infractions were deemed Level I, the most serious, but the NCAA said the head coach did not promote an atmosphere of compliance. It did not name Mullen, who has been Florida's coach since 2018.

Many of the penalties, including reduced evaluation days and number of permissible phone calls to recruits, were implemented earlier this year.

"There is no evidence of systemic compliance issues at Florida, but when isolated

circumstances occur they are addressed head on and we accept responsibility for our actions, as evidenced by this instance," athletic director Scott Stricklin said. "It is important for our coaches and staff to remain diligent and take responsibility for compliance, and extricate themselves from potential NCAA violations."

The case went through negotiated resolution, used when the school, individuals involved and NCAA enforcement staff agree on the violations and penalties. In this case, the group agreed infractions occurred between January and March of 2019.

The unidentified assistant coach and Mullen had impermissible in-person contact with a prospect at the prospect's high school in Seattle, according to the report. The prospect had not yet completed his junior year, making it a Level II violation.

"Following the rules and being committed to doing things the right way is part of my history as a

See SANCTIONED/Page B3



Associated Press

Florida head coach Dan Mullen walks the sidelines during the first half of the Southeastern Conference championship game against Alabama, Saturday, Dec. 19, in Atlanta. Mullen and the program were sanctioned Tuesday for recruiting violations

BYU blasts UCF



MIKE STOCKER/South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Central Florida running back Bentavious Thompson is stopped late in the first quarter against BYU in the Boca Raton Bowl on Tuesday in Boca Raton. The Cougars defeated UCF, 49-23.

Wilson carves up Knights in likely final game for No. 13 Cougars

Associated Press

BOCA RATON — Zach Wilson threw for 425 yards with three touchdown passes and two rushing scores as No. 13 BYU routed UCF 49-23 in the Boca Raton Bowl on Tuesday night.

Wilson, considered a top NFL prospect, completed 26 of 34 in what likely was his final college game.

The Cougars (11-1) led 35-10 at half-time and finished with 655 yards of offense to UCF's 411.

Tyler Allgeier carried 19 times for 173 yards and a score. Isaac Rex had five catches for 96 yards and two

touchdowns as BYU earned its first victory in nine games it has played in the Sunshine State.

Dillon Gabriel was 21 of 45 for 217 yards and two TDs for the Knights (6-4). He had a stretch of nine straight incompletions bridging the second and third quarters.

BYU dominated the first half, outgaining UCF 434 yards to 227 despite running 11 fewer plays.

The Cougars led 14-0 less than four minutes into the game after scoring on its first two drives, each more than 70 yards and less than 1:50 in duration.

Wilson finished the first drive by

running 15 yards on a quarterback draw. On BYU's next possession, he hit Rex for a 36-yard TD pass on a reverse flea-flicker.

Wilson ran 4 yards to make it 21-0 with 25 seconds left in the first quarter. It was another long (76 yards) but quick (1:42) drive.

UCF defensive back Divaad Wilson was penalized for targeting late in the first quarter and disqualified.

After UCF scored early in the second quarter, Wilson threw two more TD passes. He connected with wide-open

See BYU/Page B3

Florida's Johnson released

Leaves hospital 10 days after collapse

MARK LONG
AP sports writer

GAINESVILLE — Florida forward Keyontae Johnson is being released from the hospital Tuesday, 10 days after collapsing on the court at Florida State and needing emergency medical attention.

The school released a statement from his family saying, "We continue to be amazed at the pace of his recovery and look forward to spending Christmas together as a family."

The family added that it will share "any information we think could help others" regarding the cause and extent of Johnson's illness.

Kentucky's John Calipari is one of many coaches in college basketball who have said they would like to know if Johnson's collapse was related to his positive COVID-19 test months earlier.

"As much as everyone involved wants firm answers, the process to draw definitive conclusions continues, and we ask for patience as the medical professionals continue their work," the family said.

Johnson crumpled to the floor coming out of a timeout on Dec. 12. He was moved to a stretcher and carried to a waiting ambulance as teammates, coaches, staff, fans and others watched in disbelief.

ESPN declined to show video of the incident. Witnesses said Johnson was standing near midcourt and suddenly fell forward and landed on his face.

He spent two nights at Tallahassee Memorial before being transferred to Gainesville via helicopter with his mother by his side.

Like many of his Florida teammates, Johnson tested positive for COVID-19 during the summer. Although the cause of Johnson's collapse has not been revealed, the coronavirus can lead to myocarditis, a viral infection of the heart muscle. At its most severe, myocarditis can lead to sudden cardiac arrest and has been a documented cause of death for young, otherwise healthy athletes.

The SEC mandates strict protocols, including rigorous heart testing, before players can be cleared to return to play following positive COVID-19 tests.

Florida has postponed four basketball games since Johnson's collapse. The team is next scheduled to next play on Dec. 30 at Vanderbilt in the SEC opener for both schools.



Keyontae Johnson

OSU's Fields, Iowa's Nixon honored

AP All-Big Ten football teams announced

ERIC OLSON
AP college football writer

Quarterback Justin Fields repeated as offensive player of the year and is joined by three of his teammates on The Associated Press All-Big Ten football team announced Tuesday.

Lineman Daviyon Nixon of Iowa is the defensive player of the year and is among six Hawkeyes players on the first team in voting by 24 media members.

Northwestern redshirt freshman safety Brandon Joseph is newcomer of the year, and Indiana's Tom Allen is coach of the year.

Fields is a repeat first-team selection along with Buckeyes offensive lineman Wyatt Davis. Fields, Nixon, Iowa offensive lineman Alaric Jackson and Minnesota running back Mohamed Ibrahim were unanimous picks.

Fields led Ohio State to a 6-0 record and the No. 3 seed in the College Football Playoff. He has completed 73% of his passes this season for 1,521 yards, 15 touchdowns and five interceptions.

Nixon led the Big Ten with 13.5 tackles for loss, including 5.5 sacks, and was part of a defensive line that allowed a conference-low 2.84 yards per rushing attempt.

Joseph leads the nation with six interceptions and is the first



Associated Press

In this Nov. 21 file photo, Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields throws a pass against Indiana during the first half in Columbus, Ohio. Fields repeated as offensive player of the year and is joined by three of his teammates on the Associated Press All-Big Ten football team.

Northwestern player since at least 1996 with multiple games with two or more picks.

Allen led No. 7 Indiana (6-1) to its highest ranking since 1967, knocking off three ranked teams along the way. Its only loss was 42-35 at Ohio State in a game that went down to the final play. Allen is 14-6 over two seasons at a school that hasn't had back-to-back winning seasons since 1993-94.

2020 AP All-Big Ten Football Teams

FIRST TEAM

Offense

WR — Ty Fryfogle, Indiana, 6-2, 214, Sr., Lucedale, Mississippi.
WR — David Bell, Purdue, 6-2, 205, So., Indianapolis.
u-OT — Alaric Jackson, Iowa, 6-6, 315, Sr., Detroit.
OT — Thayer Munford, Ohio State, 6-6, 315, Sr., Cincinnati.
OG — Wyatt Davis, Ohio State, 6-4, 315, Jr., Bellflower, California.
OG — Kendrick Green, Illinois, 6-4, 315, Jr., Peoria, Illinois.
C — Tyler Linderbaum, Iowa, 6-3, 289, So., Solon, Iowa.
TE — Jake Ferguson, Wisconsin, 6-5, 245, Jr., Madison, Wisconsin.
u-QB — Justin Fields, Ohio State, 6-3, 228, Jr., Kennewash, Georgia.
u-RB — Mohamed Ibrahim, Minnesota, 5-10, 210, Jr., Baltimore.
RB — Tyler Goodson, Iowa, 5-10, 200, So., Suwanee, Georgia.
PK — Connor Culp, Nebraska, 5-10, 190, Sr., Phoenix.

All-purpose — Aron Cruickshank, Rutgers, 5-10, 160, Jr., New York.

Defense

DE — Chauncey Golston, Iowa, 6-5, 270, Sr., Detroit.
DE — Shaka Toney, Penn State, 6-3, 252, Sr., Philadelphia.
u-DT — Daviyon Nixon, Iowa, 6-3, 305, Jr., Kenosha, Wisconsin.
DT — Jerome Johnson, Indiana, 6-3, 304, Sr., Bassfield, Mississippi.
LB — Paddy Fisher, Northwestern, 6-4, 240, Sr., Katy, Texas.
LB — Micah McFadden, Indiana, 6-2, 235, Jr., Tampa, Florida.
LB — Olakunle Fatukasi, Rutgers, 6-1, 234, Sr., Far Rockaway, New York.
CB — Greg Newsome II, Northwestern, 6-1, 190, Jr., Chicago.
CB — Shaun Wade, Ohio State, 6-1, 195, Sr., Jacksonville, Florida.
S — Brandon Joseph, Northwestern, 6-1, 192, Fr., College Station, Texas.

SECOND TEAM

Offense

WR — Garrett Wilson, Ohio State, 6-0, 193, So., Austin.
WR — Chris Olave, Ohio State, 6-1, 188, Jr., San Marcos, California.
OT — Cole Van Lanen, Wisconsin, 6-5, 305, Sr., Green Bay, Wisconsin.
OT — Peter Skoronski, Northwestern, 6-4, 294, Fr., Park Ridge, Illinois.
OG — Cole Banwart, Iowa, 6-4, 296, Sr., Ottosen, Iowa.
OG — Mike Miranda, Penn State, 6-3, 301, Jr., Stow, Ohio.
C — Josh Myers, Ohio State, 6-5, 312, Jr., Miamisburg, Ohio.
TE — Pat Freiermuth, Penn State, 6-5, 258, Jr., Merrimac, Massachusetts.
QB — Michael Penix Jr., Indiana, 6-3, 218, So., Tampa, Florida.
RB — Master Teague III, Ohio State, 5-11, 225, So., Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
RB — Stevie Scott III, Indiana, 6-2, 231, Jr., Syracuse, New York.
PK — Keith Duncan, Iowa, 5-10, 179, Sr., Weddington, North Carolina.
All-purpose — Giles Jackson, Michigan, 5-9, 188, So., Antioch, California.

Defense

DE — Jason Oweh, Penn State, 6-5, 252, So., Howell, New Jersey.
DE — Owen Carney Jr., Illinois, 6-3, 260, Sr., Miami.
DT — Haskell Garrett, Ohio State, 6-2, 299, Sr., Las Vegas.
DT — Tommy Togiai, Ohio State, 6-2, 300, Jr., Pocatello, Idaho.
LB — Blake Gallagher, Northwestern, 6-1, 228, Sr., Rayham, Massachusetts.
LB — Pete Werner, Ohio State, 6-3, 242, Sr., Indianapolis.
LB — Antuan Simmons, Michigan State, 6-0, 225, Sr., Ann Arbor, Michigan.
CB — Shakur Brown, Michigan State, 5-11, 190, Jr., Stockbridge, Georgia.
CB — Tiawan Mullen, Indiana, 5-10, 176, So., Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
S — Jack Koerner, Iowa, 6-0, 205, Jr., Des Moines, Iowa.
S — Lamont Wade, Penn State, 5-9, 191, Sr., Clairton, Pennsylvania.
P — Drue Chrisman, Ohio State, 6-3, 222, Sr., Lawrenceburg, Indiana.
Offensive Player of the Year — Justin Fields, Ohio State.
Defensive Player of the Year — Daviyon Nixon, Iowa.
Newcomer of the Year — Brandon Joseph, Northwestern.
Coach of the Year — Tom Allen, Indiana.
u-Unanimous selection

NC State tops No. 17 Tar Heels

Tilmon's 3-point play rallies No. 14 Missouri

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Devon Daniels scored eight straight points in the second half and finished with 21 to help North Carolina State beat 17th-ranked North Carolina 79-76 on Tuesday night.

Freshman Shakeel Moore scored 17 points for the Wolfpack (5-1, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), who blew nearly all of a 17-point first-half lead in an unusually early meeting in the longtime rivalry.

But N.C. State responded with a 14-2 run after UNC (5-2, 0-1) got within a point, then did just enough down the stretch to hold off the 'Tar Heels' late rally to win for only the fifth time in 37 meetings.

Daniels hit a free throw with 9.3 seconds left to push the margin to three, then UNC's RJ Davis and Caleb Love missed final-possession 3-pointers.

N.C. State was playing its third game after a two-week pause due to coronavirus issues and the Wolfpack didn't have top big man DJ Funderburk.

Armando Bacot scored 16 points to lead the Tar Heels, who had won seven straight games on the Wolfpack's homecourt.

No. 6 Houston 76, Temple 50

HOUSTON — Quentin Grimes had 22 points and seven rebounds, Justin Gorham had 14 points and 12 boards and No. 6 Houston beat Temple 76-50 in the American Athletic Conference opener for both teams.

Grimes scored at least 20 points for the third straight game as the Cougars shot 48%, including 10 of 26 on 3-pointers. Reggie Chaney had 13 points and Tramon Mark scored 12 for Houston (6-0).

J.P. Moorman II scored 12 points and Brendan Barry had nine for Temple (1-1), which shot 29%.

No. 9 Wisconsin 67, Nebraska 53

MADISON, Wis. — Brad Davison had 15 points and a career-high seven assists, and No. 9 Wisconsin overcame a dreadful start to beat Nebraska 67-53 in the Big Ten opener for both teams.

Micah Potter added 10 points and 11 rebounds and sparked a key 14-0 run late in the first half. Fifth-year senior Aleem Ford celebrated his 24th birthday with 13 points and eight rebounds to help the Badgers (7-1) earn their ninth straight conference victory and 15th straight home win.

Dalano Banton scored 15 points, Teddy Allen had 11 and Trey McGowens added 10 for Nebraska (4-4).

No. 14 Missouri 54, Bradley 53

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Jeremiah Tilmon's three-point play with a second left lifted No. 14 Missouri over Bradley 54-53.

Down eight with under four minutes to go, Missouri (6-0) went on a 6-0 run in the final 1:33 to spoil Bradley's upset bid in dramatic fashion.

On the Tigers' final possession, Xavier Foun found Tilmon in the post on the left block. With time ticking down, Tilmon power-dribbled to the basket and forced a foul from Elijah Childs, finishing through the contact and earning a trip to the free throw line to win the game.

Tilmon sank the foul shot, and Mitchell Smith swatted away two inbound passes by the Braves (6-3) to clinch it.



Associated Press

North Carolina State's Shakeel Moore (2) celebrates after a dunk Tuesday against North Carolina during the first half in Raleigh, N.C.

No. 15 Texas Tech 69, Oklahoma 67

NORMAN, Okla. — Terrence Shannon Jr. scored 21 points and Marcus Santos-Silva had 18 to help No. 15 Texas Tech hold off Oklahoma 69-67.

Mac McClung added 16 points for Tech (7-2, 1-1 Big 12), which was coming off a one-point home loss to Kansas.

De'Von Harmon scored 17 points and Austin Reaves added 13 for Oklahoma (5-2, 1-1).

No. 16 Virginia 76, William & Mary 40

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Trey Murphy III scored seven of his 15 points during a 13-0 first-half run and No. 16 Virginia (4-1) returned from a long coronavirus-related pause to beat William & Mary 76-40.

Yuri Covington's 12 points led the Tribe (2-3).

Wichita State 82, South Florida 77 OT

TAMPA — Tyson Etienne scored 25 points

and Wichita State never trailed in overtime to beat South Florida 82-77.

The Shockers (4-2, 2-0 American Athletic Conference) scored first in the extra period on a layup from Craig Porter Jr. with 3:46 remaining and never gave up the advantage.

Clarence Jackson had 10 points and seven rebounds for Wichita State.

David Collins had 17 points for South Florida (5-3, 1-1), which had its four-game win streak snapped.

Florida Gulf Coast 73, Georgia Southern 60

FORT MYERS — Caleb Catto registered 19 points as Florida Gulf Coast topped Georgia Southern 73-60.

Cyrus Lergie added 16 points and eight rebounds for Florida Gulf Coast (5-2). Jalen Warren chipped in 10 points and Eii Abaev had 10 points.

Eric Boone had 23 points for Georgia Southern (6-3). Elijah McCadden added 16 points and eight rebounds. Zack Bryant had 12 points.

Browns' drought nearly at an end

Associated Press

The Cleveland Browns' lengthy playoff drought is nearly over.

The Browns, who have reached 10 wins for the first time since 2007, can clinch their first playoff spot since 2002 with a victory Sunday at the New York Jets and a loss by any of the following teams: the Baltimore Ravens, Miami Dolphins or Indianapolis Colts.

And the Browns are only one game behind Pittsburgh for first place in the AFC North and host the rival Steelers in Week 17.

The Steelers, who have dropped three in a row after an 11-0 start, need either a win over the Colts on Sunday or a Browns loss to wrap up the AFC North title.

The defending champion Kansas City Chiefs can clinch home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs with a win or a loss by either the Steelers or Buffalo Bills.

The Tennessee Titans, on the cusp of ending a long division drought, can wrap up their first AFC South title since 2008 with a win over the Green Bay Packers and a Colts loss. The Titans will make the playoffs with a win or a loss by either the Dolphins or Ravens.

And the Colts can reach the playoffs with a win and losses by either the Dolphins or Ravens.

In the NFC, the Packers can wrap up home-field advantage with a win over the Titans on Sunday night and a loss by the Seahawks to the Rams.

The Seahawks will take the NFC West with a win over the Rams. The Rams can earn a playoff spot with a win or either a loss by the Chicago Bears or an Arizona Cardinals win.

The Cardinals can wrap up a playoff spot with a win and a Bears loss.

The New Orleans Saints can clinch the NFC South with a win on Friday against the Minnesota Vikings or a loss by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at the Detroit Lions on Saturday. Meanwhile, the Bucs need a victory over the Lions or a Bears loss for a postseason berth.

The Washington Football Team can wrap up the NFC East with a win over the Carolina Panthers and a New York Giants loss in Baltimore.

Hometown HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

COMMUNITY NEWS ACROSS CITRUS COUNTY

www.chronicleonline.com



Ruth Levins
AROUND
THE
COMMUNITY

No chicken, no biscuits in 2021

Floral City United Methodist Church cancels annual dinners

Special to the Chronicle

The Chicken and Biscuit Dinners that have been a tradition at the Floral City United Methodist Church have been

canceled for 2021.

Generally, three or four dinners have been held January through April. The Florida Methodist Church rules do not yet allow any food preparation in any

Methodist Churches in Florida due to the ongoing pandemic, and leadership at Floral City United Methodist Church made the decision this week to cancel the 2021 Chicken and

Biscuit Dinners.

Dinner chair Joel Hodges said, "These dinners have been very successful for over 35 years, but we are in unique times due to the virus. Church

leadership determined there would be no opportunity for these sit-down dinners that attract 400 to 500 patrons each Saturday without risk and thus the dinners have been cancelled. We hope to resume these popular dinners next year.

Words of kindness are a gift

As we approach Christmas Day this week, when we begin opening our gifts under the tree from family and friends, I've been thinking about a wonderful gift I've been giving and receiving time and again through the years, and it is encouragement, and what a precious gift it is!

Of encouragement, the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 2:2, "Make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another and working together with one heart and purpose."

Catherine E. Rollins has said: "Now more than ever may be the time when you can be the one who helps another person face their present and future with boldness and confidence."

Looking back, I recall my college days of the '50s, especially when I was given an assignment to give a special speech to a class of my peers and I was so scared but received just the needed encouragement.

Later in the '70s, I was appointed Program Director for the Crystal River Alpha Gamma Chapter of ESA (Epsilon Sigma Alpha) Sorority, a philanthropic service organization, and I received wonderful encouragement from my sorority sisters and it has endured through the tears since Sara Lyons and I chartered the chapter. During my recent two cancer

See AROUND/Page C2

Return to Howard's



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Howard's Flea Market is back under ownership by the Howard family. Family members include, from back left, Aaron Dallia, Vanessa Dallia, Jeff Oladell, owners Quillen and Renee Howard, Betty Stanton, Jay Liseicki, Darlene "Darlin' Bells" Blake and Santa.

Flea Market original owners take back management

CLAIRE PHILLIPS LAXTON
For the Chronicle

Citrus County Saturday and Sunday morning staple, Howard's Flea Market is under new, but not so new ownership.

The Howard family has taken back running their original flea market in Homosassa,

in operation since 1972.

On Sept. 1, 1994, the Howard's sold their flea market to Tom and Alice Cushman; Swap-O-Rama had it the past three years.

"We took it back from Swap-O-Rama and are leasing it now from them," said Howard's owner Quillen Howard.

For numerous years, the Howard brothers ran the

market, with Quillen running the front part as Howard's and his brother running the back part called "Homosassa Springs" for his dad. Quillen originally hailed from Kentucky and came to Citrus County at age six with his family.

"Just before my dad died in

See FLEA/Page C3

Howard's Flea Market

- **WHAT:** Citrus County's largest flea market with 800 vendor spaces covering 55 acres.
- **WHERE:** 6373 S. Suncoast Blvd. (U.S. 19), Homosassa.
- **HOURS:** 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday thru Sunday.
- **PHONE:** 352-628-FLEA (3532).

Hit the lights: Deck the House displays wow viewers

Citrus holiday light exhibitions glimmer through New Year

Chronicle staff

Citrus Countians released their inner Clark Griswold this year with stunning, spectacular Christmas light displays.

The Chronicle's Deck the House Holiday Lights Contest showcases the best of Citrus' twinkle light spectacles for drivers-by to see.

Readers voted on the best Deck the House submissions, with the 2020 winners as follows:

EAST SIDE

- **First place:** Light Up Lecanto, 269 S. Ponder Ave., Lecanto. (1)
- **Second place:** Our Christmas Place, 1305 Stowe St., Inverness. (2)
- **Third place:** Light Up Citrus, 745 N. Heathrow Drive, Lecanto. (3)

WEST SIDE

- **First place:** Rock Family Christmas Display, 2925 W. Beamwood Drive, Pine Ridge. (4, see Page C3)
- **Second place:** Christmas on the farm, 7160 N. Fernandina Ave., Dunnellon. (5, see Page C3)
- **Third place:** Santa's Gingerbread Christmas, 741 N. Country Club Drive, Crystal River. (6, see C3)



1.



2.



3.

Check out a locator maps of all the light submissions and more photos at <https://tinyurl.com/y7kt4qv3>

See LIGHTS/Page C3

Mellodie's Gym makes donation



Mellodie's Body Image Gym in Inverness recently held a fundraiser to help Endangered Animal Rescue Sanctuary (EARS). Gym owner Mellodie Farfaglia hoped to raise \$1,000 with a drawing for a lotto ticket Christmas tree, a collection of fine wine, a liquor cabinet and a massage by professional massage therapist Lynda Wagner. Not only was the goal met, but an anonymous gym member matched the funds, allowing for a service vehicle to be purchased for EARS, the animal sanctuary. Shown drawing the winning ticket is Ed Bassets, the oldest gym member at a healthy 97, and gym owner Mellodie Farfaglia. They announced the winners, Jon and Cindy Marchand. For information on EARS, call 352-637-5400 or visit earsinc.net.

Special to the Chronicle

Shelter and rescue ADOPTABLES



Mama Marinara, after getting her energy out with a hardy game of fetch, is ready for some lovin'. She is a happy, active girl that loves to run the "zoomies" when she is excited. She's friendly and loves to greet people. She is 3 years old and weighs 63 pounds. CCAS ID No. 46123774.



Mister Smee is very affectionate. In play groups, he is tolerant of others but prefers to do his own thing. He is very treat motivated and he knows the sit command. He is estimated to be 7 years old and weighs 61 pounds. CCAS ID No. 4612371. Mister Smee's adoption fee is sponsored.



Winnie is a teenager who is social, playful and always ready for a cuddle. She gets along with other cats, likes to sit up high on the cat tree and if you shake the treat jar, she is right there. She will make a great family pet. You can meet Winnie at the Precious Paws Rescue Adoption Center.

Citrus County Animal Services, 4030 S. Airport Road, Inverness, behind the fairgrounds. View adoptable pets at citruscritters.com. Call 352-746-8400. For information on Precious Paws Rescue pets, call 352-726-4700. For Hardin Haven pets, call Donna at 352-422-5525. For Adopt a Rescued Pet, call 352-795-9550.

AROUND

Continued from Page C1

surgeries and the series of radiation treatments, I received encouragement cards from all over Florida from ESA sisters.

The Foundation for Community Encouragement is a nonprofit organization founded to teach the principles of community building to individuals and organizations, teaching people to come together in encouraging ways that provide wholeness in relationships.

Just think of our beloved Citrus County's group projects that continually provide encouragement to those in need of a boost to "keep hanging in there" when challenges are seemingly insurmountable:

■ The United Way comes to mind, gathering together the funds to distribute to other groups that are likeminded in their encouragement to those in need. Many

stories can be told of how those assisted by United Way were encouraged to "pull themselves up by their proverbial bootstraps" and become successful.

■ The Family Resource Center, with Ginger West and her faithful, encouraging volunteers, speaks volumes for encouragement, day in and day out, all year long. The stories West tells when she speaks at various club meetings are the heartwarming stories of loving care and concern given lovingly and with a heart of love. On cold winter nights, they pick up people living in the woods and take them to the Salvation Army for the night.

■ Diane Toto and her team of volunteers see that no one goes without food and those who are in need come to know that their "We Care" slogan is for real in the truest form. It is amazing how little things we do to encourage can make a difference in the life of

others. It's a faith step of hope and encouragement, we can all take!

■ While ringing the bells for the Salvation Army recently, time and again we hear heartwarming stories of the people who were shown the care encouragingly given them for their struggling families, particularly during World War II.

Please know my thoughts and prayers continue to be with you and your families as we journey to our new year, encouraged by the vaccine for an end to the pandemic.

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Keep safe, be positive – this, too, shall pass.

Ruth Levins participates in a variety of projects around the community. Let her know about your

group's upcoming activities by writing to P.O. Box 803, Crystal River, FL 34423.

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Thur., Mar. 11—\$49pp
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4.



5.

LIGHTS

Continued from Page C1



6.

First-, second- and third-place winners were chosen on the east side and west side of the county.

First-place winners were gifted with four tickets to Kirby Family Farm in Willison.

Contest sponsors include Dirk's Auto Clinic, B&D Electric Crystal River, and Inverness Club Senior Apartments.

FLEA

Continued from Page C1

1998, he asked me to keep the flea market alive," said Quillen.

Now, 26 years later to the day, on Sept. 1, 2020, Quillen and his wife Renee Howard are back running Howard's Flea Market and are very happy about it.

"I love our vendors — they are very kind and very helpful," Quillen said. "We have a lot of wonderful people here at the flea market."

Over the years, the Howards have kept prices fair. The front and first five rows of market spaces cost

\$21, while the rest of the market rows cost \$10.

"We got those rates back like in 1994 where people can make a dollar," Quillen said.

"We also have outside unlimited spaces for yard sales," said Renee said. Cost is \$7.

During this holiday season, "We've had Santa on hand, coloring and crafts for the kids until Christmas," said Renee.

"Our vendors have decorated trees which are judged by the patrons, with the winning vendor getting one month rent free," Quillen said. "All money raised as the trees are sold will go to Citrus County charities."

Most of the vendors from 1994 have now passed, but one vendor decorated a tree in memory of all those past vendors.

Howard's Flea Market is open for the whole family to enjoy, offering something for everyone's taste, from food (including the

ever-famous Dixie Dogs), to gift items, clothing, art, gadgets, books, household items and much more.

On top of the regular market offerings, the Howards work to provide community activities for those who attend the market, including kid's story time and even karaoke.

The Howards have some ideas in the works now that they have recovered management of the market, which offers 800 booths covering 55 acres.

"We have lot of new ideas planned and one if approved by our county

commission, will be to have an event center," Quillen said, with all kinds of activities and entertainment.

For more information about Howard's Flea Market, call the office at 352-628-FLEA.

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Thanks, Citrus County, for your vote! ...Diane

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The Mini Page

Issue 51, 2020

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Winter reading

Holiday Traditions



photo by Carlos Lowry

Mini Fact:

Hanging stockings is related to leaving shoes out for Santa to fill with gifts.

What kinds of Christmas traditions does your family follow? While you're baking cookies or opening flaps on an Advent calendar, kids in other countries around the world are carrying out their own holiday rituals. Let's visit a few countries to find out what they're up to.

The Netherlands

The Dutch call their Santa **Sinterklaas**, or St. Nicholas. He spends the year before Christmas writing in a big red book about the behavior of all the children.

St. Nicholas arrives on Dec. 5 on a big ship from Spain and parades through the streets of Amsterdam. He is dressed as a bishop and rides a white horse. He has a helper called Sooty Peter.



photo by Alex Prokims

Sinterklaas

On the eve of St. Nicholas Day, children put out their shoes filled with hay and carrots for St. Nicholas' horse. Sooty Peter takes the horse's food and leaves behind candies and small gifts.

On Dec. 6, kids wake up and find their presents. The Dutch love to disguise their gifts or to hide them in funny places.

France

The French set up their Christmas trees on Christmas Eve. They also go to church, after which they have a late supper. They usually

serve a special log-shaped pastry.

Small children place their shoes by the fireplace for **Père Noël**, or Father Christmas, to fill with candies and gifts.

The French also give each other some gifts on New Year's Day. On Jan. 6, they celebrate **Epiphany**, the arrival of the Three Kings who visited the baby Jesus.



Iceland

Iceland's celebrations begin on Dec. 23, when Icelanders remember **St. Thorlaktur**. They shop and decorate a Christmas tree on this day.



The Jólíde Lads

From Dec. 12 to Christmas Eve, magical **Jólíde Lads** are said to come down from Iceland's mountains to leave little gifts in children's shoes and play tricks on people. And legend says that if you don't wear at least one piece of new clothing on Christmas Day, the Christmas cat will eat you!

Mexico

The Mexican celebration starts on Dec. 16 when the **posadas**, or family celebrations, begin. "Posada" means "inn" in Spanish. Families usually meet together for the nine nights before Christmas.

The first part of each night is religious. The families march around the house, pretending they are Mary and Joseph looking for a room in the inn. A manger scene is in the last room they enter.

The second part of each night's celebration is fun. Families move onto the patio for the breaking of **piñatas**. When somebody finally breaks open the piñata, everyone scrambles for the goodies inside.



photo by Ivan2010

Mexican kids scramble for candy after a piñata is broken open.

On the last night of the celebration, people in Mexico go to midnight church services. They come home for parties that last long into the night.

Children receive most of their gifts on Jan. 6. The night before, they put out shoes with straw for the camels of the three wise men, who bring the gifts.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPtraditions

At the library:

- "Christmas: Festivals Around the World" by Grace Jones

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of traditions are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- CELEBRATE,
- CHRISTMAS, CHURCH,
- EPIPHANY, FATHER,
- GIFTS, HOLIDAY,
- JOLTIDE, KINGS, NOEL,
- PINATA, POSADA,
- RITUAL, SANTA, SHOES,
- SINTERKLAAS, SPAIN,
- THREE, TRADITION.

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

Cook's Corner

Jingle Bell Bars

You'll need:

- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup butterscotch chips

- 1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup pecans, chopped



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Pour butter or margarine in a 13-by-9-inch baking pan.
2. Sprinkle graham cracker crumbs evenly on top. Sprinkle coconut, chocolate chips and butterscotch chips evenly on top. Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over all.
3. Sprinkle pecans evenly on top.
4. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 30 minutes. Cut into squares when cool. Makes about 24 bars.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. threatening animal noise (5) _____
2. one-fourth (7) _____
3. spoiled (6) _____
4. big winner (8) _____
5. brass instrument (7) _____
6. you weigh things on it (5) _____
7. airport building (8) _____

PET	OWL	AL	ROT
CHA	QUAR	TER	ALE
SC	ION	GR	MP
MI	TEN	TRUM	TER

Answers: growl, quarter, rotten, champion, trumpet, terminal.

Mini Jokes



Chris: What does a unicorn use to decorate the Christmas tree?

Nick: Hornaments!

Eco Note



Have a "green" Christmas! Be sure to recycle your wrapping paper and catalogs. You can also save wrapping paper and ribbon and use them again. Gift bags and cloth ribbons are especially easy to use over and over. If you use store gift wrap or holiday cards, make sure the label says they are made of recycled paper. Check to see if sparkly or shiny paper can be recycled.

A note from The Mini Page:

On Nov. 1, Betty Debnam Hunt, the founder of The Mini Page, passed away. She was 91. As a first-grade teacher, Betty had the idea to write a children's newspaper, and The Mini Page was born in 1969. She continued in its weekly production until 2007.

We are grateful to Betty for her inspiring work and will miss her thoughtful contributions and spirit.

The **NEW Mini Spy Booklets** volumes 4 and 5! Features 48 of your favorite puzzles from The Mini Page! Volumes 1, 2 and 3 are still available!

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WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 23, 2020. Table with columns for channel, time, and program details.

Annie offers advice



DEAR ANNIE

Dear Annie: I have been talking with this gentleman for almost four years; we've been in a long-distance relationship online. He claims that he mailed me a large sum of money, and so he has nothing now. But I have not seen this box full of money that he supposedly sent. He keeps saying that it has to clear customs, and they need a large fee in order for it to go through. I don't think that customs would be demanding large sums of money, and, anyway, it's been months and months now. I told him if the box did not come within the 48 hours like he said that he and I were through. I am afraid it is fraud. What is your take on this? — Losing My Lover

Dear Losing My Lover: I'm afraid you're right. This is textbook fraud. He's trying to play you for a fool. Don't let him.

Dear Annie: I have been seeing this guy, "Roy," for a year and a half. When we are together, all he wants to do is hook up. He comes to my house all the time, but he never invites me to his. I actually still have no idea where he lives: I know the vicinity, but no specifics. He says he wants to keep some parts of his life private. And he only calls and talks to me on the phone when he is heading to or from work, but never when he's at home. He tells me he loves me, but I'm not buying it. What do you think? — Help Me

Dear Help Me: I think that there's a 99% chance he's married and a 100% chance he's not worth your time. End it ASAP. Breaking things off is rarely easy, but I guarantee that you will not regret this in the long term.

Dear Annie: The holidays are here and gifts are arriving. Once again, we're getting boxes of chocolates, tins of mixed nuts, gourmet cheeses, fancy cookies and pastries. My husband and I eat a healthy diet, get regular exercise and are allergic to nuts and dairy. We've explained to people that these foods make us extremely sick and can even be life-threatening but still the same gifts come year after year. Their attitude seems to be: "Hey, it's Christmas, for Pete's sake. Lighten up and just enjoy. A little won't hurt you." So, I write a note, thanking them for thinking of us and wishing them a happy holiday, and then donate everything to the local food bank and homeless shelter. If you or your readers have suggestions on other ways to handle this, we would appreciate hearing them. — You Really Shouldn't Have

Dear You Really Shouldn't Have: Sorry to disappoint, but I have no real advice here. You're already doing exactly what I'd suggest. As frustrating as these types of gifts might be for you and your husband, remember that there are many people who would be happy to receive any gifts at all.

Dear Annie: "Sincerely Confused" was concerned about the dogs that had attacked a couple of years ago. As a result, he or she said they "probably haven't walked more than 15 feet outside (their) yard." If walking helped clear this person's mind, then it would be worthwhile for them to get in the car and go to a place where they feel safe to walk. That would definitely help, in conjunction with the therapy and the study. Walking is therapeutic, it should not be replaced, just supplemented. — Lynne, Avid Walker

Dear Lynne: You are absolutely right. Walking regularly has all kinds of benefits, both mental and physical, including increased longevity and a reduced risk of arthritis. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

Bridge

PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

The Chinese Premier League is one of the toughest events, with several top players from around the world competing. This year, though, it moved online with no nonresidents.

This deal, originally described by Jerry Li from Beijing, might remind you of yesterday's. How did the defenders defeat four hearts? After one no-trump and a transfer bid, Yang Lixin (West) threw in

a dangerous overall, given that his partner could not open the bidding, North's strength was unknown, and he rated to be on lead. North doubled, showing values, and if South had passed, he probably would have collected 300 for down two. But South understandably went for game in the nine-card heart fit.

The defenders needed to take two spades and two diamonds. Yang did well to lead a trump, not a club away from his queen. Declarer won with dummy's king, played a trump to his ace and led a low diamond toward the king. How did Yang plan the defense?

Declarer had 15-17 points, dummy held 9, and West had 15. That left at most one jack for East. The spade jack wouldn't help, but the diamond jack was a potential entry for a spade shift through declarer's king. West played his diamond queen. When South won with dummy's king, East had his entry card. Or, if declarer had ducked in the dummy, West would have continued with the diamond ace and his third diamond to avoid being edgled.

Here, West could have won the first diamond with his ace and continued with the queen, but not if East had only jack-doubleton.

Bridge hand diagram showing North, South, West, and East hands with cards and dealer information.

JUMBLE

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

Jumble puzzle grid with words DBEIA, LEOHL, SWIGAJ, RFONEZ.

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Yesterday's Jumbles: QUEST SPOIL DISOWN STEREO Answer: Before the fashion model took the job, she — POSED QUESTIONS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Cartoon illustration for the word game with a chef and a customer.

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

Answers tomorrow

MORE PUZZLES

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

Peanuts



Pickles



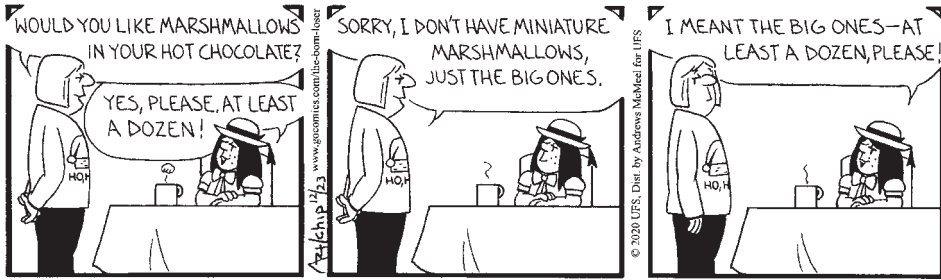
Sally Forth



Dilbert



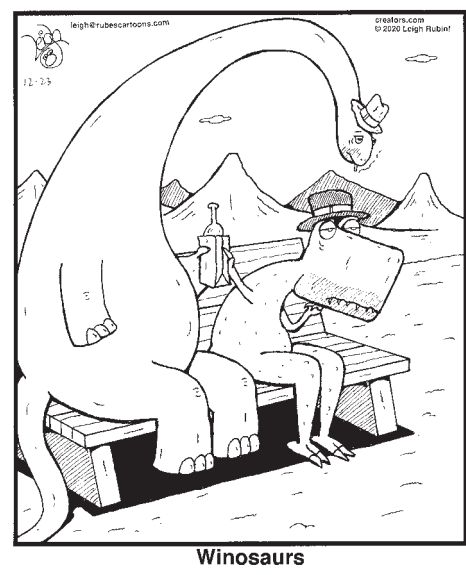
The Born Loser



Moderately Confused



Rubes



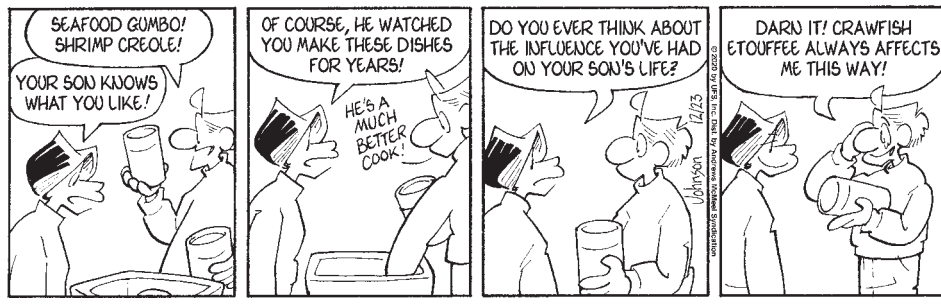
Doonesbury Flashbacks



Big Nate



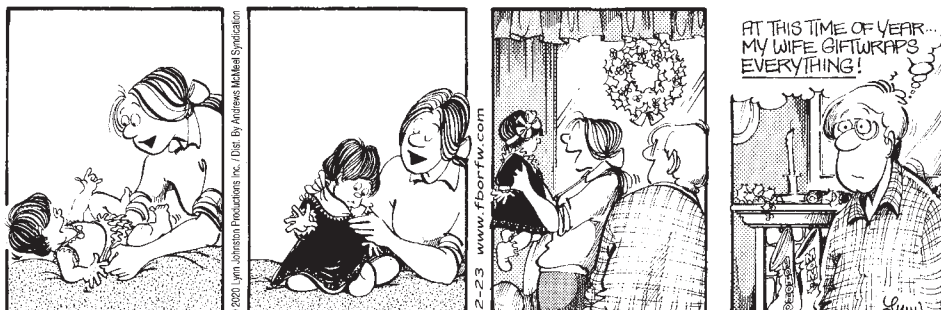
Arlo and Janis



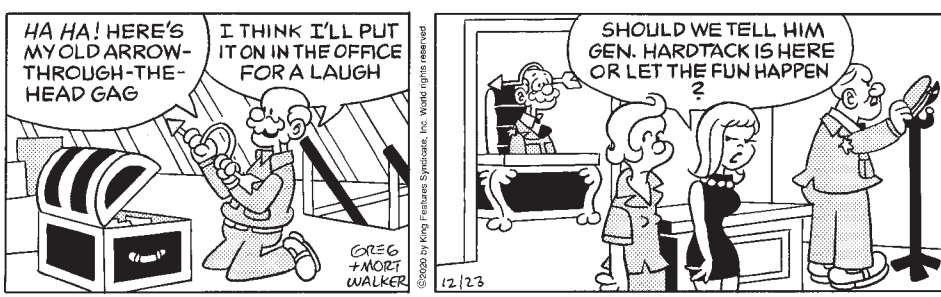
Garfield



For Better or For Worse



Beetle Bailey



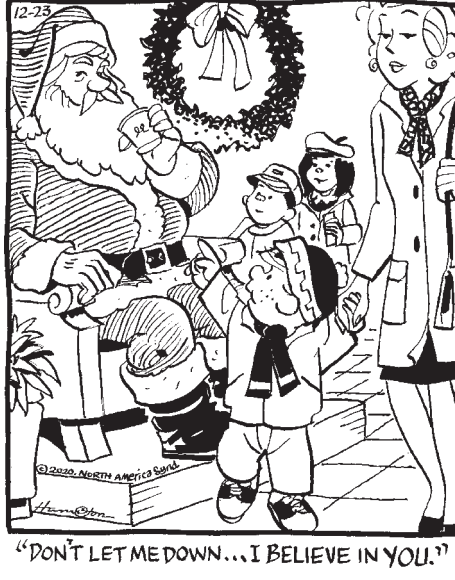
The Grizzwells



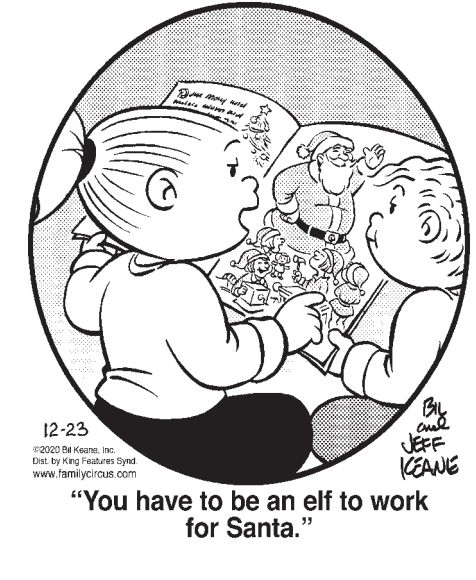
Blondie



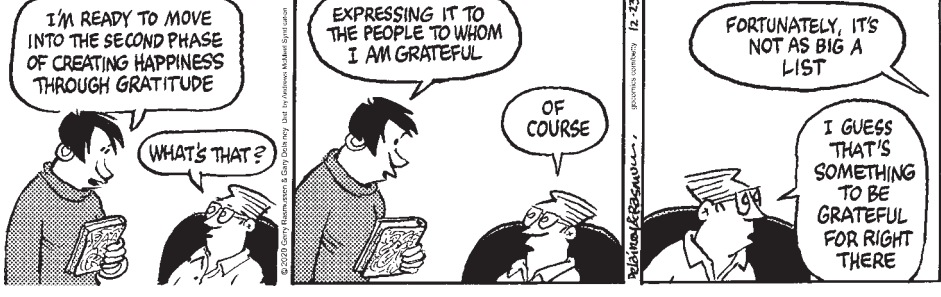
Dennis the Menace



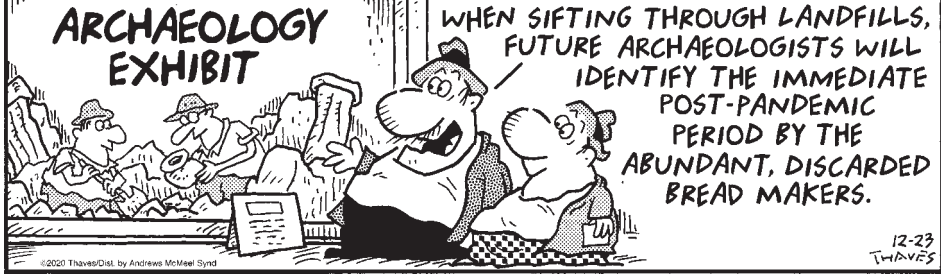
The Family Circus



Betty



Frank & Ernest



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- Local RADIO**
- WSKY 97.3 FM** News Talk
- WXJB 99.9 FM** News Talk
- WXCZ 103.3** Country
- WXCZ-FM 104.3** Country
- WDUV 105.5 FM** Hudson
- WJQB-FM 106.3** Oldies
- WFJV-FM 107.5** Classic Rock
- WRZN-AM 720** Religious

CELEBRITY CIPHER
by Luis Campos

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

Today's clue: P equals H

"Z NHECR CZGD AH DKR NHLCR
PEKUDL WKR YLDWAD NHLCR ODWYD,
TAHO YHLLAOAZHK, TAHO RLEUT
UDAAZKU AH GZRT." GDCCX OLDTAKK

Previous Solution: "For some reason, people either are big fans and have to use me, or they don't quite understand what I'm doing." Fred Willard

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

NOTE THAT COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE.

- "The Star" (PG) Dec. 23, 1 p.m.
- "Hugo" (PG) Dec. 26, 3 p.m.
- "When Harry Met Sally" (R) Dec. 27, 3 p.m.
- "The Court Jester" (NR) Dec. 28, 1 p.m.
- "Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie" (PG) Dec. 29, 1 p.m.
- "How To Train Your Dragon" Dec. 30, 1 p.m.
- "The Dukes — Live Performance" Jan. 14, 7 p.m.



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Fresh Citrus, Collard, Mustard & Kale Greens
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Closed Sun.
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LOST CAT
Black/White Tuxedo Cat, skittish w/ a cropped ear -lost from Pine Ridge 9/30/20 - may be in old Beverly Hills or Crystal River (352) 464-1567

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All WWII Vets
Come get your free two Jima flag and WWII hat.
Reggies Flags
Beside Arrow RV
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Until 1/3/21 10a-8p
Thank you!
Because of you we are all here now.

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HOUSEKEEPER for deep & regular cleaning - 1 day a wk (6-8hrs) \$20 per hr - Christians Welcome!
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Electricians needed- Residential and Commercial

TOP PAY and SHARED MEDICAL INSURANCE!

Must be 25 with clean driving record due to insurance.

Apply in person at:
Bailey Electric & Signs, LLC
8255 W Crystal St, Crystal River, FL 34428

General Help

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For more information: Please Call: 352-794-0270 or visit us at: **ServiceMASTER Clean**
7765 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy., Crystal River

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General Help

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SEEKING CARRIERS

EARN BETWEEN \$200 - \$300 per week.
\$150 sign on bonus. Paid Training!

The Citrus County Chronicle has immediate openings for newspaper delivery drivers in INVERNESS, HERNANDO, HOMOSASSA, CRYSTAL RIVER

Routes take approx. 3-5 hours to complete in the early morning hours. Must have reliable insured vehicle and valid driver's license.

Apply in person at:
Citrus County Chronicle
1624 North Meadowcrest Blvd
Crystal River, FL
8am-5pm Mon-Fri

General Help

JOIN OUR TEAM

MARKETING ASSISTANT

We are hiring a full-time Marketing Assistant. This position requires excellent verbal and written communication skills, competency in Microsoft applications including Word, Excel, and Outlook, good organizational skills and an attention to detail.

No Weekends. Excellent Benefits.

Please send resume to **Arnold@ChieflandCitizen.com** or apply in person
624 West Park Ave
Chiefland, FL 32626

EEO/DFW

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Antiques

DINING ROOM CHAIRS
Set of 5, wood and wicker, \$100 (352) 503-6337

Old Cast Iron Wood Burning Stove
Disassembled \$100 (352) 344-1515

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Christmas Village Complete set, houses, trees, storefront, church etc \$50 352-746-4613

DOLLS- Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus+Grandma 25" tall- elec. candle Exc. cond. -\$100 for all 352-746-4613

General Help

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Employment Info

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DOLLS- Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus+Grandma 25" tall- elec. candle Exc. cond. -\$100 for all 352-746-4613

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Hand painted South-west Native American Ceramics- Earnest inquiries only - Call for appt. 352-527-9897

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Shirts, Stockings, Caps and Belt \$65 for ALL (352) 344-1515

Appliances

FLOOR LAMP
Good condition. Brown and brass with green shade. \$10 OBO. Text 352-573-6945

LG Washer & Dryer w/ pedestals
fairly new. lg capacity \$1300 352-344-8971 leave message

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352-564-8179

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lg, fr loader, has leak may need hose rep. sold "as is" \$75 pics avail. 352-746-4160

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TOOL KART For Workshop or garage. On wheels need ph number for pictures, only \$0.00 352-464-0316

TVs/Stereos

TV 25" VIZIO flat screen has HDMI port & remote good condition delivery available \$70. 352-613-0529

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Bathroom Faucet
Brand New \$10 (352) 436-2953

Furniture

2 SOLID OAK END TABLES \$125 for both 352-527-0644

CHANGING TABLE/ DRESSER - blonde finish, has storage area in Good Cond! \$100. 352-613-0529

COFFEE TABLE & 2 END TABLES
Medium wood finish. Good cond. \$50 OBO Text 352-573-6945

COFFEE TABLE
Whitewashed Solid Oak w/ glass inserts- 50"L x 30"W & MATCHING END TABLES 27"L x 22"W Excellent Condition! \$225 352-527-0644

COMPUTER DESK W/ CHAIR - Small computer desk with swivel rolling desk chair \$30 OBO Text 352-573-6945

Furniture

CURIO CABINET
large white wash finish 82"Hx40"Wx13"D w/ shelves needs new door \$100 352-613-0529

Dining Room Set
Whitewashed Solid Oak - 6 chairs, 60"L w/ 18" leaf for 78" total - Matching Hutch 77" High x 52" W - Both for \$800 352-527-0644

DINING ROOM TABLE AND 4 CHAIRS
Light wood, 2 leaves, 4 chairs with cushions \$99 OBO Text 352-573-6945

ELECTRIC RECLINER
Extra wide. Very soft. Light tan. Good condition. \$100 firm. Text 352-573-6945

KITCHEN SET
- Pedestal - Whitewashed Solid Oak - 58"L x 40"W, Matching Oak & Upholstered CHAIRS w/ Casters - VERY Good Cond! \$450 352-527-0644

LEATHER SOFA
Very Good Condition! Taupe - 90" L - Reclines at both ends \$400 352-527-0644

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Good condition. \$25 OBO. Text 352-573-6945

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used in Florida room. Good Condition - only \$100 352-464-0316

SEALY - QUEEN MATTRESS & 3" TOPPER
Memory Foam, LIKE NEW! Both \$165 Citrus Springs (716) 491-6183

SOFA BED
-Blue and Beige striped - 93"W - Queen Size \$175 352-527-0644

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In good condition. \$99 OBO Text 352-573-6945

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Medium wood finish. Good condition. \$25 OBO Text 352-573-6945

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\$25 252-571-0610

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1065 Desktop \$299.99
1040 Handheld \$299.99
call/text 352-423-1650

Healthy Hand Hygiene Habits

Protect yourself against COVID-19 and other diarrheal and respiratory illnesses, and help prevent the spread of germs to others, by following these simple hand hygiene guidelines:

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water, lathering for at least 20 seconds.
2. If soap is unavailable, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol to clean your hands.

Wash your hands throughout the day, and particularly under these circumstances:

- Before preparing food
- Before eating
- After using the toilet
- After changing a diaper or helping a child use the toilet
- Before and after exposure to someone who is sick
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
- After touching an animal or picking up animal waste
- After handling pet food or treats
- After handling garbage or garbage cans
- Before and after attending to a cut or wound

Information resource: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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

1. NEVER ACCEPT A CHECK FOR MORE THAN YOU ASK.

2. INSIST ON CASH

3. USE ANOTHER FORM OF PAYMENT. (SUCH AS WIRE TRANSFER)

4. IF POSSIBLE, GO TO THE BANK WITH THE PERSON PAYING YOU.

5. INFORM THE SELLER, THAT YOU'LL WAIT TWO WEEKS BEFORE SENDING ANY MERCHANDISE

Avoid CASHIER'S CHECK FRAUD.

How to Avoid a Fake Check Scam

- **INSIST ON CASH**
- **Don't accept a check for more than the selling price. You can bet it's a scam.**
- **Inform the Buyer that you'll wait two weeks before sending any merchandise.**
- **Never use money from a check to send gift cards, money orders, or wire money to strangers or someone you just met. Many scammers demand that you send money through money transfer services like Western Union or MoneyGram, or buy gift cards and send them the PIN numbers. Once you wire money, or give someone the gift card PINs, it is like giving someone cash. It's almost impossible to get it back.**
- **Toss offers that ask you to pay for a prize. If it's free, you shouldn't have to pay to get it.**

Tax Deed Notices

7390-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0540TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 13-6554 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: CRYSTAL MANOR UNIT 2 LT 14 BLK 49 DESCR IN O R BK 580 PG 636
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: CATHERINE C FRITZ, CATHERINE E SIROCHMAN, CATHERINE SIROCHMAN ET AL, DENISE A SIROCHMAN, JOHN J SIROCHMAN, LISA L SIROCHMAN, MICHAEL P SIROCHMAN, PETER P SIROCHMAN
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7385-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0535TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 13-0300 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: INVERNESS HGLDS UNIT 4 S1/2 OF LOT 39 & ALL OF LOTS 40, 41 & 42 BLK 131 DESCIN OR BK 355 PG 152
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: ELIZABETH DOHERTY, JOSEPH T RATCLIFFE
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7366-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0504TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 18-7542 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: LANEVIEW UNREC SUB LOT 4 DESC IN OR BK 860 PG 349
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: CHARLES W KACZYK AKA CHARLES KACZYK AKA CHARLES WILLIAM KACZYK
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7397-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0548TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FCAP AS CUSTODIAN FOR FCFM1T LLC
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 18-7842 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: PARADISE GDNS PB 2 PG 150 LOT 25 BLK A
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: ROGER D MORRIS
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7362-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0497TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FRANCES A WENHOLD
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 18-7672 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: TOWNSITE OF HERNANDO PB 1 PG 16 W1/2 OF LOT 136
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: BRIAN G MCKENZIE, REGISTERED AGENT OBO MCKENZIE INVESTMENT PROPERTIES LLC, MC KENZIE INVESTMENT PROPERTIES LLC
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7363-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0498TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 18-7119 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: VILLA TER UNIT 11 OF HOMOSASSA PB 1 PG 52 LOT 7 BLK 350 DESC IN OR BK 869 PG 695 & OR BK 874 PG 52
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: LAWRENCE G MEEKER, SALLY A MEEKER
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7392-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0542TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 13-8525 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: INVERNESS HGLDS WEST 1ST ADD PB 5 PG 44 LOT 19 BLK 431 DESC IN OR BK 658 PG 653 & DC IN OR BK 932 PG 1229
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: DONALD ROSE, DECEASED, PEARLINE ROSE
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020

Tax Deed Notices

ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7382-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0532TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 13-6757 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: INVERNESS HGLDS SOUTH PB 3 PG 51 LOTS 32 & 33 BLK 227
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: MIKE TOMASETTI
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7381-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0531TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: DARVOG PENSION PLAN
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 18-0352 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: INVERNESS HGLDS UNIT 9 LOTS 1, 2, 3 & 4 BLK 162 DESC IN OR BK 641 PG 473 & OR BK 674 PG 1604
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: ANN HYAMS, DEBRA HYAMS, GEORGE HYAMS, JOSEPH HYAMS, KAREN BOLGER, KATHLEEN HYAMS, MICHAEL HYAMS, PATRICIA VELOSO, PHILLIP HYAMS JR, VERONICA HYAMS
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7393-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0543TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 13-8298 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: INVERNESS HGLDS WEST PLAT BK 5 PG 19 LOT 19 BLK 354 DESC IN O R BK 453 PG 33
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: MICHELE MILLILLO
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7394-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0544TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 13-0294 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: INVERNESS HGLDS UNIT 4 LOTS 14 & 15 BLK 126 DESC IN OR BK 664 PG 1410
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: ESTYR R HALL, JOSEPH A HALL 2ND AKA JOSEPH A HALL II, KIMBERLY WELCH, LINDA NEUMUTH, TIMOTHY A NEUMUTH
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7396-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0547TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 13-6555 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: CRYSTAL MANOR UNIT 2 PB 8 PG 112 LOT 7 BLK 53
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: LARRY J COURY
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7395-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0546TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 13-8247 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: INVERNESS HGLDS WEST PB 5 PG 19LOT 5 BLK 321 DESC IN OR BK 409 PG 381 & DC IN OR BK 807 PG 2
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: HAROLD A WENZ, DECEASED, MARGARET WENZ AKA MARGARET M WENZ
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7356-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0162TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: JUAN C CAPOTE
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 17-6094 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2017 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: F C I COMPANYS ADD TO FLORAL CITY PB 1 PG 24 LOT 17 LESS 13 FT FOR RD & LOT 18 & 4 1/6 FT ON W SIDE OF LOT 24 & LOTS 25 & 26 LESS 13 FT FOR RD ALL IN BLK 7 & W 2 FT OF S 45 FT OF LOT 19 BLK 7 DESC IN OR 695 PG 24
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: JOE A POTTS, REGISTERED AGENT OBO SURETY MORTGAGE INVESTMENT COMPANY, SURETY MORTGAGE INVESTMENT CO
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

Tax Deed Notices

7380-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0530TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: VINMMAS HOLDINGS LLC
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 18-1635 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: CITRUS SPGS UNIT 3 PB 5 PG 116 LOT 4 BLK 124
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: BEVERLY LINDO, REGISTERED AGENT, ROSE HALL INVESTMENT GROUP LP
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7398-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0549TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FCAP AS CUSTODIAN FOR FCFM1T LLC
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 18-7093 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: VILLA TER UNIT 10 OF HOMOSASSA PB 1 PG 51 LOT 9 BLK 329
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: SUZIE PEACE
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7400-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0551TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 13-5839 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: HOLIDAY ACRES UNIT 3 W 180 FT OF LOT 36 EXC S 517.22 FT KNOWN AS LOT 5 OAK HILL UNREC SUB FURTHER DESC IN OR BK 1061 PG 1817
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7401-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0552TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 13-5821 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: HOLIDAY ACRES UNIT 3 LOT 4 OF LOT 36 OF OAK HILL UNREC SUB FURTHER DESC IN OR BK 1061 PG 1817
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7402-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0553TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: COMIAN XIII TAX LIEN FUND
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 13-8462 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2013 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: HIGH RIDGE ESTS UNREC SUB W1/2 OF E1/2 OF LOT 19 FURTHER DESC IN OR BK 907 PG 575
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: HELEN M STOCKUM, JOHN L STOCKUM
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7377-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0517TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FIG FL 18 LLC
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 18-8108 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: HIGH OAK ACRES UNREC SUB (LR92-01 OR BK 925 PG 141-144): LOT 27 DESC AS: COM AT NE COR OF W 1/2 OF SW 1/4 OF NW 1/4 OF SEC 29-19-18 TH S 88DEG 59M 33S W AL N LN OF SD W 1/2 OF SW 1/4 OF NW 1/4 331.79 FT TH S ODEG 20M 37S W 794.36 FT TO POB TH CONT S ODEG 20M 37S W 132.39 FT TH S 88DEG 59M 55S W 165.86 FT TH N ODEG 20M 30S E 132.39 FT TH N 88DEG 59M 52S E 165.87 FT TO POB SUB TO 15 FT EASE A W BNDRY FOR R/W DESC IN OR BK 1406 PG 1891 & OR BK 1821 PG 1957
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: CHASITY SHAFFER
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
By: Tifani L. White, Deputy Clerk
Published December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020.

7391-1230 WCRN PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION: 2020-0541TD NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: FCAP AS CUSTODIAN FOR FCFM1T LLC
The holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 18-9288 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: MINI FARMS UNIT 8 UNREC SUB PARCEL 32 DESC AS: E 1/2 OF SW 1/4 OF NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 OF SEC 36-17-17 SUB TO 25 FT EASE AL N BNDRY & E BNDRY FOR R/W DESC IN OR BK 1435 PG 567 SUBJ TO A 50' WIDE EASEMENT AS SHOWN ON THE EXHIBIT "A" DRAWING IN OR BK 2683 PG 1656
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: SUMMER D ERMATINGER
Said property being in the County of Citrus, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder on line, on January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at www.citrus.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated November 18, 2020
ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Citrus County, Florida
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